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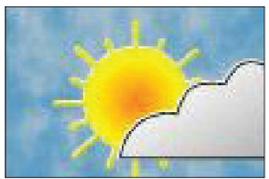
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BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY

APRIL 8, 2009



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 109

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Midland man indicted for murder

Authorities say Brian Carlson killed a Martin County resident in November

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer
STANTON — A Midland man has been indicted in the November death of Martin County resident Jerry Don McIntyre.

tin County Grand Jury. McIntyre, 50, had last been seen by family and friends Thanksgiving Day. His body was found in a field near the Midland County line late in the evening of Dec. 6, according to published reports. Carlson led authorities to the location where McIntyre's body was found, officials reported.



McIntyre
it's believed he was mainly living out of his vehicle,"

The case was investigated by the Texas Rangers and Martin County Sheriff's Office. "McIntyre was staying at the same property as Carlson in Martin County, but it's believed he was mainly living out of his vehicle,"

Ranger Don Williams said in December. "The two were acquaintances. Carlson's driver's license listed an address in Odessa, but it was a rent house we don't believe he had stayed at in some time. My understanding is he had floated around between a residence in Martin County and some friends' residences in Midland."

Carlson — who Williams said is a convicted felon — faces a prison term of between five and 99 years or life, as well as a fine of up to \$10,000 if convicted on murder charges. He was among five people indicted during Tuesday's grand jury session.
See **MURDER**, Page 3A

Coming 'home'

Ferrell excited about returning to his high school alma mater

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer
For more than three decades, Danny Ferrell has had a connection to Big Spring. Now, that connection is about to strengthen.

"I graduated from high school there ... and I got married there. It's a great opportunity to be able to come back to Big Spring."



—Danny Ferrell



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

A bulldozer levels dirt as road work continued on Main Street this morning. The work, overseen by Price Construction, is part of a year-long project to renovate Main, Scurry and several adjoining streets in the downtown area.

Saturday Easter egg hunt is church's gift to community

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

More than 10,000 Easter eggs will be waiting for Crossroads area youngsters at Comanche Trail Park Saturday, during activities planned by the First Church of the Nazarene.

Calvary Callender, pastor, said the community Easter egg hunt is a love offering from the religious group, and hopes it will help change the way some people think of church.

"We're basically trying to change the culture, and this Easter egg hunt is a big part of that," said Callender. "A lot of people see church and religious groups as self-serving entities that want people to dress and act a certain way. This Easter

What: Easter Egg Hunt and other activities. Free beverages and hot dogs.
Where: Comanche Trail Park.
When: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

egg hunt is just one way of showing the community and our culture that's what we're about."

The hunt, which will begin at 10 a.m. near the park's Old Settlers Pavilion, will feature a carnival atmosphere, according to Callender, including face painting and inflatable rides.

"It's an Easter carnival type atmosphere," said Callender. "The

hunt is open to children two years to 10 years old, and they will be broken up into to groups based on their ages."

Putting the Easter weekend event together has been anything but a breeze, according to Callender, because the church wanted to be able to do it without placing a burden on the community.

"We talked about it and it just didn't seem right to go out in the community and ask for donations to do this," said Callender. "So we've done it all on our own, which hasn't been easy. In planning this, we really didn't know whether 50 kids or 500 kids will show up, so we set our sights on providing 10,000 eggs. There will also be some

See **HUNT**, Page 3A

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Next Weigh-In Date
April 6-10
at the YMCA • 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm



Cruisin' Steers fall victim to run-rule

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

ABILENE — Many teams have been surprised by the Big Spring Steers baseball squad this season.

Mostly because the Steers were picked to easily finish last in the five-team District 4-4A. Instead, the Steers have been surprising their opponents and were winners of five of their last six games entering Tuesday.

However, it was Big Spring's turn to get shocked.

The Steers found themselves on the wrong side of the 10-run mercy rule Tuesday in Abilene as the Cooper Cougars routed Big Spring, 12-2.

"We came over here and expected them to put the ball in play. We also expected to be able to field the ball well and we ended up getting errors by players who don't usually make errors," said Big Spring Head Coach Burt Otto. "They took advantage of our mistakes. They hammered us."

Big Spring was guilty of eight errors in the field, allowing Abilene to score six unearned runs. In their last six games prior to Tuesday, the Steers had committed just seven fielding miscues.

"I hope this is an aberration," said Otto of the Steers' defensive play. "I guess you're going to have games like that. We're not to the championship

caliber yet. We're still learning how to win and be a championship team. This is hopefully something the players can see and realize we can't play like this against any team.

"We can't focus on what happened today," he continued. "Today is over. We'll get back out to practice tomorrow and work on the little things. You just look forward to your next opponent. You don't look back. We know we're a much better defensive team than what we showed today and hopefully Friday we'll be back to the team Steers fans have seen the past couple weeks."

See **STEERS**, Page 3B

Bulldogettes take 18th straight with 8-3 district win

Herald Staff Report

GRAPE CREEK — In an error-filled game, the Coahoma Bulldogettes softball team was able to pick up its 18th consecutive win on the season Monday, defeating Grape Creek, 8-3.

The win improves Coahoma's record to 20-8 overall with a 6-0 mark in District 7-2A.

Heather Newton picked up her 16th win of the season, allowing three runs — one earned — on three hits and a walk, while striking out 15 batters.

The two teams combined for nine fielding errors — Coahoma was guilty of five — but the Bulldogettes were able to take better advantage of their opponent's miscues.

Senior Shelbi Paige was 3-for-5 with two RBI.

The Bulldogettes attempt to remain undefeated in district Friday when they travel to Tuscola to take on Jim Ned.

In their first meeting, Newton got into a pitchers' duel with Jim Ned's Talena Tippett, who is a senior committed to play at Vernon Community College in the fall.

The Bulldogettes won, 1-0, as Newton allowed just three hits in seven innings, while striking out 13 batters.

The lone run of the game came in the bottom of the fourth inning, when freshman Jennifer Castilaw singled to score Joanna Gonzales.

Tippett did hold the Bulldogettes to six hits and Coahoma didn't help itself with several mistakes while on the basepaths.

Coahoma 8, Grape Creek 3
Coahoma 001 005 2-8 13 5
Grape Creek 000 111 0-3 3 4

Heather Newton and Berkley Iden. Intermeyer 2B; GC - Wilson. HR: Coa - Newton. RBI: Coa - Newton 3, Shelbi Paige 2, Joanna Gonzales; GC - Walter, Smith.



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring's Kenzie Hunt pitches in non-district action Friday at Lady Steer Park. Hunt had 12 strikeouts in a 3-2 extra innings win over the Plainview Lady Bulldogs Tuesday.

Ritchey, Hunt deliver victory for Lady Steers

BSHS pulls out 3-2 win over Plainview in eight

By BILL NORRIS

Special to the Herald

For a second consecutive District 4-4A softball game, the Big Spring Lady Steers were part of a dramatic finish.

They happened to be on the right side of it this time, though.

Behind a stellar pitching performance by Kenzie Hunt, some solid defense and some clutch hitting late in the game, the Lady Steers came away with a thrilling 3-2 eighth-inning victory over the Plainview Lady Bulldogs.

This after losing a 1-0 heartbreaker to Cooper just a week ago.

"Our girls came into this game knowing they have an opportunity to compete for second place in the district," said Big Spring Lady Steers Head Coach John Sparks. "The way they battled in this game showed that the loss to Cooper helped them. They learned what they needed to do in order to come out on top."

At first glance, it appeared the Lady Steers might find themselves on the

See **LADY STEERS**, Page 2B

Forsan hands Miles first District 2-A loss of season, 11-5

Herald Staff Report

FORSAN — Forsan's Buffaloes baseball team picked up a key win in District 2-A Tuesday, handing Miles its first loss of the league season, 11-5.

The Buffs bounced back from a disappointing loss to Ira Saturday, falling 10-9 in extra innings.

"This win would have been even bigger if we hadn't lost Saturday," said Forsan Head Coach Jason Phillips, "but anytime you can beat

Miles, it's great for confidence. Miles is always a good playoff team. We played very solid all around today."

Evan Burton picked up the win — his first of the season. It's only the second time Burton has started this season, which is a major change from the two previous years when he was used as one of the Buffs' top pitchers.

"Evan got out of basketball late and his shoulder has been a bit sore. I haven't wanted to rush him back to the mound. I wanted to let him mend," explained Phillips. "He felt good all

week, so I gave him the start. It's nice to have him available. We have a strong staff already, but when we can add him to it, we only get better."

Burton pitched five innings, allowing four runs — two earned — on six hits and four walks, while striking out five batters. Dylan Lowery finished the game, pitching the final two innings and giving up one earned run on two hits and a walk with three strikeouts.

One of the reasons Burton hasn't had to rush things is the emergence

of several freshmen for the Buffs.

"We've got a lot of freshmen who are doing good things for us," raved Phillips. "Foster (Burchett) has taken over for Jeremy Robbins at shortstop and is doing a great job. He's been one of our top hitters. I was hitting in the five hole, but I've moved him to No. 2 in the lineup just ahead of Evan."

"Ty Johnson has filled a big hole for us in the outfield. He had three base hits today," he added. "Patrick

See **FORSAN**, Page 3B

Sports in brief

Notification from BSISD Athletic Dept. on athletes needing physicals

The Big Spring ISD Athletic Department is only accepting physical forms with the revised date of Jan. 6, 2009, as per UIL requirements.

All other forms will not be accepted, so parents need to be sure they have the correct form filled out when taking their child for a physical.

Physicals are required for all incoming seventh, ninth and 11th grade students and are due in the athletic trainer's office before the first day of practice of any sport.

No plans have been made to have mass physicals, so it is the parents' responsibility to take their child to a doctor of their choice.

Registration and tryouts for Big Spring Pony League set

The Big Spring Pony League will have registration and baseball tryouts April 18 at Roy Anderson Complex.

Registration is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with tryouts starting at 2 p.m.

Players must be within the age range of 13-15 years old.

If a child is currently 12 and turns 13 by April 30, he or she is eligible to play. A 15 year old must not turn 16 by April 30. Birth certificates are required to sign up.

Cost is \$90 per child with no fund raiser.

Anyone interested in coaching or for more infor-

mation, contact Shelli Harrington at 264-6501 or e-mail her at soccermom077@yahoo.com.

Golf tournament to benefit KBSB set for April 18

The fifth annual Keep Big Spring Beautiful Golf Tournament has been scheduled for April 18 at the Big Spring Country Club.

The tourney will be played in a four-person scramble format with an entry fee of \$65 per player. Tee time is 8:30 a.m.

Any individual or company can sponsor a hole for \$100.

For more information on sponsorship, contact Verna Davis at 267-8003 or 425-2325.

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Obituaries

Mike Willis



Mike Willis, 45, of Big Spring, died Monday, April 6, 2009, at his residence. Funeral services will be held at 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, 2009, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Walter McCall, chaplain with Compass Hospice, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

He was born May 10, 1963, in Lubbock and married the love of his life, Gayla Paige Aug. 1, 2008, in Big Spring.

Mike had worked at Fluid Transport in Snyder for eight years. He is remembered mostly for being very kind and loving to anyone who knew him. Mike had a gift for making others feel welcome and accepted. He never met a stranger. Mike enjoyed playing golf with his family and friends. He spent many hours at the lake with his kids. When he wasn't pulling the kids around on an inner tube, he would be the one catching the most fish.

We all will miss his great smile and infectious personality, but we can rejoice because we know that he has the perfect scorecard and trophy catch in heaven above.

He was a member of Midway Baptist Church. Survivors include his wife, Gayla Willis of Big Spring; one son, Chance Willis of Lubbock; three daughters, Keeli Willis, Dakota Willis and Kaime Willis all of Lubbock; his parents, George and Jerri Willis of Petersburg; one sister and brother-in-law, Debbie and Bill Morris of Glen Rose; one brother, Steve Willis of Albuquerque, N.M.; many nieces and nephews; and a host of friends.

He was preceded in death by Buzz and Myrt Gregory and Hib Willis, his grandparents of Petersburg.

The family suggests memorials be made to the donor's favorite charity.

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

Paid obituary

Thomas Quisenberry

Thomas "Tom" Quisenberry, 66, of Big Spring died Tuesday, April 7, 2009, at his residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Take Note

• Big Spring High School Junior Class will be selling Krispy Kreme doughnuts at Wal-Mart beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday. This is a fund-raiser for the Junior-Senior Prom. For more information, call Denise Carrillo at 816-1685.

• The Fraternal Order of Eagles No. 3188 American Legion Post 506 will be sponsoring a fund-raiser for Lee Karwedy, a young boy with Muscular Dystrophy who is confined to a wheelchair, in hopes of raising enough money to purchase a handicap-accessible van. Homemade chopped barbecue sandwich plates, complete with trimmings, will be available Saturday, April 18, for \$7 per plate from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. at 703 W. Third St. There will be games and a dance beginning at 8 p.m. featuring the Hill Country Pickers. For more information, contact Vonda Wrye at 816-1261.

• The Big Spring High School Class of 1989 is looking for members to attend a 20-year reunion in September. Contact Christy Alexander Brown at (972) 567-8037 or Irma Moreno Garcia at (432) 816-5321 with your updated information.

• Mobile Meals needs volunteers. If you can donate one hour per week to our organization delivering meals between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m., you will be helping the senior citizens of Big Spring. Contact Macaria Cantu at 263-4016

• The Family History Center (genealogy library) of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be open from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesdays. If you need assistance in searching out your ancestors, bring all the information you have about your family and we will be happy to assist you. For more information, contact R.A. McKay at (432) 553-8127.

• Coahoma alumni will hold an all school, all classes reunion Saturday, Aug. 1 at the Coahoma school building. Contact Patti Meets at pmeeks@basin-net.net or (432) 267-6688 for updates.

Correction

An article in Tuesday's edition of the *Herald* incorrectly referred to the mural on the west side of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce building as being created by Coy McCain. The artist's name was Coy McCann, not McCain.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- BYRON RICHARDS, 22, 1425 E. Sixth, was arrested on a charge of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.
- ALBERT AGUILAR, 65, 1010 S. Nolan, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- ABEL TORRES, 20, 1408B Johnson, was arrested on a local warrant.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1900 block of Highway 87.
- ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY was reported in the 2600 block of Fairchild.
- CREDIT OR DEBIT CAR ABUSE was reported in the 400 block of Fourth.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS WARNING was reported on Whipkey Drive.
- TERRORISTIC THREAT was reported in the 2600 block of Fairchild.
- THEFT was reported in the 800 block of W. Interstate 20, the 1000 block of Bell, the 4200 block of Hamilton and the 800 block of FM 700.
- THEFT OF A FIREARM was reported in the 400 block of FM 700.
- UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE was reported in the 1400 block of Sixth.

Sheriff

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

- ABEL YHARTE GOMEZ, 23, was arrested by deputies on a charge of unlawful restraint.
- HARVEY PELLAND, 74, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on two charges relating to the registration of sex offenders.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following activity:

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of Donley.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 300 block of W. 22nd.
- DUMPSTER FIRE was reported in the 2100 block of Johnson.

Support Groups

WEDNESDAY

- RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

THURSDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, 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.

FRIDAY

- 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.

SATURDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 p.m. until 6 p.m.

MONDAY

- Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

TUESDAY

- Grief share, sponsored by Home Hospice and the First Presbyterian Church, Seventh and Runnels (north end door), meets at 6 p.m.

- The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministeries, 1209 Wright St.

Your Local Weather

Thu 4/9	Fri 4/10	Sat 4/11
 78/43	 77/49	 75/46
Windy with a few clouds from time to time. High 78F.	A few clouds. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the upper 40s.	A few thunderstorms possible. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the mid 40s.

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Bulletin Board

If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact the Herald news room at 263-7331 or e-mail editor@bigspringherald.com

TODAY

- Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Friends of the Library meets at noon in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- Big Spring Main Street meets at noon in the Railroad Museum located at Second and Main streets.
- League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The public is invited.
- American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.
- The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340.
- Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Dance at the Senior Center, 1901 Simler, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Lottery

The jackpot in the multistate Mega Millions lottery game is now worth \$78 million.

The grand prize amount rolled over after no player matched all the winning numbers in Tuesday night's \$65 million drawing. The next drawing is Friday.

The winning numbers from Tuesday night's drawing were: 2, 4, 13, 17 and 36. The Mega Ball number was 15.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 35-16-3-21-9.
Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$23,906
Winning ticket purchased in: Pecos

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order:

1-9-4-0. Sum It Up: 14
(one, nine, four, zero. Sum It Up: four)

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order:
2-1-8. Sum It Up: 11

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UConn completes undefeated season with rout of Louisville

DOUG FEINBERG

AP Sports Writer

ST. LOUIS — Unbeaten, unchallenged and national champions.

After one last blowout, Connecticut could finally exhale and take its place in basketball history.

Tina Charles had 25 points and grabbed 19 rebounds Tuesday night as UConn routed Louisville 76-54 and captured the Huskies' sixth title.

"I'm so overwhelmed how I feel about the way it ended," Connecticut coach Geno Auriemma said a few minutes after he helped cut down the nets at the Scottrade Center and was carried off the court. "This is the first time since the brackets came out I didn't feel like I'm going to get sick, physically sick, thinking about everything that was ahead of us."

It wasn't just that Connecticut claimed another championship. It was how they did it.

UConn won every one of its 39 games by double digits, a first in college basketball.

"This is first time we can stop and enjoy the win for more than a couple of days," said senior guard Renee Montgomery, with a beaming smile and a championship net dangling around her neck. "We're always looking to the future. Now we have time to enjoy this win and all the other ones."

Charles was the star of the final victory. She commanded both ends of the floor and Louisville, which lost badly to UConn for the third time this season, had no one who could stop her.

Auriemma had said before the tournament that his junior center would be the key to UConn winning the title. A year after he benched her in the NAAs for inconsistent play, Charles delivered.

"I'm really happy for her," Auriemma said.

"I told Tina before the game, I said 'Sunday night you played against an All-American center and you played defense and you worked as hard as the best center in America and now you have to prove it tonight' and she did."

Charles was 11-for-13 from the field, and fell just one rebound short of becoming only the second player ever in a championship game to have at least 20 points and 20 rebounds. She was named the outstanding player of the Final Four.

Maya Moore and Montgomery each added 18 points to the Huskies.

"It was another challenge and I wanted to show my teammates they could depend on me," Charles said. "I wanted to send off Renee being happy. I wanted her to have all smiles for the next step in her career."

Angel McCoughtry finished off her stellar career for Louisville with 23 points.

Candyce Bingham was the only other Cardinal in double figures with 10 points as Louisville (34-5) shot a dismal 31 percent from the floor.

"We have nothing to be disappointed about," McCoughtry said. "We're going to hold our heads up high and we're grateful to be here. We have so much to be proud of."

Unlike its previous two wins over Louisville, it took about 15 minutes for UConn to begin pulling away from the Cardinals.

With the game tied at 17, Connecticut scored nine of the next 11 points, including seven by Charles, to take a 26-19 lead on her three-point play.

After Bingham scored to draw Louisville to 30-24, the Huskies

See **UNDEFEATED**, Page 3B

LADY STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

short end of the stick again.

With Big Spring leading most of the game 1-0, Plainview tied the game in the fifth and actually took a brief lead in the top of the eighth when Lauren Hill led off the frame with a single to center. Tiffany Delona then sent a perfect bunt down the third base line that Jillian Valle scooped up and gunned to first to get Delona, but the Lady Steers neglected to cover for Valle, allowing Hill to make it all the way around to third.

Lindsay Burton then laced a shot to right field that Macy Briggs scooped up and gunned to first to beat Burton for the second out of the inning. However, the damage was down as Hill scored and the Lady Bulldogs took a 2-1 lead heading into the bottom of the eighth.

That's when a freshman might have come up with the biggest hit of the season for the Lady Steers.

With one out, Valle sent a bullet between the legs of Hill at short and when center fielder Hinojos couldn't

come up with it, either, Valle stood at second with the 3-4-5 hitters coming up for the Lady Steers.

Mirella Torres singled to right, scoring Valle, who ran through a stop sign by Sparks, to tie it at 2-2.

Chavez walked Valerie Ross, but got Briggs to pop out to the catcher for the second out of the inning.

With the game on the line, freshman Cerbi Ritchey sent the first pitch she saw to the right field fence, scoring Torres and giving the Lady Steers the win.

"Cerbi tries hard every play and wants to do well," said Sparks. "She's been one hit away from really breaking out for a while. She has to realize that if she settles down and relaxes, then she can drive the ball and that's what she did tonight. I told her before the game 'Cerbi you have to relax and hit the ball. That's what we need you to do.' She did that in the end and that was sweet."



Ritchey

Hunt was strong from the start striking out four in the first two innings. She finished the game with a season-high 12 strikeouts.

In the bottom of the second, Hunt helped herself with a homer to left center off Plainview starter Cassandra Chavez to give the Lady Steers an early 1-0 lead.

Plainview looked to be on their way to a big inning in the top of the third when they had runners at second and third with one out, but Hunt was up to the challenge.

She bore down and struck out Hill and Delona, the No. 1 and 2 hitters in the Plainview lineup, to end the threat.

Chavez matched Hunt pitch for pitch as the two hurlers continued their battle into the fifth when Plainview finally broke through.

Marisabelle Trevino led off the fifth with a single to left. Chavez came up next and sent a grounder to short that Torres fielded cleanly but Trevino beat the throw to second, putting runners at first and second.

Bethany Chavez sacrificed the runners to second and third.

Hunt then came up with a big defensive play when she smothered a slow

roller by Hill and quickly fired to catcher Jessica Womack who applied the tag on Trevino as she tried to score from third for the second out of the inning.

Finally coming through for Plainview was Delona, who laced a single to center to tie the game at one apiece.

Big Spring had a golden opportunity to win it in the bottom of the seventh when Ritchey singled to center and Baylea Fox doubled to left field to put runners on second and third. Fox's double was a few feet away from clearing the fence for a walk-off home run.

Instead, Chavez got Jacklyn Porras to ground one back to her for the final out of the inning.

The Lady Steers improve to 2-3 in district play. The travel to Wolforth to take on the top team in District 4-4A, Frenship, at 6:30 p.m. Thursday.

Plainview	000 010 01-2 6 1
Big Spring	010 000 02-3 10 1

Cassandra Chavez and Lindsay Barton. Kenzie Hunt and Jessica Womack. WP - Hunt. LP - Chavez. 2B: BS - Baylea Fox. HR: BS - Hunt. RBI: PV - Delona, Burton; BS - Hunt, Mirella Torres, Cerbi Ritchey.

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- 2008 Chevrolet Silverado LT Extended Cab LT** - White w/Gray Cloth, New Tires, One Owner, Nice Truck, All Power. **Was \$23,995** **NOW \$22,995**
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- 2008 Nissan Frontier SE Crew Cab** - Gray w/Gray Cloth, Bed Liner, One Owner, Like New, All Power, Only 27,000 Miles. **Was \$19,995** **NOW \$18,995**

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- 2008 Ford Focus SE** - Blue, w/Gray Cloth, Ford Program Unit, Like New, Only 17,000 Miles. **Was \$17,995** **NOW \$14,995**
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- 2008 Ford Focus SE** - Silver, w/Gray Cloth, Ford Program Unit, Like New, Only 19,000 Miles. **Was \$17,995** **NOW \$15,995**
- 2007 Lexus ES 350** - Blue w/Tan Leather, One Owner, Very Nice Car, Loaded, Only 27,000 Miles. **Was \$32,995** **NOW \$28,995**
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- 2006 Ford Taurus SEL** - Green w/Tan Leather, Moonroof, All Power, Loaded, Low Miles. **Was \$11,995** **NOW \$10,995**
- 2005 Lincoln Towncar Signature** - White w/Tan Leather, One Owner, Like New, Super Nice Car, Only 46,000 Miles. **Was \$17,995** **NOW \$16,995**
- 2004 Chev. Malibu LS** - Silver, w/Gray Cloth, One Owner, Like New, Very Nice, Must See, Only 55,000 Miles. **Was \$9,995** **NOW \$8,995**
- 2003 Ford Focus ZTS** - Green w/Gray Cloth, All Power, Nice Car, Well Kept. **Was \$6,995** **NOW \$5,995**
- 2003 Buick Century Custom** - Silver w/Gray Cloth, All Power, Nice Car, One Owner. **Was \$6,995** **NOW \$5,995**
- 2000 Mercury Grand Marquis LS** - Gold, w/Tan Leather, Well kept, Nice One Owner, Low Miles. **Was \$7,995** **NOW \$6,995**

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- 2008 Ford Escape XLT** - Vista Blue, w/Gray Cloth, Ford Program Unit, Only 18,000 Miles. **Was \$19,995** **NOW \$16,995**
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- 2006 Nissan Xterra SE** - White w/Gray Cloth, All Power, One Owner, Only 19,000 Miles. **Was \$19,995** **NOW \$17,995**
- 2005 Chevrolet Tahoe 4X2 LS** - White, w/Gray Cloth, One Owner, Like New, Loaded, Only 53,000 Miles. **Was \$19,995** **NOW \$15,995**
- 2005 Ford Escape XLT** - Silver, w/Gray Cloth, One Owner, Great On Gas, Like New, Only 63,000 Miles. **Was \$12,995** **NOW \$10,995**
- 2005 GMC Yukon 4X2 SLT** - White w/GTan Leather, Loaded, All Power, One Owner. **Was \$19,995** **NOW \$16,995**
- 2005 Ford Explorer Sport Trac XLT** - Red, w/Gray Cloth, All Power, One Owner, Like New, Low Miles. **Was \$18,995** **NOW \$16,995**
- 2004 Nissan Xterra XE** - Red, w/Gray Cloth, All Power, Nice First Car, One Owner, Only 67,000 Miles. **Was \$13,995** **NOW \$11,995**
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Alabama wife alleged abuse before quadruple-slaying

JAY REEVES

Associated Press Writer

PRICEVILLE, Ala. — A man who police say shot and killed his estranged wife, their daughter and two other relatives before burning down his house and committing suicide on the eve of their divorce trial gave no hints of the mayhem to come, police and court officials say.

While Kevin Garner's wife accused him of being abusive in court filings, authorities said the 45-year-old chemical company worker gave no indication that their split could result in the violence that occurred Tuesday.

Garner's behavior didn't seem odd during a brief court appearance Monday, Circuit Judge Sherrie W. Paler said, and the divorce wasn't considered particularly contentious by courthouse workers or the lawyers who were involved.

"I was terribly shocked and saddened by this unexpected tragedy," said Jerry Knight, an attorney who represented Garner in the divorce,

which was scheduled to go to trial Wednesday.

Knight, in an e-mail to The Associated Press, said Garner "had a terrific work ethic and value system."

Garner's body was found Tuesday afternoon near the remains of his Priceville home, which burned to the ground overnight.

Authorities believe that sometime around midnight Monday he used a handgun to shoot his estranged wife, Tammy, 40; their 16-year-old daughter, Chelsie; Garner's sister, Karen Beaty of Illinois; and Beaty's 11-year-old son, whose name was not released. Their bodies were found Tuesday in a home in Green Hill, a small community near the Tennessee line in rural north Alabama.

Court documents show Tammy Garner sought custody of their daughter and alleged that her husband "has been both physically and emotionally abusive." Karen Beaty sided with her brother's estranged wife in the case, and the two were staying together be-

fore the trial.

Kevin Garner, 45, accused her of adultery and of taking \$38,000 out of their joint bank account when they separated May 27.

Michael Corley, chief deputy in Morgan County, where Garner's body was found, said Beaty and her son might have been on the witness list for the divorce case. He said investigators believe Garner was "unhappy" with the proceedings. He said the divorce was filed about a year ago but was just now coming up on the court docket.

"Now that we know the final end of it all it's just going back and putting the pieces together," Corley said. "We feel like this was solely a homicide, that he killed them, then went to the home. He used some type of accelerant that caused the home to burn very, very quickly, then walked about 200 yards back into a wooded area behind the house and took his life."

Garner apparently shot himself in the chest, said Travis Clemmons,

chief investigator for the sheriff's office in Lauderdale County, where the four bodies were found. Officials did not know if Kevin Garner was licensed to carry a firearm.

It was one of eight mass killings around the country — and the third in Alabama — in the last month that have left grief-stricken communities in shock.

Clemmons said a neighbor visiting the Green Hill house Tuesday morning saw a body through the door and called authorities.

"I just can't understand it," he said, "and with a 16-year-old and a 11-year-old kid, there's nothing rational about it."

Kevin Garner had worked at a Decatur chemical plant and Tammy Garner at a department store.

The five deaths follow the stabbing deaths of four people in a home in Hueytown, near Birmingham, on March 7, and the shooting deaths of 10 people on March 10 by a gunman in south Alabama who also took his own life.

Family seeks criminal probe of Va. funeral home

FAIRFAX, Va. (AP) — A man who says his father's body was left for months to rot in the garage of a funeral home when he was supposed to be buried with military honors is asking for a criminal investigation.

Richard Morgan Jr. of Harrisonburg hand-delivered a letter Monday to the office of Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney Raymond Morrogh, arguing that the National Funeral Home neglected the remains of his father, Maj. Richard Morgan, so badly that it constitutes a felony under state law.

"Placing my father's corpse in a garage, unrefrigerated, cannot be characterized as anything but willful and intentional," Morgan wrote in his letter, noting that defilement of a corpse is a felony under Virginia law.

The elder Morgan's casket was not buried for several months after his November death because the family was waiting for a full military burial at Arlington National Cemetery. The younger Morgan was told that the body would be refrigerated while it awaited burial.

Morrogh said he does not yet know whether he will launch a criminal investigation.

Video shows woman aiming gun at son's head

CASSELBERRY, Fla. (AP) — A central Florida woman who fatally shot her son then killed herself at a shooting range wrote in suicide notes to her boyfriend that she was trying to save her son.

"I'm so sorry," Marie Moore wrote several times. "I had to send my son to heaven and myself to Hell."

She signed two of the notes "Failed Queen."

Authorities said Wednesday they still had no motive for the murder-suicide that shocked fellow customers and employees at the Shoot Straight range in Casselberry, about 10 miles north of Orlando, on Sunday.

"We have no clue. I don't even want to begin to speculate," said Deputy Chief Bill McNeil of

the Casselberry Police Department.

The gun range's security video shows 20-year-old Mitchell Moore taking aim at a target in a booth when his mother, 44, walks up behind him and points a gun at the back of his head. In the next frame, the son is seen falling to the ground and a nearby patron appears to alert others as he points to the unseen carnage.

The gun used was rented at the range.

According to a police report, earlier footage from the surveillance video shows the mother and son taking turns shooting and talking with other customers in the adjacent lane. "They seem to be getting along fine," one of the responding officers said.

The son died at the

scene. Marie Moore was still alive when officers arrived at the range but later died at a hospital.

Mitchell's father, Charles Moore, told police that Marie Moore had a history of mental illness and had previously attempted suicide and been involuntarily committed to a mental hospital in 2002 under the state's Baker Act.

Larry Anderson, a manager at Shoot Straight, said it's unclear whether the Moores had been to the range before, but they weren't regular customers. The range requires that customers fill out a form with a series of questions, including whether they have ever been convicted of a felony or been declared mentally unstable. But it has no way to verify

the information.

Anderson defended the range's policies, saying: "If someone acts right, we have to assume they are right."

Based on the writings and audio recordings that he's seen in the media, Anderson said, it's clear that Marie Moore was "bent on doing it."

"Sometimes, like what happens Sunday, you have no control," Anderson said. "There's nothing you can do to prevent it."

MURDER

Continued from Page 1A

Others receiving true bills were:

• Avelardo Castillo Jr., 19, Midland, for evading arrest (state jail felony).

• Juan Cazares Jr., 42, 903 E. George, Stanton, three counts of indecency with a child and sexual assault of a child (all

second degree felonies).

• Matilde Cortez Jr., 40, 706 W. Elizabeth, Stanton, sexual assault of a child (second degree felony).

• Audie Duane Elders, 23, Odessa, hindering a secured

creditor (state jail felony).

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@big-springherald.com

FERRELL

Continued from Page 1A

assistant superintendent post for about a year.

Ferrell has family connections to Big Spring — his mother, Mary, and two sisters, Denise and Debbie, live here — and he attended BSHS in the 1970s while his father, Roy, was stationed at Webb Air Force Base as a jet mechanic.

"I graduated from high school there ... and I got married there," he said. "It's a great opportunity to be able to come back to Big Spring."

He was active in athletics, playing football, baseball and track and field at BSHS and made

the all-district football team his senior year.

It was football that became his ticket to college — he signed a scholarship to play for the University of New Mexico Lobos.

Even then, he was interested in an education career.

"I was always interested in coaching," Ferrell said. "My high school coach at the time (Rex Scofield) told me that if I wanted to get into it after I graduated, he'd help."

After graduating from UNM in 1980, he took his first coaching job at Lee Junior High School in San Angelo. After six years there, he gravitated toward administration.

After earning his mid-

management certification from Angelo State University in 1986, he was hired as principal of the K-12 campus at Paint Rock, where he also serviced as athletic director and coached football, basketball and track.

"I never really thought all that much about being an administrator," he said. "But the superintendent (at Paint Rock) said I could do both (administration and coaching)."

Although he enjoyed his coaching career, he discovered his future lied in administration.

"When you're an administrator, you impact all the students at the campus or district," Ferrell said. "Whereas, when you're a coach,

you only impact those students with whom you come into contact."

He moved to White Deer in 1992 to become elementary principal, then moved up the ranks and was hired as superintendent in 2000.

After nine years in charge of a district with 400 students, he admits there will be some adjustment coming to BSISD, which boasts an enrollment of more than 3,800.

But, he added, the adjustment shouldn't be too jarring.

"The only adjustment ... is that I'll be able specialize in one area; at a 1A school like White Deer, I basically have to oversee it all."

Contact Staff Writer

atcitydesk@bigspringherald.com

HUNT

Continued from Page 1A

candy eggs, in addition to the 10,000 we've already prepared, so there will be plenty for every child."

While the Easter festivities certainly favor children, Callender said he and other event organizers wanted to make sure the adults weren't forgotten.

"We're going to be serving hot dogs and drinks through 1 p.m. for all of the moms and dads and other adults in

attendance," said Callender. "We want them to know we appreciate them, as well. There's no admission fee or anything like that. Everything is free. This is our way of showing our love for the people in our

community."

For more information on the Easter activities, contact the church at 267-7015.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail

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OU's Griffin leaving for NBA

JEFF LATZKE

AP Sports Writer

NORMAN, Okla. — Once Blake Griffin stopped and really thought about his future, it didn't take long for him to reach a decision.

Griffin announced Tuesday that he will give up his final two years of eligibility and head to the NBA after a sophomore season in which he was honored as college basketball's top player. It was a choice coach Jeff Capel called a "no-brainer," with Griffin establishing himself as a likely candidate to be the No. 1 overall pick in the draft this June.

"I felt in my mind from the time that I actually thought about it that this would be the right decision," said Griffin, wearing a black suit, a grey shirt and a tie. "I remember talking to Coach Capel last year after I made my decision of coming back and he said I had the chance to be in this position and I should take it.

"This has been a dream for me. It has been a dream for a lot of guys. I was really comfortable with the decision this time around."

Griffin helped the Sooners win 30 games in a season for only the fifth time in school history, shattering the school records for double-doubles and rebounds along the way. He said it was now time to take his game to the next level.

"It's tough to walk away from some-

thing like this but at the same time, it's a big opportunity and I felt like I was ready for it this year," Griffin said.

After declaring last year he would stay at Oklahoma for at least one more season, Griffin said he wanted to be able to contribute immediately in the NBA before he would turn pro. For him to feel like he was "100 percent sure" that he was ready, he said he'd probably have to be in line to be the No. 1 pick in the draft.

Griffin couldn't have done much more to make his case for that spot.

He was honored by The Associated Press and several other groups as college basketball's player of the year after leading the nation with 30 double-doubles and 14.4 rebounds per game while also averaging a Big 12-best 22.7 points. In the NCAA tournament, he was even better — averaging 28.5 points and 15 rebounds to lead the Sooners to the regional finals, where they lost to eventual national champion North Carolina.

"This is the right decision. In my mind, it's a no-brainer," Capel said.

For two days after the Sooners got eliminated from the NCAA tournament on the brink of the Final Four, Griffin was too disappointed to think about the NBA. He then left for Detroit and a whirlwind circuit of awards presentations. When everything settled down, it was time to look toward the future.

FORSAN

Continued from Page 1B

Robles has stepped in at first base and I don't know that there's a better player in the district at fielding that position than Patrick. Payton Parker has been great when we've used him on the mound. His ERA is under 2.00. We've got four freshmen contributing a lot

and it's been a nice surprise."

Forsan has the top two teams in the district out of the way for the second half of the district season. The Buffs travel to Loraine on Friday.

Miles 300 011 0-5 8 4
Forsan 030 314 x-11 10 2

Isaac Rodriguez, Hohensee (4), Schniers (6) and Pennington. Evan Burton, Dylan Lowery (6) and Zach Herrin. W - Burton (1-0). L - Rodriguez. 2B: Kruger; Burchett, Flores. 3B: Hohensee; Burchett. RBI: For - Burchett 2, Rhoton 2, Zane Herrin 2, Flores, Patrick Robles, Michael Hill.

STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

Cade Hollandsworth got the start for the Steers, but struggled to throw strikes. Hollandsworth faced just two batters, walking both on four pitches.

Otto went out to visit the senior hurler after the second walk and determined he wasn't recovered from his last outing a week ago against San Angelo Lake View.

"Cade didn't have any pop on his fastball and said he had weakness in his shoulder. That's my fault," admitted Otto. "He hadn't recovered from the Lake View game. I screwed up and shouldn't have put him out there. I got greedy. That's a cardinal sin for coaches."

Matt Ritchey came in from left field to relieve Hollandsworth and pitched the rest of the game. Hollandsworth was held accountable for the first two runs — only one earned — of the game.

Ritchey allowed 10 runs — five earned — on eight hits and two walks, while striking out three batters. Ritchey also knocked in one of the Steers two runs in the third inning, driving in Kaegan Hunt with a sacrifice fly to shallow right field and making the score 4-2.

The Steers took their only lead of the game in the top of the first, when Martin Yanez reached base via an error and scored on a single to left by Jeremy Solis.

Cooper answered with two runs in the bottom of the first, then matched that output in the second.

The Cougars loaded the bases in the third frame with two outs. Catcher Will Wise tripled to right field to clear the bases, giving Cooper a 7-2 advantage.

With two runs already across in the fifth inning via walks for a 9-2

lead, the Cougars once again took advantage of juice bases. This time it was Riley Rodriguez doubling to right field, clearing the bases and giving Cooper the win courtesy of the 10-run mercy rule.

The Cougars got a stellar performance on the mound from Jacob Martinez.

Martinez allowed two runs — one earned — on four hits and two walks, while striking out nine batters. Otto noted Martinez was the first left-hander the Steers had faced all season.

"Good hitters will tell you it doesn't matter how hard a guy throws," noted Otto. "Nolan Ryan struggled early in his career because the second time through a lineup the hitters were adjusting to him 101 miles per hour pitch and hitting the spot out of it. The worst pitchers to face are the ones who constantly change speeds and hit their spots. That's what we saw today. Their pitcher had great control of his curveball and hit his spots with his fastball. It looked like we were guessing on a lot of it."

The Steers (8-13, 2-2) travel to Wolforth to take on the Frenship Tigers (11-13, 4-0) at 7 p.m. Friday. Frenship is coming off an 8-0 win over Plainview Tuesday. Lance Ratliff pitched a no-hitter in that contest.

The first time these two teams met, it was a 3-2 game heading into the top of the sixth inning. Some miscues allowed Frenship to score five runs in the frame and the Tigers eventually won 9-2.

Abilene Cooper 12, Big Spring 2
Big Spring 101 00-2 4 8
Cooper 223 05-12 8 1

Cade Hollandsworth, Matt Ritchey (1) and Rance Terry. Jacob Martinez and Will Wise. W - Wise. L - Hollandsworth. 2B: BS - Colby Landis; AC - Grayson Bunnell, Riley Rodriguez. 3B: AC - Wise. RBI: BS - Jeremy Solis, Matt Ritchey; AC - Caston Gillit, Wise 5, Joey Mendl, Rodriguez 3. LOB: BS 6, AC 3.

UNDEFEATED

Continued from Page 2B

turned up their defense. Louisville missed 18 straight shots spanning the half and Connecticut built a 19-point advantage.

"It's the big stage, our first time playing in a national championship game," Louisville coach Jeff Walz said. "The first five minutes was what I was most concerned about. We went back and forth and I felt really good about things. Then we started to rush some shots."

Louisville came into its first title game with little pressure. The Cardinals were big underdogs, bid-

ding to knock off three No. 1 seeds on their way to a championship.

Busloads of Louisville fans made the 250-mile trip from Kentucky to pull for the Cardinals, and even though the game wasn't sold out for the first time in 17 years, the matchup of Big East schools still had a raucous feel to it.

But it was the Connecticut players celebrating at the end.

The victory put the Huskies in the same class as

UConn's other unbeaten teams, in 1995 and 2002. Besides Connecticut, only Tennessee and Texas have run through a season without a loss.

The title was Connecticut's first since 2004. UConn was suffering through its longest "drought" since first winning in 1995.

Only the Lady Vols, with eight titles, have more than the Huskies.

With most of Connecticut's team returning, it might be only a few more years before that changes.

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EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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OTHER VIEWS

Obama's missile crisis

Hours after North Korea dared to launch a long-range rocket in defiance of world pressure, President Obama issued a warning. "Rules must be binding," he said, a reference to the North's violation of a 2006 U.N. resolution that imposed sanctions on Pyongyang. "Violations must be punished. Words must mean something."

U.S. diplomats sailed into the United Nations on Sunday in high diplomatic dudgeon. They and allies demanded a strong Security Council resolution condemning North Korea and spiky new sanctions to punish Pyongyang.

They got zilch. Nothing. So far, not even a toothless, pro forma "president's statement" from the council expressing its opinion on the launch. The Chinese and Russians insist they're not sure North Korea broke any rules.

Welcome to the United Nations, Mr. President.

Obama, facing his first international crisis, is learning cold facts about world diplomacy.

The North Koreans are frustrating, to be sure. They're hard to read, they're tough bargainers and they don't hesitate to retaliate in dangerous ways.

But the United Nations? Well, that can be even more frustrating. North Korea has staged a rocket launch that can be read only as a threat to develop nuclear missiles capable of hitting the United States and other targets. North Korea was warned by most of the world's powers not to launch. Is it too much to expect a meaningful response from the United Nations?

North Korea tipped this provocation weeks in advance, so U.N. Security Council members have had plenty of time to coordinate a response. All we have gotten are three hours of meetings and a promise to spend the next couple of days discussing what to say. Feckless doesn't even begin to describe this debacle.

So far, North Korea's rocket has failed but its gambit has won.

Violations must be punished, the U.S. president said. Well, maybe not, the United Nations is saying.

A failure to respond would risk the modest progress that has been made toward slowing Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program. Yes, there has been progress: Its nuclear reactor has been partly disabled. But now the negotiations are stalled over complicated you-said/no-I-didn't disputes on how to verify the North's nuclear dismantlement.

So we'll learn something quickly about the Obama administration. Can it make the president's words count? Can it persuade reluctant giants like the Chinese to cooperate on North Korea? Can it work the foot-dragging United Nations into doing anything meaningful in response to this rocket launch?

The rocket launched over the weekend flew for about 13 minutes and fell into the Pacific Ocean hundreds of miles east of Japan. The third stage apparently failed.

This was more than a test of North Korea's ballistic missile capability, though. This was a test of the mettle of a new president.

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

Hunting for Easter's meaning

Easter. Again. Many of us probably are thinking about where to go for that big Easter lunch, or maybe brunch if church isn't part of the equation. Young families prepare their Easter baskets. The whole la-dee-da is about to roll out once more.

The institution of Easter. Over time, this week has turned into another occasion for greeting cards, shopping sprees and dining extravaganzas.

I participate in this pageant, for the record. And some of it, in its own right, is a good time. I like seeing the gleam in my children's eyes when they find a hidden Easter egg. A picture on my desk shows them with baskets in one hand, eggs in the other.

But how that part squares with the drama and even violence of the biblical message being observed this week beats me. This is a pageant largely about rejection, death, rebuke and division - not exactly what you associate with a bunny, a basket and brunch.

In fact, going back to the tomb, this is a week built upon great fear. Imagine discovering, as Mary and the disciples did, that The One they had been following had suddenly vanished from the spot he was buried. That would give me the creeps, and it did

them.

But they persisted, despite their fears, which is why this message still reverberates. Jesus' followers didn't have all their problems solved, as those televangelists promise today. Heck, they encountered new ones, but they stepped forward in faith, just as millions of Christians will try to do after the last Easter hymn is sung.

Back then, Christ's followers risked being hung on crosses for their willingness to follow him. The truth is, I've never come to terms with the Bible's violence. Never mind the Old Testament floods and the like. The New Testament has its own share.

Christians, for example, will hear again this week how Jesus stormed into the Temple and drove out the moneychangers. They also will hear about the curtain in the Temple being torn asunder. And, of course, there is the cross itself. This story does not add up to a warm-and-fuzzy send-off to Easter lunch.

And we churchgoers should think about ourselves as we hear that message. So much of Jesus' focus was on the religious elites, and at the heart of Holy Week is Jesus' attack on the religious institutions of his day.

Gulp. I like my Presbyterian church. I like sitting in the quiet of our chapel and listening to the sermons and hymns. I like seeing people hustling through the hallways between services. I like taking the kids to choir on Sunday afternoons.

But we are an institution. Our church has been in Dallas for 150 years. Are we today's proud Pharisees?

I don't think of us that way, but Easter should get churches thinking about their roles as institutions.

That's hard for me because I like institutions. They create stability. We need them to develop our economy, raise our children and enjoy a peaceful life.

In my 20s, I didn't always see it that way. Institutions seemed to retard progress, discriminate against people and practice collusion.

All true. But now, in my 50s, I don't want to see London's street protesters bringing down the G-20 or the world's banks. Could you imagine the chaos?

But chaos is what happened in Jesus' day. He upended much more than the things those street protesters were targeting last week in London. He took on institutions that had become their own gods.

Which makes me wonder: Have we Christians allowed Easter the institution to override the Easter message?

It's worth thinking about as we hide the eggs, buy the bonnets and carve the ham.

William McKenzie is an editorial columnist for The Dallas Morning News. Readers may write to him at the Dallas Morning News, Communications Center, Dallas, Texas 75265; e-mail: wmckenzie@dallasnews.com

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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

• **BARACK OBAMA**
President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

• **KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**
U.S. Senator
703 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-5922

• **JOHN CORNYN**
U.S. Senator

517 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-2934

• **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**
U.S. Representative
19th Cong. District
1510 Scurry
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Phone: (432) 264-0722

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Governor
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P.O. Box 12428
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Phone: (512) 463-2000

• **JOE HEFLIN**
State Representative
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Phone: (432) 213-2897 or
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Is 'normal' gone forever?

How did things get this crazy? You turn on the news and the headline is something like "President fires CEO," and a blogger points out that's about as expected as "Pope fires missile."

Presidents aren't supposed to be deciding who runs our major corporations, but here we are. President Obama reached out and touched Rick Wagoner of General Motors, and he was gone.

The other day Bloomberg News toted up all the commitments, loans and bailouts handed out since last year's credit blowup. It came to more than \$12 trillion, almost as much as the Gross Domestic Product — the value of everything we produce in a year.

A good bit of this was necessary, as galling as that seems. In September, credit froze up and we came within a whisker of complete financial collapse. Something had to be done, and quickly.

Since then, the Federal Reserve has opened up the floodgates. It's printing money like crazy to fend off deflation. But when that money starts circulating, it will generate the opposite problem — inflation — and we'll get to find out whether the Fed can move fast enough to remove all that the liquidity without tanking the economy again. That should be interesting.

A lot of the bailout money will be paid back (we hope). But when you think about all that's happened it still leaves you with

a tight feeling in the pit of your stomach.

Will it ever be possible to roll back all of these spectacularly unprecedented initiatives and return to some semblance of normal? I doubt it. There's a queasy sense that we have crossed a line, that the role of government in the economy has undergone a profound and permanent change.

Last week, the White House essentially began running two of our major auto companies. It not only fired a CEO, it appointed his successor. The president said his team would be "working closely" with General Motors, to make sure the company's reorganized business plan includes a lot more environmentally correct cars.

Soon, perhaps, the government may not only decide what kind of vehicles GM and Chrysler should make, but which plants should continue and which should be closed, and the problem here is that these are deeply political decisions, given that many of these plants are in swing states that Obama won. These are matters that should be decided by a bankruptcy court, not by politicians. But government has waded in with both feet, and that will create its own set of problems.

For example: The leader of a major union recently called on Obama to fire a prominent bank president, Ken Lewis of Bank of America. Andy Stern of the Service Employees International Union demanded to know why the government was letting banks off the hook and punishing car companies.

So now we're going to have political campaigns over which

CEOs should be canned? Wonderful.

There are lot of definitions of socialism. Here's one: a system in which an increasing number of private-sector issues somehow leak into the political arena. It's a system in which the zone of private decision-making steadily shrinks.

Last week, Obama threatened the car companies with bankruptcy if they didn't reorganize more thoroughly. He gave GM two months to come up with a viable plan. Chrysler, judged too weak to go it alone, got a month to cement its alliance with Fiat.

Chrysler and GM warranties will be backed by the government. A \$5 billion lifeline has been created to support parts suppliers, to keep them alive in case the car makers must head for bankruptcy court. The administration has laid the groundwork for bankruptcy, but will it pull the trigger?

My guess is no; the key decisions will remain in the political arena. Bankruptcy would put the union agreements at risk, and that would undermine a core Democratic constituency.

Obama says the nation "cannot make the survival of our auto industry dependent on an unending flow of tax dollars." In a few weeks, we'll see if he really means it — and whether we have a ghost of a chance of ever returning to some semblance of normal.

E. Thomas McClanahan is a member of the Kansas City Star editorial board. Readers may write to him at: Kansas City Star, 1729 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, Mo. 64108-1413, or by e-mail at mcclanahan@kstar.com.



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Just a reminder — the library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260. Look at our new Web site: www.howard-county.lib.tx.us. Johnny is looking to add new “stuff,” reserving your books, looking at your account, etc. The library will close at 3 p.m. Good Friday for the Easter holiday and re-open Monday. You can always return materials in the new book drop that the Friends of the library graciously donated funds to purchase. It is designed to take books on the lefthand side and movies, BOTs or BOCds on the righthand side.



HOLLIS
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More Science Fiction is in. From the Starfist Series, we have received 4, 5 and 7. Steven Erikson’s “Toll the Hounds”, No. 8 in the Malazan Book of the Fallen series is here and finally Jim Butcher’s book 1, “Furies of the Calderon” and book 2, “Academ’s Fury” in the Codex Alera series.

A mixed bag on Fiction: Davis Bunn’s “All Through the Night;” “The Gifted Gabaldon Sisters” by Lorraine Lopez; this had been made into a movie, I think — “Confessions of a Shopaholic,” by Sophie Kinsella;

and in the Mystery section, Charlaine Harris’ “All Together Dead.” This is a series that has been made into an HBO series, “True Blood.”

Are you ready to travel? Frommer is very well-known for guide books that give the uncertain traveler confidence to tackle whichever country they wish to travel. How about escaping to London? “Best Day Trips from London” (914.210 BRE S) or “Frommer’s London 2009” (914.210 WIL P) are available to check out and plan your trip. If you prefer to stick to our great United States, Frommer’s Alaska 2009” (917.980 WIL P) and “Florida With Your Family” (914.59 WIL P) are also available for checkout.

Our How-To section is jam-packed full of great books. Just in is “How To Weld” (671.52 BRI T) by Todd Bridgum. He will show the right equipment to purchase, how to lay a bead and dozens more techniques, tips., etc. On the house front, Elise Kinkead will show you “50 Ways to Paint Ceilings and Floors” (698.1 KIN E). And then if you want to have fun with your children, check out “Scrapbooking With Your Kids” (745.593 LEI A), published by Leisure Arts.

Author Tim Berry has written “The Plan-As-You-Go Business Plan” (658.401 BER T) to assist you in opening your own business. It will teach you how to tailor a

plan to fit your company, avoid common mistakes and errors and help you save both your time and resources. This is an excellent book to check out.

I was listening to Ray Benson’s Asleep at the Wheel band and they played “Route 66.” Now you can check out a book that guides you along the route that both the highway and the song take you. “Route 66 Backroads” (914.804 HIN J) by Jim Hinkleley will show you many side trips to take and explore. This is really a neat book. Even if you can’t drive the route, savor it vicariously by reading “Route 66 Backroads.”

Spring is here and time to plan your garden. “Plant Driven Design” (712 OGD S) by Scott Ogden will guide you in planning the perfect garden that will soothe your soul and heart. If you have a very limited space for gardening, check out “Designer Plant Combinations” (712.609 CAL S) by Scott Calhoun. He will help you choose just the correct mix to fill that corner of your garden. The library

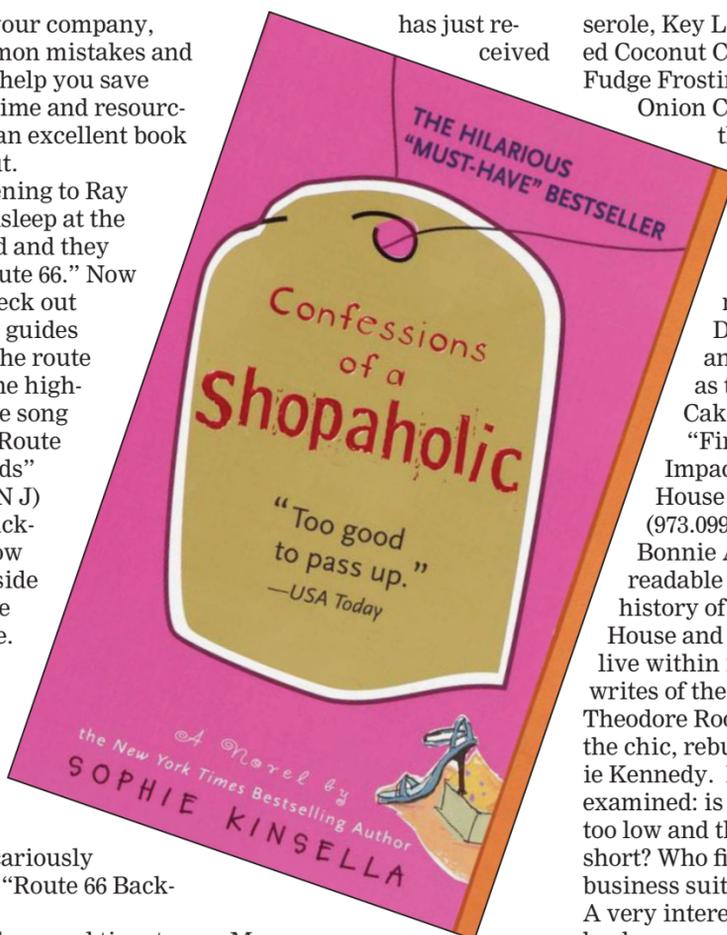
has just received

serole, Key Lime Pie, Toasted Coconut Cake, Cooked Fudge Frosting, Vidalia Onion Casserole; don’t

these sound so good? Check this out for a special dinner or for your family. Johnnie is Paula Deen’s cousin and is also known as the Marietta Cake Lady.

“First Families: Impact of the White House on Their Lives” (973.099 ANG B) by Bonnie Angelo is a very readable and friendly history of the White House and who came to live within its confines. She writes of the mess that the Theodore Roosevelts left to the chic, rebuilding by Jackie Kennedy. Persons are also examined: is the neckline too low and the skirts too short? Who first wore a plain business suit as president? A very interesting, readable book.

Some great Large Print books have been processed. Be sure and check the New Book Binder for a list. I haven’t looked at them in depth, but here are a few of the titles: “The 19th Wife” by David Ebershoff; Vince Flynn’s “Act of Treason” (Flynn is a great suspense writer); “Pursuit” by Karen Robards; and Mary Balough’s “Then Comes Seduction.”



Mary Irish’s “Trees and Shrubs for the Southwest” (635.977 IRI M). It has gorgeous photos of tress and shrubs along with the information on sizes, locations to plant, etc. An excellent resource for the home gardener.

“Cooking in the South” (641.597 GAB J) by Johnnie Gabriel is full of great recipes. White Chili, Squash Cas-

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APRIL PROCLAIMED SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

Big Spring, TX - Governor Rick Perry designed April 2009 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Texas. Victim Services joins rape crisis centers across the state in commemorating Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month to promote awareness and encourage support of this issue.

According to a 2003 study conducted by the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault and the University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work, nearly 2 million Texans have been sexually assaulted. That equals 1 in 5 women and 1 in 20 men in our state. Unfortunately, fewer than 20 percent of sexual assault are ever reported to the police.

Sexual violence is a form of oppression, and is linked to all other forms of oppression. In order to create a world without sexual violence it is imperative that each of us take a stand against all forms of oppression whether based on gender, age, race or ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity. In order to foster healthy communities all citizens must support the efforts to end sexual violence every month of the year.

Last year Victim Services of Big Spring served:
41 Child Victims of Sexual Assault; 25 Primary and 16 Secondary
10 Adult Victims of Sexual Assault; 9 Primary and 1 Secondary
Total of 51 Cases

From victims and future victims take a stand today, the next victim could be someone you love, your wife, mother, sister, co-worker, aunt, niece, nephew or a friend.

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News in brief

Death toll in Italy
quake rises to 250

L'AQUILA, Italy (AP) — The death toll in Italy's quake has risen to 250, officials said Wednesday, as strong aftershocks cause further fear among residents sheltered in tent camps.

As rescue teams continued searching through the debris for survivors, the homeless emerged from their tents after spending a second night in chilly mountain temperatures.

"I slept so badly because I kept feeling the aftershocks," said Daniela Nunut, speaking at one of the tent camps set up across L'Aquila. The 46-year Romanian-born woman said she and her companion plan to stay in the tent for now. "What can you do? You can't go into the building."

The magnitude-6.3 quake hit L'Aquila and several towns in central Italy early Monday, leveling buildings and reducing entire blocks to a pile of rubble and dust.

The Civil Protection said that 250 people have died, including 11 who remained to be identified.

Plenty of work awaits Obama
as he returns to White House

WASHINGTON (AP) — "There is still a lot of work to do here," President Barack Obama declared in Baghdad.

He could have been talking about every stop of his jam-packed, eight-day, six-country overseas trip.

In London, Obama joined other world leaders in trying to tackle the spiraling global economic crisis. In France, he sought help from NATO allies in dealing with the deteriorating war in Afghanistan. In the Czech Republic, Obama pledged to end the threat of nuclear weapons. In Turkey, he sought to start repairing America's dismal standing in the Muslim world. And in Iraq, he pushed for Iraqis to "take responsibility for their own country."

The pile of problems on Obama's desk was high before he left, and remains so now that he is back.

The president returned to Washington in the early hours of Wednesday morning, bringing his

lengthy debut on the world stage — including his first stop in a war zone as commander in chief — to a close.

Diplomat says pirates have hijacked
cargo ship with 21 Americans onboard

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — A diplomat says Somali pirates have hijacked a cargo ship with 21 Americans onboard.

He says the 17,000-ton Maersk Alabama was taken Wednesday. The Kenya-based diplomat spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Company representatives and a spokeswoman from the U.S. embassy in Nairobi were not immediately able to confirm the hijacking.

Andrew Mwangura of the East African Seafarers' Assistance Program said the ship was taken about 400 miles (640 kilometers) from the Somali capital, Mogadishu.

The vessel is the sixth to be seized within a week and the first with an all-American crew.

Fidel Castro holds first meeting
with U.S. officials since 2006

HAVANA (AP) — A "very healthy, very energetic" Fidel Castro asked visiting Congressional Black Caucus members what Cuba could do to help President Barack Obama improve bilateral relations during his first meeting with U.S. officials since falling ill in 2006.

Caucus leader Rep. Barbara Lee, a Democrat from California, said the ailing former Cuban president talked for nearly two hours with her and two other delegation members on Tuesday in a meeting seen as signaling Cuba's willingness to discuss better relations with the United States.

"We believe it is time to open dialogue and discussion with Cuba," Lee told a news conference in Washington upon the caucus members' return. "Cubans do want dialogue. They do want talks. They do want normal relations."

Lee said the group would present its findings to Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a fellow Democrat from California, and White House and State Department officials.

California Democratic Rep. Laura Richardson, who also met Fidel with Illinois Democratic Rep. Bobby Rush, said Castro "looked directly into our eyes" and asked how Cuba could assist Obama in his efforts to change the course of U.S. foreign policy.

Vermont legalizes gay marriage after
lawmakers override governor's veto

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — Vermont, which invented civil unions, on Tuesday became a pioneer again as the first state to legalize gay marriage through a legislature's vote, suggesting growing popular acceptance of the idea.

The House barely achieved the votes necessary to override Gov. Jim Douglas' veto of a bill that will allow gays and lesbians to marry beginning September 1. Four states now have same-sex marriage laws and other states soon could follow suit.

Bills to allow same-sex marriage are currently before lawmakers in New Hampshire, Maine, New York and New Jersey. The three other states that currently allow same-sex marriage — Connecticut, Massachusetts and Iowa — each moved to do so through the courts, not legislatures.

"For a popularly elected legislature to make this decision is a much more democratic process" because lawmakers have to answer to the voters every other November, said Eric Davis, a retired Middlebury College political science professor.

Courts typically deal with arcane points of constitutional law. While legislatures debate some of the same principles, the process may become much more personal. In Vermont, some of the most gripping debate came when gay and lesbian lawmakers took to the House floor last Thursday and told their own personal love stories.

Team warns flawed wiring may cause
further electrocutions of soldiers in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — A military team sent to evaluate electrical problems at U.S. facilities in Iraq determined there was a high risk that flawed wiring could cause further "catastrophic results" — namely, the electrocutions of U.S. soldiers.

The team said the use of a required device, commonly found in American houses to prevent electrical shocks, was "patchy at best" near showers and latrines in U.S. military facilities. There also was widespread use of uncertified electrical devices and "incomplete application" of U.S. electrical codes in buildings throughout the war-torn country, the team found.

At least three U.S. service members have been electrocuted in Iraq while taking showers in the six years since the U.S.-led invasion of the country.

The highest-profile death was that of Staff Sgt. Ryan Maseth, 24, a Green Beret from Pittsburgh who was electrocuted while showering in his barracks early last year. Other troops and contractors have died or have been seriously injured in other electrical incidents.

A copy of the team's Sept. 8 report to the then-commander in Iraq, Gen. David Petraeus, was obtained by The Associated Press through a Freedom of Information Act request.

Commerce Secretary Gary Locke needs
no introduction to corporate America

WASHINGTON (AP) — Gary Locke is new to the Commerce Department but already known to corporate America, which spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to help re-elect him as Washington's governor.

His donors included Microsoft and Boeing, two home-state companies that Locke tried hard to please and whose issues he will almost certainly encounter as a Cabinet secretary.

Fortune 500 companies and other businesses gave at least \$800,000 to the Democrat's campaigns for governor, including at least \$500,000 for his easy 2000 re-election, according to an Associated Press review of his campaign finance reports. The rest was split between his 1996 race and his 2004 campaign.

Washington is among several states that let businesses donate to campaigns for governor. In Locke's 2000 race, they could give him \$1,250 each for the primary.

While the state is known for its high-tech industry, a variety of businesses, including many that lobby in the nation's capital, gave to Locke: Northwest Airlines; Coca-Cola; grocer Safeway; brewer Anheuser-Busch; Washington Mutual Bank, Wells Fargo and U.S. Bank; drugmakers Pfizer, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Merck & Co., and Schering-Plough; the AT&T and Verizon telecommunications companies; and Texaco and Tesoro Petroleum. Enron, a Texas-based energy company that later collapsed in a fraud scandal, gave \$2,000 in November 2001.

Space capsule
carrying billionaire
space tourist lands

KOROLYOVA, Russia (AP) — A Russian spacecraft carrying a crew of three including U.S. billionaire space tourist Charles Simonyi landed safely in Kazakhstan Wednesday, officials said.

The Soyuz capsule touched down around 11:15 a.m. (0715 GMT, 3:15 a.m. EDT) Wednesday, about three hours after leaving the international space station. It descended on parachutes and then hit the ground in a jarring puff of dust and dirt.

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.

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

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Tom Land ~ 264-5077
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17255

Contract
Bridge

By Steve Becker

Defense Is a Logical Process

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♦ Q 9
♥ J 7 2
♦ Q 8 2
♣ K Q J 10 4

WEST
♦ 7 4
♥ A K 9 5 4 3
♦ K J 9
♣ 3 2

EAST
♦ 5 2
♥ Q 10 6
♦ A 7 6 4
♣ 9 7 6 5

SOUTH
♦ A K J 10 8 6 3
♥ 8
♦ 10 5 3
♣ A 8

The bidding:
South West North East
1♦ 2♥ 3♣ 3♥
4♣

Opening lead — king of hearts.
Assume you're West on this deal, defending against four spades. You lead the king of hearts, which wins as partner contributes the ten. What would you play next? Bear in mind that you need three more tricks to defeat the contract.

The first step in the right direction is to assume declarer has a singleton heart, since your partner is marked with three hearts for his bid. This in turn means that any additional tricks you take will have to come from a source other than the heart suit. (Observe that if you continue with the ace of hearts, declarer takes the

rest of the tricks.)

The next step is to recognize that if South has both minor-suit aces to go with his obviously long spade suit, the contract cannot possibly be defeated. You should therefore credit partner with one of these aces, which he almost certainly has for his raise.

The only remaining question is not so much which minor-suit ace East holds, but, more importantly, which one might allow you to collect three more tricks. The only sensible conclusion is to assume partner has the ace of diamonds, because if he has the ace of clubs instead, the contract cannot be defeated.

Accordingly, you must shift to a diamond at trick two, but before you do, one more question must be resolved — namely, which diamond to lead. To guard against the possibility that South might have the ten of diamonds, the jack of diamonds — not the nine or king — must be played.

As it happens, the jack lead puts the contract down one. If the nine or king is led instead, declarer makes the contract with correct play.

The careful step-by-step process that leads eventually to finding the winning play at trick two is not really difficult if you focus on the ultimate goal — to defeat the contract. The jack lead then emerges as the play that gives you the best chance of achieving that goal.



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It's the eve of the full moon in Libra and a perfect time to become aware of your intentions for the next cycle in the area of love and relationships.

The full Libra moon will be an ideal time for bonding. Would you like your life to intertwine more closely with someone else's? Get ready to focus your thoughts and attention on making this happen.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

You are adventurous and energetic and want to explore the world at your own pace. Take a solo excursion if you can. If not, you'll have to be patient with those who lag behind. Allow for delays.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your work helps you develop your identity. So dive in, even if you suspect the job at hand is not a perfect fit for you. The important part is that you learn about yourself in the process.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You have moved into a new phase of life and



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

yet you still feel the same way as you did way back when. It's not what you do in life that needs to change; it's how you think about it. Put a positive spin on your history.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You are a winner, not because you'll beat everyone else to the jackpot, but because you live your best life every day. You'll still get the jackpot, though, and it will come in many different forms.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Before you make a purchase, make preparations. Be sure you really have enough room in your life for the care and maintenance of this new entity. Think things through. Is this really the best use for your money?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). What you want is totally, utterly, shockingly outrageous. So you'll take bigger chances and make bigger mistakes. Ultimately, you will prevail and be thrilled with what you've accomplished.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You will find yourself asking that age-old question "Could this be love?" Think of love as an action, not a feeling. When you do, it will suddenly be obvious who

loves whom.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You don't live in a peaceful world, but it's a lot better in your corner than most other places. You're an agent for harmony. You prevent fights between family members, avoid conflict with colleagues and make friends with strangers.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You have the answers. But are you asking questions that are empowering enough? Connect with your higher spirit to find out. This can be done through mediation, reading, walking or praying. You'll receive a sign.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You are an excellent spokesperson for those who have gone unheard. The message cuts through when it comes from you. You are able to get assistance, resources and a better life for those you represent.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's a strange phenomenon and it keeps happening over and over to you. Those who come to the end of their rope are magnetically drawn to you. You can help and you will.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You are open to signs of the universe and you'll find them in the most

random places — a flier on the community bulletin, a message on the side of a truck or a soup can. The messages are the same: Take a chance!

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "My home has been so chaotic lately. We did some renovations in the first part of the year to the kitchen and dining area, and it seems like ever since we made those changes there has been a lot of bickering, arguing and negativity in the house. What should we do to clear the air and be more harmonious as a family?"

How intuitive of you to notice how shifting the Feng shui of your home affected your family. It will be very helpful to invite the energy of Libra into your home. Libra is the sign of harmony and loveliness. The Libran symbol is the scales, representing life's delicate balance.

Increasing the Libran energy in your home will bring more positive sharing, teamwork, friendship and diplomacy. Call on the soothing powers of Libra with items that come in sets of two, such as candlesticks, salt and pepper shakers and bookends. Libra energy

also flows where there is an equal distribution of furniture throughout the room, a well-planned lighting scheme and lots of art. Libran colors are lavender and airy blues. Also, soft classical music is a Libran enhancement. I hope your family members respond to the environmental serenity you create!

CELEBRITY PROFILES: "Twilight" star Kristen Stewart is a fiery Aries who had some big breaks as a child — in one of her first films she was acting alongside Jodie Foster in "Panic Room"! Barely an adult and already a Hollywood veteran, this Aries will continue to make fortuitous friendships in show business. Her moon in Libra, the sign of partnership, shows a knack for choosing the right people to build her team.

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

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I have a wonderful boyfriend I'll call "Ray."

We have a lot in common and are very happy together. Though we have not yet committed to anything permanent, we both want marriage and have discussed it.

However, there is one thing we don't have in common — our religion. It doesn't bother us (we actually have fun discussing our different beliefs), but it could pose a problem if we decided to

marry.

We've already agreed that a wedding in a neutral location would be ideal. The problem is, we have no idea who would perform the ceremony.

Neither of our families knows we are of different faiths, and we prefer to keep it a secret. Is there such a thing as a "neutral" ordained minister?

One who can marry us without the involvement of religion? We don't want a courthouse wedding to be our only option. — *It's*

All About Love

Dear About Love: There are plenty of nondenominational ministers who can perform a ceremony that will have spirituality without a specific religion.

Look for a justice of the peace or a Universal Life minister, or Google "nondenominational officiant" to find other alternatives.

Check with your local county clerk's office to make sure the ceremony will be legally binding.

However, we question any marriage that begins with secrets. Please be mature enough to tell your families and handle the consequences. And if you ever plan to have children, the decisions about their religious upbringing (or lack thereof) could have an enormous impact on your marriage and the relationships you have with family members. Minimizing it now will only create bigger problems later.

Dear Annie: My problem concerns a friend I don't feel close to anymore. Over the years, our paths have diverged, mainly because I'm now married and "Laura" is still single.

When I talk to her, it's never a real dialogue. I pick up the phone and she launches into whatever is bothering her.

The other day, all I heard about were Laura's job worries and romantic woes. She's been after some guy who's told her he is only interested in friendship.

If I try to say anything, she interrupts and talks more about herself.

Annie, I thought



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

friendships were give and take. I've been out of a job for months, my husband and I have some major repair bills coming up, and I'm worried about my mother.

Laura knows about my problems because I've mentioned them in my e-mails, but she doesn't seem to care.

It's all about this guy and her job. Do I just stop talking to her? — *Not a Real Friendship*

Dear Not: Laura seems very self-absorbed. Tell her directly how hurt you are that she seems uninterested in your life, although she may not respond well.

If she continues to irritate you, we recommend you scale back on the communication.

Don't e-mail or call as often. If she calls, listen for a few minutes and then tell her nicely that you are busy and have to get off the phone.

Sorry to say, not all friendships stand the test of time.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Happy American Bachelor," who can't get past the second

date and says he's given up on women.

Could it be this guy has unrealistic standards? In my experience, it seems like most guys look for a 20-something long-legged blonde, preferably resembling a Barbie doll.

He said he doesn't have much dating experience and proposed a few times. Is he latching on to women too soon, scaring them off? I, too, am frustrated. I may not be drop-dead gorgeous, but I am funny, smart, love sports and have many interests.

I'm tempted to give up, too, but something tells me to hold out hope. — 37, Single and

Disappointed
Dear 37: People who can't find romantic partners often are looking in the wrong places, missing a delightful interior because they are too focused on a gorgeous exterior.

We hope one of those "many interests" will lead you to a friendship worth exploring.

Dear Annie: My mom passed away about a month ago and I cannot seem to come to terms with it. I am in complete denial. My mom and I were very close, but last year I did not see her as often as in the past.

The last time I spoke with her, she was lying on a hospital stretcher after a car accident.

I told her I loved her very much, but the hospital staff wouldn't let me stay in her room because my son and I were sick and they worried she'd catch pneumonia.

Ten days later, I got a call saying she'd gone into cardiac arrest and was in a coma. We ended up

pulling her life support.

Annie, I love my mom so much, I cannot accept that she is gone. I am afraid of how much it will hurt when I acknowledge it.

When I was a young adult, my grandfather died and I handled it by getting drunk — for a year. I don't drink now, but have no idea how I will respond. I keep having nightmares that I am lost and alone. What should I do? — *Scared and Lonely in Manitoba, Canada*

Dear Scared: The loss of a parent is difficult to deal with, especially when the circumstances are unexpected. Your reaction is not unusual, and it's good that you have the awareness to anticipate problems. You could benefit from some grief counseling.

The hospital should be able to provide this, or you can check out griefnet.org for a referral. There might also be a Motherless Daughters support group in your area, which you can find at motherlessdaug.meetup.com. Our condolences.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2009 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

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Legals

GREAT DANE STORAGE
Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, Great Dane Storage which is located at 1510 West 4th Street, Big Spring, TX 79720 will hold a public auction of prop-

erty being sold to satisfy landlord's lien. Sale will be at held 10:30 A.M. on Friday, April 24, 2009 at Great Dane Storage. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. Seller reserves the right to

not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property may be sold item by item or in batches, or by the space. All sales are subject to Texas State Sales Tax. Sale consists of household items from

contents of the following tenants:
Jesusita Zapata
Joe Ovalle
#6099 April 8 & 15, 2009

Legals

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/ MAINTENANCE/ BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: Abilene
Contract 0005-05-101 for FLEXI-

BLE PAVEMENT REPAIR & OVERLAY in HOWARD County will be opened on April 23, 2009 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a

project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.txdot.gov and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.
NPO: 29330

State Office
Constr./Maint. Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540

Dist/Div Office(s)
Abilene District
District Engineer
4250 N. Clack
Abilene, Texas 79604-0150
Phone 325-676-6800
Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.
#6084 April 1 & 8, 2009

Yesterday, today and tomorrow

Today I would like to talk about yesterday, today and tomorrow. This gets a bit confusing, so stay with me. We often get caught up in "living in yesterday's glory;" allowing our minds to dwell in our achievements of the past and not moving on the greener pastures of tomorrow. Will Rogers once said that we shouldn't let yesterday use up too much of today and he was exactly right. Whether yesterday was good or bad, it shouldn't dominate our today.



DARRELL RYAN

Albert Einstein is quoted as saying: learn from yesterday, live for today and hope for tomorrow. We know that yesterday will shape our today and our tomorrow but it shouldn't dominate our thoughts. Just as Babe Ruth once said, "Yesterday's home runs don't win today's games!"

We are different today than we were yesterday and hopefully we learned something yesterday that will be of benefit today and hopefully we are wiser today than we were yesterday. But when we discover that we are not as wise as we think we are then we will find that we have just

become wiser.

Robert H. Schuller made note, "The dream of yesterday is the hope of today and the reality of tomorrow for today's accomplishments are yesterday's impossibilities."

Lou Holtz said, "If what you did yesterday still looks big to you, you haven't done much today."

However, we must realize that we cannot accomplish the tasks of today using yesterday's tools and yesterday's concepts. We must educate ourselves in what no one knew yesterday and prepare ourselves for what no one yet knows.

Everyday provides new opportunities that allow us to build on past successes or put its failures behind us and start over again for we know the success of yesterday is not efficient for today or tomorrow and we should realize that learning and innovation go hand in hand.

I heard a story that brings this into perspective. This could have easily happened in West Texas. It seems that Bubba bought a horse from a farmer for \$100. The farmer agreed to deliver the horse the next day but when he came to make the delivery he said, "Sorry Bubba, but I have some bad news, the horse died." Bubba replied, "Well, then just give me my money back."

The farmer said, "Can't do that.

I've already spent it."

Bubba said, "OK, just bring me the dead horse."

The farmer asked, "What ya gonna do with him?"

Bubba said, "I'm going to raffle him off."

The farmer said, "You can't raffle off a dead horse!"

Bubba said, "Sure I can, Watch me. I just won't tell anybody he's dead."

A month later, the farmer met up with Bubba and asked, "What happened with that dead horse?"

Bubba said, "I raffled him off. I sold 500 tickets at two dollars apiece and made a profit of \$998.00!"

The farmer said, "Didn't anyone complain?"

Bubba said, "Just the guy who won, so I gave him his two dollars back."

I guess the moral to this story is that Bubba may sit back and bask in yesterday's glory or seek employment in government work. Of course it could be that he already has!

Darrell Ryan is director of federal programs for the Big Spring Independent School District.

Texas customer calls 911 over lack of shrimp

HALTOM CITY (AP) — A woman called 911 to report she didn't get as much shrimp as she wanted in her fried rice at a Fort Worth-area restaurant.

Haltom City police on Tuesday released the taped emergency call, in which the customer is heard telling the dispatcher, "to get a police officer up here, what has to happen?"

The customer also said: "He didn't even put extra shrimp in there."

The upset customer was gone when an officer arrived Monday afternoon.

Conn. man handcuffed by wife files for divorce

FAIRFIELD, Conn. (AP) — A Connecticut man is filing for divorce from his wife, who is accused of handcuffing herself to him in a bizarre attempt to reconcile.

In March, Fairfield police said they rescued Robert Drawbaugh at his home, where they found him handcuffed to his wife with bite marks on his torso and arms. They say he managed to use his cell phone to call for help.



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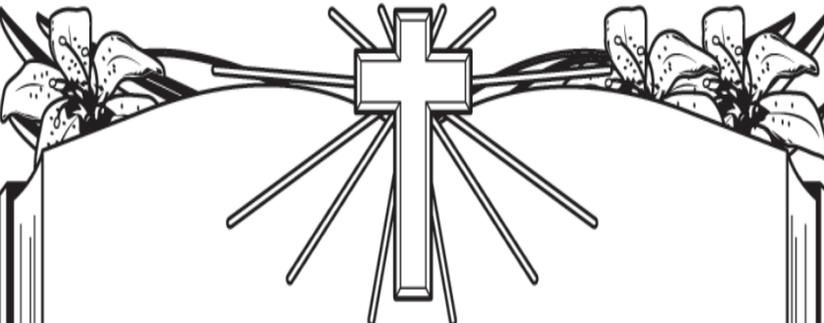
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