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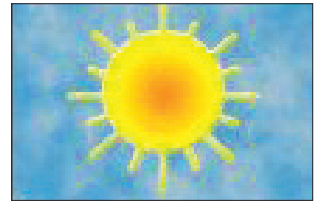


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BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 19, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 303

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Gale Pittman puts the finishing touches on a gingerbread house he created for a Christmas contest at the Heritage Museum Tuesday afternoon. Pittman's creation, along with other contest entries, will be on display at the museum beginning Saturday.

Council OKs Atmos Energy rate increase

Negotiations save local customers more than \$5 million, officials say

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Just say no, then negotiate. That's exactly what the city of Big Spring has done with local utility giant Atmos Energy, and according to local officials, the savings are considerable.

Big Spring City Council approved the emergency reading of an agreement with Atmos for a proposed rate increase during its meeting Tuesday night and City Finance Director Peggy Walker said the deal will save local customers more than \$5 million.

"On Aug. 29 Atmos filed a rate increase request with the city of Big Spring,

as well as other cities in the West Texas division," said Walker. "We recently adopted a rate review mechanism with Atmos, which allows us to sit down and negotiate. Their initial request was for a \$9.5 million increase. We have negotiated a \$3.9 million increase, which will equate to about a 3 percent increase, or \$1.95 or \$1.98 for the average residential or commercial customer.

"We believe this negotiated settlement is better than we would have received if we had gone through pro-rated negotiations or actually gone into

See **CITY**, Page 3A

When planning holiday decorations, put safety first, fire marshal urges

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

While the Thanksgiving holiday will mean plenty of turkey, dressing and all the other holiday trimmings, many area residents will look to trim something slightly taller and greener — their Christmas tree.



Condray

And though the upcoming holiday is most definitely a chance for kids — both young and old — to enjoy the change in

weather and the seasonal cheer, it's not a time to forget about safety, according to Big Spring Fire Marshall Carl Condray.

"Try to select a fresh tree by looking for one that is green. The needles of pines and spruces should bend and not break and should be hard to pull off the branches," said Condray. "On fir species, a needle pulled from a fresh tree will snap when bent, much like a fresh carrot. Also, look for a trunk sticky

See **SAFETY**, Page 3A

Jonestown memorial unveiled on tragedy's 30th anniversary

By **TIM REITERMAN**
Associated Press Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. — On the 30th anniversary of the Jonestown disaster Tuesday, organizers of an annual memorial service displayed the first panels of a 36-foot-long stone wall that is to be inscribed with the names of more than 900 victims of the violence in Guyana.

In the years since, efforts to create a monument have dragged on for lack of funding.

But the Rev. Jynona Norwood on Tuesday pulled covers from two shiny black granite slabs on stur-

dy trailers parked at Evergreen Cemetery, where more than 400 unidentified and unclaimed bodies of Jonestown's victims are buried in a mass grave.

Mourners gasped and tearful survivors scattered red and black carnations on the panels.

"Touch their names because touching their names is very healing," said Norwood, who lost 27 relatives in the 1978 mass murders and suicides orchestrated by Peoples Temple founder Jim Jones. "Finally, they have a resting place."

The work for the memo-

See **TRAGEDY**, Page 3A



AP photo/Eric Risberg

From left, Rev. Amos Brown, Jonestown survivor Stanley Clayton, Juana Norwood, and Dr. Jynona Norwood react after the unveiling of a memorial wall as they reach to touch victims names following the 30th anniversary Jonestown memorial service.

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EDC meets today

The board of directors for the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation will meet at 5:15 p.m. today in the Chamber of Commerce Board Room, located at 215 W. Third St.

The board is expected to consider financial and investment reports for October, as well as modification of the existing agreement between the EDC and Gaston Racing Inc. According to Terry Wegman, executive director, Gaston Racing will be changing its financial agreement with the corporation from payroll credits to a loan. For more information on the meeting, call 264-6032.

Dine Out Day Friday

Furr's Restaurant is this week's Dine Out Restaurant assisting the United Way for Big Spring and Howard County.

Proceeds from Friday's sales at Furr's will benefit United Way. You can also send a tax deductible donation to United Way of Big Spring, P.O. Box 24, Big Spring 79721, or call 267-5201 for more information.



Empty Bowls II

Empty Bowls II, a United Way fundraiser, will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday at First Baptist Church. Participants purchase a handmade bowl for \$15, then fill that bowl with homemade soup, furnished by several local cooks.

Scenic Mountain Medical Center, Howard College, Big Spring High School, Morgan Creek Ranch and Walter Brumley will provide specialty soups for the evening.

Five special bowls will be auctioned during Thursday's event.

Funds raised at Empty Bowls II will help 15 local agencies.

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COMPLETE STORY

BSHS v-ball has 3 honored

By JONATHAN HULL
Sports Editor

Big Spring's Lady Steers received word of one last thing to celebrate from the 2008 volleyball season as three members of the team were honored with awards from the coaches of District 4-4A.

Freshman setter Cerbi Ritchey was named 4-4A's Newcomer of the Year, while senior Andrea Claxton was placed on the All-District first team and sophomore Valerie Ross received second-team honors.

Big Spring Head Coach Meghan Blake believes Ritchey received the first of several awards in her high school volleyball

career.

"For anyone who knows anything about volleyball, running a 5-1 offense is not easy because you're the quarterback all the time. For a freshman, who had never played with any of the other girls on the team, she did a great job," raved Blake. "I couldn't have asked for more. There were a lot more things I wish we could have done with her and next year we'll get some more opportunities. There's no telling how good she



Claxton



Ritchey

could become. The sky is the limit."

Claxton was one of three seniors on the Lady Steers, along with Baylea Fox and Mirella Torres. She led the Lady Steers in kills this season. Blake paid her high compliments, going as far as to compare her to 4-4A Most Valuable Player Bailey Jones of

Franship.

"She was our go-to player. She's who

See **BSHS**, Page 2B

Lady Buffs improve to perfect 3-0

Bufs top Grady in season opener

By JEFF LANE

Special to the Herald

The Forsan Lady Buffs extended their record to 3-0 on the girls basketball season, defeating the Grady Lady Cats Tuesday night, 42-32.

Forsan used the strength of a 7-0 second quarter to jump out to a 9-point halftime lead, 19-10.

However, the Lady Cats quickly answered in the third, going on a 10-2 run to draw within a point, 21-20, midway through the period.

Forsan would end the quarter on a 7-2 run and would close out the game going 12-12 from the free throw line in the final frame.

The Lady Buffs shot 81 percent from the stripe, hitting 13-16 on the night.

Amanda Longorio led all scorers with 19 points while collecting six rebounds. Shelby McDonald was good from behind the arch three times for nine points and Faith Belew added eight points for the Lady Buffs.

See **FORSAN**, Page 2B

Win streak

Lady Steers 2-0 after thrashing Prowlers

By JONATHAN HULL
Sports Editor

Just two games into the 2008-2009 basketball season, the Big Spring Lady Steers have already accomplished something they never came close to last year — a win streak.

The Lady Steers dominated the Fort Stockton Prowlers, 65-40, Tuesday in Steer Gym, utilizing a high-pressure defense to force the Prowlers into 32 turnovers.

The Lady Steers themselves had 25 steals and were relentless for four quarters. It's a result many have trouble

See **STREAK**, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring's Bridgette Tuitt brings the ball up the floor in the Lady Steers' 65-40 victory over Fort Stockton Tuesday in Steer Gym. Big Spring improved to 2-0.

Bulldogettes pick up first win of year

By BRANDON HALLFORD

Special to the Herald

COAHOMA — After opening the season with consecutive losses on the road, the Coahoma Bulldogettes received a gracious guest in the Kermit Lady Yellow Jackets at Bulldog Gym Tuesday. The Lady Jackets committed 19 turnovers in the decisive second and third quarters, allowing Coahoma to win, 53-26.

"We played better tonight than we did in the first two games," first-year Head Coach Randall Petty said. "Against Christoval, we just didn't look good at all and against Andrews we looked better, but were still sluggish."

Coahoma had the hot hand from beyond the arc in the first quarter hitting 3-of-4 three point attempts opening up a 14-8 lead after the first quarter.

The Bulldogettes got on track in the second with junior Kalea Neff doing most of the damage.

Neff scored seven of her game-high 15 points in the stanza, propelling Coahoma to the 30-17 lead going into the locker room.

Coahoma hosts 16th-ranked Garden City at 4 p.m. Friday.

Coahoma 14 16 17 6-53

Kermit 8 9 2 7-26

Coahoma - Neff 15, Gee 9, Fowler 7, Hilari White 6, Ashley Martin 4, Jordan Martin 4, Shelby Page 3, Berkley Iden 3, Jennifer Gonzales 1.

Kermit - Muniz 9, Gonzales 9, Lauren Nutt 3.

Bulldogs 62, Rankin 32

RANKIN — It's hard to imagine the Coahoma Bulldogs could have asked for a better start to the 2008-2009 season than the 30-point victory they posted Tuesday in Rankin.

Coahoma utilized some sharpshooting from behind the 3-point line to pull away from the Red Devils.

The Bulldogs nailed nine treys with Jovi Paniagua hitting four and Braden Griffin knocking down three. Karly Green and Isaac Garcia each had one trey.

"This was a good start for us. Everyone contributed, which is nice," said Bulldogs Head Coach Kim Nichols. "We were glad to get the win."

Coahoma hosts Crane at 7 p.m. Friday.

Coahoma 13 17 17 15-62

Rankin 8 10 6 8-32

Coahoma - Josh Paniagua 7, Mike Mendoza 3, Braden Griffin 13, Karly Green 7, Lane Douglass 2, Ray Gutierrez 2, Isaac Garcia 7, Matthew Taylor 4, Jovi Paniagua 12, Cody Sheppard 8.



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring's Rob Seamster (left) pulls down a rebound over teammate Seth Pearson (background) and Fort Stockton's Reuben Flores (54) in the Steers' season opener Tuesday in Steer Gym. Big Spring fell to Fort Stockton 76-61.

Steers drop opener, 76-61

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

Call it a casualty of making the playoffs in football.

The Big Spring Steers, missing several potential starters due to the school's presence in the state football postseason, fell to Fort Stockton Tuesday in Steer Gym, 76-61.

However, the players missing currently from the team are not an excuse for the loss, according to Big Spring Head Coach Marcus Morris.

"We miss those guys in football a lot," said Morris. "It's hard for me to think of it that way. Those guys might not be with us for a while. So we can either lose some games while waiting for them and use it as an excuse. Or we can try to get better and try to win some games."

Big Spring never led in the contest, but did make a few runs to cut into Fort Stockton's lead. However, the Panthers always had an answer in the form of guard Trey Cantu.

Cantu knocked down five 3-pointers as he went 11 of 20 from the floor and 10 of 11 from the free throw line on his way to a 37-point

See **STEERS**, Page 2B

Sports in brief

Crossroads high school football playoffs schedule

Friday

Class 4A, Division II area

Big Spring vs. El Paso Riverside, 8 p.m., El Paso

Class A, Division I regional

Stanton vs. Morton, 7:30 p.m., Denver City

Six-man Division II regional

Sands vs. Sierra Blanca, 7:30 p.m., Grandfalls

Six-man Division I regional

Garden City vs. Throckmorton, 7:30 p.m., Trent

Steers playoff tickets available at ATC starting Wednesday

Tickets for the Big Spring Steers' playoff game Friday in El Paso can be purchased beforehand at the Athletic Training Center beginning Wednesday from 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. and then from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Tickets will be available at the same time Thursday. Friday, they'll be sold from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Student tickets are \$3 and adults are \$5 for the presale. At the game, students are \$4 and adults \$6.

Big Spring is the home team for the game so all fans should sit on the side of Tiger Stadium with the bigger press box.

Registration for Big Spring Youth Basketball has begun

The YMCA has begun accepting sign-ups for the Big Spring Youth Basketball League for boys and girls through Dec. 1.

Divisions of play include separate boys and girls teams in grades 1-2, 3-4 and 5-6.

Games are scheduled to begin Jan. 10. Practices begin the week of Dec. 8.

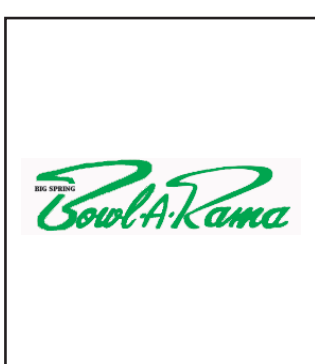
A coaches meeting is scheduled for Dec. 2. Teams will be formed following this meeting.

Pigskin Picks Football

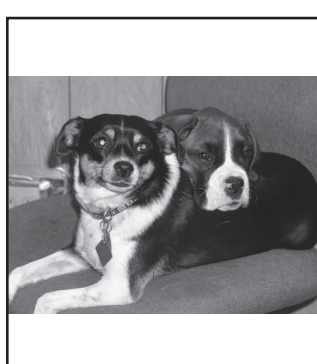
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3. Garden City
4. Sands
5. Borden County
6. Snyder
7. TCU
8. Texas Tech
9. Cowboys
10. Texans

1. Big Spring
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3. Garden City
4. Sierra Blanca
5. Borden County
6. Snyder
7. TCU
8. Oklahoma
9. Cowboys
10. Browns

1. Big Spring
2. Stanton
3. Garden City
4. Sands
5. Borden County
6. Monahans
7. TCU
8. Oklahoma
9. Cowboys
10. Texans

1. Big Spring
2. Stanton
3. Garden City
4. Sands
5. Borden County
6. Snyder
7. TCU
8. Texas Tech
9. Cowboys
10. Browns

1. Big Spring
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3. Garden City
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9. Cowboys
10. Texans

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9. Cowboys
10. Browns

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News in brief

Defeat of Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens' is end of an era in state, nation's capital

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Sen. Ted Stevens' election defeat marks the end of an era in which he held a commanding place in Alaska politics while wielding power on some of the most influential committees in Congress.

It also moves Senate Democrats within two seats of a filibuster-proof 60-vote majority and gives President-elect Barack Obama a stronger hand when he assumes office on Jan. 20.

On the day the longest-serving Republican in Senate history turned 85, he was ousted by Alaska voters troubled by his conviction on federal felony charges and eager for a new direction in Washington, where Stevens served since Lyndon B. Johnson was president.

Alaska voters "wanted to see change," said Democrat Mark Begich, who claimed a narrow victory Tuesday after a tally of remaining ballots showed him holding a 3,724-vote edge.

Big Three automakers running out of time, talk of economic peril as aid stalls

WASHINGTON (AP) — Detroit's Big Three automakers are running out of time in their quest to convince skeptical lawmakers that Congress should throw them a \$25 billion lifeline.

Top executives with General Motors, Ford and Chrysler will return to Congress on Wednesday, appearing before a House committee to plead for a "bridge loan" to give them a massive infusion of cash to prevent millions of layoffs, stave off bankruptcy and stabilize their teetering companies.

Facing a less-than-receptive Senate on Tuesday, General Motors Corp. CEO Rick Wagoner warned that the failure of the U.S. auto industry could lead to a loss of 3 million jobs within the first year and ripple throughout communities around the country.

"This is all about a lot more than just Detroit. It's about saving the U.S. economy from a catastrophic collapse," Wagoner said.

Dire assessments aside, the rescue plan appeared stalled on Capitol Hill, opposed by the Bush administration and Republicans in Congress who are reluctant to use the Treasury Department's \$700 billion financial bail-

out program to come up with the \$25 billion in loans.

Obama's top attorney general pick faces quizzing on Marc Rich

WASHINGTON (AP) — The first black man elected U.S. president is poised to name Washington lawyer Eric Holder as the nation's first black attorney general — a historic appointment but one with some potential political problems over a 2001 pardon.

Holder, 57, met President-elect Barack Obama only four years ago, but the affable Bronx-born son of a Barbados immigrant quickly won a seat in the Democrat's inner circle.

If he becomes the next chief U.S. law enforcement officer, Holder will try to win back the public's confidence in the Justice Department — an agency whose fiercely independent image was tarnished by GOP political meddling during the Bush administration.

"Internally, there is a morale problem the likes of which I have never seen before," Holder said in an interview late last year. "Externally, there is a crisis of confidence that the nation has with regard to the department."

Holder's nomination is expected to be formally announced as soon as this week. He did not return messages seeking comment Tuesday, even though an Obama official and two Democrats in touch with his transition team confirmed that he is the top choice for attorney general.

Holder helped lead the team that selected Sen. Joe Biden as Obama's running mate.

Throughout his career as a judge, a prosecutor and a defense attorney for the prestigious law firm Covington & Burling,

Holder's independence rarely has been questioned. But one of his final acts as President Bill Clinton's deputy attorney general in 2001 could come back to haunt him as he seeks Senate confirmation for the Justice Department's top job.

On the last day of Clinton's term, Holder told the White House he was "neutral, leaning toward favorable" for a presidential pardon for Marc Rich, a wealthy commodities dealer who had spent years running from tax charges. Rich's ex-wife, Denise, was a prominent Democratic Party donor.

Suspected U.S. missile strike kills 6 alleged militants in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — A suspected U.S. missile strike hit a village deep inside Pakistani territory Wednesday, officials said, killing six alleged militants and indicating American willingness to pursue insurgents beyond Pakistan's lawless tribal regions.

The strike was part of a surge of such cross-border attacks in Pakistan's militant-plagued northwest in the last three months. It could heighten Pakistani-U.S. tensions because it was the first to hit an area outside the semiautonomous tribal belt.

Javed Marwat, a local government official, told The Associated Press that two missiles destroyed a house in Indi Khel village in Bannu district.

Two Pakistani intelligence officials said their agents reported that militants from Central Asia were among six killed.

The U.S., which says Taliban and al-Qaida militants use pockets of northwest Pakistan to plan attacks on foreign troops

in Afghanistan, is blamed in about 20 cross-border missile strikes since August.

Senate's seniority rules don't favor big role for Hillary Clinton despite historic run

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton drew about 18 million votes as a presidential candidate. But that doesn't necessarily count for much in the Senate, where seniority rules, and so far not in her favor.

In recent weeks, according to Democratic officials, Clinton's allies have maneuvered to secure the New York lawmaker a role more prominent than her seniority entitles her to, in recognition of her historic run for the White House.

They angered Massachusetts Sen. Edward M. Kennedy by asking him to set up a subcommittee for her to chair to oversee efforts to draft health care legislation, these officials said.

Kennedy, who is battling brain cancer, declined. He has spent much of his career trying to expand health coverage and intends to chair any hearings himself, although he announced Monday that Clinton would lead a working group on insurance coverage.

First of 3 fierce California wildfires sparked by college students' bonfire

LOS ANGELES (AP) — With a trio of once-ferocious wildfires reduced to mostly embers, authorities in Southern California shifted their attention from the blazes to their

causes, and said a group of careless college kids was behind the first of them.

An anonymous tipster led police to discover that a bonfire built by students — and never fully extinguished — was responsible for the massive wildfire in Santa Barbara that destroyed 210 homes, including multimillion-dollar properties, authorities said.

The tipster told police 10 students gathered a week ago near an abandoned home in the hills of Montecito, Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown said Tuesday. They built a bonfire during the night and stayed until 3 a.m. to 5 a.m. Thursday morning. By Thursday night, when "sundowner winds" took hold of it, the seemingly

harmless blaze was on its way to destroying hundreds of homes.

Tool bag lost during trip outside space station

HOUSTON (AP) — Flight controllers were revamping plans Wednesday for the remaining spacewalks planned during space shuttle Endeavour's visit to the international space station, after a crucial tool bag floated out to space during a repair trip.

The briefcase-sized tool bag drifted away from astronaut Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper on Tuesday as she cleaned and lubed a gummed-up joint on a wing of solar panels on the space station.

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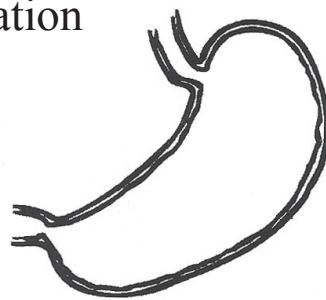
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Why not check this out? At the library

The library will close at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 26 for the Thanksgiving holidays. We will re-open Monday, Dec. 1 at 10 a.m. Remember that you can drop off movies, DVDs, books on tape and CD (books, too) at the book drop located at the entrance to the library. "Yesterday's Ireland" (941.708 LIN P) is by Paddy Linehan, a former teacher who loved to

travel and wrote many articles that appeared in Irish and UK papers. This book is a look back in time, not so long ago, when families held "wakes" for relatives taking the boat to America, knowing they



HOLLIS
MCCRIGHT

would probably never return. There are stories of daily life in rural communities, cutting peat in the bog, washing clothes in the river and the wild celebrations after the threshing was finished. All aspects of Irish life in the 20th century are explored, including living in the cities, tales of home and hearth, stories of the horsemen of Kildare, fishermen of Kerry, of marriage and emigration. Many of the old photographs are from untapped Irish sources. There are a lot of neat stories and tales of Ireland.

A fictionalized account of Martha Custis Washington, "Washington's Lady," (F MOS N) is in. Nancy Moser shines a light on the reluctant first lady of America. Her life was plagued with heartbreak and the deaths of many that she loved. Yet she also experienced great joy with the love of her life and soulmate, George. She was a woman of contradictions, having great strength during adversity, but fearful of the specter of death that loomed over her life. She showed grace and affection to the soldiers under her husband's command, but she was loathe to become a public figure. Martha Washington was a unique woman, flaws and all. While there is no plot, this is an engaging story of the wife of George Washington. Research performed by Moser on the customs, speech patterns, etc. of the 17th century ring true.

"Cat Crimes I, II, II" (F GRE M) is edited by Martin H. Greenberg and Ed Gorman. It is chock full of mystery stories of wondrous doings of cats.

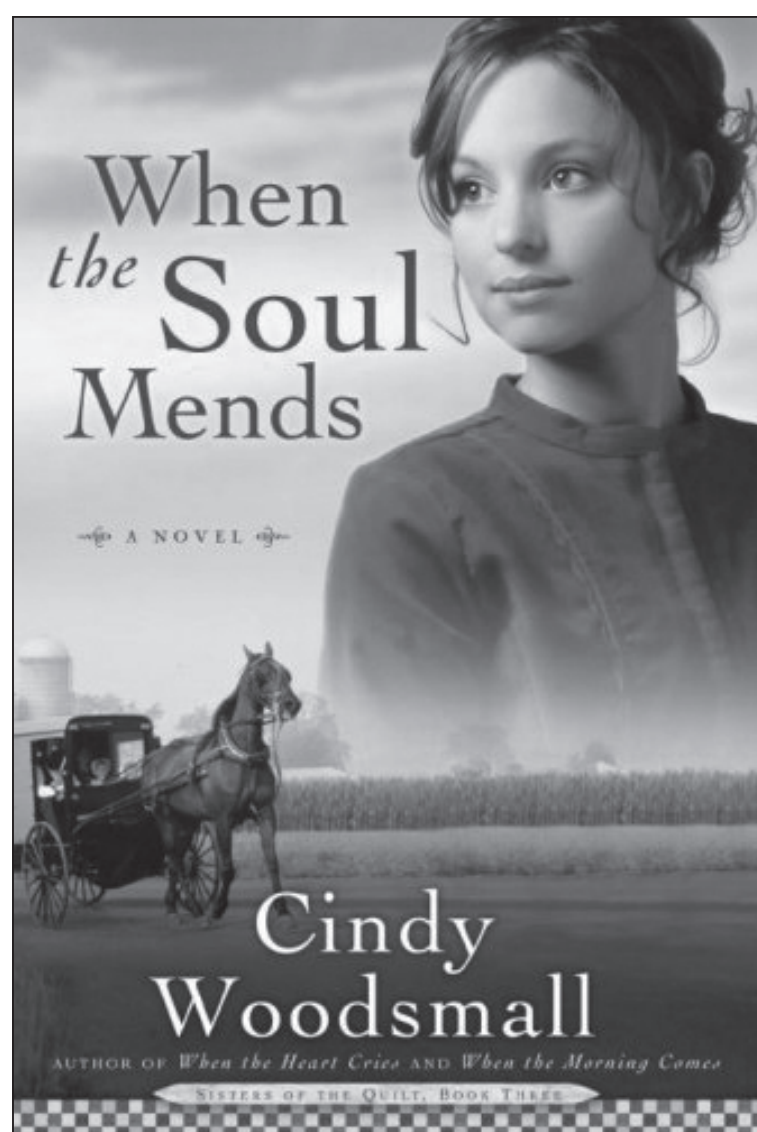
Authors Bill Pronzini, Joan E. Hells, Barbara D'Amato, Margaret Maron and many others have written short stories about cats. While a few of them are whimsical in nature, others paint a very dark picture. You may find it in the Fiction section.

Quite a few Christian fiction books have been processed and added to the collection. These are the larger paperbacks and are easy to have on hand while waiting in the doctor's office or maybe school, waiting to pick up your children. Rene Gutteridge has written "Skid" — a story of Flight 1945 from Atlanta to Amsterdam. Turbulent goings on occur and First Officer Danny McSweeney is focused on making things right. Cindy Woodsmall has written Vol. 3 of the Sisters of the Quilt series. "When the Soul Mends" (F WOO C) is the story of Hannah Lapp, who returns to the old Menonite community from living an "Englischer" life. Choices and decisions must be made and it is problematical what she will decide — the plain life or one of the English?

Davis Bunn is another prolific writer. In "My Soul to Keep," (F BUN D) Bunn combines faith and Hollywood (and its woes) to comfort has-been movie stars to a life of a Christian. "On Sparrow Hill" (F LAN M) by Maureen Lang, Rebecca Seabrooke is focused on making Quentin Holloway's historical home successful while overcoming her childhood crush on Quentin. As usual, "stuff" happens and what was, is not what will be.

Linda Lee Chaikin writes historical romance and "Threads of Silk" takes place in the royal French court in the 1700s.

Finally we have "The United Symbolism of America" (929.9 HIE R). Robert Hieronimus writes of the symbols that rep-



resent the United States. From a review in Amazon.com: The Statue of Liberty is an ancient goddess. But why are there seven rays emanating from her crown? And why was the torch switched from her left to her right hand? Did you know that the 13 stars and stripes are not simply to honor the 13 colonies? Or why the six-pointed stars on the original American flag were changed to five-pointed stars?

Did you know the CBS eye logo is considered by many to be the eye of the devil watching over us? Were you aware that the Washington Monument resembles an Egyptian obelisk channeling energy?

America is young, but its symbols are old. Of the symbols and myths we chose since European colonization, the ones that have become American icons are those representing hope, positive growth, and opportunity. Author Robert R. Hieronimus will

help you see the symbolic messages encoded for us by our Founding Fathers in the symbols they chose.

Unlike other writers on this topic, Hieronimus includes the historical background and the artistic influences behind the official design of each of these landmarks. In addition, he gives an archetypal interpretation based on the numbers, colors, patterns, and themes, and their usage in societies around the world.

The library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260. The Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us. If you have a reference question, we now offer (during library hours) response by e-mail. You may email us at hclref@hotmail.com. It is checked several times a day and a prompt response will be forthcoming.

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.

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Dating Violence

"The person I'm going out with scares me sometimes."

What Is It?

Dating violence is controlling, abusive, and aggressive behavior in a romantic relationship. It can happen in straight or gay relationships. It can include verbal, emotional, physical, or sexual abuse, or a combination.

Controlling behavior may include:

- Not letting you hang out with your friends
- Calling or paging you frequently to find out where you are, whom you're with, and what you're doing
- Telling you what to wear
- Having to be with you all the time

Verbal and emotional abuse may include:

- Calling you names
- Jealousy
- Belittling you (cutting you down)
- Threatening to hurt you, someone in your family, or himself or herself if you don't do what he or she wants

Physical abuse may include:

- Shoving
- Punching
- Slapping
- Pinching
- Hitting
- Kicking
- Hair pulling
- Strangling

Sexual abuse may include:

- Unwanted touching and kissing
- Forcing you to have sex
- Not letting you use birth control
- Forcing you to do other sexual things

Anyone can be a victim of dating violence. Both boys and girls are victims, but boys and girls abuse their partners in different ways. Girls are more likely to yell, threaten to hurt themselves, pinch, slap, scratch, or kick. Boys injure girls more and are more likely to punch their partner and force them to participate in unwanted sexual activity. Some teen victims experience violence occasionally. Others are abused more often, sometimes daily.

If You Are a Victim of Dating Violence, You Might...

- Think it's your fault.
- Feel angry, sad, lonely, depressed, or confused.
- Feel helpless to stop the abuse.
- Feel threatened or humiliated.
- Feel anxious.
- Not know what might happen next.
- Feel like you can't talk to family and friends.
- Be afraid of getting hurt more seriously.
- Feel protective of your boyfriend or girlfriend.

You're Not Alone

- One in five teens in a serious relationship reports having been hit, slapped, or pushed by a partner.¹
- 50-80% of teens have reported knowing others who were involved in violent relationships.²
- Teens identifying as gay, lesbian, and bisexual are as likely to experience violence in same-sex dating relationships as youths involved in opposite sex dating.³
- Many studies indicate that, as a dating relationship becomes more serious, the potential for and nature of violent behavior escalates.⁴
- Young women, ages 16 to 24 years, experience the highest rates of relationship violence.⁵

Get Help

Being a victim of dating violence is not your fault. Nothing you say, wear, or do gives anyone the right to hurt you.

- If you think you are in an abusive relationship, get help immediately. Don't keep your concerns to yourself.
- Talk to someone you trust like a parent, teacher, school principal, counselor, or nurse.
- If you choose to tell, you should know that some adults are mandated reporters. This means they are legally required to report neglect or abuse to someone else.

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News in brief

2 more cell phones found on Texas' death row

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas prison officials recovered on death row two more contraband cell phones, one of them with the price tag still attached.

The first phone was located about midday Tuesday when officers spotted it in the trash. Officials believe an inmate tried to discard it for fear of being caught, said Texas Department of Criminal Justice spokeswoman Michelle Lyons.

The second phone was found at 2:30 p.m. inside the cell of death row inmate Raphael Holiday as he attempted to flush it down the toilet, Lyons said.

Both phones were turned over to the Office of the Inspector General, which will investigate how they were smuggled into the prison, Lyons said. The OIG will also attempt to determine the owner of the phone found in the trash, she added.

"We are dedicated to ridding our units of cell phones and are continuing to search for them wherever they may be hidden," she said for a story in Tuesday's online edition of the Houston Chronicle.

Holiday and the unidentified owner of the second cell phone face disciplinary action and could be classified in a more restrictive manner including a loss of visitation, commissary privileges and less recreational time, Lyons said.

Missing man with Alzheimer's returns safely to Victoria after traveling to Mexico

VICTORIA (AP) — A man who was recently diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease wandered into Mexico twice before he was found about 400 miles from the Texas border on Sunday, officials said.

Philip Orvan Kneifl, 67, was returned safely to his Victoria home Tuesday morning, not knowing he had traveled to Mexico, officials said.

Family members told investigators Kneifl called his sister Deanna Crawford on Nov. 12, to tell her he planned to visit her Kansas home.

Kneifl's wife, Martha Kneifl, was on a church mission trip in Galveston, Sheriff T. Michael O'Connor said.

"They really didn't think his dementia was as serious," O'Connor said in a story for Tuesday's online edition of the Victoria Advocate.

Kneifl left his home Thursday and headed to Austin, credit card purchases show. Friday, he entered Mexico twice at Laredo.

Kneifl's wife reported him missing Friday morning. The sheriff's office contacted state officials and issued a Silver Alert on Friday.

Details of Kneifl's journey from then on are sketchy, until Sunday morning when villagers in rural Zacatecas, Mexico found him wandering through town.

"This small community pretty much adopted him," Investigator Melissa Rendon said.

Residents fed him coffee and cookies and kept him calm, she said.

Man wields baseball bat to get cat

DALLAS (AP) — Police are looking for a man who took his gray and blue short-haired cat from the Dallas Animal Shelter while fending off employees with a baseball bat, authorities said.

Kent Robertson, the shelter's manager, said the man came to the shelter in early October and found his cat among the other animals. The cat had been brought to the shelter by someone who thought it was a stray.

After employees told him he had to pay a \$132 fee to take his cat, the unidentified man became upset.

The man returned Monday morning, signed into the guest book and took matters into his own hands. He loaded his cat into a carrier, without paying the fee, and threatened staff with the baseball bat, according to police.

He left in his 1986 brown Ford F-150, nearly running over two shelter employees, said Senior Cpl. Kevin Janse, a Dallas police spokesman. No one was struck or injured.

Oil falls below \$54

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Oil prices slipped further Wednesday, dipping below \$54 on fears of global economic weakness that have sent crude down more than 60 percent in four months.

But analysts suggested that prices might be bottoming out as they moved closer to the psychologically significant \$50 mark.

Light, sweet crude for December delivery was down 60 cents at \$53.79 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by noon in Europe. The contract Tuesday fell 56 cents to settle at \$54.39, the lowest since January 2007.

"Market sentiment is still bearish, but not as bearish as a week ago," said Clarence Chu, a trader with market maker Hudson Capital Energy in Singapore. "Volatility has come down and the market is consolidating a bit."

Stock markets have served for the past few months as a barometer of investor perceptions about the health of the global economy. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 1.8 percent Tuesday as Hewlett-Packard Co. said fourth quarter and 2009 results will exceed analyst expectations.

Most Asian stocks, however, fell Wednesday. Japan's benchmark Nikkei index fell 0.7 percent, Hong Kong's Hang Seng index dropped 0.5 percent and the Korea Composite Stock Price Index slid 1.9 percent. European markets also opened lower.

Oil investors have already priced in a recession in developed countries and only evidence of an especially severe or prolonged slowdown may push prices down further, Chu said.

Prices have fallen 63 percent since reaching a record \$147.27 a barrel in mid-July.

Vice president, former AG, state senator indicted

McALLEN (AP) — A South Texas grand jury has indicted Vice President Dick Cheney and former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales on state charges related to the alleged abuse of prisoners in Willacy County's federal detention centers.

The indictment, which had not yet been signed by the presiding judge, was one of seven released Tuesday in a county that has been a source of bizarre legal and political battles in recent years. Another of the indictments named a state senator on charges of profiting from his position.

Willacy County District Attorney Juan Angel Guerra himself had been under indictment for more than a year and half before a judge dismissed the indictments last month. This flurry of charges came in the twilight of Guerra's tenure, which ends this year after nearly two decades in office. He lost convincingly in a Democratic primary in March.

Cheney's indictment on a charge of engaging in an organized criminal activity criticizes the vice president's investment in the Vanguard Group, which holds interests in the private prison companies running the

federal detention centers. It accuses Cheney of a conflict of interest and "at least misdemeanor assaults" on detainees because of his link to the prison companies.

Megan Mitchell, a spokeswoman for Cheney, declined to comment on Tuesday, saying that the vice president had not yet received a copy of the indictment.

The indictment accuses Gonzales of using his position while in office to stop an investigation in 2006 into abuses at one of the privately-run prisons.

Gonzales' attorney, George Terwilliger III, said in a written statement, "This is obviously a bogus charge on its face, as any good prosecutor can recognize. Hopefully, competent Texas authorities will take steps to reign in this abuse of the criminal justice system."

Willacy County has become a prison hub with county, state and federal lockups. Guerra has gone after the prison-politician nexus before, extracting guilty pleas from three former Willacy and Webb county commissioners after investigating bribery related to federal prison contacts.

Another indictment released Tuesday accuses state Sen. Eddie Lucio Jr. of profiting from his public office by accepting honoraria from prison management companies.

In Sunday's Big Spring Herald



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