



Bauer Handbell Choir to perform Thursday at St. Mary's

By LINDA HILL

Special to the Herald

Bauer Elementary Handbell Choir students will be special guest performers for the second and last St. Mary's Advent Offering concert series this season.

Big Spring performers for the 12:05 p.m. Thursday concert include Joyce Bradley, Joseph

Dawes, Susan Dawes and Scott McLaughlin. Also participating are Linda Hill, Gloria Steelman and Vilia Walter of Midland.

These concerts are given as a gift from St. Mary's Episcopal Church to the community. There is no admission charge for the concert but donations for the Angel Tree program will be accepted at the door.

The last concert featuring Hill

and Walter held last week netted \$300 for the Angel Tree project.

Thursday's program will include a wide variety of carols. Joyce Bradley will sing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" and "Still, Still, Still" accompanied by various members of the ensemble.

"Come, Thou Dear Redeemer" by César Franck will feature

soloist, Susan Dawes. Bradley and Susan Dawes will perform the beautiful "Angels' Carol" by John Rutter.

"The Pastoral Symphony" from "The Messiah" will feature Joseph Dawes on the alto recorder. Scott McLaughlin and Joseph Dawes will play "Greensleeves" arranged by Chip Davis.

The Bauer Handbell Choir

will play an arrangement of "Pat-a-Pan" under the direction of Susan Dawes. The concert will close "Will We Know Him" by Don Besig.

Following the concert, a free soup lunch will be provided by the Episcopal Church Women of St. Mary's in the church's Parish Hall.

St. Mary's is located at 10th and Goliad.

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Getting into the holiday spirit also extends to lighting one's house and yard, as this home on Highland Drive attests. Many Big Spring residents have decorated their homes in Christmas decor.

Moore Board signals intent on Settles bid

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Moore Development for Big Spring Inc. directors voted Friday to signal their intent to provide up to \$3 million to help a former resident renovate the Settles Hotel.

Dallas-based Settles Hotel Development Co., headed by Big Spring native G. Brint Ryan, recently acquired the downtown landmark, which has stood vacant since the 1980s.

SHDC announced plans for a \$12 million renovation project which includes plans for commercial and residential use of the property, with retail space available on the first and second floors.

With the signing of a letter of intent Friday, Moore directors indicated their willingness to help finance the project, with a few stipulations.

Those stipulations include:

- SHDC providing Moore officials with a business plan, prospectus and architectural renderings of the proposed project.

- Moore's financial contribution will be on a reimbursement basis; in other words, Moore will only spend money to reimburse SHDC for money already spent on the project.

- Moore Development's contribution to the project will not exceed \$3 million. The remainder will come from SHDC.

The letter is not binding, but simply an "agreement to agree," as board member Frank Parker said.

"They started all of this with their request, and this is our response," Parker noted. "We'll have more negotiations and go from there."

Fellow board member Mike Niklasch said the directors purposely took a

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Symphony resumes tradition with The Nutcracker

By JOHN A. MOSELEY

Managing Editor

When the Christmas season rolls around traditions abound.

The Big Spring Symphony will renew a tradition this year with its presentation of "The Nutcracker" — a ballet featuring the music of Russian composer Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky, Saturday.

For several years, the symphony had joined with the Lubbock Ballet in presenting the traditional holiday production,



GRAUMANN

but had opted for providing other programs for the last few seasons. However, The Nutcracker is returning to Big Spring when the orchestra and the Midland Festival Ballet combine to present a performance set for 8 p.m. Saturday in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium.

In 1892, Tchaikovsky

composed The Nutcracker and the ballet has been trilling audiences during the Christmas season ever since.

"We are tremendously excited to once again present what may be the world's most well known ballet," Symphony Music Director and Conductor Dr. Keith Graumann said. "The production of the Nutcracker was an annual event for the Big Spring Symphony, but we have not performed it during my tenure.

Tchaikovsky's music for the ballet is magnificent

and much of it will be recognizable to the audience. I hear excerpts daily on television and radio. Much of the music is also very difficult, but our orchestra is very capable and anxious to perform it for our community. And exposing the wonderful plot onstage through dance will definitely make for a memorable evening."

The Nutcracker story is well known: It's Christmas at the Stahlbaum home. There's a huge tree, and many guests arrive to celebrate

with the family. Clara's godfather, Herr Drosselmeyer, makes magical toys. He entertains the guests with two life-sized dolls that dance around the room. Then he gives gifts to the children, and gives Clara a very special gift of a nutcracker. Her brother, Fritz, is jealous, and grabs the nutcracker and it gets broken! Clara is very upset, so Herr Drosselmeyer repairs the doll before handing it back to her.

Soon after, all the guests leave and the children go

to bed. Clara gets up in the night and goes downstairs to get her nutcracker from under the tree. She falls asleep there, and is transported into Christmas fantasy where her nutcracker has grown to the size of a human. When the Mouse King attacks, the Nutcracker Prince tries to valiantly defend young Clara, but is struck down in the battle. Clara in turn saves her Nutcracker Prince by throwing her shoe at the Mouse King and defeating

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CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Big Spring High School Band will hold its annual Christmas concert at 6 p.m. Monday in the high school auditorium.

In lieu of admission fee, people are asked to bring canned food to help the local Salvation Army in its annual food drive, BSHS Band Director Rocky Harris said.

The program begins with the Jazz Band at 6 p.m., with the BSHS Concert Band following at 7 p.m. That will be followed by an encore performance of the band's marching show music, Harris said.

For more information, contact the high school at 264-3641.

HC PERFORMANCE SET

The Howard College Theater Department will present the holiday comedy, "A Christmas Carol — More or Less," this weekend at the Hall Center for the Performing Arts.

There are four performances — Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

The play involves a divorcing couple who currently do not like each other. They are forced to produce a two person version of 'A Christmas Carol.' In the end the story of reconciliation even effects them.

For more information concerning the show, call 264-5068.

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Moore Board hopes to hire director by Feb. 1

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Moore Development for Big Spring board members hope to have a new executive director named by Feb. 1, officials said. The board conducted an hour-long executive session during their special meeting Friday to discuss the executive director

position, which became vacant when Kent Sharp resigned earlier this year. Sharp, who had been director of Moore Development since January of 1998, announced in late September his intent to leave Moore Development after accepting a position with an economic development firm in Gainesville.

While no action was taken as a result of the session, Board President Larry McLellan said progress was made toward finding a new director. "At this time, we're looking very hard at about four candidates," McLellan said. "There are still six or seven we're considering, but we've narrowed it down to four who merit serious

consideration." Without giving any names, McLellan said all four have extensive backgrounds in economic development efforts. "We're talking about people from all over (the country), not just locally or from the Southwest," he said. "We're aiming at Feb. 1 in naming a new person. We'd like to have

someone on board sooner, but January is just not feasible with the holidays and all. "I think the board wants to put lots of time and thought into finding the right person," McLellan added. Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com.



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Jacob Ramirez and fellow Big Spring High School Drama Department students practice their rendition of "Joyful, Joyful," which will be one of the performances at the drama department's annual Winter Revue, set for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the high school auditorium. Admission is \$3.

Georgia Rep. McKinney introduces bill to impeach President Bush

By BEN EVANS
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — In what was likely her final legislative act in Congress, outgoing Georgia Rep. Cynthia McKinney introduced a bill Friday to impeach President Bush. The legislation has no chance of passing and serves as a symbolic parting shot not only at Bush but also at Democratic leaders. Incoming House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., has made clear that she will not entertain proposals to sanction Bush and has warned the liberal wing of her party against making political hay of impeachment. McKinney, a Democrat who drew national headlines in March when she struck a Capitol police officer, has long insisted that Bush was never legitimately elected. In introducing her legislation in the final hours of the current Congress, she said

Bush had violated his oath of office to defend the Constitution and the nation's laws. In the bill, she accused Bush of misleading Congress on the war in Iraq and violating privacy laws with his domestic spying program. McKinney has made no secret of her frustration with Democratic leaders since voters ousted her from office in the Democratic primary this summer. In a speech Monday at George Washington University, she accused party leaders of kowtowing to Republicans. Tickets for the show — priced at \$15 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens and \$5 for students — are available at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Faye's Flowers, the Heritage Museum, Blum's Jewelers, the First Bank of West Texas and the Big Spring Herald. To contact Managing Editor John A. Moseley, call 263-7331, ext. 230, or e-mail him at editor@bigspringherald.com.

SYMPHONY

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him. With the nasty Mouse King out of the way, Clara runs to the Nutcracker Prince. When she kisses him, he turns into a human! Then she and her Prince are whisked away through the Enchanted Forest, where they see dancing snowflakes and other wonders. Then they travel further to the Kingdom of the Sweets.

There Clara and the Prince behold the wondrous beauty of the Sugarplum Fairy. She invites the couple to stay for a while and enjoy the entertainment of her subjects. Clara and the prince watch in awe as the inhabitants of the Kingdom of Sweets dance before them. When the dancers are finished, Clara and her Prince sail home in a magic sleigh made of ice and candy. On Christmas morning, Clara wakes

under the tree holding her nutcracker doll. It is a show that's nothing short of magical, Graumann said. "The entire symphony board has worked very hard to make this production possible," he added. "We are also indebted to several sponsors who agreed to assist with the considerable financial burden. Our corporate sponsors — Citizens Federal Credit Union, Alon USA and an anonymous private donor —

have helped immeasurably. And as always, we owe a debt of gratitude to the Dora Roberts Foundation for its help in making our entire symphony season possible. "I'm tremendously excited to be performing The Nutcracker with our wonderful orchestra and this talented ballet company," Graumann continued. "I know that this will be an unforgettable evening and I urge everyone to come and share the excitement with us."

Tickets for the show — priced at \$15 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens and \$5 for students — are available at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Faye's Flowers, the Heritage Museum, Blum's Jewelers, the First Bank of West Texas and the Big Spring Herald. To contact Managing Editor John A. Moseley, call 263-7331, ext. 230, or e-mail him at editor@bigspringherald.com.

MOORE

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cautious approach to SHDC's request. "We're not being negative, we're just trying to be cautious," he said. "We want to see this thing happen, but we want to see it happen the right way." Board President Larry McLellan said making Moore's funding on a reimbursement-only basis was a strong selling point.

"I think that's what really makes this an attractive project," he said. "If (SHDC) doesn't spend a penny, we won't spend a penny." McLellan said talks with SHDC officials indicate they want to start the renovation project as quickly as possible. "They're chomping at

the bit to get going," he said. "But we want to be cautious and put the right foot forward at the right time." Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com.

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Royce Griffith, 72, died Wednesday. Funeral services were at 10 a.m. Saturday at East Fourth Baptist Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.
Robert Gilbert, 64, died Saturday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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