



Educators, trustees to convene

Howard County, Howard College boards to discuss mutual interests Monday

College may face state revenue shortfall, see Page 3A.

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

All of Howard County's public school and junior college trustees will be under one roof Monday evening.

Trustees and other officials from Howard College, Big

Spring Independent School, Coahoma ISD and Forsan ISD will hold a rare joint meeting at 6 p.m. Monday in the Student Union Building Cactus Room on the HC campus.

Trustees will discuss matters of joint concern in a setting that's more social than normal.

"About 25 years ago, the boards would meet occasionally like this," said College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks. "It

was mostly a social event ... Some of the veteran (Howard College) board members remember that, and how effective it was, and they encouraged me to meet with the superintendents and see if they were interested in reviving this."

The agenda for Monday's meeting will be solely discussion items of mutual interest, Sparks said. Among the topics to be discussed are:

"This gives us the opportunity to share information with the districts and get feedback on what's effective or what might need to be changed."

—Dr. Cheryl Sparks, Howard College president

- Current programs and outreach initiatives the college conducts with area school districts.

- Ways for high school students to earn college credit.

See **SCHOOLS**, Page 3A



New refinery manager says plant well run

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

The new manager of the Alon USA Big Spring Refinery likes the direction the plant is headed and sees no reason for changes in the near future.

David L. Foster toured the refinery Friday prior to his officially taking the reins April 2. He succeeds Joe Conciene, who will become Alon USA's senior vice president for refinery operations.

Foster, a Baytown native, has 28 years experience in the oil and gas industry and was most recently technical manager for the Lyondell-Citgo Refinery, which refines about 270,000 barrels of oil a day in the Houston area.

Working around refineries is nothing new to Foster, whose father also worked in the busi-

"This refinery is being run very well. I think it's one of the most reliable refineries in the United States, so I don't think there are any pressing issues facing it."



David Foster

ness.

Foster joined LCR in 1993 as manager of information technology. He has served in the refining business in a number of capacities, including operations, financial planning and technical.

See **FOSTER**, Page 3A

SO THAT'S A SNAKE!



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Two-year-old Jeremiah Ingram gets up close and personal with a rattlesnake during the 44th Big Spring Rattlesnake Roundup, sponsored by AMBUCS at the Howard County fairbarns Saturday. The roundup continues through 5 p.m. Sunday.

Moore board directors to meet with Ryan

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Members of the board of directors for Moore Development are to meet Monday, as efforts to renovate the historic Settles Hotel once again take center stage.

According to Larry McLellan, president of the board, the

meeting will be a chance for board members and the media to meet with officials involved in the project that could hopefully re-open the aging hotel.

"Brint Ryan (manager of the Settles Hotel Development Company) said he will be in town and wants to meet with the board Monday," said

McLellan. "This would be a really good time for the public and the media to have a chance to meet Mr. Ryan, so we're in the process of trying to make that happen."

Moore Development for Big Spring Inc. directors voted unanimously Dec. 8 to provide up to \$3 million to help Ryan —

manager of the Dallas company and the founder and CEO of Ryan & Company — renovate the Settles Hotel, which he agreed to purchase for \$75,000 from the city of Big Spring.

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.

And while Ryan and his team have been forthcoming with details regarding the proposed renovations, the company has yet to pay the \$75,000 it agreed

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Constable status on county agenda

Winn failed to attain peace officer certification in 270-day period

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The future of Howard County Constable Mark Winn's elected position could be on the line Monday morning, as county commissioners are expected to discuss whether or not to provide educational funding for the office.

Winn, who failed to attain his peace officer certification by the state-mandated 270 days from being elected, is asking commissioners to fund the three remaining courses he must complete at an estimated cost of \$600.

"I still have three courses I need for my peace officer certification. Two of those I should be able to pass with a

departmental exam since I taught them several years ago in Odessa," said Winn. "I'm still waiting to find out if the instructor for the third course will allow me to take a departmental exam for the course. If he doesn't, then I'm still at least one semester away from completion of the course."

During the March 12 meet-

ing of the court, Commissioner Jerry Kilgore said paying for the courses could set a bad precedent for the county.

"I can see where the county would be responsible for the continuing education classes the state requires. I can see that," said Commissioner

See **CONSTABLE**, Page 2A

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VAMC veterans honored by OEF unit

HERALD Staff Report

What started out as a small token of appreciation from veterans associated with the West Texas VA Health Care System to active military about to be deployed to Afghanistan has resulted in a greater honor for West Texas vets.

In the fall of 2006, more than 100 veterans who receive their care at the Big Spring VA Hospital signed a banner with pos-

itive messages to encourage the soon-to-be-deployed troops. The banner held signatures from newly discharged OIF/OEF (Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom) veterans to World War II veterans, officers and enlisted men — veterans from the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force.

"The banner was sent to the unit prior to their deployment to let them know that we were think-

ing about them and praying for their safe return," said Iva Jo Hanslik, Big Spring VA Medical Center community relations coordinator.

The unit was deployed and in combat in Afghanistan for three months. When the troops returned home, they sent the veterans of the WTVAHCS a flag that had been flown over their compound with document to authenticate its origin. "The flag is to be dedi-

cated to the veterans of West Texas who had preceded them into battle, defending the United States, to connect generations of service men together who have all fought and continue to fight for the cause of freedom," said Hanslik.

The framed display will be presented to Medical Center Director Michael Bell at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday and will be prominently placed on the extended care and treatment unit.

Church News

St. Paul

Lutheran Church

810 Scurry Street
Worship services, 9 a.m.
Sunday school and Bible classes, 10:15 a.m.
Potluck dinner, 6 p.m.
Holy Week services will be Maundy Thursday, 7 p.m.
Good Friday services, 7 p.m.
Easter courtyard services, 8 a.m.
Pancake breakfast, 8:45 a.m.
Easter Festival services, 10 a.m. (Celebration of Confirmation)

There will be one more Lenten service next Wednesday at 6:45 p.m. Everyone is invited to all services.

Operation On-going support continues with March care package items:

Small plastic Baby wipes, red licorice, and cold drink mixes (powdered and presweetened). Don't forget the ATT phone card fund.

The Parish Workers still have cookbooks for sale at \$10.00 each with proceeds going to the Highschool Bible classes.

Our Relay for Life team made more than \$800 at the garage sale held last Saturday. There continues to be an "Honor of J.D. Nelson" board. Donate your dollars, receive a star with the proceeds going to the Relay for life fund.

Don't forget the Bible classes. Join anytime! Call the church at 267-7163 for times and locations.

Life Church

Celebrate with us on Easter Sunday, April 8, 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday, March 25, Goodbye Grief.

Sunday, April 1, Dying to Live

Sunday, April 8, Reason for a Resurrection.

Life Church is located at 600 E. FM 700.

HC may be in for some belt tightening

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Howard College may be in for some belt tightening next fiscal year.

Preliminary figures from the Texas Legislature show that the junior college district may receive between \$120,000 and \$170,000 less in state revenue next fiscal year, College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks said.

Sparks will share that information with Howard College trustees when they hold their regular monthly meeting at 12:30 p.m. Monday in the Student Union

Building Tumbleweed Room.

State legislators are about midway through their biennial budget process, Sparks said, and college officials hope funding can be restored to previous levels.

"We are thankful we have received the additional money to date," she said. "But we'll continue to seek additional revenue."

If those preliminary cuts stand, that will result in some necessary belt-tightening locally, Sparks admitted.

"We're about to begin the budgeting process for the coming year, and we'll approach it in a very conservative fashion," Sparks said. "(If

the reductions stand) Obviously, we would have to make some reductions in our budgets.

In other business Monday, trustees will consider:

- Approval of a new computer forensics investigation program at the Big Spring campus.
- The annual Adult Basic Education programs report.
- Bids and renewal of the district's insurance policy.
- Handbook and catalog changes.

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

SCHOOL

Continued from Page 1A

Higher education opportunities offered through Howard College, including distance learning courses sanctioned by Lubbock Christian University and University of Texas-Permian Basin.

Future plans and

goals.

"(The college's goal) is to respond to the needs of our local school districts," Sparks said. "This gives us the opportunity to share information with the districts and get feedback on what's effective or what might need to be changed."

BSISD Superintendent Michael Downes said the joint meeting is consistent with efforts from

state agencies like the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to promote information sharing between school districts and colleges.

"The benefit for our trustees will be attainment of both knowledge and a better relationship between Big Spring ISD and Howard College," Downes said.

FOSTER

Continued from Page 1A

Alon officials had first contacted Foster about the Big Spring position in October. He said he was immediately interested, but delayed the move until the LCR plant finished a major turnaround project.

"I felt a strong obligation to stay and help see that project through," he said.

After more than a quarter century around refineries, he said he feels more than ready to accept

manager duties.

"The idea of being the general manager ... was very attractive to me," he said. "This refinery is being run very well. I think it's one of the most reliable refineries in the United States, so I don't think there are any pressing issues facing it."

Another thing that he liked about the Big Spring Refinery is what he called its strong relationship with the local community.

"I think it's important for an operation like ours to be involved with the community," he said. "You have to earn the

right to be involved through actions as well as words."

Foster envisions being involved with the community through work with the refinery's Citizen Advisory Panel. In the past, he has also been active with the school district and his church.

He and wife Nancy — a Lubbock native — have two children: Son Greg is a sophomore at Baylor University, majoring in business; while daughter Meredith plans to enroll in Oklahoma State University in the fall and major in animal science.

MOORE

Continued from Page 1A

upon with Big Spring for the downtown structure.

Information released by city officials in November 2006 called for payment of the building, per the con-

tract between the city of Big Spring and SHDC, to be completed by the end of December 2006.

Board members are also expected to meet in executive session to discuss the hiring of an executive director for the economic development firm.

Moore Development has been without an executive director since longtime director Kent Sharp announced he would be resigning in August 2006.

The meeting is to begin at 5:15 p.m. Monday in the Chamber board room, located at 215 W. Third.

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