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## TUESDAY

APRIL 17, 2007



BIG SPRING

# HERALD

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# Moore Board to focus on Settles

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

The historic Settles Hotel and ongoing efforts to renovate the building will be the focus of Wednesday's meeting of the Moore Development for Big Spring Board of Directors, as the economic development firm moves forward with its \$3 mil-



McLellan

lion promise to the project. The board is expected to meet in executive session during the meeting, as it continues the arduous process of sorting through the language for a letter

of intent aimed at the Settles Hotel Development Company and its ongoing efforts to restore the building. "We plan to work on the language involved in the letter of intent, which is a pretty complicated process," said Larry McLellan, president of the board of directors. "We want to

make sure we thoroughly research every aspect of this before we move on to the next phase." Moore Development for Big Spring Inc. directors voted unanimously Dec. 8 to provide up to \$3 million to help Brint 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. According to Moore Board officials, funding from the economic development corporation See **MOORE**, Page 8A

## Student numbers steady at FISD

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

FORSAN — Enrollment isn't exactly climbing off the charts at Forsan Independent School District. Then again, it's not falling through the floor, either.

FISD trustees learned during their regular meeting Monday that enrollment had remained steady for the second month in a row at Forsan campuses.

Superintendent Randy Johnson said 345 students are enrolled in the junior high/high school campus, while 332 students are enrolled at Elbow Elementary. Combined, those numbers represent a drop of one student from the previous reporting period. "Enrollment here has been pretty steady the last few years," Johnson said. "Overall, we started the year a little behind the previous year ... and we've maintained those numbers."

Given the finite number of housing units within the district, it is unlikely

See **FISD**, Page 8A



Herald photo/Bill McClellan

Sharon Rich, a pre-K teacher for New Hope Christian School, talks about a painting to a group of 4-year-olds.

## New Hope promises learning, laughter in Christian environment

By **BILL MCCLELLAN**  
News Director

If the sounds coming from New Hope Christian School sound like children are having fun, it's because they are. But they are also getting an education.

"We try to make everything fun and interesting. For many of them, this is their first time in 'real' school and we want them to have a good experience," explained Sharon Rich, pre-K 4 instructor.



Parnell

## Open house planned Friday

Herald Staff Report

New Hope Christian School is inviting the public to an open house from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday.

A giant slide and a bounce house will be available for children. Parents are invited to tour the facility, which offers classes for pre-K age students and a day care/after

New Hope is a Christian pre-kindergarten school for children age 2 through 4, as well as a day care/after school

school for newborns through 12-year-olds. Parents who enroll their child for fall classes during the open house will receive \$15 off the registration fee.

Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served up by the parent teacher organization from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Meal

See **OPEN HOUSE**, Page 8A

facility for newborns through 12 years old.

See **NEW HOPE**, Page 8A

## Niehues, Jansa lead GCHS to region summit

Join handful of area students qualifying for state

Herald Staff Report

Taylor Niehues and Wade Jansa, with some strong help from their classmates, took Garden City High School atop the University Interscholastic League's Class 1A, Region 2 Academic Contest over the weekend, scoring 234 points.

The only challenger was Borden County High School, which racked up 203 points. Water Valley High School was third with 127 points and the only other school to get more than 100 points in the fierce competition.

The pair of Garden City students joined a handful of others across the Crossroads area in advancing to UIL state contests later this month.

Niehues won first place in calculator applications, computer science, mathematics and science, and was runner-up in number sense — to Jansa. In addition to claiming the top spot in number sense, Jansa was runner-up in computer science and math, and third in calculator applications. Needless to say, Garden City's cal-

See **UIL**, Page 3A

## BSISD TAKS retest going on this week

Big Spring High School began offering the Exit-Level TAKS retest this morning and will continue through Friday. Students who need the test are to report to the high school library at 8 a.m. and bring photo identification.

Today's test was English/language arts. Wednesday will be math, followed by science on Thursday and social studies on Friday.

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### To reach us:

Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.

## CRP MEETING SLATED

Howard County Farm Service Agency will conduct a producer meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday regarding maintenance and compliance of the Conservation Reserve Program acres.

The meeting will be at the Howard County FSA Office, 302 W. Interstate 20 in Big Spring.

All CRP participants are encouraged to attend this meeting. FSA's expectations and CRP participants responsibilities will be thoroughly discussed. Those who attend should leave with a good understanding of what needs to be done to comply with terms of their CRP contract(s).

## FLEA MARKET COMING UP

The Third Annual "Spring Clean Community-Wide Flea Market" is set for 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Big Spring Mall parking lot.

Keep Big Spring Beautiful invites everyone to be involved — all clubs, organizations, churches, businesses and individuals.

Pick up an application for booth space at the Mall office or the Chamber of Commerce, 215 W. Third. Prices for the 10x10 booth spaces are \$25, 12x12 spaces are \$45 and 24x12 spaces are \$65.

Call 263-8235 or 263-7641 for more information.

## SYMPHONY IS SATURDAY

Big Spring Symphony Orchestra and Chorus presents its fourth and final concert of the 2006-2007 season at 8 p.m. Saturday in the Municipal Auditorium.

The concert — titled "Music of America and Mozart, Too!" — will present popular orchestral and vocal American music as well as two of Mozart's great works. Soprano Renay Peters Joubert will be the featured soloist for the evening.

Tickets — \$15 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens and \$5 for students — are available at the symphony office, Chamber of Commerce, Blum's Jewelers, Faye's Flowers and Dakota's Flowers. They will also be available at the door.

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**NEW HOPE**

Continued from Page 1A

"We pick students up from Elbow, Moss and Kentwood elementaries and bring them here for our after school program," said Vicki Parnell, New Hope director.

New Hope fills a lot of needs — a nursery for the very young, an education for pre-K students, a place to go after public school for elementary students, and a day care for all children 12 and under during the summer. The facility is owned and operated by First Church of the Nazarene.

The school is located at 118 Cedar and is open Monday through Friday from 7:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. except for holidays.

Children are supervised, and depending on age, are introduced to a variety of learning skills through crafts, art, music, reading and play.

Right now, more than 100 children come to New Hope Christian School and about 50 of those are

enrolled in preschool. "We use A Beka Christian curriculum, which does not favor one denomination over another," explained Parnell. A Beka curriculum is a Bible-based Christian curriculum which places a strong emphasis on phonics and writing.

A typical day for 4-year-old students begins with 30 minutes of free time, during which the children can involve themselves in a variety of activities. Breakfast is typically held between 8:30 a.m. and 9 a.m., followed by group time. Activities include a Bible story, games or music — all designed for character development.

Around 10 a.m., students will start their daily curriculum, which will include studying numbers, the alphabet, phonics and reading.

"Most of the 4-year-olds will be able to read small easy-to-read books by the time they are ready for kindergarten," said Parnell.

The children will spend

time outside in good weather, and have lunch and a nap, followed by afternoon activities.

Each day offers something special. Mondays, the students take time to paint, while each Tuesday, they go to chapel. On Wednesdays, they dress up in costumes provided at the school.

"Sometimes when the children dress up we have parades and march all over the school. It's quite a sight," Rich said with a laugh.

Thursdays the students have music class and on Fridays there is a time for "show and tell."

Prayer is emphasized. "I usually start out our day with a prayer that I give, and children who would like to are also given the opportunity to pray at that time," said Rich.

"We also take prayer requests. We pray for students who are absent because they are sick. We pray for all kinds of things. We always pray before we eat — breakfast, lunch and snack —

and believe me, if we ever forget, the students sure don't."

New Hope is looking into adding a kindergarten program.

"We've received some interest in it from four or five parents and it's something we'd like to do," said Parnell. "We have to have at least 10 students to do it, however. So if anyone is interested, we would like to hear from them."

New Hope Christian School is open to all children. Tuition is required, and students who qualify through the government for child care management services are accepted. Children must be up to date on immunizations.

Parents are invited to make an appointment for a pre-admission interview with the director and teachers and conduct a tour of the school.

Parents are encouraged to get involved through the school's parent-teacher organization, various fund-raisers and special activities such as Grandparents Day, an

annual Thanksgiving feast and open house.

The facility is licensed by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and is a member

of Accredited Christian Schools International.

For more information about New Hope Christian School, contact Parnell at 263-0203.

**OPEN HOUSE**

Continued from Page 1A

tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children age 3-10. Adults are invited to enter the dessert contest. Anything from baked goods to homemade ice cream will qualify for prizes.

"Everyone is invited. We'd love for you to come see what we are all about," said Vicki Parnell, New Hope director.

New Hope Christian School is located at 118 Cedar Rd. and owned and operated by the First Church of the Nazarene.

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7	8			6	
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**FISD**

Continued from Page 1A

that FISD will experience any dramatic enrollment swings in the near future, Johnson noted.

"Enrollment here is strange, because so many of our students are transfers from out of district," he said. "It would be nice if someone would come and build a lot of houses in our district, but that's probably not going to happen."

Also Monday, trustees:

- Approved dates and operating hours for the swimming pool at the high school. The pool will open Memorial Day and remain in operation until Aug. 17. It will be open to the public for a \$1 admission fee, Johnson said.

- Accepted the resignation of third grade teacher Carole Madry, who is retiring after 30 years with the district.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at [reporter@bigspringherald.com](mailto:reporter@bigspringherald.com).

**Carrie Underwood wins video of year at CMT Music Awards**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Carrie Underwood's dark hit "Before He Cheats" won video of the year, female video and best video director Monday at the fan-voted CMT Music Awards.

In the song, Underwood takes a baseball bat to a cheating boyfriend's "pretty little souped up 4-wheel drive."

Kenny Chesney won male video for "You Save Me" and Rascal Flatts won group video for "What Hurts the Most."

Jack Ingram received the Wide Open Country award, a new category intended to honor artists outside the mainstream.

**MOORE**

Continued from Page 1A

will be strictly limited to costs eligible for 4A tax dollars — mainly infrastructure expenditures — to be overseen by the board's attorney.

Ryan's company has placed \$75,000 in escrow to pay for the building, according to city officials. Ryan said it was necessary for the company to wait to take control of the title to the building due to "timing issues" in efforts to renovate the structure and have it added to the national registry of historic places.

According to Ryan, SHDC is preparing 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.

Board members are also expected to meet in executive session to discuss personnel matters — specifically the hiring of an executive director for the economic development firm — during the meeting.

McLellan said Laurin

Prather, a consultant with Lubbock BCD Inc., the company the board recently contracted with help select and hire an executive director, won't be able to attend the meeting, but that won't stop the group from moving forward with its efforts.

"We were in a situation where Laurin could be here Monday, but one of the board members couldn't," said McLellan. "And, with the work we're doing on the Settles project, we felt it was a better idea to meet when the entire board can be here. If we need information from Laurin, we're able to get him on the phone, so we should be good to go."

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

Wednesday's meeting is to begin at 5:15 p.m. in the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce board room, located at 215 W. Third Street.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com)

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