

# Moore Board completing letter of intent on Settles Hotel

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

One step at a time. That's how the board of directors for Moore Development are approaching the construction of a letter of intent expected to commit up to \$3 million to the renovation of the Settles Hotel, as the group met Wednesday evening in an executive session to tackle the ins and outs of the proposed document. "You wouldn't think an 'and' or a 'as' would make so much difference in a document, but with something like this they are vital," said Larry McLellan, Moore Board president. "The attorneys

involved in this project literally have to have everything spelled out, so it can be a rather slow process at times." McLellan said the board is getting closer to a completed document, which he said will be submitted to Brint Ryan, manager of the Settles Hotel Development Company. "Once we have the language completed and our attorney is happy with it, we'll submit it to Brint for him and his attorneys to look at," said McLellan. "We're getting closer and closer to a completed document." 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 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. McLellan said it's not clear how soon it will be before actual construction on the aging structure will begin. "I understand they are making progress in getting a deal nailed down with the Boy's Club," said McLellan. "That property has been something of an obstacle for the project, along with another piece of property. I'm not sure how things are going with

that one. So we're waiting to see at this point." 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. Ryan said the board also discussed the ongoing search for an executive director during the same executive session. Moore Development has been without an executive director since longtime director Kent Sharp announced he would be resigning in August 2006. McLellan said no action was taken on the issue.

The board also approved its annual audit during the meeting.  
*Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com*

## MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Julie Redding, 41, died Tuesday. Funeral Services will be at 10:30 AM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6:30 until 8:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.  
Johnnie Hooper, 76, died Wednesday. Funeral Services will be at 11:00 AM Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6:00 until 7:30 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

# Career tech students bring home the 'blue' from state

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer

Big Spring High School career technology students brought home a bushel of blue ribbons from the recent State SkillsUSA Contest in Corpus Christi. Forty-three blue ribbons — the top award possible — was awarded to BSHS students during the state contest, instructor Mark Winn said. Career technology, which instructs students on a variety of career trades, includes automotive repair, carpentry, plumbing, masonry, electrical and welding. Winn said the students were judged in one of two ways at the state contest. "The kids either built a new project and presented

it to the judges, or they competed in what's called a skills contest," Winn said. "The skills contest is related to the class area they are in. For example, carpentry students might be asked to build a section of drywall." Winn was pleased with his students' results. "The last four years, we've been doing very well," he said. "But this is probably the largest group of students we've taken to state, and the best we've done, in quite a while."

BSHS results from the State SkillsUSA Contest include:  
**Automotive**  
• Blue Ribbon — Marcus DeLeon, alternator; Heath Rodriguez, carburetor; Mykel Wagner, transmis-

sion and alternator.  
• Red Ribbon — Josh Pacheco, alternator.  
**Electrical**  
• Blue Ribbon — Monte Anderson, Ruben Castillo and Anthony Garcia, electrical project board 1; Tyrone Clemons and Giorgio Taylor, electrical project board 2; Marissa Rodriguez, Landon Rowden and Edna Vasquez, electrical project board 3; Pavel Plakhotny, Matt Ramirez and Daniel New, electrical project board 4; Steven Arocha, Justin Eason, Terel Huston, Fabian Lara and Antwone White, chapter barbecue pit project.

pit project.  
**Construction Technology**  
• Blue Ribbon — Casey Speck, Brett Bennett and Seth Wilson, sauna; Justin McCrea, deer blind 1; Keaton Hughes, deer blind 2; Paden Black and Farley Lloyd, gun cabinet; Dillon Phernetton, redwood coffee table; Jonathan Woodson, trophy cabinet.  
• Red Ribbon — Ira Friddle, end table.  
Coahoma High School students who attend BSHS construction technology classes won the following awards:  
• Blue Ribbon — Jeremy

Winn, Kyle Hess, Cory Clanton, Dustin Wright, Ryan Walker and Garrett Walker, huntin high seat.

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

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## PLEA

Continued from Page 1A

Department. "The clerk complied and the three males fled with an undetermined amount of cash. "Witnesses provided a vehicle description and approximately an hour later a patrol officer spotted a vehicle matching the description at a shopping center in the 100

block of East FM 700." Terrance Lewis, 20, of 2612 Ent, and his brother, Daniel Ray Lewis, 18, also of 2612 Ent, were arrested shortly after the crime and charged with aggravated robbery. "One subject fled on foot and was caught after a brief foot chase. The second subject was detained at the scene," said Everett. "Follow up investigation led to both subjects being charged with

aggravated robbery. The weapon used was recovered." Mitchell was arrested less than a week later. Terrance Lewis pleaded guilty to aggravated robbery April 11 and received 17 years in a TDCJ prison, while Daniel Lewis pleaded guilty to the same charge in late March and received eight years in a TDCJ prison.

## Woman in dismemberment case given life in prison

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A jury on Wednesday spared the life of a woman who killed an acquaintance and hacked up her body with a chainsaw, sentencing her to life in prison without parole. Daphne Wright, 43, smiled after the verdict was read. Wright was convicted last week of kidnapping and murdering Darlene VanderGiesen, 42, in February 2006. VanderGiesen's mother, Dee, told Wright that God had helped the family forgive her. "We pray for you every day asking that God may touch your heart, that you may come to know his love and that you repent of your sins and seek God's forgiveness," she said. Dee VanderGiesen told Wright's mother, Carolyn Tucker: "We both have lost our daughters. One to death and the other to prison time for as long as she lives. May God's grace be shown to you at this time of pain in your

life." Prosecutors said that Wright was jealous of the friendship VanderGiesen had with Wright's former lover and that it turned to rage that drove Wright to kidnap VanderGiesen, kill her, burn the body and cut it apart with a chain saw.

VanderGiesen's remains were found in a Sioux Falls landfill and a Minnesota ditch. In closing arguments earlier in the day, prosecutor Dave Nelson said Wright, who like VanderGiesen is deaf, deserved to die by lethal injection.

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**AN ENCOURAGING WORD**  
  
By Eddy Pitchford

*When we know grief is coming, we may brace ourselves ahead of time. When we are surprised by grief, we seek for stability. Both types of grief raise questions. Both types of grief give the opportunity for faith to be challenged.*  
*Only challenged faith can become deeper faith. When we experience crises that raise questions, we can retreat and hide as if faith is to be protected. Another option involves letting faith protect us and knowing that God is big enough to handle our questions.*  
*The faith in scripture and Jesus Christ does not remove pain. Instead it points to pain with an ultimate purpose. It also introduces us to hope. Hope does not trivialize pain or death but it does remind us that resurrection triumphs over death.*

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