

HOME REALTORS
263-1284
110 W. MARCY DR.



10 Lady Buffs named all-district

Page 1B

CONSIDERING HEARING AIDS? COMPARE BEFORE YOU BUY!
LIVINGSTON 211 Johnson St. in Big Spring
432-267-7052
1-888-687-2955
See our ad in this week's paper.

BIG SPRING

HERALD

FRIDAY
MAY 25, 2007



VOLUME 102, NUMBER 154

COPYRIGHT 2007

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Jail passes smoke test

Normal operations could resume in matter of days

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The Howard County Jail could see its first inmates as soon as next week, as the state commission that shut the facility down in 2006 because of life safety issues gave it a thumbs up Thursday.

According to County Judge Mark Barr, the facility got an OK from officials with the Texas Commission on Jail Standards following a test of the facility's smoke evacuation system.

"We're ready to go now," said Barr. "The test went excellent. We're now approved to reopen the jail any time we

"I think all of the commissioners realize this is just a stop-gap measure until we can build a new jail."



Barr

want."

Barr said the facility could see its first inmates in a matter of days.

"I talked to the sheriff, and they still have to go through and do some cleaning and some painting," said Barr. "Once

See **JAIL**, Page 3A

COAHOMA COMMENCEMENT



Katelin Lyon and other Coahoma High School seniors wait for the start of CHS commencement ceremonies Thursday evening in Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Sixty-two students received their diplomas during the event. Big Spring and Forsan high schools will hold graduation exercises tonight. Valedictorian Bryan Juan and Salutatorian Alyssa Rains will lead more than 200 seniors as BSHS conducts commencement at 8 p.m. in Garrett Coliseum, while 40 FHS seniors, including Valedictorian Jonathan Purcell and Salutatorian Seth Johnson, will receive their diplomas in ceremonies beginning at 8 p.m. in the high school gymnasium.

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Big Spring State Hospital employees tie yellow ribbons next to a banner hospital officials unveiled expressing support for U.S. troops. The unveiling came after the conclusion of Memorial Day ceremonies at the hospital's chapel.

State hospital honors veterans

Employees tie yellow ribbons along fence to show support

By **VALERIE AVERY**

Special to the Herald

Big Spring State Hospital placed a banner honoring the military and tied yellow ribbons on the front fence Thursday, reminding the Howard County community that they have not forgotten the men and women fighting overseas.

"We have many staff members who either have family members overseas or are overseas themselves," said Elizabeth Correa, a member of the

A number of local entities will be closed Monday in observance of Memorial Day

See Page 3A

hospital's Workforce and Cultural Diversity Committee. "We wanted to have a ceremony to let them know that we haven't forgotten them and that it's still affecting

See **BSSH**, Page 3A

INDEX

Classified	3-5B
Features	6A
Obituaries	2A
Opinion	4A
Sports	1-2B



Find us online at:
www.bigspringherald.com

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.

Agency confirms Settles' eligibility

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

Efforts to restore and renovate the historic Settles Hotel got a helpful nod from the Texas Historical Commission Thursday, as the state agency confirmed eligibility of the downtown landmark to be nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Brint Ryan, manager of the Settles Hotel Development Company, made the announcement Thursday afternoon, saying the commission called the project an "excellent candidate" for federal tax credits.

"According to the commission, the Settles Hotel is eligible under Criterion A in the area of commerce as a historically important hotel in downtown Big Spring," said Ryan, "and under Criterion C in the area of architecture, at the local level of significance, as an outstanding high-rise building by Abilene architect David R. Castle.

"The commission noted that, 'The building has

See **SETTLES**, Page 3A



Ryan

P/W Pirkle/Weir Insurance Agency

- * Best Rate Comparing Companies
- * Independent Agent
- * Instant Coverage
- * Easy, Low Payments

- Auto
- Commercial
- Home
- Hospital
- Life
- Worker's Comp.

AJ Pirkle, Jr.
Agent/Owner

1602 Scurry Street



267-5053

Entities to close for Memorial Day

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Many area businesses and agencies will be closed Monday in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.

Administrative offices for Big Spring, Coahoma and Forsan school districts and Howard College will be closed Monday and reopen for regular office hours Tuesday, officials said. Howard College offices are closed today, as they are every Friday in the summer. Summer office hours for the college are 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Except for the sheriff's office, all Howard County offices will be closed Monday. All offices will reopen for business for regular hours Tuesday.

The Howard County Library will be closed Saturday and Monday, but will reopen for business Tuesday.

All non-emergency offices for the city of Big Spring will be closed Monday, officials said. Police, Emergency Medical Service and the Big Spring Fire Department will be staffed as usual.

Trash will not be picked up Monday. Regular schedules

resume Tuesday.

The Spring City Senior Center in the Industrial Park will be closed Monday, but will be open for regular operating hours Tuesday, a spokesman said.

Federal offices, including the post office and Social Security Administration office, will be closed for the Memorial Day three-day weekend, but will be open for business Tuesday.

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



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Coahoma High School seniors stand before the start of commencement exercises at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum Thursday evening.

JAIL

Continued from Page 1A

that's completed, we'll start bringing the inmates back in."

The county jail was shut down by the state jail standards commission in November, after the facility's smoke evacuation system failed to meet requirements during a pair of tests in 2006.

The jail also failed to meet state requirements

that call for a standpipe to deliver water to firefighters and a door that opened in the wrong direction. However, these problems have been corrected, leaving the smoke evacuation system the lone obstacle.

Repairs at the jail have cost the county more than \$250,000.

Since the jail's closure, inmates of the Howard County Jail have been housed in other counties, including Dickens,

Glasscock and Lamb counties, at considerable expense to the county.

And while reopening the jail will help lessen the financial burden, Barr said inmate housing is a problem he expects to see continue.

"If we can keep our numbers right about where they are now, we'll still be forced to house between one and six inmates out of county even after we reopen the jail," said Barr. "That's

just because of overcrowding. Also, we still can't house women in our jail, so there's another 10 inmates that we'll have to pay to house out of county."

"The cost over the past several months has nearly killed us. We're looking at the budget for the coming year right now, and it doesn't look favorable. It doesn't look favorable at all."

Though repairs to the existing jail were neces-

sary, Barr said it's not a long-term solution.

"I think all of the commissioners realize this is just a stop-gap measure until we can build a new jail," said Barr. "We have a 57-year-old jail up there. Even with these life safety issues taken care of, the jail is still under several variances, including not having an exercise yard and no visitation area."

"Adan Munoz (TCJS executive director) has

told us as long as we're moving forward with constructing a new jail, the commission will leave us alone. However, as soon as it looks like we've stalled, he's assured me they will begin putting the pressure on us. This isn't a problem that's just going to go away on its own."

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

BSSH

Continued from Page 1A

people, and we remember what they have done and what they're doing.

"It's a rejuvenation or renewal of sorts."

Hospital employees recognized veterans and active military during a brief ceremony in the Tollett All-Faith Chapel on the hospital campus. The hospital-based singing group, "The Hopefuls," sang the Star-Spangled Banner and Chaplain Rick Foster acknowledged the mili-

tary's efforts and the sacrifices of their family members.

Eddy Spurgin, Big Spring resident and vice-commander of the Texas National Guard, also spoke to the attendees.

"We wanted to take a moment to acknowledge and show our appreciation to our staff and their families and the sacrifices they have made for our country," Correa said. "We just want them to know we appreciate them."

Employees placed yellow ribbons on the front fence and hung the banner, following a Power Point presentation honoring the nation's military.

The hospital also has set aside a place for family members of active servicemen and women or veterans to place photos and memorabilia recognizing their efforts, Correa said. "It will include all the names of people with military experience."

The display is in the Allred Building Auditorium.

Employees Debbie Vernon and Ming Whitten also have coordinated the collection of items and sending them to the military, Correa said.

The hospital will sponsor activities for the patients on Memorial Day.

SETTLES

Continued from Page 1A

served as an important landmark in Big Spring since its completion in 1930 and is an excellent candidate for rehabilitation through the federal preservation tax credit program."

Ryan said the confirmed eligibility of the Settles is the first step in a complicated process that will soon return the structure to its original glory.

"The eligibility requirement is the first step in the nomination for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places," said Ryan. "The National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect historic and archeological resources."

"Vacant since the early 1980s, the Settles Hotel is one of the most significant historic buildings in West Texas. SHDC has retained Kate Singleton of Cornerstone Historical Preservation Services in Dallas to represent it in connection with the National Register of Historic Places nomination."

Inclusion in the National Registry of Historic Places is critical for the project, according to Ryan.

"We're going to do this with the understanding the building will be eligible for inclusion in the National Registry of Historic Places. This is critical for two reasons," said Ryan. "First, I'm doing this to get into the real estate building and rent spaces. I want to make sure the project is a trophy property in the end. That it will be something that's a destination, something people in the community will be proud of. Just putting another building online has no interest to me at all."

"Second, by putting this

in the National Register, we can let Uncle Sam help pay for part of it. That's through the smart use of what are called new market credits, and historical restoration credits. That's a 20 percent federal tax credit that we can use and monetize and let outside investors defray the costs

of this."

The project, which was recently undertaken by Ryan, a Big Spring native, calls for commercial and residential use of the property, with retail space available on the first and second floors.

More information on the project can be found

at www.settleshotel.com.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

CINEMARK
The Best Seat in Town
CINEMA 4
1801 East FM 700 (432) 263-2232
ADULT MATINEE BEFORE 6PM-5:00PM / ADULT 5:00PM / CHILD / 5:00PM
• PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN WORLD'S: 11:00AM 2:00PM 7:00PM 10:00PM
• SHREK THE THIRD PG: 11:00AM 2:00PM 4:00PM 7:00PM 9:00PM
• PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN WORLD'S: 12:00PM 4:00PM 8:00PM
• SPOCKMAN 2 PG-13: 11:20AM 3:10PM 7:10PM 10:10PM
VALID 5/25/07 THRU 5/26/07
ADVANCE TICKET SALES • NO PASSES/NO SUPERSAVERS
Showtimes available at cinemark.com

**MYERS & SMITH
FUNERAL HOME
& CHAPEL**
24th & Johnson 267-8288

Clyde S. Ryan, 78, died Tuesday. Graveside Services were at 11:00 AM Friday at Trinity Memorial Park.

**Wipe out up to 60%
of your Credit Card Debt!**
Never pay back a penny of the debt settled for you.
Call Debt Relief of America for a FREE Consultation & FREE Information.
1-800-711-9313

State National Bank
www.statenb.com
Big Spring • Lamesa • O'Donnell
901 Main 801 N. 4th 9th & Baldrige
432-264-2100 806-872-8808 806-428-3221
Member FDIC

POST CITY CENTENNIAL days
JUNE 1-3
in concert
BOB WILLS BAND, JAY BOE ADAMS, MATT MARYINDALE BAND, RECKLESS KELLY
Full weekend of fun
FREE SHUTTLE SO YOU CAN DO IT ALL!
www.postcitytexas.com

DESERT THUNDER RACEWAY
7400 IH20 WEST
FRIDAY
Test & Tune ANY CAR OR TRUCK SHOOTOUT 5 PM TILL MIDNIGHT
SATURDAY
SUMMIT SUPER SERIES BRACKET RACE GATES OPEN AT 6 PM TRIALS @ 7 PM • 8:00 PM
Racing Every Friday & Saturday Night
EXCITING MATCH RACING AND SPECIAL EVENTS AS WELL AS TEST AND TUNE. SEE CARS, TRUCKS, MOTORCYCLES, DRAGSTERS & QUADS
Excellent Concessions Featuring Thunder Burgers, Desert Dogs & Nitro Nachos
General Admission (IH20 Entrance) Adults \$6 (6 & under Free) Pit Side Spectators - CR1250 - Entrance Adults \$12 (6 & under Free) Test & Tune - Car & Driver \$20
FOR INFORMATION CALL 432-664-3949
www.DESERTTHUNDERACEWAY.COM
EXCITING MATCH RACES!

MEMORIAL DAY SALE
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND BLOWOUT RED TAG SALE!
Everything On Sale Best Prices Of The Year Good ONLY Thru Monday
Special Store Hours Monday 10:00 am-5:00 pm
Allan's Furniture
Where All Of West Texas Comes To Save On Their New Furniture
202 Scurry 267-6278
BBB MEMBER PERMAN BASH