

**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.



**Rangers cool
Bonderman,
defeat Tigers**

Page 1B

Elrod's

Big Spring's Oldest, Finest, Largest Furniture Store
2309 Scurry 267-8491

TUESDAY

JUNE 26, 2007



BIG SPRING

HERALD

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 181

COPYRIGHT 2007

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Bond issue

HC board mulls bids from four area firms

By **DUSTIN WILSON**

Staff Writer

Four seems to be the key number for the Howard College bond project.

College trustees met in special session Monday to discuss bids received for improvements to the Big Spring campus' water, sewer and gas lines, underground electrical service and heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.

"Of the eight packets we sent out, we received four responses and appointed an Architecture and Engineering Review Committee to read and evaluate the proposals." Vice President Terry Hansen told the board. "We've already begun to review the different proposals and will meet again on July 9 to have readied proposals.

"The proposals are lengthy to read through and I anticipate it will take a better part of the morning to get through it," Hansen added.

The four firms to respond were Parkhill Smith and Cooper, Adling Associates, Harper Perkins and Johnson Seefeldt.

"We have four really qualified firms to consider," Hansen said. "They are all innovators; they have done a lot of college and university work. We've had a few more phone calls from some

See **HC**, Page 3A

ONE-VEHICLE ROLLOVER



Ongoing road construction on Interstate Highway 20 may have played a role in the one-vehicle rollover that sent the driver of this Nissan Pathfinder to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center Monday afternoon. According to law enforcement officials and witnesses at the scene, the driver of the Nissan — a Big Spring woman — was traveling west on I-20 when construction forced one of the lanes to be closed. Boxed in by a pair of tractor-trailers, witnesses said the driver tried to slow down to get in another lane, but was hit from behind by one of the tractor-trailers, driving her vehicle off the roadway, where it flipped several times before coming to a rest against a tree on the north service road. The driver was listed in serious but stable condition before being transported.

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

SHDC acquires former Greyhound bus station

To be included in redevelopment of Settles Hotel

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

As efforts to renovate the historic downtown Settles Hotel continue, the project continues to grow in scope as the Settles Hotel Development Company announced this week it has acquired several other nearby properties.

According to Brint Ryan, manager of SHDC and project visionary, the company closed on the acquisition of property at 313 and 315 Rannels, adjacent to the Settles Hotel.



"These properties are adjacent to the historic Settles Hotel and include the former Greyhound Bus Terminal," said Ryan. "The bus terminal location began operations in

See **SHDC**, Page 3A

County to look again at jail site downtown

Barr: Decision came as result of opinions received from 'not an abnormally large group of concerned citizens'

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

Approximately two weeks after the court voted unanimously on a site in the 3600 block of W. Highway 80, Howard County commissioners decided in a split vote Monday morning to once again consider the site adjacent to the District Courthouse for a future county jail.

With Commissioner Jerry Kilgore absent, the court voted in favor of adding the site — located west of the courthouse and adjacent to the District Court — to the list of possible sites for project architect Jeff Heffelfinger to explore.

Commissioner Bill Crooker abstained from the vote, saying after the meeting the addition of the site — which has been ruled out by the court and its architects several times over the past several years — is simply ridiculous.

"It's ridiculous and will be misleading to the voters if it's put on a bond election," said Crooker. "Jeff Heffelfinger, the architect hired by the county, stated that the environmental issues — asbestos and possible leakage of underground gasoline storage tanks, as well as the demolition of some 12,000 to 15,000 square feet of buildings and rerouting of power and gas utilities, not to mention the possible use of eminent domain — make it an unsuitable site for the jail. Why would you force a decision of this magnitude on the Howard County voters?"

"After studying 13 potential sites ...

See **JAIL**, Page 3A



Barr



Crooker

INDEX

Classified 3-5B
Features 5A
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.

Senior advocacy group salutes Texas Legislature

Herald staff report

The increasing senior population affects Texas in many ways. The Texas Legislature knows it, and passed a bevy of bills during its last session in answer to the coming surge of seniors, according to Texas Silver-Haired Legislator Pat Porter of Big Spring.

Two sessions ago, Texas faced a huge budget short-

"Legislators from both sides of the aisle came together this session and their bills will have a positive effect on seniors for years to come."

—Pat Porter, TSHL legislator from Big Spring

fall. The legislature scrambled to make ends meet, cutting budgets and consolidating state agencies. Advocates for senior citizens worried that services would be cut

just as the baby boomers entered the ranks of senior citizens. Two major factors came together this year, however, to allow the Texas

Legislature to look ahead and chart a course toward independent living for seniors, assistance for those who need help and greater protection against those who prey on seniors.

Those factors were a budget surplus and a concerted advocacy effort by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature (TSHL) and other senior

See **TSHL**, Page 2A

suddenlink™
west texas

2006 Birdwell 267.3821

i like it!
Cable·Internet·Phone·HDTV·DVR

JAIL

Continued from Page 1A

we voted unanimously on a site for the new jail on June 12, naming the 3600 block of W. Highway 80 the court's pick. We need the architect to go forward with the site we have selected and begin the design phase. The county's budget is already at a critical point ... We pay extra money to have design phases for two locations instead of one? We should be discussing the financial phase at this point. We have the location."

County Judge Mark Barr said the move was a result of opinions received from what he described as "not an abnormally large group of concerned citi-

zens."

"It's been brought to the attention of the court that there's been a public outcry — I'm not sure you would call it an outcry — of people wanting to question our site," said Barr. "And a lot of people are saying they wish they had a choice, and their choice would be the downtown area. During the end of last week, we've looked at it, and thought that might be the best solution to getting us a jail."

"The commissioners court all agrees on one point, that we do need a jail. I want to make that real plain. We would like to go into the November bond election hoping we have a good, reasonable chance of having a bond approved."

Barr said the concept preseting different sites

for voters to consider is still up in the air at this point.

"The thing about it right now is we don't even know if we can get it on the bond in a practical manner that will suit everyone," said Barr. "We're waiting on our attorney general to find out if we can even do it. We have some hurdles to cross there."

Heffelfinger encouraged the court to decide on a single site before heading into the bond election to help save the county money on multiple designs.

"The simplest solution may be that after we get a survey, we do a preliminary design on these two sites, and do a preliminary estimate of the two sites," said Heffelfinger. "That will give the court

a little more insight on size and more calculated costs that you could eliminate one of the sites at that time. That's still an option, if I understand correctly, because you until have until the first of September to make that call. If we're diligent and speedy, maybe we can investigate both sites and the court will be able to make a more informed decision."

"I hate to see us have to spend extra money," he added. "I need a good survey on both sites. It's critical for me at this point in time. I also need the court to establish a design committee that I'm going to work with ... I typically like to make a run at the jail commission with schematics to get a good feel from them on their opinions before I present

them to the court for an approval. That way we know when the court puts its stamp of approval on something, we have the blessing of the jail commission behind us. I think that's critical for us in this process."

Heffelfinger said moving forward with two sites in mind rather than one will increase the cost to the county.

"This is kind of changing the scope of my job a little bit," said Heffelfinger with a laugh. "I don't have a problem getting into this thing, and I don't want to do full design development on both sites. I would like for you (the commissioners court) to get it to a point where I can give you an estimate I'm comfortable with and bring that to the court, and the court feel

comfortable with moving forward with that one. That makes it a lot different than me doing a full design development, which would minimize the expense to the county on this additional work."

"I told you all along that I'll work with you at a no-cost, \$10 deal, and that hasn't changed. However, you guys are kind of changing it a little bit here by asking me to go a little bit farther than I typically would on two sites."

"I think we all understand that," said Barr.

Barr said surveys on both properties is expected to begin soon.

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

HC

Continued from Page 1A

other firms, some as far as Minnesota. The main problem would be distance. You're looking at a three-year plus project with on site supervision. It'd be problematic for a firm more than 100 miles from here. It's going to be a more engineering intensive project this time.

We'll still focus on the architecture side of it. While important, the volume of work is not as great. We had specified that we were asking for architecture and engineering services rather than just architectural services as we had done in the past."

Parkhill, Smith and Cooper is no stranger campus projects. The firm's past endeavors include the performing

arts building and the day care facilities located on the Howard College campus, as well as work on Midland College's campus.

"We are working with First Southwest to review the (bond) offering statements from the firms to try and find the best deals," Hansen added. "We'll be meeting with a rating agency that will study us and the bond issue and help us to find

the best deal.

"The meeting will take place on July 10 between Howard College and the agency, and we're not sure yet if we'll be meeting there in Dallas or here so they can look at the campus." Hansen added. "From there we will meet July 23 for the issue to be submitted for approval. We have an idea how it will turn out, but it's a fairly flexible process and each sale is

unique in it's own way."

Howard County voters passed a \$21.6 million bond May 12 for the renovations of the Howard College campus.

Contact Staff Writer

CINEMARK
The Best Seat in Town
1801 East FM 700 (432) 263-2232
ADULT NATURE BEFORE 6PM-5:40PM / ADULT SCAR / CHILD / 5:40PM
• MNL. MURDOCKS (R) 1:50PM 4:30PM 7:10PM 9:50PM
• FANTASTIC FOUR: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER 2:15PM 4:30PM 7:10PM 9:50PM
• SOUPS UP (PG) 2:30PM 5:00PM 7:30PM 9:30PM
• EVAN ALMIGHTY (PG) 2:10PM 4:40PM 7:10PM 9:40PM
VALID 6/22/07 THRU 6/28/07
ADVANCE TICKET SALES • NO PASSES • NO SUPERSAVERS
Showtimes available at cinemark.com

Dustin Wilson by calling 263-7331, ext. 236, or by e-mail at life@bigspringherald.com.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Felipe Cortez, 83, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

George Amos, 89, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

SHDC

Continued from Page 1A

the late 1930s and continued operations through the early 1990s. Subsequently, the bus terminal location closed when Greyhound moved its operations to the current location on Third Street."

According to Todd Darden, director of public works for the city of Big Spring, both parcels were part of the bus terminal, with one containing the building and the other a parking lot for the facility.

Ryan said acquisition of the properties is part of the redevelopment of the hotel.

"The sites will ultimately be included in the new Settles Hotel site plan," said Ryan.

"Environmental clean-up and abatement of the bus terminal building is scheduled to begin in the next few weeks, subject to SHDC obtaining required environmental surveys and construction permits."

According to Kristopher Ryan, SHDC general manager, time has taken a heavy toll on the former bus station.

"The bus terminal building was not properly maintained and has suffered extensive water damage," said Kristopher Ryan. "The building also contains various asbestos-containing materials and will require an extensive abatement effort."

Brint Ryan said the newly acquired locations are "strategically significant to SHDC's Settles Hotel renovation project, and are the result of long-running negotiations between the former owners and SHDC representatives."

Acquisition of the property comes on the heels of a nod from the Texas Historical Commission, which confirmed eligibility of the downtown landmark to be nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places in May.

Inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places would make the project an "excellent candidate" for federal tax credits, according to Ryan.

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.

Coronado Hills Apartments
1 Bedroom - \$425 • 2 Bedroom - \$575 • 3 Bedroom - \$690
801 W. Marcy • 432-267-6500
Big Spring, Texas 79720
Pool, Private Patios, Covered Parking & Washer - Dryer Conn.
2-3 Bedroom
"Remember...you deserve the best!"

Gartman Sheetmetal Air Conditioning & Heating
NOW YOUR American Standard HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING DEALER
3206 E. F.M. 700 Big Spring, TX 79720
432-263-1902
Buster Gartman
TACL8003559E



Ryan

Buy One Get One FREE



buy one Samsung Slider, get one FREE

- Camera with flash
- Bluetooth®

Buy one for \$19.99 get one FREE after \$40 mail-in rebate with 2-yr. service agreement



Samsung u420

Representative Sales
208 Owens (In The Western Building)
432-263-1500



authorized agent

For terms and conditions, see alltel.com.

More of what you want from your wireless company.

anytime plan changes™
change your rate plan whenever you want without extending your contract

my circle™
choose who you call for free — any ten numbers, any network

america's largest network
so reliable, you stay connected or we pay you back™

Contact the Herald at editor@bigspringherald.com

FARMERS®
No More High Deductibles On Home Insurance
Now You Have A Choice
\$500 or \$1,000
2303 Goliad (432) 267-3857

COUNTRY AUCTION
LEWIS BROWN ESTATE
2301 COUNTRY ROAD 142 WEST
SATURDAY JUNE 30 10AM
PREVIEW 8AM SALE DAY UNTIL AUCTION
1973 Cessna 172 Skyhawk (hangered at Skywest-engine not working) 30' Flatbed, 30' Horse Trailer, 1982 Chevy Dully, 1990 Chevy Pickup, 26' Fleetwood Cimarron RV Lots of Tools and Miscellaneous....
TAKE COTTON FLAT RD SOUTH TO 140, TURN RIGHT GO TO 1202
TURN LEFT, FOLLOW TO DEAD END - WATCH FOR SIGNS.
This auction is proudly brought to you by: Cash, Check, All Major Credit Cards
10% Buyers Premium All Items Sold As Is Where Is Auctioneer: Tim Watkins #13861
Any Statements made the day of the sale supersede any written statements
1009 West Industrial, Midland, Texas
563-2262 or 349-6890 www.auctionsandservices.com 29759