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BIG SPRING

# HERALD

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## Council to move on transfer of center

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

The Spring City Senior Citizens Center will likely take center stage during Tuesday's meeting of the Big Spring City Council, as the municipality considers taking the facility over from Howard County.

Council members are slated to entertain first reading of the transfer, which has been in negotiation between the two governmental agencies for several months.

Howard County commissioners voted 4-1 — with Commissioner Gary Simer the lone dissenter — in favor of transferring responsibility for the facility to the city, which according to County Judge Mark Barr, is better equipped to run the center.

"As far as contributing money (to the center), the county is fine. But as far as running it is concerned, I'm not sure we have the resources to really put it in there and do it like the city would," said Barr during a

recent meeting. "I've talked to officials with the city, and they believe they will expand the services out there, which would be great. I think, in the long run, the seniors will be pleased with this decision."

The deal approved by commissioners — and expected to be heard by the council — would transfer ownership of the Senior Center from the county to the city, with the county agreeing to contribute \$75,000 each year to its operation.

Mayor Russ McEwen said the

council only has one steadfast plan for the Senior Center at this time, and it's something he believes the seniors that utilize the facility will be happy with.

"The only plans the city has for the center at this point is to make it better for our seniors," said McEwen. "We want the Senior Center to be something the city, and area residents, can be proud of, and we feel like we can accomplish that."

Barr said one of his main concerns in the transfer of the center is the future of its current

director and staff, an issue McEwen said has yet to be breached.

"We haven't made a determination on this yet. How could we?" said McEwen. "We have no idea at this point in the process. However, I can tell you we have no plans at this point to remove any of the employees that are currently working there. But there's just no way to make a determination on employees at this point."

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## COMING DOWN



Construction workers with Cline Construction tear down the remains of the old Greyhound bus station, located just behind the Settles Hotel in downtown Big Spring. The property was purchased last year by the Settles Hotel Development Company and is expected to be a part of the organization's effort to renovate the historic structure.

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

## Rebates

### Sales tax income up for some cities, but down for others

By **BILL MCCLELLAN**  
News Editor

January's sales tax revenues for the city of Big Spring were up — if only marginally — compared to a year ago, according to the State Comptroller's office.

Big Spring received \$381,860.80, this month, a 3.09 percent increase when compared to the \$370,393.20 taken in for January 2007. Year-to-date numbers are the same, obviously, because it is the first month of 2008.

While Big Spring's figures were slightly better than break even, the story was far different for Howard County's other two communities. Coahoma pulled in \$8,000.36 this month compared to \$6,546.85 a year ago. That's a jump of 22.2 percent. In contrast, Forsan witnessed revenues tumble 18.02 percent, comparing \$5,415.51 this month to \$6,605.97 for January 2007.

Abilene witnessed almost no change — just 0.13 percent to the positive side — when comparing the \$2,490,179.02 the

Key City received this month to the \$2,486,938.80 taken in last January.

It wasn't a good start to the year for Andrews, which was hammered with a 15.13 percent downturn, comparing January 2008 revenues of \$228,006.26 to January 2007 revenues of \$268,674.03.

Brownfield witnessed a 13.15 percent increase in rebates. That city received \$74,960.58 this January compared to \$66,244.17 a year ago.

Colorado City took in \$39,775.91 this month, a 2.93 percent increase when compared to the \$38,643.01 received in January 2007.

Fort Stockton enjoyed a 22.89 percent increase in revenues, comparing this January's receipts of \$184,604.30 to the \$150,210.69 collected last year.

Kermit received \$43,149.28 this month. Compared to the \$35,930.75 taken in a year ago, that's an increase of 20.09 percent.

Also topping the 20 per-

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## AARP Tax-Aide effort set to start

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

While area residents get ready to file their 2007 tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service, they won't have to go at the task alone, as AARP prepares to get its annual Tax-Aide program under way.

Local AARP spokesperson Gloria Hopkins said she and her team of volunteers will begin seeing area tax-filers Monday, Feb. 4, at the Spring City Senior Citizens Center.

"The AARP program provides free fed-

eral tax preparation assistance to people who cannot afford professional tax help, such as seniors, people with disabilities, those that don't speak English and people with low-to-moderate income," said Hopkins. "AARP volunteers explain many special tax credits and deductions and how people may claim them on their tax returns. These volunteers help people complete their returns, right down to any refunds that may be due them."

Hopkins said area residents planning to use the service should be sure to gather up their financial information

before heading to the Senior Center.

"People need to be sure to bring all of the pertinent information with them, including a tax booklet if one was received through the mail, W-2 forms and 1099 forms," said Hopkins. "They also need to bring any forms that show their 2006 earnings and their 2005 tax returns. We also need a social security card for every person named on the return and a photo ID for the person filing."

Tax-Aide will continue throughout the

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