



The Law Offices Of
R. Shane Seaton, PLLC
Personal Injury and Vehicle Accidents,
Divorce, Custody And Child Support
Criminal Defense, DWI And Traffic Tickets
1301 S. Gregg St. • (432) 264-1800

The Decorator's Center

Free Sink With Purchase
Of Kitchen Cabinets
410 E. FM 700 432-267-8310

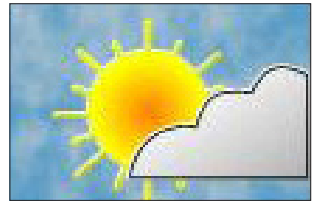


Slaton Insurance Agency
267-2398
Call For A Quote Today!

BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY

MAY 29, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 154

COPYRIGHT 2008

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Settles project on target despite delay

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Talks between the Settles Hotel Development Company and the Texas Historical Commission have pushed back the start of demolition at the historic downtown hotel, but the project remains on target for its three-year completion date.

That's the message Kris Ryan, general manager for SHDC, delivered to the Big Spring Economic Development Board Wednesday night, according to BSED Executive Director Terry Wegman.

"Kris had hoped to have the architectural renderings and the business plan ready for the meet-

ing, but things just didn't come together at the last minute," said Wegman. "He said he will have them to us shortly, possibly in the next few days, however.

"They (SHDC) have been to Austin to meet with the Historic Commission, and they have another meeting scheduled for the next week or two. That's the

next step in the process. Once they have everything ready with the Historic Commission, they can begin some of the demolition in the building. However, until the commission signs off on it, you can't be sure what they are going to say you have to keep."

Wegman said city efforts to

prep the building have proven very productive.

"Big Spring City Councilman Troy Tompkins said all of the cell equipment and antennas — the city's obligation in all of this — have been relocated to the new city tower, so that's not

See **SETTLES**, Page 3A

FHS names top graduates

Kuykendall, Newsom to lead Friday ceremonies

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

FORSAN — Tara Kuykendall and Alex Newsom are the top graduates of the Forsan High School Class of 2008.

Kuykendall, the daughter of Tom Bill and Deborah Kuykendall, is class valedictorian with a grade-point average of 4.52.

During high school, she has been a member of the National Honor Society, yearbook staff and the band. She has served as student council treasurer as a sophomore, class president as a freshman and junior and class vice president as a sophomore, and was named Rotary Youth



Kuykendall



Newsom

of the Month for December 2007.

She participated in several academic competitions, including University Interscholastic League mathematics, accounting and feature writing.

In athletics, she was on the tennis team, placing second in district competition as a senior. In

See **FORSAN**, Page 3A

Ireton, Coggin are val and sal at Stanton High

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

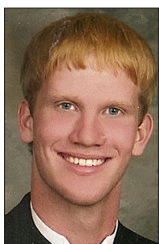
STANTON — Jonathan Ireton and Kelsey Coggin are the top two graduates at Stanton High School, officials announced.

Ireton, the son of Danny and Ronda Ireton of Stanton, is class valedictorian.

He was a member of the student council all four years in high school and served as vice president his senior year.

Other activities included membership in the National Honor Society, band and theater department. Also, he was a regional qualifier in University Interscholastic League computer science and mathematics competition.

In athletics, he participated in football and track



Ireton



Coggin

all four years in high school.

Away from school, he was active in the First Baptist Youth Group as well as Drug-Free Youth In Texas.

He plans to attend Texas Tech University in the fall and will major in engineering.

Coggin, the daughter of Jo and Chipper Coggin of Stanton, is class salutatorian.

She was president of both her junior and senior

See **STANTON**, Page 3A



HERALD file photo

KBST will host Splash-In from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at the city pool.

Splash-In to kick off summer

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Ready, set, splash.

For the 42nd consecutive year, Big Spring radio station KBST will help area children celebrate the end of school and the start of summer by hosting its annual Splash-In Saturday at the Comanche Trail Park swimming pool.

The event, which runs from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m., is free to the public, according to Tim Knox of KBST.

"Historically ... we've held the Splash-In on Memorial Day, but since school wasn't out yet, we

decided to wait until Saturday," Knox said. "This way, kids can really celebrate the start of their summer vacations."

Aside from free admission, there will be plenty of giveaways, he noted.

"There will be free T-shirts and just a ton of freebies," Knox said. "Plus, we'll have vendors from organizations around the area selling food and drinks."

And, of course, KBST will be broadcasting live from the site all afternoon.

"It's like the official kickoff to summer," Knox said. "The fun part

for me is that this is our way to give back to the community. It's a lot of fun for the kids and it's a safe way for them to enjoy the start of summer vacation."

Knox extended the radio station's appreciation to the city of Big Spring for providing the pool and the local YMCA for manning the lifeguard towers.

For more information, contact KBST at 267-1490.

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

West Texas Centers sets forum

Special to the Herald

West Texas Centers for MHMR will host a public forum, Thursday, June 5, in Big Spring to gather information on the delivery of mental health services in its 23-county area.

"We hope to have a strong discussion of proposed changes in the way mental health services are offered to individuals in the community and how this may affect the people we serve," West Texas Centers for MHMR CEO

Shelley Smith said.

The Local Planning and Network Development public forum will take place in the Howard County Library, 500 Main St., in the downstairs meeting room. The forum will begin at 5:15 p.m.

Additional information can be obtained from Amy Vidal, West Texas Centers community relations director, at (432) 263-0007, ext. 256, or amy.vidal@wtcmhmr.org

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.

Blum's One beautiful place
Jewelers

**OPEN TUESDAYS
THRU SATURDAYS**

Inside The Big Spring Mall 267-6335

**14kt.
Diamond
Three-Stone Rings**

\$895

\$1835

News at a glance

Two people arrested in dog attack that killed 7-year-old

ABILENE (AP) — Two people face second degree felony charges in the dog-mauling death of a 7-year-old Breckenridge child who was killed by their pit bulls, officials said.

The Stephens County Sheriff's Office arrested Jack Smith, 45, and Crystal Watson, 27. They each face a felony charge of a dog attack resulting in a death, which is punishable by 20 years in prison and a maximum \$10,000 fine.

Bail for each person was set at \$250,000 each. Both remain in custody.

The Abilene Reporter-News reported the arrests on its Web site Wednesday.

Seven-year-old Tanner Joshua Monk of Breckenridge died May 18 after he was attacked by pit bulls while playing outside near his rural home, authorities said.

A driver saw the boy lying dead next to a road near Hubbard Lake.

Two of the pit bulls were shot on site, while two more remain at an animal shelter. A hearing is scheduled for Friday at which the dogs' fate will be decided.

City council settles with parents of teen killed by police

HOUSTON (AP) — The parents of an unarmed teenager shot to death in 2003 by a rookie police officer said they are happy with the Houston City Council's decision to settle their lawsuit.

The settlement voted on Wednesday includes a new set of gun-training standards for officers and cadets that emphasize when not to shoot and how to avoid accidentally firing weapons.

The agreement also includes a \$1.5 million payment, a condolence letter from Houston Mayor Bill White, a plaque on city property honoring the life of slain 14-year-old Eli Eloy Escobar and more crisis intervention training for police officers.

"It means my son meant something. His death meant something," Lydia Escobar said in a story Thursday in the Houston Chronicle. "Now, I can understand my son's death."

"My son was the most precious thing in my life," she said. "God gave me one."

Eli was killed in November 2003 by rookie officer Arthur J. Carbonneau, who was convicted of criminally negligent homicide. Prosecutors said Carbonneau deliberately

shot Escobar as the teen fought with him and Officer Ronald Olivo outside a friend's northwest Houston apartment. Carbonneau contended the shooting was accidental.

Police said the two officers, who were looking for a suspect in an earlier assault, were trying to handcuff and subdue Escobar because he would not follow their commands.

When Carbonneau drew his weapon after Escobar kicked him in the groin, the teen kicked the officer's arm and the pistol fired, hitting him in the head, police said.

Houston to spend up to \$150,000 defending police beard ban

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston City Council unanimously authorized spending up to \$150,000 to defend the city in a lawsuit challenging the police department's ban on beards.

Council members spent more than an hour Wednesday discussing the policy and questioning whether the police department's no-facial hair policy discriminates against men who cannot shave on medical or religious grounds.

In a story in Thursday editions of the Houston Chronicle, Councilman Ron Green said: "... we're basically saying we want new police officers, but we don't want police officers with beards. We are struggling to get police officers on the street. Is it the type of issue that we want to spend resources and money on?"

Four police officers filed a federal civil rights lawsuit in November claiming the facial hair policy is discriminatory. The officers say the prohibition on beards and goatees is unfair for men with pseudofolliculitis barbae, a skin condition that reacts negatively to shaving. The condition primarily affects black men and can cause severe irritation, rashes and ingrown hair.

The men were reassigned to plain-clothes duty because of their facial hair, according to the lawsuit. Sgts. Shelby Stewart and Kenneth Perkins said they wear goatees because of the skin condition.

The police department instituted the policy in 1993 so uniformed officers would look conservative and professional, according to a city memo.

The policy was not regularly enforced until after Sept. 11, 2001, and after Harold Hurtt became chief. After the terrorist attacks, gas

masks were issued to uniformed officers, and beards prevent an adequate seal, the memo said.

Officers Adrian White and Raul Collins are also plaintiffs in the lawsuit. The City of Houston is also named as a defendant.

The lawsuit alleges diminished status and pay because of the policy, but officials said the officers' reassignments were not demotions.

Ex-Dallas school official pleads guilty to lesser charge

DALLAS (AP) — A former top Dallas school district official accused of taking bribes in awarding \$40 million in technology contracts pleaded guilty Wednesday to a reduced charge of attempting to influence a grand jury, his lawyer said.

William Frederick Coleman III, the former deputy superintendent and chief operating officer for Dallas schools, has agreed to testify next month against another former Dallas school official under federal indictment for bribery, conspiracy to commit bribery through a program receiving federal funds, conspiracy to commit money laundering, obstruction of justice and making false statements on tax returns.

"Bill Coleman did not belong in this indictment in the first place," his attorney, David Finn, said in a story on The Dallas Morning News Web site.

The original indictment unsealed last year accused Coleman and former chief technology officer Ruben B. Bohuchot of taking kickbacks to help win contracts for Frankie Logyang Wong's company, Micro Systems Engineering Inc. The indictment alleged that the three men also laundered about \$2.5 million to disguise payments from Micro Systems to Bohuchot, Coleman and others.

The indictment described Coleman's role as a facilitator between Wong and Bohuchot. Coleman worked for the Dallas school district for about a year before leaving in 2000, and he later became superintendent of Detroit Public Schools from 2005 until he was replaced in March 2007.

The trials for Wong and Bohuchot are scheduled for June 9. They face 23 charges of bribery, money laundering and conspiracy. The two men have pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Lottery

Winning numbers from the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: 2-7-18-26-30-51. Winning numbers drawn: Number matching six of six: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 4-9-12-14-34.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3-4-4-6. Sum It Up: 17.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-7-7. Sum it Up: 19.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Lorenzo Ramos Martinez, 77, died Wednesday. Graveside services will be at 11:00 AM Friday at Whitharrel Cemetery in Whitharrel, Texas. The family will receive friends from 6:00 until 9:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Robert Crane, 76, died Tuesday. Vigil Services will be at 7:00 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Graveside services with Military Honors will be at 11:00 AM Saturday at Trinity Memorial Park. Darrell Turner, 59, died Sunday. A Memorial Service will be at 7:30 PM Saturday at the Big Spring State Park's large pavilion.

SETTLES

Continued from Page 1A

going to be a problem for the construction crews," Wegman explained.

SHDC announced plans for a \$12 million renovation project in December 2006. According to SHDC officials, the project includes plans for commercial and residential use of the property, with retail space available on the first and second floors.

Texas architect Norman Alston will head the team charged with the restoration of the historic Settles Hotel, according to SHDC officials.

"Kris seems confident they will be able to start demolition and construction efforts by the first of July," said Wegman. "The agreement they have with BSED is a three-year contract through the full scope of the project, and everyone seems confident once things get started they are going to move a lot faster than that. I really don't

think the change in the timetable will have an effect on that."

Ryan had predicted earlier this year the project construction would begin in February.

Also Wednesday, the board voted to change its meeting schedule.

"There were just too many conflicts with the current schedule, which is the fourth Wednesday of each month," said Wegman. "The board members agreed Tuesday nights were better, but we had to be careful not to

plan them on the same nights the city council meets. So the board agreed on the third Tuesday of the month, which will put us right in between council meetings."

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

Dragon China Buffet
1300 Gregg 268-8888

\$1.00 Off Per Adult

.50 Off Per Child
Up to 10 People
(NOT FOR CARRYOUT)

EXP. 5/31/08

FORSAN

Continued from Page 1A

addition, she was a cheerleader for four years and served as manager of the varsity boys' basketball team.

She plans to attend Angelo State University in the fall with a pre-pharmacy major.

Newsom, the daughter of Jimmy and Regina Newsom, is class salutatorian with a grade-point average of 4.25.

She was a National Honor Society member and participated in the student council all four years.

Her other school activities included band, one-act play and debate, in which she advanced to state competition as a junior and senior.

She was also active in UIL competition, winning district titles in literary criticism and prose interpretation.

Newsom plans to attend Texas Tech University in the fall.

Forsan will hold commencement exercises at 8 p.m. Friday in the high school gymnasium.

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

STANTON

Continued from Page 1A

classes, as well as serving as president of the student council her senior year. In addition, she was named Most Outstanding Girl for District 8 of the Texas Association of Student Councils.

Her other high school activities included membership in the National Honor Society and serving as drum major for the band and editor of the yearbook. In addition, she was a regional qualifier in UIL journalism and Lincoln-Douglas Debate competi-

tions. In athletics, she competed in basketball, tennis and track.

Coggin plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin with a major in music business.

The Stanton High School

Class of 2008 will hold commencement exercises at 8 p.m. Friday in the high school gymnasium.

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

SUN LAUNDROMAT
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
7:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Drop Off Service Available

Come Wash With Us

1510 Lancaster 432-517-4196

GO FOR IT!

One of the best choices you can make is to enroll at Howard

Register


ON LINE or ON CAMPUS

For

SUMMER I, June 2 - July 2
SUMMER II, July 7 - August 6
FALL, August 25 - December 12

HOWARD COLLEGE
1001 Birdwell Lane
264-5000
www.howardcollege.edu

AN ENCOURAGING WORD



By Eddy Pitchford

Memorial Day prompts reflection on the concept of sacrifice. Sacrifice means you give so another can receive. A soldier gives his life so you can live. A military family grieves so your family can celebrate. A veteran suffers today so you will enjoy tomorrow.

Our ability to take freedom for granted proves that we feel secure. We may argue about the politics of war, but we know freedom results from real sacrifice by real people. We weep and pray because of people, not policies.

Sacrifice is taught at an early age. It is demonstrated by a mother, who tends a sick baby in the middle of the night. It is observed in the father, who works long hours in hopes of paying for college. It is present in the school teacher, who unselfishly offers instruction and guidance. It is noticeable in the love of a Sunday school teacher. It is certainly evident in the death of Jesus Christ, who gave so we can receive!

WE ARE FAMILY
"A loving family that exalts Jesus Christ"

COAHOMA CHURCH OF CHRIST
311 North 2nd Street • Coahoma, Texas 79511

SERVICES:

Sunday Class..... 9:30 AM
Sunday Worship..... 10:20 AM
Sunday Worship..... 6:00 PM
Wednesday Class..... 7:00 PM