



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

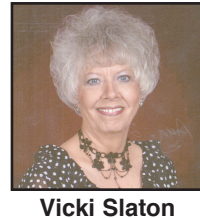
The Decorator's Center

Beautiful Frieze Carpet in Several Styles to choose
For Your Home

\$19.95 per yard and up

410 E. FM 700

432-267-8310



Slaton Insurance
Agency
267-2398

205 W. 15th

Call For A Quote
Today!

BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY

JULY 30, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 207

COPYRIGHT 2008

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Ryan offers 'toolbox' to city

Wants to help with economic development push

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Economic development was the focus Tuesday night when the Big Spring City Council held its quarterly meeting with the Big Spring Economic Development board of directors, and according to one Big Spring native, it's all about what you have in your toolbox.

Brint Ryan, manager of the Settles Hotel Development Company and owner of Ryan Inc., an economic development consulting firm, met with both groups to offer a contract to the government agencies he said will help the city develop a "first-class approach" to attracting new industries.

"The primary intent of the contract is two-fold," said Ryan. "First, it's to help the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation develop a first-class approach to economic development, using all of the tools at their disposal. Not just the local incentives they rely on so heavily today, but the federal and state tax credits, grants and other money that is available to put together a complete, comprehensive package.

We think that is going to significantly enhance their ability to attract new investment and new employers to Big Spring.

"The second part is we want to continue to develop our relationship with the economic development corporation. Since we started with the Settles Hotel, we've worked closely with them and they've been extremely supportive, and we want to grow that relationship further. That way, as we see deals coming through our pipeline — as we see clients looking for an attractive place to relocate — we can work directly with the economic development corporation and close some of those deals for Big

See RYAN, Page 3A



Texas Gov. Rick Perry will deliver the keynote address during an Aug. 21 groundbreaking ceremony to mark the beginning of a \$20 million renovation of the Settles Hotel.

Settles facelift

Perry to headline Aug. 21 ceremony

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The mid-August groundbreaking for the Settles Hotel will begin with more than just swinging hammers, as Texas Gov. Rick Perry is expected to serve as the keynote speaker for a ceremony to kick off renovations to the downtown landmark.

Big Spring native G. Brint Ryan, manager of the Settles Hotel Development Company, made the announcement Tuesday night during a joint meeting of the Big Spring City Council and the city's economic development corporation.

"On Aug. 21 we have our groundbreaking ceremony scheduled and we appreciate the governor being willing to come out," said Ryan. "He's been very gracious in accepting our invitation to deliver the keynote address at the ceremony, and we're really looking forward to that. After he steps off the podium, we're going to start asbestos abatement, and we're really thrilled about that."

Ryan said the project — which has seen its budget balloon from \$12 million to nearly \$20 million over the past year — is behind schedule, but he feels confident it's moving in the right direction.

"This has been a very exhausting process. We've had a number of legal issues dealing with the microwave equipment that had to be removed from the building," said Ryan, "we had significant consulting that had to be done on the asbestos abatement and we've been in the salvage operation in the building for the last six weeks, removing all the salvageable material before we start abatement. That includes all the sinks, the bath tubs, the fixtures

See SETTLES, Page 3A

County eyes district tax referendum in November

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

How soon a proposed district sales tax could go to voters in Howard County may depend on just how agreeable city councils in Forsan and Coahoma are to the idea, as commissioners look to move forward with a

county assistance district sales tax.

The sales tax — which could range from 1/8, 1/4, 3/8, or 1/2 of 1 percent — would effect all of the unincorporated portions of the county, as well as the cities of Coahoma and Forsan, but would not effect vendors located

in the city of Big Spring, which falls under the umbrella of the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation.

However, according to County Judge Mark Barr, whether to present the proposed tax to voters

See TAX, Page 3A

BSISD registration to begin

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

The first tangible sign that another school year is arriving begins within the next few days.

Big Spring public school classes begin Aug. 25, and officials have released student registration information for the new school year.

Registration for students new to the district in grades kindergarten through 8 — and other kindergarteners who did not register in May — will be held from

Aug. 6 through Aug. 8 at their respective campuses. New high school students may register beginning Monday at the BSIS central office.

No appointment is necessary.

New students must provide their birth certificate, immunization record and Social Security number when they register.

BSISD elementary campuses (grades K through 4) are Bauer (264-4121), Kentwood (264-4130), Marcy (264-4144), Moss (264-4148)

See BSISD, Page 3A

Sen. Cornyn assistant coming

Elizabeth Cox, West Texas regional assistant for U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, will be in Howard County Thursday to meet with constituents, address any federal concerns they may have and assist with various other services.

She will be in the second floor country courtroom at the Howard County Courthouse from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The public is invited.

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.



Kim Pollard / Broker
432-213-2842

408 E. FM 700
Big Spring, TX 79720
432-714-4886



Kelly Myrick
432-466-1178

Donna Love
432-935-3870

Leslie Stevens
432-213-0909

Kris Honeycutt
432-935-9740



2712 CINDY LANE



112 LINDSEY RD.



719 CRAIGMONT COURT

Pre-pregnancy diabetes tied to more birth defects

By MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

ATLANTA — Diabetic women who get pregnant are three to four times more likely to have a child with birth defects than other women, according to new government research.

The study is the largest of its kind, and provides the most detailed information to date on types of birth defects that befall the infants of diabetic mothers, including heart defects, missing kidneys and spine deformities.

The study lists nearly 40 types of birth defects found to be significantly more common in the infants of diabetic mothers than in those who weren't diabetic or who were diagnosed with diabetes after they became pregnant.

The study's list of diabetes-associated birth defects is surprising — it's much longer than was previously understood,

said Janis Biermann, senior vice president for education and health promotion at the March of Dimes.

"It adds more information about the specific types of birth defects associated with pregestational diabetes and gestational diabetes," said Biermann, who was not involved in the research.

Researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention led the study, which is being published in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology. CDC officials released the study Wednesday.

Birth defects affect one in 33 babies born in the United States, and cause about one in five infant deaths. The cause of most birth defects isn't known but some risk factors include obesity, alcohol, smoking and infections.

Doctors have known for decades about the threat diabetes poses to pregnancies. Past research has focused on dangers to the infant

by the extra amounts of glucose — sugar — circulating in the womb of a diabetic mother. Studies with rats and mice clearly show excess sugar harms fetal tissue development, said Dr. E. Albert Reece, a study co-author, who directs birth defects research at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

The new study draws from the birth records between 1997 and 2003 at hospitals in 10 states — Arkansas, California, Georgia, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Texas and Utah.

The study focused on the 13,000 births involving a major birth defect, and compared them to nearly 5,000 randomly selected healthy births from the same locations.

Mothers were asked if they had been diagnosed with diabetes before or during their pregnancy. The researchers said those who were diagnosed while

pregnant either had a temporary, pregnancy-induced condition called gestational diabetes or had diabetes that had gone undiagnosed until they were pregnant.

The study found that there was no diabetes involved in 93 percent of the birth defects.

About 2 percent of the children with single birth defects were born to mothers who had diabetes before they became pregnant. About 5 percent of the infants with multiple defects were born to mothers with that condition. In healthy births, the percentage of mothers who were diabetic before pregnancy was much lower.

The study also showed a wide range of birth defects that included malformation of the heart, spine, limbs and gastrointestinal tract.

"Diabetes is not discriminating" in which birth defects it's linked to, said Dr. Adolfo Correa, a CDC epidemiologist who was the study's lead author.

Fire near Yosemite park hurts tourist business

By GARANCE BURKE
Associated Press Writer

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. — Vendors along one of the main roads leading to Yosemite National Park this summer were finally seeing business turn around following a rock slide that kept tour buses away for the previous two years.

That was before a massive wildfire closed the highway and sent towering plumes of smoke

and ash over one of the nation's most celebrated wilderness areas.

"It's like we just get on our feet and they kick the stool out from under us," said Donna Santi, a gift shop clerk in Mariposa. "Still, the business will survive. We're more worried about the residents."

The fire raging since Friday has destroyed 25 homes and was only 20 percent contained late Tuesday.

Visitors seeking to photograph Yosemite National Park's famed peaks instead took shots of monoliths obscured by flying ash blowing in from the wildfire burning just 12 miles outside the park.

The haze has left one of California's most popular destinations shrouded in smoke at the height of Yosemite's busiest season.

"It's the views that are really disappointing," said Karen

Brown, a 45-year-old mother of two from Phoenix. "We do two major trips a year and this was one of them. It's not like we can shoot back here in a month."

Brown said her family was packing up a day early to avoid suffering from irritated eyes and sore throats.

The children had been "using their imaginations to experience Yosemite," she said, but ventured they would prefer clear views of Lake Tahoe.

BSISD

Continued from page 1A

and Washington (264-4126).

Students who attended Big Spring schools during the 2007-08 school year are already registered for the new year, officials said, but may need to update information such as addresses or telephone numbers.

Students must be regis-

tered at the campus in their attendance area unless a transfer request was approved at the administration office.

If students moved to a different attendance area during the summer, they need to pick up their registration packets at their old campus.

Attendance area can be determined by contacting BSISD Transportation Director Wayland Pierce at 264-4108.

Students in grades 5 and 6 will attend Goliad Intermediate (264-4111). Fifth-grade orientation will be held at 5:30 p.m. Aug. 21, while sixth-grade orientation will be held one hour later.

Students in grades 7 and 8 will attend Big Spring Junior High (264-4135). Seventh-grade orientation and schedule pick-up will be held at 4 p.m. Aug. 21. Eighth-grade orientation will be held at 5:30 p.m.

that day. Schedule pick-up for Big Spring High School students is as follows:

- Seniors and juniors — from 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 20.
 - Sophomores — from 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 21.
 - Freshmen — "Fish Camp" orientation will be held at 5:30 p.m. Aug. 21 in the high school auditorium. Open house and schedule pick-up will follow.
- Students with schedule

conflicts need to see their counselors the day they pick up their schedules. Freshmen with schedule conflicts should see their counselors from 8 a.m. until noon Aug. 22.

For more information, contact the BSISD central office at 264-3600.

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

SETTLES

Continued from page 1A

— basically anything we can save for the reconstruction. In addition to that, we've had issues with the approval from the Texas Historic

Commission and we received their final approval of our schematic design six weeks ago. We're very excited about that.

"We're doing the project right, and we're doing it right because that's how we want it and it's required to secure our tax

credit financing. It's taken a little bit longer than we had initially planned, but the outcome is going to be more than worth it."

SHDC announced plans for a multi-million dollar 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.

Since that time, the purchase price for the structure — \$75,000 to be paid to the city of Big Spring — has remained in

escrow, waiting for Ryan and his company to take legal ownership of the local landmark.

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

RYAN

Continued from page 1A

Spring." According to Ryan, the contract calls for a one-time fee from Big Spring

EDC that would purchase a "toolbox" of information identifying key industries suited for the area, state and federal credits and grants, as well as other useful information the EDC could use for economic development.

However, the cost of the contract wasn't nearly as concise as Ryan's presentation.

According to EDC board member Larry McLellan, the cost of the contract — which includes all the information and help

learning how to use it, according to Ryan — is between \$75,000 and \$90,000.

Ryan was unable to confirm the contract fee following the meeting. The council and EDC board entered an executive

session following the presentation, but took no action upon returning.

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

TAX

Continued from page 1A

during the November presidential election or the May city and school board elections is the question facing the court.

"We have until Aug. 26 to call for the election," said Barr. "We have to notify both cities of our intent within 60 days, and they have 45 days to reply.

"So, as you can see, there's really no way to make those deadlines and get it on the November ballot. However, County Attorney Mike Thomas has advised us that if we can get both cities to pass a resolution saying they will not oppose the tax before

that August deadline, then we won't have to worry about the 60-day rule and we can move forward immediately. So it all hinges on whether or not Forsan and Coahoma plan to oppose the tax."

Commissioners Jerry Kilgore and Gary Simer said they were in favor of shooting for the November election.

"There's certainly going to be a better voter turnout in the presidential election," said Kilgore. "I feel like putting it on the November ballot will give us a much better representation of what the voters want than presenting it in May."

Barr said he has already made arrangements to

meet with the Forsan City Council and is in the process of making similar arrangements with the city of Coahoma.

"If we can get them to pass resolutions saying they won't oppose the tax, we can go ahead and move forward," said Barr. "However, if either of them plan to oppose it, then we're stuck waiting until May. It's that simple."

According to information on Window on State Government — a Web site provided by Texas Comptroller Susan Combs — the district must use the sales tax revenues to perform the following functions of the district:

- the construction, or

improvement of roads or highways;

- the provision of law enforcement and detention services;
- the maintenance or improvement of libraries, museums, parks, or other recreational facilities;
- the provision of services that benefit the public welfare; or
- the promotion of economic development and tourism.

As far as eligibility for the creation of the tax district is concerned, the comptroller's site also says, "A county with a population of less than 45,000 is eligible to create a county assistance district if the county does not contain a city that has

a 4A or 4B development corporation, or the county contains territory of a transit authority created under Chapter 451 or 452 of the Texas Transportation Code."

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

Suicide ruled in death

Herald staff report

The death of a 23-year-old Big Spring woman has been ruled a suicide, according to Howard County officials.

Carla Michelle Pineda-Castaneda, 23, of 1443 Hilltop Road, was pronounced dead early Tuesday morning at her residence by Justice of the Peace Bennie Green, who ruled the death a suicide.

According to Green, Castaneda was found by a family member in a bedroom at the residence, having hung herself with a piece of rope.

According to Mark Hall, chief deputy with the Howard County Sheriff's Office, suicide notes addressed to family members were found at the scene.

Green said no foul play is suspected and no autopsy was ordered.

"It's cut and dried what happened," said Green. "It wasn't necessary to call for an autopsy."

Contact the Herald at 263-7331

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Sue Mize, 63, died Sunday. Funeral Services will be at 10:00 AM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6:00 until 8:00 PM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Guadalupe "Lupe" Valdez, 68, died Monday. Funeral Services will be at 2:00 PM Thursday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. Vigil Services will be at 8:00 PM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Carla "Charlie" Castaneda, 23, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

CINEMARK
The Best Seat In Town

12531
CINEMA 4

1801 East FM 700 (432) 263-2479

- ♦ DARK KNIGHT (PG-13) 12:20 PM 3:40 PM 7:00 PM 10:20 PM
- ♦ HANCOCK (PG-13) 12:50 PM 4:10 PM 7:30 PM 10:30 PM
- ♦ STEP BROTHERS (R) 12:40 PM 4:00 PM 7:20 PM 10:00 PM
- ♦ X-FILES: I WANT TO BELIEVE (PG-13) 12:30 PM 3:50 PM 7:10 PM 10:10 PM

VALID 7/25/08 THRU 7/31/08
ADVANCE TICKET SALES ♦ NO PASSES-NO SUPERSAVERS
Showtimes available at cinemark.com

Maribel's Handbags & More
Grand Opening - New Location
Big Spring Mall
(Across from Greg's Grill)
Saturday, July 12, 2008
From 10:00 am-8:00 pm




12272

The One Way Salon
NOW HIRING
Nail Tech & Hair Dresser

1211 Scurry • 432-264-6094
Mon.-Fri. 8:30 - 5:30
8:30 - 12:00 Every 1st & 3rd. Saturday

12588

Park & Putt Family Fun Center
NOW OPEN
Hours:
6-10 pm ~ Mon.-Sat.
S. Hwy. 87 263-7536
NO DEBIT OR CREDIT CARDS

6892