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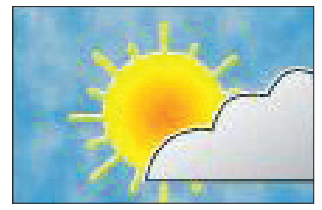
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H BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 14, 2009



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 37

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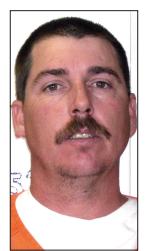
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Plea gets Odessa man 20 years

Guilty of intoxication manslaughter of 56-year-old Big Spring resident

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

An Odessa man indicted for murder and intoxicated manslaughter in connection with the mid-April traffic accident that claimed the life of a local motorcyclist pleaded guilty Tuesday morning.



Henson

Paul Eugene Henson, 36, of 9866 W. 25th St. in Odessa, pleaded guilty to a charge of intoxication manslaughter in 118th District Court, receiving a 20-year

sentence for his part in the death of 56-year-old James Alford Simmons Jr.

"It's the maximum sentence allowed by law for intoxication manslaughter," said District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson. "We're pleased with the plea agreement and that it

will keep Mr. Henson off the streets for quite some time."

According to officials with the Texas Department of Public Safety's regional office in Midland, Simmons was traveling west in the outside lane on I-20 — near the 165 mile marker — on a 2008 Harley

Davidson motorcycle during the early morning hours of April 19 when he was struck from behind by a 1989 Chevrolet Suburban driven by Henson.

Simmons was taken to Uni-

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BSISD to begin steps toward trustee election

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

It's almost election time again. Big Spring Independent School District trustees are expected to enter into an agreement with the Howard County election administrator's office to handle the 2009 trustee elections when they hold their monthly meeting at 5:15 p.m. Thursday in the high school board room.

The district routinely contracts with Election Administrator Sandra Bloom to allow her office to handle trustee elections, so the matter is expected to be approved with little or no debate.

Two trustee positions — Districts 2 and 4 — are up for election this year and each position is for three years.

District 2 trustee Maria Padilla said she has not decided whether to run for re-election. District 4 trustee Tony Kennedy was unavailable for comment.



District 2 Padilla



District 4 Kennedy

UP FOR ELECTION

The last contested BSISD trustee election was in 2007, officials said.

Candidates can file at the district's business office, located across the street from Big Spring High School on 11th Place, during normal business hours from Feb. 9 to March 9. Prospective

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

D'Amberly Averette readies her animal for showing at the Howard County Junior Livestock Show, which begins today at the county fairbarns. Lambs will be judged beginning at 3 p.m., followed by goats immediately afterward.

Superintendent evaluation on CISD board agenda

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

COAHOMA — School trustees here will evaluate their superintendent's job performance when they hold their monthly meeting at 7 p.m.

Thursday in the administration building board room.

January is traditionally the time area school districts hold superintendent evaluations, followed by administrators in February and teachers in March.

Superintendent Randy Brown, who was hired by the board last summer after a stint as CEO of Motley County ISD, currently earns a base salary of \$80,000 on his contract, which runs through June 2011.

Trustees could give Brown a raise and extend his contract at the end of the evaluation, a practice followed by many area school boards.

Also Thursday, trustees will select a firm to handle delinquent tax collections for

the district.

Lineberger, Goggan, Blair and Sampson, an Odessa law firm, currently holds the delinquent tax collections contract for Coahoma ISD. Also

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Council firms utility service to sports complex; OKs sale of property to Settles Hotel renovators

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Land issues were at the heart of the Big Spring City Council's Tuesday night meeting, as the group advanced utility services to the Roy Anderson Sports Complex currently under construction and made way to transfer some lots to the Settles Hotel Development Company.

The council approved a trio of easements and property deeds that will allow utility services to reach the complex, which is expected to be completed sometime in or close to September.

"The state had a sewer line that ran from U.S. Highway 87 and Interstate Highway 20 out to their property. Over the years, the city has been maintaining that property," said Darden. "As we got into the development stages of the Roy



Darden

Anderson Complex, we had originally anticipated putting in a septic system. However, because of new regulations governing parks and recreation, we had to get on the sewer. The state agreed to convey that portion of the property to the city, and we would maintain thereafter.

That way we can get this sports complex tied onto sanitary sewer.

"Also part of this project, Oncor will be providing us with power service from the east of the complex. The power lines run across private property owned by a local merchant. He has agreed to convey an easement for that to the city. Also, Oncor is needing an easement from the city for the transformer that will supply

the power to the facility."

The council approved the measures by a unanimous vote.

Also during the meeting, the council gave the go-ahead for three parcels of land located in downtown Big Spring to be sold to the Settles Hotel Development Company, which is currently in the process of renovating the historic Big Spring landmark.

"We're getting ready to finalize the sale of the Settles Hotel to the Settles Hotel Development Company," said Darden. "During the course of their development, they saw it necessary to look at other properties we, the city, own in and around the Settles Hotel, specifically the property to the south, a half-lot between

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Police

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Tuesday and 7 a.m. today:

- JOHN BRECKENRIDGE, 44, of 701 Tubb Loop, was arrested Tuesday on charges of driving while intoxicated – open container and driving while license suspended.
- DONALD BAKER, 36, of 2303 Cindy, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- CLIFFORD QUALLS, 57, of 1214 E. 16th St., was arrested Tuesday on a charge of hindering the discharge of an officer's official duties.
- KENNETH MACLIN, 51, of 1704 Scurry, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of assault causing bodily injury.
- BRENTON PETTY, 24, of 518 Koberlin, was arrested Tuesday on charges of failure to appear and consumption of alcohol by a minor.
- JOSHUA CLARK LAND, 22, of 2106 Carl, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of speeding.
- TRACY LYNN STURGILL, 49, of 538 Westover Rd., was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- DELEAH TAGGART, 43, of 1214 E. 16th St., was arrested Tuesday on a charge of disorderly conduct – language.
- THEFT was reported:

- in the 900 block of Willia.
- in the 3200 block of Greenbriar.
- in the 1200 block of 11th Place.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 500 block of Westover Road.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 2500 block of Fisher.
- ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY was reported in the 100 block of Third Street.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 900 block of Fourth Street.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1900 block of Highway 87.

Tuesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated.

- CATHERINE MAYBERRY, 38, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated – open container.
- ASHLEY LESHEA STILES, 19, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of bondsman off bond for possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.

Sheriff

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity:

- Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 59 inmates at the time of this report.
- BRADY TIMMINS, 22, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated and possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.
- TRINITY L. OWEN, 29, was arrested

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1100 block of Nolan. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Simler. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Bluebird. One person was transported to SMMC.

Local Weather

Thu 1/15 46/29

Sunny along with a few clouds. High 46F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph.

Fri 1/16 58/37

Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the upper 30s.

Sat 1/17 66/35

Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the mid 30s.

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Lottery

Mega Millions lottery: 22, 25, 33, 36 and 48. Mega Ball number: 40.

Cash 5: 24-27-3-19-6.

Daily 4: 1-3-2-6. Sum It Up: 12.

Pick 3 night: 4-6-9. Sum It Up: 19.

PLEA

Continued from Page 1A

versity Medical Center in Lubbock, where he died from his injuries April 22 at 9:55 p.m.

According to DPS officials, Henson left the scene of the accident, but was later tracked down in Sweetwater, where he was taken into custody by the Sweetwater

Police Department.

Wilkerson said the original indictment included a murder charge because of the circumstances of the traffic accident.

“Any time someone is in the course of committing another felony offense — in this case it was driving while intoxicated, third or more offense — and causes the death of another, you have the grounds for a felony murder charge,” said Wilkerson.

Wilkerson said he hopes the 20-year sentence serves as a stout reminder to area

motorists.

“If you get behind the wheel intoxicated, this is the chance you're taking,” said Wilkerson. “Not only can you destroy the life of someone else and their loved ones, but you can land yourself behind bars for a very long time.”

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

LeRoy Nichols, 89, died Monday. Funeral Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Grace Fellowship Church of God. Burial with Military Honors will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

candidates must be U.S. citizens age 18 or over and live in the area they plan to represent, said Debra Green, BSISD business manager.

Early voting for this year's trustee election will run from April 27 to May 5 at the county courthouse. Voting booths for the May 9 election will be located at Garrett Coliseum on the Howard College campus.

Also Thursday, trustees are expected to approve a tax roll in excess of \$1 billion. Chief Financial Officer Sandra Waggoner said the certified roll totals \$1,171,424,629 for the school district.

The certified roll, however, does not reflect the recent settlement between the Big Spring Refinery and the county tax district, meaning that the actual tax roll for the school district will be about \$126 million below the certified level, Waggoner said.

The disparity actually

means little to the school district, she added.

“We'll collect more taxes than we budgeted for this year ... but the state will take (the excess) away from us,” Waggoner said. “Overall, there will be very little impact for us.”

Also Thursday, trustees will consider:

- The district's Academic Excellence Indicator System report for the 2007-2008 school year.

The AEIS report tracks district performance in several areas, including standardized test

scores, graduation and drop-out rates and college preparatory work, and compares how those efforts measure up to other school districts in the state.

“It assesses where you are based on state standards,” said Dr. Michael Stevens, interim superintendent for the district. “It really doesn't tell you how good you're doing in some areas as it tells you how badly you are doing in those areas.”

“We performed comparably to other districts our size,” Stevens

said of the report's conclusions.

“There's definitely room for improvement ... and we'll break down the data from the report and concentrate on those areas we need to improve.”

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

CISD

Continued from Page 1A

bidding for the work Thursday night will be the Midland firm of Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins and Mott.

The delinquent collections con-

tract is renewed on an annual basis, officials said.

In other business Thursday, trustees will consider:

- An agreement with West Texas Food Service Co-op.
- A report on the status of construction and renovation projects in the district.

- Reports on enrollment and tax collection.
- Financial statements.
- Superintendent's report.

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

CITY

Continued from Page 1A

the hotel and the bus barn. There was a sheriff's sale a couple of months ago, and during that sale the Settles Development Company acquired the other half of that property.

“The other two lots are located west of the Settles Hotel, on the southwest quadrant of Third Street and Runnels. This is property we acquired through Main Street Inc. several years ago.”

Darden said Tuesday's agenda item won't give the go ahead to sell the property to the company, but will get the ball rolling on a process that

will allow for it.

“Mr. Ryan and the Settles Hotel development group wanted to have an agreement out there whereby they could acquire that property for their development,” said Darden. “What this agreement will do is allow us to bring back to the council at a later date an entity that we feel can, in turn, give that property to them.”

“We're not selling this property to them through this agreement. I want to make that clear. All this does is say we intend to con-

vey this property to an entity that can, in turn, sell it to them. And then, through an agreement, there will be reimbursement made to the city and the Hotel Settles group through the reinvestment zones.”

Darden told the council the agreement was necessary because the city cannot simply sell a parcel of land to a private individual or corporation.

“To be able to transfer property to an individual, you can only do it through an auction or a sealed bid process,” said

Darden. “Through a 380 agreement, you can give it to a non-profit organization, and they have mechanisms where they can. However, we, as the city, cannot directly convey property to a private individual or corporation. For example, the Big Spring Economic Development Board or Main Street Inc. could convey this property.”

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