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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**SUNDAY**

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## 24 people indicted by grand jury

*Three on charges of aggravated assault*

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

Three men suspected of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon were among those indicted during Thursday's session of the Howard County Grand Jury.

James Robert Beck, 33, Christopher Lynn Holt, 36, and Miguel Angel Reyes Jr., 31, all of Big Spring, were among 24 people indicted during the grand jury session, District Attorney Hardy L. Wilkerson said.

The trio were indicted on unrelated offenses that occurred in Howard County within the past nine months.

Beck was indicted after his alleged involvement in an altercation that occurred July 24, 2009.

"Beck and his brother went to the victim's house that night ... and a dispute arose," Wilkerson said. "During the altercation, James Beck produced a knife and stabbed the victim in the back."

Reyes also is alleged to have stabbed his victim during a domestic disturbance that occurred Nov. 24, 2009, Wilkerson added.

Holt is accused of threatening a family member at gunpoint, then pistol-whipping the victim, during the course of a domestic dispute alleged to have occurred Jan. 14.

All three offenses are second-degree felonies, punishable by between two and 20 years in state prison and a fine not to exceed \$10,000, Wilkerson said.

See **INDICTED**, Page 3A



Crews from D&S Construction use a scaffold as they perform renovation work on the exterior of the Settles Hotel Friday morning. **HERALD photo/Steve Reagan**

## HC trustees expected to reject dorm bids

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

Howard College trustees will hear updates on various construction projects when they meet at 12:30 p.m. Monday in the Student Union Building's Tumbleweed Room.

The major item on the agenda will be a report on bids for updating the college dormitories. That project, financed by revenue bonds, is expected to take place over the course of this summer, said College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks.

Bids for the project, which will update infrastructure systems such as plumbing, electrical, heating and air conditioning, have been received, but Sparks said it is unlikely any will be awarded at Monday's meeting.

"They all came in higher than expected," she said. "So we're looking very closely at maybe changing the bid specs ... It's unlikely the trustees

will take any action." Both the timing and nature of the work are behind the higher-than-expected bids, she said.

"These projects are very infrastructure-intensive and those systems are very expensive to repair," Sparks said. "Plus, this project needs to

be completed within a three-month timeframe during the summer, so that will increase costs as well."

Renovation of the dormitories is scheduled for the summer in order to minimize inconvenience to students, she said.

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## Election day looming

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

With early voting in the primaries officially in the books, County Elections Administrator Sandra Bloom said she and her elections staff are gearing up for election day — Tuesday.

"We haven't run into any real problems during early voting, so things are moving along to election

day fairly smoothly," she said. "We feel pretty confident going into Tuesday."

**Sample ballot,**  
see Page 10A

day's election. All of the software is ready and we haven't run into any glitches with it. All we need now is the voters."

Howard voters will have plenty of polling places to cast their vote, according to Bloom, with five locations — all of which will be housing both Republican and Democratic polls — located in Big Spring and Coahoma. Polling places for Tuesday are:

Saint Thomas Parish Hall (605 N. Main St.); Precincts 11-16, 112, 103-105

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