

Quarterly News Report
Jan. 1 – Mar. 31, 2024

JAN 2, 2024

Re: City to Close Offices for New Year Holiday

City of Big Spring offices and the landfill will reopen today.

Monday's normal sanitation routes will be picked up today. Tuesday's routes will be picked up tomorrow. The rest of the week will run as normal.

Young & Breastless

The Young & Breastless of Big Spring, a support group for breast cancer survivors, will have their next monthly meeting on Friday, Jan . 5th. This will be held during lunch from approximately 11am to 12pm at Starlee's Kitchen, located at 505 Scurry. The group generally meets on the first Friday of the month. For more information, contact Judy Pumroy at 432-638-2499 or Brenda Kolb at 214-577-5457.

Sports - Coahoma

The Coahoma Bulldogettes wrapped up a successful run at the Jayton Holiday Classic going UNDEFEATED! Congratulations to them!

Next, the Bulldogettes will be back to District 6-3A action when they travel to Tuscola to face off with No. 3 Jim Ned today. Tickets for the game are sold online only and you can find a link on our KBEST Media Facebook page.

Here is the link: Jim Ned CISD
<https://www.jimned.esc14.net/page/Tickets>

Forsan Basketball teams will face off against Reagan County in district games tonight. Varsity Lady Buffs will play at 6:15 pm and variety boys will play 7:30 pm. All games will be played at Forsan.

UNIDENTIFIED BODY FOUND IN MARTIN COUNTY

In Area News, an unidentified body was found in Martin County last month.

On December 22, 2023 shortly after 6:00 P.M., a caller reported finding what was believed to be a body.

The Martin County Sheriff's Office responded and the remains of an unidentified body were discovered.

The Texas Rangers have been brought in to assist.

According to Martin County Sheriff Brad Ingram, it appears the body was disposed of here and this location did not appear to have been a crime scene.

Area News: **Midland-Odessa welcomes Chinese refugees after years of seeking asylum**

MIDLAND-ODESSA, Texas (KOSA) -Sixty-four Chinese refugees can now call the Permian Basin their new home.

The men, women and children have been trying to come to America for the last four years.

After battling religious persecution from the Chinese Government, now they are in the land of oil and gas, ready to start a new life.

For the last couple of years, they've faced harassment from their homeland because of their Christian beliefs.

However, this past weekend, they flew to Midland to meet those that have been fighting for their freedom.

Half of them will live in Midland, and the other half will stay in Odessa.

01/08/24

CITY AGAIN FAILS TO WARN RESIDENTS BIG SPRING FIRE STATION 2 CLOSED

Fifth Closure in Two Weeks Risks Public Safety

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: President Chanley Delk
January 5, 2024 (432) 230 - 5322

Big Spring, TX – The Big Spring Professional Firefighters are sounding the alarm, warning local residents that Fire Station 2 was closed again with no warning or notification from city officials.

“I’m concerned that there isn’t even a sign on the door warning our neighbors,” stated Chanley Delk, President of the Big Spring Firefighters Association, “folks come running up to the door of the fire station all the time needing help. They’re going to see the fire engines inside and assume we’re there, but the fire station is closed.”

Since the Big Spring City Council voted to cut the minimum number of firefighters the Big Spring Fire Department has experienced an exodus of 20 trained, tenured firefighters. Current estimates predict an additional 5-8 firefighters leaving in the next 90 days, creating a public safety crisis with nearly half of the fire department positions eliminated and vacant.

President Delk continued, “Every day, your Big Spring Firefighters do all that we can to save lives and deliver public safety, but the closure of station 2 and the ongoing exodus of highly trained and skilled firefighters and paramedics place lives and property needlessly at risk.”

“The city closed a fire station and didn’t even put up a sign to warn citizens. Something has to change.”

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Sunday Grassfire

HOWARD COUNTY, TX – On Sunday afternoon a grass fire was reported between Salem Rd. and Moss Lake Rd. north of the tracks. According to the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department, they were able to extinguish the 100-acre fire with help from the Howard County Road and Bridge department and Keystone Energy.

Basketball

Coahoma Basketball teams defeated the Merkel Badgers on Friday night.

The Bulldogettes won 55-46, with Baylor Wright and Isabella Cox were the top scorers for the night. Wright brought in 18 points and Cox had 15. The Bulldogettes are now 4-1 in district.

The Bulldogs won with a final score of 72-57. Top scorers for the Bulldogs were Landon Wells with 23 points and Ryan Shifflett with 21 points. The Bulldogs are 2-1 in district.

Coahoma teams will travel to Wall today. Bulldogettes play at 6 PM, Bulldogs play at 7:30 PM.

Forsan Buffs won their game over Sonora on Friday, Jan. 5th, with a final score of 48-46. They are 3-1 in District.

Lady Buffs won their game against Sonora with a final score of 52-39. Top scorers for the Lady Buffs included Harleigh Greer with 17 points and Lilly Hoff with 13 points. They are now 4-1 in District.

The Buffs and Lady Buffs will travel to Eldorado tomorrow (01/09/24) for their next game. Lady Buffs play at 6:15 PM and Buffs play at 7:30 PM.

Big Spring Lady Steers will be hitting the court tonight. Game begins at 6:15 pm. Listen to that game broadcasted live on The Mighty 1490 AM.

BSPD provides update on Unattended Death from 12/19/23

BIG SPRING, TX —Last month, the Big Spring Police Department announced that there had been a deceased white male found on December 19, 2023 at the Howard County Fairgrounds property located in the 2900 block of Old Hwy 80 in Big Spring. He was identified as Jasson Bullard 40 years of age.

Upon arrival officers found a group of dogs run from the area in which Bullard was found. The preliminary investigation did not determined any cause of death but the deceased has evidence of animal predation.

The Big Spring Police Department has received a preliminary finding by the Medical Examiners regarding this investigation. Although preliminary findings indicate Pulmonary emphysema with bullae formation and postmortem animal soft tissue predation the cause of death is still pending further studies. There is no further information available at this time.

Chief of Police, Chad Williams
Administrative Lieutenant Brian Gordon

Win \$500 Prepaid Gift Card

Sheriff's Office & National Donor Month Blood Drives

Kick-off 2024 in style with Vitalant's 24 in '24 Blood Donation Extravaganza Giveaway! This is your chance to make an extraordinary impact in the new year and get more chances to win BIG. Give blood and you'll have a chance to win one of 24 \$500 gift cards! Of course, the real winners are patients who benefit from your lifesaving donations.

All donors who come to give blood between Jan. 6 and Feb. 10, 2024, will be automatically entered into a drawing for a chance to win one of 24 \$500 gift cards in our donor rewards store!

Blood donors only need to be at least 16 years old, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be healthy. 16 – 22 year old female donors will need to meet additional height and weight requirements. 16 year old donors must present a minor donor permit signed by a parent or guardian – go to www.vitalant.org to find the form.

Sheriff's Office Blood Drive **Fri, Jan 12** **3613 W. Hwy 80** **Noon – 4pm**
Appointments Encouraged **Call Jennifer Gammons @ 432-264-4207**
National Blood Donor Month Blood Drive **Sat, Jan 13** **11am –**
3pm **Ryan Hall 605 N. Main St** **Call/text Linda @ 325-656-2645**
Appointments Encouraged **Call 877-258-4825. Vitalant App. www.Vitalant.org**

Obits

John Eric Nolting, 60, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. A fund has been set up at Myers & Smith Funeral Home to help assist the family with funeral expenses.

Tina Rawls, 56, died Monday. Graveside service Friday, January 12, 2024 at 1 PM at Mount Olive Cemetery.

Stefanie Carrasco Montanez, 35, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. A fund has been set up at Myers & Smith Funeral Home to help assist the family with funeral expenses.

01/10/24

HCCC Highlights

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During Monday's meeting at the Howard County commissioners court, commissioners discussed a city property that was for sale on Nolan Street. Howard County Judge Randy Johnson advised that the City of Big Spring offered it to the county first to see if they had any interest in the property. The property is described as being the parking lot area behind the area where the old police station was once located. Commissioners agreed that there was no interest in the property at this time.

Commissioners also accepted a donation of \$25,000 from Occidental Petroleum for the Howard County Sheriff's Office.

Elections Administrator Jodi Duck received permission to enter into a joint election agreement with party chairman for the primary election. She advised that they would be running elections side-by-side, using the same equipment during the same hours for the primary election. It was noted that the elections office has been moved to a new location. They are located in the building that had previously been the Social Security Administration building on FM 700. This is where early voting will be held, however it is not yet ready for the public.

On Primary Election Day, there will be a change in polling locations. First Baptist Church will no longer be a polling location for voting. It has been replaced with the Sand Spring Baptist Church located at 201 E. 24th St.

SB22

Senate Bill 22 (SB 22) was a topic of discussion during Monday's meeting of the Howard County Commissioners Court. SB 22 is a grant program that will provide financial assistance to sheriff's departments, constable's offices and district and county attorney's offices in eligible counties to ensure professional law enforcement and legal representation of the people's interests throughout the state. 118th District Attorney Josh Hamby advised commissioners that he plans to apply for the grant and would ask for the full amount of \$175,000. If approved for the grant, Hamby said he would want to hire an additional prosecutor to help cover the caseload from the three counties in the 118th District, which are Howard, Glasscock, and Martin Counties. He also stated that he would want to give raises to the investigators and assistant prosecutors.

County attorney Lindsey Wilkerson told the court that she planned to apply for the grant, as well, and would want a paralegal or a part-time person to scan documents for a digital discovery and digital case submission.

BSISD Teacher Clears Name

After facing a possible 3rd degree felony charge for Possession of a Controlled Substance, former Big Spring High School Coach Randall Shaw was able to walk out of the courtroom as a free man.

Shaw was a US History teacher and had coached Cross Country, Swimming, and Track & Field. He had even been recognized as the Regional Assistant Boys Cross Country 4A Coach of the year in 2022, and had been with Big Spring ISD for approximately 14 years when he was arrested during Spring Break for possession of methamphetamine. He was placed on suspension and later asked to resign after being indicted.

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Shaw testified that he and his vehicle had been “hi-jacked” by a woman after leaving a local bar. He stated that after playing pool for a couple of hours at a local bar and having a few drinks, he decided to leave because he felt unwell. He was then approached by an older woman who asked him for a ride home and he agreed. Before getting into the car, Shaw said he stumbled over a rock and the woman suggested that she should drive. Since Shaw was in an altered state, he agreed. Shaw said he felt like he could possibly been drugged because he didn’t realize that they had been driving around for about an hour. She then parked at a location and a man took control of the vehicle and proceeded to drive Shaw around Big Spring for approximately 2 hours while making multiple stops at convenience stores and forcing him to buy items and withdraw large amounts of cash from the ATM. At each stop Shaw said he asked for help but was ignored by clerks and strangers. Eventually, a clerk called the police in an attempt to help Shaw.

Police searched the vehicle and found a canister containing methamphetamine, which was actually found under a McDonald’s bag near Shaw’s feet. No one claimed ownership of the drugs and since it was in close proximity to Shaw, he was arrested and charged with possession.

During the trial, the defense pointed out that bodycam footage appeared to show the driver of the vehicle, who was unknown to Shaw at the time of the incident, tossed something onto Shaw’s side of the vehicle before exiting. They also addressed that Shaw had no prior criminal history and was a respected member of the community. They also noted that Shaw was a bus driver for BSISD and was able to maintain a Class B drivers license for many years, which required him to be randomly drug tested.

Shaw was found not guilty of the charge. He is currently unemployed and told KBest News that although he had been waiting for 10 months for his day in court, he never lost faith in how the trial would end. Here, he tells us more (audio - It was a big relief that I was finally heard, that I was finally able to tell the truth about what happened. After ten months of nothing happening and it seemed like no one was really listening to what I was saying, I finally got to say what happened.”)

He went on to say that he’s ready to put the experience behind him and to start rebuilding the life that was stripped from him. He also said it seems like our court system is messed up when you lose everything you’ve ever worked for your whole life before you’re even allowed to step foot into a court.

“Eventually our justice system works, but there are some major problems with our legal system.”

Basketball

Big Spring Lady Steers lost to the Estacado last night. Final score was Big Spring 13, Estacado 61. The next game for the Lady Steers will be Friday in Snyder.

Coahoma Bulldogs lost to Wall last night. Final score was Coahoma 35, Wall 43. The next game for the Bulldogs will be on Friday against San Angelo TLCA.

Forsan Lady Buffs won their game over Eldorado last night. Final score was 42-28. Top scorers for the Lady Buffs were Harleigh Greer with 14 points and Scout Stockton with 8 points. Forsan girls are now 5-1 in district. They’ll play Ozona this Friday at home. Ozona is also 5-1.

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The Buffs also won their game over Eldorado, but it was a tight game. Final score was 43-42. They'll also face off against Ozona on Friday night at home.

Forsan 42, Eldorado 28

Scorers for forsan

Lybertee Rodriquez 2 pts

Audrey Kinsey 5 pts

Scout Stockton 8pts

Ary'anna Mealing 2 pts

Lilly Hoff 6 pts

K'Leigh Williams 3 pts

Harleigh Greer 14 pts

Maria Sanchez 2 pts

01/11/24

Coahoma's Kerby takes gold at Steer Powerlifting Invitational

BIG SPRING, Texas — The Coahoma High School Powerlifting team opened their season on Saturday with a strong performance at the Big Spring Invitational meet.

Returning CHS powerlifters Nevaeh Kerby, Macayla Valencia, and Tres Vasquez had a standout performance at their first meet of the year.

Kerby, a two-time state qualifier, won gold in the 97 weight class. She squatted 215, benched 110, and hoisted 215 on deadlift for a total of 540 pounds of iron pumped.

Valencia had a three-lift total of 545 pounds to capture second place in the 114 weight class. She recorded 220 on squat, 100 on bench, and 225 on deadlift. Rounding out the top Coahoma finishers is Vasquez, who brought home bronze in the 132 weight class with a three-lift total of 980. He squatted 365, benched 225, and hoisted 390 on deadlift.

Next: Coahoma power travels to Colorado City on Saturday, Jan. 13, for the Colorado Invitational meet.

BSHS Powerlifters Rodriguez, Woodruff, and Cavazos take Gold in Big Spring Steer Invitational

BIG SPRING, TX – The Big Spring Steer Invitational was held on Saturday and the Steer Powerlifting team came away with multiple medals.

Rebecca Rodriguez, Quasett Woodruff, and Talon Cavazos earned gold in their respective weight classes. Rodriguez (220) squatted 400 lbs, benched 190 lbs, and had a deadlift of 375 lbs. The total amount lifted by Rodriguez was 965 lbs. Woodruff (242+) had a recorded 435 lbs on squat, 215 on bench, and 365 on deadlift. She lifted a total of 1,015 lbs. Cavazos (123) had 325 lbs on squat, 205 lbs on bench, and 450 lbs on deadlift. He lifted a total of 980 lbs.

Others earning medals in their respective weight classes for the Girls were Violet Calderon who earned silver and lifted a total of 925 lbs and Alliana Chavarria who earned bronze and lifted a

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total of 610 lbs. For the Boys team, Caden Reynoso took home silver after lifting a total of 575 lbs and Josiah Cavazos earned bronze after lifting a total of 805 lbs.

Big Spring's Girls and Boys teams earned 3rd place at the meet. The Steer Powerlifters will participate in the Big Spring Tri-Meet, a developmental meet, today held at the Big Spring ATC.

LARGE/BULK ITEM PICKUP FOR DISTRICT 1 IS SCHEDULED FOR JAN. 17, 2024.

BIG SPRING, TX – Large /Bulk Item pickup for District 1 in Big Spring is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan 17th. This is an opportunity to get rid of old furniture or any other bulk items without the hassle and expense of hauling it off. It's easy and it's free! Just contact the Public Works Department to get on the pick-up schedule. The City of Big Spring's LARGE/BULK ITEM PICKUP will take place on the third Wednesday of every month.

The deadline to get on the list is Tuesday, Jan. 16th at 5 PM. To schedule a pickup, email nhernandez@mybigspring.com or call the Public Works Office at 432-264-2501.

BSISD MEETING

Big Spring ISD Board of Trustees will meet for a special meeting tonight at 5:15 PM in the High School Board Room, located at 707 E. 11th Place. The main item on the agenda is to consider and possibly take action to make an appointment to the vacant District 6 Trustee position. The position had previously been held by Bryan Stokes.

Plasma Cutter

On Tuesday morning, Big Spring High School added a \$50,000 plasma cutter and table to their welding shop for the students to get more hands-on experience thanks to local welder and metal artist Rae Ripple.

Ripple recently received a new CNC from FastCut CNC and decided to donate her current one to BSHS. The CNC is a computerized plasma cutter that can load images and cut and create things. This piece of equipment will provide students with the new technology and possibly create job opportunities in the future by giving them access to CAD programs they can learn from.

Ripple told KBest News that the trades are a dying industry and it's important to her that this next generation of kids gets access to this type of equipment so they can keep the trades alive.

Welding students were excited to receive the equipment, and Ripple told KBest News that it was incredible to see. She went on to say that she's seen five years of graduating seniors come out of the Big Spring Welding class and has watched Milton Woody, BSHS Welding Instructor help students chase their dreams, such as becoming creatives, pipeliners, or underwater welders. Here, she tell us more (*audio - "Whatever they want to be doesn't matter how big the dream he's going to help them, make it happen And so giving this to them and Mr. Woody, so he can continue to keep teaching these kids to chase all their dreams. It's just incredible but the kids I've been with these kids for so long like we're all homemade now and so it's just it's cool to see*

them get so excited about some things so amazing that's gonna change their lives as much as it changed mine.")

Being #WinterReady Can Save Lives

DENTON, Texas – Nearly three years ago, a severe winter storm brought hazardous conditions to millions of people across Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas, causing widespread disruptions such as frozen pipes, impassable roads, and power outages.

It marked the coldest winter storm in Texas since 1989, catching many residents off guard. Because areas in these southern states are not accustomed to these long-lasting severe winter events, many residents did not know how to stay warm and safe during severe winter weather.

"Winter weather can impact roads, schools, businesses, cause power outages and disrupt our daily routines," said FEMA Region 6 Administrator Tony Robinson. "It can also cause serious health risks, so now is the time to be #WinterReady to help keep you and your families safe."

FEMA is encouraging everyone to be #WinterReady this year, follow these general winter preparedness tips to keep your family safe.

Winterize your home

- Install weather stripping, insulation, and storm windows.
- Insulate water lines that run along exterior walls.
- Clean out gutters and repair roof leaks.

Check heating systems

- Have your heating system serviced professionally to make sure that it is clean, working properly, and ventilated to the outside.
- Inspect and clean fireplaces and chimneys.
- Have a safe alternate heating source and alternate fuels available.
- If you do not have working smoke detectors, install one inside each bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Test batteries monthly and replace them twice a year.

Prepare your vehicle before travel

- Get your [vehicle ready](#) for cold weather use before winter arrives.
- Prepare a winter emergency kit to keep in your car in case you become stranded. The kit should include:
 - Cell phone, portable charger and extra batteries
 - Items to stay warm, such as extra hats, coats, mittens, blankets or sleeping bags
 - Food and water
 - Booster cables, flares, tire pump, and a bag of sand or cat litter (for traction)
 - Compass and maps
 - Flashlight, battery-powered radio and extra batteries
 - First-aid kit

Prepare for emergencies

- Be prepared for weather-related emergencies, including [power outages](#).
- [Stock food](#) that needs no cooking or refrigeration and [water](#) stored in clean containers.
- Ensure that your cell phone is fully charged.
- When planning travel, be aware of current and forecast weather conditions.

01/12/24

Refuge from the Cold offered at The Y

BIG SPRING, TX – A cold front is set to come through Howard County this weekend. The Big Spring YMCA, also known as The Y, will be offering a refuge from the cold on Sunday and Monday night. This is available to anyone who is needing a warm place to sleep and security will be held throughout the night, but it is only available for the first 30 people.

According to Dathan Jones, CEO of The Y, no reservations will be taken and this is a first come first serve type of situation. The intake for those who will use this shelter will be from 8 to 9 PM and they can stay through 8 AM the next morning. The Y will be able to provide cots, blankets, and some pillows. Anyone who has extra pillows and blankets are welcome to drop them off at The Y.

Although people will be able to stay overnight through the inclement weather, be advised this is not considered an emergency shelter because The Y does not have generators if the power goes out.

MLK day celebration

The city-wide Martin Luther King Day celebration will be held on Monday, January 15th, in Big Spring at 6 PM near the corners of MLK Boulevard and Highway 87 / Gregg St.

Deacon Garland Green with Mt. Bethel Baptist Church told KBest News that everyone is welcome for the celebration and he encouraged everyone to turn out to show their support. Marchers, joggers, bikers, and skateboarders are welcome, as well as people who need ride in cars, vans and trucks. Participants are encouraged to bring a flashlight as it will be dark during the event. Be advised that extremely cold temperatures are expected and participants are reminded to dress appropriately for the weather.

Participating in the walk will meet between Nalley-Pickle Welch and Subway. Walkers will begin at Lancaster and West to FM 700 the route is approximately 1 mile long at the end of the walk. There will be a short talk and a prayer to close out the event.

e-Waste Recycling Event in Jan. '24

Tomorrow, the City of Big Spring will partner with Keep Big Spring Beautiful for another E-Waste Recycling Day. This free event allows the public to recycle all electronics responsibly. Some of the items that will be accepted are computers, lithium ion batteries, computer accessories, monitors, printers, copiers, gaming systems, cameras, and more. Items that will not be accepted are paint, light bulbs, alkaline batteries, gasoline, oils, and freon items.

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Items will be accepted beginning at 8 AM until the truck is filled at the Big Sandy Landfill, located at 3810 Old Colorado City Hwy, in Big Spring.

If you have questions or comments, you can contact Ken Meeks at 817-919-6229.

Basketball

Howard College at Midland, Hawks and Lady Hawks lost to Midland. Final score for Men's game was Howard 72, Midland 81. The final score for the women's game was Howard 47, Midland 58.

Tonight high school basketball teams will take to the court.

Coahoma at home against San Angelo TLCA. Bulldogettes at 6:15 and Bulldogs at 7:45 PM Forsan will host home games against Ozona. Lady Buffs will play at 6:15 and Buffs play at 7:30.

Big Spring teams will travel to Snyder today. Lady Steers play at 6:15 and Steers play at 7:30. Listen to a live broadcast of those games on The Mighty 1490 AM brought to you by the KBest Sports Crew.

01/16/24

Congressional Debate

At the 11th Annual University Interscholastic League Congressional Debate State Tournament held on the campus of the University of Texas and the Texas State Capitol, Big Spring High School Speech and Debate team member Tyler Grove took home the 4A Congressional Debate State Championship.

Grove, no stranger to medaling in speech events at UIL State, was last year's silver medalist in Lincoln-Douglas Debate.

Congressional Debate is unlike any other debate event that the Steers compete in. It starts in October where students write mock legislation to debate in a fashion modeled after real life congress. The top students at a special district in the fall qualify for the State Meet.

At the State Meet, students compete in eight hours of debate over different bills and resolutions submitted from across the state. Advancers then move on to another eight hours of debate, but this time held in the meeting rooms at the State capitol building.

Joining Grove at the Congressional State Meet were Senior Chloe Sanchez and Junior Ashley Melendez.

The Steers continued a long tradition of Big Spring High School competing at the State Meet. The school has qualified for and had a student in finals every year in the decade that the event has been held. Grove's State championship is the second time a BSHS Speech & Debate Member has won the event. Ethan Morelion won the event in 2016.

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BSHS Band All-State Qualifiers

Big Spring High School recently announced their newest All-State Qualifiers:

- Zachary Conner on tenor trombone
- David Villagrana on Bb clarinet
- Ethan Barker in French horn.

These three will represent Big Spring ISD at the annual Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) Convention next month and take the stage at the Lila Crockrell Theatre with the best of the best student musicians representing the Association of Texas Small School Bands!

City council meeting

BIG SPRING, TX — During last week’s meeting of the Big Spring City Council, council members approved abatements for the following three properties:

107 NE 3rd,

109 NE 3rd, and

1609 Young.

They also approved a donation from the Broughton Foundation in the amount of \$250,000 for upgrades to the Russ McEwen Family Aquatic Center. Plus, a \$25,000 donation from Oxy was also approved. The donation was for the purchase of new SCBA equipment for the department.

Sports

Update

The Lady Steer fell to Snyder, final score was 76-30.

The Steers lose a heartbreaker 37-33.

Tonight Big Spring teams will host Lakeview at home. Lady Steers play at 6:15 pm and Steers play at 7:30 PM at Steer Gym. Listen to a live broadcast for these teams on The Mighty 1490 AM.

Football recognition

Several Steer Football players were recently selected for the Midland Reporter-Telegram All Star-Team.

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First Team Offense:

WR - Zeyire Franklin

Honorable Mention Offense:

QB - Gavin Padron

RB- Kavier Ford

WR- Jose Munoz

WR- Keyshaun Woodruff

OL- Jayden Overton

OL- Jeremiah Presas

First Team Defense:

DL- RJ Gomez

Honorable Mention Defense:

DL- Corbin Cate

DL- Jayden Overton

DL- ZAdrian Washington

LB- Jimmy Johnson

LB- Keyshaun Woodruff

DB- Jacobi Lozano

DB- Jose Munoz

DB- Nathan Vasquez

THSWPA Lifter of the Week

Rebecca Rodriguez was selected as the Lifter of the Week by the Texas High School Women's Powerlifting Association for Region 1. Rodriguez placed 1st in her respective weight class lifting a total of 965 lbs during the Steer Invitational held recently.

MLK Walk

The annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Walk took place last night, led by Pastor Michael Smith of Mt. Bethel Baptist Church. The 1.5 mile walk began on the corner of MLK Blvd. and Gregg St. outside Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and headed west, ending at Knollwood Heights Apartments off FM 700. Approximately 20-25 participants gathered to take part in this year's walk, despite below freezing temperatures. Many of them paraded behind walkers in their cars and then gathered outside the apartment homes for a brief speech and prayer held by Pastor Smith.

Ramon Olgin, a walker participating in the event, told KBest that walking a mile in the cold is nothing compared to what Martin Luther King, Jr. endured and is a good way to pay respect to MLK and honor our civil rights. Olgin participates in the walk every year that he is in town. Pediatrician Dr. Joseph Chavez and his wife, Lupe Chavez also walked in the event. Dr. Chavez said that he has always admired Dr. Martin Luther King. "As a Hispanic, Mexican-American physician, because of [Dr. King], I'm here serving the community of Big Spring, TX," Dr. Chavez said. Lupe added that Dr. King gave people the path to rights, freedoms, and equality.

In his closing speech, Pastor Smith encouraged participants to educate themselves and get out

and vote.

01/17/24

Headline: Cutting-Edge Eye Care Goes Mobile for West Texas Veterans
Sub-Head: Bringing Vision Care to Veterans' Doorsteps: Innovative Clinic on Wheels Debuts
By: Michael Cole, West Texas VA Health Care System Public Affairs Officer, and U.S. Navy Veteran

West Texas VA Health Care System (WTVAHCS) is taking a significant step forward in enhancing Veterans' access to specialized medical care with the introduction of its innovative Ophthalmology Mobile Medical Unit. This state-of-the-art facility represents a revolution in delivering healthcare to Veterans, particularly in the field of eye care. The unit is not just a vehicle but a fully equipped mobile eye clinic and glasses dispensary, designed to bring VA health care directly to where Veterans live, work, and play.

The mobile unit's design is a marvel of modern engineering and medical technology. It incorporates all the essential features of a traditional eye clinic, including advanced communication systems, reliable power sources, and water supply, all compactly integrated into a mobile setup. This allows the unit to operate independently in remote locations, bringing specialized ophthalmology services to Veterans who might otherwise face challenges accessing care.

"The significance of this addition to the West Texas VA health care toolkit cannot be understated," said Dr. Geert Craenen, Chief of Ophthalmology. "Especially considering the unique needs and geographical challenges facing our Veteran population."

Veterans in West Texas and Southeast New Mexico often live in remote or underserved areas where access to specialized medical care can be limited. The mobile unit will address this gap by traveling to these locations, ensuring that Veterans receive the eye care they need, when and where they need it.

Inside the unit, Veterans will find a clinic that rivals any stationary facility in terms of equipment and services offered. From routine eye examinations to more complex procedures, the unit is equipped to handle a wide range of ophthalmological needs. Integrating state-of-the-art medical equipment in such a compact space is a testament to the ingenuity and forward-thinking approach of the designers and the VA Health Care System.

The deployment of the mobile unit also represents a significant step in improving the overall healthcare experience for Veterans. By eliminating the need for long-distance travel to access specialized care, the unit not only makes healthcare more accessible but also reduces the time and cost burden on Veterans. This is particularly beneficial for those with mobility issues or other constraints that make travel challenging.

The introduction of the Ophthalmology Mobile Medical Unit clearly indicates West Texas VA Health Care System's dedication to innovation and patient-centered care. It exemplifies a modern approach to healthcare delivery that prioritizes accessibility, quality, and adaptability. As the unit begins its journey across West Texas, it carries with it the promise of improved healthcare access for Veterans. It is a tangible representation of the gratitude and respect that the nation holds for its Veterans.

"This initiative is not just about providing medical services; it's about honoring the sacrifices of those who have served," said Keith Bass, WTVAHCS Medical Center Director.

"It ensures they receive the care they deserve in return."

The Ophthalmology Mobile Medical Unit is a groundbreaking addition to the West Texas VA Health Care System. It is a significant stride in the ongoing effort to provide Veterans with the soonest and best care.

Coahoma's Chapman commits to McPherson

COAHOMA, Texas — In the fall Reagan Chapman will once again be donning a Bulldog uniform before heading out to the gridiron, but this time it will be for McPherson College.

The Coahoma High School senior signed his letter of intent to play collegiate football at McPherson College in Kansas at a ceremony held in the CHS auditorium on Tuesday morning. He was joined on stage by his father and mother, Gregory and Kelly Chapman, and brother, Nathan, before he signed his commitment paper in front of a large crowd.

As one of the best kickers in the history of the CHS football program, Chapman recorded 135 career points and kicked a record long 44-yard field goal during his three years as a varsity player.

"I want to thank God for taking this opportunity to play at the next level," Chapman told the crowd. "I want to thank Coach (Chris) Joslin for taking a chance on me three years ago. This wouldn't have been possible without him.

"I also want to thank my parents for the weekends we'd spend in Dallas, Lubbock, and Abilene, so I can improve as a kicker and for always believing in me," he continued. "Last but not least, I want to thank all my teammates, especially those who blocked, snapped and held for me. I could not have done this without you all. I pray that I make Coahoma proud."

McPherson College is in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), Division II and plays in the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference (KCAC).

Chapman told KBest News he plans to study finance while at McPherson. When asked how he felt about attending a college so far away from his hometown, Chapman had this to say.

Former Elected Official Arrested for Indecency with Child Sexual Contact

BIG SPRING, TX -- On Jan. 4, 2024, Bryan Stokes, an administrator at Howard College in Big Spring was arrested for Indecency with a Child Sexual Contact. At the time of his arrest, Stokes was employed at Howard College as Chief Institutional Effectiveness Officer.

According to a statement from Howard College, Stokes submitted his resignation on Jan. 12, 2024 and it was accepted by Howard College President, Dr. Cheryl Sparks.

The statement also said, "Effective immediately, Mr. Stokes will have no further duties or association with Howard College."

Stokes had previously been a Big Spring ISD Trustee for District 6. This trustee position was an elected seat, which Stokes had won in the May 2022 City/School Elections. He resigned from this position on December 1, 2023.

Stokes was not an employee of BSISD.

During a special meeting of the Big Spring ISD Board of Trustees held on Jan. 11th it was announced that the position would stay vacant until the next school board election in May 2024.

(Photo: Bryan Stokes, May 2022)

Howard College to Dedicate Paul B. Adams Family Music Building

BIG SPRING - Howard College will proudly unveil the meticulously restored Paul B. Adams Family Music Building in a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony on today at 10:00 a.m. The building, a cornerstone of musical development in Howard County, was originally constructed in 1957 and has undergone a comprehensive renovation made possible by Carol Adams in loving memory of her family.

“We are excited for our community to see the renovations that have been made to our music building and to help to us thank the Adams family for their generosity,” said Dr. Cheryl Sparks, Howard College President. “This building will not only recognize the impact the Adams family has had on our college and community but will also recognize the many music and piano teachers in this community that played a huge part in promoting music education.”

The Paul B. Adams Family Music Building will pay homage to Paul B. Adams, who served as a dedicated member of the Howard College Board of Trustees from 1956 to 1973 and will stand as a testament to his commitment to music, education, and the community. Additionally, classrooms, a rehearsal hall, and a piano studio bear the names of other members of the Adams family, underlining the family’s impact on the college and the community.

The comprehensive restoration of the building extends beyond the structural enhancements, incorporating a thoughtful tribute to the rich musical history of Howard County. Dedicated practice rooms within the building are named in honor of historical Howard County piano teachers, recognizing their invaluable contributions to music education in the region.

“As we were designing the renovations in the building, Carol Adams wanted to honor several individuals who helped develop the presence of music education in Howard County,” added Sparks. “It is important for us to keep our musical history in the forefront as our faculty, staff, and students shape music education for the future.”

The dedication event will include a ribbon cutting, donor recognition ceremony, and tours of the building. During the tour, visitors will have the opportunity to see various historical artifacts from the

music department that will be on display to showcase the vibrant musical heritage that has shaped the department over the years.

The celebration event is open, and members of the public are encouraged to attend. The event will begin at 10:00 a.m. and refreshments will be provided.

Basketball update, 01/17/24

BIG SPRING

The Big Spring Steers and Lady Steers' basketball teams hosted Lake View High School. The Women earned a District win over the Maidens with a score of 47-40.

The Men were also triumphant over the Chiefs with a score of 52 - 46. It was a sweep for the Steers' basketball program.

COAHOMA

Coahoma teams defeated Grape Creek. Bulldogettes won 66-28, and the Bulldogs won 70-53. Next, Coahoma teams will travel to Clyde to take on the Bulldogs on Friday, Jan. 19th.

FORSAN

Forsan teams competed against Water Valley and won. Lady Buffs won 57-23. Top scorers were for the night were Harleigh Greer with 13 points and Lilly Hoff and Scout Stockton with 9 points each. They are now 6-2 in district.

The Buffs won over Water Valley with a final score of 62-40. Seth Richardson and Brooks Wright were top scorers for the Buffs with 12 points each, along with Toby Isbell who contributed 10 points.

Forsan teams will travel to Christoval for their next set of games on Friday, Jan. 19th.

01/18/24

BSISD Board of Trustees Meeting

A regular meeting of the Big Spring ISD Board of Trustees is scheduled for Thursday evening at 5:15 PM in the High School Board Room, located at 707 E. 11th Place. Items on the agenda include a report on Cooperative Fees paid by Big Spring ISD and upcoming election dates. Action items that will be voted on include a resolution to enter into a Joint Election Agreement (JEA) with the City of Big Spring, and a contract with the Howard County Election Administrator to Conduct the School Trustees Election for May 4, 2024.

Area News:

West Texas VA supports Abilene “Grunts” Association’ 37th Annual “TET” Reunion

WHAT: 37th Annual “TET” Reunion
WHEN: Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024, 12:00 PM
WHERE: [Expo Center of Taylor County](#)

WHO: Abilene “Grunts” Association, supported by WTVA, area Veterans and other organizations.

BACKGROUND:

WTVAHCS has been invited to support the 37th Annual “TET” Reunion, hosted by the Abilene “Grunts” Association, Feb. 3, 2024.

WTVAHCS is proud to support one of West Texas’s largest and highly attended Veteran’s resources event. WTVA will have staff available during the event to discuss Enrollment/Eligibility in VA health care, PACT Act, Women Veterans Health, Suicide Prevention, and other VA resources.

Area News

Federal Judge Sentences Drug Traffickers to Combined 56 Years in Prison

MIDLAND, Texas – A Midland man and woman were sentenced in a federal court in Midland to a combined 56 years in prison for methamphetamine trafficking and firearm charges.

According to court documents, Nikky Nicole Lujan, 37, and Raul Gonzalez, 38, possessed and distributed more than 11 kilograms of methamphetamine in and around Midland. Gonzalez was also sentenced for possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. Midland police officers located and recovered methamphetamine, firearms, body armor, and thousands of dollars in currency while executing a search warrant at Gonzalez’s residence in May 2023.

Lujan and Gonzalez both pleaded guilty to multiple counts on Sept. 20, 2023. Lujan was sentenced to prison for 340 months, just over 28 years. Gonzalez was sentenced to prison for 334 months, just under 28 years.

“I appreciate the efforts of our local law enforcement partners for disrupting the drug trafficking operations of a major meth supply chain in the Permian Basin,” said U.S. Attorney Jaime Esparza for the Western District of Texas. “The severe sentences in this case should serve as a warning to drug

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traffickers who operate in our communities. You will be vigorously prosecuted in this district, and you risk meeting the same demise.”

“This case serves as yet another example of the outstanding working relationship established between local law enforcement and our federal partners,” said Midland Police Chief Seth Herman. “I commend the efforts of our Midland Division Office and their unwavering dedication to protecting citizens throughout the Permian Basin.”

Midland PD investigated the case.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Joe Mahoney prosecuted the case.

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Howard County Elections Office moves to new location

BIG SPRING, TX – Early voting for the Primary Election in March will begin next month and some changes that voters should be aware of in Howard County. The Howard County Elections Office has moved to a new location no longer inside of the Howard County Courthouse. It is now located at 2006 FM 700 in what was once the Social Security Administration building. This is important for voters to know because early voting will occur at the new address, NOT at the Courthouse.

Here, Jodi Duck, Elections Administrator for Howard County, tells us more about (audio - new location).

She went on to say that the staff love the new location because it offers more room for voters and it's easy to get in and out, and easy to find.

It should also be noted that there is a new polling location for Precinct 3. First Baptist Church will no longer be a polling location for voting. It has been replaced with the Sand Spring Baptist Church located at 201 E. 24th St, next to Myers and Smith Funeral Home. Duck told KBest News they are excited for the voters to check out the new building and have their election needs taken care of.

State News:

IPC Program Hits Milestone in Child Rescues

AUSTIN – The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Highway Patrol Troopers rescued their 600th child during traffic stops since the implementation of specialized training through the Interdiction for the Protection of Children (IPC) Program. The IPC Program began training Troopers in 2009.

The IPC program training teaches officers how to recognize indicators that a child is a victim or at risk of becoming a victim; this includes children who are missing, exploited, at-risk or endangered. Troopers receive this training through a two-day, 16-hour course that uses a child-centered approach and teaches Troopers to assess the totality of circumstances to determine if a child is at risk.

In addition to removing these children from dangerous situations, the training also aids DPS in related child abduction, human trafficking, possession of child pornography and sexual assault investigations.

The IPC program marked its 10th anniversary in [2019](#). The program uses a multidisciplinary approach to train law enforcement, prosecutors, criminal intelligence analysts, child protective services, victim services and child advocacy center professionals collectively.

In addition to hundreds of child rescues, the IPC program has trained more than 13,000 people across the U.S. and other countries, prompting groundbreaking changes in how agencies improve accountability and approach child safety concerns.

The program continues to advocate the message: *“Stop waiting for children to ask for your help.”*

01/19/24

Basketball Scores & Schedules

Howard College

The Lady Hawks fall to New Mexico Junior College 73 - 56. The Hawks win in overtime 88 - 81.

BIG SPRING

Big Spring teams will travel to Sweetwater today to take on the Mustangs. Lady Steers play at 6:15 PM and Steers play at 7:30 PM. Listen to a live broadcast of those games on The Mighty 1490 AM and FM 103.9!

COAHOMA

Coahoma teams will travel to Clyde to take on the Bulldogs on Friday, Jan. 19th. Bulldogettes play at 6 PM and Bulldogs play at 7:30 PM.

FORSAN

Forsan teams will travel to Christoval today. Lady Buffs play at 6:15 PM and Buffs play at 7:30 PM.

BSHS Powerlifters results for 01/11- 01/13/24

Big Spring powerlifters competed in Monahans on Jan. 13, 2024, and both Boys and Girls teams placed 3rd at the meet.

Quasett Woodruff and Rebecca Rodriguez placed 1st in their respective weight classes. Violet Calderon placed 2nd, and Layla Ortiz placed 3rd in their respective classes, as well. On the Boy's team, Ramiro Arroyo, Marcos Paredes, and Talon Cavazos all placed 2nd in

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their respective weight classes and Caden Reynoso, Josiah Cavazos, and Jack Hamby all placed 3rd. Congratulations to them!

The next meet for the Steer Powerlifting teams will be on Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024, at the Coahoma Invitational.

Actor Meet & Greet in Big Spring

Actor Omar Gooding will be in Big Spring this weekend. He is best known for his roles in the Disney TV series Smart Guy, the movie Baby Boy with Tyrese Gibson, and the TV series Hangin' with Mr. Cooper. He'll be available for a free meet-and-greet at the Meet & Greet Market that will be held at 1400 Lancaster tomorrow from 12-1:30 pm. On Sunday night at 8:30 PM, he'll be performing in a comedy show at Yo Mama's in downtown Big Spring. Tickets for that show are \$25. For more information check out the website, visitbigspring.com.

January is School Board Appreciation Month!

BIG SPRING, TX — During tonight's meeting of the Big Spring ISD Board of Trustees, Big Spring High School Student Council students presented board members with a gift box filled with goodies to thank them for the work they do for the district.

School administrators also presented board members with appreciation gifts.

Trent Trinidad was voted as the new board Secretary.

School board election is on May 4th. The first day to file to run for the positions of Trustee for Districts 2, 4, and 6 was yesterday and the deadline is Feb. 16, 2024. Be advised you must live in the district in order to run for that position on the school board.

Sale of Real Property by County

The Commissioners' Court of Howard County, Texas ("County") is seeking bids for the purchase of one tract of real property owned by the County. The tract of real property is as follows: an approximately 0.190-acre tract located at 301 Spring Creek Road, Big Spring, Texas 79720 (surface estate only). This tract is approximately a quarter mile north of Interstate Highway 20 and approximately a quarter mile west of Salem Road in Big Spring, Howard County, Texas. The property may be viewed by interested bidders through an appointment with Howard County Judge Randy Johnson.

Bid packages, including instructions, and bid forms, will be available in the Howard County Clerk's Office located in the Howard County Courthouse at 300 S. Main Street, Ste. 104, Big Spring, Texas 79720. Bid packages will be available for pickup at the Howard County Clerk's Office or online at co.howard.tx.us by January 22, 2024. The deadline for submission of written and sealed bids is February 9, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. Bids will be received at the Howard County Judge's Office located in the Howard County Courthouse at 300 S. Main Street, Ste. 207, Big Spring, Texas 79720. Any bid received after the deadline will be returned unopened.

All bids timely received shall be opened and read aloud on February 12, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Howard County Commissioners' Court Workshop located in the Howard County Courthouse

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at 300 S. Main Street, Ste. 208, Big Spring, Texas 79720 and will thereafter be available for public inspection. The County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, and to award the bid in the best interest of the County and at the sole discretion of the County.

01/22/24

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide

AARP Tax-Aide is offering free income tax preparation every Monday beginning Jan. 29, 2024, through April 3, 2024, from 8 am to 12 pm at the building behind the First Methodist Church, located at 607 S, Gregg St..

This service is available to all taxpayers with moderate to low income. The service will be a low contact drop-off with pick-up the following Monday. Appointments are required, no exceptions will be made. Appointments can be scheduled at bsta.setmore.com or at the tax site on Monday mornings. Be advised, no children will be allowed to enter.

Taxpayers need to bring the following items to their appointment: a photo ID for the taxpayer and/or spouse, social security card for everyone on the tax return, last year's tax return, w-2's and all other proof of income received in 2023.

Howard County Elections Center needs Volunteers for Primary Election

The Howard County Elections Center is still looking for a few more people to help with the Primary Elections. If you can commit to working Election Day, training, and some Early Voting hours, you're encouraged to contact your Party Chairman.

To be eligible to serve as an election judge or clerk, a person must be a registered voter of Howard County. Must be able to pass a background check.

Note, Early Voting will run from February 20 through March 1 with Morning and Afternoon shifts available. On Election Day, March 5th, election workers will work the full day from 6:00 am to late in the evening. Election Judges are paid \$15/hr and Clerks are paid \$14/hr.

Basketball Scores & Schedules

Howard College basketball teams will travel to South Plains College for their games tonight. Women play at 5:45 PM and the Men play at 7:30 PM. Listen to a live broadcast of those games on The Mighty 1490 AM and FM 103.9.

BIG SPRING

Big Spring teams took on Sweetwater on Friday and lost. Lady Steers lost a close game with the Lady Mustangs with a final score of Big Spring 47, Sweetwater 50. The Steers lost to the Mustangs with a final score of Big Spring 39, Sweetwater 73.

The next game for Big Spring teams will be tomorrow against Levelland at Steer Gym. Lady Steers play at 6:15 PM and Steers play at 7:30 PM.

COAHOMA

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Coahoma teams competed against Clyde. The Bulldogettes improved to 7-2 in league action with a 61-40 victory over Clyde on Friday. The Bulldogs fell to Clyde, final score was Coahoma 44-Clyde 64. The teams will be back in action at home when they host Ballinger tomorrow.

Tomorrow, Coahoma will host Balinger at home. Bulldogettes play at 6:15 PM and Bulldogs play at 7:30 PM.

FORSAN

Forsan faced off against Christoval. The Lady Buffs lost with a final score of Forsan 36, Christoval 49. Top scorers for the night were Harleigh Greer and K'Leigh Williams, who both scored 14 points each. The Lady Buffs are now 6-3 in district play. The Buffs lost to Christoval. Final score was Forsan 45, CHrisoval 51.

Tomorrow, they'll take on Sterling City. Lady Buffs play at 6:15 PM and Buffs play at 7:30 PM.

Blood drive

The City Of Big Spring will hold a blood drive on Friday, February 16 from 10 AM to 2 PM. This will be held at the city council chambers located at 307 E. 4th St. in Big Spring. Donors will get a free T-shirt plus donor points for a \$10 donor store gift card.

appointments are encouraged and to schedule your appointment. You can contact Stacy by emailing S King at mybigspring.com or calling 432-264-2347.

01/23/24

Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 1 at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

The annual chamber banquet allows Chamber members to highlight themselves, offers an opportunity to network, and is a one stop location for those who are looking to gain information on their community and discover ways to get involved.

An Alive After 5 will also take place that evening from 5:30 p.m. until 6:45 p.m. Here, Debbeye Valverde, Executive Director for the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, tells us more (audio).

Beginning at 6:45 p.m. dinner will be served for those at the annual banquet. Beginning at 7 p.m. the passing of the gavel, presentation of Five Under 55 recipients for this year and the Russ McEwen Community Award will occur. The Man and Woman of the Year presentations will wrap up the evening.

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Large/ Bulk Item Pickup for District 2

Large /Bulk Item pickup for District 2 in Big Spring is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 21st. This is an opportunity to get rid of old furniture or any other bulk items without the hassle and expense of hauling it off. It's easy and it's free! Just contact the Public Works Department to get on the pick-up schedule. The City of Big Spring's LARGE/BULK ITEM PICKUP will take place on the third Wednesday of every month.

To schedule a pickup, email nhernandez@mybigspring.com. For questions concerning Large/Bulk Item Pickup, please call the Public Works Office at 432-264-2501.

Big Spring City Council meeting - agenda, 01/23/24

The Big Spring City Council will meet for a regular meeting tonight at the Council Chambers, located at 307 E. 4th St. at 5:30 PM. Items on tonight's agenda include a public hearing on a proposed 2024 Master Parks Plan and public hearings on the possible abatement of three properties for being a public nuisance. Those properties are 1319 Utah owned by Margaret Easter, 506 NE 8th St, owned by Ramon Rodriguez, and 801 Pine owned by Maria Burciaga.

The City Manager will report on large item pickup for District 1, the e-waste event, water line breaks, the Chamber Banquet, and the upcoming Summit Meeting on Feb. 7th.

New Business items will include calling for a general election on May 4th for the election of council members to serve for Districts 2, 4, and 6. There will also be a first reading of a resolution to submit an application to secure funding for rifle-resistant body armor, and to consider an amendment to the Economic Development Incentive Agreement between the City of Big Spring and Cap Rock Holdings, LLC regarding the Plaza Development Plaza to extend the agreement for 15 months and modify the agreement.

The public is welcome to attend the meeting or watch a live stream on mybigspring.com or on our KBest Media Facebook page.

Steers Powerlifting results from Coahoma meet on 01/20/2024

COAHOMA, TX -- Big Spring powerlifters competed in Coahoma on Jan. 20, 2024, and both Boys and Girls teams placed 1st at the meet.

- Quasett Woodruff and Rebecca Rodriguez placed 1st in their respective weight classes.
- Violet Calderon, Yvanka Martinez, Amaiya Hernandez and Monse Holguin placed 2nd in their respective classes, as well.

On the Boy's team:

- Arturo Del Valle, Zadrain Washington and Talon Cavazos all placed 1st in their respective weight classes.
- Jordan Roberts, Marcos Paredes, and Josiah Cavazos placed 2nd,
- Jack Hamby and Caden Reynoso placed 3rd in their weight classes.

Basketball Scores & Schedules

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Howard College basketball teams competed against South Plains College and lost. The Women's team lost with a final score of Howard 39, South Plains 54. The Men's team lost with a final score of Howard 61, South Plains 74. Next, the Hawks will take on Western Texas College at home on Thursday, Jan. 25th.

BIG SPRING

Big Spring teams took on Sweetwater on Friday and lost. Lady Steers lost a close game with the Lady Mustangs with a final score of Big Spring 47, Sweetwater 50. The Steers lost to the Mustangs with a final score of Big Spring 39, Sweetwater 73.

The next game for Big Spring teams will be tomorrow against Levelland at Steer Gym. Lady Steers play at 6:15 PM and Steers play at 7:30 PM.

COAHOMA

Coahoma teams competed against Clyde. The Bulldogettes improved to 7-2 in league action with a 61-40 victory over Clyde on Friday. The Bulldogs fell to Clyde, final score was Coahoma 44-Clyde 64. The teams will be back in action at home when they host Ballinger tomorrow.

Tomorrow, Coahoma will host Balinger at home. Bulldogettes play at 6:15 PM and Bulldogs play at 7:30 PM.

FORSAN

Forsan faced off against Christoval. The Lady Buffs lost with a final score of Forsan 36, Christoval 49. Top scorers for the night were Harleigh Greer and K'Leigh Williams, who both scored 14 points each. The Lady Buffs are now 6-3 in district play. The Buffs lost to Christoval. Final score was Forsan 45, CHrisoval 51.

Tomorrow, they'll take on Sterling City. Lady Buffs play at 6:15 PM and Buffs play at 7:30 PM.

01/24/24

Basketball Scores and Schedule

BIG SPRING

Big Spring teams hosted Levelland at Steer Gym last night.

Lady Steers lost 4-93, and Steers lost 37-56.

The next game for the Steer and Lady Steers will be an away game this Friday against Estacado.

COAHOMA

Coahoma teams hosted Balinger at home. The Bulldogettes won their game, final score was 65-33. Top Scorers for the Bulldogettes were Baylor Wright with 18 points and Cayhill Lewis

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with 17 points. The Bulldogs won their game with a final score of 70-39. Top scorers for the night were Ryan Shifflet and Landon Wells, both, with 21 points each.

This Friday, Jan. 26th, Coahoma teams will host Jim Ned at home.

FORSAN

Forsan hosted Sterling City at home yesterday.

The Lady Buffs won 29-26. Top scorers were Harleigh Greer with 17 points and Scout Stockton with 5 points. They are now 7-1 in district. The Buffs lost their game to Sterling City with a final score of Forsan 28, Sterling City 45.

The next games for the Buffs and Lady Buffs will be on Friday in Big Lake when they take on Reagan County.

Hawk Basketball Players recognized in 2024 JUCO Top 100 Player Rankings

Multiple Hawk Basketball players were recognized as part of the 2024 JUCO Top 100 Player Rankings as released by JUCORecruiting.com. These rankings are based on a combination of production at the JUCO level and the player's projected performance at the next level, amongst other things.

Those recognized are Joey Madimba at #16, Kasheem Grady at #45, Brandon Hall at #59, and Nate Deer made Honorable Mention. Congratulations to them!

Catch these Hawks in action on the court on Thursday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum when they take on Western Texas College. The Women's team will play at 5:45 PM and the Men's team will play at 7:30 PM.

Tickets on Sale for Silver Wings Ball Fundraiser

The Silver Wings Ball, an annual fundraiser for the Hangar 25 Air Museum in Big Spring, will be moving to Texas Forever, a new venue located at 5007 Chaparral Rd. in Big Spring.

Attendees can expect a night of casino games, dinner, dancing, and auctions. The money raised will go to the Hangar 25 Air Museum to help cover their operating costs. The Hangar 25 Air Museum is housed in a fully restored WWII era hangar. Its mission is to promote education through the collection, preservation and exhibition of the history of the Big Spring Army Air Force Bombardier School and Webb Air Force Base while honoring all veterans, past and present.

Tickets are \$75 per person and can be purchased by contacting Amber Stokes at the Hangar 25 Air Museum by calling 432-264-1999.

Crafting Opportunities

If your 2024 resolution has been to pick up a hobby, there are a couple of opportunities in Big Spring that can give your creativity a chance to shine.

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Valentine's Day activities in Howard County

There is a Valentine's Box Decorating Contest going on now at the Heritage Museum. The public is invited to decorate a Valentine's Box and submit it to them by Feb. 1st. Guests of the museum will vote for their favorite boxes from Feb. 1st through Feb. 10th. Along with them, a museum board member and a member of the Big Spring Art Association will judge the boxes to announce a winner on Feb. 13th.

Submissions can be dropped off at 510 Scurry St. in Big Spring. For more information, contact Michell at 432-267-8255.

Craft Table: Nature-Inspired Valentine Cards

The Big Spring State Park is inviting the public to get inspired by their surroundings and create festive greeting cards on Saturday, Feb. 10th, between 1-2:30 PM at the Headquarter Building at the Big Spring State Park. This is a free event and all craft supplies will be provided. Those attending are reminded to dress appropriately for the weather and bring your own drinking water.

01/25/24

Basketball

Howard College Hawks will play tonight at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum against Western Texas College. The Women's team will play at 5:45 PM and the Men's team will play at 7:30 PM.

Valentine's Day activities in Howard County - FUSE ONLY

There is a Valentine's Box Decorating Contest going on now at the Heritage Museum. The public is invited to decorate a Valentine's Box and submit it to them by Feb. 1st. Guests of the museum will vote for their favorite boxes from Feb. 1st through Feb. 10th. Along with them, a museum board member and a member of the Big Spring Art Association will judge the boxes to announce a winner on Feb. 13th.

Submissions can be dropped off at 510 Scurry St. in Big Spring. For more information, contact Michell at 432-267-8255.

Craft Table: Nature-Inspired Valentine Cards - FUSE ONLY

The Big Spring State Park is inviting the public to get inspired by their surroundings and create festive greeting cards on Saturday, Feb. 10th, between 1-2:30 PM at the Headquarter Building at the Big Spring State Park. This is a free event and all craft supplies will be provided. Those attending are reminded to dress appropriately for the weather and bring your own drinking water.

Area News: Fatal Crash in Taylor County

TAYLOR COUNTY, TX – A fatal one-vehicle crash occurred on Sunday evening in Taylor County. According to the Texas Department of Public Safety, Troopers responded to the crash involving a semi-truck with trailer at 8:55 PM at I-20 milepost 262, 13 miles west of Trent, TX.

The preliminary investigation revealed that the semi was traveling east on Interstate 20 (IH-20) at mile marker 262 when the driver, identified as Balra Singh, 27, of Redwood City, California, failed to drive in a single lane and drove off the north side of the roadway. Singh then steered back to the south attempting to drive back onto the roadway causing the vehicle to cross the road and go off the southside of the roadway, crossing the south access road and overturning.

Singh was determined to not have been wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Big Spring City Council meeting - highlights, 01/23/24

During Tuesday night's meeting of the Big Spring City Council a lieutenant with the Big Spring Fire Department spoke during public comments about the staffing shortage with the fire department. Although salary is often pointed out as the reason why staff leave, he stated that the department is also continuing to lose staff due to retirement and safety issues. Council members Nick Ornelas, District 1, and Maury Smith, District 6, advised him that they do care about the safety of the firefighters. Ornelas stated that there was a closed door meeting pending with Mayor Robert Moore to discuss the issue.

The following properties were approved for abatement due to being a public nuisance:

- 1319 Utah owned by Margaret Easter,
- 506 NE 8th St, owned by Ramon Rodriguez, and
- 801 Pine owned by Maria Burciaga.

During the City Manager Report, it was announced that 2 tons of e-waste had been collected and 32 leaks had occurred due to the recent freezing weather. It was also noted that the annual Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Banquet is on Feb. 1st at 5:30 PM and tickets are \$30 each. A Summit Meeting will be held on Feb. 7th at 1:30 PM in the East Room of the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. This with various entities from the county including the county, city, school districts, hospitals, college, chamber of commerce, and economic development corporation.

A general election on May 4th was approved for the election of council members to serve for Districts 2, 4, and 6. Council members Gloria McDonald, District 4, and Maury Smith, District 6, have already served two consecutive terms and are not eligible for re-election. Diane Yanez, District 2, is eligible to run again if she so chooses. Anyone wishing to run for city council must file by the deadline Feb. 16, 2024.

A link for further information can be found here:

<https://www.mybigspring.com/647/Election-Information>

An amendment to the Economic Development Incentive Agreement between the City of Big Spring and Cap Rock Holdings, LLC regarding the Plaza Development Plaza to extend the agreement for 15 months and modify the agreement.

Area News: Teen leads Vehicle Pursuit and Crashes

Odessa – On Jan. 23, 2024, around 11:00 a.m., a Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Trooper attempted to make a traffic stop on a GMC Yukon SUV near Golder and 46th Street for a traffic violation. The driver did not comply and fled from the Trooper. As the driver evaded, he lost control of the GMC Yukon and crashed on a private drive near US 385 and Yukon St. The driver was identified as Carlos Rivera, age 19, and was transported to Medical Center Hospital in stable condition. The driver has been charged with evading arrest and possession of a controlled substance. The driver also had outstanding warrants from Ector County for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. No further information is available at this time.

BSSO News

On February 17, 2024 at 7:30 PM, The Big Spring Symphony Orchestra (BSSO) will be celebrating their return to the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium for the annual Pops Concert! **HEB** will be the co-sponsor for this exciting event through the **Helping Here** Program. This season's concert will feature "**Big Spring's Own Jody Nix**". Jody Nix has been thrilling audiences for many years. A true Traditional Country Music and Western Swing artist, he has been in the business 61 years. He has played dances and shows all over Texas and parts of the southwest. He leads one of the finest dance bands in Texas, they fill the floor on every song.

Jody Nix and The Texas Cowboys will join BSSO's incredibly talented orchestra for a night to remember that will include two new arrangements of some treasured favorites. Fagner Rocha will be the guest conductor for this performance

This live event will be the first to be held in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium, since it was severely damaged from the severe winter storm in February 2021.

TICKETS are on sale NOW at HEB, Heritage Museum and Karat Patch and bigspringsymphony.org. Prices are \$25 for Adults, \$20 for Seniors 55+ and FREE for ALL students college age and down. Student tickets can be printed off the Symphony Website. You will also find a direct ticket link on The Big Spring Symphony Facebook page.

01/26/24

Forsan ISD closed due to wide-spread illness

Forsan ISD announced on Wednesday afternoon that school would be closed on Thursday and Friday, Jan. 25-26, 2024, in order to allow students and staff to get healthy.

According to FISD, there are over 100 students who are out sick as well as multiple staff members. They advised that the school would be disinfected during the closure to help stop the spread of germs. School is anticipated to resume on Monday, Jan. 29th.

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Area News: Man Found Dead in Stanton Park

STANTON, Texas (KOSA) - On Wednesday morning, Stanton Police Officers were called after a man was unresponsive at Shelbourne Park.

The Police Department and EMS found a Hispanic man dead at the park.

According to SPD, he appeared to have been dead for several hours before he was found.

The cause of death is unknown, and the man's name has not been released.

The Texas Rangers are assisting with the case.

Basketball Scores and Schedule

BIG SPRING

The next game for the Steer and Lady Steers will be an away game this Friday against Estacado.

COAHOMA

This Friday, Jan. 26th, Coahoma teams will host Jim Ned at home.

FORSAN

The next games for the Buffs and Lady Buffs will be on Friday in Big Lake when they take on Reagan County.

Howard College

Howard College basketball teams competed against Western Texas College last night and won. The Women's team won 75-72 and the Men's team won 82-51. The next game for the Hawks will be on Monday, Jan. 29th, at home against Odessa College.

Bulldog powerlifting team finishes 2nd at host meet

COAHOMA, Texas — The Coahoma High School powerlifters brought the heat to their host meet on Saturday and were rewarded with a bag full of hardware.

In the boys division, the Bulldog team captured second place with 38 points, and were just four points shy of the meet champion, Big Spring. The Steers tallied 42 points for the win. Roscoe Collegiate and Colorado City finished third and fourth respectively.

Overall, the Coahoma powerlifting team earned four golds, two silvers, and four bronze medals. First place Coahoma finishers and their total pounds lifted were Cloud Arriola (1230), Jason Mundell (1150), Nevaeh Kerby (580), and Macayla Valencia (594).

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Second place finishers for Coahoma were Tres Vazquez (1080), and Jaidyn Vineyard (1200). Third place finishers for Coahoma were Bryce Davis (910), Bryan Pearson (1005), Jacob Padron (1110), and Mikaela Vasquez (685).

Next: The Bulldogette powerlifting team will participate at the Forsan Invitational Powerlifting meet on Feb. 3.

BSFD Now Hiring, Next Test in Feb. '24

The Big Spring Fire Department is hiring! According to Big Spring Fire Chief Jay Holt, the department is approximately 13 short.

Anyone interested in becoming serving the public as a firefighter and EMT will soon have an opportunity to throw their hat in the ring. A new-hire test will be held on Feb. 16, 2024. Here, Chief Holt explains more (audio - We will provide all the training. You don't have to be certified or anything. We'll hire you, we'll put you through school, pay you while you're going to school and make you a fireman. The requirements are you have to be at least 18 but you can't be over 35.)

For more information on the application process or to apply online check out the city website at www.mybigspring.com.

Special to the Herald

State Representative Drew Darby held a meet and greet event at Hotel Settles on Wednesday afternoon. Howard County residents had an opportunity to speak with Darby about issues pertaining to public education and hear about recent victories passed in the House.

Since the past legislative session, the public education sector has seen some victories. There has been over \$1.6 billion in funding for school safety committed, for the purpose of keeping kids safe and protection for rural public schools and stopping out-of-state special interests from diverting taxpayer dollars to private institutions. In the upcoming session there are more education issues to be discussed, including teacher raises and testing reform. Representative Darby is running for re-election in the March Republican Primary. Election Day is Tuesday, March 5 and early voting runs from Feb. 20 to March 1.

01/29/24

Courtesy photo/Forsan Journalism Student Jimma Richardson

The Forsan Chapter of National Honor Society inducted 15 new members this month, during a ceremony on Jan. 18. A special ceremony and reception was held at Forsan High School for family and friends.

By AMANDA DUFORAT

The Forsan Chapter of the National Honor Society held an induction ceremony on Jan. 18 where 15 students became members.

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According to Jamie Richardson, Forsan National Honor Society co-sponsor, this special induction included early graduates and juniors who qualified for induction at the end of last year.

The National Honor Society officers conducted the ceremony. Officers for the 2023-24 school year are: President Caylee Myers, Vice President Morgan Miller, Secretary Emma Peffer, and Treasurer Lilly Hoff. Sponsors for the Forsan Chapter of the National Honor Society include Richardson and Chelsea Wells.

Richardson went on to say that the students cumulative average in the core classes are checked at the end of the sophomore year; if the student has a 90 or above, a teacher evaluation form is filled out by all teachers including those who teach elective courses.

The criteria states that any student who receives a score of 80 or below from four or more teachers is removed from the consideration process, but can be reevaluated at the next cycle. The same concept pertains to grades.

Inductees included: Ethan Buske, Emma Fernandez, Mary Gabehart, Toryn Kendrick, Loyd Kraus, Chance Leonardi, Jacauri Lofton, Aracellie Melendez, Tatum Neel, Abigail Olson, Kaylie Rosenbaum, Marc Trinidad, Kaleb Walker, Kenzi Wooldridge, and Patricia Yabes.

Special HCCC

A special meeting of the Howard County Commissioners Court will be held tomorrow afternoon in the 2nd floor Conference Room at the HOward County Courthouse, located at 300 S. Main in Big Spring. Possible action items will include consideration of a Prosecutor's Software Contract, an HVAC bid for the Elections Office, and the upcoming Summit. Sheriff Stan Parker will also lead the discussion on the Racial Profiling Report and Commissioners will go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue concerning sick pool.

BASKETBALL UPDATE

HOWARD COLLEGE

Howard College basketball teams will host Odessa College at home tonight. Women play at 5:45 PM and Men play at 7:30 PM. Listen to a live broadcast of those games on The Mighty 1490 AM and FM 103.9. You can

also listen online at KBST.com and with our mobile app KBEST.

BIG SPRING

Steers and Lady Steers competed against Estacado on Friday. Estacado won both games. The Lady Steers lost with a final score of Big Spring 16, Estacado 75. The Steers lost with a final score of Big Spring 39, Estacado 94.

The next game for Big Spring teams will be tomorrow when they take on Snyder at home. **Lady Steers play at 6:15 PM and Steers play at 7:30 PM.** Listen to a live broadcast of those games on The Mighty 1490 AM and FM 103.9. You can also listen online at KBST.com and with our mobile app KBEST.

COAHOMA

Coahoma teams took on Jim Ned. Bulldogettes lost with a final score of Coahoma 26, Jim Ned 50. Top scorers were Madisyn Renteria with 6 points and Baylor Wright with 5. The Bulldogs won their game with a final score of 51-50. Top scorers for the Bulldogs were Ryan Shifflett with 16 points and Landon Wells with 15 points.

FORSAN

Bufs and Lady Bufs played against Reagan County. Lady Bufs won 46-28. Top scorers were Haleigh Greer with 13 points and Lilly Hoff with 9 points. The Lady Bufs are 8-3 in district. The Bufs lost to Reagan County. Final score was Forsan 37, Reagan County 70. Next game for Forsan teams will be at home vs. Sonora

Goode to represent Big Spring in Miss Texas USA Pageant

Local resident Amanda Goode, 38, will be competing in the 2024 Miss Texas USA pageant and will represent Big Spring, TX.

In 2023 requirements for Miss Texas USA contestants were changed to allow women who are or have been married, as well as women who are pregnant or have children. These changes allow for Goode to now compete.

When asked what motivated her to compete in the pageant, Goode said she had recently lost a large amount of weight and her original intention was to get on stage to compete in bodybuilding. A co—worker suggested that she compete in the pageant and she decided to go for it. Here she tells us more (audio- ...).

She also went on to say that she hopes to inspire other people to chase their dreams and to not let age hold them back. Here she explains more (audio

Goode will compete in Houston on June 21-22 in the preliminary competition that will include a swimsuit competition, a ball gown competition, and an interview portion. She is currently looking for a local person to travel with her to do her hair & make-up. She is also accepting sponsorships for anyone or business that would like to help her cover travel and lodging expenses but she is prepared to cover the cost on her own.

01/30/24

Howard Cottage Shines Bright with a 4-Star Rating

BIG SPRING - Howard College is proud to announce that Howard Cottage, the on-campus childcare facility, has recently earned a 4-Star Rating as a Texas Rising Star Provider. This exciting milestone follows an 18-month journey dedicated to surpassing the high standards set by the Texas Rising Star program.

“We are excited to reach this level of certification and be acknowledged for the high quality of care we have been providing for years,” said Dr. Cheryl Sparks, President. “The staff’s dedication to the children and families they serve is remarkable and the Texas Rising Star Provider rating is well deserved.”

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The Texas Rising Star certification, which holds the Cottage to elevated standards, spans four crucial categories: Director/Staff Qualifications and Trainings, Program Administration, Teacher/Child Interactions, and Indoor/Outdoor Environment. A representative from the Texas Rising Star program conducted multiple site visits verifying the Cottage's compliance with program requirements including a final assessment.

"This certification process took a little bit longer than expected," shared McKenzi Reese, Assistant to the Director of Howard Cottage. "In total, it took us about 18 months to complete from start to finish."

After opening in 2000 through the generosity of the Hall Foundation, Howard Cottage has been a cornerstone of quality childcare in the Howard County community. The center is licensed to serve 75 children, including 16 infants. With current staff and space limitations, they presently serve approximately 55 children and have an ongoing wait list.

As an added bonus to the certification, Howard Cottage will experience benefits such as preferred eligibility for grants, stipends, curriculum, and other materials and equipment.

Quality of care will remain the primary focus as the facility continues to prioritize children's physical, social-emotional, and cognitive development within a safe and nurturing environment.

"We are immensely proud of our staff for their hard work and dedication to the children and families of Howard Cottage, not just today but every day," added Shawn Coskey, Howard Cottage Center Director. "We know that parents trust us with their children throughout the day and we take that responsibility seriously."

As part of the Texas Rising Star program, Howard Cottage will need to undergo recertification every three years, with two unannounced annual monitoring visits per year to ensure continued adherence to the program's high standards.

Although a wait list is currently in place, Howard Cottage welcomes children from Howard County and surrounding areas, with Howard College students and faculty given enrollment priority.

Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet

Tickets are still on sale now for Thursday's annual Chamber Banquet, organized by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. It'll be held at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

This annual event allows Chamber members to highlight themselves, and offers an opportunity to network with others at the Alive After 5 that will be held on the Sonic Floor. Here, Manny Negron with the Board of Directors for the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce explains more (audio -)

In addition to the networking opportunities, dinner will be served and there will be presentations welcoming the new Chamber Board President; recognizing Brandon Hefner, Terri Telchik, Jonathan Green, Garrett Gunn, and Eric Barber as this year's 5 Under 55 recipients; presenting the Russ McEwen Community Award; and announcing the Big Spring Man and Woman of the Year.

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The annual chamber banquet is open to all but you must have a ticket for the event. Those tickets can be purchased for just \$30 each at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce located at 215 W. 3rd St.

HC score and HS Basketball schedules, 1.30/24

Howard College basketball teams lost to Odessa College last night. Final score for the Women's game was Howard College 38, Odessa 70. Final score for the Men's game was Howard College 51, Odessa College 52.

The next game for Hawk basketball teams will be on Feb. 5th at Frank Phillips College.

BIG SPRING

Steers and Lady Steers will take on Snyder at home tonight. Lady Steers play at 6:15 PM and Steers play at 7:30 PM. Listen to a live broadcast of those games on The Mighty 1490 AM and FM 103.9. You can also listen online at KBST.com and with our mobile app KBEST.

COAHOMA

Coahoma teams will take on Merkel in an away game. Bulldogettes play at 6 PM and Bulldogs play at 7:30 PM

FORSAN

Forsan teams will be at home against Sonora. Lady Buffs play at 6:15 PM and Buffs play at 7:30 PM.

Steers Powerlifting results from Andrews meet on 01/27/24.

ANDREWS, TX -- Big Spring powerlifters competed in Andrews on January 27, 2024. The Girl's Powerlifting Team placed 3rd overall.

Quasett Woodruff and Destiny Hodnett received 1st in their respective weight classes, and Violet Calderon placed 2nd in hers. On the Boys' team, Talon Cavazos placed 1st in his respective weight class, Josiah Cavazos placed 2nd, and Jack Hamby placed 3rd.

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The next meet for the Steer Powerlifting teams will be on Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024 at the Eldorado Invitational in Eldorado, Texas.

01/31/24

BIG SPRING

Steers and Lady Steers lost to Snyder last night. Lady Steers lost 36-53 and the Steers lost 29-37. Their next game on Friday will be in San Angelo against Lakeview.

COAHOMA

Coahoma teams will take on Merkel in an away game. Bulldogettes play at 6 PM and Bulldogs play at 7:30 PM

The Bulldogettes won a thriller over Merkel after trailing for most of the game, 51-49. They are now 9-3 in District play. The Bulldogs fell 62-67 to the Badgers. Their next game will be on Friday against Wall at home.

FORSAN

Forsan took on Sonora. Lady Buffs won with a final score of 61-39. Harleigh Greer and Lily Hoff were top scorers for the night. Greer had 15 points and Hoff had 13. The Lady Buffs are now 9-3 in district. The Buffs won their game against Sonora with a final score of 46-27.

Their next games will be on Friday against Eldorado at home.

HOWARD CAD SEEKING APPRAISAL REVIEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Howard Central Appraisal District is seeking applications for appointment to the local Appraisal Review Board (ARB). The ARB hears the formal appeals of taxpayers on matters of value and exemptions. It is a citizen board made up of Howard County residents who have been in Howard County at least two years. Members cannot be employed by any local government entity such as a school, city, college, or county.

The position does receive a daily service rate of \$125. Training is required and is paid at the same rate as hearings. Most of the hearings are during the days, Monday through Friday, and occur June through August. A few meetings occur later in the year. The total number of days of service is normally between ten and twenty.

The ARB listens to the evidence of value or other information from both the appraisal district personnel and the taxpayer and then makes a decision on the preponderance of the evidence presented. The process and training are provided by the Texas State Comptroller's office.

The term of office is two years and is subject to reappointment.

Region 1: Lifter of the Week

Congratulations to Violet Calderon from Big Spring HS for being selected as Region 1 Lifter of the Week! Calderon recently placed 2nd in the recent Andrews powerlifting meet this past weekend.

Grand Opening of West Texas VA Health Care System's Small House Community Center

West Texas, Jan. 19, 2024 — West Texas VA Health Care System (WTVAHCS) is pleased to announce the grand opening of the Small House Community Center, marking another significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to enhancing healthcare for West Texas Veterans.

Event Details:

- Date: Feb. 1, 2024
- Time: 1:00 PM
- Location: George H. O'Brien, Jr. VA Medical Center, 300 Veterans Blvd, Big Spring, TX 79720

About the Small House Community Center: The Small House Community Center is a vital addition to our healthcare services, designed to support our Community Living Center and Domiciliary programs. This center is the second structure in a planned complex of five, including four 10-suite small house units and the community center. It will provide a nurturing and comfortable environment for Veterans in need of specialized care.

Key Highlights:

- Ribbon-cutting ceremony with distinguished guests and Veterans.
- Tours of the state-of-the-art Small House Community Center.
- Remarks from WTVAHCS leadership on the significance of this milestone.

For more information, visit our website: <https://www.va.gov/west-texas-health-care/>

Area News: Remains of person found after structure fire in Stanton

STANTON, Texas (KOSA) - Stanton Police say they were called to a structure fire in the 900 block of E. Mason on Monday, Jan. 29 at around 12:30 p.m.

Martin County Volunteer Fire Department was also called to the scene. Police say as the fire was extinguished the remains of a body were found.

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The identity of the body had not been determined. Big Spring Fire Department investigators were called in but at this time the cause of the fire is unknown.

<https://www.cbs7.com/2024/01/30/remains-person-found-after-structure-fire-stanton/>

Area News: Midland Man to spend over 60 years in prison for 2021 murder

MIDLAND, Texas (KOSA) - According to Midland County District Attorney, Laura Nodolf, Nikolas Moreno, 20, will spend 60 years in prison after [murdering a Midland teen](#) in 2021.

A jury made the guilty verdict after three hours of deliberation on Friday.

Moreno is charged with the three counts of Murder, Tampering with Evidence, and Theft of a firearm.

The Jury assessed punishment at sixty years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for Murder, five years for Tampering with Evidence, and two years for Theft of a firearm after about an hour of deliberation.

While deciding the punishment, the Jury learned of Moreno's prior arrests including:

- October 2020, arrested for Burglary of a Habitation where firearms were stolen.
- While on Bond for the 2021 murder, arrested for Evading in a Motor Vehicle and Tampering with Evidence., Possession of a Dangerous Drug believed to be fentanyl, and three incidences of Possession of a Controlled Substance - fentanyl.

Moreno's sentences will run concurrently.

<https://www.cbs7.com/2024/01/30/midland-man-spend-over-60-years-prison-2021-murder/>

02/01/24

Updating Voter Info

February 5 is the last day to register OR to update address/name information for the Joint Primary Election. Early voting begins on Feb. 20th and will continue through March 1st at the new Election Center for Howard County, located at 2006 FM 700 in Big Spring.

If you need more information visit votetexas.gov or call 432-264-2273.

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Also, be advised that there will be an open house of the new Election Center for Howard County tomorrow from 3-6 pm.

Craft Table: Nature-Inspired Valentine Cards

The Big Spring State Park is inviting the public to get inspired by their surroundings and create festive greeting cards on Saturday, Feb. 10th, between 1-2:30 PM at the Headquarter Building at the Big Spring State Park. This is a free event and all craft supplies will be provided. Those attending are reminded to dress appropriately for the weather and bring your own drinking water.

Gal-a-palooza

An all-female comedy show called GAL-A-PALOOZA will be held in downtown Big Spring on Feb. 29th at 8 pm at Yo Mama's, 206 S. Main. The show will feature West Texas comedians Adrienne Green, Selena and Shonuf. It'll be headlined by Celia Contreras, best known for her appearances on the Kill Tony podcast hosted by comedian Tony Henchcliffe. Tickets are on sale now at Yo Mama's and online at Eventbrite.com. For more information, check out the event page on Facebook for GAL-A-PALOOZA presented by WHAT A JOKE Comedy.

Senior Fandango Dance

A Howard County Fandango Dance, also known as a mature adult dance, will be held tomorrow night, Feb. 2nd, from 7-9 pm. Previously, these events were held at the Dora Roberts Community Center before it was destroyed in a fire. Tomorrow it will be held at Ryan Hall, located at 605 N Main. This event is open to all and is a great way for seniors to socialize, get some exercise, and have fun. Cost is \$5 at the door. The event is sponsored by Home Hospice, Big Spring Center for Skilled Care, CenterWell, and Park Place Retirement Living. It should be noted that this is not a bar scene, but it does double as a potluck with appetizers and snacks, however, it is not necessary to bring a dish.

Board members are currently searching for sponsors and are accepting donations. Money raised will be used to go back into the event.

Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual banquet tonight at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. It'll begin with the Alive After 5 and will be followed by presentations recognizing the 5 under 55, the Russ McEwen Community Award recipient, and the Man and Woman of the Year for Big Spring.

5 Under 55 is an honor that recognizes people for their professional positive impact on the community. Each year, a committee of previous nominees selects four recipients who are considered to be upstanding community members who give back beyond the duties of their employment. These recipients show their heart for Big Spring and Howard County by their deep involvement in community events, their ability to showcase their place of employment, and by presenting new ideas that impact community services and more.

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Those that will be recognized as this year's 5 Under 55 are Brandon Hefner, Terri Telchik, Jonathan Green, Garrett Gunn, and Eric Barber.

02/02/24

NEW EMT COURSE ALERT!

Get ready to save lives with Howard College's new EMT course offering in Spring 2024! ☑☑ With classes starting in the 2nd 8-weeks, you can become a certified EMT in no time. Contact Malinda Pope at 432-264-5070 for more info and stay tuned for official dates!
#startsmalldreambig #makingdreamsreal ☑☑☑☑

Chamber Awards

Man and Woman of the Year for Big Spring was announced last night at the annual banquet for the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. Judy Terletzky, retired art teacher and community volunteer, was announced as the Woman of the Year. Terletzky is also known for articles she contributes to the Big Spring Herald and for leading the bowl-making sessions for the the United Way's annual fundraising event Empty Bowls. Bob Smith Lewis, also known as Tumbleweed Smith, was awarded as Big Spring's Man of the Year. Creator and Host of the Sound of Texas and long-time radio broadcaster.

The Russ McEwen Community Award was awarded to the City of Big Spring Public Works and Parks and Recreation departments. Congratulations to them!

YMCA sets record high after serving over 800 kids during basketball season

The YMCA in Big Spring set a record high by registering 810 kids for the past basketball season. According to CEO Dathan Jones, the organization usually serves about 6-700 kids during that time. Here, Jones tells us more (audio - ...the kids come from surrounding areas as well, such as Forsan, Coahoma, Ira, Snyder, and Stanton. A lot of towns around us are the ones that are participating this year.)

It's not unusual for outside communities to participate in the youth basketball program at the Big Spring YMCA. (audio - nothing different, quality program)

They have been running basketball games in six different gyms from 9 am to 9 pm.

Jones advised next year they'll be trying to get sponsors to pay for the uniforms so that they can lower the price to register so that more kids can participate. He also stated that an issue they run into is a lack of volunteers to assist with coaching teams. Next year Jones says they plan to nurture their volunteers with basketball coaching clinics so that they'll feel more confident in what they're doing.

UIL Realignment - Coahoma

UIL recently released reclassifications and district realignments for 2024-2026.

In football Coahoma stays in District 4-3A, Div. II, but will face several new teams — Merkel, Odessa Compass Academy, San Angelo Grape Creek and Wall — as well as Stanton. The school roster for District 3-3A volleyball stays relatively the same — Brownfield, Denver City, Lamesa, and Odessa Compass Academy. Crane has been added to the district while Merkel heads to District 6. For basketball, the Bulldogs and Bulldogettes will move to District 3-3A and face Brownfield, Crane, Denver City, Lamesa, Odessa Compass Academy and Stanton. Spring sports are expected to follow the basketball alignment (District 3-3A).

Roy and Michelle Worthy Endow Permanent Greg Henry Memorial Scholarship Fund

Local residents Roy and Michelle Worthy recently donated \$15,000 to the Big Spring Area Community Foundation and asked that the funds be used to establish a permanent endowment that will provide scholarship money to graduating seniors from Big Spring, Coahoma, Forsan, and/or Sands High Schools. Henry, a 1979 graduate of Big Spring High School, lived his youth and much of his adult life in Big Spring. In 2021, Greg was selected to be the first Executive Director of the Big Spring Area Community Foundation, and his efforts in that capacity were instrumental in raising the profile of the Foundation.

When asked why the Worthys felt compelled to honor Mr. Henry, Roy had this to say, “Greg was a lifelong friend of ours. He was just a wonderful soul, always ready to lend a hand to a friend or community event. We just felt like Greg should be remembered and that by establishing a scholarship fund in his name, we could do what Greg was so good at, helping young people move forward and get closer to their dreams.”

If you would like to learn more about the Greg Henry Memorial Scholarship fund, contact George Bancroft at the Big Spring Area Community Foundation at 432-714-4316.

Basketball **BIG SPRING**

Steers and Lady Steers travel to San Angelo tonight to take on Lakeview. Lady Steers play at 6:15 PM and Steers play at 7:30 PM. Listen to a live broadcast of these games on our The Mighty 1490 AM and FM 103.9 brought to you by the KBest Sports Crew!

COAHOMA

Coahoma will host Wall at home. Bulldogettes play at 6:15 PM and Bulldogs play at 7:45 PM.

FORSAN

Forsan will take on Eldorado at home. Lady Buffs play at 6:15 PM and Buffs play at 7:30 PM.

Area News:

DPS Arrests Over 50 in Regional Human Trafficking Operations

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WEST TEXAS REGION – During January 2024, as part of Human Trafficking Awareness Month, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Criminal Investigations Division (CID) conducted numerous operations throughout the West Texas Region. The goal of these operations was to target individuals seeking to exploit and victimize trafficking victims and to identify and apprehend individuals suspected of being involved in human trafficking by using various websites to solicit sexual acts.

Multiple agencies assisted in these investigations, including DPS' CID, DPS Intelligence and Counter-Terrorism, Texas Highway Patrol, Homeland Security Investigations, Midland Police Department, Odessa Police Department, the Midland County Sheriff's Office, Monahans Police Department, San Angelo Police Department, Tom Green County Sheriff's Office, Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), El Paso Police Department, Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, Army CID, United States Border Patrol with the support of the El Paso County Border Prosecution Unit and the Texas Anti-Gang Center.

"This was a very successful operation due to the outstanding collaboration of multiple agencies working towards combating human trafficking," said DPS West Texas Regional Director Jose Sanchez. "Human trafficking is on the rise, and we need the community's assistance in reporting human trafficking; if you see something, please say something."

As a result of these operations, the subjects below were arrested for solicitation of prostitution, a state jail felony:

- SYLVESTER CHERRY, 53 – SAN ANGELO, TX
- HASHIEM PHILLIPS, 41 -- MIDLAND, TX
- GILBERTO HERNANDEZ, 30 – MIDLAND, TX
- MATTHEW MABRY, 31 – MARSHALL, TX
- MART VAUGHN, 45 – MUTUAL, OK
- JASON SOLIZ, 48 – ANSON, TX
- ALEX GARCIA, 30 – MIDLAND, TX
- GARY DAVIS, 54 – ARTESIA, NM
- JESUS BARON, 55 – EL PASO, TX
- JUSTO MUNOZ JR, 28 – ODESSA, TX
- RUSSELL PHARRIS JR, 54 – ODESSA, TX
- BRANDON PHILLIPS, 48 – PYOTE, TX
- DAVID WALLEY, 37 – LIBERTY, TX
- JOHN NANEZ, 25 – SAN ANTONIO, TX
- ASCARY PARRA, 41 – ODESSA, TX
- JACOB DAVIS, 29 – AUGUSTINE, TX
- CHRISTOPHER HAMMONS, 36 – HOUSTON, TX
- SHANE VINCENT, 50 – ELTON, LA
- JAMES FLINT, 39 – LONGVIEW, TX
- ANDREW BERTING, 38 – MIDLAND, TX
- ANDREW MOLINAR, 31 – ODESSA, TX
- LUIS VALENZUELA, 23 – WOODWARD, OK
- ANGEL RAMOS, 23 – MIDLAND, TX

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- WILLIAM CAUDILL, 41 – ELGIN, TX
- RAY NUNEZ, 45- MIDLAND, TX
- ERIK WHITE, 44 – MIDLAND, TX
- AGAPITO AVALOS, 49 – LYTLE, TX
- DAKOTA WALKER, 28 – DELHI, LA
- NEWELL JOHNSTON, 45 – ODESSA, TX
- JAYE SAENZ, 19 – MIDLAND, TX
- IZAVIER WEST, 26 -- SHREVEPORT, LA
- CALEB HUNTLEY, 28 – MIDLAND, TX
- RAYMOND MENDOZA, 51 – MIDLAND, TX
- RICARDO VENZOR, 54 -- FORT WORTH, TX
- MICHAEL BROWN, 52 – ODESSA, TX
- RYAN MONTES, 34 – MIDLAND, TX
- JOHN JASSO, 39-MIDLAND, TX
- JOSHUA MOORE, 36 – ANDREWS, TX
- YASSER ANTONIO ALBORNOZ, 28 – EL PASO, TX
- CHARLES ANTHONY CALIXTE, 38 – EL PASO, TX
- TYRICK JAVION RICKS, 20 –COLUMBUS, GA
- FELICIANO LISANDRO GALVAN, 25 – SOCORRO, TX
- GUILLERO GOMEZ, 44 –EL PASO, TX
- JOSE ANTONIO GUTIERREZ, 38 – EL PASO, TX
- FERNANDO AGUILAR, 40 – EL PASO, TX
- STEVEN DION HOWARD, 48 – EL PASO, TX
- JAVIER DE LA ROSA, 33 – GREELY, CO
- PRINCEWILL NWANOKWAI ARINZECHUKWI, 40 – SAN ANGELO, TX
- MARQUIS KEYON LASHAWN ADAMS, 35 – SAN ANGELO, TX
- AARON PAUL NITSCH, 35 – SAN ANGELO, TX
- HEINRICH BRAUN WEIBE, 36 – SEMINOLE, TX
- DENZEL TUCKER HENDRICKS SR, 32 – MAUMELLE, AR
- MICHAEL ANTHONY GARCIA, 34 – SAN DIEGO, TX

One subject was arrested for prostitution, a Class B Misdemeanor.

- ISREAL SEGURA, 35 – LUBBOCK, TX

In addition, DPS Special Agents worked jointly with Homeland Security Investigations, the Odessa Police Department and the Midland Police Department (MPD) on a Human Trafficking Operation that targeted massage parlors in Midland County. The goal was to target massage parlors suspected of participating in prostitution to locate human trafficking victims or suspects. The operation resulted in the arrest of four suspects for prostitution, a Class B Misdemeanor.

- GUI GUI LI, 58 – CALIFORNIA
- LIQING DU, 54 – CALIFORNIA
- CHONGMEI WEI, 59 – CALIFORNIA
- TIANRONG XIAO, 47 – TEXAS

One suspect was arrested for operating without a massage license, a Class B Misdemeanor.

- WEN QIN, 53, – CALIFORNIA

These investigations highlight the partnership between federal, local and state law enforcement partners working together to combat human trafficking. If you are a victim of human trafficking or have information about this type of criminal activity, please contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline at (888) 373-7888. Remember, you can also report suspicious behavior through the *iWatch Texas* program via the mobile app, online at www.iwatchtx.org or by calling 1-844-643-2251. **All reports are confidential.**

02/05/24

Howard County Election Center

On Friday afternoon the new Howard County Elections Center held an open house and allowed the public to tour the new facility.

No longer inside of the Howard County Courthouse, the Howard County Elections Center relocated to 2006 FM 700 in Big Spring. The new place offers more space than before, making it easy to get voters in and out. Plus, its easy to find just two doors down from Chicken Express. Other benefits include

- more parking with handicap and curbside areas plus 20+ more spaces
- No steps/stairs – all one level for easy access
- More voting space – no more cramped voting area- with 24+ adjustable tables with privacy shields
- Separate enter/exit for smooth quick lines
- Ample standing/sitting space at check in

Howard County Commissioner Eddilisa Ray, Pct. 1, told KBEST News that she was excited for the new location because it offered a neutral place for voters. Here she explains more (audio).

Early Voting for the Primary Election begins Feb. 20 and will continue through March 1st. Be advised all early voting will be conducted at the Howard County Election Center.

It should also be noted that there is a new polling location for Precinct 3. First Baptist Church will no longer be a polling location for voting. It has been replaced with the Sand Spring Baptist Church located at 201 E. 24th St, next to Myers and Smith Funeral Home. Other polling locations that will be used for the Primary Election on March 5th include the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, the Coahoma Community Center, and Ryan Hall.

Basketball

Big Spring Basketball teams took on Lake View on Friday. The Lady Steers won 42-32, Steers lost with a score of 34-77.

Coahoma teams lost to Wall. Bulldogettes lost 38-56. Top scorers for that game were Baylor Wright with 15 points and Cayhill Lewis with 10. The Bulldogs lost 44-56. Top scorers for the Bulldogs were Ryan Shifflett 22, and Landon Wells 12.

Forsan teams faced off with the Eldorado. Lady Buffs won 50-19. Top scorers were Harleigh Greer with 18 points and Scout Stockton with 12 points. They are now 10-3 in district play. The Buffs won with a final score of 36-31. Top scorers for the Buffs were Brooks Wright with 10 points and Coy Evans with 8 points. The Buffs are now 7-4 in district play.

In College Basketball, today the HOward College Hawks will travel to Borger for games against Frank Phillips College. The Women's team plays at 5:45 PM and the Men's team plays at 7:30 PM.

Blood drive

The City Of Big Spring will hold a blood drive on Friday, February 16 from 10 AM to 2 PM. This will be held at the city council chambers located at 307 E. 4th St. in Big Spring. Donors will get a free T-shirt plus donor points for a \$10 donor store gift card.

appointments are encouraged and to schedule your appointment. You can contact Stacy by emailing S King at my bigspring.com or calling 432-264-2347.

Spaghetti Dinner

The Forsan Journalism and Yearbook Class is hosting the 2nd Annual Spaghetti Dinner, on THursday, Feb. 8 at 5:30 p.m. in the Forsan High School cafeteria.

Community support helped make the fundraiser possible. Scenic Mountain Medical Center's Yellow Rose Cafe is preparing the spaghetti meal along with the salad and bread. Local restaurants - Albertos and Cowboys Steakhouse - helped by providing to-go boxes, cups, napkins and serving utensils.

During the spaghetti dinner there will be an opportunity for families to take a photo and have it emailed to them for a donation. Yearbooks for the 2023-24 school year can be purchased, as well as old yearbooks dating back to the 1970s.

All money raised from the fundraiser will benefit the Yearbook and Journalism class. Donations are also accepted for those wanting to support the students but are unable to attend the event.

Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the event and are available for \$10 per person, \$15 per couple, or \$25 for a family of 4. For more information, contact Amanda Duforat at aduforat@forsan.esc18.net or at 432-213-1825.

02/06/24

Howard County Summit

The Big Spring economic development corporation is set to host a special joint leadership summit workshop on Wednesday, February 7 at 1:30 PM. The meeting will take place at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum East room located at 1001 Birdwell Ln.

Several community leaders are set to speak and will discuss challenges and support for 2024 speakers at the summit will include Howard County judge, Randy Johnson, Big Spring City Mayor Robert H. Moore, City of Coahoma Mayor Jay Holt, Big Spring EDC Executive Director, Mark Willis, Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Debbye Valverde, Howard College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks, Big Spring ISD Superintendent Jay McWilliams, Coahoma ISD Superintendent Brad Cox, Forsan ISD Superintendent Dane Richardson, West Texas VA Healthcare System director Keith Bass, Big Spring State Hospital Superintendent Deborah Young, and Scenic Mountain Medical Center Administrator Mallik Yenigella.

Roy and Michelle Worthy Endow Permanent Greg Henry Memorial Scholarship Fund

BIG SPRING, TX — Local residents Roy and Michelle Worthy recently donated \$15,000 to the Big Spring Area Community Foundation and asked that the funds be used to establish a permanent endowment that will provide scholarship money to graduating seniors from Big Spring, Coahoma, Forsan, and/or Sands High Schools. Henry, a 1979 graduate of Big Spring High School, lived his youth and much of his adult life in Big Spring. In 2021, Greg was selected to be the first Executive Director of the Big Spring Area Community Foundation, and his efforts in that capacity were instrumental in raising the profile of the Foundation.

When asked why the Worthys felt compelled to honor Mr. Henry, Roy had this to say, “Greg was a lifelong friend of ours. He was just a wonderful soul, always ready to lend a hand to a friend or community event. We just felt like Greg should be remembered and that by establishing a scholarship fund in his name, we could do what Greg was so good at, helping young people move forward and get closer to their dreams.”

If you would like to learn more about the Greg Henry Memorial Scholarship fund, contact George Bancroft at the Big Spring Area Community Foundation at 432-714-4316.

Basketball Schedule

Big Spring basketball teams will host Sweetwater at Steer Gym tonight. Lady Steers play at 6:15 and Steers play at 7:30 pm. Catch a live broadcast of these games on The Mighty 1490 AM and FM 103.9

Coahoma teams will travel to San Angelo for games against San Angelo TLCA. Bulldogettes play at 6 PM and Bulldogs play at 7:30 PM.

Forsan teams will travel to Ozona for tonight’s games. Lady Buffs play at 6:15 and Buffs play at 7:30 PM.

Fatal Crash

Two fatal one-vehicle crashes were reported on Saturday afternoon at approximately the same time in different areas of Howard County.

According to the Texas Department of Public Safety, the first incident occurred in the westbound lane of I-20, near mile marker 195 at 2:29 PM. This was reported to have been a one-vehicle crash that occurred when a vehicle veered off the roadway. The driver then overcorrected and caused the vehicle to side skid and roll over. The driver, identified as Zachary Coe, 29, of Sweetwater, was ejected and pronounced deceased on the scene.

The second incident occurred at 2:30 PM in the eastbound lane of I-20, near mile marker 175. It involved a 2023 Honda HR-V driven by Mark McDaniel, 58, of Arlington, TX. The preliminary information revealed that McDaniel was traveling eastbound when he struck a guardrail on the inside shoulder. The guardrail entered the vehicle, injuring all the occupants. The rear passenger, identified as a 17-year-old female, was pronounced deceased at the scene. The front passenger, Brandi McDaniel, 51, of Arlington, TX, was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center, where she later succumbed to her injuries. This crash remains under investigation, and no further information is available.

HCVFD Battles 2 Brush Fires on Sunday evening

HOWARD COUNTY, TX -- On Sunday evening, Feb. 4, 2024, brush fires were reported near Salem Rd and the north service road of Interstate 20. At 4:30 PM the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department was dispatched to the fire and they were able to swiftly tackle the two brush fires.

Despite challenges posed by dense vegetation, the units successfully protected homes in the Sand Springs area. The trucks returned to service at about 10 PM and no injuries were reported. This was a collaborative effort with Big Spring Fire Dept, Howard County Road and Bridge, HCSO, Howard County Dispatch, and the dedicated volunteers who responded. According to Eric Barber, Howard County Volunteer Fire Chief, approximately 50 acres were burned and was most likely started by the nearby railroad. He advised hot spots will remain in some areas east and west of Salem Rd. and should be okay even with the wind that is expected in the near future. He did advise that if these seem to be getting out of control to call 9-1-1 immediately and the Volunteer Fire Department will respond to extinguish it.

(Photo: Unsplash)

Area News: Midland PD: Burglar killed in self-defense

MIDLAND, Texas (KOSA) - Midland Police say a man has died after he allegedly broke into someone's home.

Officials say that at around 4 a.m. Saturday morning, 37-year-old George Samuel Butler broke into a home with a rifle.

That home is located on the 1400 block of Daventry. After breaking in, Butler was put into a chokehold by the homeowner, in what police call self-defense.

Before police got to the scene, Butler had already died. Midland police are still investigating, but classify the death as self-defense.

02/07/24

Tickets on Sale for Silver Wings Ball Fundraiser

BIG SPRING, TX -- Tickets are still on sale for the Hangar 25 Air Museum's annual fundraiser the Silver Wings Ball, scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 24th. Cocktail hour begins at 5:30 PM and dinner will be served at 6:30 PM. Attendees can expect a night of casino games, dinner, dancing, and auctions. This year, attendees will enjoy getting to spread out as the event will be held in a larger venue than before. The Silver Wings Ball will be held at Texas Forever, a recently built event venue located at 5007 Chaparral Rd. in Big Spring. Tickets are \$75 per person and can be purchased by contacting Amber Stokes at the Hangar 25 Air Museum by calling 432-264-1999. The money raised will go to the Hangar 25 Air Museum to help cover their operating costs.

The Hangar 25 Air Museum is housed in a fully restored WWII era hangar. Its mission is to promote education through the collection, preservation and exhibition of the history of the Big Spring Army Air Force Bombardier School and Webb Air Force Base while honoring all veterans, past and present.

Permian Basin Cotton Conference

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office recently announced that the Permian Basin Cotton Conference is scheduled for Wednesday, March 20th, at the GC Broughton Jr. Ag Complex, located at 2411 Echols.

The conference will cover several topics including integrated pest management, weed and invasive species management, rotational strategies to enhance wheat with cotton summer, forages and update on Farmville, economic outlook for cotton and small greens, industry, updates seed, and chemical reps and oxen training the conferences except for 8:30 AM start with registration at 8 AM. The program is free to anyone and will include a free lunch for more information on the conference. You can call the Howard County AgriLife extension at 432-264-2236 for those interested in attending; you must RSVP by March 18 and can do so by calling 432-264-2236.

UIL Realignment - BIG SPRING

UIL district realignments and reclassifications were recently announced for the 2024-2026 seasons.

Big Spring,

In football, as part of Region 1 District 3, Big Spring is in a four team district along with Andrews, Pecos, and San Angelo Lake View. In basketball and volleyball, Big Spring is in Region 1 District 5 with Levelland, Lubbock Cooper Liberty, Lubbock Estacado, San Angelo Lake View, and Snyder.

Coahoma,

In football, the Bulldogs are in Region 1, District 4 with Merkel, Odessa Compass Academy, San Angelo Grape Creek, Stanton, and Wall. In basketball, Coahoma is in Region 1, District 3 with

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Brownfield, Crane, Denver City, Lamesa, Odessa Compass Academy, and Stanton. In volleyball, the Bulldogettes will see a district similar to basketball but without Stanton.

Forsan

In football, the Buffs will be in Region 1 District 3 with Big Lake Reagan County, Christoval, Colorado City, Ozona, and Sonora. In basketball, Forsan will be in Region 1 District 7 with Big Lake Reagan County, Christoval, Eldorado, Ozona, Sonora, and Sterling City. In volleyball, the Lady Buffs will be in Region 1 District 4 with Ballinger, Big Lake Reagan County, Christoval, Miles, and Sterling City.

Basketball

Big Spring basketball teams lost to Sweetwater last night. Lady Steers lost 34-38, and Steers lost 52-65.

Coahoma Bulldogetes won 53-22 over San Angelo TLCA. Bulldogettes play at 6 PM and Bulldogs play at 7:30 PM.

Girls

SAN ANGELO, Texas — COAHOMA 53, SA TLCA 22

Coahoma: 17, 16, 8, 12 — 53

TLCA: 7, 4, 8, 3 — 22

Coahoma — Gabby Cox 2, Brynn Rodgers 7, Kaedyn Lee 2, **Madisyn Renteria 12**, Isabella Cox 2, **Bree Lewis 16**, Cayhill Lewis 11, Emery Deporto 1.

TLCA — Layla Green 3, Kaydence Guajardo 5, Jaelynn Bonilla 2, Ava Pena 8, Alayna Sanchez 2, Amilliana Braxton 2.

Free Throws — Coahoma 13-17, TLCA 5-8 ; 3-Point Goals — Coahoma 2 (Rodgers, Renteria), TLCA 3 (Pena 2, Guajardo); Fouls — Coahoma 6, TLCA 16.

Next: Coahoma (10-4, 23-9) vs Blanco for the bi-district championship game. Time and place and day, TBA

Reconfiguration

Big Spring ISD will see changes next school year with the closure of two campuses - Big Spring Intermediate, which currently houses 5th and 6th grade students, and Kentwood Early Childhood Center, which houses only pre-k students.

According to BSISD Superintendent Jay McWilliams, the buildings have major issues and are not compliant with the American Disabilities Act (ADA). BSI was built in 1958 and Kentwood was built in 1962, if renovations were made to update the building they would have to become ADA compliant. Instead of updating these buildings, BSISD will reconfigure their district and make the most of the space they have available. Moss, Marcy, Washington, and Goliad Elementary Schools were all built as a result of a bond that was approved in 2012. The schools are approximately 10 years old and still in great shape.

McWilliams told KBest News that the district had already begun discussing the possibility of reconfiguration for the purpose of accountability in order to vertically align the district for the benefit of students and staff. Here, McWilliams explains more (audio - We had been discussing since third and fourth grade are the tested subjects, they're the first two years the kids are tested. Wouldn't it be nice to put those two on the same campus? Possibly start putting first and second grade together to where kids and parents stay on campuses for at least two years before they change, and vertical alignment of all these campuses would be better, and we would utilize our space better.)

Next year, pre-k and kindergarten students will be at Moss Elementary, 1st and 2nd grade will be at Marcy Elementary, 3rd and 4th grade will be at Washington Elementary, and 5th and 6th grade will be at Goliad Elementary. Big Spring Junior High will still serve 7th and 8th grade students and Big Spring High School will house 9th grade through 12th grade.

Grandson arrested in Murder of Leah Hughes

An arrest was made yesterday in the death of Leah Hughes, white/female 67 years of age, who was found on December 27, 2023 deceased at her residence in the 1800 block of Brent Drive.

The preliminary investigation believed Hughes to have died of a fall causing injury, though an autopsy was requested. On December 29, 2023, the Big Spring Police Department Criminal Investigations Division was informed that the medical examiner's office has determined Hughes' death was a result of a gunshot wound. Detectives immediately secured a search warrant for the Hughes residence and began further investigating the death. Big Spring Police CID has worked with multiple agencies investigating the death of Hughes for the past several weeks.

On Feb. 6, 2024, Big Spring CID presented an arrest warrant affidavit to a Magistrate, in which it was found probable cause existed for the arrest of Colten Hughes, White/Male 26 years of age, for the Murder of his grandmother Leah Hughes. With the assistance of the Texas Department of Public Safety, DPS TX Rangers Division and the Trophy Club Police Department, the Big Spring Police Department Criminal Investigations Division arrested Colten Hughes for the offense of Murder a Felony 1 offense.

Colten Hughes was arrested and charged with Murder after a traffic stop at the intersection of Parkview Drive and Durango Drive in Trophy Club Texas. This continues to be an ongoing investigation and no further information is available at this time.

02/08/24

Reconfiguration

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Basketball

The Howard College Hawks Men's team will host New Mexico Military Institute at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Game time is at 6:30 PM and you can catch a live broadcast of that game on The Mighty 1490 AM and FM 103.9.

Harper found Guilty of Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child

Yesterday / Today in the 118th District Court, Alfredo Hinojos Harper was found guilty of Aggravated Sexual Assault of Child, a first-degree felony offense. The incident occurred in 2021 and involved a 13-year-old female.

Harper chose to be sentenced by the jury. During the sentencing portion of the trial, his criminal history was shared, which included a prior conviction. Ultimately, Harper was sentenced to 50 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and a \$10,000 fine.

BSISD Board of Trustees to meet for regular meeting

The Big Spring ISD Board of Trustees will meet for a regular meeting today at 5:15 PM in the High School Board Room, located at 707 E. 11th Pl. Action items for tonight's meeting include consideration and possible approval of an order calling a Bond Election to be held by the Big Spring Independent School District on May 4, 2024, and School Board Trustee Election Order and Appointments for the May 4, 2024 Election.

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Board members will also consider approval of the 2024-2025 School Calendar, Employment Recommendations, for Administrators, Directors, and Coordinators.

Graphic by Zylee, CJH media student)

The Bulldogettes return to the UIL state basketball playoffs when they face Blanco in the bi-district championship game at 6 p.m. on Monday at Comanche High School.

SMMC Board Members spark talk of need for hospital district

During the Howard County Summit held on Wednesday afternoon, a rumor that Scenic Mountain Medical Center would be closing was addressed. Although it was noted that Steward Health Care, the corporation that currently owns SMMC, was facing financial difficulties, SMMC is financially strong.

Dr. Cheryl Sparks, Chair of the SMMC Board, voiced the need for the creation of a hospital district in Howard County. She stated that there is a need to move away from Steward Health Care because decisions for the local community's healthcare needs are being made by a corporation with no personal ties to the community. She advised that in order to do that a hospital district was needed. This would allow them to hire someone to manage the hospital and provide philanthropic support, but it would be an additional cost for taxpayers.

Dr. Sparks advised that there was a need to begin the discussion now so that it may possibly be on the ballot for the November election.

A hospital district is a special district designed to support local healthcare efforts. Other hospital districts in the area include Martin County, Mitchell County, Dawson County, Midland County, and Ector County.

02/09/24

Hughes Surety Bond Set at Two Million Dollars

BIG SPRING, TX -- Big Spring Police Department recently released the mug shot for Colten Hughes. He is currently booked at the Howard County Detention Center for the murder of his grandmother Leah Hughes that occurred on Dec. 27, 2023. He has a surety bond set for \$2,000,000.00

The surety bond is the most popular type of bail bond used in Texas. This type of bond acts as a loan when the defendant can't afford the total amount for the bail. In this case, a bail bondsman, acting as a third party, posts the bond for the defendant.

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To obtain a surety bond, the defendant usually gives the bondsman a percent of the total posted bail – normally 10%. This fee is non-refundable, and the defendant may have to sign an agreement guaranteeing additional collateral.

Basketball playoff / scheduled

Lady Buffs will play Monday at 7:00 pm at San Angelo Lakeview against Coleman

Coahoma Bulldogettes face Blanco in the bi-district championship game at 6 p.m. on Monday at Comanche High School. □Adults - \$5, Children \$3.

Boys basketball

Big Spring Steers will play an away game tonight at Levelland tonight. That game begins at 6:15 pm.

West Texas VA Virtual Veteran Town Hall

WHAT: West Texas Virtual Veteran Town Hall

WHEN: Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 5:00 – 6:00 PM Central

WHERE: Virtual – Dial in 833-305-1700

WHO:

West Texas Veterans, care givers, and stakeholders

BACKGROUND:

WTVAHCS will hold a virtual, tele-town hall on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, from 5:00-6:00 PM.

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Leadership and other subject matter experts from WTVAHCS and the Veterans Benefits Administration will provide updates and take questions from Veterans from across the West Texas area.

Topics to be discussed include:

- PACT Act
- Enrollment & Eligibility
- Women Veterans Health
- Access to care
- Status construction projects

This is an opportunity for Veterans to correspond directly with WTVAHS leadership, clinical staff, and other subject matter experts.

For more information about these or other VA employment opportunities, contact West Texas VA Public Affairs at michael.cole6@va.gov.

BSISD Meeting

Big Spring ISD board members approved an order calling for a bond election held by BSISD on May 4, 2024. The total bond amount will be \$219,000,000 that will be broken up into two propositions.

Proposition A is for \$216,700,000 that will be used to build a brand new high school, abate and demolish the old high school, and new Band and Music at Goliad Elementary for 5th and 6th grade students. It will also cover a new maintenance and transportation shop, turf, bleachers, lighting, and concessions for the soccer team that will be stationed by the ATC, drainage at 4 elementary campuses, and replace 30 HVAC units.

Proposition B is for \$2,300,000 for field lighting and an 8-lane track at Memorial Stadium.

McWilliams advises that due to new laws in place, the district is required to add the field lighting and an 8-lane track to a separate proposition because the facility holds over 1,000 people.

If the bond is passed by voters, the average homeowner with a home valued at approximately \$150,000 would pay approximately \$15 per month. The bond election will be held on May 4th.

Board Trustee positions for Districts 2, 4, and 6 will be up for election on May 4th. It was noted that the position for District 6 is not a full term. It is only meant to fill a currently vacant position at this time. Whoever wins the race for District 6 will have to run again next year for a full term.

Area News:

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<https://www.cbs7.com/2024/02/09/midland-hit-and-run-leaves-child-critical-condition-driver-arrested/>

02/12/24

West Texas VA Virtual Veteran Town Hall

WHAT: West Texas Virtual Veteran Town Hall

WHEN: Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 5:00 – 6:00 PM Central

WHERE: Virtual – Dial in 833-305-1700

WHO: West Texas Veterans, care givers, and stakeholders

West Texas VA Health Care System will hold a virtual, tele-town hall tomorrow, February 13, 2024, from 5:00-6:00 PM.

Leadership and other subject matter experts from WTVAHCS and the Veterans Benefits Administration will provide updates and take questions from Veterans from across the West Texas area.

Topics to be discussed include:

- * PACT Act
- * Enrollment & Eligibility
- * Women Veterans Health
- * Access to care
- * Status construction projects

This is an opportunity for Veterans to correspond directly with WTVAHS leadership, clinical staff, and other subject matter experts.

(Photo: WTVAHCS)

HCCC

Howard County Commissioners will meet for a regularly scheduled meeting this morning at 10 AM. Items on this agenda include regular business items plus discussion and possible action on Elections Office Building Repairs and Improvements Funding, TAC/ARTS Renewal (Affordable Care Act Reporting & Tracking System, and an Election Office Sign and Outside Lights. Other items include Discussion and Possible Action on a Traffic Count Plan in Precinct 1, Vitel Energy temporary water crossing on old airport, and Callon Petroleum temporary water crossing on old airport.

2nd Annual Together Trail Race at Big Spring State Park

Together Trail Race will be held at Big Spring State Park in Big Spring, Texas on Saturday, February 17, 2024. This race invites participants to take in the expansive view, and admire the

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timeless artisanship of the Civilian Conservation Corps as they explore 382 acres of arid plains terrain.

Together Trail Race provides the opportunity to race in pairs to commemorate Valentine's Day, but racing solo is an option as well. Grab a friend, your spouse, a coworker or your child to create a Together Trail Twosome!

With one, two and three loop options the race has something for everyone! Run, trot, hike, or walk this event but be sure to enjoy the views.

This year Midland Athletic Company is partnering with Tate's Place of Big Spring, Texas. Tate's Place is an active non-profit whose mission is to provide essentials to those in need. Their goal is to close the gaps for those in need which is very different for each person and situation.

For more information, visit:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/TX/BigSpring/TogetherTrailRace>

Chiefs win superbowl

Last night, The Kansas City Chiefs became the Superbowl 58 Champions with their victory over the San Francisco 49ers. The game was tied with a score of 19-19 before going into overtime. Ultimately, the Chiefs won their 2nd consecutive Super Bowl with a final score of 25-22.

Basketball

Big Spring Steers lost to Levelland, final score was 52-74.

Coahoma Bulldogs won over Grape Creek with a final score of 62-21. Their next game will be

Forsan Buffs won over Water Valley with a final score of 60-51. Their next game will be

Playoffs tonight

Coahoma Bulldogettes face Blanco in the Bi-District Championship game at 6 p.m. on tonight at Comanche High School.

Lady Buffs will play tonight for the Bi-District Championship at 7:00 pm at San Angelo Lakeview against Coleman.

Howard College Basketball teams host Midland College at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum tonight. Women play at 5:45 PM and the Men play 7:30 PM. Listen to those games broadcasted live by the KBest Sports Crew on The Mighty 1490 AM and FM 103.9.

Big Spring Swimmers finish the season in Regional action.

The Big Spring High School swim team was in regional action earlier this month at the Andrews High School Aquatic center qualifying two girls and a men's relay for the finals.

In the girls 200 medley relay the Lady Steers team was made up of Patricia St. Clair-backstroke, Steffany Pina Armenta with the Breaststroke, Arley Cruz-Garcia in the Butterfly, with Emma

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Walker anchoring the team in Freestyle. The ladies finished fifth in the region, dropping two seconds off their best time of the year with a time of 2:29.19 in the event.

In the boy's medley relay, it was the team of Myles Weldon-Backstroke, Eli McCoy in the Breaststroke, Matthew Nieves in the Butterfly, with Aaron Ramirez Varela bringing it home in the Freestyle. The guys finished the meet with a 2:10.63, good enough for a seventh-place finish in the finals.

In the final event of the day for the Steer swimmers, the girls 200 freestyle relay was in action taking a fourth-place finish and just missing the podium with a time of 2:08.23. The team, comprised of Garcia, Armenta, St. Clair, and Walker and alternate Anjelika Yanez.

This was the final meet of the season for the Steers swimmers.

Area News:

ODESSA, Texas (KOSA) - As of December 29, 2023, the Texas Department of Public Safety now has a Violent Offenders Database. The database has information on those who have been convicted of violent crimes two or more times.

The Violent Offenders Database was created by House Bill 5202, which requires DPS to maintain it and offer it for free.

The information for the database will come from Texas courts, and provides information about the person like their full name, date of birth, a recent picture, a physical description and details about the person's charges.

For more on this story from our news partners at CBS 7, check out the link on our KBest MEdia Facebook page.

02/13/24

Area News: Fatal Crash in Midland County

Midland County, TX – A fatal one-vehicle crash in Midland on early Sunday morning killed two passengers.

According to the Texas Department of Public Safety, on Sunday, Feb. 11th, at 4:40 AM, DPS Troopers responded to a crash along State Highway 158, near mile marker 306 that involved a 2023 Dodge Ram 2500. The preliminary information revealed that the truck was traveling eastbound on SH 158 around a slight curve in the roadway near mile marker 306. The driver, identified as Braulia Caldarella Lerma, 36-year-old male of Del Rio, TX, was traveling at an unsafe speed for the wet road conditions, causing the truck to veer off the roadway to the right, where it rolled multiple times. All occupants, which included Lerma and four passengers, were ejected from the truck. The report stated that none of the occupants were wearing their seatbelt at the time of the crash.

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According to the report, Jesus Mejia Trejo, a 28-year-old male of Odessa, TX, was pronounced dead at the scene. Mario Govea, Jr., 21-year-old male of Del Rio, TX, was transported to Midland Memorial Hospital and later succumbed to his injuries. The other two adult male passengers were transported to Midland Memorial Hospital with minor injuries.

This incident remains under investigation, and no further information is available.

Big Spring City Council - agenda

The Big Spring City Council will meet for a regular meeting tonight at 407 E. 4th St. in Big Spring. Items for tonight's agenda include multiple public hearings. The first will be in regard to a proposed 2024 Master Parks Plan, the second will be a zone change from General Residential to Heavy Commercial for 3.450 acres of land generally located at W. Business 20 east of Old State Highway 80, the last two public hearings will be to consider possible abatement of a public nuisance. Those properties that will be discussed are 1008 E. 12th owned by Tyra Lendermon, and 1400 State Park, owned by Earl D. Kolden.

The City Manager's Report will cover Large Item Pickup for District 2, the upcoming city holiday for President's Day on Feb. 19th, and installation of the cardboard recycling bailer. There will also be updates on the Atmos Lane Closure for maintenance, an update on the road maintenance on Birdwell Lane from 25th St. to FM 700, and an update on the opening of the auditorium. There will also be a presentation regarding staff recommendations for police/fire retention and recruitment, and a report on the administrative hearings held on Feb. 7th concerning abatement and premises nuisance violations.

Council members will also consider multiple budget amendments, consider an agreement with Evergreen Solutions, LLC to conduct a Compensation Market Study, consider a lease for a term up to 50 years with Vero Fiber Networks, LLC discuss and possibly have action regarding the Russ McEwen Family Aquatic Center grant funded capital projects.

Comanche Trail Park Playground Demolition and Update

BIG SPRING, TX – Due to a generous donation by the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, the City of Big Spring will be replacing the large metal playground structure across from the Cotton Mize field in Comanche Trail Park with an all ages, all abilities playground facility. Demolition of the metal playground will begin on Tuesday, February 13th. The area around the structure will be blocked off and closed to traffic until demolition and updates are complete.

Thank you to the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center for their generous donation, without them these much needed upgrades would not be possible.

Any questions about the project should be directed to Hayley Lewis, Community Services Director, at 432-264-2516 or hlewis@mybigspring.com.

Basketball

Coahoma Bulldogettes won their game over Blanco with a final score of 62-23. they are now Bi-district Champions!

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Forsan Lady Buffs played for the Bi-District Championship and lost to Coleman. Final score was Forsan 36, Coleman 42.

BIG SPRING

Big Spring Steers host Lubbock Estacado at home. That game begins at 6:15 PM. Listen to a live broadcast of that game on The Mighty 1490 AM and FM 103.9.

COAHOMA

Coahoma Bulldogs will host a home game against Clyde. That game begins at 7:45 PM.

FORSAN

Forsan Buffs will be at home against Christoval at 7:30 PM.

HOWARD COLLEGE

Howard College Basketball took on Midland College last night. The Women's team won 61-58, The men's team lost 74-71. The next game for Hawk basketball teams will be on Thursday, Feb. 15, 2024, against Clarendon College. These games will be played at home at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Women play at 5:45 PM and Men play at 7:30 PM. Listen to a live broadcast of those games on The Mighty 1490 AM and FM 103.9.

02/14/24

Big Spring Area Community Foundation to begin accepting on Mar 1, 2024

BIG SPRING, TX -- The Big Spring Area Community Foundation held a free Grant Application Seminar last night at Howard College. Grant applications for the Big Spring Area Community Foundation will be accepted beginning March 1st and will continue through noon on May 1st. It should be noted that these grants are available to 501 c 3 non-profit organizations in the Big Spring area. Here, George Bancroft, Executive Director for the Big Spring Area Community Foundation, explains more (audio - area -)

Grants that were awarded last year in various amounts. Here, Bancroft gives a few examples.

For more information contact George Bancroft at 432-714-4316, or visit:

<https://bsacf.org/>

Basketball

Big Spring Steers lost to Lubbock Estacado, final score was 36-80.

Coahoma Bulldogs lost a close game to Clyde, final score was Coahoma 46, Clyde 47. Forsan won last night's game over Christoval with a final score of 45-43. Top scorers for the night were Seth Richardson with 13 points and Coy Evans with 8 points. According to head Boys's basketball coach Cory Richardson, the Buffs clinch 2nd place and will face Coleman next week.

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The Coahoma Bulldogettes will take on Brock at the UIL Area Playoffs on Friday, Feb. 16th, at 6 PM at Eula, TX. Tickets for adults are \$5, tickets for students are \$3. Coahoma will be the visiting team.

Westbrook Lady Cats! They won their Bi-District Championship game with a final score of 73-31 over Cross Plains.

Sands Lady Mustangs won their BiDistrict game last night over Meadow. Final score was 47-33.

Area News: Two fatal crashes in Scurry County on Monday

SCURRY, TX — Texas DPS Troopers responded to two fatal crashes in Scurry County on a Monday, Feb. 12th.

The first crash occurred at 1:20PM, on [FM 1609](#), 1.5 miles north of Ira, Texas. It involved a 2014 GMC, Sierra, 1500 pickup truck driven by Seth Thomas Boynton, 24-year-old male from Ira, Texas, and 2017 Ford, F-250 pickup truck towing a utility trailer driven by Cameron Scott Johnson, 26-year-old male from Snyder, Texas.

The preliminary investigation revealed that Boynton was traveling south on FM 1609, and Johnson was traveling north. Boynton failed to drive in a single lane and drove into the northbound lane as Johnson's vehicle approached. Johnson attempted to take evasive action steering left, toward the southbound lane, away from Boynton's vehicle. Boynton then took evasive action, steering back to the southbound lane, striking Johnson's truck head on. Boynton's vehicle caught on fire after the collision and was engulfed in fire.

Boynton was pronounced dead on scene and Johnson was transported to Cogdell Memorial with incapacitating injury in stable condition.

The second crash occurred at 8:30 PM on US Highway 84 near milepost 396, approximately 6 miles north of Snyder. It involved a 2020 Mercedes G-class sports utility vehicle driven by Thi Yen Ngoc Nguyen, 30-year-old female from Woodway, TX, and a 2008 Nissan Altima driven by Victor Manuel Rodriguez Mendez, 45 years old male, from Post, Texas.

The preliminary investigation revealed that Nguyen was traveling north (the wrong way) in the southbound lanes of US 84 and struck Mendez's vehicle head on. Mendez was pronounced dead at the scene, Nguyen was transported to UMC Lubbock and later pronounced dead.

Fire

A fire was reported on Walter Rd last night in Howard County. The Volunteer Fire Department was dispatched at 7:52pm along with BSFD to a garage/shop on fire on Walter rd. Upon our arrival, responders found a fully involved mobile home on fire. The home was a total loss. No injuries and the occupants were not home at the time. The cause is undetermined but possibly an electrical issue.

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HCVFD Chief Eric Barber thanked the BSFD, HCSO, Howard co dispatch, and the dedicated volunteers for their assistance.

02/15/24

Big Spring Symphony Orchestra teams up with Texas Legend Jody Nix and the Texas Cowboys

Jody Nix and The Texas Cowboys will be featured this weekend with the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra's annual Pops Concert. That concert will be held this Saturday, February 17, 2024, at 7:30 PM, in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium. **H-E-B's Helping Here** Program is a co-sponsor for the event.

Jody Nix has been entertaining audiences for 64 years and is a true Traditional Country Music and Western Swing artist, and leads one of the finest dance bands in Texas, Jody Nix and The Texas Cowboys. On Saturday, they'll join BSSO's incredibly talented orchestra for a night to remember that will include two new arrangements of some treasured favorites. Here, Nix tells us more (audio - 2:00-2:31 — And now we combine the orchestra with with me and my boys, country music, western, swinging music all mixed together we have wonderful arrangements on all the songs we're gonna do in the symphony will be featured me and the boys will be featured will be featured together in the orchestra will play some on their own as well as we will too but it's gonna be a wonderful night of good music here at home and good old Big Spring.)

Nix told KBest News that it's always special to play at home and expected that people from the surrounding areas would be attending the concert, as well.

Dr. Fagner Magrinelli Rocha will be the guest conductor for this performance. Originally from Brazil, Dr. Rocha is an Assistant Professor of Music at Angelo State University where he teaches violin, viola and directs the ASU Symphony Orchestra. He currently serves as concertmaster for the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra, Ballet San Angelo and San Angelo Symphony Orchestra. Rocha is a BSSO fan favorite, performing as featured violin soloist in numerous concerts.

This live event will be the first to be held in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium, since it was severely damaged from the severe winter storm in February 2021. The auditorium is located at 310 E. 3rd Street and is the treasured home venue of The Big Spring Symphony Orchestra. Be advised that parking is limited in the area. Attendees are asked to carpool if possible.

TICKETS are on sale NOW at the Heritage Museum and Karat Patch and online at bigspringsymphony.org. Prices are \$25 for Adults, \$20 for Seniors 55+ and FREE for ALL students college age and down. Student tickets can be printed off the Symphony Website. You will also find a direct ticket link on The Big Spring Symphony Facebook page.

Big Spring Police Investigate Hit and Run Incident

On the 13th of February 2024 at approximately 6:13 P.M., Big Spring Police Department officers were dispatched to the 3300 block of E. I-20 South Service Road due to a hit and run involving injuries. The victim is identified as a 48-year-old white male. The preliminary investigation found the victim to have been pushing a motorcycle westbound when he was

struck by what is believed to be a red in color Kenworth Truck Tractor pulling a sand trailer which was also traveling westbound. The driver who struck the victim failed to stop and render aid, leaving the scene of the crash. The victim was airlifted to UMC Lubbock due to the injuries sustained and is currently in stable condition. The Big Spring Police Department is investigating this hit and run and ask if anyone has any information regarding this incident or the location of the truck and trailer, to please contact the Lieutenant Gordon 432-264-2561 or contact CrimeStoppers at (432)263-TIPS (8477). You can also leave an anonymous tip using the “P3 Tips” mobile application or from web address www.p3tips.com/1277. This continues to be an ongoing investigation and no further information is available at this time.

High School Basketball Update with Playoff News, 02/14/24:

Coahoma Bulldogettes will take on Brock at the UIL Area Playoffs on Friday, Feb. 16th, at 6 PM at Eula, TX. Tickets for adults are \$5, tickets for students are \$3. Coahoma will be the visiting team.

FORSAN

Forsan Buffs will face Coleman on Monday, 2/19 at 6pm. That game will be at the Junell Center on the Angelo State University campus in San Angelo. Forsan will be the home team.

WESTBROOK

Westbrook Lady Cats won their Bi-District Championship game on Monday, 2/12/24 with a final score of 73-31 over Cross Plains. Next they'll take on Roby for the Area Championship. Details on that game are yet to be announced.

SANDS

Sands Lady Mustangs recently won their Bi-District game last night over Meadow. Final score was 47-33. Their next game will be against Jayton for the Area Championship. That game will be on Friday, Feb. 16, at 6:30 PM in Post, TX.

GARDEN CITY

The Garden City Lady Kats recently won their Bi-District Championship over Eden with a final score of 40-38. Their next game will be for the Area Championship against the Balmorhea Lady Bears tonight, at 6 pm at the Red Devil Gymnasium in Rankin, TX. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students.

The Bearkats will take on Menard for their Bi-District Championship game on Monday, Feb. 19, at 7 PM at Lake View Gymnasium in San Angelo. Tickets for adults are \$4 and tickets for students are \$2.

BORDEN COUNTY

Last night, the Borden County Lady Coyotes won their Bi-District Championship over Paducah with a final score of 65-21. Next, they'll play for the Area Championship against Whitharral. Details for that game are yet to be announced.

QOV

BIG SPRING, TX — Yesterday, two local veterans were presented with Quilts of Valor by the local presenter and Disabled American Veteran Vice Commander for Chapter 47 Mike Tarpley. The touching ceremony was held at the Sand Castle Small House Community Living Center, within the West Texas VA Health Care System. The two honored with the presentation were World War II U.S. Navy Veteran JL Stevens and Mr. Keith Bass, U.S. Navy Veteran and the Medical Center Director of WTVAHCS.

The Quilts of Valor program, deeply rooted in patriotism and gratitude, is a nationwide initiative dedicated to honoring veterans and service members touched by war with comforting and meaningful quilts. These quilts symbolize the love, gratitude, and appreciation of a grateful nation for their service, sacrifice, and valor. Each quilt is handcrafted by dedicated volunteers who pour their hearts and souls into creating these tangible expressions of gratitude.

Mr. JL Stevens, a remarkable World War II Veteran, stood among the honorees, his legacy of bravery and service echoing through the decades. Serving with valor and distinction, Mr. Stevens played a pivotal role in history, supporting allied forces during the D-Day landings at Normandy and witnessing the momentous occasion when Japanese forces signed the instrument of peace aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Harbor, marking the end of World War II. His unwavering courage and sacrifices epitomize the spirit of the Greatest Generation, and it was a privilege to bestow upon him the honor of a Quilt of Valor.

In addition to honoring Mr. Stevens, the ceremony also recognized Mr. Keith Bass, U.S. Navy Veteran and the Medical Center Director of WTVAHCS. Mr. Bass, who has dedicated his career to serving veterans and ensuring they receive the care and support they deserve, was deeply touched by the gesture. His leadership and commitment to excellence have been instrumental in enhancing the quality of care provided to veterans within the WTVAHCS community.

02/16/24

Big Spring City Council

During Tuesday night's meeting of the Big Spring City Council, Councilmembers approved a zone change from General Residential to Heavy Commercial for 3.450 acres of land generally located at W. Business 20 east of Old State Highway 80. According to Public Works Director Shane Bowles, the property is owned by Oncor Electric who will be proposing a new switching station on the property. This property is vacant and is surrounded by Heavy Commercial (HC) zoning. All uses surrounding the land are

of a heavy commercial character and future residential development is not anticipated.

Todd Darden, City Manager advised that the city had started implementing recommendations for retention and recruitment for Police & Fire. Things that were discussed to be offered included a stipend, allowances for equipment, housing assistance, relocation allowances, reimbursement for academy, and higher education repayments. It was noted that currently Police is down in staffing by 33 percent, Fire is down by 22 percent.

Councilman Ornelas suggested that a budget amendment be made to add one full-time equivalent (FTE) at the Sports Complex for the purpose of being able to run a fall season for soccer. Discussion was held about what kind of employee hours would be needed to support that, if parents could assist in maintaining the fields, and how the hiring freeze in parks and sports departments would impact that. Ultimately, staff was approved to draft an ordinance for a budget amendment to add the position. That was approved with a 5-2 vote with Mayor Robert Moore and Councilman Cody Hughes, District 3, voting against. Later Hughes advised that he voted against the new position because he felt it was important to address the current need to be able to fund the maintenance of public safety to retain police and fire personnel as opposed to adding a position at the sports complex.

Basketball Update with Playoff News, 02/14/24:

Howard College basketball teams lost to Clarendon College last night. Final score for the Women's team was 52-56. The Men's game went into overtime and ended with a final score of 100-104.

Garden City Lady Kats won over Balmorhea in the Area Championship game last night. Final score was 50-26.

Tonight -

Coahoma Bulldogettes will take on Brock for their Area round tonight at 6 PM at Eula, TX. Tickets for adults are \$5, tickets for students are \$3. Coahoma will be the visiting team. Listen to a live broadcast of this game brought to you by the KBest Sports Crew on The Mighty 1490 AM and FM 103.9.

Borden County Lady Coyotes will play for the Area Championship against Whitharral tonight at 6 PM at Lubbock Cooper.

Sands Lady Mustangs will play Jayton for the Area Championship tonight at 6:30 PM in Post, TX.

Westbrook Lady Cats will play Roby tonight at Snyder High School for the Area Championship. That game begins at 6:30 PM.

On Monday,

Forsan Buffs will face Coleman on Monday, 2/19 at 6pm. That game will be at the Junell Center in San Angelo. Forsan will be the home team.

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The **Garden City Bearkats** will take on Menard for their Bi-District Championship game on Monday, Feb. 19, at 7 PM at Lake View Gymnasium in San Angelo. Tickets for adults are \$4 and tickets for students are \$2.

BORDEN COUNTY

Boys are District Co-Champions

City and County Offices to Close for President's Day on Feb. 19, 2024

BIG SPRING, TX -- All City of Big Spring offices, including the landfill, will be closed on Monday, February 19, 2024, in observance of Presidents' Day.

There will be no sanitation pickup on Monday, February 19th. Monday's normal sanitation routes will be picked up on Tuesday, February 20th. Tuesday's normal sanitation routes will be picked up on Wednesday, February 21st. Sanitation pickup for the rest of the week will proceed as usual.

Emergency services (Police, Fire, and EMS) will continue normal operations. The Emergency Utilities Department will also be available and can be reached by calling 432-264-2392.

COUNTY OFFICES TO CLOSE

HOWARD COUNTY, TX -- Howard County will close all offices Monday, February 19, 2024 in observance of Presidents' Day. County Offices will open again for business on Tuesday, February 20, 2024.

Sheriff's Administrative Offices will be closed but Law Enforcement Services will operate as normal.

Deadline to File for City/School Election

Today is the filing deadline for candidates wishing to run in the upcoming City and School Election scheduled for May 4, 2024. Applications must be filed with the respective entity in order to get on the ballot.

The following positions will be open for election on May 4, 2024:

CITY OF BIG SPRING

- Mayor
- City Council for Districts 2
- City Council for District 4
- City Council for District 6

CITY OF COAHOMA

- (2) City Council at Large

CITY OF FORSAN

- Mayor
- (2) City Council at Large

BIG SPRING ISD

- School Board Trustee for District 2
- School Board Trustee District 4

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- Special Election for District 6 (*Note this is to fill a currently unmanned position that expires in 2025.*)

COAHOMA ISD

- (3) School Board Trustees at Large

FORSAN ISD

- (2) School Board Trustees at Large

HOWARD COLLEGE JR COLLEGE DISTRICT

- School Board Trustee, Precinct 3
- School Board Trustee, Precinct 4

PERMIAN BASIN UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

- Director serving Howard County
- Director serving Martin County
- (Unexpired Term) Director serving Howard County

For more information, visit our KBest Media Facebook page.

2nd Annual Together Trail Race at Big Spring State Park

There's still time to register for tomorrow's Together Trail Race at the Big Spring State Park, hosted by the Midland Athletic Company. According to Martin Vega, Event Coordinator for the race, the trail race involves more scenic views than just road running. Here he explains more (audio - :30 - "trail running is different than road running. Roadrunning is an emerging sport, but also right behind them trail running is definitely, like, right on their heels. Trail running just involves a little bit more kind of looking at the ground, you know, a little bit more scenic views and so it is a different sport. You know it's kind of dipping your toes slightly into what you would consider an outdoor sport and so we get to see all sorts of individuals show up and it's a great time.)

Together Trail Race provides the opportunity to race in pairs to commemorate Valentine's Day, but racing solo is an option as well. With one, two and three loop options the race has something for everyone! Last year, there were over 230 participants who walked, jogged, or ran. Vega told KBest News this year the race is expected to meet or exceed those numbers.

This year Midland Athletic Company is partnering with the local non-profit organization Tate's Place, whose mission is to provide essentials to those in need. After the race, participants are encouraged to stick around for the breakfast prepared by Tate's Place.

The first race begins at 8 AM for the 3-loop option, but onsite registration for the 1-loop option will be available until 9 AM.

For more information, visit:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/TX/BigSpring/TogetherTrailRace>

02/19/24

Special meeting of BSISD, 02/20/24

The Big Spring ISD Board of Trustees will meet for a regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024 at 5:15 PM in the High School Board Room, located at 707 E. 11th Pl. in Big Spring. Items on the agenda include to consider approval of an expenditure over \$150,000 for the purchase of dish machines at Six BSISD Campuses, and possibly for an expenditure over \$150,000 for the purchase of school supplies from EPI.

Board members will also go into executive session to discuss the Superintendent Annual Evaluation and consider the Superintendent Contract.

CHS Perkins to sign with McPherson College

COAHOMA — Coahoma High School senior Austin Perkins is taking his athletic talents to the next level.

The three-year varsity Bulldog football player will continue his academic and athletic career at McPherson College in Kansas. Coahoma High School will host a public signing ceremony for Perkins and his family at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 21, in the high school auditorium.

During his time on the Coahoma gridiron, Perkins was a standout two-way starter, who broke several school records including career receiving yards (2,079), career catches (108), and career touchdowns (31).

In week one of the 2023 season, Perkins was named the first Built Ford Tough 3A Player of the Week for his performance during Coahoma's 50-34 win over Forsan High School in the Howard County Bowl. In that game, Perkins made six catches for 248 yards and four touchdowns. He had a game-opening 75-yard touchdown reception and, later in the game, set a school record with a 99-yard scoring catch.

For his performance during the 2023 season, he earned All-District 4-3A First Team Offense honors both as a wide receiver and punter. He made the All-District 4-3A First Team in 2022 and 2021 as utility and wide receiver respectively.

Perkins is a multi-sport high school athlete, who has had great success in track and field. He is a three time UIL Region I qualifier, and an instrumental member of the 4x200 team, which set a school record time of 1:30.28 in 2022

Perkins will be the third Coahoma Bulldog football player to join the McPherson team. CHS senior Reagan Chapman signed with the Kansas school in January, and 2020 CHS alum Brysen Kerby is a current member.

McPherson College is in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), Division II and plays in the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference (KCAC).

(Photo and information courtesy of Coahoma ISD Communications)

Anniversary of Refinery Explosion / 16th anniversary of Refinery Explosion in Big Spring (post on 02/19/24)

BIG SPRING, TX — On this day 16 years ago, Howard County experienced a catastrophic event that was felt as far as 90 miles away.

On President's Day 2008, at approximately 8:20 a.m. an explosion at the Alon Oil Refinery, located at I-20 and Refinery Rd. in Big Spring occurred and could be felt throughout Howard County and beyond. The explosion shattered or cracked glass windows, walls, and doors. It was even reported to have been felt as far away as San Angelo, TX.

At that time, current Howard County Volunteer Fire Chief Eric Barber had been with the Big Spring Fire Department for just 6 months, but had 4-5 years of experience volunteering with the Volunteer Fire Department and was continuing to volunteer. He told KBest News that he was on the first engine in the refinery that day. Here Chief Barber tells us more about that experience (audio - And the tones went off and I went to Oklahoma fire station, got our engine and it was just steel people standing outside the Dairy Queen and I'm making my way towards the refinery. You know seeing all the smoke and everything thank God I'm just gonna get pulled off and be doing EMS you know thankfully nobody was seriously hurt and we got on scene got some more people there and the chief at the time filled up a truck and I got on that we went in and started fighting some fire.)

Barber told KBest News that his initial thoughts were of the people he knew who worked at the refinery. (audio - You know being such a small community everybody knows everybody and I knew a lot of people and just thinking you know, oh, God, who hurt how bad how many are dead and thank God nobody was.")

He went on to say that ambulances from all over arrived to assist in Big Spring because it was thought there would be a massive amount of casualties, however, only five injuries were reported as a result of the incident, including 1 woman who was driving on I-20 who's vehicle had been struck by flying debris. None of the injuries reported were life-threatening. At the time, the refinery employed about 170 people and produced some 70,000 barrels a day. The number of injuries was believed to have been reduced, because it was President's Day, and some workers were not on the job at the time of the explosion.

When asked what kind of lessons were learned that day, Barber had this to say (audio - For the firefighters out there handling was very difficult where the air pack. Majority of the day was very difficult, so not that we didn't know how to work as a team but after that day, I really felt like we worked better as a team, both as volunteer department and in the city as a career department.

Early Voting begins Tuesday, 02/20/24

Early voting for the Primary election begins Tuesday and will continue through March 1st. All early voting will be held at Howard County Elections Center, located at 2006 FM 700 in Big Spring.

Voters can cast their ballots from 8-5 pm through Feb. 23rd. The Election Center will be open for extended hours on Feb 24th. On Feb 25th they'll be open from 12-6 pm, and from 7 am - 7 pm Feb 26-March 1st. Election Day is March 5th.

Basketball Update with Playoff News, 02/19/24:

Garden City Lady Kats will take on Robert Lee next in the Regional Quarterfinals tomorrow at the Junell Center in San Angelo at 8 PM.

Quarterly News Report
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Friday -

Coahoma Bulldogettes lost to Brock in the Area Championship game. Final score was 35-58. Congratulations to the Bulldogettes on a great season.

Sands Lady Mustangs lost to Jayton in the Area Championship. Final score was 20-40.

Borden County Lady Coyotes won the Area Championship over Whitharral with a final score of 62-59. Next, They'll face Jayton in the Regional Quarterfinals.

Westbrook Lady Cats won their Area Championship over Roby with a final score of 31-27. Next, they'll take on Harrold for the Regional Quarterfinal Championship. That game will be tomorrow at 6 PM at Hawley.

Westbrook wildcats will take on BAird for their Bidistrict game in hawley immediately at the lady cats play Harrold.

On Monday,

Forsan Buffs will face Coleman on Monday, 2/19 at 6pm. That game will be at the Junell Center in San Angelo. Forsan will be the home team.

The **Garden City Bearkats** will take on Menard for their Bi-District Championship game on Monday, Feb. 19, at 7 PM at Lake View Gymnasium in San Angelo. Tickets for adults are \$4 and tickets for students are \$2.

Borden County Coyotes will face Guthrie tomorrow for their Bi District championship game. That will be at Frenship HS at 7:30pm.

02/20/24

Basketball Update

Monday Night

Howard College at New Mexico Jr. College

Howard College Basketball teams lost to New Mexico Jr College last night. Women lost with a final score of 51-62 and the Men's team lost 79-82.

Forsan Buffs v. Coleman

Forsan won 40-18 in the Bi-District championship game last night. Congratulations to them!

Garden City Bearkats v. Menard

Garden City won 59-41 last night over Menard for the Bi-District game.

Tuesday Night

Garden City Lady Kats will take on Robert Lee next in the Regional Quarterfinals tonight at the Junell Center in San Angelo at 8 PM.

Borden County Lady Coyotes will take on Jayton in the Regional Quarterfinals tonight at 6 PM at Frenship High School.

Borden County Coyotes will face Guthrie tonight for their Bi District championship game. That game will be at Frenship HS at 7:30pm.

Westbrook Lady Cats will face off against Harrold for the Regional Quarterfinal Championship tonight at 6 PM at Hawley. **Westbrook Wildcats** will take on Baird for their Bi-district game immediately after.

AgriLife - Walking Event Kickoff

Walk Across Texas, a fun, team-based physical activity program will soon kick off in Howard County on Feb. 29th.

According to [Casey McPherson](#), local County Extension Agent - Family and Community Health, the goal is to have each team walk the equivalent of the 832 miles it would take to walk from one side of Texas to the other.

Walking 832 miles is easier than it sounds when the amount is shared with up to 8 members on a team. She advised that the program is 8 weeks long. A goal of 10,000 steps per day is approximately 2 miles. A team of 8 members could reach their goal of 832 miles within the time allotted.

The official Kick-off event will be at the Howard Co Library at 5pm. Here, McPherson tells us more. (Audio).

Big Spring Gem and Mineral Show

The Big Spring Prospector's Club's 55th annual Gem & Mineral Show will be held next weekend at the Howard County Fair Barn in Big Spring on Saturday, March 2nd and Sunday, March 3rd.

On Saturday, the event will open from 9 AM to 5 PM with dealers, demonstrators, displays, hourly prizes, and a spinning wheel. There will also be a snack bar, a silent auction, and music by Apache Creek Fiddlers. On Sunday, the event will be held from 10 AM to 5 PM.

Tickets for Silver Wings Ball

The Silver Wings Ball, an annual fundraiser for the Hangar 25 Air Museum, is this Saturday, Feb. 24th. Tickets are still available. Call the Hangar 25 Air Museum in Big Spring for more information.

Friends of the Library Book Sale

The Friends of the Library Book Sale will be the weekend, mar 1-2. On Friday, they'll be open for their Spring Book Sale from 9-4PM, and on Saturday from 9 AM to 3 PM.

They'll have kids books, nonfiction, hardbacks, recent bestsellers and more!! Sale proceeds will go to benefit the Howard County Library.

Full Moon Hike

There will be a full moon guided hike on Saturday, Feb. 24th, at the Big Spring State Park.

Participants will Meet at the entrance parking area at 7pm. Be advised : There are no restrooms located near the entrance parking area. Please arrive early if you plan to use the restrooms located up the hill, inside the park, before the hike.

The free hike will be 1.5 miles. The terrain will include some sloped road surfaces as well as rocky and uneven trail surfaces.

Participants should: Bring a flashlight and their own drinking water bottle. They are also encouraged to Dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes.

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SCAM ALERT!!!

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce is advising the community of a scam that has been brought to their attention.

An email from “Nick Jones” falsely claims to be a part of the local chamber of commerce, and offers the member access to the distribution / member email list for a price.

Debbeye ValVerde, Executive Director of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, advised that the Chamber of Commerce is NOT associated with this person or the company. She also stated that the membership list is NOT FOR SALE. If you wish to have a list of members you must be a Chamber member.

If you have any questions, contact the Chamber office at 432-263-7641.

Tickets on Sale for Silver Wings Ball Fundraiser

BIG SPRING, TX -- The Silver Wings Ball is this Saturday, Feb. 24th, at Texas Forever, located at 5007 Chaparral Rd. in Big Spring. The event begins at 5:30 PM with cocktail hour and will include dinner, casino games, dancing, and auctions. Money raised from the event will benefit the Hangar 25 Air Museum in Big Spring to cover their cost of operations for the year.

Here, Tabitha Clark, committee member for the Silver Wings Ball, talks more about the museum (audio -).

Museum you know this is some thing that is I got cupboard space if you will not just for our community but for family members who that you know their loved ones used to be stationed at Webb Air Force Base so it's kinda like you know honoring the history of Big Spring and you know if you haven't been to the air museum and I know there's a lot of people that haven't. It is such a cool little gem that we have in this town that I just think that a lot of people have missed out on I mean, you gotta go in there and see it

Tickets are \$75 each and less than 20 are still available. To reserve your ticket, contact the Hangar 25 Air Museum by calling 432-264-1999.

Fatal Martin County Crash

Texas DPS recently identified the victim in Monday's early morning fatal crash in Martin County.

On Feb. 19, 2024, DPS Troopers responded to the two-vehicle crash at 5:21 AM at State Highway 176 and FM 3033. The crash involved a 2015 Ford Fiesta driven by Martin Ricky Gomez, 24, of Laveen, AZ, and a 2023 GMC 2500 driven by Miguel Angel Dominguez, 45, of Snyder, TX.

According to the preliminary information, Gomez was traveling northbound on FM 3033 and Dominguez was traveling westbound on SH-176. Gomez disregarded the stop sign at the intersection of SH-176 and was struck by the GMC truck. As a result of the crash, Gomez was pronounced deceased at

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the scene. Dominguez was not injured. Gomez did not have a seatbelt on at the time of the crash. This incident remains under investigation, and no further information is available.

Sports

This Thursday, Howard College will be playing against South Plains College in what's expected to be a close and intense game. In preparation for such a high stakes game, Howard College will have a White Out on Thursday, Feb. 22nd. Custom White Out shirts will be given away for free at the game while supplies last. Additionally, all patrons are encouraged to wear as much white as they can and if they received a 'spirit towel' from last week's game to bring that as well.

There will also be a raffle for basketballs autographed by both teams and there will be other items given away as well. Knock Out Dance Troop will be performing during both half-times for the in-game entertainment.

Life Church Youth Skate Night at Skateland Reloaded

Tomorrow night, Life Church in Big Spring will be sponsoring Youth Skate Night at Skateland Reloaded. Here Manny Negron, Associate Pastor at Life Church, explains more (audio -).

More of our goal and mission on this is just to bring the kids together in a safe place to have a fun evening skating. We can do these once a quarter so this is our first one coming up this Thursday. It's free for students in the sixth grade, all the way up to senior so junior high and high school ages our youth pastor, Drew will be out there with his team just building relationship relationship with some of these kids that may not have a church home that may not have a youth group to go to we are not in competition with anybody else. We are just wanting youth in our community to come out for a fun evening at the Skateland reloaded.

Again, that event will be tomorrow, Feb. 22nd, at Skateland Reloaded, 2906 W. 8th from 6-8 pm.

Tuesday Night

Garden City Lady Kats lost to Robert Lee in the Regional Quarterfinals. Final score was GC Lady Kats 34
Robert Lee Lady Steers 42

Borden County Lady Coyotes Lady Coyotes won their Regional Quarterfinal game last night and will advance to the regional tournament with a 70-33 win over Jayton!

Borden County Coyotes Coyotes are Bi-District champions after a win over Guthrie, 49-33

Westbrook Lady Cats won 54-48 over Harrold for the Regional Quarterfinal Championship. They'll move on to the Regional tournament. **Westbrook Wildcats** won their Bi-district game over Baird, final score was 95-21.

Congratulations Big Spring High School Powerlifting!!

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Steers Powerlifting results from Eldorado meet on 02/10/24.

Eldorado, TX -- Big Spring powerlifters competed in Eldorado on February 10th, 2024.

The Girl's Powerlifting Team placed 3rd overall.

The Boys's Powerlifting Team placed 1st overall.

On the Girls' team, Quasett Woodruff and Rebecca Rodriguez received 1st in their respective weight classes.

On the Boys' team, Talon Cavazos, Josiah New, and Zadrian Washington placed 1st in their respective weight class, Caden Reynoso, Jordan Roberts, and Adyn Tristan placed 2nd, and Josiah Cavazos and Matthew Sandoval placed 3rd.

The next meet for the Steer Powerlifting teams will be on Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024 at the Greenwood Invitational in Greenwood, Texas.

02/22/24

CONGRATULATIONS LADY STEERS!!!

All-district awards for the Big Spring Lady Steers are as follows:

1st Team All District:

#11 Sophomore - Emily Carreon

2nd Team All District:

#24 Sophomore - Bre Woodruff

#23 Senior - Angelina Rivera

Honorable Mention All District:

#3 Junior - Gabby Vasquez

#5 Senior - Olivia Gomez

#13 Sophomore - Caitlyn Morales

#22 Senior - Kutter Pearson

#34 Junior - Chloe DeAnda

Academic All District:

Kaydence Norwood

Emily Carreon

Caitlyn Morales

Cali Moreno

Reaghan Heffle

Gabby Vasquez

Bre Woodruff

Basketball Update

HOWARD COLLEGE

Howard College Basketball teams will take on South Plains College at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. This will be a WHITE OUT night. Everyone is encouraged to wear white for the games. The Women's team plays at 5:45 PM and the Men's team plays at 7:30 PM. Listen to a live broadcast of these games on The Mighty 1490 AM and FM 103.9.

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FORSAN

Forsan Buffs will play for their Area Championship on Friday, Feb. 23rd, against Anthony at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, TX. The game will be held at 7:30 PM at The Gallegos Center.

BORDEN COUNTY

Lady Coyotes will take on Valley on Friday, Feb. 23rd in the regional tournament. That game will be in Levelland at the Texan Dome at 2:30 PM.

Coyotes will play Whitharral on Thursday, Feb. 22nd, at Lamesa High School at 6:30 PM.

WESTBROOK

Lady Cats will play the next round of the playoffs against Irion Co. at the Snyder Coliseum at 4 PM on Friday, Feb. 23rd.

Wildcats will play Munday in Rotan at 7:45 PM on Friday, Feb. 23rd, for the Area Championship.

GARDEN CITY

Bearcats will take on Iraan for the Area Championship. That game is at 6 PM at the Junell Center in San Angelo, TX.

Special meeting of BSISD, 02/20/24

During Tuesday's special meeting of the Big Spring ISD Board of Trustees an expenditure over \$150,000 for the purchase of dish machines at Six BSISD Campuses. They also approved an expenditure over \$150,000 for the purchase of school supplies from EPI. This will allow the district to, once again, purchase school supplies for students. During discussion on the topic, BSISD Superintendent Jay McWilliams advised that the cost of supplies had increased. He noted that the first year that school supplies were purchased the cost had been less than \$150,000. This year, the cost increased over that amount.

During the meeting, Board members announced that McWilliams had received a favorable Superintendent Annual Evaluation and they approved to extend his Superintendent Contract with modifications.

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CHS Perkins to sign with McPherson College

COAHOMA — Yesterday, Coahoma High School senior Austin Perkins signed his letter of intent to continue his academic and athletic career at McPherson College in Kansas.

During his time on the Coahoma gridiron, Perkins was a standout two-way starter, who broke several school records including career receiving yards (2,079), career catches (108), and career touchdowns (31).

During the 2023 season, Perkins was also named Built Ford Tough 3A Player of the Week for his performance during Coahoma's 50-34 win over Forsan High School in the Howard County Bowl.

Perkins will be the third Coahoma Bulldog football player to join the McPherson team. CHS senior Reagan Chapman signed with the Kansas school in January, and 2020 CHS alum Brysen Kerby is a current member. When asked how he felt to join other Coahoma football players at McPherson College, Perkins had this to say (audio).

Feels good. I've always wanted to go to Kansas. Just having two teammates I played with at Coahoma having being there is amazing and I can't wait to be on the field with them in college too.

While at McPherson, Perkins told KBest News that he plans to study health and science so he can one day come back to coach and train. .

McPherson College is in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), Division II and plays in the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference (KCAC).

(Photo and information courtesy of Coahoma ISD Communications)

02/23/24

Chili Cookoff on Saturday at Eagle's Lodge

The 24th annual fraternal order of Eagles, Big Spring stop

The fraternal order of eagles in Big Spring will host their 24th annual chili cook off and it's open to the public. This will be held tomorrow Saturday, February 24 and includes cash prizes. Third place receives \$400 second place receives \$600 in first place will receive \$1000.

registration is \$25 and begins at 8 AM. be advised you must cook on site and a minimum of 3 pounds must be prepared for the competition. The public is welcome to attend and enjoy all you can eat chili for just \$10 per person.

All money raised will go to the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Big Spring. Here, Tamara Averette, conductor of the auxiliary for the local organization, explains how the money will be used. (Audio).

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Grand Jury Indictments

On Feb. 21, 2024, the Howard County Grand Jury indicted 21 individuals for various crimes, two of which included a charge for Murder.

Ray Alvarado, 25, was indicted on a Murder charge, along with Fraudulent Possession of Identifying Information, Credit Card Abuse, and Assault of Pregnant Person.

Michael Bullinger, 43, was indicted for Murder, Tamper/Fabricate Physical Evidence with Intent to Impair Human Corpse.

The date of offense for both of these Murder indictments is Dec. 15, 2023. Alvarado was arrested in December for the murder of Christopher Semmelmann, White/Male 32 years of age. According to the Howard County Sheriff's Department Investigations Division Semmelmann was murdered in the 100 block of Jonesboro Rd. According to Howard County Sheriff Stan Parker, Bullinger's Murder indictment is associated with Semmelmann's death.

Also, listed in the indictments listed from Feb. 21, 2024 were Christopher Larry Carillo for Sexual Assault/Child, and Humberto Barreto, Jr. for five offenses: Indecency w/ Child Sexual Contact, Aggravated Sexual Assault/Child, Promotion of Child Pornography, Possession of Child Pornography, and Production of Sexual Performance/Child.

Misty Middleton Fundraiser

Help us support our KBest Team Member - Misty Middleton!

BIG SPRING, TX -- A lunch benefit will be held next Friday, March 1st, for Misty Middleton to help cover her medical expenses and needs.

The meal will be a pulled pork BBQ sandwich plate for \$12. Lunch delivery will be available for area schools at 11 am, 12 pm, and 1 pm. Be advised you must pre-order your meal in advance by calling or texting 432-816-9381.

Misty was a KBest team member and a teacher at Big Spring ISD before medical issues prevented her from continuing.

Big Spring High School Powerlifting!!

Steers Powerlifting results from Greenwood meet on 02/17/24.

GREENWOOD, TX -- Big Spring powerlifters competed in Greenwood on February 17th, 2024.

The Girl's Powerlifting Team placed 3rd overall.

The Boys's Powerlifting Team placed 4th overall.

On the Girls' team, Quasett Woodruff and Destiny Hodnett received 1st in their respective weight classes, Violet Calderon and Alandra Juarez received 2nd place, Yvanka Martinez and Simealai Tino received 3rd in their weight class.

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On the Boys' team, Talon Cavazos, and Zadrian Washington placed 1st in their respective weight class, and Josiah Cavazos placed 3rd.

The next meet for the Steer Powerlifting teams will be:

GIRLS REGIONALS: March 2nd @ Big Spring in the Steer Gym

BOYS REGIONALS: March 9th @ Abilene Wylie

HOWARD COLLEGE

Howard College played South Plains College last night at home. The Women's team lost 44-59, and the Men's team won 76-69. The next game for the Hawks will be Monday, FEB. 26th, at Western Texas College.

FORSAN

Forsan Buffs will play for their Area Championship on Friday, Feb. 23rd, against Anthony at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, TX. The game will be held at 7:30 PM at The Gallegos Center.

BORDEN COUNTY

Lady Coyotes will take on Valley on Friday, Feb. 23rd in the regional tournament. That game will be in Levelland at the Texan Dome at 2:30 PM.

Coyotes lost to Whitharral in the Area round. Final score was 47-55.

WESTBROOK

Lady Cats will play the next round of the playoffs against Irion Co. at the Snyder Coliseum at 4 PM on Friday, Feb. 23rd.

Wildcats will play Munday in Rotan at 7:45 PM on Friday, Feb. 23rd, for the Area Championship.

GARDEN CITY

Bearkats will take on Iraan for the Area Championship. That game is tonight at 6 PM at the Junell Center in San Angelo, TX.

02/26/24

Howard College Lamb & Goat Camp

Registration is open for Howard College Lamb & Goat Camp 2024!

Register at <https://howardcollege.edu/lamb-and-goat-camp/>

Howard College Lamb Camp - June 21-23rd

Howard College Goat Camp - June 27-29th

For more info or questions, email kvisse@howardcollege.edu or call 432-264-5110. We look forward to seeing everyone this summer!

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Basketball results

Forsan Buffs lost to Anthony in the Area Championship game on Friday night. Final score was 50-62. Top scorers for night were Jake Myers and Nicolas Holloway both with 12 points each.

BORDEN COUNTY

Lady Coyotes lost to Valley in the regional tournament. Final score was 32-62. **Coyotes** lost to Whitharral in the Area round. Final score was 47-55.

WESTBROOK

Congratulations to the Westbrook Lady Cats on winning the Regional Tournament this past weekend! Now they'll head to the State Tournament on Thursday, Feb. 29th!

Regional Tournament MVP was Tae Morris, and Kellee Gilbreath was named to All Tournament.

On Thursday, Feb. 29th, the Westbrook Lady Cats will face off against the Newcastle Lady Cats at 8:30 AM at the San Antonio Alamodome.

Westbrook's Boys team won their Area round against Munday. Final score was 57-27. Next, they'll play Eula in the Regional Quarterfinals.

Regional Tournament MVP - Tae Morris

All Tournament - Kenlee Gilbreath

Wildcats will play Munday in Rotan at 7:45 PM on Friday, Feb. 23rd, for the Area Championship.

GARDEN CITY

Bearcats will take on Iraan for the Area Championship. That game is tonight at 6 PM at the Junell Center in San Angelo, TX.

HCCC

The Howard County Commissioners will have a regular meeting today at 10 AM in the 3rd Floor Courtroom at the Howard County Courthouse, located at 300 S Main. Items on today's agenda include:

Big Spring City Council

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The Big Spring City Council will have a regular meeting tomorrow at 5:30 PM in the Council Chambers, located at 307 E 4th St. Items on the agenda include the 2024 master Parks plan, a resolution declaring the unopposed candidate for district 2 as elected to office, and adding a position to the sports complex staff. They'll also consider a Short-Term Contract with Avfuel to Allow for Continued Aircraft Fueling Operations at McMahon-Wrinkle Airport while Awaiting Results of a RFP for Aviation Fuel Supplier, and an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with South Plains Association of Governments (SPAG) for the Downtown Revitalization Program. Council members will also consider approval of a Mural Painted by Big Spring Little League and Big Spring High School Art Club on the Concession Stand at Roy Anderson Sports Complex. Check out the full agenda on our KBest Media Facebook page!

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide

AARP Tax-Aide is offering free income tax preparation every Monday now through April 3, 2024, from 8 am to 12 pm at the building behind the First Methodist Church, located at 607 S, Gregg St..

This service is available to all taxpayers with moderate to low income. The service will be a low contact drop-off with pick-up the following Monday. Appointments are required, no exceptions will be made. Appointments can be scheduled at bsta.setmore.com or at the tax site on Monday mornings. Be advised, no children will be allowed to enter.

Taxpayers need to bring the following items to their appointment: a photo ID for the taxpayer and/or spouse, social security card for everyone on the tax return, last year's tax return, w-2's and all other proof of income received in 2023.

Early Voting begins Tuesday, 02/20/24

Early voting for the Primary election this week at the Election Center for Howard County, located at 2006 FM 700 in Big Spring.

Voters can cast their ballots this week from 7 am - 7 pm through March 1st. Election Day is March 5th.

<https://www.bigcountryhomepage.com/news/sweetwater/sweetwater-rattlesnake-roundup-2024-schedule-of-events/?ipid=promo-link-block1>

02/27/24

The State National Bank of Big Spring Hosts Open House March 8

The State National Bank at 901 Main in Big Spring is celebrating 115 years of banking and 100 years as a national bank. To commemorate the bank's heritage, State National is inviting its customers and friends to an Open House at the bank from 1 to 4 PM on Friday March 8th. A Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting takes place at 1 PM.

Here is a brief history of the bank.

Chartered in January 1909, The State National Bank opened for business on March 1st of that year at 204 Main Street. The original bank was organized as The First State Bank of Big Spring and in 1924, converted to a national bank charter, with the bank being renamed The State National Bank of Big Spring.

The bank was located at 204 Main Street from 1909 until 1934, when it moved to 124 Main Street and operated there until May of 1979. The bank then moved to its present location at 901 Main Street where it continues to be well-capitalized and remains a strong presence in the community.

VA Heart of Texas Healthcare Network Virtual Veteran Town Hall

The VA Heart of Texas Health Care Network Virtual Veteran Town Hall will be held on Thursday, Feb. 29th, from 5-6 PM. Veterans, their caregivers and families can dial in by calling 833-980-3641 to participate.

The virtual Veteran town hall is an opportunity for Texas Veterans, their caregivers and families to communicate directly with VA Heart of Texas Healthcare Network senior leaders.

Lead by [Dr. Wendell Jones](#), VA Heart of Texas Healthcare Network, Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 17, encompasses most of the state of Texas - approximately 240,000 square miles - and has administrative offices in Arlington. VISN 17 oversees seven health care systems: VA North Texas, Central Texas VA, West Texas VA, Amarillo VA, El Paso VA, South Texas Veterans and VA Texas Valley Coastal Bend. Of the 1.6 million Veterans in the VISN 17 area, more than 636,000 are enrolled for care with us.

This large geographic area ranges from urban centers such as Dallas/Fort Worth, San Antonio, and Austin, to largely rural areas such as Bonham and Kerrville, to the rapidly expanding lower Rio Grande Valley. Several military installations in El Paso, Central, and South Texas afford the Network many opportunities to collaborate with the Department of Defense.

Topics to be discussed include:

- [Health Connect – Clinical Contact Center and Tele-EC](#)
- [The Veteran Experience](#)
- [VISN Priorities and VA Health Care Priorities to Action \(P2A\)](#)
- [Medical Identity Theft Awareness](#)

Howard County Commissioners Court - Highlights, 02/26/24

During Monday's meeting of the Howard County Commissioners Court, Commissioners discussed the request from the Riva Ridge Community for a new road. It was noted that this is not a county-owned road and there was no money in the budget to make improvements. Ultimately, no action was taken on this item.

A discussion was held about the possible use of the CivicPlus Agenda Meeting Management System for the county. It was noted that it was not an item that is planned for in this year's budget, but the item was tabled until a later date.

Commissioners also approved the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department project related to the Jonesboro Station structure. According to Volunteer Fire Chief Eric Barber, the department received funds from the Dora Roberts Community Foundation to rebuild the station. They will use the existing concrete, tear down metal structure, and rebuild taller so different size trucks can fit. Cost will be approximately \$67,000, through RW Fence & Fab.

Coahoma Girls Basketball All District

Several Coahoma Bulldogettes received 6-3A All-District Honors. Those making First Team are Baylor Wright and Madisyn Renteria. Those on Second Team are Isabella Cox and Bree Lewis. Those earning Honorable Mention were Cayhill Lewis, Brynn Rodgers, and Kaedyn Lee. Those named to Academic All-District are Isabella Cox, Baylor Wright, Bree Lewis, Brynn Rodgers, Kaedyn Lee, Gabby Cox, Cayhill Lewis, Madi Reteria, and Emory Doport.

BASKETBALL

WESTBROOK

Wildcats won their Area round against Munday. Final score was 57-27. Next, they'll play Eula in the Regional Quarterfinals at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, Feb. 27th, at Merkel High School.

GARDEN CITY

Bearcats will play for the Regional Quarterfinal Championship against Robert Lee on Tuesday, Feb. 27th, at 6 PM at the Junell Center at Angelo State University in San Angelo.

BSHS Colorguard

Big Spring High School's colorguard, which is part of the band program, recently competed in the Cooper Invitational and came home with FIRST PLACE! They are led by [Nadia Kiley](#). Next, they'll compete in the Howard County Invitational in April!

02/28/24

Comedy Shows in Big Spring

A couple of comedy shows will be in Big Spring this week. The first will be the all-female comedy show GAL-A-PALOOZA that will be held tomorrow at 8 PM at Yo Mama's in downtown

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Big Spring. The show will feature a variety of female comedians from around Texas with Celia Contreras as the headliner. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door.

The second show will have headliner Flo Hernandez and is scheduled for Saturday, March 2nd at Alberto's, located at 2401 S. Gregg, at 9 PM. Tickets for this show are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door.

Ooh La la Warehouse Sale

Local businesses will come together to participate in a warehouse sale on Friday and Saturday, March 1 and 2nd. Here, Laura Martin with Lula Blu Boutique in Big Spring and event organizer, explains more (audio).

Vendor participant Dana Johnson, owner of Splurge Boutique in Big Spring, told KBest News that this is an opportunity for businesses to move items in order to get ready for spring. Here, she explains more (audio)

On Friday they'll be open from 12 PM to 6 PM on Saturday. They'll be open from 10 AM to 6 PM. The price of admission is \$10 per person or five essential items such as shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant detergent, toilet papers, and more Note all money and items collected will be donated to charities around Howard county.

BSHS Regional Qualifiers - Powerlifting

Big Spring High School recently had 22 ladies from their powerlifting team qualify for Regional competition. Those qualifying

114 - Monse Holguin and Layla Ortiz

123 - Yvanka Martinez and Simealai Tino

132 - Juanita Cuellar

148 - Amaiya Hernandez

165 - Tara Porter

165 - Zoe Cigarroa, Allison Hillhouse, and Hazel Rangel

181 - Alandra Juarez and Angel Evans

198 - JoJo Gonzalez, Cloe Viasana, Rilee Gonzales, Essence Reynolds, and Daliyah O'Hara

220 - Rebecca Rodriguez, Alliana Chavarria, Destiny Hodnett

242+ - Quasett Woodruff and Violet Calderon

They'll compete in the Regional Meet at Steer Gym on Saturday, March 2nd beginning at 8:30 AM.

8 Boys have also qualified for the regional powerlifting competition. Those qualifying are

114 - Caden Reynoso

123 - Talon Cavazos, Joshiah Cavazos, and Michael Ramirez

165 - Jack Hamby

275 - Jordan Roberts and Josiah New

308 - Zadrian Washington

Congratulations to all!

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Basketball

WESTBROOK

Wildcats played Eula in the Regional Quarterfinals and lost. Final score was 46-52.

GARDEN CITY

Bearkats lost to Robert Lee in the Regional Quarterfinal round. Final score was 31-45.

Big Spring Gem and Mineral Show

The Big Spring Prospector's Club's 55th annual Gem & Mineral Show will be held next weekend at the Howard County Fair Barn in Big Spring on Saturday, March 2nd and Sunday, March 3rd.

On Saturday, the event will open from 9 AM to 5 PM with dealers, demonstrators, displays, hourly prizes, and a spinning wheel. There will also be a snack bar, a silent auction, and music by Apache Creek Fiddlers. On Sunday, the event will be held from 10 AM to 5 PM.

Friends of the Library Book Sale

The Friends of the Library Book Sale will be the weekend, Mar 1-2. On Friday, they'll be open for their Spring Book Sale from 9-4PM, and on Saturday from 9 AM to 3 PM.

They'll have kids books, nonfiction, hardbacks, recent bestsellers and more!! Sale proceeds will go to benefit the Howard County Library.

03/01/24

Dora Roberts Community Center Arson Update

Yesterday, the Big Spring Police Department announced that two juveniles had been charged with Arson concerning the fire at the Dora Roberts Community Center that occurred on July 1, 2023.

On that morning at 4:45 AM, BSPD officers, the Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services personnel responded at 4:45 AM to the fire at 100 Whipkey to the Dora Roberts Community Center. The building was found fully engulfed in flames. Officers also found a vehicle that was vandalized along with the building.

After following several leads over the past several months, on Feb. 29, 2024, Investigators took into custody two juvenile white males ages 15 and 16 charging them with the Arson and Criminal Mischief of the Vehicle. Both individuals have been processed and released to the Howard County Juvenile Probation Office.

The Big Spring Police Department and Big Spring Fire Marshals office is appreciative and wants to give thanks to individuals who have provided information and leads regarding this investigation as the cooperation with our citizens has proven to have helped identify the subjects involved.

This continues to be an ongoing investigation and no further information is available.

Thank You for Your Investment - Al's and Son's BBQ

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce held a Thank You for Your Investment presentation for Al's and Son's BBQ, located at 1810 S. Gregg in Big Spring, to thank them for all that they do for the community. Shari Fray, Manager at Al's and Son's BBQ, said they appreciated the recognition.

When asked what she wanted the public to know about the restaurant, Fray had this to say (audio).

Fray had this to say - we've been here for 50+ years now food still the same actually it's gotten a little bit better with the newer pits and everything that we've got going on. Business is good everybody stop in.

Al's and Son's BBQ is open Tuesday through Friday from 11 AM to 8 PM and on Saturdays from 11 AM to 3 PM.

Big Spring High School guided tours

Big Spring ISD is calling for a bond election to be held by BSISD on May 4, 2024. The total bond amount will be \$219,000,000 that will be broken up into two propositions.

Proposition A is for \$216,700,000 that will be used to build a brand new high school, abate and demolish the old high school, and new Band and Music at Goliad Elementary for 5th and 6th grade students. It will also cover a new maintenance and transportation shop, turf, bleachers, lighting, and concessions for the soccer team that will be stationed by the ATC, drainage at 4 elementary campuses, and replace 30 HVAC units.

Proposition B is for \$2,300,000 for field lighting and an 8-lane track at Memorial Stadium.

Big Spring ISD will be offering guided tours of Big Spring High School so the public has an opportunity to see the current state of the building for themselves. The first guided tour will be on Monday, March 4th at 6 PM. The next date will be Monday, March 18th at 6 PM.

Basketball Update: Borden County Lady Coyotes played against New Castle in the State tournament and lost. Final score was 37-59

Big Spring City Council highlights, 02/27/24

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During Tuesday night's meeting of the Big Spring City Council, it was announced that Diane Yanez, current Council Member for District 2, was unopposed for the elected position. Since she had no opposition, she was deemed elected to office and will serve her new term from May 2024 to May 2027. This will be her second consecutive term.

Council members approved the first reading to amend the budget in order to add a position to the sports complex staff with a vote of 4-3, with Councilmembers Cody Hughes, District 3, Gloria McDonald, District 4, and Mayor Robert Moore voting against.

A fire billing ordinance was approved so that the city can pursue an additional stream of revenue through the Fire Department. This will establish new and additional fees for rescues, fire investigations, water and back country incidents, and fires outside of the city limits.

An interlocal cooperation agreement with South Plains Association of Government (SPAG) was approved for the Downtown Revitalization Program. This would allow them to apply for a \$500,000 grant that could be used for a variety of things that could include demolition, sidewalks, lighting, water and sewer. The city's cost of participation in this agreement is \$17,500.

Council members approved of a mural to be painted by Big Spring Little League and the Big Spring High School Art Club on the Concession Stand at the Roy Anderson Sports Complex.

As the largest wildfire in Texas history burns, Texas A&M Forest Service encourages caution as wildfire potential increases over the weekend

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — The largest wildfire in Texas history is actively burning today. The Smokehouse Creek Fire in Hutchinson County is burning a total of 1,075,000 acres across Texas and Oklahoma and is 3% contained.

Since Sunday, February 25, Texas A&M Forest Service has responded to 56 wildfires burning more than 1,256,328 acres.

There are three additional active wildfires in the Texas panhandle today: the Grape Vine Creek Fire in Gray County at 30,000 acres and 60% contained; the Windy Deuce Fire in Moore County at 142,000 acres and 30% contained; and the Magenta Fire in Oldham County at 2,500 acres and 65% contained.

The potential for wildfire activity will increase again for the Plains region Saturday and Sunday due to strong winds and dry fuels.

“Strong winds and warm temperatures have resulted in grasses drying across many portions of Texas,” said Wes Moorehead, Texas A&M Forest Service Fire Chief. “As firefighters continue to suppress active fires, we urge Texans to be cautious with any outdoor activity that may cause a spark.”

Areas with dry grass may support wildfire activity due to accidental ignitions from activities that cause a spark, including fireworks.

As Texans make plans to celebrate Texas Independence Day March 2, they should use extreme caution when using fireworks or any other outdoor activity.

Approximately 90 percent of wildfires are caused by humans and their activities, and holidays and celebrations can pose an increased risk of fire starts.

“Let's celebrate Texas Independence Day with pride and responsibility,” said Karen Stafford, Texas A&M Forest Service Fire Prevention Coordinator. “This weekend, let's

honor our heritage by preventing fires. Do your part to prevent wildfires and be safe this holiday.”

The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a public show hosted by professionals. If you plan to set off your own fireworks, please follow these safety tips:

- * Before you celebrate, always check and comply with local government officials for any burn bans or other restrictions.
- * Read and follow all warnings and instruction labels on fireworks.
- * Use fireworks only under close adult supervision and in safe areas away from structures, dry grass and brush.
- * Keep a hose, bucket of water and wet towels nearby in case of a malfunction or fire.
- * Dispose of used fireworks in a bucket of water.
- * Never ignite fireworks in a container, especially glass or metal.

To help prevent wildfires during windy and dry conditions:

- * Avoid parking and idling in tall, dry grass. Catalytic converters can get hot enough to ignite the grass under a vehicle.
- * Ensure chains and other metal parts aren't dragging from your vehicle — they throw sparks.
- * Avoid placing your grill near flammable vegetation or materials, never leave your grill unattended and ensure coals are completely extinguished when you are done.

Note: Burn bans and fireworks restrictions are determined by county government. Texas A&M Forest Service does not determine, set or lift these restrictions.

(Photo: Unsplash)

03/04/24

Big Spring High School to offer guided tours for public

BIG SPRING, TX -- A bond election will be held by Big Spring ISD on May 4, 2024. The total bond amount is \$219,000,000 and will be broken up into two propositions. The largest part of the bond will be used to build a new high school.

Big Spring ISD will be offering in-depth guided tours of Big Spring High School so the public has an opportunity to see the current state of the building for themselves. The first guided tour will be tonight at 6 PM. Those attending the meeting should meet at Steer Gym before 6 pm.

The next in-depth tour is scheduled for Monday, March 18th at 6 PM.

Listed below are the upcoming dates for all guided tours of Big Spring High School:

Monday, March 4 (6:00 p.m.)

Monday, March 18 (6:00 p.m.)

Monday, April 8 (6:00 p.m.)

Monday, April 22 (6:00 p.m.)

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Saturday, April 27 (6:00 p.m.)

Don't forget to visit the bond website at <https://www.bsisdbond.com/>

Ribbon Cutting for Talent Financial Services

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce welcomed Talent Financial Services, located at 110 W. 3rd in Big Spring, as a new chamber member with a ribbon-cutting on Friday morning.

Garrett Gunn, Financial Advisor with Talent Financial Services, told KBEST News that they are a wealth management company and they are affiliated with Raymond James. He stated that he appreciated everyone coming out for the ribbon cutting and appreciated that the chamber supports small businesses.

“We’re in wealth management [and] do everything from managing 401(k)s to nonprofit organizations. It’s something that I’m really passionate about - helping with management of their assets, and then also we do personal financial advising.” said Gunn

Gunn has been doing financial advising work in Big Spring for the last 6 years. He said he recently moved his business to Raymond James because he felt that they fit his clientele and his business better.

For more information about Talent Financial Services, call their office at 432-400-1151.

Blood Drive with Interim

A community blood drive will be held tomorrow from 10 AM to 2:30 PM in front of Interim Healthcare, located at 1900 S. Gregg in Big Spring.

This will be across the street from the HEB/parking lot at the corner of Edwards and Gregg.

Donors will receive an Automatic entry to win one of 4 \$5000 prepaid gift cards. PLUS an Eclipse t-shirt and glasses.

appointments are encouraged and to schedule your appointment Call/Text Linda @ 325-656-2645 or call 877-258-4825.

Primary Election Day is tomorrow

Primary Election Day is tomorrow. Polling locations will be open from 7 am to 7 pm.

ANY Howard County registered voter can cast a ballot at ANY of these locations

Ryan Hall/St. Thomas Church
605 North Main Street
Big Spring, Texas

Sand Springs Baptist Church (North side of building)

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Next to Myers and Smith Funeral Home
201 East 24th Street
Big Spring, Texas

Dorothy Garrett Coliseum (East side of Building)
1001 Birdwell Lane
Big Spring, Texas

Coahoma Community Center
306 North Avenue
Coahoma, Texas

Temporary Road Closure

Temporary Road Closure in Big Spring on Monday, March 4, 2024

From: Shane Bowles, Public Works Director
Re: Temporary Road Closure Notice

Beginning today , the northbound lanes on Birdwell Lane between East 3rd Street and East 4th Street will be closed. All traffic will use the southbound lanes for travel. Citizens are asked to use caution in this area until work is completed.

If you have questions, please contact the office of Shane Bowles, Public Works Director, at 432-264-2501.

Area News:

WORLD CHAMPION! ☐☐ Midland's Bryce Hoppel wins the men's 800m at World Indoors, clocking a world-leading 1:44.92. He's the third American man to ever win this title.

Incredible photo from Getty ☐☐

03/05/24

Silver Wings Ball raises over \$30,000 for Hangar 25 Air Museum

The 25th annual Silver Wings Ball was recently held in Big Spring at Texas Forever on Feb. 24th. Here, Tabitha Clark, committee member for the Silver Wings Ball, tells us more (audio - We sold twice as many tickets as we did last year because we have outgrown venues! So, it was out at Texas Forever. It was a beautiful venue. A lot of people hadn't seen it yet, so they got a chance to come inside and see it," said Clark.)

In addition to dinner and casino games, attendees also were able to participate in live and silent auctions. Live auction items included an autographed Patrick Mahomes jersey, multiple handguns, and a French Bulldog along with other items. According to the Silver Wings Ball

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Committee, the event was able to raise \$30,350 for Hangar 25 Air Museum. This money will help fund the museum's operational costs throughout the year.

Fatal Crash in Andrews County

The Texas Department of Public Safety has identified the victim of a two-vehicle crash that occurred in Andrews County on Friday, Mar 1, 2024.

According to Texas DPS, Troopers responded on Friday morning at 6:12 AM to a crash at FM 1788 near milepost 308 involving a 2017 Toyota Corolla and a 2022 Dodge Ram 2500. The preliminary information revealed that the Toyota, driven by Peter Edwin Bouton, 32-year-old male of Lufkin, TX, was traveling southbound on FM 1788, and the Dodge was traveling northbound. The Bouton passed when it was unsafe and struck the Dodge in the northbound lane. Bouton was pronounced deceased at the scene. The driver of Vehicle 2, identified as Jabier Luna, 54-year-old male of El Paso, TX, was transported to Midland Memorial Hospital, and his passenger Rogelio Herrera, 22, of Rio Grande City, TX, was transported to MCH. This crash remains under investigation, and no further information is available.

BSHS State Qualifiers - Girls Powerlifting

Yesterday the Big Spring girls powerlifting team competed at home in the 4A large school regional championships and earned 2nd place as a team! Out of 22 girls competing at the regional competition, 14 of the girls placed in the top 5 of their respective weight class. Six of the female competitors have qualified for the State competition. Those are:

6 State Qualifiers:

Monse Holguin

Yvanka Martinez

Alandra Juarez - Regional Champion

Rebecca Rodriguez - Regional Champion

Quasett Woodruff - Regional Champion

Violet Calderon

Congratulations to them!

03/06/24

Temporary Road Closure on Goliad St. in Big Spring beginning 03/11/24

BIG SPRING, TX – A temporary road closure has been announced in Big Spring. According to Shane Bowles, Public Works Director, beginning on Monday, March 11, 2024, Goliad Street from East 12th Street to East 11th Place will be closed to through traffic; all traffic will be detoured around the area. Please be advised that city crews will be working in the area until work is completed.

The City of Big Spring sincerely appreciates your patience and cooperation in this matter. If you have questions, please contact the office of Shane Bowles, Public Works Director, at 432-264-2501.

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MAYORAL PROCLAMATION AT STATE NATIONAL'S OPEN HOUSE

BIG SPRING, TX – State National Bank will have a ribbon cutting ceremony with the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce on Friday, March 8th, to celebrate the bank's 115 years of service to West Texas and 100 years as a National Bank.

Big Spring Mayor Bob Moore will read a proclamation at the State National Bank's open house. The reading will take place at 1 PM. The open house, with light refreshments, will be from 1 to 4 PM at the bank, which is located at 901 Main. The public is invited.

Forsan Boys Basketball All-District Recognition

The Forsan Buffs basketball team ended their season with a record of 10-4 in district. The team won the Bi-District Championship but fell in the Area round to Anthony. The Buffs were recently recognized with All-District honors, including Head Boys Basketball Coach [Cory Richardson](#), who was selected as a Coach of the Year.

Players receiving recognition are as follows:

Newcomer of the Year - Coy Evans

1st Team All-District - Brooks Wright and Sether Richardson

2nd Team All-District - Jake Myers and Huston Stockton

Forsan Honorable Mention - Toby Isbell and Nicholas Holloway

Forsan Academic All-District - Coy Evans, Toby Isbell, Seth Richardson, Jake Myers, Rylan Smith, and Caylee Myers

Congratulations to them!

Unofficial Primary Election Results

Unofficial results from the Election Night Report for the 2024 Joint Primary Election in Howard County show that in the race for REP State Representative, District 72 State Representative, Stormy Bradley led with 1,766 votes compared to the incumbent Drew Darby's 1,172 votes.

In the Republican Primary, the following candidates ran unopposed District Attorney Joshua Hamby, County Attorney Lindsay Wilkerson, Sheriff Stan Parker, County Tax Assessor-Collector Tiffany Sayles, County Commissioner for Pct. 1 Eddilisa Ray, Justice of the Peace for Pct. 1 Angela Griffin, and Constable for Precinct 1 David Sousa.

In the race for County Commissioner for Pct. 3, incumbent Jimmie Long led with 480 votes compared to Anna Scott's 250 votes.

Out of 16,548 registered voters in Howard County, voter turnout was at 19.85 percent. A total of 3,285 ballots were cast in this election. 3,052 were for the Republican primary and 233 were for the Democratic primary.

According to Howard County Elections Administrator Jodi Duck, the voter turnout was about the same as usual. She noted that they had expected a larger turnout during early voting but there was some voter confusion with the Election Center being moved to a new location.

03/12/24

The West Texas Centers The Basics of IDD (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities)

The West Texas Centers **Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities** Division is offering a special FREE training to all who are interested. They are inviting mental health staff, those in law enforcement and any in the general public that are interested to attend. This training is “The Basics of IDD (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities). It is applicable to anyone who provides support to an individual(s) with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities, such as parents, teachers, paraprofessional, member of Law Enforcement, Grandparents, Staff at a Service Organizations, Day Habilitation Facilities or those who work in a group home. Anyone each just wants more information about Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities is invited to participate.

Those who are not able to make the meeting in person will also have virtual access to the information.

According to the CDC, about one in six, or approximately 17%, of children aged 3 through 17 years have one or more developmental disabilities. These conditions impact all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups. Many people you’re a cutie, patootie interact with individuals with an IDD on a regular basis, often without even realizing it. This training takes place on Thursday, March 21st at 10am – 12pm or 1 pm – 3pm remotely by zoom and is open to anyone interested in the training. There will be more zoom information available closer to the event date. For more on this story, go to the kbest media facebook page.

HCCC Highlights

BIG SPRING, TX – During Monday’s meeting of the Howard County Commissioners Court, a discussion was held concerning a possible burn ban in Howard County. Howard County Volunteer Fire Chief Eric Barber suggested that one not be issued at this time and to re-evaluate the situation in a couple of weeks. Ultimately, the issue was tabled for two weeks. Commissioners also approved an interlocal agreement with the City of Big Spring regarding EMS, pending that it is approved by the City. The speed limit on CR 9 from the Dawson County Line to FM 846 was increased from 45 mph to 65 mph. County Road Engineer Brian Klinkseik told Commissioners he believed that speed limit had been in place since the national speed limit was 55 mph and had probably not been updated. He advised that in studying the area, he found that no one does the 45 mph speed limit, and recommended that it be increased to 65 mph because it is the current speed limit for unpaved unmarked roads in Howard County. He said this also fits the 85 percentile rule that is used by the Texas Dept. of Transportation.

Area News: Texas Department Of Public Safety Pursuit and Fatal Crash Ector Co.

In a press release from the Texas Department of Public Safety, there was a fatal crash in Ector County resulting from a pursuit on Friday, March 8th at 9:53 PM. Preliminary information received shows that the driver of a 2007 Mercury Milan, 31 year old female Thalia Sigala of Hobbs, NM, was reported to have a large quantity of fentanyl pills and was alleged to have evaded law enforcement in Arizona. The 2007 Mercury Milan was then located in Odessa, and a traffic stop was attempted by the Odessa Police Department and the University of Texas Permian Basin Police Department. The driver of the 2007 Mercury Milan refused to stop and evaded officers. Texas DPS Troopers responded and assisted

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before they lost sight of the vehicle. The Ector County Sheriff's Office resumed pursuit of the Vehicle. The pursuit ended when the 2007 Mercury Milan traveled northbound in the southbound lanes of East Loop 338 near Yukon Rd. The driver steered into the dirt median to avoid a collision with two other vehicles. The driver of the 2007 Mercury Milan then lost control and drove in the median between the northbound and southbound lanes of East Loop 338 on the overpass. The vehicle went airborne off the overpass and crashed at Yukon Rd and East Loop 338, where it rolled several times. The driver of The 2007 Mercury Milan was ejected from the vehicle and pronounced deceased at the scene. The front right passenger was ejected and transported to Medical Center Hospital with serious bodily injuries. This crash remains under investigation, and no further information is available.

City Council

The Big Spring City Council will meet for a regular meeting today at 5:30 Pm at the Council Chambers, located at 304 E 4th St in Big Spring. Items on the agenda include a presentation regarding vector fleet management annual review. The city manager's report will cover large item pickup in district 3 on 3/20, an update on sanitation trucks, and an ESD presentation with county and city on March 21st. Several bids will also be awarded tonight, including bids to purchase the following items: a manlift for the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark, a zero turn mower for the Cemetary Department, and an ambulance. A bid for the demolition of the Dora Roberts Community Center, and a bid for resurfacing the Splash Pad at the Russ McEwen Family Aquatic Center will also be awarded tonight, as well.

03/13/24

Vasquez, Bishop power their way to state berth

BROWNFIELD — Coahoma powerlifters Tres Vasquez and Brandyn Bishop secured a state berth at the Region I meet held in Brownfield on Saturday.

Vasquez placed third in the 132 weight division with a three-lift total of 1,100 pounds of iron. He posted a squat of 430, a bench press of 255, and a deadlift of 415. In the 123 division, Bishop recorded 360 on squat, 225 on bench press, and 365 on deadlift for a total of 950 pounds to finish fourth. Both Bulldog powerlifters met the qualifying weight total to move on to the state competition set for Abilene on Friday, March 22.

After running in a track meet on Thursday and playing in the varsity Bulldog game on Friday, Bryce Davis found enough energy to secure fifth place in his weight class with a three-lift total of 900. Aiden Bryand finished his season by setting two personal records. He completed the meet by lifting a combined total of 1,070 pounds of iron.

For more on this story, check out the post on our KBest Media Facebook page.

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION WEST TEXAS CHAPTER HOSTS COMMUNITY FORUM: ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE, DEMENTIA AND MEMORY LOSS

MIDLAND, TX, (March 7, 2024) – Alzheimer's is not a part of normal aging. Midland residents are invited to take part in an Alzheimer's Association Community Forum on the impact of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Join us at the Village at Manor Park on Thursday, March 28 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to learn more about Alzheimer's, dementia and memory loss.

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The forum provides an opportunity for residents of all ages to come together to ask questions about the disease, share their personal experiences, learn about available resources and discover volunteer opportunities to support families affected by the disease. Bring a friend or family member, and share your thoughts about how the Alzheimer's Association can help more people in our community.

Recently released county-level prevalence data reports that Midland County has a 12.4%% prevalence of Alzheimer's in individuals 65 and older. This is somewhat higher than the state average of 11.9%, emphasizing the importance of education programs on Alzheimer's and dementia to Midland County residents.

"Alzheimer's disease is a growing concern in our community," said Maria Llamas, Program Director with the Alzheimer's Association, West Texas chapter. "We invite families to join us so we can better understand your needs and address support for the Midland area community."

This is a free event and is open to all. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP before March 26 by emailing or texting Maria Llamas, Director of Programs & Services at mgllamas@alz.org or 915.257.0246.

About the Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association leads the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia – by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia. Visit alz.org or call the 24/7 Helpline at 800.272.3900.

As one of 75 chapters of the Alzheimer's Association, the West Chapter provides information, education and support to people with Alzheimer's and other dementias, their families and caregivers. (<https://www.alz.org/westtexas>)

The State National Bank of Big Spring Hosts Open House March 8

Last week, the State National Bank at 901 Main in Big Spring celebrated 115 years of being open and 100 years as a national bank with an open house and ribbon cutting with the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

Justin Myers, President of State National Bank, said that the event went well and they were happy to celebrate with their customers and the community. When asked what he wanted the public to know about State National Bank, Myers had this to say (audio - you know even from the very beginning the bank management and our board Directors have kind of had one mission and ultimately that is to first and foremost, keep our customers' hard earned deposits safe and secure. That's always been kind of priority number one. Earnings and making money is important but it really sets behind keeping our customers money safe and secure.

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Myers went on to say that their staff has been an important part in helping them to serve their customers. He stated that it's the front line staff like tellers and bookkeeping that have the most interaction with customers. For more information state national Bank, you can visit their website: StateNational.bank

Construction continues on Roscoe Interchange with closures on US 84 and I-20

March 12, 2024

Nolan County - Beginning Wednesday, Mar 13, all lanes of eastbound US 84, just east of Roscoe, and the left lane of I-20 at Roscoe, will be closed for construction of the Roscoe interchange of US 84 and I-20.

TxDOT's contractor will be working to move a barrier to continue construction, resulting in this daytime only closure on Wednesday-Friday, Mar. 13-15. Lanes of US 84 and I-20 will reopen on Friday evening, March 15.

During this construction, the EB I-20 travel lanes will be reduced to one lane with a left lane closure from mm 236 to mm 237.

US 84 EB main lanes will be closed just east of Roscoe, where motorists will follow a marked detour to exit 236 to WB I-20, then to FM 608 where they will travel under the bridge to the south I-20 frontage road, then travel 2.5 miles to entrance ramp 239; where motorists will rejoin eastbound I-20/US 84.

After work is completed, both US 84 and I-20 eastbound will be reopened.

Motorists are asked to use caution, obey warning/speed limit signs, and avoid distractions, when driving in this area.

New Chamber Member brings Laughs to Big Spring!

Congratulations to WAJC Productions on becoming a member of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce!

WAJC Productions, better known as WHAT A JOKE Comedy, is owned by local comedians Adrienne Green and Matt "Matty Cupcakes" Weatherford. Their mission is to produce shows that offer a memorable experience with professional comedic talent at budget-friendly ticket prices.

"[Bringing this type of comedic entertainment to Big Spring] is something that I've been working toward for a while now and I found the perfect partner with Matt to team up and make it happen," said Green.

Weatherford told KBest News that it was important for them to become a Chamber member because their business is community-minded.

"We love Big Spring. We live here and will continue to bring great shows to our community. Plus, we're ready to be involved any way we can," he said.

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WAJC Productions also includes their podcast The Green Bean Podcast with Adrienne and Friends, which celebrates stories of professional and personal growth and reveals the struggles and rewards that come with that.

Currently, WAJC Productions is focusing on their Spring Series of comedy shows that will all be held at J Jayz Bar & Grill, 113 S Main, on the back patio. Their next one is on Thursday, March 21st, at 8 PM with Keisha Hunt from Houston, TX. Tickets are available in person at J Jayz Bar & Grill or online at Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wajc-spring-series-keisha-hunt-tickets-825132773337>

You can find more information about their upcoming shows here:

WAJC Spring Series: Keisha Hunt - 3/21

WAJC Spring Series: Michael Pasvar - 4/18

WAJC Spring Series: Sonia Trevino - 5/02

03/14/24

Father and Son duo help to haul approximately 10 tons of feed and water to Canadian to provide assistance to those impacted by the Panhandle Fires

Coahoma High School graduate Garrett Richardson, currently of San Angelo, TX, along with his team at Tractor Supply - Ballinger, were moved to provide relief to those impacted by the devastation. He organized a plan to take a variety of feed and water to the area impacted by the panhandle fires. Tractor Supply helped to facilitate the donations by allowing people to buy the hay at reduced cost, but it was the store team in Ballinger that was passionate to help out.

According to Garrett's father Mark Richardson of Big Spring, there have been a couple instances when a fire had come close to their property, so they understood that there would probably be people who were concerned about their livestock.

Early on Wednesday, March 6th, volunteers hauled approximately 10 tons of supplies on four trucks and trailers loaded to the extreme to a location in Canadian that was well organized to receive donations.

Here Mark tells us more about the experience (audio - We flew Texas flags on our trailers with the hay. All along the way, people realized what we were doing. They would pull past us and they would honk and wave. We even got to the tiny little town of Hamlin and the sheriff deputy there recognized what was going on. We got a police escort through town.)

Mark told KBest News that people along the way were so excited to see them, they offered to pay for their meals. A lady offered to pay for all of their gas, but when they declined the offer, she gave money to pay for a pallet of feed. *Here, he tells us more (audio - "so that's the kind of response we got the whole trip and the closer we got the more we started to see people waving and there were signs of said thank you for your support, but we didn't know it until we crested one big hill before we got to Canadian and then that's when we saw just the devastation the burnt areas just went for miles and miles and miles," said Mark.)*

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After arriving in Canadian, there were volunteers who helped unload the feed and a special delivery of Girl Scout cookies donated by Mark's niece Alexandria Papachristos.

When asked how he felt to know that his son and niece were moved to do something that would make a difference for someone, Mark had this to say (audio - two I have fantastic kids, but to watch what my son did on his own it blew me away, and I got choked up so many times just driving down the road wishing he was sitting in the seat next to me, but he was pulling his own truck and trailer and realizing that he gets the understand that taking care of people is the greatest person can have so the fact that he went to his company arranged for them to make these special things, but then went out and found people to drive and Hall and load all that in in to do it for people that will never see again that we never seen before we never met it just tells me that in this particular situation, my son completely understands that we all need to step up when we have the opportunity to be able to step up to help others.)

CASA of West Texas to host Lunch & Learn on 03/20/24

BIG SPRING, TX – CASA of West Texas will hold a Lunch and Learn session in Big Spring on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, from 12 to 1 pm at their office located at 1811 Scurry St. Here, the public is welcome to learn more about the organization and about the court-appointed special advocates.

The mission of CASA is to recruit, train and support committed volunteers appointed by judges to advocate in court and in the community for the best interest of children in the child welfare system.

CASA of West Texas supports volunteers who advocate for child abuse victims in Midland, Howard, Dawson, Gaines, Andrews, Martin and Glasscock Counties. When severe child abuse and neglect occurs in a home, foster care may be the only option to keep a child safe. When a child enters foster care, a judge will appoint a CASA Volunteer to advocate for that child's best interest in court and in the community.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer can attend the meeting. For more information On Casa of West Texas, visit their website at www.casawtx.org.

Community Services Office Closing Early on Friday

The Big Spring Visitor's Center and Community Services office located at 115 East Third Street will close at 4 p.m. on Friday, March 15, 2024, for quarterly pesticide application. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Guided Hike today at 1 PM

A guided hike will be offered today at 1 PM at the Big Spring State Park. Join the hike on the nature trail and explore the area with a visiting ranger by meeting at the Headquarters building at 1 PM today. The hike will be about 1 mile round-trip. Again, the hike will be on the Nature Trail, which includes sloped, gravelly walking surfaces with some stair step-like portions.

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Hikers are encouraged to dress for the weather and wear clothes and shoes that are comfortable for walking. Bring your own water bottles and sun protection (e.g. hats, sunglasses, sunscreen). Bringing your own snacks, binoculars, and/or camera are recommended, but not required.

This is a free event and in the event of rainy/severe weather, be advised that this hike may be cancelled.

Area News: Midland Police Shoot Subject trying to flee the scene

At 1:06 a.m. Wednesday, March 13, Midland Police Department officers conducted a traffic stop in southwest Midland that resulted in an officer-involved shooting.

Midland Police reported that two officers conducted a traffic stop in the 3600 block of Bankhead Highway. During the stop, the driver started to flee. An officer fired shots, and the driver suffered a single gunshot wound.

The driver was taken to Midland Memorial Hospital and is being treated.

The Texas Rangers are investigating the incident. The officer involved was placed on administrative leave in accordance with MPD policy.

<https://www.cbs7.com/2024/03/13/midland-police-shoot-subject-trying-flee-scene-reports-that-subject-had-gun-turn-out-be-false/>

03/19/24

CASA of West Texas to host Lunch & Learn on 03/20/24

BIG SPRING, TX – Tomorrow, the public is invited to a Lunch and Learn to learn more about the organization CASA of West Texas. CASA stands for court-appointed special advocates. It'll be held from 12 to 1 pm at their office located at 1811 Scurry St.

The mission of CASA is to recruit, train and support committed volunteers appointed by judges to advocate in court and in the community for the best interest of children in the child welfare system.

CASA of West Texas supports volunteers who advocate for child abuse victims in 7 counties including Howard and surrounding counties.

Ariel Sanchez, Volunteer Recruiter and Marketing Specialist for CASA of West Texas, advised that the organization will begin volunteer training on April 2nd. It's a 39 hour training that is spread out over 6-7 weeks and they usually take place in the evenings and you'll be trained on how to effectively advocate for children who are in the foster care system in our seven-county service area.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer is encouraged to attend tomorrow's Lunch and Learn for more information. Plus, for more information on CASA of West Texas you can visit their website at www.casawtx.org.

Hit and Run Arrest

Last week an arrest was made in a hit and run incident that occurred in February.

The incident occurred on Feb. 13, 2024 at approximately 6:13 PM. A 48-year-old white male was pushing his motorcycle westbound in the 3300 block of E. I-20 south service road when he was struck by an 18-wheeler truck pulling a sand trailer. The driver of the truck failed to stop and render aid. The victim of the incident was airlifted to UMC Lubbock due to the injuries sustained.

The Big Spring Police Department Criminal Investigations Division has been investigating this Felony Hit and Run for the past month. Since this time several subpoenas were served as well as a search warrant executed at Resilient Oil Field Services in Midland Texas, with the assistance of Midland County Sheriff's Department. As a result of the investigative efforts, an Arrest Warrant was obtained for Akmal Ilyas, Male 72 years of age, for the offense of Accident Involving Serious Bodily Injury and for his failure to stop and render aid, a Felony 3 offense. On March 14, 2024, Mr Ilyas was arrested by the Midland Police Department for this felony warrant. Mr Ilyas has been booked into the Midland County Jail and is awaiting arraignment. As of today, the 48-year-old victim is still in the hospital at UMC Lubbock in stable condition. This continues to be an ongoing investigation and no further information is available at this time.

NEWS RELEASE:

FROM: BIG SPRING SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION

DATE: MARCH 18, 2024

The Big Spring Symphony Orchestra still needs VOCALISTS. Beginning today, rehearsals will begin for the Final Season Concert entitled, “**Beethoven, Brahms and Borodin**” with Guest Conductor, Dr. Robert Hunt. Again, CHORUS REHEARSALS begin today from 7 - 9 pm for vocalists that are High School Age and up. The LOCATION for tonight’s rehearsal will be at HOWARD COLLEGE MUSIC BUILDING located at 1001 Birdwell Lane. Be advised, this is only for tonight. After that, the rehearsals will be at the STANTON HIGH SCHOOL BAND HALL from 7-9 PM every Tuesday. No need to inquire, just show up ready to sing.

The last concert of the season will be held on April 27th at 7:30 PM at the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium. The orchestra will be joined by a large Permian Basin Chorus made up of vocalists from Howard County and members of the West Texas Symphony Chorale under the direction of Dr. Juan Hernandez to perform Brahms “**Schicksalslied**” and Aleksandr Borodin’s “**Polovetsian Dances**” from Prince Igor.

In addition to the chorus, selections will include what is probably the best known Symphony of all time – Ludwig van **Beethoven’s “Fifth Symphony,”** featuring the most famous 4 note theme of all time! The orchestra will also perform some of Johannes **Brahms “Hungarian Dances.”** Whether you are a live music fan or you would like to join in and sing with the chorus, this is the concert for you. Tickets are on sale now at bigspringsymphony.org and will be at our local outlets soon - HEB, Heritage Museum and Karat Patch. Follow our Big Spring Symphony Facebook page for ongoing details or call 432–270–2125.

Softball Schedule

Coahoma v. Ballinger at 5 PM, 5-0 in district, 15-0 in the season.

Coahoma Bulldogs are currently 1-2 in district, 4-8-2 for the season. Next game is Apr 2, 2024 at Merkel.

Forsan @ New Home at 5 PM. District opener, currently 8-5-1.

Forsan Buffs will have their district opener for the season on Friday, March 22nd against the Colorado Wolves.

Big Spring @ Snyder at 5 PM. District opener, currently 6-8.

The Steers will open district play on April 2nd in Estacado.

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CASA of West Texas

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The mission of CASA is to recruit, train and support committed volunteers appointed by judges to advocate in court and in the community for the best interest of children in the child welfare system.

CASA of West Texas supports volunteers who advocate for child abuse victims in 7 counties including Howard and surrounding counties.

Ariel Sanchez, Volunteer Recruiter and Marketing Specialist for CASA of West Texas, advised that the organization will begin volunteer training on April 2nd. It's a 39 hour training that is spread out over 6-7 weeks and they usually take place in the evenings and you'll be trained on how to effectively advocate for children who are in the foster care system in our seven-county service area.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer is encouraged to attend tomorrow's Lunch and Learn for more information. Plus, for more information on CASA of West Texas you can visit their website at www.casawtx.org.

Coahoma's Kerby, Vasquez have solid finish at state powerlifting meet

FRISCO, Texas — Coahoma's Nevaeh Kerby and Mikaela Vasquez capped off their season with a solid finish at the 3A DII 2024 powerlifting state finals held on Thursday, March 14, at the Comerica Center.

A seasoned three-time state qualifier, Kerby finished in sixth place with 560 pounds of iron lifted in the 97-pound weight class. She recorded a squat of 230, a bench press of 115, and a deadlift of 215. Vasquez had a three-lift total of 740 in the 165-pound weight class. The CHS junior finished in 11th place in her first state meet. She had a squat and a deadlift of 300, and a bench press of 140.

Kerby and Vasquez qualified for the state championship by placing second in their respective weight class at the 3-A Region I, Div II meet held on March 2, in Colorado City. The Bulldogette powerlifting team, which was led by coaches Coley Dobbs and Daniel Luna, had an impressive 2024 season considering the team consisted of predominantly underclassmen.

BSISD Board of Trustee Meeting, 03/21/24

A regular meeting of the Big Spring ISD Board of Trustees will be held March 21, 2024, beginning at 5:15 PM in the High School Board Room, 707 E. 11th Place, Big Spring, TX 79720.

During the meeting, a public hearing regarding the 2022-2023 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR). Action items in this meeting will include possible approval for Instructional Materials Allotment and TEKS Certification 2024-2025, a resolution concerning the use of chaplains, and a contract with Varitec for emergency work and maintenance to the cooling systems at district campuses. Board members will also consider the certification of unopposed candidates in the Big Spring ISD General Election.

Softball Schedule

Coahoma v. Ballinger

Coahoma won 15-0 over Ballinger last night. They are now 6-0 in district. Their next game is Friday, at Ballinger at 5 PM.

Coahoma Bulldogs are currently 1-2 in district, 4-8-2 for the season. Next game is Apr 2, 2024 at Merkel.

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Forsan @ New Home

Forsan defeated New Home with a final score of 19-0. They are now 1-0 in district. Their next game is Saturday, March 23rd at 11 AM at home against Post. Forsan Buffs will have their district opener for the season on Friday, March 22nd against the Colorado Wolves.

Big Spring @ Snyder

Big Spring lost 3-13 to Snyder. They are now 0-1 in district. Their next game is Friday, March 22nd, at 5 PM at home. The Steers will open district play on April 2nd in Estacado.

Letter of Intent signings

Multiple Big Spring High School student-athletes will sign their letter of intent to continue their education after graduation. Amaiya Hernandez will be signing to University of Texas - Permian Basin for Dance. Kaviem Ford will be signing to Midwestern State University for Football, and Cloe Viasana will continue her softball career with Midwestern State University. Congratulations to them!

Those signings will be held at the Big Spring ATC at 3 PM today. You can catch a live stream of those signings on our KBest Media Facebook page.

HOOPS, DREAMS AND GOALS KICKS OFF 20TH YEAR

BIG SPRING - The beat of the Forsan and Big Spring Drumlines will usher hundreds of participants to kick off the 20th Annual Hoops, Dreams and Goals Basketball Tournament on Thursday March 28th at Howard College.

The event - in its 20th year - celebrates individuals living with intellectual and developmental disabilities and gives them a special day to participate in their own version of March Madness, said the event's creator, West Texas Centers CEO Shelley Smith, LMSW.

Since 2004, clients, consumers and family members have participated in Hoops, Dreams and Goals every year except during COVID four years ago.

"We all love the enthusiasm of March Madness, and we wanted to celebrate it in our own special way," Smith said of the infancy of Hoops, Dreams and Goals.

"We haven't deviated from what we conceptualized that first year, which included lots of upbeat music, food, and a great deal of enthusiasm. But over the years, we have evolved and fine-tuned some things. But our mission remains the same. Every participant whether he or she is a cheerleader, a coach, a manager, a dance team member or a player - they are all to be celebrated and they are all to be recognized for their efforts."

Festivities kick off at 8:30 a.m. as the Big Spring and Forsan drumlines lead participants down the ramp of Big Spring's Howard College's Dorothy Garrett Coliseum onto the floor of the basketball court. The first game will tip off at 9 a.m. and action will continue throughout the day until 4 p.m.

Big Spring Mayor Robert Moore and Howard County Judge Randy Johnson will formally welcome guests, which include the Student Council members from Big Spring and Forsan ISDs. The cheerleading squad from Big Spring also will lend a hand in the days activities.

Participants from West Texas Centers 23-county service area are invited to participate in the basketball tournament, where all participants receive a medal. Awards are given out, including the Spirit Stick which is given to the team who displays good sportsmanship and displays the most enthusiasm.

Teams participating in bracket play will be the Abilene Chili Peppers, Ballinger Longhorns, Big Spring Heat, Midland Panthers. Monahans Pecos Warriors, Odessa Tigers, San Angelo Bobcats, Seminole Pink Panthers, Snyder Wildcats and the Sweetwater Red Rattlers.

Team members will be accompanied by coaches, cheerleaders, pep squads and friends and family, totaling more than 1,000 people, Smith said.

"I say this every year, but it is by far the best day of the year for me. I cannot stop smiling, and we know that if anyone came just one time, they would come back every year. It's just infectious."

The event is sponsored by SM Energy; Hexad Oil; Prescription Services Inc.; Delek; Big Spring Radio, The Arc of Howard County; KBST Radio Stations; Scenic Mountain Medical Center (A Steward Family Hospital); Gallagher Benefit Services Inc.; Atmos Energy; Howard College; PermianCare; Betty Hardwick Center; MHMR Services for the Concho Valley; West Texas Centers; in loving memory of Melissa Wynn; and in loving memory of Gary Davis.

West Texas Centers is the local mental health authority serving people with behavioral health and intellectual developmental disabilities in 23 rural West Texas counties.

Texas A&M AgriLife extension service better living for Texans is partnering with Howard County Library to offer a new program for children color me healthy it started earlier this month on March 7 and on Thursdays from 4:30 to 5:30 PM at the Howard County Library. It started earlier this month at the Howard County Library color me healthy is a nine session program happening weekly.

Bum bum

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Color me healthy is a nine session program happening weekly on Thursday afternoons now through May 9. It was available to reach children ages four and five with fun interactive learning opportunities on physical activity and healthy eating while the target ages 45-year-olds all children are welcome to attend. This program is free and open to All. There's no need to register for the program, let me healthy is designed to simulate all the senses of young children touch smell sound, and of course taste using color, music and exploration of the senses, color me healthy teachers children that healthy food and physical activity are fun the program will

The program will be presented by Casey McPherson from Texas A&M Agri life extension service better living for Texans. The material use for this program was funded by the USDA supplemental nutrition assistance program also known as snap.

WAJC show

Tomorrow night, WHAT A JOKE Comedy will present the first of 3 comedy shows at J Jayz Bar & Grill in downtown Big Spring. This is part of their WAJC Spring Series, which brings headlining comedians from around Texas to Big Spring for a night of laughs at budget-friendly prices. Tomorrow's headliner will be Keisha Hunt from Houston, Texas. It will also feature B. Medlock of Midland, and Matty Cupcakes of Big Spring. Tickets in advance are just \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. For more information, visit our KBest Media Facebook page.

03/21/24

Thank You for Your Investment - United Way of Big Spring and Howard County

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce held a Thank You for Your Investment presentation for the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County to thank them for all that they do for the community. The United Way raises money for their partnering agencies that serve the residents of Howard County. Here, Executive Director Christian Fair tells us more (audio -

Director Christian Fair tells us more this is one of the most important agencies I think around and so many people don't understand what we do but we want to help fund agencies so that we can take some of the load off of them so they can do the work that they have to do for our community.)

The local United Way recently surpassed their fundraising goal of \$250,000 for their 2024 campaign. Ultimately they raised over \$266,000 and distributed \$172,179 to local partner agencies that offer health and human services.

When asked how she felt about the presentation and about being a chamber member, Executive Director Christian Fair said the United Way is always proud to represent the Chamber and support each other.

She went on to say that the community can help in multiple way to help their local United Way, like by doing a workplace campaign, sponsoring an upcoming event, attending events, or just providing an individual contribution.

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The next event for the United Way will be in August for the Rock-n-Roll Golf Tournament & Concert.

United Way of Big Spring and Howard County - annual meeting

Yesterday, the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County held their annual meeting at Hotel Settles. During the meeting, Executive Director Christian Fair introduced the Executive Board of Directors, board members, and thanked those who participated on this year's Allocations Committee.

With pledges, donations, and fundraising events the United Way was able to surpass their goal of \$250,000. The total amount from the 2024 campaign raised was \$266,137. After allowing for shrinkage and the operating budget, the organization was able to distribute \$172,179 to their partnering agencies. These are health and human service organizations that serve the residents in Howard County. Victim Services received \$16,992, the largest portion of the distribution.

NuStar Energy was awarded with the United Way's Leadership Award. Fair advised that their employee pledges were over \$100,000 and they continuously volunteer throughout the year. The United Way Volunteer of the Year was Kelsie Jones for her work on the Executive Board and her fundraising efforts. Congratulations to them!

Allocations Paid for 2024

Buffalo Trail Council, Boy Scouts - \$6,203
CASA of West Texas - \$12,445
DAV Ch. 47 - \$10,490
Don't Litter Affordable Spay & Neuter Clinic - \$9,469
Emergency Services Chaplains Corp - \$13,246
Head Start Readiness Academy - \$11,980
Howard County Children's Advocacy Center - \$11,638
Journey Home Refuge Center - \$11,500
Salvation Army - \$12,667
Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club - \$13,317
Scenic Mountain Medical Center Volunteers - \$8,746
Victim Services - \$16,992
West Side Community Day Care Center - \$13,672
West Texas Community Mediation Center - \$10,607
YMCA of Big Spring - \$12,877

Letter of Intent signings

Three Big Spring High School student-athletes signed letters of intent to continue their education after graduation. All three were happy to be surrounded by family, friends, and supporters during this big moment in their lives.

Amaiya Hernandez will be signing to University of Texas - Permian Basin for Dance. She is the first from Big Spring High School to sign for collegiate Dance. Hernandez told KBest News she plans to study Business because she wants to be an esthetician and run her own business.

Kavien Ford will be signing to Midwestern State University for Football. He plans to study Business Management while at MSU. Here, he tells us more (audio - I cut hair...)

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Here he tells us I cut hair as well, so I want to get my barber license and eventually open up my barbershop will continue in Midwestern University

Cloe Viasana will continue her softball career with Midwestern State University where she plans to study nursing.

. Congratulations to them!

Sports - Track / Powerlifting results

Big Spring Lady Steer Powerlifters had six girls compete in the 4A Large Championships. Three placed as State Medalists. Those placing in their respective weight classes were Quasett Woodruff who earned 2nd, Violet Calderon who earned 4th, and Rebecca Rodriguez who earned 5th.

The Lady Steers Track team competed in the Big Spring Invitational track meet that was held on Thursday, 3/7. The Varsity team placed 1st overall.

Dorcas Jones – 1st place in 400 M dash

Bergan Pinkley – 2nd place in 400 M dash, 1st place in 800 M run

Luna Jimenez – 3rd place in 400 M dash, 2nd place in 800 M run

Aracelee Alvarado – 5th place in 800 M run

Kandance Gonzales – 1st place in 1600 M run, 2nd place in 3200 M run

Alexa Mehan – 1st place in 100 M Hurdles, 1st place in 300 M Hurdles, 2nd place in Long Jump

Karisma Cepeda – 4th place in 100 M Hurdles, 3rd place in 300 M Hurdles

Kenna Taylor – 6th place in 300 M Hurdles, 5th place in Triple Jump

Violet Calderon – 3rd place in Shot Put

4x100 M Relay (Kyleena Hughes, Emily Carreon, Izabell Hilario, Kenna Taylor) – 3rd place

4x400 M Relay (Dorcas Jones, Aly De La Cruz, Luna Jimenez, Bergan Pinkley) – 1st place

03/22/24

Softball Schedule

Coahoma Bulldogettes are currently 6-0 in district. They'll travel to Ballinger for their game tonight at 5 PM.

Coahoma Bulldogs will have their next game is Apr 2, 2024 at Merkel.

Forsan @ New Home

Today at 6:30 PM the Forsan Buffs will travel to Colorado City for their first district game of the season against the Wolves.

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Tomorrow, Forsan Lady Buffs will have a home game at 11 AM against Post. They are currently 1-0 in district.

Big Spring @ Snyder

Big Spring Lady Steers will play Lakeview at home today at 5 PM. They are currently 0-1 in district. Listen to a live broadcast of this game on The Mighty 1490 AM and FM 103.9. The Steers will open district play on April 2nd in Estacado.

The Steers will have their first district game of the season on Tuesday, March 26th, in Sweetwater.

Tate's Place Fundraiser

BIG SPRING, TX — Country music artist Sawyer Brown will perform in Big Spring next month to help raise money for the local nonprofit organization Tate's Place.

On April 18, 2024, Tate's Place will host its 3rd Annual Western Night "The Race in On", sponsored by Blue Energy. This is an event that includes dinner, dancing, live music, and a live auction to raise money to help the organization with operating costs.

Tate's Place, a 501 c3 non-profit organization based in Howard County. The mission of Tate's Place is to provide essentials to those in need. Their mission statement is vague because essentials look different for each person, each situation. Their goal is to close the gaps and provide essentials to those in need.

Local musicians The Band Big Spring will open for Sawyer Brown. Tickets are still available and on sale now for \$100. They can be purchased online at tatesplace.com.

Boys Track results

Big Spring Steers Track team competed in the Big Spring Invitational. Between the JV and Varsity team, the Steers earned 13 gold medals, 13 silver medals, and 6 bronze medals.

03/25/24

Atkins Realty ribbon cutting

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting ceremony for Atkins Realty to celebrate their new office, located at 104 W. 3rd St. in Big Spring!

Brooke Atkins, Owner and Broker for Atkins Realty, said she loved the ribbon cutting and that it was a very emotional moment. According to Atkins, staff worked from home while the office was under construction.

When asked what she wanted the public to know about them, she had this to say (audio).

About them, she had to say I have some of the most amazing agents working for me. They are the most caring and considerate

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. We've really built something special for Big Spring and I am just excited to share the public business news that Big Spring is her hometown and she's excited to serve the community here, and she tells us more I'm very excited if Big Spring is my hometown, and being a part of a small renovation, and making our little town a little bit prettier, and being a part of it is just very special to me.
information

Atkins told KBest News that Big Spring is her hometown and she's excited to serve the community. Here she tells us more (audio).

For more information on Atkins Realty, visit their website at www.atkinsrealtytx.com, or pop in for a visit with them.

Softball and Baseball

COAHOMA

The Coahoma Bulldogettes won 23-2 over Ballinger. Tomorrow they'll play a home game against Jim Ned at 5 PM. The Bulldogs will have their baseball game today at 7 PM against Jim Ned at home.

FORSAN

Forsan Lady Buffs won 13-3 over Post. Tomorrow, they'll play at Colorado City against the Lady Wolves at 5 PM. The Buffs will have a non-district game against Midland Trinity at 6 PM.

BIG SPRING

Big Spring Lady Steers won over Lakeview on Friday with a final score of 27-0. Their next game will be tomorrow at Sweetwater at 5 PM. Also tomorrow, the Steers Baseball team will also take on Sweetwater. That game begins at 7 pm. Listen to a live broadcast of these games on The Mighty 1490 AM and FM 103.9.

Prom closet

Since 2013 the Prom Closet has been assisting high school students to prepare for prom with beautiful dresses, jewelry, shoes, and accessories - all for free. Originally the Prom Closet was an idea organized by Christian Fair, Executive Director for the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County, and found a home at Ryan Hall thanks to the organization North Side Movement.

It is now managed by Eddilisa Ray. When asked why it was important for the North Side Movement to ensure that the Prom Closet was made available to the community, Ray had this to say (audio - bc I know how important it is to have that moment...)

Available to the community for essay special one special occasion can make you feel so good and have a special memories and I've always been fashion and I'm just so happy to help with that. The nations are always taken with monetary dresses or jewelry anyone wanting to check.

Donations are always taken, whether it's monetary, dresses, or jewelry. Anyone wanting to check out the prom closet can call for an appointment by calling Eddilisa at 432-213-5461.

West Texas VA to hold virtual town hall to discuss expanded Veteran eligibility under the PACT Act

Who: Veterans, care givers, families, and stakeholders

What: Veteran PACT Act Virtual Town Hall

Where: Dial in 833-305-1700

When: March 28, 2024 — 4:00-5:00 PM Central

BACKGROUND:

Leadership of the West Texas VA health care system will continue the organization's conversation about VA health care and expanded benefits eligibility provided by recent changes to the PACT Act.

Key topics to be discussed will include:

- What is the PACT Act?
- Who is eligible for care under the PACT Act?
- What is a toxic exposure risk activity?
- How do I apply for VA health care?
- Why should I apply for VA health care?
- What is the toxic exposure screening?
- What are presumptive conditions under the PACT Act?
- How do I file a claim for benefits?
- Where can I find more information?

Veterans can apply for VA health care through any of the following:

1. Online: <https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction>.
2. By calling the toll-free hotline: 877-222-8387

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3. By mailing VA Form 10-10EZ to:

Health Eligibility Center
[2957 Clairmont Rd., Suite 200](#)
[Atlanta, GA 30329](#)

4. In person at the nearest VA medical center or clinic

Veterans and family members, who are not able to attend may always provide feedback via email to WTVAPublicAffairs@va.gov.

City Offices Closing for Good Friday

All City of Big Spring offices will be closed on Friday, March 29, 2024, for Good Friday. Emergency services (Police, Fire, and EMS) will continue normal operations. The Emergency Utility Department will also be available and can be reached by calling 432-264-2392.

There will be no sanitation pickup on Friday, March 29th. End of the week sanitation pickup will shift one day ahead. Thursday's normal sanitation routes will be picked up on Wednesday, March 27th. Friday's normal sanitation routes will be picked up on Thursday, March 28th.

The City Landfill will also be closed on Friday, March 29th. The landfill will be open on Saturday, March 30th, for normal business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

03/26/24

Cub-O-Ree

On Saturday March 23, the Buffalo Trail Council, Boy Scouts of America held their annual Spring Cub-O-Ree at the Horseshoe arena in Midland. This year's theme was "Find A Clue".

Cub Scouts from Kindergarten through 5 th grade had to search around the event for clues to who stole the marshmallows. Each station had a clue to the mystery. Suspects included popular Cub Scout Leaders from around the Council. According to Jim Wyche the Program Director for the Buffalo Trail Council, Cub Scouts went from station to station learning a variety of skills.

Wyche

stated that events this year included Archery, BB Gun shooting, Horseback riding, Tent setup, Crafts, and Hiking. Mr. Wyche stated, that they had over 100 people in attendance from around West Texas that included Big Spring, Colorado City, Andrews, Snyder, Midland, and Odessa.

Please reach out to Buffalo Trail Council at 432-570-7601 if you would like to join the fun with the Scouts.

Softball and Baseball
COAHOMA

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The Coahoma Bulldogettes will play a home game against Jim Ned at 5 PM. The Bulldogs will play at 7 PM against Jim Ned at home.

FORSAN

Forsan Lady Buffs will play at Colorado City tonight against the Lady Wolves at 5 PM. The Buffs will have a non-district game against Midland Trinity at 6 PM at home.

BIG SPRING

Big Spring Lady Steers will travel to Sweetwater for their game against the Lady Mustangs at 5 PM. Also tomorrow, the Steers Baseball team will also take on Sweetwater. That game begins at 7 pm. Listen to a live broadcast of these games on The Mighty 1490 AM and FM 103.9.

NazFamily Easter Journey

NazFamily Church will host the Easter Journey on Saturday, March 30. This will be held at 1400 Lancaster St. in Big Spring from 12 to 4 PM. Families can hunt for clues leading to the resurrection of Jesus. Here, Pastor [Allen Dunlap](#) at First Nazarene Church, tells us more (audio

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“It’s something for families to come out to. Little kids [and] everybody can walk through. It’s a bit of a scavenger hunt, I guess, but your piecing together the Easter story. The church has been doing some Easter egg hunts and things over the years, and they had the idea last year and we fell in love with it. I know the church seemed to really like it too, so we’re trying that again this year. It’s a great way for you to just experience the real meaning of Easter and that kind of see it firsthand yourself as you’re walking through it, but, of course, we got all the fun stuff out there too,” said Pastor Dunlap.

He went on to say that the event will have a bounce house for the kids, Easter eggs, food, and drinks. For more information visit [Nazfamily.org](#).

United Way accepting agency applications now

The United Way of Big Spring and Howard County is currently accepting applications to become a United Way Partner Agency for 2025.

To be eligible to apply, the agency must be a 501(c)3 health and human services organization, be governed by a board of directors, and must provide services to all of Howard County.

Even if your organization has not been chosen in the past you are still encouraged to apply. Applications must be submitted by April 22nd to be considered. 2025 Agencies will be announced on May 20, 2024.

Applications are available at the United Way office located at 215 W. 3- St. in Big Spring, or you can request an application via email at uway@bigspringtx.com. For more information, you can also call 432-816-3573.

03/27/24

Governor Abbott Reappoints Three To Texas Medical Board District Three Review Committee

AUSTIN – Governor Greg Abbott has reappointed Gabrielle Rich, D.O., of Big Spring to the Texas Medical Board District 3 for a term set to expire on Jan. 15, 2030.

Gabrielle Rich, D.O., of Big Spring is an obstetrician and gynecologist with

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Covenant Children’s Hospital and Scenic Mountain Medical Center. She is a member of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists. Rich received a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience from Tulane University and a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from Kansas City University.

Also appointed to the Texas Medical Board District Three were Ogechika “Oge” Alozie, M.D., and Taylor Gillig. Their terms are also set to expire on January 15, 2030.

For more on this story, visit our KBest Media Facebook page.

BSHS Talon Cavazos competes at State Powerlifting Competition

Congratulations to Talon Cavazos who recently represented Big Spring High School at the state powerlifting competition and achieved remarkable success. He demonstrated extraordinary strength and determination, and ultimately placed 15th out of 22 boys in the 123s Class.

He ended his Senior Powerlifting Year with a grand total of 955 pounds lifted at the State competition.

Softball and Baseball COAHOMA

The Bulldogettes defeated Jim Ned 12-3 in an exciting 7-inning game tonight to stay perfect on the season. Hannah Wells and Bree Lewis collected a home run each. The Bulldogs lost to the Indians, 7-0. Next: Coahoma heads to Tuscola on Thursday to finish the series.

FORSAN

Forsan Lady Buffs won 11-6 over Colorado City. The Buffs will have a non-district game against Midland Trinity at 6 PM at home.

BIG SPRING

Big Spring Lady Steers lost to Sweetwater with a final score of 3-13. The Steers won their district opener of the season, with a final score of 14-3 over the Mustangs.

Marcy Elementary students to test Homemade Egg Parachutes from 5-6:30 PM

BIG SPRING, TX -- Marcy Elementary students were recently assigned a science project to make a homemade egg parachute. Yesterday, the completed projects were tested with help from the Big Spring Fire Department.

BSFD brought their ladder truck to Marcy Elementary and dropped eggs from the top of the ladder that was raised 7 stories high. If the egg parachute was successful, the egg did not break. The students with safe eggs at the end of the test were entered into a raffle for a chance to win a prize. After several students were entered into the raffle, the winner selected was Sophia Demeny.

Marcy Elementary serves students kindergarten through 2nd grade. The Principal is Trenea Foster and the Assistant Principal is Jessica Enriquez.

Big Spring City Council - highlights, 03/27/24

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The Big Spring City Council held its regular session last night. A public hearing was held regarding the Texas Community Development Grant Program. The city is seeking a \$500,000 grant for downtown.

The city manager reported that the large item pickup for District 3 collected 16 tons worth of items, one of the largest collections the city has ever had. An update on the work at the restroom of the Bert Andries Splash Pad was given. A contractor has begun work, starting with the roof, and is expected to be completed by opening day. Work begins next week on the Runnels Street Waterline Replacement project. Customers between 10th and 18th Streets will have service interruptions, but prior notice will be provided. The city manager stated an RFQ will be created for temporary EMS services due to staffing issues. Good Friday is this Friday, March 29th and city offices will be closed. Trash will be collected Wednesday and Thursday instead of Thursday and Friday - residents will need to put their trash cans out one day early if they have a Thursday or Friday pickup.

03/28/24

Howard College Basketball Athletes earn WJCAC Honorable Mentions

Congratulations to Sophomore Kasheem Grady and Freshman Guard Elysa Martinez as their incredible season with the Howard College Hawks Basketball teams earned them WJCAC: All Conference Honorable Mention honors!

Softball / Baseball

COAHOMA

Coahoma teams will travel to Tuscola today to take on Jim Ned. The Bulldogs play 1 PM with JV to follow. The Bulldogettes play at 2 PM with JV to follow.

FORSAN

Forsan Lady Buffs will play on Seagraves at home. That game begins at 5 PM. The Buffs will play Hamlin at home at 6:30 PM.

BIG SPRING

Big Spring teams will play Levelland at home. Varsity softball begins at 5 PM and varsity baseball begins at 7 PM. Listen to a live broadcast of these games on KBest Country 95.7 brought to you by the KBest Sports Crew.

Big Spring City Council - highlights, 03/27/24 - part 2

During Tuesday's meeting of the Big Spring City Council there were changes proposed to the classifications and number of positions to the Fire Department.

Big Spring Fire currently has five stations with two primary stations providing EMS services. BSFD will go to a four-station model with one ambulance per station. Each ambulance will be manned by two personnel and three on a firetruck. The total number of personnel will remain the same on this four-station model. This proposal will also reduce the number of lieutenants by

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three, reduce drivers by three and increase firefighters by six. This allows for changes in schedules and relieves some overtime. The last change in the ordinance includes renaming classifications: deputy chief will become battalion chief, lieutenants will be named captains, which is common practice in other areas. These changes were approved.

A 10% increase and 13% increase in sliding scale pay for Police and Fire Departments respectively was approved as well. This amounts to a total of an \$870,000 increase in the budget.

An increase in incentives was also proposed for Police, Fire, and EMS, due to difficulties in recruiting. Tuition reimbursement for EMT certifications will rise from \$1500 to \$3000. Fire and peace officer certification reimbursement will increase from \$1500 to \$5000, and relocation incentives will raise from \$2400 to \$4500. These proposals passed.

The council approved to accept a \$30,000 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Grant that reimburses for either capital or operating expenses dating back to January 2020. Staff has requested they be used to reimburse for operating expenses.

Partial release of an oil and gas lease was discussed. This area is east of the air park and is no longer in production. Partial release was approved.

Representative McDonald informed the council that it has been 21 years in the making for State Hwy 87 to become an interstate, and the last portion has been signed off and is now officially ready for signage. The portion that runs from Sterling City to Lamesa (including Big Spring) will be called I-27 E.

ERLC's Psalm 139 Project Partners with SBTC to Dedicate Ultrasound Machine at The Life Center in Big Spring, Texas

Nashville, Tenn., March 27, 2024 — [The Psalm 139 Project](#), a pro-life ministry of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, has donated an ultrasound machine to [The Life Center](#) in Big Spring, Texas, funded by the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention.

A dedication ceremony will be held April 2 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. CST at The Life Center located at 1801 S. Main Street, Big Spring, TX 79720. Representatives from the ERLC, and Crossroads Baptist Association plan to be in attendance.

"We are so grateful to be able to support ongoing, life-saving work of the Life Center," said Miles Mullin, vice president of the ERLC. "In addition, any opportunity we have to partner with Baptist state conventions to help advance our mission to save lives and serve families is a reason to celebrate. We are grateful for the generosity of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention in funding this ultrasound machine and pray it will be used in miraculous ways throughout the years to come."

The Life Center is a nonprofit, faith-based alternative to abortion organizations advocating sexual wellness through three areas of outreach: teaching about sexual risks, helping through pregnancy, and healing through restoration. The Life Center has locations in Midland, Andrews,

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Big Spring, and Odessa, Texas. They uphold and promote the value of human life at every stage of existence and development. The location in Big Spring opened in 2016 to serve women experiencing unexpected pregnancies.

“We are so blessed to have a new updated ultrasound machine in our Big Spring location,” said Tracy Watson, director of The Life Center’s Big Spring location. “This ultrasound machine is a vital tool in helping our abortion-minded moms connect to the fact there is a baby growing inside their womb. This visual evidence has proven to be lifesaving.”

One hundred percent of financial contributions designated to the Psalm 139 Project go toward purchasing ultrasound machines and providing training for workers. No ERLC Cooperative Program resources are used for these machines. Tax-deductible gifts may be made online to [The Psalm 139 Project](#), or via check to ERLC, 901 Commerce Street, Nashville, Tenn., 37203. Learn more at [psalm 139 project.org](#).

The Southern Baptist Convention is America’s largest Protestant denomination with more than 13.6 million members and a network of over 47,000 cooperating churches and congregations. The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission is the SBC’s ethics, religious liberty and public policy agency with offices in Nashville, Tenn., and Washington, D.C.

Easter Activities

Easter Sunday is this weekend, March 31st, and there are multiple family-friendly activities happening in Big Spring.

Friday, March 29th

2:30 pm - Parkview Skilled Care & Rehabilitation , 3200 Parkway Rd. will have an Easter Egg Hunt with hotdogs, and a photo booth with the Easter Bunny.

3:30 pm - Marcy Place, 2302 Wasson Rd., will have an Easter Egg Hunt at 3:30 PM.

Saturday, March 30th

9AM - 2 PM Easter Market at Tractor Supply in Big Spring

10 AM - Old Settlers Pavillion Community Wide Family Fun Day with Easter Egg hunt, food and drinks, dessert competition and exotic meat competition, cornhole tournament, and games for kids

10AM - Easter Egg Hunt at Happy Day Humane Society, 5710 W. I-20, in Big Spring. All age groups are invited, but participants must bring their own baskets. There will be a raffle and gift baskets available. They will also sell \$5 hotdog meals that include chips and a drink

12-4 PM - Easter Journey at 1400 S. Lancaster in Big Spring. This is a scavenger hunt for clues leading to the resurrection of Jesus. There will also be food and drinks available, as well as games and easter eggs.

4-8 PM - Easter Egg Hunt with Blueey and the Easter Bunny at 206 S. Main.

Sunday, March 31st

Life Church will have an Easter Egg hunt for the kids directly after their Easter Sunday service that starts at 10:30 AM, 1004 Johnson St.

Martin County Crash

A 3-vehicle crash in Martin County on Tuesday night was reported to have killed 3 people.

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Texas DPS Troopers responded to the crash at approximately 7:26 pm on Tuesday night along I-20 near mile marker 151. The crash involved 2019 Nissan Sentra, 2019 Ford Coachman, and 2017 Ford F-250.

According to the preliminary information, the Nissan was traveling eastbound in the outside lane of IH-20 alongside the Coachman in the inside lane. The pickup truck was traveling westbound on IH-20.

While traveling eastbound, the Nissan, driven by 19-year-old Maliyah Garcia of Big Spring, swerved into the Coachman, causing the Coachman to veer into the center median, through the cable barrier, and into the westbound lanes of IH-20. As a result, the Coachman collided with a pickup truck traveling westbound. After crashing into the Coachman, Garcia veered into the center median, striking the cable barrier and rolling over on its left side. This crash remains under investigation, and no further information is available.

Garcia and her passenger were transported to Midland Memorial Hospital with minor injuries. The driver of the Coachman, identified as Victor Craven, 25, of Waco, was pronounced deceased at the scene. The driver of the Ford F250 pickup truck Miguel Chel-Sanchez, 34, of Tenaha, TX sustained minor injuries and was transported to Midland Memorial Hospital. The passengers in his vehicle, Julio Lopez Leal, 54, of Mission, TX, and Pedro Alvarez, 51, of Midland, were pronounced deceased at the scene.

03/29/24

Vietnam Wall

Vietnam Wall - Apr. 2nd, coming to Big Spring, Norseman M.C. will escort down Gregg St. from the old Walmart parking lot (near the car wash, mcdonald's area) to Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez. Gather at 9 AM, Plan to leave approximately 10 AM.

5:34 - huge honor

12:00 - will be in Big Spring for 3 days. Open to the public on the 2nd day. Presentation will be put together.

Day 1 - riding in, on trucks, set-up (STAR will feed hotdogs to everyone involved, and Interim Healthcare will provide pallet of water for everyone)

Day 2 - open to public

Day 3 - leave ?

<https://www.travelingwall.us/> (?)

On April 2 the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall will be coming through Big Spring on Gregg Street to Lamun, Lusk, Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home, where it will be erected and be on display.

We are asking all businesses to line Gregg Street and wave American flags as it goes by starting at 10:00 am!!

Come join us here at the Chamber! We have a few flags, but if you have your own bring it with you!!

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is the most-visited memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. This war memorial features a giant wall that lists more than 58,000 service members' names and is visited by more than 5 million people each year.

The names inscribed on the black granite wall are men and women who gave their lives or remain missing. The Vietnam Memorial Wall is known as “The Wall That Heals.” The Memorial Wall may list those who gave all or remain missing. Still, it is dedicated to honoring the courage, sacrifice, and devotion to duty and country of all who answered the call to serve during one of the most divisive wars in U.S. history.

Not everyone can visit the wall in our nation's capital, so some Vietnam Veterans have taken on the mission of bringing “The Wall That Heals” to the Veterans. One such Vietnam Veteran is Retired Lieutenant Colonel Don Allen (US Army and Vietnam Veteran) and his wife, Dr. Barbara Allen. When LTC Don Allen retired from the Army, he had a calling that drew him to do something for fellow veterans. In 2005 The American Veterans Travelling Tribute (AVTT) was founded and it has traveled the country to promote the remembrance of all those who have served our country.

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The American Veterans Traveling Tribute will be visiting Big Spring and making a stop at the Lamien-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home, where the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall will be erected and displayed.

Businesses are asked to line Gregg Street and wave American flags as it makes it's way through town, starting at 10:00 am!!

The public is invited to join the chamber at 215 W 3rd St. They have some flags to share, but if you have your own you should take it with you.

For more information about our homes, visit our website:

<https://www.vlb.texas.gov/veterans-homes/index.html>

To learn more about the American Veterans Traveling Tribute and to see a complete list of events. Visit their website:

<https://www.americanveteranstravelingtribute.com/>

AVTT and Texas State Veterans Homes Upcoming Events.

Wed, Oct 25 — Thu, Oct 26, 2023

Frank M. Tejada Texas State Veterans Home

Address: 200 Veterans Drive, Floresville, TX 78114

Thu, Mar 14 — Fri, Mar 15, 2024

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William R Courtney TX State Veterans Home

Address: 1424 Martin Luther King Jr Lane, Temple, Texas 76504

Wed, Mar 27 — Thu, Mar 28, 2024

Ussery-Roan Texas State Veterans Home

Address: 1020 Tacosa Road, Amarillo, TX 79124

Tue, Apr 2 — Thu, Apr 4, 2024

Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home

Address: 1809 North Hwy 87, Big Spring, TX 79720

Wed, May 1 — Thu, May 2, 2024

Clyde W. Casper Texas State Veterans Home

Address: 1300 Seven Oaks Road, Bohnam TX 75418

HC offices closed

Howard County will close all offices today in observance of Good Friday. County Offices will open again for business on Monday, April 1, 2024.

The Sheriff's Administrative Offices will be closed but Law Enforcement Services will operate as normal.

A special meeting of the Howard County Commissioners' Court will be held on Wednesday April 3, 2024. It will begin at 9:00 A.M. in the Conference Room (2d Floor).

During the meeting, Sharon Adams, County Treasurer will lead a discussion to consider insurance options for the next fiscal year

Softball / Baseball

Bulldogettes

TUSCOLA — COAHOMA 16, JIM NED 0

Bulldogs

TUSCOLA — COAHOMA 1, JIM NED 11

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FORSAN

Forsan Lady Buffs will play on Seagraves at home. That game begins at 5 PM. The Buffs won 13-1 over Hamlin.

BIG SPRING

Lady Steers v. Levelland 1-12, Steers 10-6

Area News: scurry co crash

A fatal two-vehicle crash occurred in Scurry county on Thursday, March 21.

Texas DPS Troopers responded to the crash at 8 pm, along US Hwy 84. According to the preliminary investigation, a 2008 Saturn Outlook passenger car, driven by Colton Shane Guynes, 35, of Snyder, Texas, was traveling west on Ennis Creek Road approaching US 84.

Guynes then entered US 84 crossing the northbound lanes traveling into the center crossover and entered the southbound lanes of US 84. A 1999 Chevrolet, 3500 pickup truck was traveling south on US 84 approaching Ennis Creek Road crossover. Guynes failed to yield the right of way to the pickup and caused the collision. The truck struck the Saturn on its right side.

Guynes was Transported to University Medical Center Hospital, Lubbock with Incapacitating injuries. His passenger Victoria Ann Salinas, 22 years of age, female from Snyder, Texas, was transported to University Medical Center Hospital and pronounced dead on 3/23/24 at 10:15 A.M.

The driver of the pickup, Eric Morin, 31, of Snyder, was transported to University Medical Center Hospital, Lubbock for Incapacitating injuries. His passenger a 13-year-old male from Snyder, was transported to Cogdell Memorial Hospital with non-incapacitating injuries – treated and released

Hoops, Dreams, Goals

The 20th annual Darrell E. Smith Hoops Dreams and Goals was held yesterday on the Sonic Floor. 10 teams from around West Texas participated in the basketball tournament....