

## **APRIL 2023**

**04/03/23**

### **Elderly Man Stabbed In Downtown Big Spring**

On Friday morning, an elderly man was stabbed in downtown Big Spring. According to a news release from the Big Spring Police Department, on Friday, March 31, 2023 at approximately 11:06 a.m., Big Spring Police Department officers and Big Spring Fire Department Emergency Services were dispatched to the area of Bargain Mart (located at 403 S. Runnels) due to an elderly individual who had been stabbed. Witnesses informed dispatch the suspect had fled on foot. Officers immediately responded to the area and located the suspect running from the scene.

Officers gave chase and apprehended Timothy Valencia Hispanic/Male 22 years of age in the 100 block of East 1st St. Officers had also arrived on scene and found an elderly male subject 94 years of age had been stabbed in the abdomen and was being tended to by Bargain Mart staff. Emergency Services arrived on scene and transported the elderly male to Scenic Mountain Medical Center. The Big Spring Police Department Criminal Investigations Division arrived on scene to assist and at this time believe this to be a random act of violence with no motive known. The elderly individual was later transported to UMC Lubbock for further treatment and at the time of this release was in serious but stable condition.

### **BSISD Student Council – Hashtag Find Your Joy**

The Big Spring High School Student Council has kicked off a new and fun way to bring the community together with the student community in Big Spring. Hashtag Find Your Joy is a new and creative scavenger type event that gives you the opportunity to interact with the students and help them at the same time.

Here is Kenedy, Council Treasurer with more. (AUDIO)

No for the details on how to actually win, here is Regan, Secretary of Student Council to fill you in. (AUDIO)

These crocheted critters will be hidden all around Big Spring, in businesses and out in public, so keep your eye out while you are out and about in town. For more on this story, go to the kbest media facebook page.

## **Sports**

The Howard College Hawks Softball played against Western Texas College over the weekend. On Friday they lost both games, and split on Saturday with a win of 12-2 and a loss of Howard 5, Western Texas 11.

### **Kbest Spring Into Easter Giveaway**

Easter is just days away and you could win prizes for your family!!! Just post a picture of your family on the kbest media facebook page. There will be 10 winners! Two winners will be drawn each day this week, Monday through Good Friday! No two bags are exactly alike...some of the bunny bags include, inflatable water sprinklers over 5-feet tall--elephants, giraffes, dogs (valued at \$70 each), "Power Raider" air pressured water blasters, travel games, birdhouse kits, paint-your-own garden stones, kids gardening tools, flower & vegetable seeds, Easter puzzles, candy, and even confetti eggs.

Post your family picture on the Kbest Media Facebook page for your chance to win. The sponsors that are making the "Spring into Easter" prizes possible are, Affordacare Urgent Care Clinic, All Washed Up Laundromat, Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union, Johansen Landscape and Nursery, Heart of the City Realtors, Ward Family Dental, PC, West Texas Injury Prevention - a Back in Motion Chiropractic Company, and Ward's Western Wear.

For more on this story, go to the kbest media facebook page.

04/04/23

**Chief Ferguson Retirement:**

Last Friday, a retirement ceremony was held for Big Spring Fire Chief Craig Ferguson in the City Council Chambers. Ferguson was recognized for his 21 consecutive years of service to the City of Big Spring, but actually put in closer to 26 years. Here he explains:

Ferguson: "Officially cause what happened is I started in 1996 with the city of Big Spring Fire Department...so that's where the discrepancy comes, 26 or 21."

When asked what he will miss most about his job, Ferguson didn't hesitate:

Ferguson: "The people. That's easy.....I'm gonna miss the people."

It was notated that after his retirement, this will be the first time since 1975 that there would be no Ferguson with the City of Big Spring....a reference to Craig's father Tom Ferguson who previously served as the city's Finance Manager, and with whom Craig and his wife Stefanie plan to spend to time in retirement:

Ferguson: "My wife has got me busy with stuff.....that's what we're gonna do for now."

Ferguson went on to say that the City is currently taking applications for Fire Chief and that a selection will likely be made within the next 6 to 8 weeks.

To see photos of Chief Ferguson's retirement ceremony, log on to our KBest Media Facebook page.

**Cline Wins for Second Time at Cars and Stars Event**

BIG SPRING, TX -- The annual fundraising event Cars and Stars, hosted by the Big Spring Rotary Club and the Volunteer Services Council of the Big Spring State Hospital, was held this past Saturday. A thousand tickets were sold and one lucky participant won a new vehicle of their choice from the following: a Keystone Bullet Crossfire Camper, a Chevy Trailblazer RS, a Jeep Compass, and a Ford Escape.

Anita Cline was this year's winner for the event. This is her second time to win at Cars and Stars. According to Cline, she won a car for her grandson seven years ago. This car will go to her other grandson. The second place winner from Saturday's event was Harrison Chevalier, who won \$1,000.

Money raised from the event goes to the Big Spring Rotary Club to assist with their projects throughout the year, as well as student scholarships. Part of it also goes to help the Volunteer

Services Council in providing extracurricular activities for patients at the Big Spring State Hospital.

According to Carl Reid, event director, this year's event was a huge success mostly due to the casino table sponsors. Approximately \$70k had been raised throughout the night. It was estimated that 800 people were in attendance for the event, almost double the amount of people that had attended past events.

Reid thanked the sponsors and people of Big Spring and Howard County, and they're looking forward to next year.

### **Big Spring City Offices to Close for Good Friday, 04/07/23**

According to Big Spring City Manager Todd Darden, all City of Big Spring offices will be closed on Friday, April 7, 2023, for Good Friday.

There will be no sanitation pickup on Friday, April 7th. End of the week sanitation pickup will shift one day ahead. Thursday's normal sanitation routes will be picked up on Wednesday, April 5th. Friday's normal sanitation routes will be picked up on Thursday, April 6th.

The City Landfill will also be closed on Friday, April 7th. The landfill will be open on Saturday, April 8th, for normal business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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.

### **Sports**

Congratulations to the Big Spring Lady Steer Powerlifters Gissele Holguin and Adali Hernandez on their recent recognition by the Texas High School Women's Powerlifting Association. Holguin was named as part of the All State Elite Team, the top ten percent, and Hernandez was named to the All State First Team. Both Girls were selected to this respective teams, because of hard work and dedication in the classroom.

### **04/05/23**

#### **TYP - First Church of the Nazarene**

On Tuesday morning, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce held a "Thank You for Your Investment" presentation for First Church of the Nazarene, located at 1400 Lancaster in Big Spring.

Peter Sullivan, interim pastor at the Nazarene Church, told KBest News that he appreciated the Chamber's presentation. Here he tells us more (audio - "It's good to have support and work together to collaborate, for each of us to know each other in the community, and I think it just encourages us to support each other.")

First Church of the Nazarene will have their 1st annual Easter Story Hunt. This scavenger hunt will dive into stories that led to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The whole family is welcome to join in on the fun this Saturday, April 8th, from 2-4 PM. Here, Sullivan explains more about this weekend's activities (audio - It's a time for families to come through and learn the true meaning

of Easter as they find different clues. At the end there will be a goody bag for the kids and the families. Easter, the next day, we'll have our prayer time at 8 AM, our Empty Tomb at 1400 S. Lancaster. Also we'll have our breakfast from 8:30 - 9:30 AM and service at 10 AM. )

Currently, First Church of the Nazarene is between pastors. Sullivan is filling in as an interim and they are looking and praying about the next pastor.

For more information about First Church of the Nazarene, visit their website [NazFamily.org](http://NazFamily.org).

### **Area News: Fatal Hit and Run Crash**

A fatal hit and run crash leaves two dead in Ector County.

According to Texas DPS, Troopers responded to the incident on Sunday night at 10:35 PM, near W. University and Sycamore. The preliminary information revealed that a 2017 Chevrolet Silverado was traveling westbound on University (also known as FM 2020) approaching Sycamore St. A 2011 Harley Davidson motorcycle was traveling eastbound on University also approaching Sycamore St. The truck failed to yield right of way turning left and struck the motorcycle.

The occupants of the motorcycle, identified as Kristofer Goodrum, 40, and Jessica Goodrum, 38, both of Midland, TX, were pronounced deceased at the scene. The driver of Chevy Silverado fled the scene and has not been identified.

DPS would like to speak with the registered owner of the 2017 Chevrolet Silverado. This crash remains under investigation and if anyone has any information concerning this crash, please contact DPS at 432-498-2100.

### **Mature Adult Dance**

Mature Adult Dance will be this Friday, April 7th, at the Dora Roberts Community Center, located at 100 Whipkey Drive in Big Spring, from 7-9:30 PM. This dance is for adults aged 40 and up, and includes drinks and snacks. Most times, people who attend the dance will bring snack items with them, even though it's not required. Admission is \$5 per person, and organizers told KBest News that they've had couples from as far as Colorado City, Snyder, and Midland attend the event.

Currently, organizers for the dance hope to bring out more people to the event and are looking for sponsors. Here, Daphne Richardson, with Marcy Place, explains more (audio - sponsors).

For more information on the dance or on how to become a sponsor, contact Daphne Richardson with Marcy Place at 432-638-1948 or [Christy Brownfield](#) with the Big Spring Center for Skilled Care at 432-816-2977.

### **Sports**

[Congratulations to the Big Spring High School Steer Tennis, on moving on to Regionals!](#)

## Quarterly News Report 2023: April - June

The Big Spring Steer tennis team had their district tennis match last week and swept the competition! The team had 13 qualify for the regional tennis tournament. For a 2nd year in a row, the team is also the Overall District champions, and the Girls Overall Champion. This year, the team also added Boys Overall Champion.

### Boys singles

Eric Landin – 1<sup>st</sup> place

Matthew Salazar – 2<sup>nd</sup> place

### Boys Doubles

Mason Patterson/ Juaquin Arguello - 3<sup>rd</sup> place

Gavin Corley/ Kaiden Roberts – 4<sup>th</sup> place

### Girls Singles

Biranna Landin – 3<sup>rd</sup> place

### Girls doubles

Lexie Rodriguez/ Itzel Garcia- Marquez – 1<sup>st</sup> place

### Mix Doubles

Aiden Chaney/ Allison Hillhouse – 1<sup>st</sup> place

Ananya Limaye/ Ethan Urias – 3<sup>rd</sup> place

If you see these students please congratulate them.

Big Spring vs. Lubbock Estacado, 5 PM / 7 PM - Listen to the game live on The Mighty 1490 AM  
Softball  
Baseball

Coahoma vs. Merkel at home, 5 PM / 7 PM

Softball

Baseball

Forsan

Softball @ Seagraves, 5 PM

Baseball @ Colorado City, 7 PM

04/06/23

### **Virtual Health Resource Center Opens at West Texas VA in Big Spring**

On Tuesday afternoon, the West Texas VA Health Care System held a ribbon cutting ceremony for its new Virtual Health Resource Center located on the 1st floor of the facility in Big Spring.

According to Robert Hoff, acting Director of the WTVAHCS, the Virtual Health Resource Center connects and teaches veterans, caregivers, family, and staff how to use virtual tools that the VA health care system has available to them. Here, he explains more (audio - It really teaches them how to use these wonderful virtual tools so they can connect to care and their providers. I use it as a veteran myself.)

Hoff advised that the WTXVAHCS is the 17th facility in the nation to implement this initiative.. It is estimated that in 5 years, there will be a Virtual Health Resource Center in every VA facility across the country.

The initiative was led by Valerie Gross, My Health e Vet Coordinator for WTXVAHCS. Gross told KBest News that she was excited to have the center available because it offers hands-on training for veterans, which could be especially beneficial for older veterans who aren't very familiar with technology.

Find pictures of the ribbon cutting on our KBest Media Facebook page.

### **Area News: One Killed in Martin County Crash**

MARTIN COUNTY, TEXAS – A fatal crash was reported outside of Stanton on Tuesday.

According to Texas DPS, on Tuesday, Apr 4, 2023, Troopers responded to a 2-vehicle crash involving a 2011 Kenworth truck with trailer. The preliminary information revealed that the 18-wheeler was traveling northbound on SH 137 when it made an unsafe U-turn in front of a 2012 Ford F-150 that had been stopped on the east shoulder of the highway. The semi struck the Ford F-150.

The driver of the passenger truck, identified as Luis Gerardo Rios, 46, of San Antonio, TX was pronounced deceased at the scene. It was determined that he did not have a seat belt on at the time of the crash. The driver of the 18-wheeler, identified as Alfonso Adame Sagarnaga, 48, of Midland, TX, was not injured.

### **Big Spring UIL Academic Team Dominates recent 5-4A District meet**

The Big Spring UIL Academic team dominated the recent 5-4A District meet by earning 830 sweepstakes points. The total was three points shy of matching the combined total of the other five schools in the district. This is the sixth year in a row in which the Big Spring High School Academic Team has won the overall District Championship.

Big Spring won the team events in Journalism, Number Sense, Calculator, Mathematics, Spelling, Current Issues and Events, Social Studies, Literary Criticism, and Speech. By virtue of placing first through third or being on the winning team for most events, the Steers will be taking a record number of students to the UIL Regional Meet Held on the campus of Texas Tech April 20-21.

Leading the Steers was senior Marco Tan who placed first in Number Sense, Calculator, Mathematics and Science. Tan was also the Top Chemistry Scorer and Top Physics Scorer.

Joining Tan was fellow senior Ananya Limaye who was the district champion in Editorial Writing, News Writing, and Feature Writing as well as placing third in Calculator Applications and fourth in Copy Editing.

Other District Champions include: Madline Jordan-Hisel in Copy Editing, Morgan Griffith in Computer Applications, Salvador Juarez in both Social Studies and Current Issues and events, Ashley Melendez in Ready Writing, David Summers in both Literary Criticism and Spelling.

On the speech and debate side of the meet, Big Spring only dropped three of the 15 Regional qualifying spots. The team swept the top three spots in Lincoln Douglas Debate, Informative Speaking and Persuasive Speaking.

Tyler Grove took home first in LD Debate as well as 2nd in Persuasive speaking. Harper Duran was District Champion in Persuasive speaking as well as 2nd in Poetry Interpretation. Jack Hamby placed 1st in Informative Speaking and 4th in Poetry Interpretation.

### **Ribbon Cutting for New Chamber Member**

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting ceremony for FM 700 Liquor, located at 1907 Birdwell Lane, Suite F and G, in Big Spring.

Manager Kagnchana Un, who also goes by “Ana”, told KBest News that she was excited about becoming a Chamber member. FM 700 Liquor has been serving Big Spring for 2 years but recently relocated 5 weeks ago to the shopping center near the intersection of Birdwell and FM 700. According to Un, the new location allows them extra space, it’s clean, and offers a variety of liquor, beer, wine, and more. She went on to say that FM 700 Liquor is the only one in Big Spring and not associated with other stores in the area.

FM 700 Liquor is open Monday through Saturday from 10 AM to 9 PM. For more information, call them at (432) 202-2553.

04/07/23

### **Easter Egg Hunt at Happy Day with Raffle Prizes**

BIG SPRING, TX – Happy Day Humane Society will have an Easter Egg Hunt this Saturday, April 8th, at 10 AM to 2 PM at their facility located at 5710 I-20 in Big Spring. This festive event is open to kids of all ages, but it will be divided into three different age groups. Here, Khristy McMahan, Director for Happy Day Humane Society, explains more about the event (audio - Each group will have many eggs to find, including golden eggs with a prize number inside.)

In addition to the egg hunt, hamburger and hotdog meal plates will be available. Plus, the organization will be raffling off several donated prizes. Tickets range from \$5 - \$20, depending on the item. All money raised will go to help the operating costs of the facility. Currently, Happy Day Humane Society cares for 100 pets who have been abused, abandoned, and/or left behind. These dogs are still in need of families.

Pick up raffle tickets from Happy Day Humane Society from 8 am - 5 pm, now through Saturday, 4/08/23. Winners will be drawn on Saturday and notified on Sunday, 4/09/23.

### **Annual Community-Wide Sunrise Service**

The annual Easter Sunday Sunrise Service will be held at the Comanche Trail Amphitheater this Sunday, April 9th, at 7 AM. According to event organizer Pastor Sam

Segundo, the service runs 55 minutes and is community-based service, meaning it is a non-denominational service open to the public. Here, he explains more (audio - "We're talking about hundreds of believers from different beliefs, from different backgrounds, different upbringings, just gathering together for one purpose and that is to say 'Thank you, Lord, for paying the price for us so we could have a chance at a good life,")

The service will be led by local community leaders, like Howard County Judge Randy Johnson, Prosperity Bank President Jeff Ward, and Executive Director of the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County Christian Fair. Here, Segundo describes what the service will be like (audio - description).

Again, the annual Community-Wide Sunrise Service will be held this Sunday, April 9th, at 7 AM at the Comanche Trail Amphitheater.

### **Easter Egg Hunts this weekend**

Today - Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation, 1:30-3:30 PM at 3200 Wasson Rd. in Big Spring. Photo booth available

Cornerstone Covenant Church - Good Friday Communion Worship Service, 7 PM

Saturday - Alive in Christ Lutheran Church 10 AM to 12 PM

Happy Day Humane Society 10 AM to 2 PM

### **CCC 3-day Easter Celebration**

Cornerstone Covenant Church, located at 706 E. 12th St. in Big Spring, will kick off their 3-day Easter celebration with a Good Friday Communion Worship Service at 7 PM tonight. Tomorrow they'll have Family Fun Day at Old Settlers Pavilion beginning at 11 AM that will include an egg hunt and food for guests. On Easter Sunday they'll have 3 services to accommodate the expected increase in guests.

Pastor Michael Willard of CCC told K-BEST News that this increase is expected because the celebration of Easter is so important that it compels people to attend service even if just for that day. Here he explains more (audio).

Those Easter Sunday services are scheduled for 8 am, 10 am, and 12 pm. For more information, visit their Facebook page for Cornerstone Covenant Church.

04/10/23

### **HCCC meeting**

The Howard County Commissioners Court will meet today at 3:30 pm at the Howard County Courthouse, located at 300 S. Main in Big Spring, in the 3rd floor courtroom. During today's meeting, county judge Randy Johnson will read the Sexual Assault Awareness proclamation. There will also be discussion and possibly action on the Salary Grievance Committee, the Rural Regional Public Defender Sustainability Grant, and an update to the contract with Walker Planning Group, LLC. In addition to regularly scheduled items, there will also be consideration of a 381 agreement with 3-D Development, LLC.

### **Adult Sports at YMCA**

Sign-ups for Adult Sports at the Big Spring YMCA are going on now through Thursday, April 13th.

Ages 16 and up can sign up for co-ed basketball & volleyball. Co-ed teams for Basketball will be made up of 3 guys and 2 Girls. Volleyball teams will be made up of 3 guys and 3 Girls. There can be a maximum of 10 players listed on the team roster.

Cost is \$200 per team for each sport. If your team participates in both Basketball and volleyball, the fee is discounted to \$350.

Game Days for Basketball will be played on Monday, Volleyball will be played on Tuesday. Game Times begin at 7pm and start as late as 9pm.

To Sign Up, stop by the Big Spring Ymca front desk to pick up the roster sheet for your team.

The Captain Meeting will be held on Friday, April 14th, at 7pm. Games Start on Monday, April 17th.

For more information, please contact Dathan Jones, CEO at Big Spring YMCA, at 432 254-9949.

### **Photography Exhibit at Heritage Museum**

Currently, the Heritage Museum of Big Spring has pieces from Midland photographer Ken Zollar, Distant Horizon Photography on display. Here Michelle Worthan, Archivist for the museum, tells us more (audio)

Zollar's framed prints are on display now through April 30th.

The Heritage Museum is located at 510 Scurry St in Big Spring.

### **2 Fatal Crashes in Midland County**

Two fatal crashes occurred last week in Midland County.

The first was on Tuesday, April 4th, at 6:27 AM. According to Texas DPS, Troopers responded to the 3-vehicle crash at State Highway 158, approximately 4 miles southeast of Midland. The Preliminary information revealed that vehicle 1, a 2017 Chevrolet Spark, was traveling eastbound in the left lane of SH 158. Vehicle 2, a 2019 Ford F-350 was also traveling eastbound on SH 158 in the left lane passing another vehicle when it struck the rear of the Chevy Spark, driven by Guillermo Fernandez, 42, of Midland. The resulting collision forced the Spark into the westbound lane where it was struck by a 2017 Chevrolet Silverado in the left lane.

Fernandez and his passenger, Yusleivy Sanchez-Mora, 42, of Miami, FL, were both pronounced deceased at the scene. The report stated that Fernandez did not have a seatbelt on at the time of the crash, but Sanchez-Mora did. The drivers of the other vehicles, Victor Alfonso Meza, 38, of Midland, and Dustin Wayne Henson, 30, of Midland, were transported to Midland Memorial Hospital in Stable Condition.

The second crash occurred on Wednesday, April 5th, at 6:29 PM, at State Highway 349 and CR 121, just  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles south of Midland. According to the preliminary report from Texas DPS, Daniel Iguado, 18, of Midland, was traveling south on SH-349 at a high rate of speed in a 2011 Chevrolet Impala as it fled from a previous crash inside the city limits of Midland. Alexis Aguinaga-Rodriguez, driver of a 2011 GMC Terrain, was traveling north on SH-349 and was turning left onto CR 121 when it was struck on the passenger side by Iguado's vehicle. Both drivers were transported to Midland Memorial Hospital for injuries sustained during the crash.

Aguinaga-Rodriguez succumbed to his injuries shortly after. This investigation is ongoing and charges are pending for Iguado.

### **Sports**

Big spring

Coahoma softball COAHOMA 10, MERKEL 2

Forsan

### **Public Service Announcement - Pharmaceutical Take Back**

On Saturday, the 22nd of April 2023, from 10am-2pm, the Big Spring Police Department's Narcotics Division will be working in collaboration with the Drug Enforcement Administration on the National Pharmaceutical Take Back Initiative outside Ryan Hall located at 605 N. Main St in Big Spring Texas.

This provides a unified opportunity for the public to surrender expired, unwanted, or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances, dangerous drugs and other medications to law enforcement officers for destruction.

Intra-venous solutions, injectibles, and syringes will not be accepted due to potential hazards posed by blood-borne pathogens. This program is anonymous, and all efforts will be made to protect the identity of individuals disposing of medications. Participants may dispose of medication in its original container or by removing the medication from its container and disposing it directly into the disposal box. Liquid products, such as cough syrup, should remain sealed in their original container.

Everyone who has expired medicine or medicine they no longer need or use, is encouraged to utilize this opportunity and dispose of your medicine safely.

For more information regarding this program please contact Big Spring Police Department Narcotics Sergeant Keith Jones (432) 264-2595

Chief Chad Williams

Lieutenant Brian Gordon

04/11/23

### **BSSO Concert**

The Big Spring Symphony will soon be presenting the Tribute Concert to honor the memory and great legacy of Dr. Keith Graumann on April 22nd. Dr. Graumann was the music director and conductor for the Big Spring Symphony from 2002 till his unexpected passing on March 10th.

Maestro John Giordano and Dave Alexander are working hard to celebrate Maestro Keith's contributions to the performing arts culture in West Texas with an incredible collaboration of music sure to please everyone. The FMH Foundation is the sole sponsor of this extraordinary live event.

Dave Alexander is a Western Swing Artist and former Entertainer of the Year. He is a member of the Halls of Fame in all of the Western States! He appears with his Western Swing Band playing Swing, Tango and Boogie and will bring some all new arrangements for his band and full orchestra!

Tickets are for \$20 each, or \$15 for seniors, students get in for free. Tickets are sold at HEB, heritage museum, karat patch, and online at [bigspringsymphony.org](http://bigspringsymphony.org).

### **SANE Nurses needed**

Victim Services in Big Spring is seeking SANE Nurses for Howard County. Registered nurses with a minimum of two years of experience and interested in expanding their career can contact Victim Services at 432-263-3312. You can earn extra money and help provide much needed tremendous service for the county.

### **Alive After 5**

This month's Alive After 5 event will be this Thursday, April 13th, and will be hosted by the Scioli Group, Employee Benefits and Consultancy. The networking event will be held at The Courtyard, 119 S. Main in downtown Big Spring, from 5 to 6:30 pm.

Attendees are encouraged to bring business cards and a friend and get ready to meet the staff. Refreshments will be available and door prizes will be given away, but you must be present to win.

The Alive After 5 network events are organized by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. For information on how to become a host for a future event, contact their office at 432-263-7641.

## **TPWD Cautions: Don't Handle Wildlife, Especially Babies**

AUSTIN — Spring has sprung. Texans may start to notice more wildlife in their backyard, neighborhood or surrounding areas. The best thing to do is to leave them alone.

Birds, rabbits, deer and snakes become more active this time of year; their young can be mistaken as abandoned. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) experts caution against lending a helping hand and remind you that it is illegal to possess wildlife in most cases.

Baby animals are sometimes picked up by well-meaning citizens. Many such human-animal encounters are unnecessary — they can even be detrimental to the animal.

Biologists recommend leaving all young animals alone unless they are obviously injured. Spend time observing it from a distance to make the determination. Staying too close may deter the mother from returning; interfering too soon may do more harm than good.

If a wild animal is sick or injured, TPWD encourages citizens to contact a [permitted](#) wildlife rehabilitator. TPWD staff advise the public not to handle or attempt to transport injured, sick or orphaned wildlife. Learn more about what to do upon encountering [orphaned or injured](#) wildlife, and how to contact [rehabilitators](#) on the TPWD Wildlife [Division](#) website.

Find more tips from biologists about [fawns](#) and [baby](#) birds on the TPWD YouTube channel.

### **HCCC meeting**

During the Howard County Commissioners Court on Monday, the court considered a 381 agreement for 3D Development, LLC as proposed by Mark Willis, Executive Director of the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation. A 381 agreement allows the counties to provide incentives encouraging developers to build in their jurisdictions. Ultimately, the court agreed to not approve the agreement.

Howard County judge Randy Johnson read the Sexual Assault Awareness Month proclamation. Plus, there was a discussion on the Salary Grievance Committee. It was noted that no one had made a complaint, but the Committee needed to be in place prior to budget negotiations.

### **Hawk Rodeo**

The 2023 Hawk Rodeo will be held this week beginning on Thursday, April 13th, through the 15th at the Big Spring Rodeo Bowl out at the Howard County Fair Grounds.

04/12/23

### **District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson releases statement on Bargain Mart Stabbing**

Press Release - Stabbing Outside Bargain Mart

On March 31, 2023, 94-year-old Harold Raney was stabbed in the area of Bargain Mart (403 S. Runnels). The suspect, Timothy Valencia, was arrested in the area shortly afterwards. The arresting officers with the Big Spring Police Department charged Valencia with Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon (a Second-degree Felony) and Evading Arrest (a Class B Misdemeanor). As of the date of this press release, the investigation is still ongoing with the BSPD Criminal Investigations Division.

Once the investigation is complete, the case will be filed with the District Attorney's Office for presentation to the Howard County Grand Jury. If the evidence indicates that more severe charges are appropriate, the Grand Jury can indict on those charges.

Hardy Wilkerson

District Attorney

118th Judicial District - Texas

### **Thank You for Your Investment - Black Plumbing**

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce held a "Thank You for Your Investment" presentation for Black Plumbing, located at 201 Donley in Big Spring.

Buddy Murray, Superintendent for Black Plumbing, told KBest News that he was grateful about the Chamber coming out to recognize them and to be a part of the community.

Mitchell Murray, Master Plumber at Black Plumbing, told KBest News that he wanted people to know that Black Plumbing is here for the community. Here, he tells us more (audio - )

Black Plumbing offers services for the Howard County area, including Midland, Odessa, Lamesa, Colorado City, Lorraine, Snyder, and Abilene.

Black Plumbing's many plumbing services include drain cleaning, hot water heaters, toilets, garbage disposals, and piping. For more information, visit [blackplumbing.com](http://blackplumbing.com).

### **Gardening Seminar**

There will be a Howard County Raised Bed and Container Gardening Seminar later this month, April 26th, at 5:30 PM at the G.C. Broughton Jr. Complex, located at 2411 Echols St. in Big Spring. Attendees will learn about planting and maintaining raised bed gardens as well as plant selection for the upcoming season. Guest speaker will be Sara Moran, Horticulture Agent, Midland and Ector Counties. Cost is \$10 per participant, and checks can be made payable to Howard College. For more information, contact the Howard County Agrilife Extension Office at 432-264-2236.

### **Sports Scores**

Big Spring v. Lake View  
Friday - @ Sweetwater

Coahoma @ Wall  
Friday v. Wall (again - home)

Forsan  
Buffs v. Hamlin win 16-5

Stanton

### **GECU and EVERFI Announce Scholarship Opportunity for High School Students Across Texas and New Mexico**

*~10 students will be selected to win a \$1,000 scholarship prize each for higher education and more! ~*

EL PASO, TEXAS (April 11, 2023) — ImagineU by GECU and EVERFI are excited to announce they're bringing the Financial Literacy Bee, a virtual financial education challenge and scholarship opportunity, to high school students across Texas and New Mexico. This potentially includes those who lives, works, worships, or attends school in Glasscock and Mitchell counties.

10 students will be selected to win a \$1,000 scholarship prize each for higher education and EVERFI will award a \$500 Visa Gift card to one of the winning students. The Financial Literacy Bee is open to all high school students in participating areas in Texas and New Mexico until April 21.

Participating students in grades 9–12 will learn important money concepts like saving, budgeting and investing in a fun, accessible and convenient way through ImagineU's financial education tools. Students must complete the online lessons and submit an essay showing how they plan to achieve a short-term, medium-term or long-term savings goal based on what they learned from the lessons by April 21.

To participate or learn more about the ImagineU by GECU and EVERFI Financial Literacy Bee, visit <https://gecutx.everfi-next.net/welcome/national-financial-bee-2023>.

*GECU's headquarters are in El Paso, Texas, and they serve more than 422,000 members across Texas and New Mexico. Their mission is to provide members with convenient superior financial products and services that pave the way to financial freedom.*

04/13/23

### **Fatal Crash in Mitchell County**

A Mitchell County man is facing an Intoxicated Manslaughter charge after Tuesday morning's crash on HWY 350.

According to Texas DPS, the crash occurred on April 11th, at 6:35 AM, just 11 miles south of Ira, TX in Mitchell County. Eric Acosta Arguijo, 27, of Colorado City, TX, was the driver of a 2014 Dodge, Ram 3500 pickup truck traveling south on State Highway (SH) 350 when his vehicle crossed the center strip into the northbound lane of traffic while approaching another vehicle. That vehicle was a 2016 Hyundai, Tucson, driven by Torres Ysuniel Dominguez, 34, of Odessa, TX. Dominguez swerved left to avoid the head-on collision, however, the pickup truck struck Dominguez's vehicle on the right passenger side in the northbound lane.

Dominguez's passenger, identified as 52-year-old Teresa Vega Corrales, of Odessa, TX, was killed due to injury sustained in the crash. The drivers, Arguijo and Dominguez, sustained non-incapacitating injuries, were treated, and released.

Arguijo was arrested and charged with DWI and Intoxication Manslaughter.

### **First Responders Fight Wildland urban interface fire in Big Spring**

BIG SPRING, TX — On Wednesday afternoon, the Big Spring Fire Department responded to a fire at 1:57 pm in the wooded area west of Pine and south of the old GEO prison/Ramada Inn along eastbound I-20.

BSFD Interim Chief Jay Holt estimated that 30 acres had been impacted by the wildland urban interface fire. No structural damage and no injuries were reported. Currently, 85 percent of the fire has been contained. Cause of the fire is unknown at this time and under investigation.

Other departments assisting with the fire included the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department, Glasscock County Volunteer Fire Department, Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System, Howard County Road and Bridge, and Texas Forest Service.

### **Big Spring ISD Board of Trustees to meet for regular meeting**

The Big Spring ISD Board of Trustees will meet today for regular meeting at 5:15 pm in the Big Spring High School Board Room.

Items on the agenda include a 3 Year Safety Audit, and the 2022-2023 Board Member Continuing Education Credit Report. There will also be a board evaluation.

Action items for today include consideration and approval of the following items: Year 2 of a current 5 year contract with Aramark, a resolution extending the current depository bank's contract, an agreement for audit services, and possible approval of the West Texas Employee Benefits Cooperative Interlocal Agreement and board resolution for Voluntary Employee Benefits. They'll also consider approval of employment recommendations, and the approval of professional employment recommendations for 2023-2024.

### **Jake Hooker & The Outsiders in Big Spring**

Tickets are still available to see Jake Hooker and the Outsiders for the Swing into Spring event on Saturday, April 15th, at the Howard County Fair Barn, in Big Spring. Money raised from the event will benefit the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County.

Tickets are \$25 each and can be purchased at the United Way Office, 215 W. 3rd, Queens of the Dude Ranch, and Lone Star State Bank, and at OC Farm & Ranch, in Coahoma. For more information, contact Christian Fair, Executive Director for the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County, at 432-816-3573.

### **Area News: Ector County Jail to Sell E-Cigarettes to Inmates**

ODESSA, Texas (KOSA) - The Ector County Commissioners Court approved the selling of e cigarettes to inmates at the Ector Law Enforcement Center..

All of the revenue will go towards the jail, at no expense to taxpayers, Ector County Judge Dustin Fawcett says it will offset costs to keep the inmates locked up.

According to Ector County Sheriff Mike Griffis says their buying the e-cigarettes at \$3.85 a piece selling them for around \$14. They'll start with 1,000 and see how it goes...

One e-cigarette is the equivalent to one pack of cigarettes.

Fawcett says other counties have used this before, as the e-cigarettes act as a behavioral tool.

Griffis says the e-cigarettes are fairly indestructible, basic enough to hopefully not pose a safety threat.

04/14/23

### **Himes Inducted Into WJCAC Hall of Fame**

**BIG SPRING** – Howard College Hawks athletics program will recognize former student and men's rodeo athlete and coach, Jack Himes, for his recent induction into the Western Junior College Athletics Conference (WJCAC) Hall of Fame on Saturday, April 15th at the final performance of the Howard College Rodeo.

Dr. Cheryl Sparks stated that this recognition is long overdue as Himes is a big part of the tradition and history of Howard College Rodeo. She went on to say that they are honored to call him "one of ours" and to recognize him for the impact he has had on rodeo student athletes and college rodeo.

The induction ceremony will be held on Saturday, April 15th, at the final performance of the Howard College Rodeo. The rodeo kicks off at 7:00 pm with the induction ceremony beginning at approximately 7:30 pm. Admission is free for the public.

Election and early voting

### **Sports**

Big Spring teams will play in Sweetwater tonight against the Mustangs. Varsity Lady Steers play at 5, and Varsity Steers play at 7 pm. Listen to a live broadcast for both of those games on The Mighty 1490 AM.

Coahoma will host home games against Wall tonight. Varsity Bulldogettes play at 5, and Varsity Bulldogs play at 7 pm.

Forsan Lady Buffs will host a home game against Post today. Varsity plays at 5 PM. The Buffs will also play at home tonight. Their game will be against Colorado City. Varsity Baseball plays at 7pm.

### **City council highlights**

This week, 11 properties in the City of Big Spring were up for possible abatement of a public nuisance. This was discussed during a public hearing at Tuesday night's meeting of the Big Spring City Council.

During the hearing, it was pointed out by local resident Scott Emerson that a property listed at 1710 Young Street did not correctly list the current owner. He advised that he had purchased the property in a tax from a tax auction in 2013, and later sold it in 2015 to Chris Golding. The listed owners Troy V. Little and Jessie Lee Little had not actually owned the property since 2012. Emerson questioned how research is conducted to contact the property owners, and whether any of the property owners not present for the public hearing actually received notification.

A property at 1309 Grafa St. was listed with deceased owners Judy and David Sausman. Their daughter spoke at the hearing, asking how notification could be sent if they were deceased. According to City Attorney Andrew Hagen and City Manager Todd Darden, legally, the City followed the law to notify the property owners - by putting a letter on the property, sending mail to the owners listed on the deed, and putting a notice in the newspaper. He also advised that the City was not responsible for procuring title unless they were buying the property. (1:20:00 - tompkins)

Councilman for District 5 Troy Tompkins responded that he understood that everything had been done legally, however, there should be extra steps involved to ensure proper notification before removing somebody from their home or abating a house because it was the right thing to do.

"Sometimes you do what's legal and sometimes you take the extra step to do what's ethical, in my opinion, before we take the extreme measure of removing somebody from their home or abating a house. If there's a question, then we need to address the issue. Not because that's

the legal thing to do but because it's the right thing to do," said Troy Tompkins, Councilman for District 5.

Ultimately, 9 of the 11 properties listed passed for abatement. 1710 Young Street and 1309 Grafa St. were tabled.

The next Large Item Pickup is scheduled for District 4, April 19th. Council also approved the extension of the Lifeguard Agreement with the Big Spring YMCA. This extension will allow lifeguards to be on duty at the Russ McEwen Aquatic Center for the Tate's Place Back to School event on August 6, 2023.

### **Steer Pantry**

Big Spring ISD's Steer Pantry has moved to a new location at the Big Spring High School. The district provides a food pantry for all BSISD students and their families, from Kentwood Pre-K through High School. Stephanie Laplante, coordinator for the Steer Pantry, tells us more about the Steer Pantry. (audio - whole family)

The Steer Pantry is stocked with donations from the West Texas Food Bank, through federal programs. Plus, it's also supplemented through local food drives and community donations.

The new location is on the backside of the vocational building on the east side of the Big Spring High School campus, and is accessible through the student parking lot.

Shoppers will need to park and enter the building since drive-thru boxes are no longer available. The Steer Pantry is open after school hours on Tuesdays from 4:30 until 5 pm. During the summer, the pantry will be open on Tuesdays by appointment only. For more information, contact Stephanie Laplante at [slaplante@bsisd.esc18.net](mailto:slaplante@bsisd.esc18.net).

### **Large/Bulk Item deadline**

Deadline to get on the list for this month's Large/Bulk Item Pickup is Monday, April 17th, at 5 PM. District 4 resident must call the Public Works office at 432-264-2501, or email [nhernandez@mybigspring.com](mailto:nhernandez@mybigspring.com) to schedule a large/bulk item pickup for Wednesday, April 19, 2023.

### **ACO Appreciation Week 2023**

This week is National Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week. It is celebrated every year on the second full week of April.

Yesterday, the Big Spring Police Department recognized their Animal Care and Control personnel for risking life and limb by going out into the public to protect the welfare of helpless animals and pets who are rescued from injury, disease, abuse, and starvation. Animal Care and Control personnel provide the essential community functions of enforcing Animal Control

laws, protecting the public from diseases, such as rabies, and educating the public on the proper care of the community's pets.

Citizens are encouraged in showing appreciation and giving recognition to the hardworking men and women of Animal Care and Control who risk their lives and devote huge amounts of personal time and resources as they serve the public—just like other public safety and law enforcement agencies empowered with the same duties.

04/17/23

### **CHS JV Softball**

The Coahoma JV Bulldogettes finished their season undefeated at home on Friday, April 14, 2023. This 19-0 feat includes wins against eight teams in the 4A/5A/6A classification, and an 8-1 win over Hermleigh, the runner-up in the 2022 1A state championship tournament. The JV Bulldogettes outscored their opponents 183-19. They had a team total of seven home runs. The team was coached by Katy Renteria and Cassie Lewis. Head coach of the Bulldogette program is Alex Orosco. Sydney Upshaw is an assistant coach for the Bulldogettes.

On Friday night, Big Spring softball and baseball teams took on the Sweetwater Mustangs. The Lady Steers lost, final score was 3-5. The Steers won their game, 5-3.

Coahoma varsity Softball won over Wall, final score was 19-1.

Forsan Lady Buffs won their game over Post, final score was 11-0. Buffs won their game over Colorado City, final score was 10-6.

### **Alive After 5**

Last week's Alive After 5 was hosted by the Scioli Group. Here, Paul Scioli, owner, tells us more about what the business does (audio- Scioli).

When asked what kind of value networking events held by the Chamber hold for local communities, Scioli had this to say (audio - community)

Scioli told KBest News that the business has a history of working in Big Spring, and even worked with the late mayor Russ McEwen. Here, he explains more (audio).

The Scioli Group began in 1986, as a financial planning consulting firm. The consulting role evolved in 1995 to include employee benefits consulting. The employee benefits consulting services include health, dental, vision, long-term disability, short-term disability, and life as well as voluntary ancillary products. They are an independent agency licensed and appointed to do business with many insurance companies and third-party administrators. Their goal consists of developing strategic plans with employers both self-funded and fully insured.

They have two offices, one in Dallas and one in Lubbock, and have a Big Spring office at 900 S. Main.

### **Large/Bulk Item Pickup**

The next Large Item Pickup is scheduled for District 4 in Big Spring will be this Wednesday, April 19th. In order to have your items picked up, you will need to schedule a pickup with the Public Works Office by calling 432-264-2501 or emailing [NHernandez@mybigspring.com](mailto:NHernandez@mybigspring.com). The deadline to get that pickup scheduled is today by 5 PM.

Be advised the Coahoma Lions's Club and the City of Coahoma will be teaming up this week for a large/bulk item pickup this week. That pickup will be this Saturday, April 22nd. Coahoma residents can contact the Coahoma City Hall before April 22nd to schedule a pickup by calling them at 432-394-4287. This Saturday, items must be placed out in front of the participant's home. Note that batteries, brush, and tires will not be accepted.

### **Public Service Announcement - Pharmaceutical Take Back**

On Saturday, the 22nd of April 2023, from the hours of 10am-2pm, the Big Spring Police Department's Narcotics Division will be working in collaboration with the Drug Enforcement Administration on the National Pharmaceutical Take Back Initiative outside Ryan Hall located at 605 N. Main St in Big Spring Texas.

This provides a unified opportunity for the public to surrender expired, unwanted, or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances, dangerous drugs and other medications to law enforcement officers for destruction. Intra-venous solutions, injectibles, and syringes will not be accepted due to potential hazards posed by blood-borne pathogens.

This program is anonymous, and all efforts will be made to protect the identity of individuals disposing of medications. Participants may dispose of medication in its original container or by removing the medication from its container and disposing it directly into the disposal box. Liquid products, such as cough syrup, should remain sealed in their original container.

We strongly encourage everyone who has expired medicine or medicine you no longer need or use, to utilize this opportunity and dispose of your medicine safely.

For more information regarding this program please contact Big Spring Police Department Narcotics Sergeant Keith Jones (432) 264-2595  
Chief Chad Williams  
Lieutenant Brian Gordon

04/18/23

### **Softball/Baseball, 04/18/23:**

Big Spring teams will host home games against Levelland. This will be Senior Night for the Lady Steers. Varsity Lady Steers will play at 5 PM and the Varsity Steers team will play at 7 PM. Listen to a live broadcast for both of those games on The Mighty 1490 AM and FM 103.9.

Coahoma will host a home game against San Angelo TLCA. Varsity Bulldogettes play at 5 pm, and Bulldogs play at 7 pm.

Forsan Lady Buffs have an away game against Colorado City at 5 PM. The Buffs are scheduled to play Jayton, however these details are yet to be announced. This will not be a district game.

The next district game for the Buffs will be this Friday, April 21st, against Borden County at home. That game begins at 7 pm.

### **City/School elections - Part 1**

City and School Elections are just around the corner for Coahoma and Forsan. Early voting will begin next week at the Howard County Courthouse in Big Spring. April 24th through the 28th, voters can cast their ballot from 8 AM to 5 PM, and extended hours will be available May 1st and 2nd from 7 am to 7 pm.

In Forsan, three At Large positions are open for Forsan City Council and for Forsan ISD Board of Trustees. Those running for Council positions are Patrick Carnahan, Stephanie Cleveland, Brandon Riffe, Debbie Burton, and Johnathan Lemons. Those running for a position on the FISD School Board are Jimmy Miller, Chad Myers, Kristi Elliott, Matt Cunningham, and Brenda Tubb.

In Coahoma, the city election was canceled because council members up for re-election are unopposed. In the school election for Coahoma, Kandy Alaman, Stormy Bradley, Benjamin M. Malone, and Scott Tuttle are running for one of 3 positions on the Coahoma ISD Board of Trustees. There will also be two propositions for bonds totaling over \$12 million listed on the Coahoma ballot that would be for school facilities, new buses, and indoor multipurpose facility. We'll have more information on that tomorrow morning.

### **Pre-Registration Week**

This week is pre-registration week for Forsan. This is for new pre-k and kindergarten students. Registration begins tomorrow, April 19th, and will continue through Friday, April 21st. From 8:30 AM to 4 PM. Evening registration will be only available until 7 pm on Thursday, April 20th. Items needed for Pre-K and Kindergarten registration will include a birth certificate, social security card, immunization record, proof of residency for district students, parent's driver's license, and, if registering for Pre-K, proof of income.

If your child will be 5 on or before Sept. 1st, be advised that the Kinder Roundup in Big Spring begins tomorrow at Macy and Moss Elementary schools. Kindergarten teachers will be giving school tours tomorrow from 4-6 pm.

For more information on these events, visit our KBest Media Facebook page.

### **Stand Up to Child Event**

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time for communities to come together to build caring connections, supportive environments, and positive experiences for all children. Scenic Mountain Medical Center invites the public to stand up for children and join them and several other agencies for the 9th annual Stand Up to Child Abuse on Thursday, April 20th, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm on the Scenic Mountain Front Lawn. The purpose of the event is to bring child abuse prevention awareness to the community of Big Spring and surrounding areas.

Booths are available free of charge, for more information contact 432-268-4907 or email [April.Arms@steward.org](mailto:April.Arms@steward.org).

### **WTXCMC Annual Gala and Awards Banquet**

BIG SPRING, TX – The West Texas Community Mediation Center (WTXCMC) will have their first annual gala & awards banquet this Friday, April 21st! This year's theme is "Springtime in Paris". Tickets are \$35 each or \$50 per couple and includes a meal of French cuisine and dancing.

During the event there will be a silent auction that benefits the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County. Plus there will also be a "Grand Raffle" for a chance to win 1 of 3 prizes - 1st place is a 4 day/3 night resort vacation, 2nd place wins a DeWalt drill set with a tool box, and 3rd place is a laptop. Tickets for the raffle are \$5 each or 10 for \$20, and you don't have to be present to win.

Tickets for both the banquet and the raffle can be purchased at the West Texas Community Mediation Center at 501 S. Runnels in Big Spring, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce at 215 W. 3rd, and through Cashapp by sending a payment to \$WTXCMC.

For more information, contact the office at 432-517-4070 or email [wtxcmc@gmail.com](mailto:wtxcmc@gmail.com).

04/19/23

### **Propositions in Coahoma**

Coahoma residents will soon have an opportunity to vote on two propositions that will be listed on the May 6th City and School election ballot. Both bonds total over \$12 million listed on the Coahoma ballot that would be for school facilities, new buses, and indoor multipurpose facility.

Proposition A is for the issuance of \$7,765,000 of bonds by Coahoma ISD that would allow the district to build two additional classrooms and a band hall at the junior high. It would also purchase 3 new buses - 2 for travel and 1 as a route bus - and allow them to retire the current travel buses that are at the end of their life cycles. This would also include renovations to the auditorium, cafeteria, and safety upgrades that would start at the elementary school.

Proposition B is for the issuance of \$4,500,000 of bonds by CISD for an indoor multipurpose facility. This would house two locker rooms for baseball and softball with coaches offices. The main purpose would be for an extracurricular environment but it would also be available for open air activities such as marching band practice, P.E. classes, junior high pep rallies, athletics and more, for grades K-12.

Many would assume that if these bonds are passed there would be a tax rate increase associated with the bonds, but Brandon Atkins, former CISD school board member, told KBest News that's not necessarily true because the common property owner is not the only one paying taxes in the district.

According to Atkins, if the oilfield business continues to thrive as it is now, the tax money brought in by the oil companies, their production, and facilities in the district would generate the extra revenue needed to pay for the bonds causing a net zero tax rate increase. Here, he explains what that means (audio - net zero).

Early voting will begin next week at the Howard County Courthouse in Big Spring. April 24th through the 28th, voters can cast their ballot from 8 AM to 5 PM, and extended hours will be available May 1st and 2nd from 7 am to 7 pm.

### **Events**

South Texas Homies, a Tejano band, will perform at the Howard County Fair Barn this Saturday, April 22nd, at 8 PM. Pre-sale tickets are available for \$20 each, and can be reserved by calling 432-214-46122.

A Joyful Season Shopping Expo will be at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum this weekend, April 21 - 22nd. On Friday, they'll be open from 3-8 pm and on Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm.

### **CISD: Winter Guard Festival**

Fifteen groups from area schools including Coahoma, Big Spring, and Forsan performed at the Howard County Winter Guard Festival held in the Howard College Dorothy Garrett Coliseum recently.

Winter Guard is an indoor competition for color guards performing choreographed, artful dance routines to music while using equipment such as flags, ruffles, and sabers. Two area drum lines also competed in the percussion category.

The Howard County Festival was one of the few West Texas venues this year, which allowed area schools to perform without having to travel to a major metropolitan area.

To cap off the winter guard contest portion of the festival, the CHS winter guard gave an exhibition performance. The event was sponsored by the Coahoma High School Band and the CHS band boosters.

### **Forsan Track**

Last week, Forsan announced they had multiple athletes who qualified for the upcoming Regional meet based on their most recent results.

Hayden Bowlin placed 3rd in the 100M, earning a bronze medal.

Aleena Nelson was a silver medalist in Shot Put

Dustin Spalla earned bronze in the 110 Hurdles

Kaeli Woodall earned the silver medal in both the High Jump and 400m

04/20/23

### **2 Hawk WBB Players Signed for the Next Level**

Two Hawk Women's Basketball players will be moving on to the next level of play. Last week, [Malgorzata "Gosia" Byczkowska](#) and [Ann Mary Zachariah](#) signed National Letters of Intent to move to the D1 level of collegiate basketball. This is a monumental feat for these athletes, not just as athletes, but as students too.

Head Coach John Ishee said that he was proud of the opportunity they have earned. He went on to say that Ann Mary's skillset at 6'2 will translate to a Matchup problem for people at the next level. Gosia is a Pure Shooter who can space the floor and her ability to overcome a major knee injury is a testament to her work ethic and the quality of care our student-athletes receive.

Byczkowska will be moving on to Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas where she will join the Lady Texans this next season. Byczkowska has been with Howard College for the last two years. She was named Honorable Mention All-Conference Team this year by the Western Junior College Athletic Conference (WJCAC.)

Zachariah will move on to Colorado State University where she will be joining the Ram's WBB team. This is Zachariah's first year at the collegiate level. During her time at Howard College, Zachariah was named player of the week multiple times, WJCAC All-Conference Team, and WJCAC Freshman of the Year for 22-23.

### **Congratulation to the Steer Tennis Kids!**

The Big Spring Tennis Team recently traveled to Lubbock to participate in the Region 1 tennis tournament. Steers drew some harsh first round plays, but the mix team were able to pull off the only first round win, beating Decatur in straight sets 6-3, 6-3. They would go on to play Andrews #2 mix double team in almost a 3 hour match, but would be victorious in the epic battle. This would be the first time in almost a decade the Steers would have someone in the medaling rounds for Regional tennis meet. The mix team would end up taking 4<sup>th</sup> in the whole tournament only losing to Herford (won 2<sup>nd</sup> place), and Andrews #1 mix double team (won 3<sup>rd</sup> place).

### **Congratulations to our Lady Track Steers!**

Last week, the Big Spring High School Girls track team competed at the District 5 -4A Meet and were the overall team champion. The team brought in 5 individual gold medals, 3 silver, 3 bronze. They also earned 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in various team relay events. The top 4 finishers in each event will move on to the Area Meet this Friday, April 21st, at Abilene Wylie.

Those placing 1st and earning a gold medal in their events were Kyleena Hughes, 200 M Dash; Dorcas Jones, 400 M Dash; Alexa Mehan, 100 M Hurdles and 300 M Hurdles; Aolani Mendez, Pole Vault; and the 4x400 M Relay team of Dorcas Jones, Alysandra De La Cruz, Luna Jimenez, and Bergan Pinkley.

Those placing 2nd were Bergan Pinkley, 800 M run; Kandace Gonzales, 3200 M Run and 1600 M Run; Shelby Mayhew, Pole Vault; and the 4x200 M Relay team of Mia Bustamante, Skylyn Rivera, Bre Woodruff, and Kyleen Hughes.

Those placing 3rd and 4th in their respective event were Mia Bustamante, Bergan Pinkley, Skylyn Rivera, Alexa Mehan, Bre Woodruff, Daniah Wrighter, and the 4x100 M Relay team of Skylyn Rivera, Bre Woodruff, Alysandra De La Cruz, and Kyleen Hughes.)

For more results from this district meet, visit our KBest media Facebook page or website [kbst.com](http://kbst.com).

### **Events**

A Joyful Season Shopping Expo will be at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum this weekend, April 21 - 22nd. On Friday, they'll be open from 3-8 pm and on Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm.

The Big Spring Symphony Orchestra will have a Tribute Concert this Saturday, April 22nd, in memory of Dr. Keith Graumann, their late music director and conductor.

The concert starts at 7:30 PM at the Big Spring High School Auditorium. This will be an epic tribute featuring Guest Artist, Dave Alexander, and Guest Conductor, Maestro John Giordano!

South TX Homies, a Tejano band, will perform at the Howard County Fair Barn this Saturday, April 22nd, at 8 PM. This is presented by Big Spring's DJ Hita La Favorita. Opening the event will be Juan Pantoja with The Blue Diamonds, and local DJ N-Do will also be in the mix.

Pre-sale tickets are available for \$20 each, and can be reserved by calling 432-214-6122. Tickets will also be available at the door for \$25 each. Tables are available for \$30.

#### **HCVFD Fight Brush Fire, 04/19/23**

HOWARD COUNTY, TX – Yesterday afternoon, Howard County Volunteer Firefighters responded to a report of a brush fire in the area between the HWY 87 bypass at Bealls Creek and I-20, which covered a total of 61 acres.

It is speculated that the fire may have been caused as a result of a train in the area or a rekindling from the fires that occurred on Sunday night, April 16th. According to Barber, there were 6 separate fires caused by a train in the same area that covered 47 acres on Sunday night.

In addition to HCVFD firefighters, other responders include the Howard County Road and Bridge Department who are assisting with maintainers and bulldozers, and the forest service is enroute from San Angelo.

04/21/23

## Howard College Recognizes Student Excellence

**BIG SPRING** – Howard College recently hosted their annual Evening of Excellence to recognize student achievement on the Big Spring campus. Recognitions for the night included the coveted Presidential Award for Outstanding Student of the Year, Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) and Sigma Kappa Delta (SKD) inductions, and the 2023 All-Texas Academic Team student.

This year the Presidential Award for Outstanding Student of the Year award was given to two students on the Big Spring campus, Kaeona Marquez and Caleb Cassie, and one student, Shiv Bhakta, for the Lamesa campus.

Students are nominated for the Presidential Award by faculty and staff and eligibility considerations include student engagement on campus, grades, character, and leadership. Students must be a sophomore or graduating in the spring term to be eligible for the award.

Bhakta, a Lamesa Dual Credit student, will be graduating with his associate degree from Howard College just days before he graduates from Lamesa High School.

Other students nominated for the Presidential Award included Thomas Gabehart, Nicholas Gomez, Denis Kadiric, and Alexandra Mota for the Big Spring campus and Michael Contreras for the Lamesa campus.

Abby Richardson, from the Big Spring campus, was selected for the 2023 All-Texas Academic Team. This award is chosen among PTK students who apply and is recognized state-wide to celebrate outstanding community college students.

### **Pharmaceutical Take Back**

BIG SPRING, TX -- On Saturday, the 22nd of April 2023, from the hours of 10am-2pm, the Big Spring Police Department's Narcotics Division will be working in collaboration with the Drug Enforcement Administration on the National Pharmaceutical Take Back Initiative outside Ryan Hall located at 605 N. Main St in Big Spring Texas.

This provides a unified opportunity for the public to surrender expired, unwanted, or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances, dangerous drugs and other medications to law enforcement officers for destruction. Intra-venous solutions, injectables, and syringes will not be accepted due to potential hazards posed by blood-borne pathogens.

This program is anonymous, and all efforts will be made to protect the identity of individuals disposing of medications. Participants may dispose of medication in its original container or by removing the medication from its container and disposing it directly into the disposal box. Liquid products, such as cough syrup, should remain sealed in their original container.

The Big Spring Police Department strongly encourages everyone who has expired medicine or medicine you no longer need or use, to utilize this opportunity and dispose of your medicine safely.

For more information regarding this program please contact Big Spring Police Department Narcotics Sergeant Keith Jones (432) 264-2595.

### **Health Fair and Trash Off**

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce will host the annual Health Fair this Saturday, from 9 AM to Noon, at the Heart of the City Park in downtown Big Spring on Scurry St. Over 30 vendors will be at the event to offer health related information. The public is encouraged to attend and learn about ways to take care of themselves.

Attendees will have a chance to win one of the five \$100 gift cards up for grabs from Johansen's Nursery, courtesy of Keep Big Spring Beautiful. This event is for the whole family, and it will include an obstacle course for the kids, sponsored by the Star Group, where kids have a chance to win a Nintendo Switch. Plus, VIPS will be offering fingerprinting services for parents needing to get their child's fingerprints done and help with photo ID's.

Demonstrations will also be presented by YMCA and Knockout Dance Academy at the health fair. The event is free for community members to attend. To find out more information, call the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce at 432-263-7641.

### **Don't Mess with Texas Trash Off**

Keep Big Spring Beautiful invites the public to join them for this Saturday's Don't Mess with Texas Trash Off, which is part of the Great American Trash Off going on now. Community members are encouraged to grab a trash bag and collect trash from various locations. Bags will be provided by Keep Big Spring Beautiful on Saturday, outside of Howard College, from 9 am to noon. There will also be roll-away dumpsters stationed outside of Howard College and at the Health Fair for people to utilize this Saturday.

### **Howard College Cheer Tryouts**

Cheerleader and Mascot tryouts will be held this weekend at Howard College in Big Spring. A clinic will be held on Saturday at 5 PM and tryouts will be at 1 PM on Sunday, April 23. Both will be held at the Harold Davis Fitness Center.

Here, [Katie Creswell](#), with the Howard Cheer program, explains more (audio). Creswell went on to say the chant doesn't have to be long, but it has to be original and not something that has been seen in the high schools.

There is an online registration form you must fill out before the tryouts, the deadline to do so is today at 5 PM. Be advised a dress code will be in place for the tryouts.

Mascots are welcome to attend the clinics, but are required to bring their own 2-3 minute skit for their try-out. This skit should include music, props, etc., and should focus on crowd involvement. Mascots must bring their own music.

For more info, please contact Katie at (432) 264-5027 or email [kcreswell@howardcollege.edu](mailto:kcreswell@howardcollege.edu)

### **Sports**

Big Spring teams will have an away game for Lubbock Estacado. Lady Steers play at 5 pm and Steers play at 7 PM. Listen to a live broadcast for these games on The Mighty 1490 AM and FM 103.9, brought to you by the KBest Sports Crew.

Coahoma will travel to San Angelo for games against TLCA. Varsity Bulldogettes play at 4 pm and Bulldogs play at 7 pm.

Forsan Buffs will play Borden County at home tonight. Varsity plays at 7 pm and this will be Senior Night for the Buffs.

In playoff news: Big Spring Lady Steers will face off against Graham for the Bi-District Championship. Game 1 will be Thursday, April 27th, at 6pm in Big Spring. Game 2: will be on Friday, April 28th at 6pm in Graham. If needed, Game 3 will be on Saturday, April 29th at 2 pm in Hawley. Tickets are \$5 for Adults and \$3 for Students, and All passes will be accepted.

SOFTBALL PLAYOFF UPDATE, 04/21/23: Coahoma Bulldogettes will take on Florence on Thursday, April 27, at 7 pm for the Bi-District Round.

Listen to a live broadcast of all the Lady Steers softball playoff action on The Mighty 1490 AM and FM 103.9 AM, online at KBST.com, or on our mobile app KBEST.

**Big Spring Man Arrested for Aggravated Assault w/ Deadly Weapon/Family Violence**

A Big Spring man was recently arrested in Scurry County for allegedly stabbing a 17-year-old female multiple times.

According to an emergency call documented by the Scurry County Sheriff's Office, at approximately 8:30 PM on Saturday, March 25th, a caller stated that a 17-year-old female with stab wounds was on the side of the road near FM 1298 and CR 3236, which is near Lake JB Thomas. The caller advised that they were enroute with the victim to Snyder on HWY 350. An ambulance was able to meet the caller in Ira and continued to transport the victim to Cogdell Memorial Hospital in Snyder.

Two suspects, identified as Quemarian Lewis, 20, of Big Spring, and Brookelyn Jenson, 21, are currently in custody at the Scurry County Jail in connection to the incident. According to the incident report, Lewis used a knife to stab the victim multiple times.

Lewis is charged with Aggravated Assault Date/Family/House w/ Weapon First Degree Felony. Jenson is charged with Aggravated Assault w/ Deadly Weapon Second Degree Felony.

The investigation is ongoing and no further information is available at this time.

04/24/23

**ATB in Big Spring, 4/29/23**

This Saturday, April 29th, the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County will welcome back the Art Tigerina Band back for their 2nd Annual United de Mayo. The event will be held at the Dora Roberts Community Center, beginning at 8 PM. Tickets and VIP tables are still available. General Admission tickets are \$25 and available in Big Spring at the United Way office, located at 215 W. 3rd St., at Queens of the Dude Ranch, Lone Star State Bank, and in Coahoma at OC Farm and Ranch in Coahoma.

For More information, contact Christian Fair at 432-816-3573.

**Stand Up for Child Abuse Awareness**

Scenic Mountain Medical Center held it's annual Child Abuse Prevention Awareness event - Stand Up for Children, on Thursday. The event had approximately 20 booths and hotdogs and hamburgers were provided by Double L BBQ.

Stacey Brown, President of SMMC, told KBest News that the event is held annually to bring awareness to the fact that child abuse, unfortunately, does exist in our communities. SMMC

gathers with other community partners to provide a fun experience for kids while also providing information about resources that are available if needed.

### **Sports**

Congratulations to the Forsan Boys Golf team on their fourth place finish at the regional meet. Kade Nichols finished third and qualified for state.

After defeating San Angelo TLCA on Friday, the Coahoma Bulldogettes are, again, undefeated District Champs! For the third year in a row, the Bulldogettes were perfect in district play. They outscored their district opponents 193 - 6. The team has a current season record of 49 home runs.

The Bulldogettes will take on Florence on Thursday, April 27, at 7 pm for the Bi-District Round. This will be a one-game playoff round for the Bulldogettes. Coahoma will be the home team.

In more playoff news, the Big Spring Lady Steers will face off against Graham for the Bi-District Championship. Game 1 will be Thursday, April 27th, at 6pm in Big Spring. Game 2 will be on Friday, April 28th, at 6pm in Graham. If needed, Game 3 will be on Saturday, April 29th at 2 pm in Hawley. Tickets are \$5 for Adults and \$3 for Students, and All passes will be accepted.

### **HCCC Agenda, 04/24/23**

The Howard County Commissioners will meet for a regular meeting today at 3:30 pm in the 3rd floor courtroom of the Howard County Courthouse in Big Spring.

In addition to regularly scheduled items on today's agenda, there will be discussions and possible actions on an economic development incentive project concerning battery storage, tree removal, and recovering the awnings at the tax office.

### **PLANTING SEEDS OF HOPE**

BIG SPRING - West Texas Centers - the Local Mental Health Authority based in Big Spring - is hosting a Mental Health Awareness Event "Planting Seeds of Hope" to encourage gardening as a healthy coping mechanism to manage stress.

West Texas Centers Mental Health experts will provide education on Mental Health Awareness on May 9, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the West Texas Centers Harris Building, 3205 US Hwy 87.

The Howard County Master Gardeners will be on hand to assist attendees in designing and planning a flower bed around the West Texas Centers Harris Building. Upon completion of the planting, each attendee will be presented with his or her own plant they may take home.

Organizers are requesting attendees RSVP in advance. For More information, visit our KBest Media Facebook page.

## Howard College Recognizes Student Excellence (Fuse Only)

**BIG SPRING** – Howard College recently hosted their annual Evening of Excellence to recognize student achievement on the Big Spring campus. Recognitions for the night included the coveted Presidential Award for Outstanding Student of the Year, Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) and Sigma Kappa Delta (SKD) inductions, and the 2023 All-Texas Academic Team student.

This year the Presidential Award for Outstanding Student of the Year award was given to two students on the Big Spring campus, Kaeona Marquez and Caleb Cassie, and one student, Shiv Bhakta, for the Lamesa campus.

Students are nominated for the Presidential Award by faculty and staff and eligibility considerations include student engagement on campus, grades, character, and leadership. Students must be a sophomore or graduating in the spring term to be eligible for the award.

Bhakta, a Lamesa Dual Credit student, will be graduating with his associate degree from Howard College just days before he graduates from Lamesa High School.

Other students nominated for the Presidential Award included Thomas Gabehart, Nicholas Gomez, Denis Kadiric, and Alexandra Mota for the Big Spring campus and Michael Contreras for the Lamesa campus.

Abby Richardson, from the Big Spring campus, was selected for the 2023 All-Texas Academic Team. This award is chosen among PTK students who apply and is recognized state-wide to celebrate outstanding community college students.

04/26/23

### **Sports**

The Bulldogette bi-district softball game has been moved to 7:30 p.m. Saturday, at Cisco High School in Cisco, Texas. Coahoma will face Florence in the 3A Bi-District 5/6 game. Coahoma will be the home team.

### **Gardening Seminar**

There will be a Howard County Raised Bed and Container Gardening Seminar in Big Spring today at 5:30 PM at the G.C. Broughton Jr. Complex, located at 2411 Echols St. Attendees will learn about planting and maintaining raised bed gardens as well as plant selection for the upcoming season. Guest speaker will be Sara Moran, Horticulture Agent, Midland and Ector Counties. Cost is \$10 per participant, and checks can be made payable to Howard College. For more information, contact the Howard County Agrilife Extension Office at 432-264-2236.

### **City Council meeting, 04/25/23**

BIG SPRING, TX -- The Big Spring City Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday where they discussed a number of issues.

During the meeting, the council went over more abatement properties that have been deemed unsafe by the city. When a property is abated, this means the city will clean up the property and charge the property owners for the work. There were 15 properties on this list in an effort to clean up the city.

Another item up for discussion was the ability of a Code Enforcement Officer to have the tools needed to secure an administrative search warrant from a magistrate on properties that may cause harm or where there may be imminent danger to the public. This item was tabled for now. Code Enforcement already has the right to secure such search warrants, this was a change in wording within the ordinance.

Also on the agenda, the approval of the City Council Minutes of the regular meeting held on April 11th, voucher approval, bid approvals including a bid for John Deere Backhoe attachment and a John Deere Zero Turn Mower for Ray Anderson Sports Complex and a utility tractor for Moss Creek Lake. All of these items passed.

### **Thank You for Your Investment - Big Spring Iron & Metal**

BIG SPRING, TX -- The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce held a Thank You Presentation for Big Spring Iron & Metal for their hard work and investments in the community. Big Spring Iron and Metal have been in business in the Big Spring community since 2017. Big Spring Iron and Metal take in scrap metals like copper, steel and aluminum and they pride themselves with fair pricing. They will even take in your scrap metal as a donation. Marty Browne, yard manager for Big Spring Iron and Metal, advised that they do not have the ability to take in precious metals like gold, platinum and silver but they can handle the rest.

Big Spring Iron and Metal is located at 101 Wooten Road and S US HWY 87. They are open Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 5:30 pm and Saturday from 8am to noon.

04/27/23

### **YMCA Hiring**

The YMCA in Big Spring is currently hiring for afternoon positions - Maintenance Custodian and Weight Room Attendant. If any of these jobs interest you and you think the time frames will work, please contact: Dathan Jones (432) 254-9949.

### **Traffic Alert - Temporary Road Closure**

On Monday, May 1, 2023, our Public Works crews will close the north FM700 service road (East 25th Street) from Goliad Street to Johnson Street. Citizens are advised that traffic will be detoured around this area. We apologize for any inconvenience and ask for your patience. Please direct any questions or concerns to the office of Shane Bowles, Public Works Director, at 432-264-2501.

### **Area News: RCISD Student Dies at Hospital**

Roscoe, TX – On Monday, April 24th, a student at Roscoe Collegiate ISD attempted to commit suicide while at school. At no time was anyone else threatened by the individual.

The student, later identified as Andrew Pope, was transported to Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital in Sweetwater and later transferred by air to Cooks Children's Hospital in Ft. Worth for treatment of his severe injury. Pope later passed away at approximately 1 AM on Wednesday, April 26th, in Fort Worth.

Roscoe Collegiate ISD has stated that they will continue to open their school in order to best service and support their students, employees, and community. Counselors are available to all. RCISD advised they are also working with local faith-based leaders, and noted that faith-based organizations in Roscoe and Sweetwater were also available for anyone in need of support.

### **Howard Central Appraisal District: Howard County taxpayers could see an average 24% increase**

HOWARD COUNTY, TX -- On Tuesday morning, the Howard Central Appraisal District issued a news release stating that 2023 appraisal value notices are scheduled to be mailed on May 1st, and that Howard County taxpayers could see an average 24 percent increase. According to the notice, this is due to the average increase in property value across the state. In order for local schools to receive full funding and to comply with equal and uniform taxation, HCAD must keep pace with the increases.

The news release goes on to state that property owners should review their notice of value and noted that it will not include tax estimates. A postcard will be mailed in August with website information, the exact amount of tax you'll pay, and meeting dates and times of local tax units so you know when they are setting their tax rates. It also notes that if the property owner does not believe that the property would likely sell for the value amount listed, they should file a protest and it goes into detail on how to do that.

Taxpayers should be advised that the deadline to file a protest is 30 days from the date of the notice mailing. For more information, read the full news release on our KBest Media Facebook page.

### **Playoff Updates**

#### **BIG SPRING**

Big Spring Lady Steers will face off against Graham for the Bi-District Championship. Game 1 will be Thursday, April 27th, at 6pm in Big Spring. Game 2 will be on Friday, April 28th, at 6 pm in Graham. If needed, Game 3 will be on Saturday, April 29th, at 2 pm in Hawley. Tickets are \$5 for Adults and \$3 for Students, and All passes will be accepted. Listen to a live broadcast of this game brought to you by the KBest Sports Crew on KBest Country 95.7.

#### **COAHOMA**

The Bulldogette Bi-District softball game has been moved to 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 29th, at Cisco High School in Cisco, Texas. Coahoma will face Florence in the 3A Bi-District 5/6 game. This is a one-game series Coahoma will be the home 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.

#### **FORSAN**

The Lady Buffs Softball team will take on Sundown in a 1-game series on Thursday, April 27th, in Lamesa, TX at 7 pm. A sendoff for the Lady Buffs will be at 4 PM today along 3-mile road. Listen to a live broadcast of this game brought to you by the KBest Sports Crew on 94.3 The Fuse.

### **Tristan Guerrero LOI - ASU**

Coahoma High School senior Tristan Guerrero signed his letter of intent to join the Angelo State University track and field program on Tuesday morning. Guerrero is a multisport athlete, but told KBest News that he prefers track to continue at a collegiate level. He went on to say that he chose Angelo State because it has one of the best physical therapy schools. Here, he explains more (audio - track).

When asked what kind of impact his coaches at Coahoma have had on him, Guerrero had this to say (audio - coaches).

04/28/23

### **Howard College Recognizing the Voice of Hawk Baseball**

**BIG SPRING** – Howard College will have a memorial ceremony in honor of John Weeks prior to the ESPN+ Live NJCAA matchup between the Hawks and New Mexico Junior College (NMJC) on Saturday, April 29, 2023.

The ceremony will take place at 10:30 am at the Big Spring Refinery Ballpark and will include the naming of the press box after Weeks who served as the “Voice of Hawk Baseball” for many years prior to his passing in 2022.

Weeks, who had a notable career as a referee in college basketball was honored for his legacy in the sport during a ceremony earlier in the year. But his role with the baseball program stands out for the many students he touched as well as his undying support of the program.

Weeks was not a fair-weather fan and traveled far and wide to keep the fans in tune with Hawk baseball. As owner of KBYG radio station, John was able to use it as the backbone of the baseball broadcast for fans all over the country.

The press box naming ceremony will be held at 10:30 am with the Hawks vs NMJC doubleheader beginning at 12 noon. The game will not be livestreamed as it will be broadcast on ESPN+.

### **Butterfly Release Celebration**

Home Hospice invites the public to join them to honor the moments and memories you have with your loved one by joining them for their annual Butterfly Release & Family Celebration in Big Spring. This day of remembrance, fellowship, music, and refreshments will be held tomorrow afternoon from 2-4 pm at the Heritage Museum, located at 510 Scurry St. The event is free to attend. For more information, call 432-264-7599.

### **ATB in Big Spring, 4/29/23**

Tomorrow night, the Art Tigerina Band will join the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County for their 2nd Annual United de Mayo at the Dora Roberts Community Center. The show starts at 8 PM, and tickets are still available for \$25 at the United Way office, located at 215 W. 3rd St., at Queens of the Dude Ranch, Lone Star State Bank, and in Coahoma at OC Farm and Ranch in Coahoma. Plus, they'll be available at the door. For more information, contact Christian Fair at 432-816-3573.

### **Big Spring High School Student Council Earns Statewide Recognition**

The BSHS Winter Showcase and Holiday Market, a Big Spring High School Student Council project, has been recognized by the Texas Association of Student Councils as one of the Top Projects of 2023. Of the almost 1200 schools involved in TASC, BSHS StuCo is one of only ten high school student councils statewide to receive this highly-esteemed honor. TASC is the largest student council association in the country, and the ten projects recognized at its conference had strict criteria. Projects were evaluated based on how well they met their objectives; the involvement from the council, the student body, the staff, and the community; originality, and overall success. The BSHS Winter Showcase and Holiday Market raised over \$700 for the American Cancer Society while highlighting many of the talented students not only on stage, but also with their CTE skills at the market. Big Spring High School Student Council was also named a Sweepstakes School earning Outstanding Student Council recognition in all areas of service. For more on this story, visit our KBest Media Facebook page.

### **Playoff Updates**

#### **BIG SPRING**

Big Spring Lady Steers took on Graham in Game 1 for the Bi-District Championship. Final score was Big Spring 0, Graham 5. Game 2 will be today at 6 pm in Graham. If needed, Game 3 will be tomorrow at 2 pm in Hawley. Listen to a live broadcast of this game brought to you by the KBest Sports Crew on KBest Country 95.7.

#### **FORSAN**

Congratulations to the Forsan Lady Buffs who defeated Sundown in a 1-game series for the Bi-District Championship. Final score was 11-4. Next, they'll move on to play Clarendon on Friday and Saturday, times are TBD.

#### **COAHOMA**

The Coahoma Bulldogettes will play a 1-game round for the Bi-District Championship tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. in Cisco against Florence. Coahoma will be the home 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.

### **Baseball Games**

Big Spring Steers will play their final game of the regular season tonight against San Angelo Lakeview at 7 PM tonight. Listen to a live broadcast of this game on The Mighty 1490 AM and FM 103.9.

Forsan Buffs will play Seymour in Hawley tonight at 5 PM.

Coahoma Bulldogs will play San Angelo Grape Creek at home at 6 PM tonight.

**Dylan Marquez Memorial Scholarship - Available to BSISD High School Seniors**

The Dylan Marquez Memorial Scholarship was created to assist high school seniors from Big Spring ISD who are set to continue their education after graduating. This scholarship will be awarded annually to two (2) students: one enrolled in an accredited university and one enrolled in a technical/vocational school. Each scholarship will equal \$2,500. In the event there is no recipient from the university- or technical/vocational-track, the selection committee shall have the authority to double the scholarship award to \$5,000/maximum for one recipient.

Be advised, the recipient must be actively pursuing either a degree and/or a technical/industrial certification in a field whereby they could be successfully employed in the carbon black or chemical industries. Examples of these fields include, but are not limited to, engineering, industrial technology, instrumentation, and electrical technician.

For more information on the guidelines for this scholarship, visit our website KBST.com.

**Regional Track Results - BSHS**

Last week, the Big Spring High School girls track team traveled to Abilene for the Districts 5 & 6 Area Meet. Overall, the team finished 4th and had a total of 12 top 4 finishers who will move on to the Region 1-4A Regional Meet in Lubbock this weekend.

Those placing earning silver in their events were Daniah Wrighter – Shot Put, and Kyleena Hughes - 200 M Dash.

Those earning bronze were Aolani Mendez in Pole Vault, Bergan Pinkley in the 800 M Run, Dorcas Jones in the 400 M Dash, the 4x200 M Relay team of Bre Woodruff, Skylyn Rivera, Mia Bustamante, Kyleena Hughes, and the 4x400 M Relay team of Dorcas Jones, Aly De La Cruz, Luna Jimenez, Bergan Pinkley.

Those placing 4th were Kandace Gonzales in the 3200 M Run, Began Pinkley in the 400 M Dash, Alexa Mehan in the 100 M Hurdles, and the 4x100 M Relay team of Skylyn Rivera, Mia Bustamante, Aly De La Cruz, and Kyleena Hughes.

**DAV Bikes**

DAV for the past several years have bought repair parts for the VA DOM. 7 bikes taken to Cactus Jax, but too far beyond repair, Cactus Jax found company to give a reduced price for a dozen bikes. They purchased 12 discounted bikes, Cactus Jax added no flat tires for free. TX Graphics gave DAV stickers to add on bikes for free, beachcomber bikes - real low maintenance and heavy duty.

Presented to the Domiciliary on Monday.

## **MAY 2023**

**05/01/23**

### **Local DAV presents Bikes to VA Domiciliary Veterans**

BIG SPRING, TX — On Monday, April 24, 2023, the Big Spring chapter of the Disabled American Veterans presented 12 new beachcomber bikes to veterans at the Domiciliary at the West Texas VA.

According to Mike Tarpley, Senior Vice Commander for DAV, Ch. 47, for the past several years the DAV has purchased repair parts for the VA's Domiciliary. This year, they collected seven bikes for repair, but, with the help of local bike shop Cactus Jax Cycle Worx, they were able to order 12 new bikes at a discounted price. Cactus Jax also added no flat bike tires for free, and Texas Graphics gave DAV stickers to add on bikes for free.

Tarpley told KBest News that the beachcomber bikes were chosen because they're real low maintenance and heavy duty.

### **Early Voting**

Early Voting continues this week with extended hours at the Howard County Courthouse. Today and tomorrow voters can cast their votes from 7 am to 7 pm. Forsan voters will vote for their choices of Forsan City Council Members, and Forsan ISD School Board Members, and Coahoma voters will vote for Coahoma ISD School Board Members, and 2 propositions that total approximately \$12 million in bonds to purchase buses and update CISD facilities.

According to the Howard County Elections Office, as of Friday afternoon, of the 4,139 registered voters eligible to vote in this election, there have only been 134 people who voted in person. This is less than 4 percent.

Registered voters can cast their early vote today and tomorrow until 7 pm at the Howard County Courthouse, 300 S. Main. Election Day is Saturday, May 6th.

### **Nike Basketball Camp -**

Nike Basketball camp will return to Big Spring, June 12-16th at Big Spring Jr High. This is a co-Ed Basketball camp for ages 8-18. It'll be held Monday - Thursday 9 am - 3 pm, and on Friday it'll be from 9 am to noon. For more information on registration, find the post on our KBest Media Facebook page.

### **Softball Playoff Updates:**

Big Spring Lady Steers lost Game 2 in the Bi-District Round to Graham on Friday. Final score was Big Spring 4, Graham 5. Congrats to them on a great season.

The Coahoma Bulldogettes earned their Bi-District Championship title after defeating Florence with a final score of 12-0. This week, the Bulldogettes will battle Holliday in a one game playoff at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 4th, in Hawley. **!!If Thursday's game is called off because of bad weather, a make up date is tentatively scheduled for 5 p.m. Friday. Admission to the game is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Coahoma will be the visiting team.**

The Forsan Lady Buffs will play a 3-game series against Clarendon this week for the Area Championship. Game 1 will be on Friday at 4 pm, Game 2 will be Saturday at 11 am, with Game 3 to follow if needed at Lubbock Cooper.

### **Baseball**

The Big Spring Steers baseball team lost to Lakeview on Friday, final score was Big Spring 7, Lakeview 10.

Forsan Buffs lost to Seymour, final score was Forsan 4, Seymour 10.

The Coahoma Bulldogs 🐾 will take on Blanco in a three-game series to decide the 3A Bi-District 5&6 championship. Game one will start at 4 p.m. in Brownwood on Friday, May 5, with game two to begin 30 minutes after the conclusion of game 1. Game three, if necessary, will begin at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 6, in Brownwood. Admission to the game is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Let's Go Dawgs 🐾. Get those sticks on 📱 #BFND #goldballchasin

### **Summer Camp info now available**

Information for various summer sports camps are now available, and registration forms can be picked up at the Big Spring ATC beginning today.

Football Steer camp dates are May 30th -June 1st. This football Camp is for incoming 1st -6th graders, and will be held at Memorial Stadium.

Boys and Girls basketball camp dates are June 5th-7th. These basketball Camps are for incoming 5th-9th graders, and will be held @ the BSJH Gyms

A High School VB clinic with Connie Bozarth will be held June 22-23rd at the Big Spring Jr. High gyms. This volleyball camp is for incoming 9th-12th graders.

Also - a setters volleyball camp only for UPCOMING 9th GRADE ATHLETES  
Will be on June 5-6th 2023 from 9:00am-12:00pm/1:00pm-3:00pm at the Junior High.

Those interested in being a setter for the high school next year, are encouraged to attend the camp! More info on how to sign up is coming soon.

05/02/23

### **Area News: Fatal crash in Dawson County**

DAWSON COUNTY, TX – A fatal crash in Dawson county occurred on Thursday, April 27th, at 3:40 pm on SH 137. According to Texas DPS, Donna Hinkle, 50, of Lubbock, was traveling north on SH 137. She failed to drive in a single lane and struck an oncoming 18-wheeler towing a vehicle that was traveling southbound on SH 137. Hinkle was pronounced dead at the scene. She was not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash. The investigation is still on-going.

### **Press Conference**

On Monday morning, school districts across the state from El Paso to Dallas-Ft. Worth hosted a "MayDay" press conference, including Ector County ISD and Big Spring ISD, to issue a plea to elected State officials for financial assistance. According to ECISD Superintendent Dr. Scott Muri, inflation has consumed School budgets. From 2019 to 2023, expenses have increased by 17 percent rate of inflation, impacting costs of fuel, maintenance, utilities, insurance, and food. This directly affects budgets and schools cannot do as much as they were able to before.

Dr. Muri also stated that Meaningful raises must be given to employees because family expenses have also increased.

The Solution presented was to use the state's \$32 billion of excess revenue to invest in public education, specifically to increase the basic allotment by \$1,000 to help meet the needs.

During the conference, state officials were urged to invest in public education to address the teacher shortage. If the current \$32 billion surplus is not wisely invested, shortages will continue for years to come.

In addition to Dr. Muri, Big Spring ISD Superintendent Jay McWilliams and current Secondary Teacher of the Year Melisa Valenzuela, participated in the conference.

McWilliams told KBest News that the state legislature needs to step up and add more money to public education. Here, he explains more (audio- more money)

The public is asked to contact their state representatives and senators to let them know that public education is important to them and to urge their legislators to use more of the surplus budget to fund public education.

### **PLANTING SEEDS OF HOPE**

BIG SPRING - Next Tuesday, May 9th, West Texas Centers - the Local Mental Health Authority based in Big Spring - will host the Mental Health Awareness Event "Planting Seeds of Hope" to encourage gardening as a healthy coping mechanism to manage stress.

West Texas Centers Mental Health experts will provide education on Mental Health Awareness from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the West Texas Centers Harris Building, 3205 US Hwy 87. Plus, the Howard County Master Gardeners will be on hand to assist attendees in designing and planning a flower bed around the West Texas Centers Harris Building. Upon completion of the planting, each attendee will be presented with his or her own plant they may take home.

Organizers are requesting attendees RSVP in advance. For more information, visit our KBest Media Facebook page.

### **BSISD PRE-K**

Tomorrow is the last opportunity to register students for pre-k at Big Spring ISD. Currently BSISD offers a free Prekindergarten program to all BSISD students who meet eligibility requirements. Recently, the district announced there would be a tuition-based expansion to this program for the 2023-2024 school year. This means that students who do not meet eligibility requirements for the free program are invited to enroll in the new tuition-based program. This will be a full-day, high-quality Pre-K for all 4-year-old students who live within the District. Pre-K students learn social, emotional, and academic skills through hands-on experiences and purposeful play.

Tomorrow, May 3rd, will be a Round Up Night for BSISD Prekindergarten from 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.

Be advised there are a limited number of spaces for the tuition-based program, and those spaces are on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Registration is \$100 and August tuition is \$390, then there will be recurring tuition payments of \$490 from September through May. For more information, visit our KBest media Facebook page.

- Each Pre-K class has an instructional assistant, for a ratio of 1:11
- State adopted curriculum based on Texas Pre-Kindergarten Guidelines
- Recess and outdoor learning daily
- Breakfast and lunch available
- 90 minutes of child directed play daily

Who can attend?

- Child must be at least 4 years of age on or before September 1 of the current school year
- Child must be a resident of BSISD or the child of a BSISD employee
- Child must be current with required immunizations
- Agree to the terms and conditions in the Parent Agreement for Tuition Pre-D

### **Governor Abbott Appoints Hamby As 118th Judicial District Attorney**

AUSTIN – Governor Greg Abbott has appointed Joshua Hamby as District Attorney of the 118th Judicial District in Howard, Martin, and Glasscock counties for a term set to expire December 31, 2024 or until his successor shall be duly elected and qualified.

**Joshua Hamby** of Big Spring is the Howard County Attorney, a position he has held since 2009. Prior to being elected, he was the sole practitioner of Joshua Hamby, P.C. for 20 years. He is a member of the State Bar of Texas and a member and former president of the Howard County Bar Association. Hamby received a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics from Texas Tech University and a Juris Doctor from Texas Wesleyan School of Law.

This appointment is subject to confirmation by the Texas Senate.

05/03/23

### **District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson Retires; Governor Abbott Appoints Hamby As 118th Judicial District Attorney**

After 26 years of service to Howard, Glasscock, and Martin Counties in the 118th District, District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson will retire later this month. He'll be replaced by current Howard County Attorney Joshua Hamby.

Wilkerson, who's been practicing law since 1985, told KBest News that he submitted his letter to the Governor's Office announcing his retirement on March 6th, but it took 2 months for an appointment to be made. Wilkerson will remain the District Attorney until Hamby is confirmed for the position by the Texas Senate, which is expected to occur later this month.

When asked if there was anything that he wanted to say to the public, Wilkerson had this to say (audio).

Wilkerson told KBest News that he's looking forward to taking time off and figuring out what he wants to do next.

Hamby told KBest News he's excited about the appointment and, hopefully, he'll get to step into the role of District Attorney. If he is confirmed by the Senate, the Howard County Commissioners will have to make an appointment to fill the County Attorney position for the remainder of the elected term.

### **!!MISSING PERSON!!**

Yesterday, a woman from Howard County was reported missing.

According to the Howard County Sheriff's Office, Elizabeth Liza Cantu (H/F, 41 years of age) was last seen on Friday morning, April 28th 2023, at approximately 5:00 AM, in the 7500 block of the North Service Road. Elizabeth was last seen wearing black stretch pants and a black shirt with a white outline of a female's face on the shirt, "rock band style" shirt. Elizabeth was not wearing any shoes and may have been wearing socks. Elizabeth does not have her cell phone with her.

If there is any information regarding her whereabouts you contact Sgt. Gammons at 432-264-2231, ext. 705 or Howard County Dispatch at 432-264-2244.

### **DPS Arrests Three in Joint Human Trafficking Operations**

A Big Spring man was 1 of three people recently arrested by DPS in a joint human trafficking operation.

ODESSA – From April 26th, through April 29th, 2023, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Criminal Investigations Division (CID) conducted an Online Solicitation of a Minor Operation. The goal was to target individuals seeking to exploit and victimize trafficking victims, as well as to identify and apprehend individuals suspected to be involved in human trafficking by using various websites to solicit sexual acts from minors.

Multiple agencies assisted in these investigations including: Texas Highway Patrol (THP), Odessa Police Department (OPD), and the Midland County Sheriff's Office (MCSO).

As a result of this operation, three suspects were arrested and booked into the Ector County Jail. All three suspects are now facing 2nd Degree Felony (F2) charges.

Joel Elizondo, age 33, of Kingsville, TX - Online Solicitation of a Minor (F2).

Luis Rosales, age 53, of Monahans, TX - Online Solicitation of a Minor (F2).

Nathan Dubose, age 27, of Big Spring, TX - Online Solicitation of a Minor (F2).

These investigations highlight the partnership between 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.

### **Thank You - Home Hospice**

On Tuesday morning, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce held a Thank You for Your Investment presentation for Home Hospice, located at 111 E. 7th, Suite A, in Big Spring, to thank them for all that they do for the community.

Kimmy Teeters, Patient Care Coordinator for Home Hospice, told KBest News that they were excited about the presentation because they love all the community things that the Chamber is involved in, and because it brings attention to the community about hospice care. Here, she explains what that is (audio - ).

On Saturday, Home Hospice held a Butterfly Release celebration in Big Spring. Here, she tells us more on how the event turned out (audio).

05/04/23

### **Community Resource Fair in Stanton**

STANTON, TX -- Martin County Hospital will host a Community Resource Fair today in Stanton from 10 am to 2 pm at the Martin County Community Center, located at 301 Saint Theresa St.. During this event, attendees will be able to find information on health related resources available for Martin County. Plus, there will be health screenings where attendees can get Blood Glucose and Blood Pressure Testing.

For more information, visit: [martincountyhospital.org](http://martincountyhospital.org)

### **National Day of Prayer**

BIG SPRING, TX -- Community leaders of Big Spring and Howard County will gather today outside of the Howard County Courthouse, on the east side, from 12:15 -12:45 PM to celebrate National Day of Prayer, which is observed on the first Thursday of May. Here, Pastor Sam Segundo, event organizer, explains more (audio - gather together).

According to Pastor Sam Segundo, event organizer, this will be a 30-minute session of prayer. There will be 10 to 12 community leaders to pray over different aspects of life, the city, the state, and the nation. This will not be promoting any religion, church, or denomination. It will only be promoting prayer for our country.

For anyone who is unable to attend in person during the lunch hour, you can view a Facebook Live on our KBest Media Facebook page. You can also attend the evening gathering from 7-7:30 PM at the Heart of the City Park in Big Spring.

-----

Today, community leaders of Big Spring and Howard County gathered in prayer outside of the Howard County Courthouse to celebrate National Day of Prayer, which is observed on

the first Thursday of May. During the event there were several community leaders who prayed over different aspects of life, the city, the state, and the nation. If you missed the event, you can still join in for an evening 30-min prayer service from 7-7:30 PM at the Heart of the City Park in downtown Big Spring, just north of the Howard County Courthouse.

### **Annual Kids Fishing Tournament**

The Greater Big Spring Rotary Club will host their Annual Kids Fishing Tournament, this weekend on Sunday afternoon, May 7th at the Comanche Trail Lake. Community partners for the event include Oncor and kbest. Registration is from 1:00 to 2:00 PM near the Dora Roberts Community Center. The event will run from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

The Tournament is free to all kids 16 years old and younger. **No fishing license required for those 16 and under.**

Awards will be given for the First Fish, The Biggest Fish, and Most Fish Caught. **Many door Prizes will be given through out the afternoon including rod and reels, baits, and Tackle.**

### **TRACK**

Big Spring Boys Track team recently competed in the Regional Meet. Those who placed in the top 5 in their individual events were Isaac Gonzales who placed 3rd in the 1600 M Run, and 4th in the 3200 M Run, Adrian Solis who placed 4th in the 800 M Run, and Agustin Salgado who placed 5th in the 1600 M Run. The girls team also competed in the Regional Meet that was held this past weekend. Dorcas Jones placed 5th in the 400 M Dash and set a new personal record. You can find the full list of results for the Big Spring track team on our KBest Media Facebook page.

05/05/23

### **Softball / Baseball Playoff Update**

Last night, the Coahoma Bulldogettes defeated Holliday in a one-game round for the Area Championship! Final score was 4-0. Next week, Coahoma will either play Henrietta or Comfort for the Regional Quarterfinals.

Several playoff games are scheduled for tonight.

The Forsan Lady Buffs will play the first game of a 3-game series against Clarendon today at 4 pm for the Area Championship. Game 2 will be tomorrow at 11 am, at Lubbock Cooper. If needed, Game 3 will immediately follow. Listen to this game on 94.3 The Fuse.

----COAHOMA Bulldogs will take on Blanco in a 3-game series for the Bi-District Championship. Those games will be in Sonora. Game 1 will be at 4 pm with Game 2 to follow. If needed, Game 3 will be on Saturday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. Listen to a live broadcast of this game on The Mighty 1490 AM and FM 103.9.

The Forsan Buffs will play a 3-game series against Ozona in San Angelo this weekend. Tonight, Game 1 will be at 7 pm, Game 2 will be tomorrow at 12, with Game 3 to follow if needed. Listen to a live broadcast of this game on KBest Country 95.7.

You can also listen to these games online at KBST.com, or on our KBest mobile app. A live stream of the games can also be found on our KBest Media Facebook page.

### **Former Forsan ISD Employee Indicted for Improper Relationship between Educator and Student**

Last week, on April 27, 2023, former Forsan ISD employee Kendall Phillips was indicted by a Howard County Grand Jury for Improper Relationship between Educator and Student. Phillips was arrested in November 2022 by the Howard County Sheriff's Office after Forsan ISD received an anonymous tip concerning interactions between an employee and a student. According to FISD Superintendent Dane Richardson, on receipt of the tip, the district immediately began its investigation and notified the proper authorities.

### **Cops, Coffee, and Community**

Scenic Mountain Medical Center will host the event Cops, Coffee, & Community Breakfast on Tuesday, May 16th, from 7:30 - 9:30 AM at the Yellow Rose Cafe, located at 1601 W. 11th Place in Big Spring. The public is invited to join local public servants for coffee and conversation. There is no agenda planned for the event. Cops, Coffee, & Community will give community members an opportunity to get to know members of local law enforcement, and give them a chance to ask questions, voice their concerns, and hear about the jobs that they do every day to keep the community safe.

### **Election Day Polling Sites**

Election Day is tomorrow for City and School elections for Forsan and Coahoma. Forsan registered voters will vote for their selection of Forsan City Council members and Forsan ISD School Board members.

Coahoma registered voters will vote for their selection of Coahoma ISD School Board members and on two propositions totaling approximately \$12 million in bonds to purchase new buses and update CISD facilities.

There are no city or school elections scheduled for the City of Big Spring or Big Spring ISD. Those elected officials had no opposition when they filed to run for another term.

Tomorrow voters can go to **ANY** of the Howard County locations to vote for their precinct ballot. Those locations are as follows:

Ryan Hall/St. Thomas Church  
605 North Main Street

First Baptist Church  
705 W. FM 700

Dorothy Garrett Coliseum  
1001 Birdwell Lane

Coahoma Community Center  
306 North Avenue  
Coahoma, TX 79511

Election Day locations are open 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. No voting is held at the courthouse on Election Day.

05/08/23

**KBSB Cleans Up Again with Area and State Award**

Local organization "Keep Big Spring Beautiful" was awarded the Area 2 and State title of 2023 Friend of Conservation during a special banquet recently held in Wall, TX.

They were chosen as the Area winner in April but were surprised that they were chosen as the State winner during a special presentation. KBSB will be honored at the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts State Convention in Fort Worth October 30 – November 1, 2023.

**Happy Day Humane Society** - Garage Sale, 5/16/23, 8 am to 2 pm at Credit World Parking Lot

**Unofficial Results for City and School Elections in Howard County, 05/06/23**

HOWARD COUNTY, TX – A total of 456 ballots were cast in this most recent city and school election involving Coahoma ISD, the City of Forsan, and Forsan ISD on May 6, 2023.

According to the unofficial results, both Propositions A and B both were approved by a majority vote. This will result in Coahoma ISD obtaining an estimated \$12 million in bonds to purchase buses and upgrade CISD facilities.

Other unofficial results are as follows:

Coahoma ISD Board of Trustee At Large - 2 positions

- \* Kandy Alaman
- \* Stormy Bradley

Coahoma ISD Board of Trustee At Large - 1 position - Unexpired Term

- \* Scott Tuttle

City of Forsan Council Member At Large - 3 positions

- \* Patrick Carnahan
- \* Brandon Ridge
- \* Debbie Burton

Forsan ISD Board of Trustee At Large - 3 positions

- \* Jimmy Millers
- \* Chad Meyers
- \* Brenda Tubb

### **7th Annual Kids Fishing Tournament**

Yesterday, the Greater Big Spring Rotary Club held their 7th Annual Kids Fishing Tournament. They had 130 participants turnout at Comanche Trail Lake in Big Spring. This was a record in attendance for the event.

Prizes were awarded for:

First Fish: Tyson Gonzales age 13

Biggest Fish: Colton Gavia , 3oz

Most Fish: 19 caught by Tyson Gonzales

Additional prizes were awarded to many more boys and girls ages 1 - 16.

The weather was great, and the event was a success with record attendance.

### **HCCC - agenda, 05/08/23**

Howard County Commissioners will meet for a regular meeting today at 3:30 pm in the 3rd floor courtroom of the Howard County Courthouse, located at 300 S Main. Along with other regularly scheduled items on the agenda, today commissioners will recognize the outstanding male and female students from Howard County high schools.

### **Softball / Baseball Playoff Updates**

Forsan Lady Buffs won their Area Championship game against Clarendon over the weekend! Final scores were 16-11 and 10-4. Next, the Lady Buffs will take on Ralls in a 3-game series in Lamesa. Game 1 will be on Thursday at 5 PM, and Game 2 will be on Friday at 5 PM.

Coahoma Bulldogettes won their Area Championship on Thursday night against Holliday. Final score was 4-0. This week, the Coahoma Bulldogette softball team will play Henrietta for the Region I-3A quarterfinal championship. Game one will begin at 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 11. Coahoma will be the home team. Game two will begin at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 13, with the tie-breaker to follow, if necessary. Coahoma will be the visiting team. All games will be held at the Abilene High School softball field.

Coahoma Bulldogs lost to Blanco in the Bi-District round of the playoffs. Final scores were 13-14, and 7-13.

Forsan Buffs lost 2 playoff games for the Bi-District championship to Ozona. Final scores were 5-14 and 12-16.

05/09/23

### **HCCC - Outstanding Students**

On Monday afternoon, the Howard County Commissioners Court recognized outstanding male and female students from high schools in the county.

#### **Big Spring High School**

- Marco Tan, Valedictorian
- Ananya Limaye, Salutatorian

Limaye will be attending Angelo State University and plans on studying medicine. Tan has received a full ride scholarship to Rice University. He'll be studying Mechanical Engineering and Mathematics, and hopes to obtain a PhD.

#### **Coahoma High School**

- Zoie Joslin, Salutatorian
- Kayden Kelley

Joslin will be attending Texas A&M University to study Sports Management and wants to become a teacher. Kelley will attend Western Texas College for the welding program.

#### **Forsan High School**

- Joanna Gato, Valedictorian
- Charles Huff, Salutatorian

Gato will attend Angelo State University and will study nursing. Huff will attend Texas Tech and plans to pursue a Bachelor's of Science and Honors Society in Humanities and concentration in Medicine and Global Health. He plans to later become an Emergency Medicine Physician.

Congratulations to them!

### **!!Scam Alert from Howard County Sheriff's Office!!**

The Howard County Sheriff's Office is warning the public about a scam in the area.

They say Residents in the area have been receiving calls and texts from parties identifying themselves as law enforcement stating they have a warrant they need to pay for. These are not legitimate. According to the HCSO, If local law enforcement needs to contact you about a warrant it will be in person, and never over the phone.

### **Area News: Fatal Vehicle Pursuit in Jones County**

JONES COUNTY, TX – Last week's DPS vehicle pursuit resulted in a fatal 4-vehicle crash in Jones County, on US HWY 83, approximately 1 mile outside of Abilene.

According to the preliminary investigation from the Texas Department of Safety, on Thursday morning at 7:15 AM, Jacolby Jabar Johnson, 32, of Arlington, Texas, was fleeing from law enforcement southbound on US Highway 83 (US 83) in a 2021 Kia, Forte. Spike systems were deployed by law enforcement to stop the vehicle. After a successful spike deployment, Johnson

veered toward the center median striking a second vehicle that was traveling south on US 83 in the left lane in front of the fleeing vehicle.

Johnson struck Vehicle 2 while passing on the left side traveling into the center median near a crossover on US 83. He then continued through the crossover, into the northbound lanes of US 83, striking Vehicle 3 head on and Vehicle 4 that were traveling north on US 83. Johnson was transporting a passenger identified as Aaron Earl Rattler, 47, of Garland, Texas, while fleeing from police. Rattler was unrestrained by a seatbelt during the crash and was taken to Hendrick Medical Center – North but later died due to injuries suffered during the crash. Johnson was arrested and charged with evading arrest or detention with a vehicle causing death and serious bodily injury. He sustained non-incapacitating injuries, was treated, and transported to Jones County Jail.

The driver of the second vehicle sustained no injury. The driver of the third vehicle that was struck head on by Johnson's vehicle, identified as Slyfredo Perez, 53, of Hamlin, TX, sustained incapacitating injury, and was transported to Hendrick Hospital-North with critical injuries. The driver of the fourth vehicle, identified as Lena Bailey Lassiter, 56, of Hawley, TX, sustained non-incapacitating injuries. She was treated and released.

### **Steer Baseball 2023 All District Selections**

The Big Spring Steers recently wrapped up their Baseball season and several received All-District recognition.

RJ Gomez was named Newcomer of the Year. Others recognized are as follows:

#### **1st team All district**

- 1st team Infielder- Eli Cobos
- 1st team DH- Isaiah Diaz
- 1st team Utility Player- Marcos Paredes

#### **2nd team all-District**

- 2nd team Catcher- Eric Aguilar
- 2nd team Outfielder- Braxton Sizenbach
- 2nd team Utility player- Samuel Wood

#### **Honorable mention All- District**

- Honorable mention Outfielder- Josiah Aguero
- Honorable mention Outfielder- Talon Cavazos

Congratulations to them!

### **BSISD Kindergarten Round-Up**

Big Spring ISD Kinder Roundup - part 2 - will be held THIS WEDNESDAY, May 10th, at Marcy Elementary and Moss Elementary, from 4:00-6:00 pm. School tours will be provided by kindergarten teachers.

### **Important information regarding Steer Pantry**

Big Spring ISD's Steer Pantry, a food assistance program offered for all BSISD students and their families, will be closed for the summer. The final distribution for the 2022-

2023 school year will be Tuesday, May 16th, at 4:15 PM. It is located on the backside of the vocational building on the east side of the Big Spring High School campus, and is accessible through the student parking lot.

The Steer Pantry is stocked with donations from the West Texas Food Bank, through federal programs. Plus, it's also supplemented through local food drives and community donations.

05/10/23

### **Golf Tournament for Big Spring Steers Baseball**

This Saturday, May 13, 2023, the 1st Annual Golf Tournament benefiting the Big Spring Steers Baseball program will be held at the Comanche Trail Golf Course. Check in is at 8 AM and start time is 9 AM. This is a 4-person scramble, cost is \$100 per person. Payout will be given to the top three teams, with a \$200 cash prize for closest to the pin.

Be advised personal golf carts are encouraged because there are limited carts available.

For more information, contact Jody Roberts at 432-816-7212.

### **Thank You for Your Investment - JNC Electric**

On Tuesday morning, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce held a Thank You for Your Investment presentation for JNC Electric. Based in Big Spring, JNC Electric has been serving the Big Spring community for 8 years.

When asked how he felt about the presentation, Jorge Parra, owner of JNC Electric, had this to say (audio).

JNC Electric is available to work on electrical issues for residential, commercial, and new construction projects. They serve Howard County and the surrounding areas. For more information, visit their website at [jncelectricllc.com](http://jncelectricllc.com) or call them at 432-242-6002.

### **Homeschoolers of Howard County - Q&A**

The Homeschoolers of Howard County will have a Question and Answer session tomorrow evening at 7 pm in the basement of the Howard County Library, located at 500 S. Main, in Big Spring. Here, Camilla Strande, Treasurer for the organization, explains more about the Q&A Session. (audio - "We're just setting up for people to ask questions..")

Executive Director Alesha Fisher and Strande told KBest News there are many misconceptions about homeschooling but Texas gives a lot of freedom when it comes to exercising parental authority. This allows parents to structure their children's education as they feel appropriate. This can range from a strict-based curriculum to a self-lead curriculum.

According to Fisher, a GED is not necessary in the state of Texas if the student has been homeschooled. Here she explains more (audio - GED).

Topics at the Q&A are expected to range from curriculum supplements, co-operative teaching, socialization, and more. Fisher encourages anyone who is looking for an alternative to public education, or who have fears about the commitment of homeschooling can be assured that although it's a lifestyle change, there is a village of support amongst the Homeschoolers of Howard County.

### **Lady Steers Softball Receive All-District Honors**

The Lady Steers softball season came to an end after taking on Graham in the Bi-District round. This week it was announced several of the Lady Steers received District 5 4A Honors. Cloe Viasana was named the District 5 4A Catcher of the Year. Those named to 1st Team All-District were Gissele Holguin, Illeana Madrid, and Rebecca Rodriguez. Those named to 2nd Team All-District were Ellianna Perez and Celestina Vela, and Alexcia Munoz received Honorable mention All-District.

Congratulations to them!

### **City council highlights**

During last night's meeting of the Big Spring City Council, Mayor Robert Moore read a proclamation stating that next week, May 15-21, will be recognized as National Police Week in Big Spring. Councilmembers also approved the abatement of 10 properties considered to be a public nuisance.

A first reading of an ordinance for a zoning change was also approved. The area is approximately 5.08 acres of land near the Highland addition. The zoning was changed from Agricultural to Single-Family Residential, Single-Family Dwelling District.

Big Spring City Council members Nick Ornelas, District 1, and Cody Hughes, District 3, were sworn in by Big Spring Municipal Judge Mandy Haynes for their new term as council members. Both Ornelas and Hughes had run for re-election and were unopposed.

05/11/23

### **Large/Bulk Item Pickup**

The next Large Item Pickup is scheduled for District 5 in Big Spring will be this Wednesday, May 17th. In order to have your items picked up, you will need to schedule a pickup with the Public Works Office by calling 432-264-2501 or emailing [NHernandez@mybigspring.com](mailto:NHernandez@mybigspring.com). The deadline to have those items scheduled for pickup is Monday, May 15th, by 5 PM.

### **Softball / Baseball Playoff Updates**

Forsan and Coahoma Softball teams will play Game 1 today in a 3-game series for the Regional Quarterfinal Championship! Forsan Lady Buffs will take on Ralls in Lamesa at 5 pm. Game 2 will be tomorrow at 5 PM. Listen to a live broadcast of these games on 94.3 The Fuse.

Coahoma Bulldogettes will play Henrietta and Game 1 begins at 5 p.m. today at Abilene High School. Game 2 will begin at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 13, with the tie-breaker to follow, if necessary. Listen to a live broadcast of these games on The Mighty 1490 AM and FM 103.9.

You can also catch the live broadcasts for these games on our website KBST.com and our mobile app KBest.

### **BSISD School Board Meeting - Agenda, 05/11/23**

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 Place in Big Spring. Tonight there will be a discussion on a facilities needs assessment. Action items up for consideration include a budget amendment and expenditure over \$150,000, a resolution designating a construction delivery method, setting weighted criteria, and authorizing related action for the district's Elementary School Drainage Project. Plus there will be consideration and possible action on a resolution declaring as surplus and authorizing the sale of the real property located at 1601 Eubanks and 2408 N. Birdwell Ln., both in Big Spring.

### **National Pet Week**

This week is National Pet Week, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association. It was created in 1981 and is observed during the first full week of May each year. It aims to foster responsible pet ownership, recognize the human-animal bond, and increase public awareness of the value of veterinary medicine.

A couple of non-profit organizations that work with local pets in Big Spring are Don't Litter Affordable Spay and Neuter Clinic and Happy Day Humane Society.

Don't Litter Affordable Spay and Neuter Clinic provides affordable spay & neuter services, vaccines, microchips, tick/flea prevention. Spay and neutering services are offered weekly, but their last clinic date is Wednesday, May 24th, until mid-July. To schedule an appointment, contact their Facebook page - Don't Litter Affordable Spay and Neuter Clinic. Be advised a \$25 deposit is required along with your dog's vaccination records.

Happy Day Humane Society was created to serve the abused, neglected and forgotten animals in and around Big Spring. On Tuesday, May 16th, Happy Day will have a garage sale in the Credit World parking lot, located at 1611 S. Gregg, from 8 am to 2 pm. These are items that have been donated by the community and money raised will help them with their operation costs.

### **National Police Week**

Next week is National Police Week and there are multiple events happening in Big Spring that invite the community to get to know local law enforcement. On Monday, May 15, 2023, the West Texas VA, located at 300 W. Veterans Blvd in Big Spring, will have Coffee with a Cop from 9 AM to 10 AM. On Tuesday, May 16th, Scenic Mountain Medical Center will host Cops, Coffee, & Community Breakfast from 7:30 - 9:30 AM. Then on Saturday, May 20th, there will be a I Got Your 6 Walk at Comanche Trail Park Old Settlers Pavillion from 9 am to 12 pm.

### **Area News: ECISD teacher on paid administrative leave after allegedly spanking child**

ODESSA, Texas (KOSA) - In Odessa, last week Ector County ISD administrators at Ireland Elementary School received an allegation that a teacher had spanked a child.

ECISD police were notified and began an investigation.

The district says the teacher is on paid administrative leave during the investigation.

ECISD says because this is an open police investigation and a personnel matter, that is all the information they are releasing at this time. You can find a link for the story from our news partners at CBS 7.

CBS7 will continue to follow this investigation.

05/12/23

### **Big Spring ISD Board of Trustees Meeting Highlights, 05/11/23**

Last night, Big Spring students with the JET program were recognized during the BSISD Board of Trustees meeting. JET stands for Job Education Training. It exposes life skill students to different types of work to see if it's something they might be interested in pursuing after high school.

State-bound UIL Academic students were also recognized during the meeting. Big Spring High School's UIL Academic team has been the District Champions for 5 years in a row. This year, they were also the Regional Champions. Soon, they'll represent Big Spring High School in the UIL State competition. It is the largest team of students that BSHS has had competing at state.

Board members also approved two expenditures over \$150,000. The first is the use of unused budgeted funds from a door project that was previously completed during the year. These funds will be used to purchase 550 Chromebooks and accessories and \$95,000 worth of cameras. The net cost for this will be zero dollars. The second was for the purchase of School supplies for BSISD students for the upcoming school year. This has been purchased in the past with ESSER III funds, but this year, due to inflation the cost rose to over \$152,000.

A resolution was also passed that declared two properties as surplus and authorizing their sale. Those properties are listed at 1601 Eubanks and 2408 N. Birdwell Ln. in Big Spring. During discussion on the item, it was noted that the District could not sell the properties for less than the fair market price even though they would need repairs and would now be considered as "renovation projects".

Returning board members Tom Olague, District 1, and Julie Harris, District 3, were sworn in for another term. Fabian Serrano, District 7, was re-elected as Board President, Julie Harris was re-elected as Vice President, and Bryan Stokes, District 6, was elected as Secretary.

### **Nursing Home Week**

BIG SPRING, TX – Next week is National Nursing Home Week, and Parkview Skilled Care & Rehabilitation is welcoming the public to join them for a free celebration on Friday, May 19th, from 4-6 PM.

This year's theme is "Cultivating Kindness". According to the American Health Care Association, research has found that practicing compassion and kindness not only can improve health and well-being but can also strengthen human connections and bonds.

[Laurie Martinez](#), Marketing Director / Activity Director, the event is a way to give back to the community at the end of the week. The event will have hotdogs and snowcones, an inflatable waterslide, train rides, face painting, a live DJ, and a cash cube where participants have an opportunity to take home some cash!

### **Area News: Arrest made in Odessa Murder**

ODESSA, Texas (KOSA) - An arrest has been made in connection with the murder of Crystal Williams, 36, at 2741 Faudree Rd.

Larry Johnson, 31, has been charged with murder and tampering with physical evidence.

Johnson is currently held at the Midland County Jail. Anyone with information concerning this investigation is encouraged to call the Odessa Police Department's Homicide Unit at 432-335-3333, or Odessa Crime Stoppers at 432-333-TIPS.

<https://www.cbs7.com/2023/05/11/arrest-made-murder-faudree-ranch-apartments/>

### **Softball Updates**

Last night, Forsan Lady Buffs played Game 1 against Ralls as part of a 3-game series for the Regional Quarterfinal Championship. Final score was 10-8 in favor of Ralls. Today, the Lady Buffs will play Game 2 against Ralls at 5 PM in Lamesa, again. Listen to a live broadcast of the Forsan Softball game on 94.3 The Fuse. – There has been a venue change announced for the Lady Buffs game tonight. Forsan will play Ralls at Lubbock Monterey at 5 PM.

Also last night, the Coahoma Bulldogettes won the 1st game against Henrietta in their 3-game series for the Regional Quarterfinal Championship. Final score was 11-0. Tomorrow, the Bulldogettes will take on Henrietta again in Game 2 at Abilene High School at 2 pm. Listen to a live broadcast of that game on The Mighty 1490 AM and FM 103.9.

You can also catch the live broadcasts for both of these teams online at KBST.com and on our mobile app KBest.

### **Local Sports - FHS**

Forsan Lady Buff Aleena Nelson will compete in the shot put competition in the State Track and Field Competition in Austin today! Good luck to her!

Also, congratulations to the Forsan golfers who received recognition as Academic All State Golf. Those students are Trevor Cole, Jordyn Keeton, Nolan Park, and Cade Wallis.

05/15/23

**BSHS LOI Signings on Monday, 05/16/23**

Big Spring High School will have several students signing their letters of intent today.

Morgan Griffith will play E-Sports with Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois.

Ellianna Perez and Katelyn Haynie will Cheer at Howard College in Big Spring.

Elianna Arredondo will run Cross Country for Amarillo College in Amarillo.

Isaac Gonzales and Agustin Salgado will run Cross Country & Track at McMurry University in Abilene.

Jordan Mitchell will run Cross Country & Track for Ottawa University in Kansas.

Adrian Solis will run Cross Country & Track for a school that will be announced at their group signing on Monday afternoon.

Congratulations to all of them!

**Alive After 5**

This month's Alive After 5 will be held this Thursday, May 18th, at Marcy Place, located at 2301 Wasson Rd. in Big Spring.

Alive After 5 is a networking event organized by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce to give chamber members and community members an opportunity to network, ask questions, and make connections for the betterment of Howard County.

Thursday's Alive After 5 is hosted by Marcy Place with co-host Double L BBQ.

**Fatal Crash in Howard County, 05/12/23**

A fatal crash occurred in Howard County on Friday afternoon. According to the Texas Department of Public Safety, the crash occurred at 5:30 PM on State Highway 350, 11 miles north of Big Spring. The preliminary report states that a semi-truck with a trailer was traveling southbound on HWY 350 when it began to side-skid on the wet roadway. The semi traveled across the northbound lanes and collided with a 2012 Toyota Tacoma traveling northbound. The driver of the Toyota Tacoma, identified as Jaime Romero Alvarado, 35, of Odessa, was pronounced deceased at the scene. The driver of the semi-truck was not injured. Both drivers were wearing a seat belt at the time of the crash.

**Area News: Fatal Crash in Dawson County**

DAWSON COUNTY, TX -- A fatal one-vehicle crash occurred in Dawson County, on Thursday morning.

According to the preliminary report from Texas DPS, Troopers responded to the crash on US 87, just 7 miles south of Lamesa at 5:48 AM. A 2008, Dodge 2500 was traveling southbound on US Highway 87 in the left lane of travel. It struck standing water on the roadway and started to side skid before rolling over into the median.

The driver was identified as Nicholas Gilchrest, 34 years of age, of Lamesa. He was not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash and was pronounced dead on the scene.

(Photo: Unsplash)

### **Job Fair at Howard County Community Health Center, 05/15/23**

The Howard County Community Health Center is hosting a job fair today from 10 am to 2 pm at 103 W. 11th St.. They'll be looking to hire a lead dental assistant, CMA/CNS, RN/LVN, a pharmacy clerk, a licensed professional counselor, and a pharmacist. For more information, visit their website SPRHS.org, or call them at 432-517-4557. Applicants will be able to apply and interview on site.

### **Local Valedictorians and Salutatorians and Graduation Dates**

Graduation is right around the corner. Coahoma High School has its graduation scheduled for Thursday, May 18th, at Bill Easterling Memorial Stadium. Valedictorian is Jocelyn Young. Salutatorian is Zoie Joslin.

Forsan High School will have their graduation on May 26th at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Joanna Gato is Valedictorian and Charlie Huff is the Salutatorian.

Big Spring High School will have their graduation on May 26th at Memorial Stadium. Valedictorian is Marco Tan and Salutatorian is Ananya Limaye.

Westbrook is proud to announce the Class of 2023

Valedictorian - Hadley White / Salutatorian - Colton Walters

### **Sports**

Forsan and Coahoma Softball teams won the title of Regional Quarterfinal Champions last week and will both move on to compete in the Regional Semi-final round. The Lady Buffs fell to Ralls on Thursday with a score of 10-8, but came back on Friday to defeat them in a double header with final scores of 12-11 and 7-3. This week, Forsan will play Bangs on Friday and Saturday at Abilene Christian University. Listen to a live broadcast of these games on 94.3 The Fuse.

Coahoma Bulldogettes defeated Henrietta in two games. Final scores were 10-0 and 5-0. This week, they'll take on Bushland in a 1-game round at Frenship High School in Wolfforth on Friday, May 19th, at 7 PM. Listen to a live broadcast of this game on The Mighty 1490 AM and FM 103.9.

Westbrook High School's Madison Munoz on placing 2nd in Triple Jump at this weekend's State Track and Field meet. Munoz was also recently named Girls Golf Academic ALL STATE

Honorable Mention from the Texas High School Coaches' Association! Congratulations to her!

05/18/23

**Garden City Girls Gold - State Champions**

Congratulations to the Garden City Lady Bearkats Golf team on winning the Class 1A Girls Golf State tournament! Last year, the team placed 3rd but this year they were able to place 1st.

According to the University Interscholastic League, Garden City set TWO new Conference 1A records for lowest second round team score at 209 (+21) & lowest total team score at 730 (+162)!

Those Lady Bearkats who played for the State Title were Rylee Wood, Shelby Braden, Kara Roberts, Briana Halfmann, and Keegan Batla.

In individual results, Rylee Wood won the playoff for 2nd place with a total score of 173.

This was the 5th consecutive trip to the state tournament for the program.

**YMCA Accepts Summer Program Donation**

Dathan Jones, CEO of the Big Spring YMCA, was recently presented with a \$1000 donation from the Howard County Democrats to be used for scholarships for the YMCA Summer Youth Program.

The summer program provides a full day camp for school age children. The daily, 7:30 am to 6:00 pm, program offers a variety of physical activities including swimming in the YMCA pool.

Many working families need assistance paying the registration fees, especially when they have several children wanting to enroll in the program. Families can apply for scholarships through the YMCA to help reduce the fees for the program.

Howard County Democrats Chairperson Rebecca Moughon said that the donation is an investment in our community. Scholarships for the YMCA increase the number of children who can participate in the program. The YMCA has been a mainstay of physical health and emotional well-being in our community for many years. It is our honor to support them and our local families.

The YMCA welcomes summer program scholarship donations from individuals and organizations in our community.

**Weber Commits to Cheer for Howard College**

Forsan High School senior Mia Weber signed her letter of intent yesterday morning to continue her cheerleading career with Howard College in Big Spring.

Weber told KBest News she's been cheering since the 7th grade and is very passionate about it.

"I literally eat, sleep, and breathe cheer, so I'm really excited," she continued.

When asked how she felt to be so close to home while continuing to cheer at a collegiate level, Weber said that it's very special to her.

"I think it's special to my heart to be five minutes away from my parents, everyone can come and support me at my games, and it's not that much of a hassle to come and support the cheerleaders," said Weber.

### **Sports**

Forsan Lady Buffs will begin a 3-game series today against Bangs to play for the Regional Semi-final Championship. They'll play today and tomorrow at 5 PM at Abilene Christian University. General admission for the game is \$5 per person, ages 12 and under are free, and only cash will be accepted. Listen to a live broadcast of these games brought to you by the KBest Sports Crew on 94.3 The Fuse.

Tomorrow, May 19, 2023, the Coahoma Bulldogettes will take on Bushland in a 1-game round for their Regional Semi-Final Championship. That game will be played at Frenship High School in Wolfforth at 7 PM. Listen to a live broadcast of this game with the KBest Sports Crew on The Mighty 1490 AM and FM 103.9.

### **WEST TEXAS CENTERS STRENGTHENS MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES**

BIG SPRING - Improving the mental health of the nation's youth is one of the most pressing issues facing students, parents and teachers. This issue is receiving local, state, and federal leadership highest priority.

Teen and young adult suicide rates have increased dramatically, according to a study published in Feb. 2023 by the Centers of Disease Control. The problem continues to worsen in spite of the many resources directed at teen suicide.

Suicide rates in the United States declined in 2018 and 2019 but experienced a slight uptick, according to the same study. The rates among those from teen-age up to 24 years of age are high because of the many challenges thrown at this age group, including changes in relationship status, job, school as well as financial problems, barriers to health care, substance use, social isolation and mental illness. Also, there is an easy access to lethal means of suicide among persons at risk.

Mental Health Awareness Month is celebrated each May to call attention to and fight the stigma attached to the disease.

The 15 Mental Health Clinics located in Andrews, Dawson, Gaines, Garza, Howard, Mitchell, Nolan, Reeves, Runnels, Scurry, Terry, Upton, Ward, Winkler and Yoakum counties will provide information and refreshments at their clinics to call attention to Mental Health Awareness Month

West Texas Centers operates 15 mental health clinics in their 23-county area and are the designated Mental Health Authority for rural West Texas. West Texas serves more than 2,000 consumers and their families each month with appointments, medications and referrals.

Many people affected by suicide advocate for publicized warning signs of suicide to prevent others from feeling their pain. Research has shown that if someone is talking about wanting to die, being a burden to others and feeling hopeless, extremely sad, agitated or full of rage he or she may be at risk for harming themselves, according to information from the National Institute of Mental Health.

Other signs may be making a plan to die, eating or sleeping more or less, or using drugs or alcohol more.

If these warning signs apply to you or someone you know, get help as soon as possible, particularly if the behavior is new or has increased recently, Smith said.

People needing services, questions about services or answers needed or just someone to talk to may call the West Texas Centers hotline at 1-800-375-4357. It is available 24 hours daily, seven days a week.

People may also call 988, the Suicide and Crisis hotline, where they can receive emotional support, Smith said.

05/19/23

### **Monument Ribbon Cutting**

On Wednesday afternoon the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce held a Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the Keep Big Spring Beautiful West Gateway Monument Project. It is located along eastbound I-20 near exit 174 in Big Spring.

The Big Spring Convention and Visitors Bureau partnered with Keep Big Spring Beautiful and contributed \$15,000 for the project. The monument was constructed by Hawkins Construction. According to Anna Scott with Keep Big Spring Beautiful, the monument stands 17 feet tall and weighs 42,000 pounds.

### **Sports**

Yesterday, the Forsan Lady Buffs won 16-13 over Bangs in Game 1 in a best out of 3-game for the Regional Semi-final Championship. They'll play again today at 5 PM at Abilene Christian University. Listen to a live broadcast of these games brought to you by the KBest Sports Crew on 94.3 The Fuse.

Today, the Coahoma Bulldogettes will take on Bushland in a 1-game round for their Regional Semi-Final Championship. That game will be played at Frenship High School in Wolfforth at 7 PM. Listen to a live broadcast of this game with the KBest Sports Crew on The Mighty 1490 AM and FM 103.9.

### **3rd annual Clay Shoot Sponsors Needed**

The Big Spring Area Chamber's 3rd Annual Clay Shoot will soon be here. This event will be held on Saturday, June 3rd, at Moss Creek Ranch in Big Spring.

There will be a 9 am check in followed by a safety meeting at 9:45 with first flight at 10. At 12:15 pm there will be an auction, lunch and gun boards followed at 1:30 pm with the second flight. The prizes will include such items as ammo bags filled with ammo for each team member for first place, gun bags for each team member for second place winners and 3<sup>rd</sup> place will receive seat coolers, courtesy of Oncor.

Cost is \$600 for a 4-person team. To sign-up for the event, contact the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce on the corner of 3rd and Gregg.

Sponsorships are also available and all proceeds will go toward supporting the Big Spring Area Chamber Of Commerce so they can continue to support the community.

### **89th Annual Big Spring Cowboy Reunion & Rodeo**

The 89th annual Big Spring Cowboy Reunion & Rodeo begins a three night run on Thursday, June 15th, and runs through Saturday, the 17th, at the Surge Energy rodeo bowl, located near the intersection of FM 700 & Business 20 West.

Gates and concessions open at 7 PM. Grand entry begins at 8PM with renowned announcer Anthony Lucia calling the action.

Carr Pro Rodeo brings NFR qualifying stock and produces the Rodeo. Entertainers for this year's event include Bullfighter Matt Merritt, known as the "Dancin' Clown" and Jessica Blair, NFR trick rider famous for her Flaming Roman Ride.

Texas Country music artist Josh Ward will perform on Friday night and Pat Green will perform on Saturday.

Registration for the Mutton Busting event is going on now. Plus, you can also register to participate in the annual Quail Dobbs Memorial Parade, which will be held on Saturday, June 17th, at 10 AM in downtown Big Spring.

For more information on Rodeo ticket prices and concert ticket information, visit our KBest Media Facebook page.

### **Run For the Wall**

The Southern Route of the 33rd annual Run for the Wall motorcycle ride will make a stop at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Big Spring tomorrow at approximately 9 am. They'll be traveling from Midland to their next stop in Colorado City.

Run For The Wall is the largest and longest Organized Cross-Country Motorcycle Run of its kind in the World. The 15-day ride begins in Ontario, CA and travels to Washington DC, and from Washington, DC to Marseilles, Illinois every May.

Their mission statement is to promote healing among ALL veterans and their families and friends, to call for an accounting of all Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action (POW/MIA), to honor the memory of those Killed in Action (KIA) from all wars, and to support our military personnel all over the world.

For more information, visit our KBest Media Facebook page.

05/22/23

### **LARGE/BULK ITEM PICKUP FOR DISTRICT 6** IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 21, 2023.

Large /Bulk Item pickup for District 6 in Big Spring is scheduled for Wednesday, June 21st.

The deadline to get on the list is 5 PM on Monday, June 19, 2023. Email [nhernandez@mybigspring.com](mailto:nhernandez@mybigspring.com) to get on the Large/Bulk Item Pickup list. 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!!! The City of Big Spring's LARGE/BULK ITEM PICKUP will take place on the third Wednesday of every month in 2023, according to the dates on the schedule provided. For questions concerning Large/Bulk Item Pickup, please call the Public Works Office at 432-264-2501.

### **City Council meetings**

Big Spring City Council will gather for a special meeting today at 9 AM at the Council Chambers located at 307 E. 4th St. in Big Spring.

During the meeting, City Manager Todd Darden will make a staff presentation. Then it will be followed by the first reading of an ordinance addressing safety, efficiency, coverage, and budgetary concerns for the Big Spring Fire Department. The ordinance will establish clarifications and number of positions for the fire department. If approved as is, it will decrease the number of sworn fire department personnel by 10 from 74 to 64. According to the agenda, this would be done through attrition with no current positions being eliminated. It states that it would improve safety, efficiency, and coverage by consolidating from five to four fire stations. The station that would close would be the one located at 18th and Main. The personnel and equipment there would be redistributed to the other 4 stations.

Today's special meeting is open to the public. You can watch a live stream of the meeting on our KBest Media Facebook page.

### **Howard County Commissioners Meeting, 5/22/23**

Howard County Commissioners will meet for a regular meeting today at 3:30 pm in the 3rd Floor Courtroom of the Howard County Courthouse. Items on the agenda include discussion and possible action public reservations for the Pocket Park on Main Street across from the courthouse. Plus, there will also be discussion and possible action on the new hire of Casey Sullivan, as the County Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Health.

### **AREA NEWS**

Madeline Pantoja of Midland was reported missing on May 11, 2023. The Midland Police Department initiated an extensive investigation and 9 days later MPD found her remains in the area approximately 3 miles east of County Road 190 and County Road 1160.

On May 20th, at approximately 3:30 p.m. Midland Police Department detectives arrested Mario Juan Chacon, 24, for the charge of murder in connection with the death of Madeline Pantoja.

An autopsy will be performed in Dallas County, and the investigation is ongoing.

Next of kin has been notified.

### **Softball Update:**

Congratulations to the Coahoma Bulldogettes and the Forsan Lady Buffs on winning the title of Regional Semi-Final Champions!

Forsan won 2 consecutive games in a three-game series against Bangs. Final score for Game 1 was 16-13, final score for Game 2 was 1-0. This week they'll compete for the Regional Championship against Stamford in another 3-game series. Game 1 will be on Thursday, 5/25, at 5 pm. Game 2 will be at 12 pm on Saturday, 5/27. Game 3 will follow if needed. All games will be played at Abilene Christian University. Catch a live broadcast for these games with the KBest Sports Crew on 94.3 The Fuse.

Coahoma won a 1-game round against Bushland on Saturday with a final score of 8-3. This week, the Bulldogettes will play a 3-game series against Lamesa. Game 1 will be played in Coahoma on Friday, 5/26/23, at 7 pm. Game 2 will be played in Lamesa at 1 pm on Saturday with Game 3 to follow if needed. Catch a live broadcast for these games with the KBest Sports Crew on The Mighty 1490 AM and FM 103.9.

05/23/23

### **City Council meetings**

During yesterday's special meeting of the Big Spring City Council, many Big Spring Firefighters, members of the community, and even the Mayor of Ackerly urged Councilmembers to not make cuts to the fire department's personnel and to not close Fire Station 2.

The ordinance on yesterday's agenda would have decreased the number of sworn fire department personnel by 10 from 74 to 64 through attrition with no current positions being eliminated. It would also close the fire station at 18th and Main, and redistribute the personnel and equipment to the other 4 stations.

During discussion on the topic, it was noted that according to the National Fire Protection Association's NFPA 1710, four firefighters are recommended on a truck to fight a house fire on site. Chanley Delk, President of the Big Spring Professional Firefighters, told KBest News that the department wants to keep a minimum daily staffing of 20. This would allow them to have 3 firefighters on each truck, and ensure the right amount of protection for the citizens. Delk said this allows them to be able to have EMS workers and extinguish fires with an appropriate amount of workers.

He went on to say that closing Fire Station 2 at 18th and Main St. would further eliminate the minimum staffing and cut an additional 20 percent of staff from the Fire Department.

"That's just too dangerous of a cut to make, so we're asking the city council and mayor to, please, reconsider. Vote for safety. Vote for Big Spring," said Delk.

City staff advised that the 10 positions in question were originally added to BSFD thanks to the funding from the SAFER grant. Now those funds are no longer available and the city would face a budget deficit if they were to fund those positions.

Delk told KBest News that the fire department has had a tremendous show of support from the community, with over 400 emails being sent to the City Manager and City Council members.

Ultimately, the item was tabled until the June 13th City Council meeting.

### **Memorial Day weekend will bring increased traffic on Texas roads**

State Law: Drivers must move over or slow down for tow trucks and other emergency vehicles

AUSTIN – Motorists traveling during the Memorial Day weekend are reminded that state law requires drivers to slow down or move over for emergency vehicles – including tow trucks, police cars and fire trucks – stopped on the side of the road with their emergency lights activated.

Texas law requires drivers to slow down at least 20 miles per hour under the posted speed limit or, if able, to change lanes when they're passing a first responder stopped on the road with their emergency lights activated.

Large numbers of travelers are expected on Texas roads, which means that more breakdowns and traffic stops are likely as well. Drivers should pay attention to what's happening around them and prepare to react quickly.

TDLR licenses tow operators and tow companies in Texas, and regulates driver education/driving safety courses, and motorcycle/ATV safety courses.

### **BSHS UIL ACADEMICS**

A record number of Big Spring High School Academic Team members competed at the UIL Academic State Meet this past week, on the campus of the University of Texas, with several Steers returning with medals.

Math and Science standout Marco Tan added a third State Championship to his resume by placing first in Calculator Applications. Tan was also second in both Mathematics and Science. In science he was also the second place Physics and Chemistry scorer. Tan also placed fourth in number sense. His score in science, added with the scores from Kaiden Roberts, Malaki Vaughn and Paige Rainey, was enough to earn the second place Science Team. Tan ends his high school career earning a total of Ten state medals.

David Summers won his state championship in Spelling and Vocabulary edging out competition from Salado. The team of Summers, James Pascual, Julianna Summers and Madeline Jordan-Hisel brought home the third place team plaque in the spelling contest.

Ananya Limaye finished her high school journalism career with a second place finish in News Writing. This was the second time that Limaye qualified for the State Meet.

On the speech and debate side of things, Junior Tyler Grove came in second in Lincoln-Douglas debate only losing to the defending State Champion. While Harper Duran, who previously placed fifth in the State Congress event, brought home the bronze in Persuasive Speaking. By virtue of the placings, the speech team brought home a bronze plaque for being the third place speech team.

As a school, BSHS missed out on the overall bronze trophy by one point. This marks the best result at any UIL Academic State Meet by the Steers. Additionally, the two State Championships bring the historic total number of gold medals earned by the Academic team to 20. The total number of medalists all time stands at 82 with three team state championships in Speech and Journalism.

Brittany Sawyer, 35

Brittany Sawyer, 35(Odessa Police Department)

According to OPD, Sawyer does not have a vehicle and is frequently seen walking.

She is approximately 5'5" tall, weighs approximately 130 pounds, and has blonde hair and blue eyes.

Anyone with information about Sawyer should contact OPD at 432-333-3641 or Odessa Crime Stoppers at 432-333-TIPS and reference Case #23-0005367.

Area News: Phone records, traffic cameras used to arrest Mario Chacon in the death of Madeline Pantoja

MIDLAND, Texas (KOSA) - Madeline Pantoja, a missing Midland woman was found dead on Saturday, May 20, near East County Road 190 and South County Road 1138.

Shortly after her body was found, Midland Police arrested her boyfriend, Mario Chacon, for her murder.

According to the arrest affidavit Chacon and Pantoja were having relationship troubles before Pantoja went missing.

Several of Pantoja's friends spoke with police officers on May 11, saying they had plans to swim at Pantoja's apartment complex, but when they arrived Pantoja was not answering their calls and texts and did not answer when they knocked at her door.

According to the arrest affidavit, the friends told MPD officers that Pantoja's purse, car keys, and phone were all in the apartment. They told officers her car was in the parking lot. and that her dog did not have food or water and that puppy pads were full of dog waste.

MPD investigators also spoke with neighbors who said there was a man and woman yelling in the apartment around 1:30 a.m.

While searching for Pantoja officers found the mop and dirty water in her apartment. Officers also noticed a hole in the bathroom door and in the bedroom door with hair attached to the damage in the door.

They also found the comforter on the bed was missing and there was a dark red stain on the bed sheet, but officers did not find Pantoja.

Based on the statements from Pantoja's friends and family about her being missing, and what officers found in Pantoja's apartment on May 12, investigators suspected foul play.

The court documents show around 5:45 p.m. on May 12, officers interviewed Chacon again, saying he was free to leave at any time. Chacon said he went to have drinks with his cousin on May 10 and returned home around 11 p.m. after dropping off his cousin at his apartment, which was in the same complex as Pantoja. Chacon said he was the only one to drive his truck in the month of May and did not leave his home after 11 p.m. on May 10.

MPD investigators got security camera footage that showed a pickup truck near an oil company off Montgomery around Pantoja's apartment that matched the description of Chacon's truck. The time from the security camera footage was 1:59 a.m.

According to the affidavit, a Flock camera shows the license plate of Chacon's car in the area of South County Road 1160 at 3:22 a.m.

On May 18, MPD officers interviewed Chacon again and said he was free to leave at any time. According to the affidavit, when Chacon was told that officers found lies in his timeline, Chacon said ok and asked to leave. The affidavit states that officers attempted to do a polygraph during this interview but Chacon refused.

Investigators reported in the affidavit that on May 13, investigators obtained a search warrant for Chacon's phone number. The records came in on May 20 and were sent to the Texas Rangers. The rangers mapped the geo-locations for the phone from May 10 to May 12. The geolocation of the phone showed an approximate one-mile area around East County Road 190 and South County Road 1138. That location was used for MPD and the Texas Rangers to conduct a search. According to the arrest affidavit, that is where Pantoja's body was found.

Her body is being sent to Dallas for an autopsy, and Chacon was arrested for murder.

Midland County jail records show Chacon's bail is set for \$3 million dollars.

05/24/23

#### **TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

Midland / Odessa - The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) will be increasing the number of Troopers on the road beginning this week through Sunday, June 4th, as part of the Intoxicated Driving Mobilization (IDM) - Specific Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP). This program will run in conjunction with Operation CARE (Crash Awareness and Reduction Effort) now thru May 29th for the Memorial Day holiday Week.

DPS Troopers will be on the roads looking for drivers who are speeding, driving while intoxicated or not wearing their seat belts. The goal of the IDM STEP program is to reduce the number of DWI-related crashes, injuries, and fatalities.

DPS offers the following safety tips for people driving during the Memorial Day holiday:

- Don't drink and drive. Make alternate plans if you're consuming alcohol.

- Move Over or Slow Down for police, fire, EMS, TxDOT vehicles and tow trucks stopped on the side of the road with emergency lights activated. Show the same courtesy to fellow drivers who are stopped on the side of the road.
- Buckle up everyone in the vehicle — it's the law.
- Slow down, especially in bad weather, heavy traffic, unfamiliar areas or construction zones.
- Eliminate distractions while driving, including the use of mobile devices. Texas law prohibits the use of portable wireless devices to read, write or send an electronic message unless the vehicle is stopped. If you're using a navigation device or app, have a passenger operate it so you can keep your eyes on the road.
- Drive defensively, as holiday travel can present additional challenges.
- Don't drive fatigued — allow plenty of time to reach your destination.
- Keep the Texas Roadside Assistance number stored in your phone. Dial 1-800-525-5555 for any type of roadside assistance. The number can also be found on the back of a Texas Driver License.
- Monitor weather and road conditions wherever you're traveling. For road conditions and closures, visit Drive Texas.

Additionally, DPS reminds everyone to be watchful of their surroundings and to report any suspicious activity through iWatchTexas.

The iWatchTexas program is a critical resource for reporting suspicious activity in communities in order to help prevent dangerous attacks. Everyone is urged to download the free iOS or Android mobile app if you haven't done so already. Tips can be reported via the website, the mobile app or by calling 844-643-2251. All reports are confidential. For information on how to use iWatchTexas, you can view this how-to video.

Remember, iWatchTexas is not for emergencies. If there is an emergency, call 911 immediately.

### **Thank You for Your Investment - Texas State Veterans Home Lamen-Lusk-Sanchez**

On Tuesday morning, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce held a "Thank You for Your Investment" presentation for Lamen-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home to thank them for all that they do for the community.

The Texas State Veterans Home Lamen-Lusk-Sanchez is a long-term care facility offered by the Texas Veterans Land Board for qualified Veterans, their spouses and Gold Star parents.

Texas State Veterans Homes are owned by the state of Texas and are regulated by both the Texas Health and Human Services Commission as well as the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), however, the VA does not own or manage Texas State Veterans Homes.

When asked how she felt about the presentation, Robin Saffle, new Administrator at Lamen-Lusk-Sanchez, told KBest News that it was nice for their team to know that they're appreciated for the work that they do everyday.

Saffle told KBest News that she and staff felt privileged to care for our veterans. Here, she explains more (audio).

For more information about the facility, find their Facebook page - Lamen-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home.

### **Sales Tax Holidays for Water-Efficient and ENERGY STAR® Products Set for May 27-29**

(AUSTIN) — Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar is reminding families and businesses that they can save on the purchase of certain water- and energy-efficient products during the state's Water-Efficient Products and ENERGY STAR® sales tax holidays.

The holidays, created by the Texas Legislature, both take place this weekend, Saturday, May 27, through Monday, May 29. The Texas Comptroller's office estimates shoppers will save \$14.3 million in state and local sales tax.

According to Hegar, "Older, inefficient appliances and outdated water systems can put a tremendous strain on our power grids and water supplies," Hegar said. "By taking advantage of these sales tax holidays, Texans can make upgrades that will help alleviate those pressures and lower their utility bills — while saving money on state and local sales taxes."

This is the eighth year for the Water-Efficient Products Sales Tax Holiday. Products displaying a WaterSense® label or logo can be purchased tax free for personal or business use. These include showerheads, bathroom sink faucets and accessories, toilets, urinals and landscape irrigation controls.

The sales tax holiday also applies to lawn and garden products that help conserve water outdoors. Items qualifying for the exemption include soaker or drip-irrigation hoses; moisture controls for sprinkler or irrigation systems; mulch; and plants, trees and grasses. These items can be purchased tax free for residential use only.

There's no limit to the number of water-efficient or water-conserving products you can purchase tax free. For more information on the Water-Efficient Products Sales Tax Holiday, visit the Comptroller's website.

During the ENERGY STAR Sales Tax Holiday, certain energy-efficient products displaying the ENERGY STAR logo can be purchased tax free, including air conditioners priced at \$6,000 or less, refrigerators priced at \$2,000 or less, ceiling fans, compact fluorescent light bulbs, integral LED bulbs, dishwashers, dehumidifiers and clothes washers.

Visit the Comptroller's website for more details about the ENERGY STAR Sales Tax Holiday.

### **LOI**

Big Spring High School senior Eli Cobos signed his letter of intent yesterday to play baseball @ Hannibal La Grange University in Hannibal, Missouri. Congratulations to him!

**Area News:**

This weekend 18-year-old Lakaria Moore of Lubbock was reported missing, and Lubbock Police Officers were given reason to believe she was in danger.

LPD began the search on Sunday, May 19th, after entering her into a national database as Missing Person - Endangered. Through the initial course of the investigation it was found that she was last seen with 39-year-old Christopher Carter.

On Monday, May 22nd, LPD was given information on the location of Carter's vehicle, which was outside city limits near North County Road 3000 and East County Road 6650. Authorities responded to the area and located the body of a deceased female possibly related to the investigation.

Shortly after finding the vehicle and the body, LPD Officers and investigators also responded to a residence in the 2400 block of East 5th Street, which was believed to be related to the investigation.

A search warrant was later executed at that residence.

On Tuesday, May 23rd, the remains found in East Lubbock were identified as Moore.

Based on the information, Metropolitan Special Crimes Unit was able to get a Murder warrant for Christopher Carter.

LPD says Carter should be considered dangerous and should not be approached.

Anyone with information about this investigation or the location of Christopher Carter is asked to call Crime Line at 806-741-1000.

05/25/23

**Clay Walker to Perform at 5th Annual Black Gold Bash after Clint Black Backs Out**

**Oilfield Helping Hands** will host the **5th Annual Black Gold Bash** on **Wednesday, June 7, 2023, at Midland County Horseshoe Amphitheater**. Clint Black was originally scheduled to perform at the event and had to cancel due to emergency back surgery. Country star **Clay Walker** has been announced as the new headliner.

All proceeds from the 5th Annual Black Gold Bash featuring Clay Walker will benefit the Permian Basin Chapter of Oilfield Helping Hands, which provides industry workers and their families financial support in times of need.

Tickets are on sale for the 5th Annual Black Gold Bash featuring Clay Walker on Wednesday, June 7, 2023, at Midland County Horseshoe Amphitheater and available at the Horseshoe Box

Office, Monday – Friday 8 AM – 5 PM, and [www.midlandhorseshoe.com](http://www.midlandhorseshoe.com). A limited number of VIP tickets are available for \$100, this includes access to Backstage Club: VIP parking, shorter bar lines, and private restrooms, dinner, and drinks. Lawn tickets are available for \$35 dollars.

If needed, ticket refunds will be available until 12 AM CT on Wednesday, June 7, 2023, from the point of purchase.

For more information visit: <https://www.midlandhorseshoe.com>

### **Softball Update:**

Today, the Forsan Lady Buffs will take on Stamford in Game 1 of a 3-game series for their Regional Championship. Game 1 will be at 5 pm. Game 2 will be at noon on Saturday. Game 3 will follow if needed. All games will be played at Abilene Christian University. Catch a live broadcast for these games with the KBest Sports Crew on 94.3 The Fuse.

Tomorrow, the Coahoma Bulldogettes will begin a 3-game series against Lamesa. Game 1 will be played in Coahoma on Friday, 5/26/23, at 7 pm. Game 2 will be played in Lamesa at 1 pm on Saturday with Game 3 to follow if needed. Catch a live broadcast for these games with the KBest Sports Crew on The Mighty 1490 AM and FM 103.9.

### **Toy Drive**

Leadership Big Spring is collecting new toys for Victim Services of Big Spring. Victim Services of Big Spring is a nonprofit organization based in Texas that assists victims of violent crimes such as domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, homicide, human trafficking, elder abuse, and robbery. They partner with the district attorney's office and law enforcement agencies in our area to help clients navigate the twists and turns of the legal system, allowing them to make informed decisions. Plus, they provide group counseling services for trauma survivors.

Their mission is to strive to provide prevention, education, advocacy, and a safe place to foster healing for survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, and gender discrimination.

The new toy collection is going on now through June 1st. Drop off locations in Big Spring are Prosperity Bank, Bulldog Steel, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Big Spring Convention and Visitors Bureau. Toys should be new and small to medium size for ages 5 to 10. Monetary donations can also be made and dropped off at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, located at 215 W. 3rd St.

### **Big Spring City Council**

During Tuesday's meeting of the Big Spring City Council, council members approved the abatement of seven properties that were considered a public nuisance. City Manager Todd Darden advised that the Russ McEwen Family Aquatic Center would be opening for the season

on June 3rd. It was also noted that the annual seal coat project will begin in June and last approximately one week. Plus, city offices will be closed on Monday, May 29th, in observance of Memorial Day. Emergency services will operate as normal and trash collection for next week will be delayed.

During new business, council members accepted a donation from Big Spring Junior Honor Society to the Big Spring Police Department. The organization raised \$406.12 that was used to purchase leashes and dog food for the Big Spring Animal Shelter. Plus, they approved Rick Watkins and Ernie Morgan to serve a 2-year term as board members for the Colorado River Municipal Water District. They also approved an appointment by Diane Yanez, District 2, for Jose Olivias to be appointed as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Adjustments.

## Odessa police searching for 35 year old woman

ODESSA, Texas (KOSA) - UPDATE: According to the Odessa Police Department Sawyer was a teacher at Nimitz Middle School.

OPD Chief Mike Gerke said that prior to her disappearance Sawyer had given all materials that belonged to ECISD to her landlord who then returned the items to the district on May 2nd.

ECISD confirms that Sawyer is still employed at the school and the district released the following statement:

*"We are concerned for Brittany and are working with OPD. We are hopeful this report will lead to information that will help us locate her."*

*Ector County ISD*

Sawyer had called out of work for two weeks, ECISD police performed a welfare check on May 4th but no one was there.

According to Chief Gerke, ECISD police contacted OPD and filed a missing person report on May 10th.

ECISD contacted Sawyers's family but they said they had not heard from her.

The Odessa Police Department is asking for the public's help in finding 35-year-old Brittany Sawyer. She was last seen on April 30th in Odessa.

According to OPD, Sawyer does not have a vehicle and is frequently seen walking.

She is approximately 5'5" tall, weighs approximately 130 pounds, and has blonde hair and blue eyes.

Anyone with information about Sawyer should contact OPD at 432-333-3641 or Odessa Crime Stoppers at 432-333-TIPS and reference Case #23-0005367.

05/26/23

**City Offices Closing for Memorial Day**

All City of Big Spring offices, including Sanitation and the Landfill, will be closed on Monday, May 29, 2023, for Memorial Day. The City Landfill will be open on Saturday, May 27, 2023, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. All City offices will reopen Tuesday, May 30, 2023, at 8:00 AM.

There will be no sanitation pick-up on Memorial Day. The Sanitation pick-up schedule for the week of May 29, 2023, will be as follows:

Monday's sanitation route will be collected on Tuesday. Tuesday's sanitation route will be collected on Wednesday. Thursday and Friday pick-ups 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 at 432-264-2392.

**Three Angels Food Pantry - Food Distribution in Big Spring- TOMORROW, 05/26/23**

BIG SPRING, TX -- Three Angels Food Pantry in Big Spring will be open for food distribution tomorrow Thursday, May 26th. This is a monthly drive-thru food distribution event that occurs on the last Friday of the month. Participants attending the event can stay in their vehicle while food boxes are loaded by volunteers.

If you need groceries, stop by Three Angels Food Pantry, located at 4319 Parkway Road, behind the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Big Spring, from 11 am to 1 pm.

**Military Career Q&A event**

West Texas Community Mediation Center will host a Military Career Q&A Event for Our Youth on Tuesday, May 30th, at 5:30 PM. It will be held at their building located at 501 S. Runnels in Big Spring.

Here, [Danette Ross Watson](#), Executive Director for the WTXCMC, explains more about the event. (audio)

The West Texas Community Mediation Center provides conflict management education/services and other socially necessary services to the community; as well as for at-risk youth, adults and families that have been court-ordered or referred for services by assisting the courts, school districts, students, parents and state agencies.

For more information on the organization, visit their website at [wtxcmc.org](http://wtxcmc.org).

**Softball Update:**

Yesterday, the Forsan Lady Buffs lost to Stamford in Game 1 of a 3-game series for their Regional Championship. Final score was 1-6. Game 2 will be at noon on Saturday. Game 3 will follow if needed. All games will be played at Abilene Christian University. Catch a live broadcast for these games with the KBest Sports Crew on 94.3 The Fuse.

Tomorrow, the Coahoma Bulldogettes will begin a 3-game series against Lamesa. Game 1 will be played in Coahoma on Friday, 5/26/23, at 7 pm. Game 2 will be played in Lamesa at 1 pm on Saturday with Game 3 to follow if needed. Catch a live broadcast for these games with the KBest Sports Crew on The Mighty 1490 AM and FM 103.9.

### **United Way Collects New Fans**

Temperatures are rising and not everyone has the luxury of central air conditioning or any air conditioning at all. The United Way of Big Spring and Howard County are partnering with the City of Big Spring and Scenic Mountain Medical Center to begin collecting fans to distribute to those in need.

New fans can be dropped off at the following locations:

United Way office at 215 W. 3rd St.,  
Big Spring City Hall at 310 S. Nolan or  
SMMC Volunteer Desk at 1601 W. 11th Place

Call or text Christian Fair, Executive Director for the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County, with questions 432-816-3573

05/30/23

### **Isaiah 58 Faces Closure**

Big Spring food pantry Isaiah 58 is facing potential closure before the end of the summer.

The local non profit received a notice to vacate their current location at 809 Scurry in Big Spring on May 23, 2023 by St. Paul Lutheran Church, the organization that owns the property. The notice stated, "The financial drain to St. Paul in providing this building to you has necessitated this difficult decision, which was reached and voted on by the congregation of St. Paul Lutheran Church." It also stated that the church would take over the property on July 1st, 2023.

According to Terry Hanson, President for St. Paul Lutheran Church, the decision to evict the food pantry is strictly a financial one. He stated that although the church does not pay taxes on their properties, they do have to pay for insurance on the buildings. The cost of insurance for the Isaiah 58 property is approximately \$10,000 per year. Hanson explained that due to their decrease in church membership and inflated insurance costs they are not able to continue payments to keep the building.

The original agreement for Isaiah 58 to use the building was between founder Paul Smith and St. Paul Lutheran Church. No rent was collected but in return for using the building, Smith offered a "good will" donation that ranged from \$400-\$450 a month. There were no official documents as it was a verbal agreement that was sealed with a handshake at the time. The donation continued for many years, up until approximately 10 months ago when the church verbally advised Isaiah 58 that they were considering selling the building.

Hanson told KBest News that Isaiah 58 was offered first dibs to purchase the building through a finance option. At the time, the cost was estimated to be \$500,000 because the building is over 7,000 square feet with a paved parking lot that sits on a corner lot on a commercial street. Since

then, the church has sought advice from a real estate professional and the cost is now cited as \$355,000. The property is not listed for sale yet, but Isaiah 58 still has a chance to purchase the building before it hits the market.

Isaiah 58 serves 400-500 people every month. Recently they've received numerous letters from their clients stating how important the centrally located food pantry is to their families and that they hope the organization will continue to stay open.

According to Nancy Loveless, CEO for Isaiah 58, the organization is coming up on its 25th anniversary on serving the community. She told KBest News that in order for the food pantry to continue serving the community they either need to raise \$355,000 to purchase the building or a location. The new location must have enough space to accommodate their walk-in cooler and freezer (dimensions: 19 ft x 9 ft, 8 ft in height) as it's imperative for them to continue to serve meat products and refrigerated grocery items.

Isaiah 58 will hold a fundraiser garage sale in the next few weeks and is currently accepting donations now. Those donations whether they are items to be sold or monetary donations can be dropped off at 809 Scurry St. during business hours. For more information, check out the post on our KBest Media Facebook page.

**Business Hours:**

Monday 8-10:30 am / 2-5 pm

Tuesday 3-6 pm

Friday 8-10:30 am

**Contacts for Isaiah 58:**

- Nancy Loveless, CEO: (432) 214-4268
- Laura Garcia, garage sale coordinator: (432) 270-1161
- Barbara Carter, volunteer: (432) 816-6776

Monetary donations can also be mailed to:

Isaiah 58  
P.O. Box 1103,  
Big Spring, TX 79720

**Fatal Crash in Martin County**

A Big Spring man was recently identified by Texas DPS as the victim of last week's fatal 2-vehicle crash in Martin County.

The crash happened on Wednesday, May 24th, at approximately 4:53 PM on SH 137, near mile marker 314.

According to the preliminary information, 67-year-old Javier Delucas-Gutierrez of Big Spring was traveling northbound on SH 137 near mile marker 314 behind a slower moving vehicle. He took faulty evasive action to avoid rear-ending the vehicle ahead of him and swerved left into the southbound lanes where it struck an 18-wheeler semi-truck.

Delucas-Gutierrez was airlifted to Midland Memorial Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

### **Special BSISD Meeting**

A special meeting of the Big Spring ISD Board of Trustees is scheduled for tomorrow at 5:15 pm in the Goliad Elementary Library, located at 1801 S. Goliad in Big Spring.

Items on the agenda include approval of various donations and a discussion concerning the Facilities Needs Assessment.

### **Softball Update**

Last week, Coahoma and Forsan High School softball teams competed for their respective Regional Championship. Coahoma won their 3-game series with final scores of 10-0 and 14-1 against Lamesa. Both times they run ruled the Golden Tornadoes in the 5th inning. This week they'll move on to state softball tournament in Austin. Tomorrow they'll play Rains in the first round of the tournament. That game will be at 1 pm at the Red & Charline McCombs Field on the campus of the University of Austin. Listen to that game broadcasted live by the KBest Sports Crew on The Mighty 1490 AM and FM 103.9. You can also watch the KBest Sports Crew give a live play by play on our KBest Media Facebook page.

Forsan Lady Buffs lost to Stamford in their 3-game series. Final scores were 1-6 and 1-15. Congratulations to the Lady Buffs on a great season!

### **BIG 10K Giveaway**

City of big Spring will hold a Blood Drive this Friday, June 2nd. It'll be held at the Council Chambers located at 310 Nolan from 10 am too 2 pm.

It's part of the BIG 10K Giveaway – everyone who donates between June 1 and June 30 is automatically entered to win one of two \$10,000 prepaid gift cards. [For more information, go to Vitalant.org.](#)

School is out – that means it is Summer and the MOST difficult time of year to maintain an adequate supply of blood and its products to help save the lives of patients in local hospitals. Vitalant urges you to Introduce lifesaving blood donation to your teenagers who are 16 years and older, and to encourage friends and co-workers to donate as well.

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. These forms can be found at [www.vitalant.org](http://www.vitalant.org).

In addition to saving up to THREE LIVES with their donation, donors will also receive a Free sandwich coupon courtesy of Chick Fil A in San Angelo. PLUS an automatic entry to win one of two \$10,000 prepaid gift cards – open to all who donate June 1 – 30.

Appointments Encouraged. Walkins Welcome. Call Stacie King @ 432-267-2347. Call 877-258-4825. Go to Vitalant.org or download the Vitalant app

05/31/23

### **Area News: Four Mexican Nationals Sentenced for Cocaine Trafficking and Firearm Offenses**

MIDLAND –Michael Robledo Guillen, 48, was sentenced last week to 97 months in prison for cocaine trafficking and a firearm offense. Guillen was the last of four Mexican nationals arrested by Odessa Police officers in December 2022 to be sentenced.

According to court documents, in December 2022, Guillen of Monterrey, Mexico; Ricardo Perez Flores, 37, of Veracruz, Mexico; Faustino Alvarez Mendoza, 22, of Michoacan, Mexico; and Ricardo Aguilar Villarreal, 37, of Monterrey, Mexico conspired to deliver one kilogram of cocaine from Dallas, Texas to Odessa, Texas. After Odessa Police Department officers stopped the truck the four defendants were in they recovered one kilogram of cocaine from the truck's center console along with a stolen firearm.

Officers recovered an additional loaded firearm from Mendoza's waistband.

Earlier this month, Mendoza, Villarreal, and Flores were also each sentenced to 97 months in federal prison for both cocaine trafficking and firearm offenses.

### **Swish with Ish - Basketball Camp at Howard College**

The 3rd annual Swish with Ish basketball camp will be held next week, June 6-8th, at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum on the Howard College campus in Big Spring. This basketball camp is for boys and girls in grades 3rd through 12th for all types of skill levels. Although this is open to a variety of ages, the participants will be separated by age groups.

According to Coach John Ishee, Head Women's Basketball Coach for Howard College, the camp will focus on fundamental skills that are beneficial for those new to the game and even to those who have been playing for a while.

Again, the Swish with Ish Basketball Camp will be held Tuesday, June 6th, through Thursday, June 8th, at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, from 8:30 am to Noon. Cost is \$40 per person and includes a camp basketball for each player. On-site registration is available on Tuesday from 8 am to 8:30 am.

Pre-registration is available at the Howard College Athletic Office inside of the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, or email Coach Ishee at [jishee@howardcollege.edu](mailto:jishee@howardcollege.edu).

### **Notice of 2023 Neighborhood Seal Coating**

The annual seal coating project in the City of Big Spring is scheduled to begin June 14th. The seal coating application is anticipated to take approximately two days to complete. Then, approximately two weeks later the excess rock will be swept off the street.

Be advised that during this time, all vehicles are requested to be moved away from the streets by 7 am on June 14th. The City of Big Spring also requests that you do not park on the streets in front of your property. The notice states that vehicles should remain off the road for a full two days, if possible. Any vehicles on the road at 7 a.m. on the date of service WILL BE TOWED. Residents will be permitted to park on sidewalks and yards as necessary during the seal coat project.

Seal coating protects the roadways from the deteriorating effects of the environment. The seal coat helps extend the useful life of the pavement by providing a waterproof membrane to slow down the reduction of oils in the asphalt and keeps moisture out of the street.

Please note, all work is dependent on weather conditions. If adverse weather occurs on the day your street is scheduled to be sealed, you will be notified of the new date through the website ([www.mybigspring.com](http://www.mybigspring.com)).

You can find more information and a map of the neighborhoods affected by this year's seal coat project on our KBest Media Facebook page. If you have any questions, please contact the City of Big Spring Code Compliance Office at (432) 264-2504.

### **Food pantries in Big Spring**

Although Isaiah 58, a Big Spring food pantry located at 809 Scurry, may be closing. Big Spring has multiple organizations that assist with food.

In addition to these local organizations, Big Spring ISD is also participating in the Seamless Summer Option Food Service Program (SSO) as a sponsor. Beginning on Monday, June 5th, Big Spring ISD will have two sites open to serve breakfast and lunch to all children 18 years old and younger. Those sites will be at Goliad Elementary, located at 1801 Goliad Street, and Big Spring Jr. High, located at 624 E. 6th St.

Monday through Friday, from June 5th through July 29th, 2023, Aramark will prepare 120 meals for each type of meal. Breakfast will be served from 7:30 am to 8 am and lunch will be served from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.

The Seamless Summer Option Food Service program is a federally funded program administered in Texas by the Texas Department of Agriculture. For more information, visit our KBest Media Facebook page.

06/01/23

### **Softball Update**

Yesterday, the Coahoma Bulldogettes played Rains in the first game of the UIL State Softball Tournament. Coahoma won with a final score of 1-0 to become a State Semi Finalist. Today they'll battle Santa Gertrudis Academy in the 3A state championship game at 1 p.m. at the Red & Charline McCombs Field at the University of Texas in Austin.

Coahoma (35-3) will play in its second consecutive state championship game at 1 p.m. Thursday when it faces Santa Gertrudis Academy (40-5).

### **Two Killed in Fatal Howard County Crash**

The Texas Department has identified the two victims involved in a one-vehicle crash in Howard County that occurred this week.

On Monday at approximately 12:47 PM, DPS Troopers responded to a crash on US 87, 5 miles south of Big Spring. According to the preliminary report, a 2002 Kenworth Truck was traveling southbound on US 87 near mile marker 383. While traveling, the vehicle suffered a tire blowout causing it to veer off the road onto the US 87 south entrance ramp. The truck then rolled over causing both the driver, identified as 56-year-old Antonio Garcia of Midland, and passenger, John Lyndon Brightman, 63 of Odessa, to be ejected from the vehicle. Neither the driver or passenger were secured by a seatbelt and both succumbed to injuries sustained in the crash.

### **World War II Veteran Requests 100 Cards for His 100th Birthday**

**BIG SPRING**— This week, **Chairwoman Dawn Buckingham, M.D.** called on the Big Spring community to show support for one of our courageous Veterans, World War II Veteran U.S. Army Corporal (CPL) Carl Reid, who turns 100 on June 15th. CPL Reid—a resident at the Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home (TSVH) in Big Spring— has requested at least 100 birthday cards for this incredible milestone.

CPL Reid served in the U.S. Army during World War II, entering into active duty on September 26, 1944. Before the war, he was raised on a farm and became a farmer, growing cotton, corn and maize as well as caring for livestock.

During his time serving our nation, he worked as a supply clerk managing several clerical and stock handling duties. He was also an Army truck operator transporting personnel, supplies, and equipment. CPL Reid received the Good Conduct Medal and the Victory Medal for his service.

To help celebrate this once-in-a-life-time occasion, Texans can send birthday cards to him at the Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez TSVH addressed to:

Mr. Carl Reid

Re: 100 for 100

c/o Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home

1809 N. Hwy 87  
Big Spring, Texas 79720

## **Free Fishing Day in Texas Slated for June 3**

AUSTIN – Each year on the first Saturday in June, anglers across the state pack their tackle boxes and get their fishing poles ready for the Texas tradition of Free Fishing Day. This year, Free Fishing Day lands on June 3 and Texans can fish on any public waterbody in the state without a fishing license.

“Free Fishing Day is a wonderful opportunity for anglers to share their knowledge, skills, equipment, and love for fishing with a new participant, yet it’s also more than that,” said Craig Bonds, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Inland Fisheries Director. “We hope those trying fishing on this special day will also learn that purchasing a license is an act of conservation. A fishing license purchase is one of the simplest and most effective way people can support fisheries science and management.”

Anglers help the conservation effort with their license purchase with 100 percent of fishing license fees going to TPWD. The fees fund on-the-ground conservation efforts such as fish stocking that help make Texas one of the best places in the country to fish. For more information on licensing, visit the [TPWD license page](https://tpwd.texas.gov/licenses/).

To help celebrate Free Fishing Day, TPWD offers multiple resources to provide fun, high-quality fishing opportunities to anglers of all skill levels and all ages.

For more information, visit– <https://tpwd.texas.gov/>

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/newsmedia/releases/?req=20230530b>

06/02/23

## **Fatal Crash in Glasscock County**

Two victims have been identified in a fatal crash that occurred on Wednesday in Glasscock County.

According to Texas DPS, Troopers responded at 5:30 AM for a crash that occurred on SH 158 and Country Road 110. The preliminary information revealed that a 2009 Chevrolet Silverado, driven by Cipriano Gutierrez, 48, of Rio Grande City, TX, was traveling westbound behind a semi-truck in the left lane of SH 158. The semi truck slowed and stopped in the left lane to make a left turn onto CR 110. The report states that Gutierrez failed to control the speed of his vehicle and struck the rear of the trailer towed by the semi-truck. Gutierrez was pronounced deceased on scene.

## **Area News: CC Circuit Riders Car Show and Sonic Cruise**

The C C Riders 23rd Annual Car Show and Sonic Cruise will be held next week on June 9th and 10th in Colorado City.

Registration for the cruise begins at 6 PM Friday night, 06/09/2023, at the Railhead Building, and the cruise begins at 7 PM in downtown Colorado City. Cruise Awards for the Top 10 Cruisers will be given out on Friday at 9 PM.

The Car Show will be on Saturday, 06/10/23, inside and outside of the Railhead building. Registration for that will be from 8 am until 12 noon. T-shirts and dash plaques will be available for the first 75 show entries. Plus, food and drinks will be available at the show. Car Show awards will be given at 3 PM on Saturday.

The Bad News Memorial Burnout will also be held in Colorado City on Saturday at 10 AM at West Main St. There will be 3 classes to compete in - Stock, Modified, and Super Modified.

C C Riders is a non-profit organization, and all proceeds will benefit a scholarship fund for local graduates and donations to the local mission and Kiwanian's toy drive. For more information, visit the Facebook page for CC Riders Car Club of Colorado City, Texas.

### **Softball Update**

Congratulations to the Coahoma Bulldogettes on winning the 3A State Softball Championship yesterday!! They defeated Santa Gertrudis Academy with a final score of 4-2. This was the second consecutive year for the Bulldogettes to make an appearance at the UIL State Softball Tournament. This is the first Softball title for the school since 1998 🏆

Finishing 2-for-2 at the plate including a two-run home run, while also picking up the win in the circle, Hannah Wells (Coahoma) earned Conference 3A #UILState Softball Championship MVP Award! 🏆

Congratulations to them on a fantastic season!!

Also, congratulations to Hermleigh

On winning the 1A state championship! They

**CONFERENCE 1A #UILState SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL SCORE**

D'Hanis 0

Hermleigh 9

Last year, Hermleigh fell short in the state finals against D'Hanis. But this year, they emerged victorious and brought home the gold with a final score of 9-0. Congratulations to the Lady Cardinals for claiming their first-ever #UILState Softball championship!

Summer Smith (Hermleigh) was named the 1A #UILState Softball Championship Game MVP, picking up the win in the circle with 5 strikeouts and also going 3-for-4 at the plate with 3 RBI!

Box Score ➡ <https://bit.ly/3IPxWvI>

## **Joint Violent Crime Operation Results in Multiple Arrests**

June 1, 2023

MIDLAND/ODESSA – On May 24th and 25th, 2023, due to a significant increase in violent crimes in the Midland/Odessa Area, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Criminal Investigations Division initiated a two-day collaborative operation with multiple law enforcement partners to target and disrupt violent crime and apprehend violent criminals.

Participating Agencies included: Texas DPS, Midland Police Department, Odessa Police Department, Midland County Sheriff's Office, Ector County Independent School District Police Department, Midland County District Attorney's Office, Ector County District Attorney's Office, University of Texas – Permian Basin Police Department, United State Attorney's Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

As a result of the collaborative effort, 84 traffic stops were conducted and 26 people were arrested. Nine of those arrested were taken into custody on felony warrants and 17 were on-sight felony arrests for various charges. Six firearms were seized including one stolen firearm; over \$57,000 in stolen vehicles and property was recovered; over \$28,000 in U.S. Currency derived from illicit means was seized; 32 felony warrants and 10 misdemeanor warrants were served. Additionally, significant amounts of Cocaine, Methamphetamine and Heroin were seized.

## **Weekend events**

There are a couple of events happening this weekend in Big Spring, and both are in the downtown area. The Main Street Mercantile will be on Saturday from 9 AM to 2 PM at 204 S. Main. On Sunday, the Crossroads Comic and Toy Show will partner with Yo Mama's to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the movie Blood In Blood Out, a 1993 American [epic crime drama](#) directed by [Taylor Hackford](#) that has become a [cult-classic](#) film among the [Mexican-American](#) community.

This is a free event that will be held at 206 S. Main. Plus, Damian Chapa, the actor who played a major role in the movie as the character Miklo, will be on site doing meet and greets.

06/05/23

**District 6AAA Softball District Honors**

## Quarterly News Report 2023: April - June

In addition to the Coahoma Bulldogettes winning the title of 3A State Softball Champions, several players received All-District honors, and the Coahoma Coaching Staff was recognized as Coach of the Year.

Hannah Wells was named District MVP. Mia Clemmer was named Offensive MVP. Makayla Calvio was named Co-Pitching MVP. Avery Rodriguez was named DP of the Year, and Karleigh Burt was named Utility Player of the Year.

Those making First Team 6-3A All-District are Christian Everett, Brynn Rodgers, Shea Lang, Kaedyn Lee, Baylor Wright, and Neveah Kirby.

### **Blushin' Babes Grand Opening**

On Friday morning, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon - cutting ceremony to celebrate the grand opening of Blushin' Babe Kid Shoppe, located at 1210 S. Gregg in Big Spring.

Blushin' Babe Kid Shoppe sells fashionable clothing for youth. Carla Blaygrave, sole owner of the boutique, told KBest News the shop has fashion for all ages from newborn to young teens. They also have accessories, shoes, gifts, and toys.

Blaygrave went on to say that they'll also offer a baby registry for young mothers. Here she explains more (audio).

Blushin' Babe Kid Shoppe is open Monday- Friday from 10 am to 5:30 pm, and on Saturday from 10 am to 3 pm.

For more information, find them on Facebook and Instagram.

### **Winners of BSAA show**

The Big Spring Art Association had its annual Area Wide Art Show that ran through the month of May at the Heritage Museum. Over 30 entries were submitted for this year for the ten categories that were open. Those winning their respective categories are as follows:

Acrylic - "Woven" by Kandis Wilkinson  
Mixed Media - "Country Home Revisited" by Linda Rupard, which was also voted Best of Show.  
Watercolor - "Illuminated Iris" by Kay Smith  
3-D Art - "I do believe in Fairies" by Saffron Pierson  
Miniatures - "Tulip Frolic" by Kay Smith  
Pencils & Pen - "Frankenstein Boris Karloff" by Beth Henry  
Photography - "High on a Desert Plain" by Courtney Logan  
Oils - "A Study on Vermeer" by Renee Thomas  
Youth 7-12 - "Beeby" by Logan Thomas  
Juniors 13-17 - "250" by Caleb Brown

## Quarterly News Report 2023: April - June

The Big Spring Art Association has monthly meetings on the third Saturday of the month that run from September through May. For more information on the organization, visit the Facebook page for Big Spring Art Association.

### **Legends and Legacies**

The Heritage Museum in Big Spring will have their annual fundraising event Legends and Legacies this Saturday, June 10th. Every year, the museum honors several individuals as inductees into their Hall of Fame.

This year those being inducted into the Cowboy Hall of Fame are Steve Wolf, John "Tom" Damron, and Rick Morrow.

The Driver Family - including Dane, Jennifer, and Jordan- are recognized as the Ranching/Rodeo Family of the Year. Ranching Legend I.B. Cobble will also be recognized. Plus, the Barr Family - including Mark, Maxwell, and James, is being recognized as the first Livestock Family of the Year.

Congratulations to them.

06/06/23

### **Big Spring Lunch and Learn - Thursday**

CASA of West Texas will hold a Lunch and learn session in Big Spring on Thursday, June 8th, from 12 to 1 pm at their office located at 1811 Scurry St.

The mission of CASA of West Texas 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 foster system.

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. Here, [Ariel Sanchez](#), Volunteer Recruiter and Marketing Specialist, explains more about what it means to advocate for a child (audio - help build a network of support for these children).

**CASA of West Texas serves children in Midland, Howard, Dawson, Gaines, Andrews, Martin and Glasscock Counties.** Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer can attend the meeting on Thursday, June 8th, from 12 to 1 pm.

For more information on CASA of West Texas, visit their website at [www.casawtx.org](http://www.casawtx.org).

### **Coahoma receives athletic honors**

## Quarterly News Report 2023: April - June

The UIL Softball State All-Tournament Team selections were recently announced. According to the University Interscholastic League, selections were made by the Texas Girls Coaches Association. Coahoma had five players listed for Conference 3A. Those selected are as follows:

\*Pitcher-Hannah Wells,  
Catcher-Mia Clemmer,  
Third Base-Karleigh Burt,  
Outfield-Shae Lang,  
Outfield-Baylor Wright

Hermleigh had six players listed for Conference 1A. Those selected are as follows:

\*Pitcher-Summer Smith,  
Catcher-Sydney Hancock,  
Second Base-Juli Munoz,  
Shortstop-Syreah Callaway,  
Outfield-Lexi Greenwood,  
Outfield-Destiney Hopkins,  
Full lists available here:

[https://www.uil-texas.org/press-releases/detail/2023-uil-softball-state-all-tournament-teams?fbclid=IwAR3k7XZswKciR1uzv240WzO\\_RpbAl7IbzCbnNeMoZzh-liSHBWJjesY-m8E](https://www.uil-texas.org/press-releases/detail/2023-uil-softball-state-all-tournament-teams?fbclid=IwAR3k7XZswKciR1uzv240WzO_RpbAl7IbzCbnNeMoZzh-liSHBWJjesY-m8E)

### **YMCA Free Swim Lessons**

This week, the YMCA in Big Spring began their first class of free swimming lessons for the summer, made possible by the American Farmers Grow Communities Grant. Dathan Jones, CEO of the YMCA in Big Spring, told KBest News that the grant will allow them to offer free lessons for 100 kids.

Jones told KBest News that there's still too many kids that are drowning in our community and when families go on vacation. Here, he explains more (audio - These kiddos need to know how to swim. A hundred kids is not even a fraction of our community's kid population, but that's 100 more kids I can ensure will not be drowning this summer.)

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drowning is the leading cause of death for children. In the United States, more children between the ages of 1 to 4 die from drowning than any other cause of death. For children ages 5–14, drowning is the second leading cause of unintentional injury death after motor vehicle crashes.

This year, 26 kids have drowned in Texas, as reported by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

The YMCA in Big Spring will offer four different sessions, Monday through Thursday, for ages 5 - 12. These lessons will be from 5-5:45 PM or 6-6:45 PM, with 15 sign-up spots for each class. Jones went on to advise that the grant also allows for all the YMCA child care kids to receive free swimming lessons throughout the summer. For more information, contact the YMCA at 432-267-8234.

**Area News: Ex-O'Donnell teacher found guilty of Enticement and Attempted Enticement of a Minor**

[LUBBOCK, Texas](#) — A former teacher with the O'Donnell Independent School District, Nicholas Dominique Bueno, 27 at the time of his arrest, was found guilty of Enticement and Attempted Enticement of a Minor, according to federal court records [obtained by EverythingLubbock.com on Monday.](#) [EverythingLubbock.com](#) previously reported Bueno entered a guilty plea for three counts of Transfer of Obscene Material to a Minor but chose to proceed to trial for one count of Enticement and Attempted Enticement of a Minor. A bench trial was held on Friday.

Bueno was initially arrested in October of 2022 after a 14-year-old girl's father discovered sexually explicit messages and went to the authorities. Federal court documents accused Bueno of trying to "shame [the victim] for not reciprocating his sexual desires."

Bueno faced up to life in prison, but his sentencing will be at a later date. He will also be required to register as a sex offender. As of Monday, Bueno remained in federal custody.

To read more on this story covered by EverythingLubbock.com, visit our KBest Media Facebook page.

06/07/23

**Lamen-Lusk-Sanchez recognizes World War II Veterans**

BIG SPRING, TX — Today, Lamen-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home recognized their WWII Veterans Carl D. Reid and Claude C. Firth in honor of D-Day.

Caleb Boyd, Wellness Experience Director at Lamen-Lusk-Sanchez, told KBest News that the men are the only surviving World War II Veterans at the facility and it was important to recognize them.

Here, he tells us more (audio-"I think it's a beautiful thing that we came together to make them feel special. I know sometimes they get going through the motions, and they often forget what day it is, but I didn't want to pass this opportunity up to recognize them and what they've done for our country," said Boyd. )

D-Day was the name given to the June 6, 1944, invasion of the beaches at Normandy in northern France by troops from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and other countries during World War II. At the time, the D-Day invasion was the largest naval, air and land operation in history.

Summer Sip and Shop

**Next Generation**

Coahoma High School won their first Softball State Championship in 1998 when it was still a 2A school. Now the next generation of softball players are continuing on that legacy with their win of the 3A State

Softball Championship. Several of the current softball players mothers also played for Coahoma, including Kenni Kay Wright who was a part of the 1998 team.

Kenni Kay's daughter, Baylor Wright, is an outfielder for the Bulldogettes. She started playing softball when she was 8 years old and says she often heard stories about her mom playing in the 1998 State Championship. When asked how she felt to be able to win State and know that her mom had the same experience, Baylor had this to say (audio).

Kenni Kay told KBest News that it was surreal to have been a part of the 1998 winning team and to see her daughter's team win now. Here she tells us more (audio).

Head Softball Coach Alex Orosco told KBest News that after all the hard work the girls put in all year long, it's nice to be able to reap the reward of winning the State Championship. When how big of a role the moms prior softball experiences had in preparing the girls for State, Orosco had this to say (audio).

He went on to say the following (audio).

There will be a celebration parade for the Bulldogette Softball tonight in Coahoma. It'll start at 6 pm at Dairy Queen and travel north to the Coahoma Park to share watermelon and water with the community. Anyone wanting to participate in the parade by driving cars or motorcycles are encouraged to participate.

### **Martin County Hospital - Top 20 critical access hospitals in America in patient satisfaction**

STANTON, TX – Martin County Hospital District in Stanton recently landed on a list for the Top 20 critical access hospitals in America in the patient satisfaction area.

Here, Nancy Cooke, CEO for Martin County Hospital District, tells us more about the award. (audio - This patient satisfaction award is a result of a survey of our patients and how our patients feel about us and the services we provide. It really is a very huge compliment to our staff and very great affirmation to them for the great job that they do day in and day out.)

There are over 1,353 critical access hospitals in the U.S. A critical access hospital (CAH) is a medical center that provides healthcare services to rural, often underserved communities. These hospitals are important because they bridge the gap for citizens who live in rural areas. Here, Cooke explains more (audio - Even Midland and Odessa don't have all services for all things in the medical world, but you want to get y our primary care and basic care at home, and you want to be receiving that care from individuals that you know and trust. I think that's one of the big things about this award is because it does reinforce that our citizens appreciate us and appreciate the care that we give and that we are there to take care of them.)

The top 20 CAHs, including Martin County Hospital District, scored best among CAHs as determined by the Chartis Center for Rural Health for patient satisfaction. The rankings were recently announced by the National Rural Health Association (NRHA). An awards ceremony will be held during NRHA's Critical Access Hospital Conference in September in Kansas City, Mo.

### **Area News: MISD to Increase Pay for Teachers and Staff**

Midland ISD's Board of Trustees approved a comprehensive compensation package that would provide General Pay Increases for teachers and staff in the coming school year.

The starting minimum salary for teachers has seen a considerable increase, rising from \$58,500 to \$60,500. The starting minimum hourly pay for all pay plans also takes a substantial leap from \$13.50 to \$14.25. Similarly, bus drivers will see their starting minimum hourly pay rise from \$22.00 to \$25.00. MISD stated that these changes surpass local and state job market averages, further demonstrating our commitment to ensuring financial security and satisfaction for all staff members.

The Board approved the 2023-24 Compensation Plan. The plan raises the minimum salary for starting teachers from \$58,500 to \$60,500. Teachers and other pay groups will receive a 4% increase, and administrative/professional pay groups will receive a 3% increase. Minimum hourly pay increases from \$13.50 to \$14.25, and minimum pay for bus drivers increases from \$22 to \$25.

06/08/23

### **Hillcrest Closes**

Last month, long time child care facility Hillcrest Child Development Center in Big Spring closed their doors after 42 years of service to the community. When asked what brought about the closure of the program after so many years, Debi Newell, receptionist at Hillcrest Church in Big Spring, had this to say (audio - There are many things, but the main thing would be - could not keep staff. She didn't have much staff, had trouble keeping girls after we'd get them. If there had to be one reason, that would be it. Just could not keep staff, had to turn away kids because you didn't have the staff to teach them and keep them. There has to be so many teachers per kids. It just got harder and harder to keep it going).

When Hillcrest finally closed their doors to the child development center in May, they said goodbye to 50 kids but had served approximately 90 kids throughout the year with 15 staff members. Families were notified that the facility would be closing on May 26th, and several made arrangements to leave as soon as possible.

When asked what the feedback was from the families about the closure, Brenda Hyatt, with Hillcrest Church, told KBest News that the families were sad. Here, she explains more (audio - You know a lot of these kids, we've had siblings that have gone through there. We had some of the families had been with us for 7 to 10 years. In fact, we had second generation kids that were coming. You know, their parents had come through daycare and they wanted their kids to come through daycare. So, of course, it was very sad. We all cried.).

Hyatt told KBest News that some of the other child care centers expanded their programs to be able to take in some of the kids after the closure, and most of everyone had some place to go. As for the staff, they transitioned to other childcare centers, some took other jobs, some went back to school, and some decided to stay home with their families.

Although some may have a waiting list at this time, child care facilities still open in Big Spring include West Side Community Day Care, YMCA Kids Academy, Jack and Jill Child Care Center, Little

## Quarterly News Report 2023: April - June

Learners Christian Daycare, and Early Head Start at Bauer. The Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club also offers after-school care and a summer program.

West Side Community Day Care  
2400 Simler Ave, Big Spring  
(432) 263-7841

YMCA Kids Academy  
409 S. Goliad, Big Spring  
(432) 267-8234

Little Learners Christian Daycare  
105 Spring Creek Rd., Sands  
(432) 213-4530

Early Head Start at Bauer Head Start School Readiness Academy  
108 NW 9th, Big Spring  
(432) 267-7452  
[www.gopb.net](http://www.gopb.net)

Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club  
811 W. 5th St., Big Spring  
(432) 267-8239

Jack and Jill Child Care Center  
1708 Nolan, Big Spring  
(432) 267-8411

### **Mann Mortgage Grand Opening**

Mann Mortgage, one of the newest members of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, will have their Grand Opening in Big Spring tomorrow from 1-4 pm tomorrow. The new mortgage company is located at 304 W. 16th St. in Big Spring.

Monica Brown, Senior Loan Officer at Mann Mortgage, told KBest News that the business has been opened for over 30 years and is based in Kallispell, Montana. Here, Brown tells us more (audio - Numerous branches are being opened throughout the country. The branch manager for the Big Spring office owns offices in El Paso, TX, Las Cruces, NM, and Safford, Arizona.)

Brown has 17 years of experience in the mortgage industry and wants the public to know that they don't have to go on the internet to find a mortgage company. They can come to Mann Mortgage and visit with a local person face to face. Brown told KBest News that a big benefit to working with a local mortgage company is accountability. Here, she explains more (audio - Getting straight talk out of your officer. It's a lot harder to lie to someone to their face, versus online or in an email. That's a big thing for me, being local, if I try to tell someone I know is not true, they can come right back to me and look me in the face and tell me "Why did you do that for?" It gives me the opportunity to have more integrity and to be honest with my borrowers.)

Mann Mortgage has a down payment assistance program that has been able to help a lot of their borrowers, plus they also offer refinancing along with mortgages.

## Quarterly News Report 2023: April - June

For more information, visit their Facebook page or their website at [www.MannMortgage.com](http://www.MannMortgage.com), or call their office at 432-201-5883.

### **Bsisd meeting notes,**

\$14,353 donated by Callan Petroleum - shade/shield at schools for total of 3 schools

\$1k donation

Will be used to pay Aramark

\$2851 booster club donate for volleyball

—-all 3 donations approved

### **BSISD Facility Planning**

- Gallagher Construction, not charging for anything until a shovel hits the ground
- Capacity Analysis - how many kids can y'all for on the campus
- BSI is a priority, recommended to replace, asbestos abatement required
- BSJH and HS have issues as well
- Lighting issues across the district
- Suggested a CTE center

Remodel or rebuild new facility?

### **Big Spring Cowboy Reunion & Rodeo**

Entries are still being accepted for next Saturday's Quail Dobbs Memorial Rodeo Parade in Big Spring. Rodeo related themes are encouraged for floats, car groups, and riding clubs. The parade begins at 10 AM on June 17th in downtown Big Spring. For more information, contact Mark Richardson at 432-267-6391.

The 89th Big Spring Cowboy Reunion & Rodeo will be held Thursday, June 15th - Saturday, June 17th at the The Surge Energy Rodeo Bowl, located at 2900 Old State Hwy 80, in Big Spring. This year's entertainment for the event includes a DJ on Thursday night, a live performance on Friday night after the rodeo by Josh Ward, and a live performance by Pat Green after the rodeo on Saturday night. The dances are made possible by Franklin & Son and Surge Energy. Tickets are on sale now. For more information visit the Facebook page for Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo.

### **Crime Stoppers**

Big Spring and Howard County Crime Stoppers is asking for the public's help in a couple of cases.

The first is for help with locating and identifying Theft of Property- Vehicle Parts or Accessories suspects. On Tuesday May 30th, 2023, at approximately 8:35 A.M., deputies with the Howard County Sheriff's Department were dispatched to the 9400 Block of the Interstate 20 South Service Road in reference to a theft of vehicle parts. Deputies learned that unknown actors unlawfully appropriated 3 catalytic

converters from 3 vehicles belonging to a business. The surveillance cameras at the business captured video of a suspect committing the theft. Investigators believe this suspect is responsible for other catalytic converter thefts in the Coahoma area.

The second case is in reference to the burglary of vehicles in the 1000 block of Buena Vista Road on June 4, 2023. Deputies obtained videos of the incident where the suspect(s) and the suspect(s) vehicle are shown.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward for information leading to the arrest of the person(s) involved in these cases. Remember no caller ID is ever used and all tips are anonymous.

DO NOT LEAVE YOUR TIP ON FACEBOOK MESSENGER. USE THE "SUBMIT A TIP" ICON ON OUR PAGE.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR TIP ONLINE FIRST IF POSSIBLE!! YOU CAN HAVE A DIALOG WITH CRIMESTOPPERS AND BE UPDATED ON ANY REWARD INFORMATION!! DO NOT LOSE YOUR TIP NUMBER, YOU WILL NEED IT TO CLAIM YOUR REWARD.

You can also call the TIPS line at 432-263-8477 (TIPS) you will remain anonymous and no caller ID is ever used. Or, use the [P3tips.com](https://www.p3tips.com) software; you can submit your tip online and it is also completely anonymous. Remember you can earn a CASH reward if you're the first caller with information that leads to the arrest of the person(s) involved. Please keep the ID Tip number that you receive when you submit your tip.

[P3tips.com](https://www.p3tips.com). DO NOT LOSE YOUR TIP NUMBER.

Please reference case # 23-0672, 23-0674, or 23-0675 in your tip.

Web Tip Link:

<https://www.p3tips.com/1277>

Crime Stoppers is asking for the public's help with locating and identifying Theft of Property-Vehicle Parts or Accessories suspects. On Tuesday May 30th, 2023, at approximately 8:35 A.M., deputies with the Howard County Sheriff's Department were dispatched to the 9400 Block of the Interstate 20 South Service Road in reference to a theft of vehicle parts. Deputies learned that unknown actors unlawfully appropriated 3 catalytic converters from 3 vehicles belonging to a business. The surveillance cameras at the business captured video of a suspect committing the theft. Investigators believe this suspect is responsible for other catalytic converter thefts in the Coahoma area.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward for information leading to the arrest of the person(s) involved in this case. Remember no caller ID is ever used and all tips are anonymous.

DO NOT LEAVE YOUR TIP ON FACEBOOK MESSENGER. USE THE SUBMIT A TIP ICON ON OUR PAGE.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR TIP ONLINE FIRST IF POSSIBLE!! YOU CAN HAVE A DIALOG WITH CRIMESTOPPERS AND BE UPDATED ON ANY REWARD INFORMATION!! DO NOT LOOSE YOUR TIP NUMBER, YOU WILL NEED IT TO CLAIM YOUR REWARD

You can also call the TIPS line at 432-263-8477 (TIPS) you will remain anonymous and no caller ID is ever used. Or use the [P3tips.com](https://www.p3tips.com) software to submit your tip online; it is also completely anonymous. Remember you can earn a cash reward if you're the first caller with information that leads to the arrest of the person(s) involved. Please keep the ID Tip

number that you receive when you submit your tip on [P3tips.com](https://www.p3tips.com). DO NOT LOSE YOUR TIP NUMBER.

Please reference case # 23-0642 in your tip.

Web Tip Link: <https://www.p3tips.com/1277>

06/12/23

### **Legends and Legacies**

BIG SPRING, TX -- The Heritage Museum held their annual fundraising event Legends and Legacies this weekend at The Club at Silver Hills. This was the 22nd year for the fundraiser and the 8th year that they recognized honorees.

This year those inducted into the Cowboy Hall of Fame were Steve Wolf, John "Tom" Damron, and Rick Morrow.

The Driver Family - including Dane, Jennifer, and Jordan- were recognized as the Ranching/Rodeo Family of the Year. Ranching Legend I.B. "Doc" Cobble was also recognized. Plus, the Barr Family - including Mark, Maxwell, and James "Buddy", was recognized as the first Livestock Family of the Year.

Congratulations to them!

### **HCCC**

The Howard County Commissioners will meet for a regular meeting this afternoon in the 3rd Floor Courtroom of the Howard County Courthouse at 3:30 pm. Items on today's agenda include discussion and consideration on an economic development proposal for a data center, DPS secretary, and an indigent burial cremation proposal.

Commissioners will also discuss a burn ban and firework ban for items with sticks and fins, as well as a temporary water line across the Howard County Airport property. Plus, a resolution for the bullet resistant shield program will also be discussed.

### **Big Spring native continues a 123-year tradition of service under the sea**

By Megan Brown, Navy Office of Community Outreach

KINGS BAY, Ga. – Submariners make up only 10 percent of the U.S. Navy's personnel, but they play a critical role in carrying out one of the Defense Department's most important missions: strategic deterrence. Petty Officer 2nd Class Jacquelyn Torbik, a native of Big Spring, Texas, is one of the sailors continuing a 123-year tradition of service under the sea to help ensure Americans' safety.

Torbik joined the Navy three and a half years ago after graduating from Forsan High School in 2019. Today, she serves as a machinist's mate (nuclear) aboard USS Florida.

Skills and values similar to those found in Big Spring are similar to those required to succeed in the military.

According to Torbik the submarine community is like a small town community, and that made the transition into the Navy much easier for her.

Known as America's "Apex Predators!," the Navy's submarine force operates a large fleet of technically-advanced vessels. These submarines are capable of conducting rapid defensive and offensive operations around the world, in furtherance of U.S. national security.

Strategic deterrence is the Nation's ultimate insurance program, according to Navy officials. As a member of the submarine force, Torbik is part of a rich history of the U.S. Navy's most versatile weapons platform, capable of taking the fight to the enemy in the defense of America and its allies.

Serving in the Navy means Torbik is part of a team that is taking on new importance in America's focus on strengthening alliances, modernizing capabilities, increasing capacities and maintaining military readiness in support of the National Defense Strategy.

### **Rural Women's Grant**

Thirty-five, \$10,000 grants for a total of \$350,000 will be awarded to qualified Texas rural women who have been in business for at least three years. It marks the first time the grant has been offered to help women in rural areas who need capital to expand their businesses.

A completed online application must be submitted before 5 p.m. June 21. **T**  
Grants may be used for the purchase of machinery, equipment or technology, farm implements, fencing or products; acquisition of new inventory or raw materials; purchase and installation of fixtures or display units, property improvements, or other business-related activity that is aligned with the purpose of the program. Grants cannot be used for wages, salaries or sales tax.

Awardees will meet with a small-business advisor as well as complete a virtual training course hosted by the center to receive funding. The course will cover topics related to financial growth, business development and marketing.

For more information, visit our KBest Media Facebook page.

06/13/23

### **WTXCMC event**

The West Texas Community Mediation Center invites the public to join them this Saturday, June 17th, at 11:00am for a couple of information sessions on safe summer travel and police encounters.

Attendees will learn to change a tire and find out what they need to have in their car in case of an emergency.

Plus, during police Encounters, attendees will hear from local law enforcement how to interact with officers during traffic stops, community events, routine patrols and active investigations.

Military Recruiters are also making a return this Saturday to WTXCMC for a Military Career Q&A, Part 2.

In addition to useful information, there will also be vendors, swag , food and fun for all!

### **Thank You for your Investment - Big Mike's**

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce held a Thank You for Your Investment presentation for Big Mike's Farm Store, Buckeasy's by Big Mike, and Big Mike's Jr. Stacy Barr, owner of all three establishments, told KBest News that Big Mike's has been serving Howard County since 1944 and they're a full service liquor store with the greatest selection in Howard County.

When asked how she felt about the recognition from the Chamber, Barr had this to say (audio - I don't think Big Spring would be Big Spring without the Chamber. They promote all of our businesses and do a great job. It just goes to show a little pat on the back is nice.)

Big Mike's Farm Store is located at 1808 Highway TX-350, Buckeasy's by Big Mike is located at 1700 S. Gregg, and Big Mike's Jr. is located at 710 W. Marcy Dr. For more information, check out their Facebook pages.

### **Go Purple**

Tomorrow, the community is asked to "Go Purple" for Elder Abuse Awareness. June 15th, is nationally recognized as Elder Abuse Awareness Day. In Big Spring, there will be a "Go Purple" for Elder Abuse Awareness event for the community at the Dora Roberts Community Center, located at 100 Whipkey Dr., from 1-3 PM.

Here, Nicole Doose, with Interim Health Care, explains more on the event. (audio -

The event will be set up like a health fair with vendor tables set up with information on the services they provide. Some of the services that attendees will find information on include home health, clinics, emergency resources, veteran support services, and adult protection services.

In addition to getting useful information, the Elder Abuse Awareness event is also a good way for networking to occur between different services and to support community events.

### **Area News: WEST TEXAS SUPER SHOW WELCOMES 300+ CARS, TRUCKS, AND BIKES FROM ACROSS TEXAS AND NEW MEXICO FOR 2ND ANNUAL CAR SHOW**

Odessa, TX (June 13, 2023) - This Saturday, June 17, 2023, West Texas Super Show, presented by Showbiz West Texas will be held at the Ector County Coliseum. There will

be 300+ customized cars, trucks, bikes, and motorcycles with cash award prizes, best of show, and top 100 awards.

The schedule for Saturday includes a Bully Dog Show and Car Hop and will be followed by musical performances from Kumbia Kings and special guest Chris Perez and Grupo Metal.

Doors open at noon. For more information, visit <https://showbiztickets.com/>

06/15/23

**Federal Jury Convicts Former Midland Teacher, Lacrosse Coach of Five  
Counts Related to Wire Fraud**

MIDLAND, Texas – Last week, A federal jury in Midland convicted a Midland man for one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and four counts of aiding and abetting wire fraud.

According to court documents and evidence presented at trial, William Logsdon, 54, used the trust he had built with community members during his time as a lacrosse coach and teacher in the Midland area, and even the trust he had established with members of his own family, to convince them to “invest” in a Ponzi scheme. Logsdon conducted the scheme in concert with his mother-in-law, Jamie Thompson, a former geologist in the oil and gas industry who had previously pleaded guilty.

Together, Thompson and Logsdon told their victims that the money they were “investing” was being used to purchase royalty interests for various oil, gas and mineral projects located in Texas and New Mexico. The royalty interests were allegedly being purchased through an entity called the National Royalty Group, or NRG. In actuality, the National Royalty Group did not exist, and rather than purchasing royalty interests, Thompson and Logsdon used the money to primarily pay for personal expenses, as well as to advance the Ponzi scheme by providing some “distributions” back to earlier “investors.”

In total, Logsdon and Thompson are believed to have defrauded their victims out of more than \$1,500,000.

U.S. Attorney Jaime Esparza of the Western District of Texas made the announcement.

The Midland Police Department investigated the case.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John Fedock prosecuted the case.

### **Coahoma Baseball - All-District 6-3A baseball honors**

Several Coahoma High School Baseball players were recently recognized with All-District 6-3A baseball honors. Those on 1st team included Billy Bailey, Pitcher; Chris Thurman, Infield; Rowdy Atkins, Outfield; Ryan Shifflett, Catcher; Nick Gonzales, Third Baseman; and Bryce Davis, Utility. Those named to the 2nd team were Bryan Martinez, Pitcher; Kayden Kelley, Outfield; and Wyatt Oden, Designated Hitter. Congratulations to them!

### **COBS - City Council Highlights**

Seven properties in Big Spring were approved for abatement by Big Spring City Council members at Tuesday night's meeting.

During the City Manager's Report, it was stated that the next Large Item Pickup, for District 6, will be on June 21, 2023, The deadline to get your address added to the list is Monday, June 19th at 5 pm by contacting the Public Works Office.

Citizens were reminded to tend to Tall Weeds & Grass to avoid mosquitoes. There will be an upcoming Animal Control Open House, scheduled for Saturday, June 24th,

from 10-12pm. This is an opportunity for the community to visit the Animal Shelter and see the renovations that have been made. It was also announced that staff was still needed, including an adoption coordinator.

Council members approved the first reading of an ordinance that would continue Funding of the Fire Department Employees that were Funded Through the Safer Grant. The item passed with a vote of 5-1, with District 6 Councilman Maury Smith voting against. They also approved The first reading of an ordinance that would increase the general fund budget for the current fiscal year to repair the traffic light at 11th and Birdwell.

### **Pops in the Park**

The 26th annual Pops in the Park is fast approaching. The event is celebrated annually on July 3rd in Big Spring at the Comanche Trail Amphitheater. This will be a significant year in the program's history as it marks the first event since the passing of Dr. Keith Graumann, long-time conductor of the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra.

Dr. Graumann volunteered with Pops in the Park for many years and this year, the Pops Committee has decided to include a tribute for him. Rocky Harris, former Big Spring High School Band Director, will conduct the orchestra for this year's Pops in the Park.

In addition to the tribute for Dr. Graumann, the chorus will be making a return to the event. Rehearsals are currently being held every Tuesday now til the event at First Presbyterian Church from 7-9 pm for anyone interested in participating with the chorus.

Volunteers and sponsors are still needed for this year's event. For more information, contact Debbye Valverde at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

06/16/23

### **BIG SPRING RODEO. PARADE on Saturday**

The 89th Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo opened last night at the Surge Rodeo Bowl, located at Business 20 and FM 700 in Big Spring. The crowd was entertained with bronco riding, calf roping, mutton busting, and more.

Tonight and tomorrow the rodeo will continue, with gates open at 7 PM and competition begins at 8 pm. Josh Ward will perform tonight, and Pat Green will perform on Saturday night. Tickets for the rodeo and the dance are still available at [bigspringprorodeo.com](http://bigspringprorodeo.com).

Tomorrow morning, the Quail Dobbs Memorial Rodeo Parade will begin at 10 am near 10th and Scurry. It will then travel north toward 4th Street, turn right and travel south on Main back to 10th.

This year's Grand Marshall for the rodeo parade is Diane Hofackett.

### **Coahoma Freedom Parade**

The annual Coahoma Freedom Parade is traditionally held on the first Saturday in July. This year, that parade is scheduled for July 1st at 10 am.

It's open to anyone who wants to enter. There is no registration or sign-up necessary, just meet for the parade line-up at 9 AM at the parking lot of the Bill Easterling Memorial Football Stadium. Judging begins at 9:30 AM. Parade begins at 10 AM and will travel down N. 1st street. Cash prizes will be awarded for top 3 Most Patriotic Parade Entries.

This year's Citizen of the Year is Kelli Crouse and the Grand Marshall is Ronald Allen.

### **Leadership Big Spring Class #40 Graduates & Leadership Community Project for Victim Services**

In uncertain times, a small teddy bear, coloring book, or blanket could bring a sense of security and reassurance. Families and children receiving services from Victim's Services will have access to those small tokens of support thanks to the Leadership Big Spring Class efforts and community support.

According to Brenda Madore, Leadership Big Spring #40 member, after hearing that Victim Services was in need of toys to help comfort the children they serve, the members of their Leadership class put their skills together and organized a two-week toy drive. Several drop off locations were designated throughout the community and the call was sent out. Local businesses, families and other community organizations made donations to the project and this past week, Victim's Services was presented with the donations.

Lynn Creswell, Victim's Services representative, said that they were very appreciative of the donation, and we were not expecting such a large donation.

Members of the Leadership Big Spring Class #40 include: Angela Brown with City of Big Spring, Michelle Hawkins with State National Bank, Brenda Madore with Howard College, Erica Marquez with Bulldog Steel, Samantha Rodriguez with SMMC, and Melissa Sanchez with Prosperity Bank. The class graduated on June 6. During a special dinner, certificates were presented to each member.

Perfect Attendance awards were presented to Michelle Hawkins and Erica Marquez.

The toy drive was the culminating project for the nine-month class. Each month the members learned about the different aspects of the Howard County community, including education, healthcare, economic development, humanitarian efforts, and historical aspects that built Big Spring and surrounding areas.

The next Leadership Class program, Class #41, will begin in September. Applications are available at the Big Spring Chamber office or can be mailed, e-mailed or delivered. To find out more about Leadership Big Spring, contact the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce at 432-263-7641.

Area News:

**ABILENE, Texas (KTAB/KRBC)** – A group of more than 40 passengers traveling in a Greyhound bus said they were stranded at the bus stop in northeast Abilene after their bus driver said she ran out of hours. This was a chaotic scene at the bus stop off of State Highway 351, as more than 15 of those passengers were left there from 1:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., many of which were unable to afford food or water in the meantime. Many of these travelers began their bus trip in California, and some were traveling as far as Virginia. After stopping in Abilene early Thursday morning, the bus driver said she had reached her hour limit and could not go any further.

Sergeant Marc Couch with the Texas Department of Public Safety, said bus drivers are required to stop driving after ten hours and cannot start driving again until an eight hour consecutive break. However, it should be no surprise when that time limit is approaching.

A new bus driver finally arrived more than ten hours later to take them to their next destination, but passengers still want accountability for what they said Greyhound put them through

KTAB/KRBC has reached out to Greyhound's corporate office, who said they were unable to give a statement about this incident.

Emergency services in Abilene told KTAB/KRBC they will try to work with Greyhound to prevent situations like this from happening in the future.

06/19/23

**Big Spring Area Community Foundation distributes over \$300,000 to Local Organizations**

On Thursday evening, the Big Spring Area Community Foundation distributed over \$340,000 in grants to local organizations.

The Howard County Fair Association received the largest grant amount of \$90,725.00 for concrete for 1/3 of the midway. The Howard County Volunteer Fire Department received \$30,000 To add to the accrued amount awarded previously for a brush truck. Plus, the Big Spring Amphitheater Improvement Board received \$30,000 to Complete a Roofing Project.

In addition, the BSACF awarded \$161,000 of Agency Grants, and 53 scholarships valued at \$122,500 to Big Spring area seniors.

### **Alive After 5**

This month's Alive After 5 is scheduled for Thursday, June 22nd, from 5-6:30 pm. Alive After 5 is a networking event organized by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. This month, the event will be a block party hosted by Big Spring Abstract and Title, Cisneros Law Firm, and Pathway Audiology. It'll be located on W. 3rd Street from 200-210. Attendees will get to meet staff from all 3 locations and will have refreshments and door prizes.

The Alive After 5 networking events are an opportunity for community members to meet chamber members, learn more information about the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, and network for the betterment of Howard County. For information on how to host the next Alive After 5 event, contact the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

### **Large Item Pickup**

Today is the last day to sign up for Large Item Pickup, for District 6 in Big Spring. In order to get on the list, contact the Public Works Office by calling 432-264-2501, or email [NHernandez@mybigspring.com](mailto:NHernandez@mybigspring.com) by 5pm today. Collection Day will be on June 21, 2023.

### **Love Our Lake**

Keep Big Spring Beautiful is sponsoring the annual Love Our Lake event on Monday, June 26th, at 6:30 pm. Those participating will meet at the Dora Roberts Community Center to prepare to beautify the Comanche Trail Lake.

### **Extreme Heat**

Last week, outside temperatures made their way into the 100s, and that streak will continue this week with temperatures expected to range from 101-107.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, high temperatures kill hundreds of people every year. Heat-related deaths and illness are preventable, yet more than 700 people die from extreme heat every year.

To prevent heat-related illnesses, injuries, and death during hot weather, everyone should take the following steps:

Stay in an air-conditioned indoor location as much as you can.

Drink plenty of fluids even if you don't feel thirsty.

Schedule outdoor activities carefully.

Wear loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing and sunscreen.

Pace yourself.

Take cool showers or baths to cool down.

Check on a friend or neighbor and have someone do the same for you.

Never leave children or pets in cars.

For more safety tips on beating the heat this week, visit our KBest Media Facebook page.

06/20/23

### **Animal Adoption Center Grand Opening**

The Big Spring Police Department Animal Services division will host a grand opening for the Big Spring Animal Adoption Center on Saturday, June 24, 2023, from 10 am to noon. The Adoption Center is located at 3605 East 11th Place.

The opening of this center will provide the community with a new centralized location to meet and adopt shelter pets.

As for the Big Spring Animal Shelter, it remains over capacity. According to Chad Williams, Chief of the Big Spring Police Department, there is hope that the new center will help facilitate more adoptions of animals from the shelter and the department is calling for support from the community to help reduce the number of pets currently under Big Spring Animal Services' care. Community members can help by adopting, fostering, volunteering, and donating, or by reclaiming any lost pets that do end up at the shelter.

### **Cobos**

On Saturday, recent Big Spring High School graduate Eli Cobos sported the black and gold for the last time as he played in the Greater West Texas Coaches Association All-Star baseball game at Lubbock Cooper. He was selected for the game by Midland Legacy Head Coach Eric Garcia.

When asked how he felt to be invited for the All-Star game, Cobos said he was very excited. Here, he tells us more. (audio - I was not expecting this because I had done everything for football. Next thing I know I get a call from Coach Garcia from Lee Legacy, and he told me I'd been selected to play in this All-Star game.)

For the 2023 season, Cobos was named to 1st team All-District as an infielder. Last month, he signed his letter of intent to play baseball with Hannibal LaGrange University in Hannibal, Missouri. According to Cobos, he'll have an opportunity to pitch and play the field.

Cobos told KBest News this is a great opportunity for him. Here he explains more (audio - It's a new coach and he's wanting to change the program over there so we can have a better season, and just being a part of a new program would probably be awesome for me.)

Congratulations to him.

### **BSISD School Board Meeting**

A Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Big Spring Independent School District will be held Thursday, June 22, 2023, beginning at 5:15 PM in the Goliad Elementary Library, 1801 S. Goliad.

Board members will discuss the End-of-Year Current Assessment Data and Accountability Changes. Plus, there will be a budget workshop for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Action Items include reviewing policy updates on several topics.

### **Pops in the Park**

Sponsors are still needed for the 26th annual Pops in the Park, the annual Independence Day celebration in Big Spring held on July 3rd. Every year, the event is organized by volunteers, and includes a spectacular fireworks display choreographed to live music from the Big Spring Symphony. Plus, this year, the chorus will make a return to the program.

In addition to honoring military veterans and active service members, there will be a tribute to the late Dr. Keith Graumann, the long-time conductor of the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra who passed away earlier this year.

Volunteers and sponsors are still needed for this year's event. For more information, contact Debbye Valverde at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce at 432-263-7641.

06/21/23

### **Mosquito Spraying**

Aerial spraying for mosquitoes was scheduled to occur yesterday evening in Big Spring. City administration reassures the public that this procedure and product has been approved by FEMA, the Texas Emergency Management Agency, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Aerial spraying is particularly effective to reach hillside and rural areas in Big Spring that truck-mounted sprayers cannot reach.

Vector Disease Control International, the company that was used, specializes in aerial application, has been in business since 1992, and has over 40 offices across the United States. These products were applied in strict accordance with label instructions as set forth and approved by the Environmental Protection Agency. The company is fully licensed and certified by Federal monitoring agencies.

### **Rodeo continues to strengthen**

BIG SPRING, Texas – The talk of the town in this community of nearly 26,000 people has been the recent Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo.

It's fitting, with the annual rodeo having one of its most successful weekends in years. Hundreds of cowboys and cowgirls made their way to Big Spring to showcase their talents and ride for the glory that comes with the sport. Moreover, thousands of fans flocked into the Rodeo Bowl to witness it all.

According to Cash Berry, president of the volunteer committee that organizes the annual rodeo, there were Big names in attendance this year, such as J.J. Hampton, Will Lowe and J.B. Mauney.

He also stated that he'd heard many wonderful comments about the upgrade in the facilities and what they saw with the contestants that came to Big Spring.

The rodeo committee has made some significant changes to the complex and to how it handles the business at hand. This was the second straight year that featured increased local dollars in the purse. In years past, the committee included \$2,500 per event; the "added money" has increased to \$5,000, which is a major attraction to the cowboys and cowgirls that make their living in the sport. The added money is mixed with the contestants' entry fees to make up the total purse.

Berry went on to say that they saw an increase in attendance by about 1,500 people, but they're still waiting to find out the final numbers, but we saw some significant improvements."

That's the goal every year. The local organizers want more people involved and more people to enjoy three nights of world-class competition and family-friendly entertainment.

### **Thank You for Your Investment - Howard County Community Health Care Center**

On Tuesday morning, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce held a "Thank You for Your Investment" presentation for Howard County Community Health Care Center, located at 103 W. 11th St.

Kasey McBeath, Marketing and Outreach at South Plains Rural Health Services, told KBest News that getting recognized by the Chamber was a great experience. Here, she explains more (audio - We appreciate everything that the Chamber does for our clinic and this community.)

According to McBeath, HCCHC is a one-stop shop for a family's healthcare needs. Here, she explains more (audio - We provide medical, dental, [and] drive-thru pharmacy. We do all of our laboratory services in-house. They do get sent out. So, we can really take care of the full person from start to finish.)

For more information, visit their website at [sprhs.org](http://sprhs.org) and on Facebook at Howard County Community Health Center.

### **Area News: West Texan providing aid for tornado victims**

ANDREWS, Texas (KOSA) - Last week, an EF3 tornado hit Perryton, a small community located in the Texas panhandle, just minutes away from the Texas/Oklahoma border. The tornado killed three people and injured more than 100 others.

Many people who live in Perryton don't have electricity, food, clothes or even a home after a tornado struck their town, but they've been able to receive help.

Some of that help came from an Andrews resident who has gone out of his way to help feed those in need.

Once Lee Coronado heard of this natural disaster, he immediately used his cooking skills to help out by signing up with Operation BBQ Relief, an organization that has cooks and smokers that provide bbq to feed first responders and communities in need.

Coronado has friends and family that still live there, and when he saw the damages, it shocked him to see the place where he grew up now destroyed.

Coronado says the damage caused businesses to close. The people need medicine, diapers, and charcoal the most. Since gas won't be turned on for at least another three weeks, residents rely on barbecuing whatever food they have.

With temperatures expected to be in the 90's and high 80's throughout the week in Perryton, they're also asking for water and cooling neck towels for workers.

Coronado plans to reload his trailer with food, clothes and more. He will leave to Perryton on Friday morning. If you want to donate anything to him call or text him at (806) 200-1999.

### **Big Spring 10 and Under Little League Team heads to Finals**

The Big Spring All-Stars 10 and Under Little League Baseball team will head to the final game of the District 3 Little League All-Star Tournament.

Richard Gomez, of Big Spring, has been coaching little league and travel baseball for 25 years, but this is the first time that his team will get to compete for the Championship. Here, he tells us more (audio - "This group of kids that I have now, they're fighting, they're winning, and I've never had that in the previous years. We always get up there to Midland, lose two games in a row, and we're out. These kids are just fighting, and we're winning. They want to win. As a coaches, we're here to support them and keep going with them.")

Gomez said his team has a lot of heart and definitely wants to win, but he also recognized his pitchers Ace Yanez and Ryan Cantu, and catcher Caleb Gomez as being the heart of the team.

Tonight at 6:30 PM they'll take on the Northern All-Stars on Field 4 at Northern Beal Park in Midland. Gomez told KBest News that it'll be a tough game for the kids because Northern is very good and wins every year.

(audio - We haven't even gotten close to this team in previous years, and this year we're there with them. Like I told the kids, we're just having fun out here, playing ball. Regardless of what happens today, we're gonna be proud of [them].)

If they win, the team will advance to play in a different city.

06/22/23

**Big Spring 10 and Under Little League Team heads to Finals**

Yesterday, the Big Spring All-Stars 10 and Under Little League Baseball team played the Northern All-Stars in the final game of the District 3 Little League All-Star Tournament.

Richard Gomez, of Big Spring, has been coaching little league and travel baseball for 25 years, but this was the first time that his team has gotten to compete for the championship. He told KBest News that Northern would be a tough team to beat, but he was proud that his team had made it to the final game to have an opportunity to compete against them at this stage in the tournament.

Big Spring All-Stars were defeated by Northern with a final score of 15-0.

**Wolf Dirt Contractors Recognized for Continued Support of Big Spring DAV**

On Monday evening, the Disabled American Veterans in Big Spring recognized Wolf Dirt Contractors for their continued support to the organization as one of the sponsors for the annual DAV Comedy Night.

**Coahoma Splash Pad closed 6/24-30**

COAHOMA, TX – The City of Coahoma, Coahoma EDC, and Coahoma Pride have been working together for months to bring a splash pad to Coahoma. The new area has been opened beside Coahoma's park and community center located at 306 North Ave. Be advised that the Coahoma Splash Pad will be closed beginning this weekend, June 24th - 30th as construction continues. They'll be installing sod and irrigation. The Grand Opening of the Coahoma Splash Pad will be on Saturday, July 1st in conjunction with the Coahoma Freedom Parade and Celebration.

The Coahoma Freedom parade will begin at 10 AM that morning and they'll offer cash awards for the top 3 best patriotic entries. If you'd like to enter the parade, just join the line-up at the parking lot of the Bill Easterling Memorial Stadium at 9 AM, judging will begin at 9:30 AM.

**Lady Steers Recognized**

Recently several Big Spring Lady Steers received recognition from the All Big Country Prep. Rebecca Rodriguez was named to 1st Team and Alexcia Munoz, Ellianna Perez, Cloe Viasana, Celi Vela, Illeana Madrid, and Gisele Holguin received Honorable Mention.

Cloe Viasana was also selected for the 2023 Texas Girls Coaches Association All-Star Team. The game will be in Arlington on July 11 @ 7:00 pm.

**Golf Tournament for Big Spring Steers Baseball**

The 1st annual Night Golf Tournament benefiting the Big Spring Steers Baseball program is scheduled for Friday, June 30th, at the Comanche Trail Golf Course in Big Spring. Check in is at 5 PM and the shotgun start will be at 6 PM. This is a 4-person scramble, cost is \$100 per

person. Payout will be given to the top three teams, with a \$200 cash prize for closest to the pin. Dinner will be provided for participants and door prizes will also be available.

For more information, contact Jody Roberts at 432-816-7212.

### **Parent Workshop - Mon, 6/26**

The 118th Judicial District Juvenile Probation Department will host a Parent Workshop on Monday, June 26th, from 5:30 - 6:30 pm at the Juvenile Probation Office, located at 315 S. Main in Big Spring. This will be a presentation by Martin Phillips and all parents and/or guardians are welcome to attend.

Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Brenda Tubb told KBest News this is the first year that the Parent Workshop has been offered. Here, she tells us more (Audio - It's a very short workshop to provide resources to parents and guardians to explain the juvenile justice system, give tips and ideas to parents who are struggling with children who are showing signs of behavior issues or having behavioral issues...)

Tubb went on to say that there are a lot of parents that struggle with their children's behavior issues and they just want them to know that they are here to help. Here, she explains more (audio - )

Again, the Parent Workshop will be held on Monday, June 26th, from 5:30-6:30 PM at the Juvenile Probation Office, located at 315 S. Main in Big Spring.

06/23/23

### **DPS Increases Enforcement for July Fourth**

**Midland / Odessa** - The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) will be increasing the number of Troopers on the road from Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, through Sunday, July 9th, as part of the Intoxicated Driving Mobilization (IDM) - Specific Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP). This program will run in conjunction with Operation CARE (Crash Awareness and Reduction Effort) July 3<sup>rd</sup> thru July 4<sup>th</sup> for the Fourth of July holiday Week.

DPS Troopers will be on the roads looking for drivers who are speeding, driving while intoxicated or not wearing their seat belts. The goal of the IDM STEP program is to reduce the number of DWI-related crashes, injuries, and fatalities.

Additionally, DPS reminds everyone to be watchful of their surroundings and to report any suspicious activity through [\*iWatchTexas\*](#).

The [\*iWatchTexas\*](#) program is a critical resource for reporting suspicious activity in communities in order to help prevent dangerous attacks. Everyone is urged to download the free iOS or Android mobile app if you haven't done so already. Tips can be reported via the [website](#), the mobile app or by calling 844-643-2251. **All reports are confidential.** For information on how to use *iWatchTexas*, you can view this [how-to video](#).

**Remember, *iWatchTexas* is not for emergencies.** If there is an emergency, call 911 immediately.

### **Love Our Lake, 06/26/23**

Earlier this month, Keep Big Spring Beautiful, a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing their community environment through community clean-up efforts and education, was recently awarded 3rd place in the Governor Community Achievement Award in Category 6 with a population between 25,001 - 40,000. For more than thirty years, Keep Texas Beautiful, in partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), has awarded the prestigious Governor's Community Achievement Awards to Texas communities for their outstanding overall efforts to keep their communities beautiful.

On Monday, June 26th, Love Our Lake, the annual clean-up event for the Comanche Trail Lake, will be at 6:30 pm in Big Spring. Participants will gather at the Dora Roberts Community Center, located at 100 Whipkey Dr. Supplies such as bags, grabbers, and gloves will be provided.

Here, Liz Hafley, Vice President of Social Media for Keep Big Spring Beautiful, tells us about the event. (audio - According to Liz Hafley, Vice President of Social Media for Keep Big Spring Beautiful, the purpose of the event is to clean up the waterways.

"There's a lot of trash out there when people go fishing and don't take their trash with them. We just want a nice place for people to go, hang out, and it just looks better," said Hafley.)

Since Keep Big Spring Beautiful was recently awarded the Area 2 and State title of 2023 Friend of Conservation, Hafley advised that a production crew would be on-site recording the clean-up event to create a video that will be shown at the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts State Convention in Fort Worth October 30 – November 1, 2023. She encouraged everyone to show up.

Monday's weather forecast is expected to have a high of 107 degrees. KBSB will provide water, but participants are urged to take proper precautions when working in the sun, such as wearing hats and sunscreen.

Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets on the first Monday of every month at noon in the Cactus Room on the Howard College campus. Plus they gather every Tuesday for their Toasty Tuesday Trashoff. For more information, visit their Facebook page for Keep Big Spring Beautiful, or contact Liz Hafley at 432-934-4068.

### **Reminder: BS Animal Adoption Center**

The Big Spring Police Department Animal Services division will host a grand opening for the Big Spring Animal Adoption Center tomorrow, June 24th, from 10 am to noon. The Adoption Center is located at 3605 East 11th Place. The opening of this center will provide the community with a new centralized location to meet and adopt shelter pets.

### **Three Angels Food Pantry - Food Distribution in Big Spring - Friday, 6/30/23**

BIG SPRING, TX -- Three Angels Food Pantry in Big Spring will be open for food distribution on Friday, June 30th, from 11 am to 1 pm. This is a monthly drive-thru food

distribution event that occurs on the last Friday of the month. Participants attending the event can stay in their vehicle while food boxes are loaded by volunteers.

If you need groceries, stop by Three Angels Food Pantry, located at 4319 Parkway Road, behind the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Big Spring, from 11 am to 1 pm next Friday.

### **Mingo's Day**

The Fraternal Order of Eagles in Big Spring invites the public to join them for "Mingo's Day" to raise money for their club member who is currently battling stage 3 cancer. From 11 am to 1 pm, they'll be selling BBQ plates with sides and dessert for \$15 each. They'll also have a plant and cake walk from 1-3 pm for just \$1, and a live auction from 3-5 pm.

The event will be held at 703 W. 3rd from 11 AM to 5 PM. For more information on how to make a monetary donation or donate items for the auction, check out the post on our KBest Media Facebook page.

06/26/23

### **New Chief Appraiser**

Clarissa Teichman officially stepped into her new position as Chief Appraiser for Howard Central Appraisal District, but says she's been training for the position under the interim Chief Appraiser Robert Petree since August 2022 while she was still the Deputy Appraiser.

Teichman strives for the department to be seen as accessible to the public and transparent. The appraisal district has undergone changes, such as updating the website to better serve the community in an easier and more efficient way, and becoming more involved in the community. She believes that the best way to deal with the public is just to treat people like people. Here, she tells us more (audio - ).

Teichman told KBest News that the staff at HCAD is knowledgeable, willing to learn, and ready to help. She said all have stepped up to improve the public's experience with the department and to provide accurate valuations. Here, she explains more (audio -

She also says that they're willing to listen to property owners in order to get more accurate and fair property valuations.

<https://howardcad.org/>

### **Grand Opening for Big Spring Adoption Center!**

BIG SPRING, TX — The Big Spring Adoption Center, located directly behind the Big Spring Animal Shelter at 3605 W. 11th Place, is now officially open.

The Adoption Center is the old shelter newly renovated. It provides a cool, calm setting for the public to get to know the dogs, bond with them, and see if the dog will be a good fit for their family.

According to Big Spring Police Chief Chad Williams, the city's animal shelter averages 4-5 pet adoptions per month but there are many animals still waiting to be adopted. Like many other places, the Big Spring Animal Shelter is short staffed. Anyone wanting to visit the shelter to view the dogs up for adoption must call the Animal Control number to schedule an appointment by contacting 432-263-4958.

The Adoption Center is still in need of an Adoption Coordinator. This position is responsible for coordinating all social media networking and public adoption events and activities related to the city animal shelter including, but not limited to, shelter operations, shelter adoptions, and volunteer program management to maintain smooth and efficient operation of the shelter through facilitation of open kennels by rescue/adoption.

To apply for the position, visit the website [Mybigspring.com](http://Mybigspring.com)

### **Reminders:**

#### **Parent Workshop**

The 118th Judicial District Juvenile Probation Department will host a Parent Workshop this evening from 5:30 - 6:30 pm at the Juvenile Probation Office, located at 315 S. Main in Big Spring. This will be a presentation by Martin Phillips and all parents and/or guardians are welcome to attend. According to Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Brenda Tubb the workshop provides resources to parents and guardians to explain the juvenile justice system, give tips and ideas to parents who are struggling with children who are showing signs of behavior issues or having behavioral issues.

#### **Love Our Lake**

On Monday, June 26th, Love Our Lake, the annual clean-up event for the Comanche Trail Lake, will be at 6:30 pm in Big Spring. Participants will gather at the Dora Roberts Community Center, located at 100 Whipkey Dr. Supplies such as bags, grabbers, and gloves will be provided.

#### **Three Angels**

BIG SPRING, TX -- Three Angels Food Pantry, located at 4319 Parkway Road in Big Spring, will be open for food distribution on Friday, June 30th, from 11 am to 1 pm. This is a monthly drive-thru food distribution event that occurs on the last Friday of the month. Participants attending the event can stay in their vehicle while food boxes are loaded by volunteers.

If you need groceries, stop by Three Angels Food Pantry, located at 4319 Parkway Road, behind the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Big Spring, from 11 am to 1 pm next Friday.

#### **Howard County Commissioners Court Agenda - 06/26/23**

Howard County Commissioners Court will meet for a regular meeting today at 3:30 pm in the 3rd floor courtroom of the Howard County Courthouse. Items on today's agenda include a discussion on a possible appointment for the position of County Attorney, the TAC unemployment rate for New Year, a request to go out for bids for pharmaceutical services, and review and approve contracts with Guardian and Ecolab. There will also be a presentation from

David Quinn, Program Manager of Public Power Pool, also known as P3, regarding P3's 2022 Groupwide Procurement for Howard County's New Electricity Contract with MP2 Energy-Shell Energy Solutions for 2023-25.

06/27/23

### **Coahoma Freedom Parade**

COAHOMA, TX – The Coahoma Freedom Parade will be held this Saturday July 1st at 10 am. This year's Citizen of the Year is Kelli Crouse and the Grand Marshall is Ronald Allen.

The parade is open to anyone who wants to enter. There is no registration or sign-up necessary, just meet for the parade line-up at 9 AM at the parking lot of the Bill Easterling Memorial Football Stadium. Judging begins at 9:30 AM. Parade begins at 10 AM and will travel down N. 1st street. Cash prizes will be awarded after the parade for top 3 Most Patriotic Parade Entries.

The Coahoma Lions Club will also be selling hamburger meals as a fundraiser. Cost is \$7 per meal, and includes chips, drink, and cookie. Plus, after the parade, there will be the grand opening of the Coahoma Splash Pad.

### **Keep BS Beautiful - LOL**

Last night's annual clean up event for Comanche Trail Park, known as Love Our Lake, had a great turnout with 51 volunteers. The group picked up 70 bags of trash. Some of the organizations that participated were Family Faith Center, the 4H Club, the City of Big Spring, and the Disc Golfers.

### **County Attorney Appointment**

Howard County Commissioners appointed Lindsay Wilkerson, current Assistant District Attorney for the 118th Judicial District, as the new County Attorney.

When asked how she felt about getting the position, Wilkerson stated (audio).

Wilkerson served as the Assistant District Attorney for 9 years under the recently retired District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson. She says she looks forward to making some changes that may have been long overdue and is grateful for the opportunity to continue to serve the county.

Wilkerson's start date is July 10th. She advised the Assistant District Attorney position will be filled by whoever is selected by District Attorney Josh Hamby.

### **COBS City Council, agenda 06/27/23**

There will be a regular meeting of the Big Spring City Council at 5:30 pm at the Council Chambers, located at 307 E. 4th St. Tonight there will be public hearings on multiple properties up for possible abatement, and a request to rename Sage Circle to Shroff Circle. Topics that will be discussed during the City Manager's Report include the most recent Large Item Pickup for District 6, and updates on Animal Shelter Open House and the Downtown Waterline Replacement. Plus, the upcoming City Holiday for Independence Day will be discussed as well.

**Area News: Ft. Stockton Police Officer Arrested for Indecency with Child**

FORT STOCKTON, Texas (KOSA) - Enrique Irigoyen was arrested on June 16th on two counts of indecency with a child by sexual contact and one count of aggravated sexual assault.

Irigoyen is a Fort Stockton police officer and is currently in custody at the Pecos County Detention Center.

According to the Pecos County Sheriff's Office, A grand jury issued the subpoena for his arrest.

Texas Rangers are investigating this case.

**Crime Stoppers - Theft of Property**

Crime Stoppers is asking for the public's help with locating and identifying Theft of Property >= \$30K < \$150K suspects. On Wednesday June 21st, 2023, at approximately 9:55 AM, Deputies with the Howard County Sheriff's Department were dispatched to the 1600 Block of North FM 700 in reference to a stolen RV Trailer. Deputies learned that unknown actors appropriated a Brown 2015 Cougar 5th Wheel Travel Trailer from a business. The surveillance cameras at the business captured video of a vehicle used in the theft and suspects committing the theft.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward for information leading to the arrest of the person(s) involved in this case. Remember no caller ID is ever used and all tips are anonymous.

You can also call the TIPS line at 432-263-8477 (TIPS) you will remain anonymous and no caller ID is ever used. Or use the P3tips.com software to submit your tip online; it is also completely anonymous. Remember you can earn a cash reward if you're the first caller with information that leads to the arrest of the person(s) involved. Please keep the ID Tip number that you receive when you submit your tip on P3tips.com. DO NOT LOSE YOUR TIP NUMBER.

Please reference case # 23-0772 in your tip.

Web Tip Link: <https://www.p3tips.com/1277>

06/28/23

**Hawks Baseball Coach Steps Down**

BIG SPRING – Howard College Hawks Head Baseball Coach, Jake Carlson, has resigned his position with the Hawks to take an assistant coach position with another higher education institution. The resignation is effective immediately. College officials will be working quickly to find a replacement for Carlson so the program can continue moving forward.

"We wish Coach Carlson and his family the very best in their future endeavors. I know he will have a positive impact on student athletes at his new institution," said Kyle Cooper,

Howard College Athletic Director. "We will now put our full focus on finding his replacement in order to keep our baseball team on a positive trajectory."

Carlson has been at the helm of the Hawks' baseball program for the last year.

### **Big Spring Man Killed in Howard County Crash, 06/26/23**

HOWARD COUNTY, TX -- Texas DPS has identified Carlos Rodriguez, 69, of Big Spring, as the victim in Monday's fatal crash that occurred just outside of Coahoma, TX.

The two-vehicle crash occurred on Interstate 20, just 1 mile west of Coahoma at approximately 5:47 PM. According to the preliminary information, Rodriguez's vehicle, a 2012 Buick Enclave, was in the eastbound outside lane of IH-20, near mile marker 188, due to striking the center median cable in a prior crash. Vehicle 2, a 2017 Dodge Ram Pickup, was traveling eastbound on IH-20 in the outside lane of travel when it struck the disabled vehicle from the rear.

Rodriguez was pronounced deceased at Scenic Mountain Medical Center in Big Spring, TX. The driver of the Dodge Ram Pickup was not injured. The report also stated that both drivers were wearing seatbelts at the time of the crash.

(photo: Unsplash)

### **Prepare Your Dogs for Fourth of July Weekend - the Worst Time of the Year for Dogs**

Celebrations for the Fourth of July will soon occur and it'll be a stressful time for dogs. Many dogs injure themselves trying to get out of containment or run away from home as a result of their response to fireworks.

If a dog is outside while fireworks are being used, there is a high risk that it may run away to get away from what they perceive to be a threat, and many don't ever return home.

Microchipping a pet and ensuring that the owner's contact information is up to date increases the chances that a pet will be returned, if found.

Preparing for the holiday weekend is important for dog owners. The American Kennel Club recommends creating a safe place for your dog to feel comfortable, as well as playing white noise to help mask the sound of fireworks, staying home with them or leaving them with a trusted person.

For more tips on how to keep your dog calm during fireworks this season, check out the post on our KBest Media Facebook page.

### **Blood Drive**

Several blood drives will be scheduled in Big Spring in the coming weeks with Vitalant Blood Services. The first will be today at Interim Healthcare - from 10 am - 2 pm in Big Spring, 1900 S. Gregg. Donors will receive an automatic entry for a chance to win one of two \$10,000 prepaid gift cards. They'll also receive a Chic-Fil-A coupon and a t-shirt.

If you miss your chance to donate today, you can still sign-up at [Vitalant.org](https://www.vitalant.org) for an appointment to donate at the next Big Spring blood drive that will be hosted by KBST on Friday, July 7th, from 11 am to 3 pm.

### **Big Spring City Council - highlights, 06/27/23**

During last night's meeting of the Big Spring City Council, three properties were approved for abatement. Those properties were 511 N. Nolan, 706 W. 6th St., and 1312 Lindbergh.

An additional property at 602 E. 16th St. was ordered to have the property secured by replacing the doors and windows.

A public hearing was held concerning the request to rename Sage Circle to Shroff Circle. The requestor is the only resident who currently lives on Sage Circle, and would be the only address impacted by the change. The requestor also advised that they would pay for the fees associated with the name change, if approved, and would take the responsibility of notifying the local entities of the address change.

During discussion on the matter, it was noted that although it is a short stretch of road that would be renamed, if the property had a new owner the council would have to consider another name change. Ultimately, the request failed with a vote of 2-4, with Mayor Robert Moore, Nick Ornelas, District 1; Gloria McDonald, District 4; and Maury Smith, District 6, voting against.

06/29/23

## **Seven Tips to Stay Safe During the Summer Heat**

AUSTIN— The dog days of summer have certainly arrived, and with the soaring temperatures Texas State Parks is sharing seven tips to help Texans enjoy time outdoors safely. Last year, 47 state parks reported 141 heat-related illnesses in humans and pets. Since January 1, 77 heat-related incidents have already been reported, compared to 64 reported by this time last year.

Here are the top heat hacks recommended for park visitors:

**Hydrate-** It's important to drink at least 16 ounces of water every hour in the heat to replenish your body and prevent dehydration. Don't forget to bring enough for your four-legged family members too.

**Block the Rays-** Apply a generous amount of sunscreen or sunblock before heading outdoors.

**Dress Smart-** Wear light, loose-fitting, breathable clothing; a hat, correct shoes, sunscreen and wet bandanas to keep you cool while in the sun. For pets, protect paws against blistering by hitting the trails during cooler times of the day when the ground isn't hot or by putting booties on pets to help shield paws from the hot ground. Touch the pavement or ground with the back of your hand. If you cannot hold it there for five seconds, the surface is too hot for your dog's paws.

**Stay Salty-** Food helps keep up energy and replace salt lost from sweating. Eating snacks such as jerky, granola, trail mix, tuna and dried fruit is a fantastic way to nourish your body while on the trails.

**Buddy System-** Two brains are better than one. It's beneficial to have someone with you in hot conditions so you can look after each other on the trail. With high temperatures hitting Texas, heat-related illnesses are common and having a friend around to help recognize the early symptoms can save you from getting sick.

For more information about [heat safety](#), visit the TPWD website.

For more on this story, visit our KBest Media Facebook page.

## **Area News: Fatal Crashes**

Two fatal crashes occurred recently in Midland County.

The first involves a pedestrian fatality that occurred on Thursday, June 22nd, at 12:14 AM at Business 20 and S. County Road 1305. According to Texas DPS, a 2022 Dodge Ram 1500,

driven by Jeremiah John Caughron, 41, of Odessa, TX, was traveling westbound on the inside lane of traffic of Business I-20 when it struck a pedestrian, identified as Noe Ray Sanchez, 25, of Odessa, who was walking westbound in the roadway. Sanchez was pronounced deceased at the scene. Caughron sustained no injuries as a result of the crash.

The second crash occurred early on Sunday morning, and involved two vehicles. According to the preliminary information, the crash happened at SH 158, just 1.5 miles east of Midland, at 2:56 AM. A 2020 Chevrolet Silverado pickup failed to control its speed while traveling eastbound on SH158 and struck the trailer of a 2013 Kenworth truck from the rear. The driver was identified as Jose Arturo Martinez – Garcia, 32, of Midkiff, TX, who later succumbed to his injuries at the Midland Memorial Hospital. The driver of the semi truck was not injured.

### **Area News: Shawn Adkins Released from Mitchell Co. Jail**

MITCHELL COUNTY, Texas (KCBD) - A man charged with murdering a teenage girl and hiding her body is once again a free man.

Shawn Adkins, the man arrested in 2021 for the murder of Colorado City teen Hailey Dunn, was released this week from the Mitchell County Jail. In addition to that, the murder and tampering with physical evidence charges have been dropped.

According to KCBD in Lubbock, court documents stated “further investigation” is needed before the State can proceed to a jury trial.

Hailey Dunn, 13, disappeared from her Colorado City home on Dec. 27, 2010. Law enforcement said Dunn’s mother’s boyfriend, Adkins, was the last person to see her alive. During the investigation, he soon became a person of interest in the case. Over two years after her disappearance Dunn’s body was found near Lake J.B. Thomas in Scurry County.

On Monday, June 26, 2023, the State filed a motion to dismiss prosecution without prejudice.

According to court documents obtained by KCBD, state prosecutors still view Adkins as the primary suspect in the Hailey Dunn murder, however, additional work must be done before the case can proceed to trial.

Although the charges have been dropped and Adkins has been released from custody, he remains a focal point of the investigation.

Find a link for this full story from KCBD on our KBest Media Facebook page.

### **Thank You for Your Investment - CenterWell Health Care**

BIG SPRING, TX– On Tuesday morning, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce held a “Thank You for Your Investment” presentation for CenterWell Health Care, located at 1900 Scurry, in Big Spring.

Jill Mata, Branch Director for the Big Spring branch of CenterWell Health Care, told KBest News that they were excited that the Chamber thought of them to thank. She said they appreciated the presentation and hoped to work more with them in the future.

CenterWell is a home health agency that provides skilled nursing, physical therapy, and home health aid in the home for those who are transitioning to try to get back on their feet after an injury or an illness to try to get them living independent in the home again.

Here, Mata tells us more about CenterWell and their staff. (audio - We are a five-star team which is the highest quality of care you can get from home health. We have longevity with our staff, not a high

turnover. These people love what they do and have a passion for it. We love serving our community, all the surrounding counties, and our veterans as well.)

For more information on CenterWell, visit [centerwell.com](http://centerwell.com), or call 432-714-4510.

06/30/23

### **Hawks Move Forward With New Head Coach**

BIG SPRING – Howard College has named Trevin Sonnier as the new head coach for the Hawks' baseball program. Sonnier, who was the assistant coach for the 22-23 season, is replacing previous head coach Jake Carlson and will start his official duties immediately. Sonnier originally came to Hawks from Abilene Christian University (ACU) where he served as the infield and base running coach for the 21-22 season. He has also served as assistant coach at Wright State University, Dallas Baptist University, and Oral Roberts University. Kyle Cooper, Athletic Director for Howard College, stated that they are excited for Coach Sonnier to have the opportunity to lead his own program and make his mark on the storied tradition of Howard College baseball. He went on to say Sonnier values relationships with student athletes and is a tireless worker.

Sonnier has accumulated 6 years of coaching experience in addition to his collegiate and professional playing experience. He played college ball for Texas Christian University, Panola College, Dallas Baptist University and finished his fifth year of eligibility with Oral Roberts University. Additionally, he signed as a free agent with the Chicago White Sox organization and played from 2016-2017 as shortstop for the club.

Trevin, along with his wife Dixie and their 2 daughters Adeline and Rosalie and son, Beau, live in Big Spring.

For more on this story, visit our KBest Media Facebook page.

### **Adult Volleyball at YMCA**

Sign-ups for Adult Volleyball are going on now through Friday, July 7th, at the Big Spring YMCA. This adult league is open to participants age 16 and up. Teams will be co-ed with three guys and three girls, and there is a max amount of 10 players that can be listed on each roster. Cost is \$200 per team.

Game Days for Adult Volleyball will be played on Monday & Wednesday, with game times at 7 pm, 8 pm, and 9 pm.

Participants can sign up at the Big Spring YMCA front desk and pick up a roster sheet for their team. Again, sign ups end July 7th, and games begin on July 10th.

For more information, please contact Dathan Jones, CEO at the Big Spring YMCA, at 432 254-9949.

### **PSA from BSPD: Fireworks are Illegal and Dangerous!**

The Big Spring Police Department released a public service announcement yesterday urging Big Spring residents to be aware that fireworks are strictly prohibited within Big

Spring city limits. Not only is using them within the city limits illegal, but they also pose serious dangers, especially in hot weather.

Fireworks can cause injuries, property damage, and even loss of life.

They are also a grass fire hazard. Dry conditions make grass fires highly likely. Lighting a firework could start a large-scale blaze that endangers homes, wildlife, and our environment.

Citizens are encouraged to celebrate responsibly by choosing safer alternatives to enjoy the summer season. Attend authorized public firework displays like Pops in the Park on July 3rd and spread awareness about the risks.

### **Area News: Authorities confirm West Nile Virus active in Lubbock County**

LUBBOCK, Texas (NEWS RELEASE) - The Biological Threat Research Lab at Texas Tech University notified Lubbock Public Health that mosquitoes carrying West Nile Virus (WNV) are active in Lubbock County. This notification means there is a risk of contracting WNV if bitten by a mosquito carrying the virus. Everyone is encouraged to reduce mosquito bites, especially as they prepare for outdoor activities associated with the 4th of July holiday. In response to this notification, vector control will increase spraying in the community.

WNV is a disease of birds. Humans are exposed to the virus when they are bitten by mosquitoes that have fed on infected birds. The infected mosquitoes become the link (vector) that spreads the disease from birds to humans through a mosquito bite. The disease cannot be spread person to person.

Symptoms can include headache, fever, muscle and joint aches, nausea, and fatigue.

People will typically recover on their own. Some central nervous system infections may develop, and few will experience additional symptoms of neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, and paralysis. Up to 80 percent of people infected with the virus will have no symptoms.

There are no medications to treat or vaccines to protect against these infections.

People over 50 years old and those with other health issues are at a higher risk of becoming seriously ill. If people have symptoms and suspect West Nile virus infection, they should contact their healthcare provider.

### **Coahoma Freedom Parade**

COAHOMA, TX – The Coahoma Freedom Parade will begin at 10 am tomorrow in Coahoma. It will begin at the Coahoma Football field parking lot and travel south along N 1st St. it will then turn east on the I-20 service road and move north on N 4th St. and travel back to the school.

The parade is open to anyone who wants to enter. There is no registration or sign-up necessary, just meet for the parade line-up at 9 AM at the parking lot of the Coahoma Football field parking lot. After the parade, there will be the grand opening of the Coahoma Splash Pad.