

KOSA CBS 7 News

Quarterly Report

JANUARY 1, 2024—MARCH 31, 2024

The KOSA CBS 7 News Team is dedicated to providing a comprehensive, viewer-friendly newscast to our viewers. We produce almost four hours of live, up-to-the-minute news five days per week and weekend newscasts that provide the local viewer with an overall look at world, state and local news. Random sampling of stories aired by KOSA CBS 7 News between JANUARY 1, 2024 through MARCH 30, 2024.

Date: JANUARY 2, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Crime

Length: :38

Short Summary: New at six, An Odessa Man has been arrested and he's accused of setting multiple fires. Surveillance footage identified the suspect as this man, 59-year-old Marlon Stewart. The Odessa Police Department and Odessa Fire Rescue responded to several fires in the area of 5th and Sam Houston at 5:30 a.m. on New Year's Day. They received another call where a fire had charred the back of the building and burned an AT&T box on the 400 block of N. Lee. Based on the facts of the investigation, Stewart was arrested for Arson Felony 2 and transported to the Ector County Jail. There are no reports of injuries. More charges are anticipated and the investigation continues.

Date: JANUARY 2, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Community

Length: 1:24

Short Summary: We are now only a couple of days away from the Sandhills Stock Show and Rodeo at the Ector County Coliseum. Organizers have been getting ready for this annual tradition for a while now, not only that, but the rodeo athletes are gearing up for their competitions, that includes saddle bronc rider, Brody Cress, who is looking forward to his time in Odessa. In fact, Cress won the 2023 Saddle Bronc Riding at Sandhills last year and hopes for another great season.

Date: JANUARY 3, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Community

Length: 1:08

Story Summary: The Midland YMCA has received a one-million-dollar donation from the fmh foundation to start their capital campaign to expand. The campaign will allow the YMCA to expand north of Midland and to meet the needs of families who are looking for after-school programming. The Midland YMCA has been raising money since July with the goal to raise seven million dollars. The grant will help start the construction of the new state-of-the-art facility this year. The donation from the F. Marie Hall Foundation is the biggest grant the YMCA has received so far. "You gotta have that foundational grant to build on when you go to people to raise money. They are going to want to know if this thing is going to make it to the end zone or not. When you have a boost like that, you can say yes it will." The YMCA is aiming to raise another two point eight million dollars to reach their goals. Many Midlanders raised concerns about the infrastructure on Golden Gate Drive, saying that having a YMCA there would increase traffic and noise pollution, but in October the Midland City Council approved the preliminary plat for the facility. The new YMCA will start construction this year and should be completed in 2025.

Date: JANUARY 3, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Environmental/Oil & Gas

Length: 2:09

Story Summary: "Without standing from the Railroad Commission, Pilot wouldn't have needed to talk with the City of Midland which means they could've went forward with all 18 SWD permits that were in the middle of the T-Bar ranch." The city of Midland is claiming the Winkler County water supply is now safer after it entered a settlement with Pilot Water Solutions over saltwater disposal well permits near it. Pilot Water Solutions wanted to place several near the city's Winkler County water supply, but the city protested. The case was set to appear in front of the Texas Railroad Commission next week but yesterday the settlement was filed. In previous court documents, the city argued it should have the right to protest Pilot's SWD's because an accident near T-Bar Ranch could pollute the water. Last year, the city protested some of the 18 SWD permits Pilot Water Solutions proposed, but this settlement allows for four saltwater disposal sites further away from the reservoir, with 6-8 more possible with the city's approval. "As you move to the west, which is this direction, the reservoir goes away. Pinches out. It's gone." // "Old wells that have been drilled, vertical wells that have been drilled throughout the 60s, the 70s, the 80s the 90s. A lot of them we have no idea how they were cased and cemented." The settlement includes Pilot paying \$400,000 for monitoring of their disposal wells, plus

groundwater monitoring wells to check all of the reservoir's water. Pilot has also agreed to pay to plug two old leaky wells. Dufford says these monitoring systems mean the water will be safer than ever before.

Date: JANUARY 5, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Community/Consumer

Length: 1:04

Short Summary: Multiple residents in Fort Stockton are saying that the city is demolishing their homes that are made out of adobe. They claim that the city has told them that they want to beautify Fort Stockton, but some of the homes that have been demolished have been there for years. Adobe homes are made out of sand, clay, and straw that is then mixed with water and left to dry in the sun. A majority of the homes and buildings in Fort Stockton are made out of it. Abel Quintela says he's heard of at least 10 people's homes get demolished by the city and that the residents are not only left without a home, but also with a bill to pay for the demolition, which can cost up to three thousand dollars. "You have the right and the city has the right to give you monetary money to destroy your property. Or instill in giving you (to) put a property on your home if they're going to beautify the city like they say." CBS7 Has reached out to the city of Fort Stockton on the issue and are still waiting on a response. We will of course keep you updated as we learn more.

Date: JANUARY 5, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Elections

Length: 1:32

Short Summary: In just two months the 2024 election cycle will be underway and Midland County election official Rosa Olgin says there is a need for poll workers. That's because most of the current workers are getting too old or moving away from the area. Across Midland County there are 23 polling locations with an average of six workers at each location, which equals about 150 workers. Out of those 150 spots, there are lots of openings. If those slots aren't filled, lines at polling locations might be a little longer this year. Some of those issues were seen this past election but it wasn't a major concern, since it wasn't a primary election. "During a primary season, we need lots of help with judges and alternate judges, so we just really need individuals who are willing to step up and come help out the residents of Midland. // The turnout for the primary election will be a little bit higher I think this time around, so we really want to make sure we have enough workers, so we don't have voters waiting in line too long." The polls won't close if those spots aren't filled, but your voting process might move slower. If you are interested in

working in this year's election, make sure you meet these requirements: be a registered voter in Midland County. Be available for training, which is offered in the evenings and on Saturdays. Students are also allowed to work if they're at least 16 and have permission from their parents and school. If you're interested in helping out, you can go into the election office at the Midland County Annex or give them a phone call.

Date: JANUARY 6, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Crime

Length: :18

Short Summary: Tracking crime in Big Spring now, according to our partners at KBEST Media, Big Spring Police are investigating the death of Leah Hughes as a homicide. Hughes died on December 28th. Because the investigation is now under homicide, no other details have been released, but we will update this story as we know more.

Date: JANUARY 6, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Traffic

Length: :30

Story Summary: We have a traffic update for you now, the Texas Department of Transportation says over the next two weeks residents will see major progress on the Midkiff and Cotton Flat bridges. TXDOT says the main bridge beams at both sites will be lifted into place because of these updates the east and west bound left lanes near the Midkiff site will be closed from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. January 11th, 13th, and 15th. Noo impact to daytime traffic is expected at Cotton Flat, however overnight the westbound left lanes will be closed on January 20th.

Date: JANUARY 9, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Public Safety

Length: :57

Story Summary: Now a story that's all-new tonight at 6, CBS7 received a letter from the Texas Commission on Jail Standards, it said the Midland County Jail was out of compliance with some state codes, twice in 2023 for three different technical deficiencies. Today Sheriff David Criner is clarifying those incidents. According to Sheriff Criner, the jail commission inspected Midland

County in March 2023 and found some jailers had not completed training, and there was not proper logging for restraint chair checks. When the jail was inspected in June, the commission found Midland County in compliance. Then in October, Midland County was inspected again and found the recreational log was not properly filled out, but according to Sheriff Criner, when inmates were interviewed, the commission found they were getting recreation time as required. The Sheriff says when Midland County was re-inspected, they were once again in compliance. To see his full statement go to our website at cbs7.com.

Date: JANUARY 9, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Community

Length: 1:23

Story Summary: The Midland City Council is moving ahead with renovations to Beal park, adopting a financial plan for the improvements. It will cost 36 million dollars with the city paying about 26 million, and private donations funding the other 10 million. The goal is to make it a one-stop destination for soccer families. It will take several years for the renovations to be complete.

Kellus Turner park will soon see some upgrades after the Ector County Commissioners Court approved funding toward the project. The commissioners allocated 238 thousand dollars toward upgrades like synthetic turf, a playground, benches and swings. It's a big win for members of the community, and for kids at Buddy West Elementary, who got to help choose the new features of the park. "The Commissioners court has ordered the playground equipment, so we will be getting playground equipment back at Kellus Turner Park. So the community has access to actual playground equipment instead of just a park." They also approved adding more security by adding sheriff's to the annex near the park to make the school and the park a lot safer.

Date: JANUARY 10, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Public Safety

Length: 1:09

Story Summary: The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has notified the City of Midland's water purification plant public water system that the drinking water being supplied to customers has exceeded the maximum contaminant level for arsenic. The EPA has established the maximum allowed for arsenic to be 0.010 milligrams per liter. Analysis of drinking water in your community for arsenic indicates a compliance value in the fourth quarter of 2023 of 0.011. This is not an emergency. However, some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess

of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. You do not need to use an alternative water supply. If you have health concerns, you may want to talk to your doctor to get more information about how this may affect you. The City of Midland says they will now better blend the water sources and piloting a new treatment technique to remove arsenic.

Date: JANUARY 10, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Agriculture

Length: :57

Story Summary: The 72nd annual Midland County Livestock event is officially underway. Earlier today CBS7 got the chance to get up close and personal with some of the animals at the show. This year's stock show will include steers, heifers, goats, pigs, sheep, chickens and rabbits. The event is not just about raising animals, it's also about bringing the community together. Brent Hoover has been a part of the Midland County Livestock Association for the past 15 years, 3 of those serving as president. Over those 15 years it's been a blessing for him to see the growth in not only this event but also the kids involved in it. "I think it's the most rewarding thing in the world, I think that raising animals with kids and that's what we do, weren't not raising animals we're raising kids but we're using the animals as a tool to help raise these kids." The Midland County Livestock Show is at the midland county horseshoe and runs through Saturday.

Date: JANUARY 11, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Tracking Crime

Length: 1:10

Story Summary: Odessa Police arrested two people for several drug and firearm charges after shots were fired at Westwood Square apartments late Tuesday night. OPD reports, just before midnight on Tuesday, officers responded to a shots fired call. 24-year-old Pamela Melendez told officers that her boyfriend, 23-year-old Isaac Baseril fired a gun in the apartment, breaking a window and firing through a closet wall into their neighbor's apartment. After conducting a search officers also found marijuana, THC, ecstasy, MDMA pills, and nine more guns in the apartment, two of which were stolen and one that had its serial number removed. Both Melendez and Baseril were arrested and charged with multiple possession charges and stolen firearm related charges. For the full list you can head to our website cbs7.com.

This man, 30-year-old Randy Baker Junior was also arrested by OPD. Early this morning, Baker reportedly shot a gun inside a house, after getting into an argument with his mother and a friend.

Police were able to get them out, and arrested baker for multiple charges including aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, and for a warrant out of New Mexico for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Date: JANUARY 11, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Government

Length: :49

Story Summary: Back in December, Andrews County Judge Charlie Falcon passed away after health complications from a heart attack. The County has a process on how to fill that position. In the last commissioners court meeting they announced that they will begin to accept applications for the position of interim county judge. The application portal ends next Tuesday at 5 p.m. That person will take over until a special November election. However, they'll be filling in lots of responsibilities left behind by Falcon. "There are different committees that Charlie was on, and some of us took on some of those committees. Some of the things that had to be done, we had to sign paperwork because those were done by the judge himself." The next interim County Judge could be announced in the next two weeks. We will keep you updated as we learn more.

Date: JANUARY 16, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Winter Weather/Environmental

Length: 5:52

Story Summary: To put it in the simplest terms, the last 48 hours have been cold. But with the coldest weather from this arctic blast gone some homeowners will be getting repairs done due to the freezing temps. CBS7's Tyler Poglitsch met with Devin Benavides of the better business bureau to talk about some tips you should follow when looking for a repairman. Tyler?

Devin Benavides / Director of Partnerships and Community Engagement "Anytime there's a big event like this those con artists are waiting and lurking for something like this to happen to pop up." ITS NO SECRET IN THIS DAY AND AGE THAT SCAMMERS ARE A MORE COMMON THEME. NOWADAYS SCAMMERS WILL SCAM FOR JUST ABOUT ANYTHING WHETHER IT'S FOR ASKING FOR MONEY OFF A STUDENT LOAN PAYMENT OR FREEZING TEMPS THAT CAUSE FROZEN PIPES WHICH LEAD TO WATER LINE BREAKS. UNFORTUNATELY PEOPLE OUT HERE IN THE PERMIAN HAVE FALLEN VICTIM TO THE SCAMS AND HAVE THEN HAD TO PAY DOUBLE THE ORIGINAL PRICE DUE TO THE SCAMMER MAKING THE SITUATION WORSE. "If

someone comes and does that work and is unlicensed that leaves you the homeowner liable if the contractor does not do anything correctly and could also get you in more debt because they fixed something incorrectly and they're unlicensed they might do it wrong and you're gonna end up doubling or tripling the cost of what it would cost to have someone licensed to come out and do that." UTILITY COMPANY IMPOSTORS WILL TYPICALLY CONTACT CUSTOMERS WITH A PHONE CALL, TEXT OR KNOCK ON THE DOOR CLAIMING TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE LOCAL WATER, ELECTRIC, OR GAS COMPANY. BUT SOME OF THE OTHER SIGNS TO LOOK OUT FOR ARE PREPAID DEBIT CARDS AND WIRE TRANSFERS ARE A RED FLAG. IF A SCAMMER PRESSURES YOU TO PAY IMMEDIATELY YOU SEE THEM ASKING FOR IMMEDIATE PAYMENT AND MAY TRY HIGH-PRESSURE TACTICS TO INTIMIDATE CONSUMERS INTO GIVING THEM PERSONAL AND BANKING INFORMATION. AND IF YOU EXPERIENCE ANY OF THIS ITS BEST TO CALL CUSTOMER SERVICE. IF YOU FEEL PRESSURED FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION BY A CALLER, HANG UP THE PHONE AND CALL THE CUSTOMER SERVICE NUMBER ON YOUR UTILITY BILL. NEVER ALLOW ANYONE INTO YOUR HOME UNLESS YOU HAVE SCHEDULED AN APPOINTMENT OR REPORTED A PROBLEM. "So it's out there it's everywhere and it can happen to you even if you're famous and you think there's no way this could happen to me it can happen to you so it's just best to know your resources that you have hand and to educate yourself and do those extra steps to take that due diligence and make sure you protect yourself your home and your money." IF YOU'RE WORRIED THIS COULD HAPPEN TO YOU, YOU CAN VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT CBS7 DOT COM WHERE WE WILL HAVE A LINK FOR THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU OF TRUSTED COMPANIES IN THE AREA. REPORTING FOR CBS7 FIRST ALERT NEWS I'M TP

According to the Texas Oil & Gas Association, the natural gas production, transportation and storage sectors in Texas are functioning smoothly. Some localized issues occurred overnight, but they are currently being resolved with little impact on the overall gas system. That same Texas Oil and Gas Association report says that this morning, ERCOT had sufficient reserves to handle peak demand, and it was operating normally.

The City of Midland reported four water main breaks this afternoon, just before 1 p.m. The first at the 1600 block of Stanolind Ave. The second in the 2600 block of Louisiana Ave. Another break on A street and the last on Detesta Drive. Residential homes on each block will have disrupted service while crews work. The city asks drivers to avoid those areas when possible. We've reached out to the city for an update but have not yet heard back.

The City of Big Spring posted on Facebook that Birdwell Lane from Washington Boulevard to East 16th Street going south will be closed while the city removes ice buildup. Once the southbound lanes are clear, that same street going north will be closed and scraped. The city asks drivers to avoid the area.

The extreme temperatures have caused a flood at the Midland County Courthouse. According to County officials, the weather caused damage to the courthouse's fire extinguisher system, they began to leak and then flood the building. Midland County says that due to the ongoing repairs, the courthouse will be closed tomorrow, Wednesday, January 17th. They plan to reopen on Thursday at 8 a.m.

Also UTPB is experiencing a similar situation at the engineering building. The University took to social media to let students know that the building is closed as well.

Despite the cold weather, volunteers braved the elements to deliver 500 meals to homebound seniors. Senior Life Midland says it was especially critical because of the three day weekend and the cold weather. They not only delivered meals but also checked on those seniors to make sure they were okay. Recently a well fair check found a client who had been need of care for several days. Senior Life says volunteers make it all possible.

Date: JANUARY 16, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Crime

Length: :33

Story Summary: Tracking Crime back here at home, a former elected official in Big Spring has been arrested for indecency with a child. This is Bryan Stokes, Howard College's former Chief Institutional Effectiveness Officer. According to our media partners at KBEST Media, Stokes resigned from that position on January 12th after he was arrested on January 4th. KBEST reports Stokes also resigned from his position as Big Spring ISD trustee for district 6 on December first of 2023. The Big Spring ISD board said the position would stay vacant until the election in May of this year.

Date: JANUARY 17, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Consumer Development

Length: 2:17

Story Summary: A new project in downtown Midland is close to becoming a reality. The hotel Santa Rita has been in the works for two years and the people involved held a media day to talk baout the next steps with this project. CBS7's Noe Ortega spoke to some of the investors about this hotel and what it will bring to Midland.

THE HOTEL SANTA RITA WILL BE A FOUR STAR HOTEL THAT WILL OVERSEE THE BUSH CONVENTION CENTER AS WELL AS CENTENNIAL PARK. WITH THE GOAL

BEING TO REVITALIZE MIDLAND, AND BRING MORE VISITORS TO THE AREA. LOCAL INVESTORS AND FOUNDATIONS HAVE RAISED OVER 100-MILLION DOLLARS TOWARD THIS PROJECT. THE HOTEL WILL INCLUDE A RESTAURANT AND BAR THAT CAN SEAT UP TO 185 PEOPLE. IT WILL BRING MANY NEEDS TO DOWNTOWN MIDLAND. DAN HORD / PARTNER, HEDLOC INVESTMENTS "This will take up two full city blocks, and in the parking garage, the whole bottom floor is all retail. And that's something that downtown does not have any more space for. Like restaurants, or coffee shops so this will increase that square footage for downtown activities." ONCE CONSTRUCTION BEGINS, THEY EXPECT THE PROJECT TO BE COMPLETE WITHIN 36 MONTHS. MICHAEL MCWILLIAMS, ANOTHER ONE OF THE INVESTORS, SAYS THEY EXPECT THE PROJECT TO EXCEED 150 MILLION DOLLARS. HE SAYS THE MIDLAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION WILL CONTRIBUTE 45 MILLION OVER A FIVE TO SIX YEAR TIME FRAME. MEANWHILE THE CITY WILL PROVIDE TAX REBATES AND INCENTIVES FOR A TEN YEAR PERIOD. MICHAEL MCWILLIAMS / PARTNER, HEDLOC INVESTMENTS "We're asking the city to contribute around 35% of the total project. So that's significant private dollars invested in this project downtown. To create economic development, job creation, and to really benefit everyone across the city." THIS PROJECT WILL HAVE TWO PHASES.. PHASE ONE CONSISTS OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIRST PART OF THIS HOTEL ON THE PARKING LOT IN FRONT OF CENTENNIAL PARK. AND PHASE TWO WILL BE CONSTRUCTING THE SECOND PART WHERE THE WESTERN UNITED LIFE BUILDING WAS. "We hope their won't be too much disruption because both sides are fairly large. But if there is, be patient with us, we're working hard and as fast as we can to move this forward. " ALTHOUGH THE PRIVATE INVESTORS AND FOUNDATIONS DONATED OVER 100-MILLION DOLLARS, THEY STILL NEED TO GO TO THE MIDLAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND THE MIDLAND CITY COUNCIL FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING. WE WILL KEEP YOU UPDATED ONCE WE LEARN MORE. IN MIDLAND, I'M NO, CBS7 FIRST ALERT NEWS

Date: JANUARY 17, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Education

Length: 1:29

Story Summary: MISD discussed a new update on the school bond that passed in November regarding new elementary schools, and what areas they can improve on. Over the winter break, the school's district had a team of architects walking through the schools and put together project packages. District officials want to develop an idea of what is important for facilities to include to encompass 21st century learning. "So really developing that profile of a graduate when do we want those students to graduate prepared and ready to do and based on that we need to design schools that we can meet those needs." Meanwhile, Pfluger Architects have been approved to

design the new districts new Legacy High and Midland High school projects. Property has been purchased at the southwest corner and southeast corner of Cholla Road and South County Road 2135 in southwest Midland for a new school in the future.

Some Trinity students received an award today after they helped redesign a therapy room for Center Children and Family Services. The students, who are in a creativity and design class partnered with Centers to design a new room that would be better fitted to accommodate kids their own age. Today they were awarded certificates of excellence and partnership for their hard work on the project. "This was an opportunity for our youth to help our youth. And what better way for us to know what our clients would like to see than for us to ask someone their age." This project is expected to be finished by the end of April.

Date: JANUARY 18, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Education

Length: 1:45

Story Summary: Bynum school in Midland reached their 40th anniversary on Tuesday and they set-up a new donation fund to help Bynum expand their school. CBS'7 Armando Gomez spoke with the executive director of Bynum school about the fund... Armando??

BYNUM SCHOOL IS CELEBRATING A SPECIAL MOMENT AND THEY ANNOUNCED A SPECIAL GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT BYNUM CALLED GIVE FOR THE FUTURE. BYNUM SCHOOL IN MIDLAND IS ASKING FOR A ONE-TIME DONATION FROM THE COMMUNITY TO HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE. THEY ARE PLANNING TO USE THE MONEY TO RENOVATE THE CLASSROOMS AND HELP STUDENTS SAVANNAH ALVARADO / BYNUM BOARD OF DIRECTORS "We have a huge push this year that is just for the future so what will that look like if it is given for students if it is given directly to classrooms or if it is also just for planning for how we expand the next forty years." BYNUM SCHOOL HAS REACHED ITS MAX CAPACITY WITH STUDENTS ENROLLMENT. BUT IS PLANNING TO EXPAND THE SCHOOL IN THE FUTURE. KERI ST JOHN / BYNUM SCHOOL EXEC DIRECTOR "We have a huge waiting list of families that want to get into Bynum school and right now we are at capacity with over one-hundred twenty students so we don't have space for all the people who want to get in." BYNUM HAS RELIED HEAVILY ON THE COMMUNITY TO RECEIVING FUNDING IN THE LAST FORTY YEARS. THEY ARE AIMING TO RAISE FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. KERI ST JOHN / BYNUM SCHOOL EXEC DIRECTOR "The community makes up what we need by giving so it goes into programs, it goes into therapy, it goes to our community based instruction." THE SCHOOL WILL HAVE EVENTS CELEBRATING BYNUM'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AND THE MONEY THAT IS FUNDRAISED WILL GO RIGHT BACK INTO THE SCHOOL. KERI ST JOHN / BYNUM SCHOOL EXEC DIRECTOR "The community has supported Bynum school. We don't receive

any state or federal funding we rely on tuition that covers a third of our budget and the rest is through donations" FOR CBS 7 FIRST ALERT NEWS, I'M ARMANDO GOMEZ.

Date: JANUARY 18, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Update/Public Safety

Length: :45

Story Summary: Topping our news tonight are new details on a crash from two years ago. According to a new report, methamphetamines is likely the cause of a crash involving the University of the Southwest golf team. You'll remember in total nine people lost their lives. 6 USW athletes and one coach were killed in the crash when a van carrying the team back to Hobbs collided with a pick-up truck on FM 1788 in Andrews County. A man and teenager in the pickup truck were also killed. Today the National Transportation Safety Board determined that the probable cause of the crash was the pickup truck driver's excessive speed and his crossing into the oncoming lane of travel, likely because of impairment from methamphetamine use. Tomorrow CBS7's Tyler Poglitsch speaks to an attorney representing the family of one of the victims in an in-depth report on CBS7.

Date: JANUARY 19, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Community

Length: 1:09

Story Summary: Today one Odessa man retired from being a firefighter with Odessa Fire Rescue after 25 years of saving lives. Johann Ramos started with the Odessa Fire Department on July 6, 1998 at the age of 25. Ramos has a lot of love and appreciation for everyone he worked with. He was described by Fire Chief Jason Cotton as a calming presence around the station and on the scene. Cotton told the story of a time when Ramos was the person they turned to, to help calm a family who was in distress because of the fire at their home. That's something he lived by throughout his 25 years and will continue to honor after his retirement. "Hearing that now, i never realized it at the time, it was just something i automatically went in and did. I'm able to help people out and kinda get on their level and try to figure out, you know, let's try to figure out what's going on, and we're gonna work through this and get through this together." While Ramos is leaving his role as a firefighter and paramedic, he's not leaving the fire department. Starting on Monday at 8 a.m. he will be starting a new position as office specialist, allowing him to work with even more fire stations each day.

Date: JANUARY 19, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Crime

Length: :24

Story Summary: We are tracking crime now; Midland Police are investigating a homicide. Last night around 9 o'clock, MPD and the Midland Fire Department responded to the Palladium Apartments in the 2300 block of Lamesa Road, when they arrived, officers found 26-year-old E'Darius Reed dead on the ground in the apartment parking lot with a gunshot wound. No arrests have been made at this time, and the investigation is ongoing.

Date: JANUARY 22, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Crime

Length: 3:07

Story Summary: We start tracking crime, between Wednesday, January 10th and Saturday, January 13th, 38 individuals were arrested for solicitation of prostitution. It's one of many joint law enforcement operations that have been carried out in West Texas over the last several months. Over a four-day joint sting operation the Midland County Sheriff's office along with OPD, MPD, DPS and other state law enforcement agencies arrested 38 individuals who were soliciting prostitution. 12 were arrested by MCSO, one was arrested by MPD and 25 were arrested by Texas DPS. 38 arrests in an operation like this is higher than the average arrest in similar cases, that number is between 10 and 20. "Rest assured that we have stuff going on all the time. We have these operations at least once a month either on the John's or the human trafficking side themselves. So, we're out there fighting the good fight, it's great to know that we have a good relationship with all the agencies in this part of Texas." If caught soliciting prostitution it is a minimum of 180 days in jail and a 10,000-dollar fine.

Since 2010, January has been known as National Human Trafficking Prevention Month. The Odessa Police Department and guest speakers from Harmony Home will be at tomorrow night's Neighborhood Watch meeting to provide information on child trafficking prevention. CBS7's Isabella Garriga got a sneak peek on the agenda for tomorrow night's meeting so you know what to expect. Isabella?

ALONG WITH ADDRESSING ANY GENERAL CONCERNS AND QUESTIONS PEOPLE MAY HAVE, OPD TRIES TO ADDRESS A TOPIC THAT IS RELEVANT TO THE COMMUNITY AND IN DEMAND BY THE PUBLIC. SINCE THIS MONTH IS NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH...O-P-D PAIRED WITH HARMONY HOME'S CHILDREN ADVOCACY CENTER TO ADDRESS SPECIFIC CONCERNS THAT PARENTS AND CONCERNED COMMUNITY MEMBERS MAY HAVE. THE MEETING

WILL COVER CONCERNS SUCH AS ONLINE TRAFFICKING, RUNAWAYS, HOW TO AND WHO TO REPORT, AND SO MUCH MORE. PEOPLE WHO HAVE ATTENDED SAY MEETINGS LIKE THESE CAN BE EYE OPENING. STEVE LESUEUR / ODESSA PD PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER "ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS PARENTS ALWAYS TELL US OR HARMONY HOME IS THAT THEY NEVER KNEW THAT THEIR CHILD WAS ENGAGING WITH SOMEONE ONLINE. IT STARTS OFF WITH THE LITTLE THINGS ONLINE. IT'S SO IMPORTANT TO BE IN CONSTANT COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR CHILDREN...WITH YOUR TEENAGERS. WHO ARE THEY COMMUNICATING WITH ONLINE?" HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS NOT ONLY A LOCAL BUT GLOBAL ONGOING AND GROWING CONCERN. IF YOU CAN'T ATTEND BUT WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION...A GREAT RESOURCE IS THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN'S WEBSITE...MISSINGKIDS.ORG AND THE NEW DPS APP. STEVE LESUEUR / ODESSA PD PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER "ALSO, DPS HAS A GREAT APP. THEY HAVE AN ENTIRE SECTION DEDICATED JUST TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING. SO THEY HAVE LIKE INDICATORS ON THERE..WHAT TO LOOK FOR AND THINGS LIKE THAT." THIS MEETING IS NOT JUST FOR CONCERNED PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO WATCH OUT FOR WARNING SIGNS... ITS ALSO ABOUT REPORTING SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS. STEVE LESUEUR / ODESSA PD PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER "IF SOMEBODY DOES BECOME AWARE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING...OR IF SOMETHING DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT. IT'S BETTER TO BE SAFE THAN SORRY. SO, THE MAIN THING WE WANT TO GET ACROSS TO YOU IS, PLEASE REPORT IT. PLEASE REPORT IT. YOU GOT NOTHING TO LOSE." THE CLASSROOM IS LOCATED DOWNTOWN INSIDE THE ODESSA POLICE DEPARTMENT AND WILL BEGIN AT 7PM TOMORROW NIGHT. AND IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING. FOR CBS7 FIRST ALERT NEWS...IM IG.

Date: JANUARY 22, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Government

Length: :18

Story Summary: Looking across West Texas, Andrews County has appointed a County Judge in the wake of Judge Charlie Falcon's death at the end of last year. County Commissioners appointed Sam Jones, Jones was the Andrews County Sheriff for 16 years before he retired to be a deputy again. Jones will be sworn in this Wednesday at 2:30.

Date: JANUARY 26, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Crime

Length: :36

Story Summary: We're tracking crime this afternoon, this man, Jesus Fabian Rodriguez Scobell has been charged with theft of petroleum products over ten thousand dollars and under one hundred thousand dollars. According to the Midland County Sheriff's Office, deputies were called out to a petroleum theft after a tractor truck hauling a water tanker took crude oil from a tank battery without the consent of the oilfield company. Deputies pulled Scobell over and found he had stolen about 34 barrels of crude oil, and it wasn't the first time he had done it. He had two warrants out for his arrest for the same charge in Glasscock County.

Date: JANUARY 26, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Oil & Gas

Length: 1:08

Story Summary: In oil & gas news, you'll remember yesterday we told you about the Biden Administration reportedly considering an overhaul on approving natural gas exports. This morning, at least four of those export projects were paused while the federal government completes a review of exports to foreign nations. Officials say there was an increase in U.S. liquified natural gas exports to Europe following Russia's war in Ukraine. The months-long review will examine whether producers are sending too much gas overseas instead of using it at home to help power the electric grid. The pause will not affect already authorized projects. President Joe Biden tied the move to the climate crisis, saying his administration will take a hard look at the impacts of these exports on energy costs, security, and the environment. Representative August Pfluger issued a statement on the export pause saying in part quote, "U.S. LNG Helped Europe through a potential energy catastrophe following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and we must not underestimate the important role us LNG cargoes played in handicapping Putin's efforts." End quote. You can read the full statement on [cbs7.Com](https://www.cbs7.com)

Date: JANUARY 29, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Crime

Length: 1:08

Story Summary: This man Azael Camacho has been arrested for stealing 175 barrels of crude oil. According to the Midland County Sheriff's, deputies responded to a call that an unauthorized tractor truck hauling a water tanker took water from a tank battery without permission from the company that owns the land. He was charged with theft of a petroleum product.

Now you're looking at the nineteen-year-olds that were arrested in connection to thefts and vehicle burglaries in Greenwood. According to the Midland County Sheriff's office, Skyler Crabtree and Brian Aguilar were charged with engaging in organized criminal activity. The Midland County Sheriff's says they are still investigating.

This man 26-year-old Davari Murry was arrested by Midland County Sheriff's because he was wanted by Midland Police for capital murder in connection to a shooting at the Palladium Apartments on Lamesa Road back on January 18th. Murry's arrest affidavit states Murry met two people in a car to buy narcotics, that escalated to a robbery and then led to Murry shooting E'Darius Reed. The second person in the car was able to identify Murry to the police, who arrested him last Friday.

Date: JANUARY 29, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Education

Length: :39

Story Summary: In education news across West Texas, the Howard College on campus childcare facility, named Howard Cottage, earned a four-star rating as a Texas Rising Star Provider. The rating comes from evaluations of the director and staff qualifications and trainings, program administration, teacher and child interactions and having an indoor-outdoor environment. The accreditation took about 18 months to complete and will give Howard Cottage eligibility for new grants and other support materials. The center director said in part quote, "We know that parents trust us with their children throughout the day and we take that responsibility seriously." End quote.

Date: JANUARY 30, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Government

Length: 1:37

Story Summary: The City of Midland announced this morning that councilman-at-large Dan Corrales has died at age 45. Corrales began serving on the city council on January first, 2022, but his service to the Midland Community started much before that. Corrales was involved in helping the Bynum school, Rotary and Lions clubs, Meals on Wheels, and the Midland Community Theater. Corrales was a bulldog, graduation from Midland High, then attending Midland College, before going to school in Brooklyn, New York to get a degree in business and attend law school. He recently took a position with the Midland County District Attorney's office. Corrales was from a family of council people, his grandmother, Oralia Corrales, or Lillie,

was the first minority elected to the council. She served from 1982 to 1989. Midland mayor Lori Blong released a statement saying in part quote... "Those of us who worked closely with dan understood that he was a man who wanted to make a difference for the citizens of midland. It is a tragedy that he is gone too soon." End quote District 4 councilwoman Amy stretcher-burkes added in part quote... "I'm heartbroken from the news of the passing of councilmember dan Corrales. He was a champion for his constituents and a dedicated public servant. His vision and energy was unparalleled." The city of midland has not released any further details on the future of the at large seat on the council. To read the full statements from the city of midland and from the district attorney's office... Visit our website... CBS7.com.

Date: JANUARY 30, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Health

Length: :55

Story Summary: Back on January 7, the American Red Cross declared an emergency blood shortage and asked people to donate for national blood donor month. Midland Memorial Hospital and Vitalent held a blood drive today in Midland. Every day, thousands of people need blood. One donation of blood is one to two pints, and each pint can help up to three people. The whole process takes less than an hour and your blood levels return to normal within just a few hours. "It's very important that we get donors. The blood on the shelves is what saves lives... as many car accidents, as many trauma patients, babies in the nicu... we have to have that blood ready to go whenever it's needed, so donors are very important in saving our lives." Donated blood and platelets have a short shelf life, so it is important to have many people donating. Red blood cells must be used within 42 days and platelets must be used within just five days.

Date: FEBRUARY 2, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Community

Length: :24

Story Summary: You're looking live now at a candlelight vigil being held in honor of Midland city councilman at large Dan Corrales at First Baptist church in Midland. Corrales died earlier this week, and flags in Midland have been lowered to half-staff to mark Corrales' life of service to the Midland community. Tomorrow morning, the Midland Animal Services will be hosting its monthly rescue runners in Dan's honor.

Date: FEBRUARY 2, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Crime

Length: :56

Story Summary: Yesterday we told you about the human trafficking operations that were conducted during the month of January, with 50 arrested, today we have more in depth look at that operation. These efforts shed a light on the rising issue and concern here in West Texas. Law enforcement emphasizes the victimization of those forced into human trafficking, with human trafficking and sex trafficking being regarded as serious crimes and modern-day slavery. "These people are working against their will many times. And they are the victims. That's what I want to remind the public. Human trafficking...sex trafficking those are truly the victims here. Human trafficking is a priority for the department every month of the year. Obviously, we highlight certain efforts in the month of January but our troopers are out on the roadways every day." Whether involved in sex trafficking or working as a sex worker, both are criminal activities, yet the underlying reality is that victims often engage against their will.

Date: FEBRUARY 5, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Health

Length: :56

Story Summary: We are continuing our highlight of American Heart Month. Today we're talking about lifestyle medicine and how it can improve your heart health. CBS7's Matthew Alvarez spoke with the clinical manager of the lifestyle medicine center in Midland. Lifestyle medicine focuses on making smart and health changes to your routines, whether it be going for a walk every day, eating healthier meals, or quitting a bad habit, its never too late to get started, no matter your age or condition.

Date: FEBRUARY 5, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Community

Length: :30

Story Summary: We continue to remember the life and legacy of Midland city councilman Dan Corrales. For members of the community who would like to attend his funeral, visitation will take place from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. tomorrow at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch chapel. The service will

take place at 2 p.m. Wednesday at our lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. The city of Midland will close Midland city hall after lunch on Wednesday to allow employees to attend the services. City hall will resume normal business hours Thursday.

Date: FEBRUARY 6, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Community

Length: :52

Story Summary: Looking across West Texas, Howard County has a new elections center, it is no longer in the courthouse, its on FM 700 in Big Spring, take a look. These pictures are from our media partners KBEST Media in Big Spring. KBEST reports the new center has more voting space, separate entrance and exit areas to help move lines along on voting days and a bigger check in space. One Howard County Commissioner told KBEST the new location offers a neutral place for voters. Early voting for the primary election begins in Howard County on February 20th.

And Athena Space Homes are officially open to West Texans. The company held its first open house, for people to walk through a model home and see the eco friendly smart home. The homes can be delivered anywhere the buyer wants. More information on the Athena Space Home model house is up on our website CBS7.com.

Date: FEBRUARY 6, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Health

Length: 1:07

Story Summary: With just one week left until Valentine's Day, the pressure to have the perfect romantic partner and the perfect celebration can feel overwhelming. Instead of succumbing to the pressures of the holiday, it's essential to prioritize self-care and mental well-being by taking a proactive approach: planning ahead and engaging in activities that bring joy and fulfillment. Whether you're spending the holiday alone, with friends, or with a significant other, remember that fellowship and friendship are powerful ways to combat negative emotions and make new connections that can help your mental health. Tomorrow Midland AF is hosting a Galentine's speed friending event, at the Blue Door, for women to forge new connections and strengthen existing bonds. For that information, you can visit our website.

Date: FEBRUARY 8, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: GOVERNMENT

Length: 1:27

Story Summary: Next week the Midland city council is voting to approve a special election to fill the at-large seat held by Dan Corrales. If approved, the election would be held on May 4th. Midlanders would have from February 13th to March 4th to file to run for election. Because its an at-large seat, the vote will be city wide.

It's national court reporting and captioning week, a time to highlight what court reporters do. It's different than when a journalist goes to court because court reporters have to record and transcribe every word spoken in court. Like any other job, it has its own challenges and rewards. One issue facing the future of court reports is AI technology, that's because it could be cheaper, and solve the current shortage of court reporters even though it might not capture the emotional aspect of a courtroom. The shortage of court reporters has required some counties to lend their own to other counties which leaves already short-staffed courthouses with less employees. "I almost cried last week. A lot of times whenever we get into situations like that I know for me, I personally disconnect. And I turn off the kind of what I hear. I know that may sound hard to imagine, but I do kind of quit listening." Odessa College used to certify people but due to a lack of interest, the program has been discontinued. And although the job may be difficult, it's not impossible. If you're interested in more information on becoming a court reporter, you can visit our website cbs7.Com.

Date: FEBRUARY 8, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Oil & Gas

Length: :31

Story Summary: Triple A is reporting gas prices are fluctuating in West Texas and across the state. According to the report from Triple A, Midland is seeing the most pain at the pump in all of Texas, averaging around two ninety-four a gallon. Meanwhile, drivers in Odessa are paying two dollars and 88 cents a gallon. Now, the average price of gas across the country currently stands at three dollars and 15 cents. Gas is down around 29 cents compared to last year's numbers and gas prices remain 23 cents less per gallon in Texas compared to this time last year.

Date: FEBRUARY 9, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Community/Update

Length: 2:27

Story Summary: A single mother and her five kids were left homeless after a fire burned all of their belongings. The only items remaining were the clothes on their backs, but a local business and resident have gone out of their ways to help this family get back on their feet. CBS7's Noe Ortega met with the mother who lost her home and the owner of Peaches and Beaches Espresso, he has more details on these donations, Noe?

WELL, IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE THE MATAN FAMILY LOST THEIR HOME DUE TO A FIRE. NOW ON THE OUTSIDE IT MAY LOOK FINE, BUT THE INSIDE IS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT STORY. BUT LOCAL BUSINESSES AND RESIDENTS HAVE COME OUT TO HELP THIS FAMILY IN NEED. SARAH MATAN / MIDLAND RESIDENT "It's hard. Just knowing that everything can be gone in a blink of an eye." THE MATAN'S HOME WAS ON THE CORNER OF C STREET AND BOYD AVENUE IN MIDLAND. NOBODY WAS HOME WHEN THE HOUSE CAUGHT FIRE, BUT THE FAMILY LOST EVERYTHING INSIDE. THE OWNER OF PEACHES AND BEACHES HEARD ABOUT THIS AND DECIDED TO HELP. SOMETHING THAT SARAH MATAN SAYS IS A BLESSING. SARAH MATAN / MIDLAND RESIDENT "People like this in our community who are reaching out to us and trying to help us, especially since they don't know us and have a good heart. Just to come out here and give them (a) thank you, because without knowing us, they wanted to help us and reached out to us." APART FROM MONEY, PEACHES AND BEACHES ESPRESSO IS ALSO ACCEPTING CLOTHES TO GIVE TO THE FAMILY. THE OWNER OF PEACHES AND BEACHES ESPRESSO HAS PREVIOUSLY HELPED FAMILIES WHO HAVE LOST THEIR HOME FROM A FIRE. HELPING THE MATAN'S WAS AN EASY DECISION FOR HER. KARINA REY / OWNER, PEACHES AND BEACHES ESPRESSO "I found it on FaceBook. I saw that one mutual friend had shared it, and it just made me really sad...I think we should all help each other. We're all from the same background and I feel like you should just choose kindness. Just do it." AN ODESSA WOMAN HAS ALSO REACHED OUT TO THE FAMILY TO OFFER THEM A HOME TO LIVE IN WHILE THEY GET BACK ON THEIR FEET. MATAN SAYS SHE APPRECIATES THE OFFER, BUT BECAUSE SHE WORKS AND ALL OF HER KIDS GO TO SCHOOLS IN MIDLAND, THE DISTANCE MIGHT BE AN ISSUE. "It looks like i'm in a nightmare, but it's just people like that, it makes my heart happy. Because it's hard what we're going through, and we still have good people out there." PEACHES AND BEACHES IS LOCATED OFF OF WEST 16TH STREET. SINCE THE MORNING, THEY'VE RAISED OVER 700 DOLLARS FOR THE MATAN FAMILY, HOWEVER, THERE'S STILL TIME TO GO BEFORE THEY CLOSE. IF YOU WANT MORE INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN HELP THIS FAMILY, YOU CAN VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT CBS7 DOT COM. IN MIDLAND, I'M NOE ORTEGA, CBS7 FIRST ALERT NEWS.

Date: FEBRUARY 9, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Consumer/Health

Length: :54

Story Summary: The Medical Center Hospital is receiving a huge boost from F. Marie Hall Foundation. The hospital received a three-million-dollar donation from FMH foundation to expand and to renovate the ICU unit. This is the first time the hospital is renovating the ICU unit. The expansion and renovation of the ICU unit is going to increase the beds from forty to fifty and will convert some existing rooms into universal care rooms, which are used for ICU patients who don't need one-on-one care. "In addition to a step down unit which is for those patients that need a little bit more attention they are not quite ready to go to the floor but don't need the attention that intensive care unit provides.".../"Once we start getting the funds in, we will be able to start moving forward with architect designs, just start breaking grounds and smashing down walls." The overall cost of the project is thirty-two million dollars. Once started, the renovation should take eighteen months to complete.

Date: FEBRUARY 13, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: GOVERNMENT

Length: 1:06

Story Summary: This morning was the city of Midland's first council meeting since councilman at-large Dan Corrales died two weeks ago. While the council and many Midlanders continue to grieve, they're also looking at what's next. The city council voted unanimously to have a special election on May 4th for the seventh spot on the city council. The application period begins today and ends on March 4th. For the council members, it was a tough meeting without Corrales, but they know they must move on. "I'm ready for somebody to come in with some wisdom, guidance, and be that strong voice for the people. That's what council member Corrales would've wanted in my opinion. Someone that cares about the community, the small things as well as the big things." The city council had a moment of silence before the meeting began for Corrales. Midland Mayor Lori Blong says that the council did consider leaving the position vacant until the November election, however, state law requires them to fill that position within 120 days of the vacancy occurring. If you want a list of qualifications for the position of Midland city council at-large, you can visit our website at CBS7.com.

Date: FEBRUARY 13, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Crime

Length: :30

Story Summary: Midland police have helped recover around 90-thousand dollars' worth of property stolen from several businesses in the area. During their investigation, officials served a search warrant on the 4300 block of West County Road 118 and found stolen property from multiple businesses including Midland Athletic Company, Shape Me Beauty Studio and Tall City Sneakers. Police were able to recover e-bikes, shoes and sport watches. The burglaries remain under investigation and there is no word yet on arrests.

Date: FEBRUARY 16, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Crime

Length: 2:49

Story Summary: We start with a story that's only on CBS7. On Wednesday, a man in Big Spring was struck by an 18-wheeler and the driver left the scene before police showed up. The Big Spring Police department are still looking for the suspect and now the daughter of the victim is speaking out about this incident that nearly ended her father's life. CBS7's Noe Ortega has the details on the incident and an update on the victim.

ORLANDO PAYEN HAD MULTIPLE SURGERIES IN THE LAST TWO DAYS, BUT HIS FAMILY SAYS HE IS EXPECTED TO RECOVER. IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG ROAD TO RECOVER BOTH PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY. WHO WOULD DO SUCH A THING. ORLANDO PAYEN WAS WALKING WITH HIS MOTORCYCLE AFTER COMING HOME FROM WORK WHEN HE WAS HIT BY THE TRAILER. THE HIT-AND-RUN HAPPENED ON THE 3300 BLOCK OF E I-20 IN BIG SPRING. THIS WAS THE ONLY IMAGE THAT THE BSPD HAVE RELEASED OF THE SUSPECT. NOW THE FAMILY IS LOOKING FOR ANSWERS. SERENA DELEON / DAUGHTER OF ORLANDO PAYEN "I want this driver to be held accountable for what he's done to my family. I want this company to be held accountable for who they're hiring and allowing to drive these vehicles." DELEON HAS ALWAYS SEEN HER FATHER AS A MAN WHO LOVES MOTORCYCLES AND ALWAYS MAKES HER LAUGH. BUT THE LAST TWO DAYS HAVE BEEN TRAUMATIC FOR HER. "You know I don't think that I've ever heard him scream the way I've had to hear him scream the past two days. And that's all I can hear is constant pain." DELEON HAS BEEN BY HER FATHERS SIDE AT UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER IN LUBBOCK SINCE HE WAS AIRLIFTED THERE. SHE'S BEEN SPEAKING CLOSELY WITH BSPD ABOUT THE DRIVER INVOLVED AND HAS SO MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS. QUESTIONS AIMED AT THE COMPANY THAT HIRED THAT DRIVER. "Was he drinking? Was he on drugs? Was he falling asleep because he was driving for so long because they're working him for so many hours? What was he doing that he hit somebody that was walking on the side of the road?" HER BIGGEST FEAR IS THAT HE WON'T BE ABLE TO DO HIS FAVORITE HOBBY AFTER THIS. "He loves to ride motorcycles. What if he's never able to ride motorcycles ever again because of this person." DELEON DESCRIBES HER FATHER AS A MAN THAT CARES

FOR EVERYONE. AND THAT IF THE ROLES WERE REVERSED, HE WOULD'VE HANDLED IT DIFFERENT. "I know that if it was him on that drivers side, he would have stopped and he would have done every single thing he could've for that person." THE BSPD IS STILL INVESTIGATING THIS CASE AND THEY DO HAVE SOME LEADS.WE WILL KEEP YOU UPDATED ONCE WE LEARN MORE. IF YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW YOU CAN HELP THIS FAMILY, YOU CAN VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT CBS7 DOT COM. IN BIG SPRING, I'M NO, CBS7 FIRST ALERT NEWS.

Date: FEBRUARY 16, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Government

Length: :39

Story Summary: CBS7 has learned that Ector County Utility District Board Vice President Sheila Black has died. ECUD released a statement saying quote, Losing ECUD Board Vice President Sheila Black brings great grief to the entire district board. Those who worked closely with Sheila understood she was devoted to making a difference in West Odessa, end quote. Looking ahead, ECUD says that they will begin to accept applications to fill this open position. Whoever is appointed will have to fill Black's term through November 2026. ECUD expects to make an official appointment in one of the next two scheduled meeting in March or April. Stick with CBS7 as we continue to learn more.

Date: FEBRUARY 17, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Crime

Length: :15

Story Summary: This man, Christopher John Olmos, has been arrested and charged for continuous sexual abuse of a child. The Midland County Sheriff's Office obtained his arrest warrant and located and arrested him with the help of the U.S. Marshals Service.

Date: FEBRUARY 17, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Community

Length: 1:46

Story Summary: Tonight was the last night of the Monster Truck Challenge at the Ector County Coliseum. CBS7's Armando Gomez was at the Coliseum today and he joins us with more. Armando?

THIS EVENT WILL HAVE THE BATCH OF THE METAL MUNCHING SUPERSTARS AND SOME OF THE NATIONS BEST MONSTER TRUCKS ARE INVITED HERE TO THIS COMPETITION AND THEY WILL GOING ALL OUT IN THIS WAR. SEVEN MONSTER TRUCKS TOOK THE ARENA TO COMPETE FOR A CHANCE TO WIN THE TROPHY AND BRAGGING RIGHTS. THE MONSTER TRUCKS PERFORMED FREESTYLE COMPETITIONS AND IMPRESSIVE STUNTS "When you come to one of these events you will see six of the top trucks battling it out to earn this championship this weekend. There are going to be flying high dump trucks. There are going to be dosers. There is an alligator. We are all after the win." A NEW MONSTER TRUCK CALLED THE BLOCKHEAD TRUCK MADE ITS FIRST APPEARANCE IN ODESSA. "It looks like Legos and is a new theme. Is really popular with the kids obviously and with the adults that used to play with legos." THE ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN HOSTING THESE EVENTS FOR FORTY YEARS IN ODESSA. O'REILLY AUTO PARTS OUTLAW IS AIMING TO CHANGE THE LANDSCAPE OF MOTORSPORTS COMPETITIONS IN WEST TEXAS BY ATTRACTING YOUNGER FANS. JOHN DARNELL / EVENT COORDINATOR "The more fans you get, the easier it is to get fans to a monster truck show that are young. They love it and if you get it hooked early they will be motorsports fans forever." THERE WAS A KIDS MONSTER TRUCK CHALLENGE IN THE SHOW FOR KIDS WHO DREAM OF BECOMING A MONSTER TRUCK DRIVER. TIMOTHY JONES / OWNER AND OPERATOR OF THE TAILGATOR MONSTER TRUCK "They look up to us as drivers and for them to get a chance to come out and race the same track we race on and see the smile on their face. This is what I do it for because of the kids and those kids look up to us as idols." FOR CBS SEVEN FIRST ALERT NEWS, I'M ARMANDO GOMEZ

Date: FEBRUARY 20, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Environmental

Length: 2:44

Story Summary: We start with a story on Zebra Mussels, not those kinds of muscles, the sea creature, mussel. CBS7's Isabella Garriga spoke to a game warden at Texas Parks and Wildlife about the invasive species of Zebra mussels spreading in lakes across Texas and the Midland utilities director to get information on their infiltration into our local water filtration systems, Isabella?

WHILE ZEBRA MUSSELS ARE AN INVASIVE SPECIES... THERE ARE WAYS TO REMOVE THEM... AND TREAT THE WATER THEY TRAVEL IN. ZEBRA MUSSELS ARE AN INVASIVE FRESHWATER MUSSEL SPECIES THAT HAVE BEEN RAPIDLY

SPREADING IN THE LAKES IN TEXAS. THESE MUSSELS ARE AROUND THE SIZE OF YOUR FINGERNAIL AND GET THEIR NAME FROM THE ZEBRA-LIKE PATTERN THAT COVERS THEIR SHELL. SIMILAR TO BARNACLES ON BOATS, ZEBRA MUSSELS HAVE THE ABILITY TO STICK TO ANY STRUCTURE AND SPREAD BY LAND AND BY WATER. "They attach to all of these structures within the lakes that proves to be very expensive for cities and countries for water districts to manage. But on top of that, they feed on the microscopic algae that naturally occurs in lakes. In many ways, outcompete some of the native fish." BECAUSE WE GET OUR WATER FROM LOCAL LAKES... THE INVASIVE SPECIES HAS MADE ITS WAY TO WEST TEXAS THROUGH TEXAS FRESHWATER SYSTEMS. WHETHER IT'S DRINKING WATER SYSTEMS OR COOLING SYSTEMS FOR POWER PLANTS... THEY STICK TO ANY STRUCTURE, MAKING IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR THE SYSTEM TO OPERATE CORRECTLY AND AT FULL CAPACITY. "They will attach to the inside of pipelines and to the bottom side of pumps. Lowering the capacity of water pulling through pipelines and the water pumping that each pump can do. It lowers the amount of water we can actually put through our system." THE CITY OF MIDLAND FIRST SAW SIGNS OF ZEBRA MUSSELS INVADING OUR SYSTEMS THIS PAST WINTER... THEY NOTICED TREATMENT TRAINS HAD LOWER LEVELS OF FLOWING WATER AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CYCLE REVEALING SIGNS OF A ZEBRA MUSSEL INVASION. THE CITY IS NOW TAKING PREVENTATIVE MEASURES STARTING AT THE RESERVOIRS... THE CHEMICAL COMPOUND COPPER SULFATE IS MIXED IN THE WATER SO THAT THE ZEBRA MUSSELS CAN'T STICK TO THE PIPES AT THE LOCAL PLANTS THEN..."At the City of Midland plant, we use three different chemicals to help treat the water. We start it with alum—which makes anything in that lake water clump together and get filtered out of the process. We use chlorine and ammonia to make chloramines— which is the disinfectant to help keep the water clean throughout our entire system." THE CITY ALSO KEEPS TRACK OF THE CAPACITY LEVELS AND TEST DAILY FOR COPPER LEVELS AND REPORTS THAT THEY ARE WELL BELOW ALLOWABLE LEVELS WITH TREATMENT OF ZEBRA MUSSELS. ALONG WITH THE CITY OF MIDLAND...THE STATE IS ALWAYS WORKING TO PREVENT THE SPREAD. "Texas has passed a law. It is a state law that says anytime somebody launches a boat in one body of water, they have to totally drain that boat. The bilge, the livewell, the engine of any water before they can take it and put it in any other body of water." THE ZEBRA MUSSELS REPORTEDLY DO NOT AFFECT THE QUALITY OF THE WATER ONLY THE SPEED AND CAPACITY OF THE WATER THAT IS ABLE TO BE FILTERED AT... REPORTING FOR CBS7 FIRST ALERT NEWS...IM IG.

Date: FEBRUARY 20, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Sports

Length: :46

Story Summary: Mark your calendars everyone, the Midland Rockhounds 2024 season starts April 5th and the first home game is April 9th. Today the organization announced its 2024 special events and theme nights schedule and talked improvements to the ballpark as well as a partnership with ConocoPhillips. There are also changes to the coaching staff, but overall, the rockhounds general manager says they are ready for the first pitch. The Rockhounds also introduced its new manager, Gregorio Petit, who has both played for and coached for the Oakland A's organization.

Date: FEBRUARY 21, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Elections

Length: 1:38

Story Summary: Yesterday was the start of early voting for the Texas primaries. Yesterday, just hours before the start of early voting, Representative Brooks Landgraf took to Facebook to clarify some confusion for voters of Ector County in regards to a text going around. In the text, Brandon Pugh, a nominee for precinct 202 in Ector County, used Landgraf's name as an example of Republican campaigns he's worked for in the past. Pugh apologized for any confusion and at around 2 p.m. this afternoon, he sent a new text message to Ector County voters to clarify any confusion from the last one. "It just states that all I was trying to do just show people I've been involved in grassroots campaigning with Ector County for quite some time and I just helped with his campaign in 2014 and then as in his article I did help an opposing candidate in 2016." With it being an election year, messages like Pugh's are bound to go out for all races and parties and Landgraf wants people to do their own research if candidates reach out." Always do your homework. You know there's always gonna be many different sides in a political campaign who are making news. To be an informed voter sometimes you have to do your own homework don't rely on others to do that for you. You do your research and do your homework and make an informed decision and that's how this process works." Around 3:30 this afternoon Representative Landgraf made an updated post on his Facebook saying quote, "I sincerely appreciate Mr. Pugh working to clear up the confusion on this issue. I am dedicated to clear and honest communication with voters" Both Landgraf and Pugh both emphasized people should make their voice heard through their vote.

Date: FEBRUARY 21, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Health

Length: 1:08

Story Summary: Do you know how to properly dispose of unused and expired prescription medications? If you don't, that's okay, there's a year-round prescription take back program at Midland Memorial Hospital. It's called the Inmar Program. The MMH drop off box collects around 4 boxes a week and on average about 300 bottles in those 4 boxes. That's 1200 bottles a week, with no telling how many pills are in those 1200 bottles. Before the Inmar Program the only option to get rid of expired medications was an annual drug take back drop off. That means people were holding on to the expired meds for a whole year before they were able to properly get rid of them. "If you have old controlled substances, old antibiotics, hanging around. They are no longer doing us any good. We need to get them out of our medicine cabinets to protect our families and our loved ones and their friends." To drop medication off, there's a drive-thru that takes you within 15 feet of the ER doors, where the boxes are just inside the foyer before you enter MMH. The drop off is for capsules and pills only. No vitamins, aerosols such as asthma inhalers and no illegal drugs.

Date: FEBRUARY 27, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Continuing Coverage

Length: :51

Story Summary: In an update on the death of Midland city councilman at-large Dan Corrales, the Justice of the Peace for precinct two in Midland County has ruled his death an accident. An autopsy was ordered and found Corrales shot himself near the shoulder and he died from blood loss. The Justice of the Peace said in a statement quote, "Common sense dictates that there are other places on one's body to shoot themselves to end their life immediately. Mr. Corrales did not leave any notes, letters, voicemails or tell anyone he was intending to end his life." End quote. An investigation into Corrales' death was done by the Midland Police Department and Texas Rangers. Because Midland County does not have a medical examiner, those duties are delegated to a Justice of the Peace. More details on the investigation are up on our website CBS7.com.

Date: FEBRUARY 27, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Crime

Length: :35

Story Summary: Topping our news tonight is a story that's all-new at 10, Odessa police are asking for your help finding a fourteen-year-old girl. Alyzabeth Warner was last seen at Permian High School. She was wearing black pants, a black hoodie and a gray backpack. Alyzabeth is

about 5'7 and has black and blonde hair. Anyone with information on her whereabouts is encouraged to call OPD or Odessa Crimestoppers. Odessa police would also like to remind people that harboring a minor is a class a misdemeanor, punishable with a fine of up to \$4,000 and up to a year in jail

Date: FEBRUARY 29, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Community

Length: 2:11

Story Summary: Midland Legacy FAA is collecting donations from the community to help the people in need in the panhandle. CBS7's Armando Gomez was at Midland Legacy today and he joins us with more, Armando?

THE MIDLAND LEGACY F-F-A IS PLANNING TO TAKE THIS TRAILER TO THE PANHANDLE TO HELP THE PEOPLE IN NEED AND WHO ARE AFFECTED BY THE WILDFIRE. THE LEGACY F-F-A STUDENTS SAW ON SOCIAL MEDIA THAT THE F-F-A STUDENTS IN THE PANHANDLE LOST THEIR AGRICULTURE BARN AND LIVESTOCK DUE TO THE FIRE. THEY WANT TO HELP THEIR FELLOW AGRICULTURE CHAPTERS AS THEY BATTLE AGAINST THE SMOKEHOUSE CREEK FIRE. CARSON AWBREY / MIDLAND LEGACY STUDENT JUNIOR "It's beneficial for us as a community to reach out to other FFA classes and chapters that are in need, especially in this difficult time." THE MIDLAND LEGACY FFA IS LOOKING SPECIFICALLY FOR ITEMS TO BENEFIT THE AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS LIKE ANIMAL FOOD, WATER BUCKETS, CLOTHING, FIRST AID KITS, OLD TOWELS, AND MORE. HANNAH CLARK / MIDLAND LEGACY STUDENT 11TH GRADE "I think it is important to do this as a community and as students especially students that are in agriculture classes because I feel like it gives us a feel like what other people are going through right now and it means a lot that were able to come help them." WHEN THEY HEARD ABOUT HOW THE FIRES WERE AFFECTING THE F-F-A CHAPTERS IN THE PANHANDLE... THE MIDLAND LEGACY F-F-A STUDENTS CAME TOGETHER TO EXCHANGE IDEAS ON HOW THEY COULD HELP THEIR FELLOW FUTURE FARMERS... ALIYA LOYD / LEGACY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SOPHOMORE "We are trying to help out people in FFA because that's what FFA is about so we love to help other districts that we can do. We reached out to a couple of them" THE F-F-A STUDENTS IN THE PANHANDLE LOST THEIR AGRICULTURE PROJECTS... ALONG WITH THEIR BARN AND STABLES... MEANING THEY DON'T HAVE A PLACE TO KEEP THEIR ANIMALS FOR MAJOR STOCK SHOWS ANYMORE. COOPER EVANS / MIDLAND LEGACY STUDENT JUNIOR "Watching how we can help out and learning studies how to prevent it in the future but the least they need is supply. All they need is more and more help." THE MIDLAND LEGACY F-F-A STUDENTS SAID THIS IS JUST ONE WAY THAT THEY'RE STEPPING UP TO HELP THOSE AFFECTED BY THE FIRE...

DESIREE FARMER / MIDLAND LEGACY HS AGRICULTURE STUDENT "When there is a need for help you reach out you do what you can and I am very proud of these kiddos they jumped in."

Date: FEBRUARY 29, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Elections

Length: 1:20

Story Summary: A bull has been let loose in the city of midland. However, it's not the four-legged animal we all know about. It's another candidate for the midland city council at-large seat. James R. "Bull" Henry was the first person to file for the seat, and says if elected, he will make being an advocate for the community his full-time job. Henry has previously run for positions in Midland County. He says his previous experience in running campaigns has taught him more and is ready for what's to come. Henry says everything is a priority, but there are some needs. Things like public safety, and quality of life. Henry came to Midland in 1980 to work as a carpenter. He helped build homes and apartments across Midland and worked for High Sky Children's Ranch for 12 years. Now the Bull wants to work for the citizens. "I'll be a full-time council member. My job will be Midland, my business will be Midland. I don't own any businesses or interests either and so I will 100 percent be for the citizens of Midland." Henry also says that the new projects like the zoo and Santa Rita hotel are great for the city. Even Bass Pro Shop is something he's happy about because it's something that all West Texans can enjoy. Tomorrow, we introduce the last candidate for the vacant midland city council at-large position, Eric Davidson. To hear more about Henry and what the other candidates had to say you can visit our website CBS7. Com

Date: MARCH 1, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: OIL & GAS/COMMUNITY/Education

Length: :49

Story Summary: The American Petroleum Institute gave out 41 scholarships to students today as part of a clay shoot. Each scholarship recipient has a family member that works within the oil and gas industry, and they must maintain a GPA of 2.5 or higher as they attend their classes. One recipient is a nursing student at UTPB who says the two thousand dollars per semester will help her finish her last three semesters and graduate. The funds raised at today's clay shoot will fund the scholarships.

Date: MARCH 1, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Community/Government

Length: :44

Story Summary: Back in December, we brought you a story on the garbage truck shortage throughout the city of Odessa, fast forward to now, and we are still seeing a trash problem. Several years ago a previous city council decided that the life span of our garbage trucks in Odessa could last seven to nine years, a decision that seems to be the root of the problem. "And that's just not reasonable. What that has put us into is a situation where we have multiple problems with the trucks right now." Across the nation right now there is a shortage of parts to repair garbage trucks and because of the delayed delivery of parts, Beckmeyer says when one truck gets fixed another one has to leave because of the issues that come with old trucks.

Date: MARCH 6, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Education

Length: :37

Story Summary: The Kermit ISD Superintendent, Dr. Joe Lopez has announced he is the lone finalist for the superintendent of Greenville ISD in North Texas. During his time as superintendent at Kermit ISD, Dr. Lopez led the district to a "B" academic rating, helped pass a 62.5-million-dollar bond, upgraded technology, added several vehicles to help the district and renovated the facilities. Dr. Lopez also successfully added the CNA and Culinary Arts programs to the district. In his statement Dr. Lopez said, "I am grateful for the opportunity to have served... I plan to continue working hard until my last day in the district. Once a Yellowjacket, always a Yellowjacket!"

Date: MARCH 6, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Oil & Gas

Length: :58

Story Summary: At today's Permian Basin Water in Energy Conference, produced water was top of mind. The hot topic brought interest outside the Permian Basin, even bringing in professionals from as far as Colorado to talk about water in energy. There are an estimated 11 million barrels of produced water generated in the Permian Basin every day. Most attendees view that produced

water as an opportunity, whether that's harvesting hydrogen and other elements from the complex water or cleaning it to a standard for other industry and agricultural uses. "New Mexico led with the Produced Water Act in 2019. Texas is close behind us. So, Texas is coming on quick. So, I think New Mexico is in the race to figure out how to use treated produced water efficiently. And I think right now we're kind of neck in neck with Texas who is encouraging a lot of pilot projects." CBS7 will have more on this conference tomorrow as attendees gather for day two.

Date: MARCH 7, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Oil & Gas

Length: 2:55

Story Summary: Now we turn to continuing coverage on the Permian Basin Water in Energy Conference. It's a gathering of about 500 professionals tackling water management in the oil and gas industry. Produced water is the main topic and excitement is growing about its reuse. CBS7's Hannah Brock has more on that growth, Hannah?

MANY CONFERENCE CONVERSATIONS SURROUND PROGRESS AND PROGRESS IS OFTEN PUSHED FORWARD BY A NEED. THERE ARE A FEW NEEDS RIGHT NOW THAT ARE PUSHING THE PRODUCED WATER CONVERSATION TO THE FOREFRONT. INJECTION-RELATED EARTHQUAKE CONCERNS HAVE DRIVEN A GROWING INTEREST IN MANAGING PRODUCED WATER. ATTORNEY PAUL TOUGH SAYS COMPANY'S WHO VOLUNTARILY SHARE DATA CAN HELP REGULATORS LIKE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION. THE FUTURE OF THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY DEPENDS ON THESE CONVERSATIONS. PAUL TOUGH / ATTORNEY, MCELROY, SULLIVAN, MILLER & WEBER "If you're going to be here, you're usually working towards a common goal and that is making sure that the industry can still be sustainable, but understand there are some challenges." WATER SHORTAGES ARE ALSO PUSHING THE CONVERSATION FORWARD, ATTRACTING FARMERS AND RANCHERS. SID MILLER / COMMISSIONER, TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE "We have just about quite growing Pecos cantaloupes here in the Permian Basin because we're out of water. This would allow that industry to come back. [The] Permian Basin is ideally situated to grow alfalfa. We can grow really good alfalfa out here, but it takes water which we don't have. So this reuse water gives us hope that we can expand our farming operations." PRODUCED WATER REUSE COULD REDUCE INDUSTRY DEPENDENCE ON FRESH WATER AND CREATE A NEW WATER SOURCE. MILLIONS OF BARRELS OF PRODUCED WATER ARE GENERATED IN THE PERMIAN BASIN EACH DAY. SUPPORTERS WANT TO TRANSFORM THIS LIABILITY INTO AN ASSET. PANELS FEATURED RESEARCH THAT SHOWS EFFECTIVE TECHNOLOGY EXISTS TO CLEAN THE WATER. ZACARIAH HILDENBRAND / CHIEF SCIENTIFIC OFFICER, INFINITY WATER SOLUTIONS "We

don't see widespread adoption of this because we don't have regulations to actually put this on crops or put it in the Pecos River or replenish an aquifer." THERE ARE PILOT PROJECTS SEEING SUCCESS AND MAKING DISCOVERIES, BUT WITHOUT RULES, THERE'S A LACK OF INCENTIVE TO COMMERCIALIZE. "So think of it as a game, right? I mean, who is going to invest large amounts of capital to potentially play in the game? We don't know what the rules of the game are. We don't know when the game starts." COMPANIES NEED PERMITS AND CLEAR PATHWAYS TO PUT PILOTS INTO PRACTICE. THERE'S ALSO STIGMA TO OVERCOME. WHEN CONSIDERING THE WATER'S ORIGIN, PEOPLE ARE HESITANT. "You kind of might think it has too many contaminants in it, but we have to gain the confidence of the public to show them that hey, if we can clean up toilet water and use it, we can clean this up pretty easy." WHILE THE CURRENT FOCUS ISN'T TREATING THE WATER FOR DRINKING WATER, THE POINT IS TO KEEP THE WATER IN THE WATER CYCLE. TODAY MARKED THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONFERENCE BUT IT WILL RETURN NEXT YEAR WITH A WHOLE NEW SET OF CONVERSATIONS ABOUT WATER IN ENERGY. FOR CBS7 FAN IM HB

Date: MARCH 7, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Government

Length: 1:47

Story Summary: CBS7 First Alert News is the only local station in our nation's capital for tonight's state of the union address which began just about an hour ago. CBS7 's Jay Hendricks was inside the gallery for the president's speech. He and CBS7 's Matthew Alvarez join us now to talk about the speech. Jay, Matthew?

Date: MARCH 8, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Community

Length: :59

Story Summary: This week Midland Christian students had the opportunity to serve their community through missions' week, over six hundred students worked with local non-profits in Midland. Today, they hosted a Special Olympics event associated with Bynum school at the Midland Christian football field. The Bynum students were able to play several sports with the Midland Christian students in the Special Olympics event. The idea of Mission Week started when Midland Christian saw how much help local non-profits in Midland needed, and the goal of the Mission Week is for students to meet those needs. "Serving brings people great joy. A necessity to our life so it is a lot of fun. These kids probably don't know it but they probably

bless us than we bless them and so it is a great experience." This is the first time Midland Christian has done a full "Mission Week" but they plan to continue helping local non-profits next year.

Date: MARCH 8, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Traffic

Length: 1:12

Story Summary: The I-27 numbering act officially passed in the U.S. Senate and will now head to Biden's desk. That act gives a name to the Ports to Plains corridor from Laredo, Texas to Raton, New Mexico. Mayor Lori Blong traveled to the nation's capitol to advocate for bringing part of the highway through Midland. The act doesn't designate any funding to the project and construction is far off, but this starts the journey to those goals. Most importantly, the bill requires I-27 to come through Midland-Odessa with the I-27 West designation that comes from Sterling City, through Midland-Odessa to Lamesa. The port to plains corridor has connections beyond Texas. "I've spent the last several days in D.C. advocating for I-27 and the ports to plains corridor, which goes from Del Rio and Presidio, all the way up through Midland-Odessa on to Lubbock and Amarillo and further north extending all the way ultimately, hopefully, to North Dakota and the Canadian border." That allows the movement of goods, while removing truck traffic from commuter roads in Midland-Odessa. The interstate designation also requires road improvements set to make roads safer. Portions of 349 and 158 will overlap with the I-27 route.

Date: MARCH 12, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Crime

Length: 1:06

Story Summary: Tracking Crime now, an escaped inmate is dead after leading police on a multi-county chase through West Texas on Sunday. The chase covered about 115 miles along interstate 10. It began when an inmate escaped from the Sutton County Jail, that's in the town of Sonora. Authorities say he went west on I-10 and car jacked a woman in Crockett County. He then continued West on the interstate into Pecos County. That's where state troopers were able to take out a tire on the stolen vehicle. The suspect tried to steal another vehicle at gunpoint at a gas station east of Fort Stockton. A Pecos County deputy shot the suspect, who later died in the hospital. The Texas Rangers will lead this ongoing investigation.

And in Midland, police were called to a stabbing on the 800 block of south Midkiff road last night just before 9. Police say the victim had three stab wounds, including one to the head.

Detectives were called to the Midland Memorial Hospital emergency room, but say the victim refused to cooperate and doesn't want to press charges. The victim's wounds were serious but not life-threatening.

Date: MARCH 12, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Travel/Community

Length: :31

Story Summary: The number of passengers flying out of Midland International Air & Space Port skyrocketed compared to last year. According to officials, around 47-thousand people flew out of Midland in February 2023 and more than 53 thousand flew out last month. That's six thousand more people and a 14-percent increase. Southwest Airlines carried the most passengers, seeing around 52-thousand people aboard their flights. And MAF continues to see growth with Delta becoming the fourth airline to provide flights which start next month.

Date: MARCH 13, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Crime

Length: 1:47

Story Summary: Earlier today, the city of Midland reported police shot a man who suspected of having a gun and was trying to escape from officers early this morning, but the latest update from the city says the driver was unarmed. Officials say just after 1:00 a.m., police pulled over a man on the 36-hundred block of Bankhead highway. During the traffic stop, the man, who police initially said had a gun in his pocket, tried to get away. Later reports show he did not have a gun. That's when one of the officers on scene fired his gun at the driver who was shot in the back. He was taken to the hospital where he is still being treated. The officer who fired the shot is now on administrative leave. Texas Rangers are now investigating.

Multiple law enforcement agencies were on a manhunt this afternoon at Business 20 and County Road 1260 near the Midland International Air and Space Port. Take a look at the scene. According to Texas DPS, Midland Police, Midland County Sheriff's and DPS are looking for a wanted suspect. Drivers have been asked to avoid the area. Those are all the details we have right now, but we will keep you updated here and online as we learn more.

The Midland County Sheriff's Office has arrested two people in connection to an aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. According to police, officers were able to get a warrant for Devonte Drain's home on Sunday. During the search, drugs were found within the home and the second suspect Gamarian Brown was in possession of a handgun. Both Drain and Brown are

facing multiple charges including unlawful possession of a firearm. They're both being held at Midland County Central Detention Center, and this does remain an ongoing investigation.

Date: MARCH 13, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Community

Length: :48

Story Summary: The Odessa Chuck Wagon, known for their West Texas Barbecue is celebrating their 84th anniversary this year. A group of local businessmen sat down at a small cafe on Grant Street in Odessa and created a plan to share that chuck wagon-style cooking. They also want to share that West Texas hospitality. The small organization grew on what they are today and now they are feeding people in other states and countries. "We were created as a way to promote the city of Odessa to the region and that grew in the state of Texas, the United States, and now to the world. In our history, we have been in twenty-six states and nine foreign countries." The Odessa Chuck Wagon Gang has no plans to stop sharing their food and hospitality.

Date: MARCH 14, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Traffic update

Length: :34

Story Summary: We have an update for you tonight, the Big Spring Police Department has arrested a man after an 18-wheeler was involved in a hit-and-run last month. According to Big Spring Police, the victim was hit by 72-year-old Akmal Ilyas near the 3300 block of I-20 on February 13th. He was pushing a motorcycle on the side of the road. Ilyas was arrested by Midland Police for Accident involving serious bodily injury and failure to stop and render aid. The victim is still in the hospital at UMC Lubbock in stable condition. Ilyas is being held at the Midland County Jail until he can be moved to Big Spring.

Date: MARCH 14, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: COMMUNITY/Public Safety

Length: 1:27

Story Summary: Since March 4th there has been a confirmed three structural fires across Midland leaving many without a place to stay. Two of these fires started when a stove was left on. Fire Marshall Justin Bunch says that's why it's important to always attend to what you're cooking in the kitchen and suggests getting a mini fire extinguisher to keep in your kitchen. If an unexpected fire happens to break out, there are other ways to put the flames out. Bunch also recommends you annually check your smoke detector and talk with your family in the event you need an escape plan from a structure fire.

The summer and spring weather is fastly approaching and that means rattlesnakes are now on the move. Fix West Texas is offering dog rattlesnakes vaccines to protect your pet. The rattlesnake vaccine gives dogs a chance to survive by building antibodies in the system which help reduce the damage of a rattlesnake bite. "So here in West Texas we have a lot of snakes in areas where to hide so is important for them to vaccinate your dog with a rattlesnake vaccine. It is a rattlesnake vaccine that needs to be boosted and then bolstered annually after that but it can help them survive a rattlesnake bite." It is important to have your dog on a leash when they are outside. If they get bitten by a rattlesnake, they need to be treated by a vet immediately.

Date: MARCH 15, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Update/CRIME

Length: 3:48

Story Summary: After 27 hours, the hostage situation at a Midland Apartment Complex has come to an end. Midland police say the suspect is in custody, and all hostages are safe and unharmed. CBS7 had live updates all day yesterday, and into the early morning hours when law enforcement made the arrest.

MIDLAND POLICE IDENTIFIED THE MAN AS CHRISTIAN MILAN. HE IS CHARGED WITH TWO COUNTS OF AGGRAVATED KIDNAPPING AND SEXUAL ASSAULT. MIDLAND POLICE ARRIVED AT THE SUNDANCE APARTMENT COMPLEX AT 11 P-M ON WEDNESDAY MARCH 13... AND REPORT MILAN HAD BARRICADED HIMSELF... AND WAS THREATENING TO SHOOT THE POLICE. 12 HOURS LATER... AT 11 AM... THEY WERE STILL THERE... AND MORE LAW ENFORCEMENT HAD ARRIVED... INCLUDING ODESSA POLICE AND TEXAS DPS. RESIDENTS IN THE BUILDING WERE EVACUATED... AND TOLD TO AVOID THE AREA. MIDLAND POLICE TOLD REPORTERS ON THE SCENE THEY COULD NOT PROVIDE A TIMELINE AS TO WHEN THE SITUATION WOULD END... / DEPUTY CHIEF BRIAN RACKOW / MIDLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT / "The reason this is going on this long is because he is in contact with the negotiations. We're doing everything possible to get this resolved at the lowest form possible for the life and safety of these people being held hostage." AROUND 4 O-CLOCK TEXAS DPS TROOPERS TOOK OVER... FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL OFFICERS INVOLVED... WHO HAD BEEN WORKING THE SITUATION FOR OVER

16 HOURS. BUT AROUND 3-30 IN THE AFTERNOON... MILAN CALLED CBS7 NEWS. MILAN TOLD CBS7 HE IS HOLDING THE WOMAN HOSTAGE FOR CHEATING ON HIM... AND THAT HE IS HEARTBROKEN. MILAN SAID HE HAD THE WOMAN TIED BY THE WRISTS IN THE APARTMENT... BUT THAT SHE HAD AT SOME POINT TALKED TO THE POLICE OVER THE PHONE. MILAN ALSO TALKED ABOUT THE YOUNG GIRL THAT WAS IN THE APARTMENT... AND THAT HE DID NOT PLAN TO CAUSE HER ANY HARM. CBS7 RECIEVED THE MILAN'S PERMISSION TO RECORD THE PHONE CALL HE MADE... AND WE SENT THE RECORDING TO THE MIDLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT... TEXAS DPS AND THE FBI. AFTER 18 HOURS THE CITY OF MIDLAND BEGAN TO COORDINATE WITH MIDLAND COUNTY AND THE AMERICAN RED CROSS... TO HELP THOSE PEOPLE THAT WERE DISPLACED BY THE HOSTAGE SITUATION... AND IN THAT SAME HOUR... MILAN CALLED CBS7... AGAIN. AT 6-30... MILAN WAS AGITATED... THREATENING AND USING FOUL LANGUAGE... A RECORDING OF THAT PHONE CALL WAS ALSO SENT TO TEXAS DPS AND THE FBI. AS THE EVENING WENT ON... A NUMBER OF FBI AGENTS ARRIVED ON SCENE... AND PART OF THAT MOTORCADE... AN ENTERPRISE TRUCK. STILL... FOR EVERYONE ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE SITUATION... IT WAS A WAITING GAME... THE 24 HOUR MARK PASSED... AND IT WAS IN HOUR 27... THAT IT ALL CAME TO A HEAD. / DEPUTY CHIEF BRIAN RACKOW / MIDLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT "He did fall asleep, and that was the opportune moment. Once again these things are long and stressful, he's didn't have the breaks that we were giving everybody else. So, once he got exhausted and we found the most best time to get him while he was not ready, that was when they went in." AT ABOUT 2 EARLY FRIDAY MORNING... OUR CREW ON SCENE REPORTED WHAT APPEARED TO BE FLASHBANGS AND LOUD POPS... THEN SHORTLY AFTER MILAN WAS TAKEN AWAY IN HANDCUFFS. / DEPUTY CHIEF GREG CHATWELL / MIDLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT "He was overwhelmed. There was a plan in place to take him into custody quickly, with a lot of diversions and it worked." THE A WOMAN AND NINE YEAR OLD GIRL THAT WERE BEING HELD HOSTAGE BY MILAN WERE RESCUED BY THE MULTITUDE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES THAT WERE ON SCENE. / DEPUTY CHIEF GREG CHATWELL / MIDLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT "We worked closely with our neighbors, we've called in assets brought in out of El Paso, FBI coming in out of D.C., just everybody we've called on to help, came out as fast as they could, brought all the help they could bring, lots of equipment. And we had a successful mission today."

Date: MARCH 15, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: GOVERNMENT

Length: :30

Story Summary: Happening next week, Republican House speaker Mike Johnson will be making a visit to West Texas on Monday. Speaker Johnson will tour an oil rig in Ector County alongside West Texas Congressman August Pfluger who chairs the House Energy Action Team. Pfluger's office says that the speaker will discuss energy policies that affect the oil and gas industry in the Permian Basin. CBS7 First Alert will have live coverage on Monday when Speaker Johnson and Congressman Pfluger make their visit, you won't want to miss it.

Date: MARCH 18, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Oil & Gas

Length: 2:57

Story Summary: Members of the United States House of Representatives kicked off energy week in the Permian Basin today. Representative August Pfluger and House Speaker Mike Johnson both represent states that have a presence in the energy industry. They talked about how important the presidential race in November is and how it can play a huge factor for the oil and gas industry. CBS7's Noe Ortega was at the News Conference and has more details on what was said.

Date: MARCH 18, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Community/Sports

Length: 1:22

Story Summary: Today one Odesa born tennis champion hit the Bush Tennis Center's courts to raise money for kids. But she wasn't born in Odessa, Texas. Elina Svitolina hails from Odessa, Ukraine. Tonight she played in the center's love wins challenge, which will benefit kids in Ukraine and the Permian Basin.

Date: MARCH 19, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Public Safety

Length: 3:36

Story Summary: As Americans, we're no stranger to the topic of school violence. It's a major fear for many students, school staff, law enforcement and parents. That's why the Angel

Protection System was created. It's a new product available to Texas schools that uses surveillance to detect weapons before they enter the building. CBS7's Hannah Brock took a close look at how the technology works and she joins us now with the details. Hannah?

Around 3:30 a.m. Monday morning a man broke into Manuel's Odessa Tortilla & Tamale Factory which has been a community staple since 1946 and in those nearly 80 years has not had a break in. The suspect was caught on camera and owners say nothing of value was taken. However, the office was left a mess and a special jar of honey given to the business by a customer was broken and spilled onto the floor.

The city of Midland released its 2023 traffic crash report that details traffic crashes that occurred on public roadways within the 2023 calendar year within the city limits. The total number of crashes increased and the number of injuries in crashes increased. The number of fatalities decreased.

Date: MARCH 19, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Education

Length: 3:02

Story Summary: Topping our news tonight is a story that's all new at 10, the Ranchland Hills Golf Course was a hot topic in Midland today. Members of the community went to the Midland City Council, Midland County Commissioners Court and the Midland ISD Board of Trustees meetings to make their voices heard. Their concern was the location of the new MISD high school being built on the Ranchland Hills Golf Course. CBS7's Noe Ortega met with residents for and against the location, he joins us live with more details, Noe?

Date: MARCH 20, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Health

Length: :41

Story Summary: In some health headlines, three infants in Midland have contracted botulism in the past year. One was reported in August of 2023, one in January of this year, and one in February, all younger than 6 months. Botulism is a bacteria that could be found throughout our everyday environment, but infant botulism is the most common. When babies ingest the bacteria, it produces toxins in the body that they have not developed protections against. Some of the symptoms are constipation, a lessening appetite, drooping eyelids and respiratory difficulties.

The city of Midland says it is aware of the cases and is monitoring our environment, though it does not believe the babies were exposed to botulism in the same way.

Date: MARCH 20, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Education

Length: 1:14

Story Summary: Last night, the Midland ISD Board of Trustees had multiple people come out to speak about books inside of MISD schools that they say are inappropriate for children. They say that the books depict rape, incest, molestation and more. One school that came up a lot was Legacy High School. While some speakers simply asked the board to remove these books and left the stand in peace, some had to be physically removed. MISD said in a statement quote “MISD takes this very seriously and will take appropriate action upon review of the books... should community members discover a book they find to be objectionable; they are encouraged to Bring their concerns to the attention of administrators in accordance with board policy.” end quote.

Date: MARCH 22, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: COMMUNITY

Length: 2:49

Story Summary: Today members of the legal community all gathered for the memorial service of longtime Odessa lawyer Michael McLeaish. He died after complications from a heart surgery at 79 years old. CBS7's Isabella Garriga was at the Ector County Courthouse for the service. McLeaish attended OHS and went on to graduate from UT law school in 1970 and then moved back to West Texas and began his practice of 53 years.

Date: MARCH 22, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: HEALTH

Length: 2:43

Story Summary: On any given day the Springboard Center helps around 80 people looking to overcome an addiction and in a given year, around 1000 people, but they don't stop at helping

the individuals who are battling addiction, they also help families. If you know someone who is battling an addiction and want them to speak to someone you can call 432 620 0255 for help.

There were 50 organizations on hand at the Odessa College wellness fair to provide blood pressure tests, fitness class demonstrations, hand massages, health snacks, resources and education on general health. The wellness fair is an annual event for OC and had a toiletries and food donation drive for the Wrangler food pantry.

It's women's history month a time to celebrate women for their contributions and achievements, and historically, there have been gaps between men's and women's health treatment. In 1977 the FDA banned any women considered to have childbearing potential from participating in clinical trials. Now that's a part of the initiative for sex and gender specific health at the Laura W. Bush Institute, housed within Texas Tech.

Date: MARCH 25, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Education

Length: :51

Story Summary: UTPB announced its starting a direct admissions program with ECISD and MISD. The program will allow qualified seniors to gain automatic admission to UTPB. UTPB currently has over five thousand students enrolled and the new admission process will benefit over 1,300 students across both school districts.

Date: MARCH 25, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: Health

Length: 2:13

Story Summary: Earlier today local non-profit pink the basin awarded MCH 150,000 dollars year to assist women and men who need a mammogram, diagnostic mammogram, or biopsy. The money that awarded today will help men and women who do not have insurance, are underinsured, or have a high copay/deductible get proper testing for breast cancer. "Cancer is not discriminatory it attacks who it wants to and so this is a front-line battle that helps men and women get screened and diagnosed."

An all new thirteen part docu-series takes international audiences inside Odessa's Medical Center Hospital. Desert Doc follows Dr. Sudip Bose, an emergency physician with a storied past. In a tense trailer, Dr. Bose tells viewers that Medical Center Hospital is the highest-level trauma center in 38,000 square miles. That makes MCH unique, but Bose said the series tells stories

representative of many American emergency rooms. He said that will help all viewers recognize that each of us is one accident away from the ER.

Date: MARCH 26, 2024

Newscast: 6 P.M.

Topic: Crime

Length: 1:25

Story Summary: Over the weekend a northern Odessa neighborhood experienced multiple thefts as an individual made their way around the neighborhood taking packages. According to Odessa police, porch pirates come in waves, so even though Andrew Lange has lived in Odessa for years, it is still possible that this is the first time his neighborhood has seen porch pirates.

Date: MARCH 26, 2024

Newscast: 10 P.M.

Topic: PUBLIC SAFETY/COMMUNITY

Length: 1:04

Story Summary: Midland officials say the animal shelter has an outbreak of canine distemper. The animal shelter asking people do not bring any dogs to the shelter. The disease is airborne, so it helps if you can temporarily house a stray or lost dog to protect them from the outbreak. Distemper is preventable and the easiest way to protect your pet from the disease is by making sure they're vaccinated.

KOSA

KOSA supported the Midland County Livestock Show with extensive news coverage and live newscasts. The Midland County Livestock Show is an opportunity for 4-H and FFA members from across Midland County to exhibit their project work. Community members and business leaders come together to support these young people and raise much needed funds.

KOSA aired a 4 ½ hour telethon (7-10pm & 10:30-Midnight) to raise much-needed funds for the West Texas Rehabilitation Center. The center provides free and discounted rehabilitation services to West Texans who otherwise wouldn't be able to get the care they need.

KOSA helped promote a major fundraiser for Centers of Midland. The Boots, Barrels, and Beads annual event raises funds to continue making their mental health programs available to West Texans. We supported this by airing PSAs on our stations.

KOSA supported the major fundraiser for the Casa de Amigos-House of Friends event by airing PSAs. All proceeds go towards helping the local community with GED & ESL classes, after school tutoring, a medical clinic for uninsured adults, assistance for older adults, emergency food pantry and other food assistance, financial literacy, and more.

KOSA aired PSAs to support the annual Ellen Noel Art Museum fundraiser. This event raises money to fund museum improvements, community children's programs, and art exhibits.