

# Connections

Connecting You with the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Permian Basin



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**

**GREAT FUTURES START [HERE](#)**

*The Boys & Girls Club's mission is to help young people become productive, caring and responsible citizens by providing enriching opportunities in a positive environment. We are changing the odds every day!*

## Harvard Grad Encourages Woodson Kids

Jorrion Wilson aimed high when he was growing up in Odessa and spending time at the Woodson Boys & Girls Club. During his senior year at Permian High, he was offered a scholarship to Harvard University and accepted. In May, he graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering – a feat few people from West Texas have accomplished.

The Woodson Club and its kids remain at the core of his heart. Even after graduating and starting an internship in Houston, Wilson plans to share his enthusiasm and knowledge for math and engineering in a program he initiated at the Club.

Growing up on the south side of Odessa, Wilson played football at Permian High. He also enjoyed math, working with his hands and solving problems. With his talents and academic abilities, colleges came calling. After he was accepted at Harvard, Wilson said he couldn't turn it down.

Adjusting to the East Coast culture wasn't easy at first for the West Texan. He learned that the "name Harvard speaks volumes for people that you encounter. Everybody here is amazing at whatever they're doing, whether it be academics, athletics, art, music, whatever it may be. You meet some of the most wonderful people that you'll ever encounter in your lifetime," he said in an article in the May 27, 2018, edition of the *Odessa American* after his graduation.

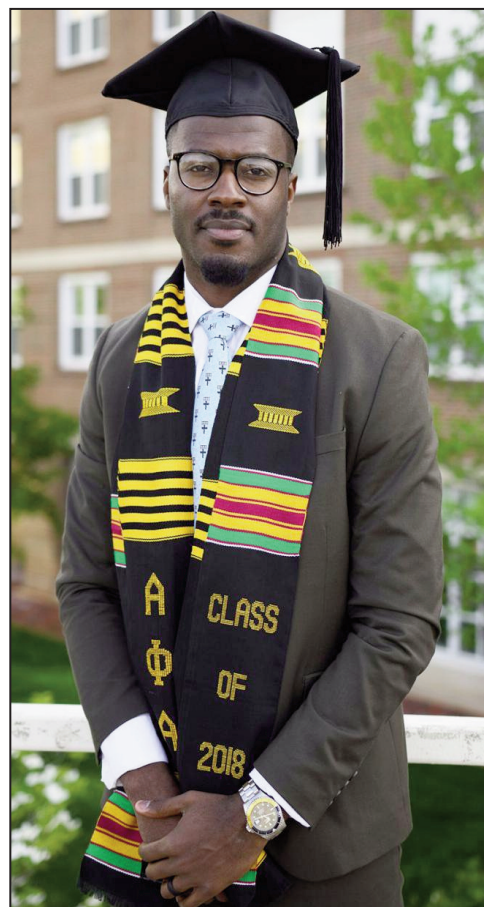
This summer, Wilson will be working as an intern for Chevron in Houston. He also is starting a summer program at the Woodson Club to interest youngsters in science, technology, engineering and math. Cheyenne Swoopes is working with Wilson on the project.

Woodson Unit Director Bill Baty noted that Wilson grew up at that club. "He has continued to volunteer at Woodson whenever he was on break from college," he said.

Wilson noted, "The Bible teaches that charity begins at home and so it made the best sense for me to try to do something with the people I know and the community that I was raised in. I am passionate about working with young people and helping them reach their potential."

Just as volunteers at the Woodson Club years ago helped Wilson to aim high, the Harvard graduate is teaching other youngsters the same philosophy.

*– Information provided by the Odessa American*



**JORRION WILSON**  
**Harvard Graduate, 2018**  
**Woodson Boys & Girls Club**

**Midland  
 Primary  
 Office**

**Taylor Park Facility**  
 1321 S. Goode St.  
 Midland, TX 79701  
 432-683-0050

**Odessa  
 Primary  
 Office**

**Wilkerson Facility**  
 800 E. 13th St.  
 Odessa, TX 79761  
 432-337-8389

**Executive Director**  
 David Chancellor

# BUILDING our support

## Odessa Celebrates 60 Years



*Photos Courtesy of Dick Saulsbury*

**Philanthropist of Year  
Scott and Minka Sibert**  
Receiving Award from  
Board Member Bobby Bland



**Volunteer of Year  
Michael McCleery**  
Receiving Award from  
Board Member Bobby Bland

Odessa celebrated its 60th anniversary in May and the name of the new westside club was announced during the fundraising event. The new facility will be named the **Headlee Club**, in honor of **Jimmy Headlee** who has served on the Odessa board 58 years. Groundbreaking is planned for August.

Additionally, three people were recognized for their longtime association with the organization. **Minka and Scott Sibert** were named Philanthropist of the Year, and **Michael McCleery** was honored as Volunteer of the Year.

The Seiberts have been very generous to the Odessa community through their philanthropic work. Minka helped start the Food 2 Kids program, and the couple is involved with other non-profits, including the Boys & Girls Club.

McCleery started taking judo at the Boys & Girls Club in Odessa when he was 11 and trained with the coach who started it – Dale Lehman. Two years ago, he took over from Lehman and has coached three generations of judo players.



## Chefs Compete At Showdown

An evening at the Hurt Ranch raised funds for the Clubs. Crowds cheered on the chefs, who were competing with their finest appetizers. Winning the Southern Showdown Cooking Competition were, in photo above from left: Judge Sara Kate Billingsley, Best Presentation; John Landgraf, Best Taste; and Larry Burdette, Best Theme. Executive Director David Chancellor, far right, congratulates the winners.

### Core Values Programs

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*Comedian David Spade, center, chats with some Boys & Girls Club members prior to his performance.*

## Midland Gala Features Comedian

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Permian Basin celebrated the 2nd Annual Great Futures Benefit on April 12 at Midland Country Club and honored Philanthropist of the Year **Paul Morrow** and Volunteer of the Year **Shamar Freeman**. The Gala featured comedian and actor David Spade. His stand-up comedy monologue was followed by a fun question-and-answer session from the audience. Questions ranged from the importance of Boys & Girls Clubs in the community to his best experience on a movie set. Following the comedy act and the awards ceremony, the Boys & Girls Club was able to acknowledge the event's underwriting – Midland Energy and Patriot Resources, as well as Platinum Partner S. Javid Anwar, and Gold Partner Chevron. Other sponsors came from throughout the Permian Basin.

# ENJOYING time with parents

## Roll & Read Fun for Family



Families pick up information at participating booths.

Giving families an opportunity to spend time together and have some fun was a goal of the Second Annual Roll & Read. This interactive walk and stroller tour of literacy and health stations for the entire family was held in May at Memorial Gardens Park for Odessa and Midland. Kids came on bikes, roller blades or in decorated strollers and enjoyed fun activities at 22 booths. Parents, meanwhile, picked up information about staying healthy.

## Day in the Park With DAD

The Boys & Girls Clubs in the Permian Basin provided a fun place to go and activities to share when the group hosted an event with UTPB's Fatherhood Engagement Program. Families ran, jumped, slid, bounced, dunked, and played together. Fathers commented they were grateful to have the event to spend time with their children and create memories.



Dads enjoyed the opportunity to create memories with their kids.



## Saturday Morning Clubs Growing



Talent comes out at Saturday Clubs.



Clubs become a beehive of activity on Saturday mornings when the doors open for parents with children age 5 and under, and siblings of all ages. The program encourages parents to spend time with their children in a fun environment.

Saturday Morning Average Club Attendance	
Total .....	118
Midland .....	69
Odessa .....	49
Total Enrolled ..	1,149
Average Daily Club Attendance	
Midland .....	355
Odessa .....	369
Total .....	724

# SPORTS never ends



*The Spring Little Spikers volleyball league was sponsored again by the Garriga Law Firm.*



Sports is a year-round event at the Boys & Girls Clubs. Spring brought volleyball teams (photos at left) and flag football (photos below) for kids 4 years of age through sixth grade. Club kids learn that sports is not all about winning but about developing character, a trait that will last a lifetime.



## JUDO: Club Members Shine in Competitions

The Odessa Boys & Girls Club Judo Team competed in the 3rd Annual Nagase Cup Judo Championships in Fort Worth. Photo at right, back row from left, Coach Michael McCleery; Richard Walters, second and third place; Jacob Cruz, second place; Coach Trevor Grogan. Front row from left, Ava Sisneros, first and second; Julissa Santos, second; Ayden Pugh, second; Aimar Valdivia, third; and Erik Louis, second place.

Photo far right: In the National Judo Championships, Jordan Medrano placed third in the 100 Plus Kg Brown Belt Division.



*Jordan Medrano, second from left, placed third in the 2018 Senior National Judo Championships.*

**Total Number of Sports Registrations = 2,806**

**Midland ..... 1,405**

**Odessa ..... 1,401**

**Includes volleyball, basketball, flag football, judo and boxing numbers.**

# Golf's Second Year Ends on an Upswing



The First Tee program swung into action at Boys & Girls Club in Odessa and ended the year with a large number of club members learning the basics of golf. We say a big THANK YOU to the Odessa Rotary Club for sponsoring this program and assisting the youth with understanding core values of golf, including courtesy, honesty and respect.

## GIVING to others



### Honoring Our Troops: Clubs in both cities organize collection

The Boys & Girl Clubs of the Permian Basin wanted to do something to honor America's soldiers. They collected items, packed boxes to be sent to the troops overseas, and learned the importance of serving. It was one way these youth could give back to the men and women who serve to keep this country free.



*Members of the Clubs in Midland and Odessa learned how to give back by collecting needed items and packing boxes to be sent to military troops.*

# learning **LIFE** skills



## **OUTDOOR LIVING:** Translates Into Hard Work

Special events are designed for the teens at the Midland club. Last winter, a group went camping at Lake Colorado City and discovered the cold reality of being outdoors. They learned about setting up a camp and the work involved to live outside through the winter. In addition to these special weekends, the teens also

gather at the club on designated Saturdays from 7 to 11 p.m. as a safe place to hang out or play games.

They also learn the **Seven Club Values: hard work, honesty, self-discipline, respect, learning, service and kindness.**

### Leading by Example

**Abigail Gonzalez, 18,** graduated from Midland High School in May. She has been a Club Kid for 13 years and now works on the staff in Midland. Congratulations!



### JUMPING HIGH

*Boys & Girls Club kids laugh as they jump high and hit the baskets. Club kids were on a field trip to the new Altitude Trampoline Park in Odessa.*

## Food for Thought

The Boys & Girls Clubs ensure the members receive nutritional meals and information on food. These youngsters are right learn what are the best ingredients as they make their own pizzas. Each year, at least 70,000 meals and 14,000 snacks are served the members at no charge. Three of the clubs now have gardens where members learn how to plant, maintain and use what they grow in meals.



**More than 450 adults volunteer their time each year to make the Clubs' programs possible and to offer guidance and mentoring to the members.**

# EARNING rewards for work



## Winning Trash Pickup Day

When Keep Midland Beautiful issued a challenge to organizations to see which one could pick up the most trash, the Boys & Girls Clubs in Midland headed out the door. When the deadline came, the two clubs split the prize of \$11,000. The check was presented during a meeting of the Midland County Commissioner's Court (shown in back row).

## Stride Academy Moves Forward

Stride Academy is an internet-based academic learning program that helps Club kids strengthen and enhance their reading and language arts skills. Each club has 20 computers in their learning labs. Incentives include field trips, pizza parties and even a bicycle. **Academy Sports** donated 60 bikes, which were split among the clubs. In one year, 543 students answered 221,683 questions, averaging 408 answered questions per student. Of the 187 students who were tested, 89 increased by at least one grade level over a six-month period. Reports indicated that 234 kids clearly improved their reading skills with Stride Academy. **Thank you to Academy Sports** for providing the reward to keep these kids riding through life!



**SMART GIRLS:** Club members gain information about age appropriate character development and healthy lifestyle choices. This helps them stay on the right track until they graduate from high school and beyond.

## Recognizing Members' Winning Styles



**ACADEMIC GRADES:** These students earned good grades and a trip to a local Chick-fil-a.



**AN EYE FOR ART:** Winners of the Summer Art Competition display their extraordinary work.

# NEW "West Odessa" Club Building

Located at Downing Elementary School • Knox Avenue & 16th Street



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF THE PERMIAN BASIN



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**GOOD CHARACTER • ACADEMIC SUCCESS • HEALTHY LIFESTYLES • ENRICHING EXPERIENCES**



THE MISSION of the Boys & Girls Club is to help young people become productive, caring and responsible citizens by providing enriching experiences in a positive environment.

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