

Connections

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



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

GREAT FUTURES START [HERE](#)



Learning how to be a news reporter.



Uncovering the life of a police officer.

Preparing Tomorrow's Future Today

Tomorrow's future can be found today at the Boys & Girls Clubs in the Permian Basin.

The clubs are more than just a great place to hang out after school. They are a springboard for giving these youngsters educational support and encouragement to help them not only dream, but to achieve those goals.

Some Club members have visited CBS7 News and talked with Jay Hendrix (photo above left) to learn what goes on behind the scenes of putting together a television news show. Other members are learning what police officers do in keeping the community a safe place to live, (photo above right).

Organizations such as CBS7 News and police departments in both cities are working with the Boys & Girls Clubs to inspire kids to become "Tomorrow's Future Police Officer" or "Tomorrow's Future Reporter."

The Clubs are adding more educational programs. Odessa clubs have started a new Science program and Midland has added STEM to its offerings, thanks to a grant from Oxy Petroleum Corporation. (See story on Page 3).

Stride Academy and additional reading programs in both cities are showing members the fun of reading

and opening a new world to them. Test scores are showing improvement among these students. (See story on Page 5).

One alumni who graduated Harvard University last May is returning to his roots and bringing in experts from various fields to show students the fun of engineering through experiments, whether it's rockets or an oil discovery. (See story on Page 2).

High school members toured UTPB and learned what they need to register as a student. For most, going to college was not on their radar until they took that field trip. Now they know it is not impossible. (See story on Page 3).

Reading, math, science, computers. The Boys & Girls Club is providing these skills to its members and is expecting to see more successes in the professional field...Tomorrow.



STEM and 3-D printing

**Midland
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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

EMPHASIZING education



Keldrick Thomas checks the rocket before launch.



A former Woodson Club member and now an employee of Pioneer Natural Resources, above, talks to youngsters about pumping oil out of the ground.



Science, Engineering Generating Enthusiasm

When Odessa Club alumni Jorrion Wilson graduated Harvard University in May with a degree in mechanical engineering, he promised to start a summer program at Woodson Club to interest youngsters in science, technology, engineering and math. He kept that promise.

Jorrion helped when he could be in Odessa. When he couldn't, Jorrion arranged for others in the petroleum industry to step in and teach youngsters interested in learning about science.

A Pioneer Natural Resources employee, and a

Woodson alumni, set up a demonstration on how oil is pumped out of the ground. The experiment attracted the attention of numerous club members.

Meanwhile, Jorrion helped another Woodson alumni, Keldrick Thomas, launch a rocket made of a plastic bottle to illustrate engineering and design. Thomas is a college engineering major.

Through Jorrion's leadership, Woodson Club members are seeing first-hand the fun of combining engineering with technology, math and science.

Core Values Programs

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After more than a year of dreaming, planning and drawing, work is starting on the new Boys & Girls Club next to Downing Elementary School. Named the Headlee Club, it will serve youth in West Odessa. For more information about contributing to this exciting project, contact Colleen Keith-Gray at 432-337-8389.

PREPPING for the future

STEM, Science Classes Offered

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Permian Basin are giving its members a hands-on science program in both cities. Funded by a grant from Oxy Petroleum Corporation, two science teachers have been hired head up the program. Leading the STEM program in Midland is Dr. Selina Mireles; in Odessa the Science Program will be taught by Jerrika Hulseman.



DIY STEM is a hands-on, activity-based STEM curriculum which connects youth aged 9 to 12 to science themes they encounter regularly. Special attention is paid to connections of theory and application and the common interactions members have with these scientific principles. DIY STEM currently includes five modules: Energy and Electricity, Engineering Design, Food Chemistry, Science of Sports: Football.

DIY STEM provides youth who might otherwise not have access to STEM experiences with simple, fun, hands-on activities. Exposure to science, technology, engineering and math is critical during the tween years, when young people's natural curiosity drives interest and builds capacity for success in these disciplines.

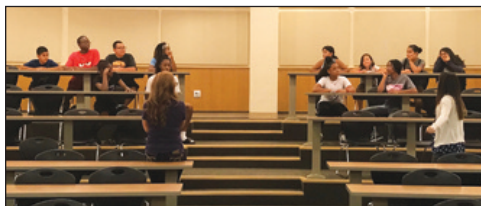
Jerrika Hulsemann, Odessa

Jerrika Hulsemann completed her B.S. degree in Interdisciplinary Studies at Angelo State University. She taught high school special education while completing a Master of Education degree in Student Leadership and Development. This is her fourth year to teach science at Gonzales Elementary.

Dr. Selina Vasquez Mireles, Midland

Dr. Mireles received her Ph.D. from The University of Texas at Austin in Mathematics Education. She has strong interests in underrepresented, underserved and/or underprepared math students. Her research has focused on effective strategies for STEM field learning through and with math.

Odessa Teens Introduced to UTPB



Odessa teens listen to UTPB speakers explain the process of enrolling in college, top left, and then visit a dorm room, bottom photo.

Many high school students consider college as something for other people – not them. It is a strange world and many realize their families can't afford the expense. Bill Baty, Woodson Unit Director, took a group of teens from that club to UTPB last summer and let them experience college life. His goal was to get them excited about college and help them realize they can succeed in making their dreams reality.

The club members learned what is required to apply and be accepted, how to sign up for classes, the study time necessary for each class, and possible funding. And then came the fun part: touring a dorm room and dreaming what it would be like to live there, visiting a classroom, and shooting a few goals on the basketball court. By the end of the trip, they learned that college can be for them, too.



Club teens shoot a few baskets and learn about sports scholarships.

READING for success

Stride Increasing Skills

The Boys & Girls Club emphasizes that each member learn to read and to develop good reading skills and each club offers numerous avenues to achieve this goal. One of the main programs offered is Stride Academy, which builds a foundation for learning to read and to transfer that skill into other academic successes.

Stride is an internet-based academic learning program that helps students enhance their reading and language arts skills while working on a tablet or computer at the Club or at home. Each Club now has 20 computers in each learning lab.

Each student takes an initial and periodic assessment test which places them at their appropriate academic grade level. Raising or lowering the difficulty of questions is determined by their mastery of previous material. When an academic lesson is completed, children are allowed to play games against their peers. Guessing is penalized. Students also earn points through their achievements and these can be used for incentives such as field trips or pizza parties. Just 45 minutes of usage each week is resulting in improved test scores at school. Improvements can be seen year after year in the two years that Stride has been used.

2017-18

**841 actively enrolled students
Questions Answered
481,674**

2016-17

**543 actively enrolled students
Questions Answered
221,683**

**572 students improved
their reading skills**

**TEKS Results of 841 students
Met TEKS language standards
Increased to 176 (21 percent)
from 151 (18 percent)
Almost met TEKS standards
Increased to 496 (59 percent)
from 235 (28 percent)**

And More Options for Improving Reading



LIBRARY ROOMS (150+ kids)

Dedicated libraries are found at Wilkerson and Woodson Clubs.

FREE READING (200+ kids)

More than \$5,800 in children's magazines and comic books have been distributed to encourage kids to read. Several magazine publishers donated hundreds of out-of-date issues to the Club.

SUMMER CLUB READ (45 kids)

Club Read runs in the summer and is a collaborative effort with the United Way of Midland and is a specialized reading program. Students can participate in group discussion activities and write daily in their reading journal. This helps develop comprehension of the reading material.

READING OLYMPICS (150+ kids)

This is a very successful Junior League of Midland program that brings books, guest speakers, snacks and group activities to the kids while promoting an interest in reading for various age and reading levels.

PREPPING for school

FAMILY FUN DAY: Event Attracts Thousands

The Second Annual Family Fun Day attracted thousands of people to the Midland Horseshoe Arena. More than 2,100 people attended; 1,200 were children. Youngsters played on jumpers and slides and enjoyed the petting zoo along with other activities. Backpacks were given to the first 500 students. This FREE event was a huge success with other non-profits available to provide information about resources in the community. Among those participating were Education Foundation, United Way of Midland and First 5.



ODESSA: Clubs Offer Backpacks, School Supplies

The Clubs in Odessa celebrated Back to School with a special fun event. Students were given free backpacks and school supplies. Meanwhile, they played games and ate hot dogs while enjoying the last few carefree days of summer.



a **SPORTING** life

JUDO: McCleery Reaches Shichidan, 7th Degree

From judo student to a top-ranked judo instructor, Michael McCleery recently attained the rank of Shichidan, 7th Degree Black Belt. This caps a long list of achievements and 53 years of judo training and instruction for McCleery.

At the age of 11, McCleery joined the Odessa Boys Club to take judo lessons from Dale Lehman. From 1965 to 1973, he was a dedicated student and adhered to the strict and intense physical training needed to compete locally, statewide and nationally. In 1973-74, McCleery traveled to Tokyo, Japan and trained at the Kodokan, where he earned his 2nd Degree Black Belt at the age of 19. In 1976, he returned to Japan to earn his 2nd Degree Black. Four years later, the U.S. Olympic Judo Organization selected McCleery as one of eight elite competitors from each weight division around the U.S. to train at the U.S. Olympic Training Center for four years.

During his 53 years in judo, McCleery has stacked up more than 200 medals and trophies along with titles at major tournaments. In 2007, he was promoted to 6th Degree Black Belt.

In 2013, Lehman passed the leadership of the Club's judo instruction to McCleery. Currently, the Club posts 75 members with McCleery as a National Level USA Judo Coach. In May 2018, he was named the Club's Champion Volunteer of the Year. That was followed in August with the promotion to Shichidan, 7th Degree Black Belt.



Dale Lehman, right, presents Michael McCleery with the distinguished award of Shichidan, 7th Degree Black Belt.



More than 700 youngsters are playing in 70-plus teams.



These youngsters line up to start a game in flag football while parents and coaches watch, photo above. A volleyball team, above left, celebrates a victory while a member practices her returns.

Sports Teach Youngsters Rules

Sports offer Club members more than just a way to get some exercise. They also teach character development and how to follow rules.

Each season means different sports starting up at the Clubs. Fall means flag football and volleyball games along with cheer groups. Other seasons bring out basketball, golf, judo and boxing. Flag football is co-ed and the season runs through November 15.

The Midland volleyball teams are sponsored by **Midland Energy**, and the Odessa teams are sponsored by **Garriga Law Firm**.

For more information about signing up for one of the sports, contact 432-337-8389 in Odessa or 432-683-0050 in Midland.

ENJOYING the last days of summer

It's hard to give up the lazy days of summer and face the hectic pace of fall. Clubs in both cities celebrated summer with the youngsters and heralded the coming of fall with end-of-summer parties.



Water, water everywhere. From a swimming pool to water guns to kayaking on a lake, kids of all ages enjoyed the cooling effects of water during activities throughout the summer. Makes an adult want to be a kid again.





Saturday Morning Club Color Run



Exercise and fun combined in the Saturday Morning Club Color Run at Halff Park. The national Color Run was founded in 2011 to bring people together and make the world a happier, healthier place. The Run creates an experience for the family that is more about the memories they make than how fast they run or walk. There are two rules: wear white at the starting line and finish plastered in color! And have the time of your life!



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.

432-337-8389
www.basinkids.org

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS



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