

# Free, Confidential Depression Screenings Offered October 11

BIG SPRING- Free, confidential depression screenings will be offered by mental health professionals from West Texas Centers and Big Spring State Hospital Thursday, October 11th, on National Depression Screening Day in Big Spring.

The screening will be held on the first floor of Scenic Mountain Medical Center, 1601 W. 11th Place, in Big Spring, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Participants may enter through the hospitals main entrance near the hospital cafeteria.

Screenings are free and are open to people of any age, said Shelley Smith, LMSW, West Texas Centers CEO.

National Depression Screening Day is held each year in October to raise awareness and screen people for depression and related mood and anxiety disorders. West Texas Centers and Big Spring State Hospital mental health professionals will provide attendees with a short questionnaire and visit with each individual upon completion to review their answers.

The questions provided by the National Depression Screening Day organization assists clini-

cians in recognizing people who may be living with depression or who are at risk for suicide, "Smith said."

After attendees complete the questionnaire, the answers are reviewed by the clinician and the attendee, which gives the mental health expert an idea what resources in the community are needed, Big Spring State Hospital Superintendent Traci Phillips said.

Sometimes the person may be living with a sad episode in his or her life or may be living with full blown depression and has never been diagnosed.

"That's why we decided that this was such an important public service for us to provide together," Phillips said. "Many people have never been diagnosed and may be living with depression and not even realize it. This way they can be seen in a confidential setting. It's free, and if they are just living with a sad episode in their lives, we can also give them a list of resources in the community that can help them as well."

Mental health professionals working at the screening will

not diagnose depression but will suggest avenues participants can pursue following the screening, Smith said.

Depression is a very common condition that affects more than 16 million Americans—almost 17 percent of the population—and more than 300 million around the world. Clinical depression is treatable through a variety of methods, including medication and psychotherapy or a combination of the two.

Each attendee is given educational literature and the names and phone numbers of community resources.

Screenings are free and confidential, Smith said. They are offered at more than 1,500 locations across the United States.

West Texas Centers also operates a 24-hour mental health crisis hotline, 1-800-375-4357. The line is available for those who are in a crisis or need mental health services, Smith said.

For more information on National Depression Screening Day, call Amy Vidal at (432)264-3256.

## CARE

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available to them. With that in mind, the goal of the event is to give additional special attention to PTSD, traumatic brain injuries, military sexual trauma, and moral injuries.

A range of topics will be discussed, like the indoctrination process of the military culture, impacts on family dynamic, information about the various groups of veterans, specific information about the population in Texas, the impacts of military-related traumas, and information about the best practices for working with

said population.

Free Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be offered for mental health professionals. The Military Informed Care event is being held by West Texas Centers in conjunctions with Texas Veterans Commission. The Event takes place at the MVPN-West Texas Centers located at 501 Birdwell Lane. If you have any questions or are in need of additional information, please contact the MVPN-West Texas Centers at (432) 268-3003.

Contact Staff Writer Tyler Schellie at 432-263-7331 ext. 232, or by email at citydesk@big-springherald.com.

## ART

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Walk down the street from booth to booth, event to event and check out unique creations being made by local artists and residents who just want to give it a try, but be careful not to step on a magnificent piece of sidewalk chalk art! This is a great time to get out, meet with locals, enjoy the art by view or even purchase for your home.

If you are interested in volunteering or just want additional information on the ArtoberFest event, please contact the Desert Flower Lounge at (432) 270-0290.

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## RAIL

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praises of the project and officially cut the ribbon on the completion of Phase Four. About 75 people turned out to the event, at which U.S. Congressman Jodey Arrington, State Senator Kel Seliger, State Representative Drew Darby, and local officials including Howard County Judge Kathryn Wiseman and Big Spring Mayor Larry McLellan spoke.

Big Spring Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Terry Wegman, who was instrumental in supporting the expansion project, acted as master of ceremonies for the event.

"Business and industry don't believe in locating and relocating in communities unless you've got the infrastructure in place to support their businesses. This is just part of developing all of that," Wegman said. "We are a destination now, when before we were just another spot on the map. Now that we have all these tools to work with, we've got a great way to attract business, and we're starting to see it every day. We get calls on a weekly basis, and even more often than that, because word's getting around that we have this capacity and we have this infrastruc-

ture. It just creates lots of opportunities. We've just got to capitalize on those; attract them and make them stick. That's the whole thing. Business brings employees, employees bring a lot of life to the city. You've got to kind of build it from the ground up. This is what you call the ground floor. This is where you start. This is what makes it happen."

Wegman said the project will continue to grow, and roadways are probably the next step.

"There are some more rail projects kind of on the drawing boards, but I think the most important thing we need to do next is get the roads built from the reliever route into the airport," he said. "We're starting to get enough traffic out here now that it's starting to get a little congested. That in itself will open up many more doors for development. Long term, warehousing and distribution, logistics...we can literally be a logistics hub with the air and the roads and the rail. That's the long term goal. That's the vision. But the next phase, I think we're going to be talking roads."

Arrington praised the investment and hard work Big Spring and Howard County residents have made in the community.

"We're seeing a tremendous surge in our economy across the country

because of tax cuts and regulatory relief and other pro-growth policies; unprecedented low unemployment; high confidence in the markets with consumers and businesses, but we have to make sure that we make the investment in rural America and in communities like Big Spring to capture this upswing and recruit these companies that want to expand - because they now have an incentive to expand and grow - capture that and bring those jobs to rural America and towns like Big Spring," Arrington said. "So this is so characteristic of West Texas. It's resourceful, it's visionary, it's risk-taking, and it's working together. Because there are no guarantees, but if you build this infrastructure and you make this investment, I think what you're going to find is that companies that are expanding want to be in a central location where, logistically, they can bring their product to market. I don't know of a better community that's at the crossroads of highway infrastructure, airway, railway, than Big Spring. So I think it's critical that they do it, and I think they'll bear the fruit of that in the months and years to come."

Seliger said working to expand local infrastructure is critical.

"Everything that you

do to grow the economy and the opportunities in an area are very important, particularly in West Texas," he said. "Growth and things like that in West Texas are not inevitable and assured the way they may be in coastal areas and big cities. You have to work at it, and a lot of people have to work together. And that's exactly what has gone on in Big Spring and Howard County."

Following the remarks, Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce representatives organized a ribbon-cutting, during which Wegman did the honors and cut a red ribbon, officially declaring the Rail Project's Phase Four open for business.

Contact Staff Writer Roger Cline at 432-263-7331 ext. 235, or by email at reporter@bigspringherald.com.

# Sales Tax Revenue Totaled \$2.7 Billion in September

AUSTIN — Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar today said state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.7 billion in September, 14.8 percent more than in September 2017.

"Vigorous growth in state sales tax revenue continued in September across all major industry sectors," Hegar said. "While the fastest growth in tax collections was fueled by business spending, especially in oil- and gas-related sectors, robust consumer spending spurred significant increases from restaurants and retail trade as well."

Total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in September 2018 was up 12.4 percent compared to the same period a year ago. The sales tax is the largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 57 percent of all tax collections.

Revenue from other major taxes on motor vehicle sales and rentals, motor fuel and oil and natural gas production also rose in September 2018:

- motor vehicle sales and rental taxes — \$401.4 million, up 4.1 percent from September 2017;
- motor fuel taxes — \$325.1 million, up 10.7 percent from September 2017; and
- oil and natural gas production taxes — \$487.1 million, up 66.1 percent from September 2017.

For details on all monthly collections, visit the Comptroller's Monthly State Revenue Watch.

## BSAA

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the Hall Center for The Arts at Howard College. The exhibits went on display Thursday, Oct. 4 and will remain on display through Thursday, Oct. 25.

There are entries in five different categories along with a special award for people's choice. Awards for the entries will be announced at a reception on Tuesday, Oct. 9 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

"This is our annual show to recognize and honor local artists. All of the pieces are available for purchase," said BSAA President Michelle Wortham. "Artworks range from oils, acrylics, watercolors, graphics (pencil), inks, mixed media to photography. Please come join the artists and guests of the show for refreshments, and even meet the local artists at our reception."

The Big Spring Art Association was founded in September of 1954 by a group of locals. The organization meets every third Saturday at 10 a.m. to noon at the Howard County Library Community Room at 500 S. Main St. October's meeting will be a special plein air demonstration on the Scenic Mountain State Park at 10 a.m. with guest artist Tom Orsak of San Angelo. Plein air refers to painting on site out of doors.

"Anyone who is interested in joining the group, we will meet at the pavilion on the top of the State Park. Everyone is welcome!" said Wortham.

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Juana P. Flores, 90, died Wednesday. Vigil service will be at 7 p.m. tonight at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

AunRay "Uncle" Crawford, Sr., 42, died Monday. He will lie in state today from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Hailey Richmond, 15, died Thursday. Memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Life Church. A fund has been established at Myers & Smith Funeral Home to help the family with funeral expenses.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

October 6:  
**ArtoberFEST:**  
Downtown Big Spring

October 6:  
**Prairie Dog Fly In:**  
Big Spring McMahon Wrinkle Airpark

November 2:  
**Senior Fun Fest:**  
Big Spring Senior Center  
9am-12pm

November 3-4:  
**A Joyful Season Shopping Extravaganza:**  
Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.  
www.ajoyfulseason.org

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