

# West Texas BBQ Bash Saturday

The Second Annual West Texas BBQ Bash will get underway at 11 a.m. this Saturday, October 16, and will continue until 11 p.m. at the Ward County Arena. This year there will be 30 oilfield service teams competing in four different BBQ categories.

Additionally, there will be five bands local to Texas performing throughout the day.

The judging will have a 'People's Champ.' The public will vote on the on the 'People's

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## BBQ BASH

Champ' through free food samples. Oil and gas service providers will be the only cooking teams.

Free food, free drinks and free food testing will be available for all patrons. The event is also a BYOB.

"We are bringing a big time band stage in from Dallas and the lighting and sound will be second to none. The Monahans Volunteer Fire Department (MVFD) is once again a target for fundraising and this year we are raising funds to help build a home for the Monahans Kids Zone (Boys & Girls Club)," Event Coordinator George Bunker said.

Because everything is financed through sponsorship, there is no entry fee. The best way to raise money is through raffles, Bunker added.

This year the MVFD will receive 100 percent of funds generated by raffling off a Smoker and a five-person team pit master cooking class with Junior Urias with Up In Smoke, the Kingsford Charcoal Texas State Pitmaster Champion.

The Monahans Kids zone will receive 100 percent of funds generated through two very nice firearms raffles. In addition, a car show will be held with several car clubs from around West Texas.

Bunker said, "We had 5,200 people attend last years event and we expect to have between 10-15

thousand people attend this year's event."

Bunker described the reasons behind the event.

"I want to share a little bit more as to how the Bash ended up with a home in Monahans. I have been in the oil and gas industry for 30 years, this year, and I have worked through five boom to bust cycles. One thing that is always the same through those cycles is that in the good times I can be found anywhere in the world at any given time working hard and making a good income, but during the down and tough times, I am always back in West Texas scratching out a living that supports my family.

"The world is only there for us industry folks when times are good but West Texas is there for us when times are good and when times are tough. Collin McElrath, our chairman and co-founder and I were having a conversation about this very subject during the most recent down cycle and we asked ourselves 'West Texas is always good to us when we are down and out, but have we done enough to give back to the community that has always been there for us?' The answer was a definite NO.

"And so, we set our sites on doing something to give back. The goal was and is to bring the community together once a year for

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a good free belly filling and soul recharging social experience; and to raise money for local organizations that need it most," he said.

"We know we will never be able to give back to your community as much as your community has given us, but at least we can be there to show our appreciation through the up and the down times alike... like they say, 'good in, good out,' he added.

None of the founding members live in West Texas, two don't even live in the state, and only one of the members work in West Texas.

"We are doing this because the Monahans community is so important to the health of our industry, and so giving back into the health of the community should be just as important," he concluded.

The major contributors who make up the West Texas BBQ Bash are: Monahans Chamber of Commerce, Ratliff Electric, Flexsteel Pipe, Diverse Services, Thornton Ranch, Marlin Services, 4J Hotshot Services, Cannon RTI Group (Cannon Safety), Great Basin Industrial, D.A.F.S. Transport, Mesa Production, PE Rentals, Vertical Tanks, Rathole Drilling, D&C Backhoe Services, TechCorr, Maverik International, Smart Oilfield Solutions, Arc Inspection.

To learn more, visit the website [www.westtexasbbqbash.com](http://www.westtexasbbqbash.com).