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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Abilene to host Texas High School Powerlifting State Championship

ABILENE, Texas --- Strong student athletes from around the state will compete in the Texas High School Powerlifting Association State Championship Saturday, March 24, at the Taylor County Expo Center.

An estimated 3400 visitors from throughout Texas will be in town to cheer for the 542 lifters. One local student will vie for a state title: Abilene High's Devin Romero won the regional competition – lifting 1400 pounds -- and has advanced in his class.

Opening ceremonies will begin at 8:30 a.m., and the public is invited to attend. Admission is \$5.

"We hope fans will come out and demonstrate our famous West Texas hospitality," said ACVB Executive Director Nanci Liles. "We're delighted to welcome these athletes and their coaches back to town. These types of strategic partnerships develop into repeat business that sustain our economy for the future."

This will be the 11th year Abilene has hosted the state championship. In 2017, the Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau won the four-year contract to host the competitions, and this year's meet is estimated to bring \$512,000 to the city's economy. The four-year contract with the Taylor County Expo Center is valued at more than \$2 million.

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Additional Information on the powerlifting competition:

- To qualify for the state championships an athlete must place first or second in his region. He also may qualify by lifting a set weight determined by the Powerlifting Association by weight class.
- Several different weight classes will compete for state titles.
- Each weight lifter competes in three events: squat, bench press and dead lift, and the lifters' totals are derived from his best lift at each.
- Qualified lifters also must present an Eligibility Form, State Meet Release form and a Drug Testing Affidavit.
- Each lifter must meet their weight classification at one of the two weigh-in times.
- The lifter with the highest total in his class wins the state championship.
- For more information visit <http://www.thspa.us/>.