

# ABILENE

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## MEDIA RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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<https://www.abilenevisitors.com/Press-Releases>

<http://www.thspa.us/>

### ***Abilene to host Texas High School Powerlifting State Championships***

ABILENE, Texas --- Powerful student athletes from all over Texas will converge in Abilene this weekend to compete in the Texas High School Powerlifting Association State Championship on Saturday, March 23, at the Taylor County Expo Center.

The public is invited to attend. The coliseum doors will open at 7:30 a.m., with opening ceremonies at 8:30 a.m. Admission is \$5.

An estimated 3400 visitors from throughout Texas will be in town to coach, cheer or compete in the one-day event. Five Abilene athletes will be among the 558 lifters.

Abilene High School sophomore Ezekiel Chavez will return this year along with four new contenders from Cooper High School: Jesus Menjivar, Emile Niyonkuru, Colton Grimes and Devon Cosby.

“We’re glad to be back in Abilene for this championship,” said THSPA President J. Jensen “The Expo Center, convention bureau, local coaches and volunteers do all the heavy lifting. The community and these athletes make this event successful.”

Saturday’s competition will be the second of a four-year, \$2 million contract secured through the Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau and Abilene’s 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year to host the statewide event. This year’s meet is estimated to bring \$596,700 to the city’s economy.

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Additional Information on the powerlifting competition:

- Several different weight classes will compete for state titles.
- 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.
- 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/>

Located in the T&P Depot landmark downtown, the Abilene Convention & Visitors Bureau leverages local hotel tax into economic development. The ACVB’s tourism professionals harness the latest travel trends, research and strategies to bring group and leisure visitors to Abilene. Travelers to the Abilene MSA brought \$455 million into the

economy, money spent by happy people who stay in local hotels, shop, dine, and enjoy sports, arts and attractions. Established as an affiliate of the Abilene Chamber of Commerce in 1970, the bureau has improved the quality of life and enhanced the Abilene visitor experience for nearly 50 years.