

WHAT DO MUDDY BOOTS HAVE TO DO WITH BANKING?

Nothing, unless you're one of our ag lenders.

Since 1907, First United Bank has been getting our boots dirty to keep operations running strong.

- ★ 3rd Largest FSA Lender in Texas
- ★ Crop Diversification
- ★ Equipment Lending

- ★ Livestock Lending
- ★ Government Programs



Learn More

Rest assured we'll help keep that mud patch under your feet.

The Colonies: 45th & Soncy | 677-2060
 Tradewind: 34th & Osage | 337-1888
www.FirstUnited.Bank/Ag



AMARILLO GLOBE-NEWS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026 | AMARILLO.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Fermi pauses data center construction

Michael CuvIELLO
 Amarillo Globe-News
 USA TODAY NETWORK

The Panhandle 1st Coalition criticized Fermi America this week following reports that workers were dismissed at the company's data center construction site in Amarillo, saying the situation reflects rushed development and insufficient regulatory planning.

In a statement, the coalition said workers were abruptly released from the Project Matador construction site,

leaving families without income and stability. The group said some workers had relocated to Amarillo based on assurances tied to the project's timeline.

"Building before obtaining all necessary permits and financial assurances is not innovation, it is negligence," the coalition said, arguing that the effects of poor planning fall on workers rather than corporate leadership.

The coalition said it had previously warned that the project was moving forward without full permitting, secured funding or adequate safeguards. It also

raised concerns about potential environmental impacts, including water use and air quality, and said the situation could damage Amarillo's reputation as a city that values responsible and ethical development.

"This situation reinforces a troubling pattern of outside corporations cutting corners and treating both our community and workforce as expendable," the statement said.

Fermi America said construction at the Project Matador site has been temporarily paused — not canceled — while

the company awaits final regulatory approval from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

"Construction at the Project Matador site has been happening at Fermi speed," said Toby Neugebauer, co-founder and CEO of Fermi America. "We completed our first phase so fast that we paused construction temporarily because we didn't want to risk getting a speeding ticket from TCEQ while awaiting our final Clean Air Permit."

See FERMI, Page 3A

Grass fire burns off Amarillo Boulevard



A grass fire burns Feb. 9 in Amarillo, as seen off Front Boulevard and Northwest Second. Crews were called out to the fire a little before 1 p.m. and were still working on containing it as of 4:45 p.m.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL CUVIELLO/AMARILLO GLOBE-NEWS

Kristina Wood and Michael CuvIELLO
 Amarillo Globe-News
 USA TODAY NETWORK

Crews battled a large grass fire in Amarillo on Monday, Feb. 9, as the region returned to critical fire weather conditions marked by dry fuels, strong winds and warm temperatures.

The blaze, dubbed the Wildhorse Fire, burned about 60 acres and was 80% contained as of 7:30 p.m., according to the Texas A&M Forest Service wildfire map. The Amarillo Fire Department later reported the fire was fully contained at 9:13 p.m.

Fire crews were initially dispatched to reports of an outdoor fire near First Avenue and Parker Street, where a dried-out lake bed with heavy dry

See GRASS FIRE, Page 2A



Fire and utility crews work at the scene of a grass fire Feb. 9 in Amarillo, off Amarillo Boulevard near Hughes Street.

POTTER COUNTY

Commission outlines tax roll error and fixes

Michael CuvIELLO
 Amarillo Globe-News
 USA TODAY NETWORK

Potter County commissioners on Monday, Feb. 9, received a detailed explanation from the Potter-Randall Appraisal District after a clerical error during certification of the 2025 tax roll reduced expected county property tax revenue by about \$412,126 this fiscal year.

The error involved a business personal property account belonging to Tyson Foods that qualified for a Freeport tax exemption but was certified without it, overstating the county's taxable value by nearly \$70 million.

Chief Appraiser Jeffrey Dagley told commissioners the Freeport exemption applies to certain goods that move through Texas and leave the state

See ERROR, Page 3A

Things to do in Amarillo area Feb. 12-17

Kristina Wood
 Amarillo Globe-News
 USA TODAY NETWORK

A Red Flag Warning and highs in the 70s Monday, Feb. 9 give way for more moderate temperatures in the Texas Panhandle over the weekend, with bustling activity for Valentine's Day and Presidents Day celebrations.

Here are a few things to do of note this weekend in the Amarillo area:

Feb. 11 — Terrance Hayes at WT: The Dorothy Patterson Poetry Series at West Texas A&M University will feature the award-winning poet reading his poetry at 7 p.m. in the Sybil B. Harrington Fine Arts Complex Recital Hall. Admission is free. For more information, contact Stephens at bste-

phens@wtamu.edu.

Opening Feb. 12 — Amarillo Little Theatre's "Jersey Boys," Allen Shanks Mainstage: The Tony Award-winning jukebox musical opens as the fourth Mainstage production of the theater's 98th season. The writers built a documentary-style narrative

See THINGS TO DO, Page 3A

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to amarillo.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 116 | No. 81
 To subscribe 806-345-3407
 ©2026 \$3.00



8 50046 00001 0