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AMARILLO GLOBE-NEWS

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026 | AMARILLO.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

THINGS TO DO

Husband's birthday, PBR among weekend events



In this 2024 file photo, a rider stays in position on his bull during the Koben Puckett PBR Challenger event at the Tri-State Fairgrounds in Amarillo. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL CUVIELLO/AMARILLO GLOBE-NEWS

City Council hears about proposed expansion of the TIRZ

Nell Williams
Amarillo Globe-News
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Amarillo City Council took a look at the East Gateway Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ #2) at their regular meeting June 23.

Drew Brassfield, assistant director of planning, discussed the reinvestment zone and potential expansion that they have been researching.

He said that the TIRZ originally was started by ordinance in November of 2016, with a tax base just shy of \$40 million and a size of 940 acres, and it was set to expire in 2046, or 30 years later.

The zone was revised by ordinance in 2020, with a \$1.4 million increase in the tax base and an additional 449 acres.

The original goal for TIRZ #2, according to Brassfield, was to relocate and re-develop the Big Texan, add new retail and entertainment venues, an RV park, auto and truck outlets, full- and limited-service hotels, recreation facilities and some new residential units.

The zone currently stretches to boundaries on the north side to East Third Street, on the east side to Lake-side (SL 335), on the south side to Southeast 34th, and on the west to East-ern Street.

The zone, as shown in a presentation, currently consists of 1,389 acres, 52 acres of that zone comprised of around 300 single family homes, along with a few RV parks.

There are also around a dozen

See TIRZ, Page 2A



In this 2024 file photo, a framed collection of memorabilia from the Rick Husband-led Space Shuttle Endeavor expedition has found a new home in the Rick Husband Amarillo International Airport.

Kristina Wood
Amarillo Globe-News
USA TODAY NETWORK

With Fourth of July behind us, things look to be a little calmer this weekend, but there are still plenty of festivities for Amarilloans to enjoy. These include celebrating a notable local hero's birthday, a horse that shaped America's history, an annual bull riding fundraiser and more.

For this weekend's opening film, a live-action version of Disney's "Moana," Cinergy Amarillo will have a tropical morning celebration July 11 featuring island-inspired fun, luau decor, and leis, as well as ongoing themed menu items and a kids' pack. The Tascosa Drive-In will be showing "Min-

ions & Monsters" and "Disclosure Day," according to their latest summer movie schedule.

Esquire Music Co will present the Band Directors' Big Band live at Wellington Square Courtyard, located behind Fast Eddie's at 1619 S. Kentucky St. in Amarillo at 7 p.m. Friday, July 10. The program features West Texas A&M University School of Music professors James Barger and Russ Tewleit with area band directors. Admission is \$15 at the door.

Guests may bring drinks, snacks and lawn chairs.

Here are five other things to note for the weekend of July 9-12 in the Amarillo area.

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TTU president re-elected to VP role with IOHE

Special for the Avalanche-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Lawrence Schovanec, president of Texas Tech University, has been re-elected to the Board of Directors for the Inter-American Organization for Higher Education (IOHE) and will serve another two-year term as the U.S. Regional Vice President. In this role, he represents all IOHE member universities and associate universities in the United States.

Schovanec, who has served as president at Texas Tech since 2016, just completed his first two-year term in the role. His new term will run

through 2028.

"It is an honor to continue serving the Inter-American Organization for Higher Education and to represent our nation's member institutions," Schovanec said. "Higher education has a unique opportunity to strengthen international partnerships that expand research, innovation and student success, and I look forward to continuing that important work while advancing Texas Tech's global engagement."

During Schovanec's first term on the board, he has delivered several presentations with national and

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Texas Tech University President Lawrence Schovanec speaks to the media at the university's groundbreaking ceremony of its Critical Infrastructure Security Site at the Reese National Security Complex on May 19 in Lubbock.
MATEO ROSILES/AVALANCHE-JOURNAL

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