



U.S. has some options if yields continue rising

BUSINESS, 3A

Abilene Reporter-News

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Families ride the train at the Abilene Zoo on Oct. 17, 2020. Boo at the Zoo featured games, Punkin' Chunkin' and animals eating pumpkins RONALD W. ERDRICH/REPORTER-NEWS

Guide to Abilene fall festivals and haunted fun

Lauren Dossey Abilene Reporter-News | USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

Fall is in the air, and with it comes a season full of pumpkins, costumes, candy and community celebrations. From haunted houses and spooky attractions to family-friendly festivals and pumpkin patches, here's how to celebrate fall this year in Abilene.

Denton Valley Farms Fall Festival

Fall fun returns to Denton Valley Farms through Nov. 1, offering families the chance to experience the Big Country's largest pumpkin patch and only corn maze.

The farm features more than 100 acres of attractions, including pumpkin picking, a winding corn maze, the Forgotten Forest walking trail and hayrides through the "Haunted Woods." Visitors can also enjoy seasonal treats, including pumpkin spice ice cream, and may even spot the legendary Headless Horseman.

House of Horrors Abilene

As Abilene's longest-running haunted house, House of Horrors promises delightful frights and a scary good time throughout October. Located at Doc's Bar and Grill, 2042 FM 1750, the haunted attraction opens at 8 p.m. every Friday and Saturday in October.

The attraction features Doc's Slaughter House, Hollie's Maze of Giggles and a kid-friendly Zombie Hunter Maze, which will be open every Sunday in

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APD officer recognized among Texas officers of the year

Lauren Dossey
Abilene Reporter-News
USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

An Abilene police officer is among 17 law enforcement professionals from across Texas recognized by Governor Greg Abbott during the 50th Anniversary Convention of the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas in San Antonio, a Governor's Office media release said.

Officer Matthew Santos of the Abilene Police Department was named a 2026 Texas Officer of the Year recipient, receiving statewide recognition for his service alongside officers, deputies and detectives from agencies across Texas.

"Texas is stronger because of the men and women who serve in law enforcement, who answer the call to protect and serve our state every single day," Abbott said. "You put your lives on the line to keep our fellow Texans safe, and I want you to know, you have a Governor who has your back. Together we will keep Texas safe and secure."

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Abilene police Officer Matthew Santos was recognized as a 2026 Texas Officer of the Year recipient on Oct. 3 during the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas convention in San Antonio.

COURTESY/ABILENE POLICE DEPARTMENT

DNA finally identifies 1983 Texas cold case victim

Trish Choate
San Angelo Standard-Times
USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

Decades of no answers ticked by about a missing mother and an unidentified human skeleton found along State Highway 36 in rural Hamilton County.

A 44-year-old mother disappeared in the early 1980s, and ranchers working cattle discovered a woman's skeleton with a single gunshot wound to the head, the Texas Department of Public Safety said in a media release Monday.

Over 42 years later, forensic DNA technology and Texas law enforcement burning plenty of old-fashioned boot leather finally tied the two together to provide some answers.

The skeleton discovered in Hamilton County was that of missing mom Betty Jo Norris, the DPS said. The Texas Rangers and Hamilton County Sheriff's Office are continuing to ac-

tively investigate Norris' brutal murder, "determined to identify who is responsible for her death."

Anyone with information about the murder is encouraged to contact the Hamilton County Communications Office at 254-386-3300.

Upon the discovery of the skeleton in 1983, investigators determined the victim had been left there several months earlier after being shot, the DPS said.

Clothing and jewelry at the scene in Hamilton County included these items: a pair of brown knee-length boots, a blue and white polka-dotted blouse, stretch blue jeans, a Timex watch with a brown leather wristband, bobby pins and two barrettes with orange roses on them.

Case goes cold

Over the years, the Hamilton County SO and Texas Rangers at-

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Betty Jo Norris disappeared in the early 1980s. While discovered in 1983, her remains went unidentified for over four decades.

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