

# Annual Events

January

3rd Monday

**Martin Luther King Dinner**

325.672.7800, Tonya Jones-Brown

325.676.0138, Floyd Miller

3rd Saturday

**West Texas Rehab Telethon**

Television and Country/Western stars entertain you live on stage at the Abilene Civic Center.

Dan Huggins, 325.793.3508,

February

2nd Weekend

**Celebrity Quail Hunt**

Hunt with one of your favorite celebrities or attend the dinner and auction where you can enjoy dinner with the stars!

Disability Resources, 325.677.6815

3rd Saturday

**The West Texas Sports and Fitness Expo**

Abilene Youth Sports Authority, 325.692.2972

4th Week (Tuesday & Wednesday)

**Texas Farm-Ranch-Wildlife Expo**

Abilene Chamber of Commerce, 325.677.7241

March

2nd Weekend

**Sweetwater Rattlesnake Round-up**

The world's largest rattlesnake round-up

Sweetwater Chamber of Commerce,  
325.235.5488; 800.658.6757

April

2nd Weekend

**Central Texas Gem and Mineral Show**

Dee Cauble 325.692.5633

April—Continued

3rd Weekend

**Buffalo Gap Food and Wine Summit**

800.367.1721 or 325.572.3424, Perini Ranch

May

1st Weekend

**Cinco de Mayo Celebration**

2009 marks the 27th year for St. Vincent Pallotti Catholic Church, 2525 Westview Dr., to host this celebration of Mexico's Independence from France. Enjoy great food, a softball tournament, flea market, children's games, continuous entertainment and a nightly dance.

St. Vincent Church, 325.672.1794



2nd Weekend

**Western Heritage Classic Ranch Rodeo**

Real cowboys from working ranches across the U.S. compete in riding, roping and cutting competitions as well as wild cow milking and other fun events. The Rhinestone Round-up kicks off the festivities with a dinner and art show, followed by the ranch rodeo, cowboy breakfast, and dance. During the day enjoy a Western art show and sale, cowboy poetry and music, a chuck wagon cook-off, cowboy matched horse races, the world's largest bit and spur show, and special children's activities. Rodeo competitions are held both Friday and Saturday nights. Taylor County Expo Center, 325.677.4376

# Annual Events

## June

### Last two Weekends

#### Fort Griffin Fandangle

Frontier life is recreated with song and dance in an outdoor theater. Before the show enjoy barbecue on the Courthouse lawn. In Albany, Texas just 35 miles from Abilene. Ticket Office, 325.762.3838

## July

### 4th of July

#### July 4th Family Festival

Put on your sunscreen, bring your lawn chairs and enjoy a day of family fun with food booths, vendors, games and activities for families including, three-legged races, pie eating contest, kite flying live entertainment and fireworks Boys and Girls Club of Abilene, 325.672.1712

## August

### Last Weekend

#### Chili Super Bowl (Chili & Brisket Cook-off)

See and sample the world's largest bowl of chili. Two days of fun under the shade trees of Old Settlers Reunion Grounds in Buffalo Gap. Office, 325.675.8412

### Last Weekend

#### Champions' Classic Football Weekend

Zero weekend, the first weekend high school football teams can play games, is kicked off West Texas style at Shotwell Stadium. Proceeds from the Champions Classic are used to fund college scholarships to Abilene's graduating student athletes. Don't miss high school football at its best. Debi Schultz, Director of Sports and Group Sales, Abilene Convention & Visitors Bureau, 325.676.2556.

## September

### Starts 1st Friday after Labor Day

#### West Texas Fair & Rodeo

Excellent exhibits and competitions, rodeo, livestock and horse shows, name entertainment, midway and carnival. Taylor County Expo Center, 325.677.4376

### 4th Week—Tuesday through Saturday

#### West Texas Book and Music Festival

Sponsored by Friends of the Public Library

Local authors reception - Tuesday

Brown bag lunches with authors and

musicians - Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Cookbook Gala - Thursday

Cooking Demonstrations, with world class chefs and a free concert of West Texas music - Friday

Book writing workshops, *Hall of Texas Authors* with Texas authors and publishers selling and autographing books, and a gospel Hymnfest rounds out the event - Saturday.

Abilene Civic Center

325.676.6025, Ricki Brown



### Last Weekend

#### Hot Air Balloon Festival

Sponsored by Optimist Unlimited Club of Abilene. Nightly balloon glow, arts & crafts, games, food booths, children's contests, games and street dance on Saturday night! Hare & Hound Race on Saturday morning. All in Red Bud Park, South 32nd and Buffalo Gap Rd.

Friday--5 p.m. to midnight; Saturday—Sunrise to midnight; Sunday--Sunrise to Noon

Free Admission. Optimist Unlimited, 325.795.0095

# Annual Events

October

1st Saturday

**Spirit of the Frontier Festival**

Living history reenactments, cannons and more!

Frontier Texas, 325.437.2800

November

1st Weekend

**Christmas Carousel**

Wonderful annual exhibit and sale of Christmas gifts. Junior League, 325.677.1879,

2nd Weekend

**Christmas in November**

A unique display of arts, crafts, and gifts are sold at this annual event. Bette Pitcock, 325.673.1142

3rd Weekend

**“The Nutcracker”**

This classic ballet is performed by Abilene’s Regional Ballet Company “Ballet Abilene” and guest artists. 325.675.0303, Ballet Abilene

1st Tuesday After Thanksgiving

**City Sidewalks**

Discover the charm of Christmas in historic downtown Abilene, complete with a parade and community tree lighting. Tom Rigsby, 325.676.8321

Mid-November to Early January

**The Ice House**

Outdoor ice skating rink

Habitat for Humanity, 325.670.0489

December

1st Thursday through December 24

**Christmas Lane**

Lighted outdoor Christmas display, an indoor display that includes animated dolls plus Santa photos and free calls to the North Pole.

Abilene State School, 325.795.3547



*Historic downtown Abilene street festival grounds.*



*Abilene's Ballet Folklorico performs at numerous festivals.*