



Convention and Visitors Bureau

1101 North 1st • Abilene, Texas 79601
325.676.2556 • 800.727.7704 • Fax: 325.676.1630
www.abilenevisitors.com

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Coleta Rosson: 325-669-3984, coleta@gullyranch.com

Taylor County Expo Center: 325-677-4376

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Cutting Horse Events Mark Anniversaries in Abilene

ABILENE, Texas -- Hundreds of equine experts and their talented horses will ride into town this week for two national competitions: The 40th Annual Abilene Winter Circuit Cutting, Dec. 28 through Jan. 1, and the 30th Annual Abilene Spectacular Cutting, Jan. 2 through Jan. 9.

“We are most proud of events that we are able to build relationships with and be a part of for so many years. It’s our honor to welcome the Gully family and their event competitors back to the facility for The Abilene Spectacular in it’s 30th year and the Abilene Winter Circuit that will celebrate its 40th year,” said Rochelle Johnson, Expo Center Executive Vice President and General Manager. “Make sure to come by December 28-January 9 to see these elite riders compete at the exemplary event in Taylor Telecom Arena.”

Cutting is big business for Abilene. ACVB data show these two events, organized each year by the team at nearby Gully Ranch, have contributed more than \$20 million to the local economy during their long-running history. This year’s contests are expected to host nearly 900 competitors and more than \$435,000 direct spending to local businesses.

The public is invited to watch these well-bred horses show off their cow sense. Competitions begin at 8 a.m., and admission is free.

Cutting Horse Facts:

- Like many rodeo sports, cutting is derived from the daily work of real cowboys.
- In 1898, the first advertised cutting contest was held in Haskell. 15,000 people attended, many arriving on horseback.
- Each contestant gets 2:30 minutes to cut at least two cows from a herd.
- Horses receive extra credit for their skill, style and exertion.
- Cutting demands extraordinary control on one hand, and lightning-quick action on the other.
- 96% of all horses competing are Quarter Horses, who are bred for this sport, although Paints, Appaloosas, Thoroughbreds and Arabians can also be competitive.
- Judges score contestants on a scale of 60 to 80 points.

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Located in the T&P Depot landmark downtown, the Abilene Convention & Visitors Bureau is an affiliate of the Chamber of Commerce that 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 the city. Travel contributed more than \$416 million into the local economy in 2020, bringing happy people to stay in local hotels, shop, dine, and enjoy sports, arts and attractions. To learn about Abilene’s best adventures, see the calendar of events, helpful information, and discounts for travelers at www.abilenevisitors.com. Follow Visit Abilene on [Facebook](https://facebook.com/abilenespectacular), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/abilenespectacular) and [Instagram](https://instagram.com/abilenespectacular).