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MEDIA RELEASE

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Texas High School Rodeo Association Picks Abilene for Finals

The Taylor County Expo Center has won the bid to host the Texas High School Rodeo Association Finals in Abilene through 2022, a three-year contract estimated to bring \$4.8 million into the local economy.

The Expo Center has been home to the weeklong THSRA championships since 1990 and will celebrate its 30th anniversary at this year's statewide finals, June 8-15.

"It has been an honor and privilege to host this competition for three decades, and we look forward to continuing this relationship," said Rochelle Johnson, Taylor County Expo Center director. "We know THSRA appreciates the community's investment to maintain excellence at the Expo Center. These competitors deserve the best."

The THSRA brings more than 650 Texas athletes and their families to Abilene for three reasons: the right to be called "State Champions," a chance to go on to the National High School Finals Rodeo, and opportunity to win scholarship money.

The finals will host a wide array of rodeo competitions to showcase the skills, hard work and determination these athletes acquire and maintain. The public is invited to attend and show support for these young cowboys and cowgirls. From pole bending and barrel racing to bronc riding and team roping, the THSRA finals is sure to entertain and draw a crowd. Admission is free.

The Texas High School Rodeo Association is the largest, most prestigious state high school rodeo association in the nation. A 501 (c)3 non-profit, the THSRA supports family values, encourages young people and offers scholarship opportunities.

For further information and a full schedule see: <https://www.thsra.org/>.

The Taylor County Expo Center is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit that hosts more than 231 annual events on its 127-acre, multi-facility grounds, including the West Texas Fair & Rodeo, Western Heritage Classic, and Evening for the Expo. The Expo Center brings in an estimated \$20 million dollars to the area by attracting visitors from throughout the state and nation. To maintain that mission, voters passed a \$55 million bond in 2016 to fund renovations and expansions to the facilities. A new Livestock Barn, Covered Outdoor Arena, and Multipurpose Arena are complete, while the Coliseum, Midway should be completed by fall 2020. For events and more information, see www.taylorcountyexpoctr.com