



ABILENE CHAMBER

## DAILY BUSINESS BRIEF

*Skimming the daily updates for your business so you don't have to.*

### **PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM DEADLINE EXTENDED INTO AUGUST**

Saturday, July 4th, President Donald Trump signed into law an extension of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to give business owners more time to access federal assistance. The original deadline was June 30, but due to the extension, applications will now be accepted through August 8, 2020.

As of June 30, over 4.8 million loans have been approved, amounting to \$520 billion in relief. The average loan amount is around \$107,000 according to the Small Business Administration (SBA).

[Learn more.](#)

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### **WYLIE ISD RELEASES PLANS FOR 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR, INCLUDING AT-HOME LEARNING OPTION**

In a letter to parents released Monday, Wylie ISD said school is currently set to start August 19 with one of two options available – traditional on-campus instruction or at-home learning similar to what took place in Spring 2019.

District officials are still working to finalize exactly how this will take place, but no matter what model a student and their family chooses, attendance will be recorded, grades will be taken, and participation will be required.

Parents will receive an in-depth survey soon as Wylie ISD prepares for instruction, staffing, transportation, and food service.

[Read more.](#)

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### **WHAT TO WATCH IN HOUSE SPENDING BILLS**

After months of delay because of the coronavirus pandemic, House lawmakers are beginning work in earnest on fiscal 2021 appropriations bills.

But tight spending caps, election-year messaging and a Senate impasse guarantee measures coming out this week won't have an easy path to becoming law.

The House Appropriations Committee last night released its State Department, Agriculture and Military Construction proposals.

[More info.](#)

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## THE DEAL IS DONE: NEW USMCA REPLACES NAFTA

One of President Donald Trump's campaign promises in 2016 was to renegotiate trade deals to benefit America's farmers, ranchers, consumers and workers.

While the bitter battle with China seems like ages ago, in light of the global pandemic that has dominated the news cycle in 2020, the reality is that producers certainly felt the pinch of an ongoing trade war, with many doubting Trump would actually pull through.

[Read more.](#)

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### WHAT WE'RE READING

#### Abilene Christian continues evolving COVID-19 plan for fall semester

*"While faculty and staff mostly will see a return to campus mid-month (unless the current spike in cases dramatically increases in the next week, which is certainly possible), all eyes continue to be fixated on what will happen with students."*

[Read more.](#)

#### Tourism in Turmoil

*"Texas is struggling to strike the appropriate balance in the tragic choice between effective public health measures and restoring vitality to the economy. Moving ahead with reopening before recommended safety milestones were met has led to reversals and setbacks on the path to progress. Physical health and economic health are both essential. Nowhere is this tension more intensely evident than in the tourism industry."*

[Read more.](#)

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***You don't want to miss these upcoming event for your business.***

**7/21 VIRTUAL SUMMIT: POWERING FORWARD - TEXAS OIL AND NATURAL GAS** A free virtual summit hosted by the Texas Oil & Gas Association, on July 21st at 11:30 a.m. CT. The summit will feature distinguished industry leaders who will discuss the future of the energy landscape in Texas and what is needed for our state to continue in its role as the Energy Capital of the World. See below for details on how to [register](#).

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### MORE FROM THE CHAMBER:

- [ThriveABI Check-in Survey: HOW ARE YOU?](#)
- [Now what?](#)
- [Abilene Chamber Hispanic Business Council Helps Minority Owned](#)

## **Businesses Slow the Spread of COVID-19**

- **Abilene Chamber Now Seeking Nominations for Citizen of the Year**
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