



ABILENE CHAMBER

## DAILY BUSINESS BRIEF

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

### ADVOCACY UPDATE

At the heart of the Abilene Chamber of Commerce lies a deep commitment to advocating the interests of our members. Your Chamber continues to closely monitor the situation surrounding COVID-19 and the impact it had and continues to have on businesses.

**What's new?** Concerning Chamber members in the bars and breweries business, Director of Government Affairs recently asked for an update from State Representative Stan Lambert. Yesterday, Representative Lambert and other elected officials signed onto a letter to the Governor telling him the brewpub industry has been very responsible in building their industry in Texas.

**How does this impact the economy?** According to statistics released by the Brewers Association in 2018, Texas' 341 craft breweries ranked third for [economic impact](#), out of all the similar businesses in the 50 states.

**Tell me more:** The Chamber through its Government Affairs team has had constant communication with elected officials at local and state levels since the start of this pandemic, signed online petitions, communicated with stakeholders directly, advocated for funding to assist restaurant, bar and brewery owners to keep their doors open, and assisted in directing folk to additional funding such as an EIDL loan and Paycheck Protection Program when appropriate.

**How can I help?** [Shop local](#). Order local. And, if you feel so inclined, [contact Governor Abbott directly](#) to express your opinion to help your fellow businesses.

Our work continues all day, every day. Need an update? [Reach out any time](#). We're always here for you.

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### SEN. JOHN CORNYN VISITS ABILENE, TALKS ABOUT IMPACT OF CARES ACT

Senator John Cornyn was in the Key City Monday talking with health care and city leaders about Abilene's response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Those leaders say they couldn't have done it without help from the CARES Act.

From the Chromebooks to the use of masks, it seemed as if things were being kicked into high gear as the city tried to combat the spread of COVID-19.

As Senator John Cornyn said Monday, the war on the virus comes with more than just one battle.

[Read more.](#)

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## ABILENE'S FEDERAL AND STATE CONUS PER DIEM RATE:

The "CONUS" rate is the default federal per diem rate for geographic areas that do not have a specific federal per diem rate set for that locale. We are pleased to report that the federal CONUS per diem rate for lodging will remain the same at \$96 per night for FY 2021 for federal government travelers. The federal daily per diem rate for meals and incidental expenses will also remain the same at \$55.

[Learn more.](#)

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## CHAMBER'S 2020 BUSINESS EXPO TO CELEBRATE ABILENE'S WORLD OF WORK, SAFELY

Dr. Kelsi Mangrem, with Holland Healing Center, believes the chance to participate this week in the Abilene Chamber of Commerce's yearly Business Expo is "critical," not just her business but for each of the 137 participants.

The yearly showcase helps the public find new businesses, while also letting them know what existing businesses are doing, she said.

The event normally is in the spring but was postponed this year due to the ongoing health crisis. It will be Wednesday at the Abilene Convention Center.

[Read more.](#)

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## SENATE ADJOURNS WITHOUT CORONAVIRUS RELIEF DEAL

The U.S. Senate has adjourned for the remainder of August, indicating that a fifth coronavirus relief package will likely be on hold for the next few weeks. They are expected to formally reconvene on September 8, but may return earlier if Congress is able to break their current impasse and schedule a vote.

To read more, [click here.](#)

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### WHAT WE'RE READING

#### **Restaurants, bars and breweries scramble to reinvent themselves to get around Gov. Greg Abbott's bar shutdown**

*Businesses that make up most of their sales with alcohol were closed down by Abbott's latest shutdown order, leaving them to maneuver through loopholes to reopen.*

[Read more.](#)

#### **Pelosi Calls House Back to Vote on Post Office Legislation**

*House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called House lawmakers back to Capitol Hill on Sunday in an attempt to prevent changes to the U.S. Postal Service that would*

*make it harder to cast mail ballots.*

[Read more.](#)

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

**8/19 BEST PRACTICES FOR THE NONPROFIT WORLD** For many small and mid-sized non-profits, knowing how to build and maintain the health of the organization, using current best practices and the very best management strategies, is critical and can mean life or death for the organization. [Learn more.](#)

**8/19 STARTING A BUSINESS IN TEXAS** Texas remains the best state in the U.S. to start a business. Join the Governor's Small Business Team and a panel of subject-matter experts as they discuss the initial steps for starting and operating a business in the state. [Register here.](#)

**8/19 SBA MILITARY SPOUSE ENTREPRENEUR SUMMIT** The U.S. Small Business Administration will host a virtual "Military Spouse Entrepreneur Summit" in collaboration with Second Lady of the United States Karen Pence and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Hiring Our Heroes on Wednesday, Aug. 19 from 1-3:30 p.m., EDT. [Register here.](#)

**8/24 WOMEN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS CERTIFICATION** As of July 15, the certification process for Women-Owned Small Businesses (WOSBs) and Economically Disadvantaged WOSBs (EDWOSBs) has changed. Supervisor Business Opportunity Specialist with the SBA Dallas/Fort Worth District Office will facilitate the workshop and will be available to answer specific questions on the certification eligibility and process. Learn how you can take advantage of these opportunities for Women-Owned Small Businesses in this one hour informative session. [Register here.](#)

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