



ABILENE CHAMBER

DAILY BUSINESS BRIEF

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

WE FOUND THE HELPERS

If you're as old as I am, you remember Mister Rogers. Not the Tom Hanks version of Mister Rogers, but the original.

I think back to the aftermath of major traumatic events like 9/11 and remember seeing the quote that accompanies this article and it's been indelible in my mind ever since. It isn't difficult to get wrapped up in the negativity that often accompanies trauma at any level. But there's also a silver lining in many dark clouds – the helpers and the doers.

While much of 2020, a year that many of us will never forget, has been traumatic to all of us, there exists a silver lining. It's often hard to see beyond the impact of economic shutdowns and the impact of government mandates coupled with a flood of news that's often difficult to navigate.

But it's there.

Over the course of the year, I've had the privilege of working alongside the helpers. And I'm not talking solely about the Chamber's professional staff. While my staff has performed in spectacular fashion, it's those who drive our work that have made the impact.

[Read more.](#)

UPCOMING TXDOT VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING FOR I-20 SIX-LANE WIDENING PROJECT

What are your safety and mobility needs in the I-20 corridor in Abilene?

The Texas Department of Transportation cordially invites you to attend a virtual public meeting regarding the proposed I-20 Six-Lane Widening Project.

[Read more.](#)

ABILENE RECEIVES \$149,566 IN TCA GRANTS

The Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) has approved funding for \$12.9 million in grants for fiscal year 2021, including a project for the Abilene Cultural District in the amount of \$94,566. The matching grant will fund the Abilene Cultural Affairs Council's "Freedom to Roam" project designed to light two underpasses to connect the Abilene Cultural District with the SoDA District (South Downtown Abilene) and to commission a signature public sculpture that will be located between the Adamson-Spalding Storybook Garden, the Abilene Convention Center and the new DoubleTree by Hilton hotel. The projects are a

collaboration between the Abilene Cultural Affairs Council, the City of Abilene and SoDA.

The underpass lighting project will include security cameras and will enhance safety and pedestrian traffic between both sides of downtown, which are divided by the North and South 1st railroad tracks that go through the center of town. The lighting project will encourage visitors to travel back and forth at night through the underpass to have a drink, eat dinner and visit venues and outdoor sculptures.

[Read more.](#)

TEXANS SPENT LESS GOING OUT TO EAT AND DRINK, BUT MORE ON HOME IMPROVEMENT AS CORONAVIRUS CASES PEAKED THIS SUMMER

Texas collected about \$2.8 billion in state sales tax revenue in August — 5.6% less than in the same month last year, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar said Tuesday.

That revenue was based mainly on purchases made in July, when the numbers of coronavirus cases were peaking. That rising rate, the comptroller said, likely put a damper on economic activity.

State sales tax collections from major sectors — except retail trade — declined compared with the same period in 2019, Hegar said. The comptroller said the largest declines happened in sectors related to oil and gas, which includes manufacturing. A Hegar spokesperson also pointed to declines in sectors such as transportation and bars and restaurants.

[Read more.](#)

WHAT WE'RE READING

Super greens: five start-ups raising the bar for environmental impact

From turning waste plastic into bricks, to storing carbon in consumer goods, a new business accelerator program is backing start-ups that have sustainability at their core

[Read more.](#)

5 Ways to Get Customers to Return When Reopening

As businesses reopen around the country while concerns about COVID-19 persist, there are many things they should do to prepare for returning customers.

[Read more.](#)

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

SEPT 9: REBUILDING YOUR BRAND

An [interactive discussion](#) focused on helping businesses strike the right tone with an evolving customer base during COVID-19 and beyond. [Register here.](#)

SEPT 9: INTRO TO GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING AND THE PTAC

Come learn about the basics of getting started in public sector contracting. Learn about registering in the System for Award Management (SAM) and how the government procures goods and services. SAM is the single point of entry for Federal Government contracting opportunities. We will also discuss marketing tips and opportunities for small businesses. [Register here.](#)

SEPT 15: PRWEEK CONVENE: TALKING SHOP – THE FUTURE OF RETAIL

This PRWeek virtual event explores what retail brands must do to renew confidence among consumers and ensure the long-term prosperity of a \$3.8 trillion sector that supports one in four American jobs and remains the backbone of the economy. This event will be on September 15th from 12:00 pm-2:00 pm ET. [Register here.](#)

SEPT 16: INCREASING COMPETITIVENESS: TEAMING JOINT VENTURES, AND THE MENTOR-PROTÉGÉ PROGRAM - PRESENTED BY MATT SCHOONOVER, KOPRINCE LAW

Want to learn how to take your small business to the next level within the realm of government contracting? Join the Northwest Texas PTAC and Koprince Law Firm as Managing Partner, Matt Schoonover of Koprince Law presents this informative webinar about Teaming Arrangements, Joint Ventures and the SBA's Mentor Protégé Program. He'll discuss how each works and how they all fit in together. [Register here.](#)

SEPT 23: VETERAN OWNED SMALL BUSINESS (VOSB) & SDVOSB TOO

Join Northwest Texas PTAC, Program Manager Rich Lyles as he provides you with a general understanding of how the VOSB & the Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business SDVOSB Program works. You'll learn about the benefits of being certified and the eligibility criteria required for certification. They'll discuss the formal certification through the VA as well as the self-certification option. [Register here.](#)

SEPT 29: FAST FORWARD SUMMIT 2020

On September 29 and 30, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation will host a two-day, future-looking summit to highlight the people, ideas, and innovations that are shaping our lives and businesses. [Register here.](#)

SEPT 30: CYBERSECURITY BASICS FOR FEDERAL CONTRACTORS

Join Northwest Texas PTAC, Senior Field Advisor Mark Snyder as he provides you with a general understanding of the basic cybersecurity requirements that the Department of Defense has for all contractors and sub-contractors. You'll learn about the benefits of being prepared and the process for putting a cybersecurity plan in place. [Register here.](#)

OCT 8: ACU VIRTUAL JOB FAIR: GOVERNMENT, NON-PROFIT & SOCIAL SERVICES

This Government, NonProfit & Social Services VIRTUAL Career Fair is brought to you by the West Central Texas Career Consortium. Participating in this event is an excellent way for your organization to gain visibility and maximize recruiting potential! Employers interested in participating in this event are encouraged to register on-line as early as possible. [Register here.](#)

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