



ABILENE CHAMBER

DAILY BUSINESS BRIEF

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

CENTER FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS LAUNCHES NEW ROUND OF STARTHER GRANTS

Texas Woman's University's Center for Women Entrepreneurs (CWE) is accepting submissions for its StartHER Grant Program, which encourages women-owned businesses in Texas to undertake new and innovative projects.

Ten grants, each worth \$5,000, will be awarded in the latest round. This will mark the CWE's fourth round of awarding StartHER grants, which are open to women entrepreneurs from throughout Texas.

Grant funding may be used for the purchase of machinery, equipment or technology; acquisition of new inventory or raw materials; purchase and installation of fixtures or display units; property improvements; marketing; or other business-related activity that is aligned with the purpose of the program. Wages, salaries and sales tax are ineligible for funding.

[Read more.](#)

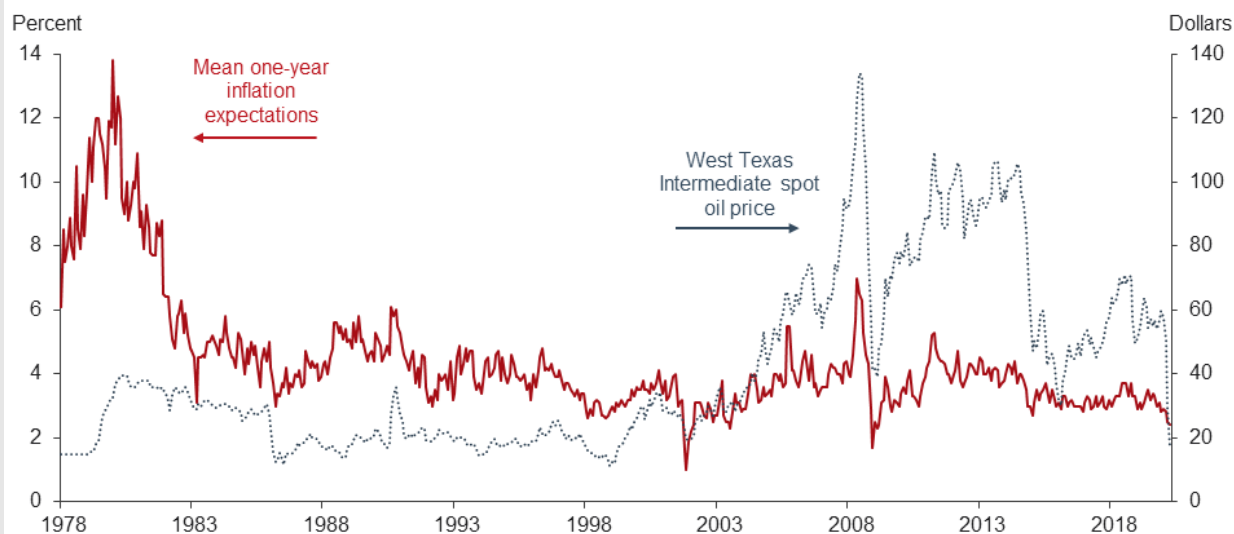
A NEW VIEW OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OIL PRICES, GASOLINE PRICES AND INFLATION EXPECTATIONS

It has been considered self-evident until recently that oil prices drive inflation expectations, but new evidence calls into question this conclusion.

Conventional wisdom within macroeconomics is that U.S. inflation expectations respond to the level of the price of oil (or the price of gasoline). This view is based on coefficients of regressions of inflation expectations on the price of oil. Researchers such as Olivier Coibion and Yuriy Gorodnichenko have argued that the correlation between these variables reached 74 percent during first quarter 2000 to first quarter 2013. But, when taking a longer perspective, the existence of such a relationship is less than obvious (Chart 1).

[Read more.](#)

Chart 1
Household Inflation Expectations and the Price of Oil



SOURCES: University of Michigan Surveys of Consumers; Energy Information Administration.

Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

ABILENE ISD ANSWERS QUESTIONS ABOUT CLOSING REAGAN ELEMENTARY

Abilene Independent School District will host the second of three meetings Tuesday for parents of elementary students affected by the closing of Reagan Elementary School at the end of this academic year. According to Superintendent David Young, Board policy requires the district to present potential boundary map changes in public forums for feedback from stakeholders. Young says the first gathering was well-received last week. "We had a great meeting, had about 11 parents in attendance. And I'm thankful for them being there and asking good questions. And they seemed very pleased with our answers to those questions," Young said.

The students enrolled at Reagan will be divided among four other schools, including Austin, Lee, Dyess and Bassetti. The Reagan facility was built in 1959 and will be closed because of the building's aging condition. Tuesday's meeting, 6 p.m. at Clack Middle School Cafeteria, will be for parents of Austin and Lee Elementary families, and parents from Reagan who will attend those schools next year. Though any interested parent is welcome to attend.

An additional meeting planned for Thursday will be for Dyess and Bassetti families. Parents can also view the proposed boundary changes and give feedback on the Abilene ISD website. Individuals are invited to respond to the plans through the [email boundaryupdatefeedback@abileneisd.org](mailto:boundaryupdatefeedback@abileneisd.org). District officials will submit a final review of feedback on the changes to the Board of Trustees in October. Source: KACU

GOVERNOR ABBOTT EASES COVID LIMITS ON BUSINESSES

Governor Greg Abbott announced that starting today, September 21, a variety of businesses can increase capacity from 50% to 75%. These businesses include:

- Restaurants
- Retail establishments
- Office buildings
- Manufacturing facilities
- Libraries
- Museums
- Gyms

Governor Abbott is also allowing elective surgeries to resume in most parts of Texas. He is also giving the green light for visitation in nursing homes that meet certain protocols.

[Read more.](#)

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WHAT WE'RE READING

NEW DATA: Online Schooling a Logistical Nightmare for Working Parents

As the pandemic persists, K-12 schools are rethinking how they provide instruction. Parents are also being forced to rethink how they provide care for their school-age children during the week.

[Read more.](#)

5 Small Business Owners on How They're Keeping Employees Happy During the Pandemic

As if the hard-felt pressure to remain profitable, if not simply operable, wasn't enough, most small businesses are continually contemplating how, at the most basic level, they can feasibly retain employees.

[Read more.](#)

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

SEPT 23: RECRUITING AND MANAGING EMPLOYEES IN A VIRTUAL WORLD

At 1pm ET, an interactive discussion focused on helping businesses recruit and manage cohesive teams, even while working remotely. Host Jeanette Mulvey, Content Director at CO—, will lead the conversation that combines advice from experts with practical insights from small business owners. [Register here.](#)

SEPT 23: WATER CONFERENCE

Our session will be this Wednesday, September 23rd at 6:00 p.m. Central European Time or 11:00 a.m. Abilene (CDT) time. We will be featuring two outstanding speakers: Dr. Matthew Draud, Ph.D., Vice President of Academic Affairs, Professor, and Internationally Recognized Biologist at McMurry University (Abilene, TX). His presentation is titled: "On the Causes and Consequences of the Global Collapse of Coral Reef Ecosystems". Anete M. Camille Strand, PhD, Professor and Expert in Storytelling, Learning, and Organizations, at Aalborg University (Denmark). Her presentation is titled: "A New, New Story of Water". [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 23: RESOURCES FOR VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES & ENTREPRENEURS

Please join us for the next small business webinar, which will focus on veteran-owned businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs. Connecting veterans with the people and resources they need to be successful in their entrepreneurial endeavors, this event will address a variety of key business topics and challenges. Small businesses in all stages—startups to established companies—are welcome to join us for this informative webinar and live Q&A with the experts! [Register here.](#)

SEPT 23: INTRODUCTION TO GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING

This is a Free 1-hour Webinar/Workshop (11:00 am to 12 noon) on how to do business in the government marketplace. (Federal, State, and Local governments) [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 1: BIG COUNTRY MANUFACTURING ALLIANCE AN ESSENTIAL PATHWAY TO A STRONGER ECONOMY

Students, educators and employers are invited to attend the Big Country Manufacturing Allians "An Essential Pathway to a Stronger economy" virtual event showcasing manufacturing career opportunities and the importance of the manufacturing sector to the Big Country, the state of Texas and the nation. [Register here.](#)

OCT 7: VOSB & SDVOSB—Application Mechanics

This is the second part of The Northwest Texas PTAC's Veteran Owned Small Business Certification webinar.

This first part covered the VOSB/SDVOSB certification program, the advantages, and qualifications. This second part will cover the hands on mechanics of applying for the certification. We'll go through the process screen by screen to show you how to navigate the certification system to the point of final submission of application. [Register here.](#)

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

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 online as early as possible. [Register here.](#)

OCT 14: DBE—DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM THROUGH TXDOT

Want to learn how to qualify your small business as a DBE with the Texas Department of Transportation?? Join the Northwest Texas PTAC as we present this informative webinar that begins with an overview of the program, talks about the advantages of being certified, discusses the qualifications for certification, and talks about the documentation needed to complete the application. [Register here.](#)

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