



ABILENE CHAMBER

## DAILY BUSINESS BRIEF

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

### ABILENE CHAMBER ANNOUNCES 2020-2021 LEADERS OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

The Abilene Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the 2020-2021 leadership of the Chamber Board of Directors effective Oct. 1, 2020. The Chamber's Executive Committee will be led by Chair, Marshall Morris, First Financial Bank; Chair Elect, Laura Moore, The Grace Museum; Secretary/Treasurer, Mike Fernandez, Texas National Bank; Immediate Past Chair, Darrin Black, Black Plumbing.

Kelsi Mangrem, Holland Hearing Center; Shaun Martin, Atmos Energy; Taylor Sturgis, Key Appraisal District will serve a one-year term on the Chamber's Executive Committee along with the officers.

The Chamber's Board of Directors is comprised of individuals from the Big Country business community who invest their time, resources, and expertise to support the Chamber, its members and mission.

"For 113 years, the Abilene Chamber has served the Big Country business community in creating a positive climate for growth," said Marshall Morris, First Financial Bank and 2020-2021 Chamber Chair. "I could not be more excited to continue the solid history and tradition that the leaders before me have established and to work to ensure the Chamber and Abilene community be the best they can."

For a full list of Chamber Board of Directors, Affiliate Board of Directors and Chamber Committee leadership, [click here](#).

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### AYP SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR 20 UNDER 40 PROGRAM

The Abilene Young Professionals, a program of the Abilene Chamber of Commerce, is currently seeking nominations to recognize rising business leaders in the 20 Under 40 program.

The program, in partnership with the Abilene Reporter-News, recognizes local business leaders under the age of 40 who are excelling in their career field. Nominees should be those who are making a real impact in the Abilene community with their leadership, drive, strong vision, and notable entrepreneurship.

Criteria for the award are:

- Must work in Abilene
- Must be under the age of 40 as of Jan. 1, 2021
- Must not have been a previous 20 Under 40 honoree

[Read more.](#)

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## CITY OF ABILENE CREATING NEW ‘COMPREHENSIVE PLAN’

It’s been 16 years since the City of Abilene created a roadmap for local ordinances and guidelines, but they have begun the process of creating what they call a “comprehensive plan.”

“I like blueprint better,” said Cheryl Sawyers, planning services director for the City of Abilene. “The comprehensive plan is a future policy document basically it shapes the future landscape of the City of Abilene.”

The plan creates an outline for building codes as well as local ordinances including bike paths, the size of crosswalks, and disability access around town. It covers almost anything that includes Abilene citizens.

“How wide is the street? How far set does my house have to be? That all is a part of this process,” said Sawyers.

[Read more.](#)

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## COMMERCE DEPARTMENT AWARDS ABILENE DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Abilene will receive \$1.8 million for infrastructure improvements in the Five Points Business Park area. The U.S. Department of Commerce has awarded the grant through the Department’s Economic Development Administration. \$800,000 in local matching funds will help to create and retain about 120 jobs and generate \$12.7 million in private investment. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said in a statement that the funding will encourage manufacturing growth, “This project will provide Abilene with an expanded roadway infrastructure to drive future business development in the Five Points Business Park and develop high-quality jobs in the local manufacturing industry. The nearby Opportunity Zone will further attract investment to diversify and grow the region’s economy.” The West Central Texas Council of Governments worked on the project as part of its regional planning efforts. They applied for the grant under the EDA, which aims to strengthen regional economies, support private capital investment and create jobs.

U.S. Senator John Cornyn applauded the announcement, “While Texans persevere as COVID-19 wreaks havoc on our state, we must take steps to ensure that our communities are equipped to weather the storm,” Senator Cornyn said. (Source: KACU)

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## How will candidates' tax plans affect farmers?

*Estate planning attorney compares Trump's and Biden's tax plans, and sorts out what it'll all mean on the farm.*

[Read more.](#)

## Craddick assumes RRC chairmanship for third time

*Marking her third time as chairman since she was first elected to the agency in 2012, Craddick was unanimously named chair by her fellow commissioners, Wayne Christian and Ryan Sitton.*

[Read more.](#)

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

**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 Alliance "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 1: TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION: LUNCHTIME LIVE!** COVID-19 Paid Leave Related Laws, Privacy in the Workplace, Unemployment Claims and Employer Chargeback Liability, Payroll Tax 101 discussion. [Register here.](#)

**OCT 6: EIDL APPLICATION WEBINAR** What you need to complete the application. Step-by-step on how to apply. [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 7: BUSINESS STRATEGIES FOR AN EVOLVING FUTURE: DYNAMIC FINANCIAL PLANNING** It has never been more critical for all businesses to have a roadmap for the future. The next Governor's Small Business Webinar, focused on Dynamic Financial Planning, will provide small businesses and entrepreneurs with information and resources to create a sustainable vision for their business. This webinar will help small businesses enhance their business planning and cash flow management strategy to increase resiliency and maintain a competitive edge. The event includes a live Q&A with our panel of experts. [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.](#)

**OCT 14: TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION: LUNCHTIME LIVE!** Unemployment Claims: General Overview for Employers, Unemployment Taxes: Chargeback and

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