



ABILENE CHAMBER

## DAILY BUSINESS BRIEF

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

### ABILENE CHAMBER SURVEY RESULTS

Two weeks ago, your Chamber conducted a survey of its valued partners to gain customer service insights and further understandings of the business climate under the continuation of COVID-19.

Overall, the Big Country business community outlook has remained the same, with respondents expressing the belief that the state of the regional business climate will remain strong over the next 12 months.

Almost 55 percent of respondents stated their employee headcount was about the same compared to pre-COVID-19, but 27 percent of the 85 respondents cited workforce as the primary challenge facing their business

For a full snapshot of the survey, [click here.](#)

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### MARCUS DUDLEY, JR. NAMED CITY OF ABILENE'S NEXT CHIEF OF POLICE

The City of Abilene and its Police Chief Search Committee is pleased to announce Marcus Dudley, Jr. will serve as Abilene's next Chief of Police.

"Mr. Dudley exhibits the servant leadership, commitment to fairness, and professional expertise that is necessary to lead one of the best police departments in the state of Texas. APD has a legacy of excellence, and under Chief Dudley's leadership and management, I am certain that this legacy of excellence will continue well into the future," said Abilene City Manager Robert Hanna.

Hanna made the final hiring decision after working in close consultation with the Police Chief Search Committee, led by former Abilene Police Chief Melvin Martin. The search committee also consisted of three APD officers, Taylor County District Attorney James Hicks, Taylor County Sheriff Ricky Bishop, and Abilene Police Foundation President Joy Ellinger.

"We had an outstanding committee and three awesome candidates in our final selection who highly impressed our committee and community members. However, one finalist stood out among the rest; congratulations to Chief Marcus Dudley! We welcome you to our great city, and welcome you to our even greater police department," said former APD Chief Melvin Martin.

[Read more.](#)

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### TSTC RECEIVES GREATER TEXAS FOUNDATION GRANT

The Greater Texas Foundation has awarded a \$715,742 grant to help develop Texas State Technical College's performance-based education initiative. The grant was awarded through The TSTC Foundation.

Performance-based education allows students to have flexibility with their schedules as they master set competencies in their programs. Faculty members guide the students as they take courses.

"Performance-based education pathways allow students to build on their existing knowledge and complete credentials without putting the rest of their lives on hold," said Sue McMillin, president and chief executive officer of the Greater Texas Foundation. "We are proud to support TSTC in developing these pathways to extend postsecondary opportunities to more Texas students."

The money will be used to hire three instructional designers to reshape nine of TSTC's programs in the next three years. Performance-based education is scheduled to debut in fall 2021 in the Computer Networking and Systems Administration, Cybersecurity, and Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Technology programs.

[Read more.](#)

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## ENERGY SECTOR SLOW TO RECOVER FROM MALAISE ARISING FROM EFFECTS OF GLOBAL PANDEMIC

After absorbing a big hit from the COVID-19 pandemic, the energy sector may take until 2022 to recover. An upswing in petroleum consumption provides hope that the worst has passed, as economic activity gradually increases from April lows.

While crude oil prices have bounced back, they aren't sufficiently high to spur new drilling. The price of benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude oil has stabilized at near \$40 per barrel after averaging \$38 in June and \$17 in April. The demand slump was most notable on April 20, when producers were forced to pay buyers \$38 per barrel as the price of the expiring near-term oil contract price collapsed on worries that there was no place to store deliveries.

Even at current levels, prices barely cover operating expenses. The average price per barrel needed to cover operating costs is \$23–\$36, while profitably drilling a well requires prices of \$46–\$52, according to the Dallas Fed Energy Survey in early 2020.

[Read more.](#)

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### WHAT WE'RE READING

**Gasoline prices fall as economy undercuts demand**

*Gasoline prices fell in Houston and across the country as worries about the economy undercut demand and oil prices, according to the fuel-tracking website GasBuddy.*

**[Read more.](#)**

## **Election update: We are in the homestretch.**

*Here are the latest headlines from Trump and Biden's camps.*

**[Read more.](#)**

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

**OCT 21: THE SERVICE CONTRACT LABOR STANDARD STATUTE** The service contract act was enacted in 1965 to ensure that service workers are paid established wage rates and benefits for the work being performed. Join Northwest Texas PTAC, Senior Field Advisor, Mark Snyder as he provides you with a general understanding of the Service Contract Labor Standard Statute. You'll learn about the prevailing wage, how to search beta.sam.gov wage determination section, conformance, collective bargaining agreements, and other topics applicable to this Act. **[Register here.](#)**

**OCT 27 FACEBOOK'S HOLIDAY BOOST** Get ready for the holiday shopping season as Facebook shows how businesses can strengthen and manage their online presence, build exciting content and increase sales. **[Register here.](#)**

**OCT 28: KOPRINCE LAW—5 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING** Join Koprince Law and the Northwest Texas PTAC as Managing Partner, Matt Schoonover provides you with a general understanding of the advantages of being a small within the realm of Federal Government Contracting. You'll learn about set-aside contracts, sole source contracts, and goal setting requirements. **[Register here.](#)**

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