



ABILENE CHAMBER

DAILY BUSINESS BRIEF

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

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA SURVEY

All sorts of questions are swirling around about the 87th Session of the Texas Legislature, which begins January 12, 2021. One of the biggest questions today is how it will function in light of COVID-19 restrictions.

However the 87th Session functions, the Abilene Chamber of Commerce will be highly involved advocating for our members on a wide variety of issues.

We are ready to develop our Legislative Agenda. It will set the priorities for us, going into the session.

We need your help in determining those priorities. Please take this survey before the deadline of Nov. 2, 2020. After the Business Advocacy Council (BAC) review the responses, we will develop a draft Legislative Agenda that we will present to the Chamber Board for approval.

Each of the questions on the survey has a place for comments. Help us understand your answers, the issues you are facing today and what needs to be done to make the future better.

[Take the survey.](#)

ABILENE CITY COUNCIL APPROVES DESIGN COMPANY FOR THE CEDAR CREEK WATERWAY PROJECT

Thursday evening, the Abilene City Council voted to approve a \$270,700 bid from Freese and Nichols, Inc. to design and develop about 1.4 miles of the Cedar Creek Trail Project.

"It's the people who will be doing the survey work and laying out the path and doing the bed document so that we can go to bid to get a contractor to start building it," said Director of Community Services Lesli Andrews.

Andrews said the project, which was part of the 2015 bond, was approved to go from E. South 11th all the way to E. North 10th, but now that may not happen because of the cost due to the curves in the pathway.

[Read more.](#)

IS A HEALTHIER OIL MARKET ON THE HORIZON?

A number of high-profile mergers and acquisitions (M&A) have taken place this year or are underway, with two such deals reported just this week. One regular Rigzone panelist

contends such M&A agreements should benefit the broader oil and gas market. Another points out that the scope of acquisition targets so far has been limited. Read on for more details.

Rigzone: What were some market expectations that actually occurred during the past week – and which expectations did not?

Mark Le Dain, vice president of strategy with the oil and gas data firm

Validere: Consolidation continued with Pioneer purchasing Parsley. This is a good sign that access to capital is limited, as it drives M&A with minimal premiums, and is likely to lead to a healthier, balanced market. As the consolidators increase in size, they are increasingly focusing on the characteristics desired by a broader investor set: free cash flow and return of capital.

[Read more.](#)

TEXAS MANUFACTURING OUTLOOK SURVEY

Texas factory activity expanded in October for the fifth month in a row following a record contraction due to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to business executives responding to the Texas Manufacturing Outlook Survey. The production index, a key measure of state manufacturing conditions, rose three points to 25.5, indicating a slight acceleration in output growth.

Other measures of manufacturing activity also point to stronger growth this month. The new orders index advanced five points to 19.9, and the growth rate of orders index inched up to 14.3. The capacity utilization index rose from 17.5 to 23.0, while the shipments index was largely unchanged at 21.9.

Perceptions of broader business conditions continued to improve in October. The general business activity index pushed further above average, coming in at 19.8, a two-year high. The company outlook index moved up three points to 17.8, also a two-year high. Uncertainty regarding companies' outlooks continued to rise, with the index moving up four points to 11.0.

Labor market measures indicated continued but slower growth in employment and work hours. The employment index remained positive but fell from 14.5 to 8.7, suggesting less-robust hiring. Twenty percent of firms noted net hiring, while 11 percent noted net layoffs. The hours worked index remained positive but moved down from 6.9 to 3.7.

[Read more.](#)

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WHAT WE'RE READING

Rural Relief Small Business Grants

As part of our continuing commitment to elevate our impact in rural America, LISC is inviting small business owners in rural locations across the country to apply for the LISC-Lowe's Rural Relief Small Business Grants program.

[Read more.](#)

HENDRICK ASKS PUBLIC FOR HELP AMID COVID-19 SPIKE

Taylor County is in the midst of a third COVID-19 wave, with Abilene hospitals seeing more – and sicker – patients, Hendrick Health System President/CEO Brad Holland said in a statement Saturday.

[Read more.](#)

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

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.](#)

OCT 28: BUSINESS STRATEGIES FOR AN EVOLVING FUTURE: OPTIMIZING ONLINE MARKETING & SELLING Join us as we bring together a panel of experts, including executives from Amazon, Facebook and Instagram, to share their expertise and answer your questions in a one-hour webinar, including a live Q&A session. The event will provide information and advice on enhancing online presence and communications, adding ecommerce to a business model, where to get free help and advice when starting, and registering for tax payments. [Register here.](#)



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