ABILENE

COMMUNITY GUIDE & DIRECTORY 2023





Abilene is dedicated to fostering the growth of tomorrow's workforce. Recognized as a top ten city in the nation for Economic Development Excellence, Abilene has spent decades building a talented pipeline of skilled workers who are ready to work. Choosing Abilene to call home allows companies to collaborate with four universities and state-of-the-art technical training facilities for high school and college students to build the best workforce pipeline in the country.

Build your workforce at DevelopedinABI.com









rom the more than 180 medical providers at Hendrick Clinic to the Hendrick Pharmacy on Ambler Avenue and from our facilities in Abilene to Hendrick Medical Center Brownwood, Hendrick Health is focused on providing access to care where you need it, when you need it. It's our commitment to covering communities with care. As the regional nonprofit healthcare provider for nearly a century, Hendrick Health has grown as the communities around us have grown.

Our services include:

- Cancer Care oncology, hematology, Hendrick Breast Institute, nurse navigator program, genetic testing and participation in clinical trials
- Chaplains 24/7
- · Children's Hospital and Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU)
- · Diabetes Care inpatient and outpatient
- Dialysis inpatient and outpatient
- Emergency Care accredited stroke and heart programs
- Heart and Vascular cardiac cath/electrophysiology labs, cardiothoracic surgery, cardiac rehabilitation, structural heart clinic

- · Home Health nursing, specialized therapy, personal care
- · Hospice Care outpatient services, inpatient care center
- · Medical Supplies/Durable Medical Equipment
- · Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)
- · Neurosciences neurology, neurosurgery
- Orthopedic Surgery inpatient orthopedic floors, educational program prior to joint replacement
- · Pharmacy inpatient and outpatient locations
- Radiology/Imaging CT, MRI, nuclear medicine, interventional radiology, 3-D mammography
- Rehabilitation Services outpatient therapies, inpatient hospital, pediatric therapy gym
- Surgical Services robotic-assisted surgeries, Gl/endoscopy and pain management suites, outpatient surgery centers
- **Urgent Care Clinics**
- · Women's Health
- · Wound Care and Hyperbaric Centers



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DIRECTORY

Categorical Member Listing 113



ON THE COVER

Abilene is the Storybook Capital of America, and during the annual Children's Art & Literacy Festival colorful characters of all kinds can be found downtown. Learn more about the CALF on P. 82.







First Bank *Texas

TEXANS' MOST TRUSTED HOMETOWN BANK SINCE 1880

Abilene * Baird * Clyde * Grapevine * Haskell * Hudson Oaks Mid-Cities (Bedford) * Munday * Stamford * Weatherford * Willow Park





GO2FBT.COM





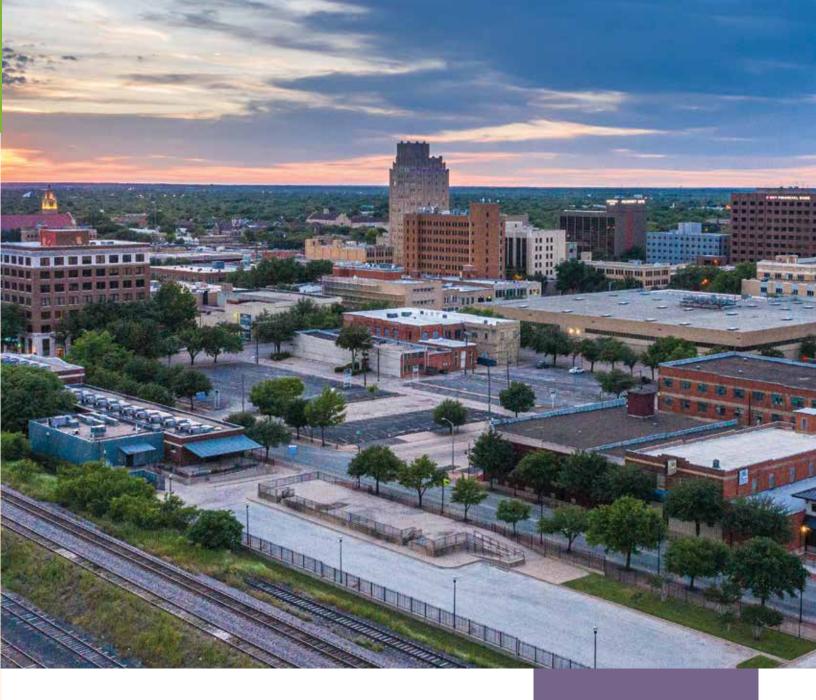
Building brands, building business around the corner and across the country—for over 50 years.

Zachry Associates began more than 50 years ago with expertise in creative direct response campaigns. Now at Zachry+, getting results for our clients is still our primary focus.

Integration of our capabilities allows Z+ to respond to our clients' needs with smart, savvy solutions. Because at Z+ there is no 'us' and 'them'. Our team considers clients as partners, as we work to build their brands and their business, together.

Sound interesting? Give us a shout and let's talk about partnering for your success.





WHY ABILENE

Abilene is big on what matters: history, culture, innovation and West Texas hospitality. Whether for a day or a lifetime, get started here and plot your Abilene adventure today.

IN THIS SECTION:

- Chamber President
 Message
- Top 10 Reasons to
 Live in Abilene
- Facts & Figures
- City Leaders
- First 14 Days
- Map of Abilene

Chamber President Message



Storybook characters, buffalos, West Texas grit – they're all waiting for you in Abilene, Texas.

As you flip through the pages of this guide, you'll find the finest arts programs, first-rate education systems, endless job opportunities



and a healthcare system second-to-none. The leadership of Abilene, Texas, reaches back generations and is as strong today as it has ever been. You and I, our families and our friends are fortunate to be the recipients of that forward-thinking. Abilene is truly a special place.

While you're here, we hope you'll take in all that our great city has to offer – from world-class businesses to some of the best dining experiences you'll find anywhere. You'll also find that Abilene is a city on the move, experiencing great growth and in pursuit of a strong and vibrant future. In short, we are about opportunity. And we invite you to take advantage of those opportunities.

As the region's premier business association, the Abilene Chamber of Commerce proudly serves in its 114th year of leadership, and we're proud of the men and women who, through their independent entrepreneurial spirit, make up our growing organization and contribute so much to our community. We invite you to visit our members and experience their uniqueness. And, if you happen into our downtown, take a good look around. You'll experience outdoor art, boutique shops, great restaurants, and some of the friendliest people you'll find anywhere – all of which make Abilene special.

We're glad you're here, and we hope you enjoy your time with us - whether for a day or for a lifetime!

Doug Peters, IOM-AP
President & CEO
Abilene Chamber of Commerce



The arts are alive and well in Abilene! We're home to one of the first five cultural districts in the entire state designated by the Texas Commission on the Arts. Check out a variety of venues for the performing arts, live music, theater and art exhibitions.



Abilene's population of 125,000 increases by one million people annually with tourists staying overnight, based on hotel occupancy. Ready to see what all the hype is about? Plan your next visit to Abilene today!



Through the dedicated efforts of our public and private partners, we work to help the dreamers start up and grow, to help existing businesses expand, all while ensuring our world class workforce exceeds the needs of the business community.

WILL EVER Datroo finds technology solutions for your I.T. needs to enable your company to reach its business goals. We strive to increase the productivity of your employees and reduce their stress so they can focus on their jobs.

- Security Solutions
- Network Assessments
- Managed I.T. Services
- LAN Solutions

- WAN Solutions
- Network Monitoring
- SCADA Solutions
- Business Phone Solutions
- Video Conferencing
- Virtualization
- Cloud Services

Call us today at **325.675.8880** to learn about the Datroo difference.

www.datroo.com



Top 10 Reasons to Live in Abilene

Abilene's quality of life presents a wide array of benefits for its citizens. Residents can enjoy cultural events, a thriving arts scene, unique museums, sporting events, parks, children's activities, hunting, fishing and so much more. These combined with a low-cost of living, warm climate and a 15-minute commute time ensure those that move to Abilene, stay in Abilene.

1

MORE HOME FOR THE MONEY

Abilene home prices are nearly 35% below the U.S. average. That's an extra 764 square feet! It also leaves \$323 extra in your pocket every month based on a 30-year mortgage.

2

LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to two highly regarded public school systems, Abilene has six institutions of higher learning and nearly 15,000 students pursuing higher education. For every 16 students in Abilene's public education system there's one teacher, giving your student more one-on-one educational support.

3

A SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY

The Chronicle of Philanthropy estimates that Abilene is among the top 20 percent in median community contributions among metropolitan cities in the U.S.

4

A LOW COST OF LIVING

Abilene's cost of living is 16.3% lower than the U.S. average according to bestplaces.net, making every dollar earned go that much further. Texas is one of only seven states without a state income tax, allowing Abilene residents to keep more of their earned wages.

5

LOW COST ENERGY

Located directly in the heart of Texas, Abilene benefits from one of the nation's leaders in energy production. Residences and businesses alike spend 25 percent less than the nation's average city for electricity, dramatically reducing the cost to live and work.



A LIVELY DOWNTOWN

Abilene is known for a vibrant downtown featuring many small businesses, the Abilene Convention Center, the 12th Armored Division WWII Museum, The Grace Museum, Center for Contemporary Arts, National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature, the beautifully restored Paramount Theatre, a storybook sculpture garden, and more. Since 2016, \$200 million public and private investment has helped continue to redevelop a bustling area for visitors and Abilenians to explore.



SHORTER COMMUTES

Abilene's commute time of 15.7 minutes is significantly less than the U.S. average of 26.4 minutes according to bestplaces.net. Over a full year, that gives Abilenians roughly an extra 4,212 minutes or more than 70 hours of additional time to spend in their business, their family or pursuing their passions.

8

THRIVING YOUNG PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The Abilene Chamber's Young Professional program boasts a membership of almost 600, making it the largest young professional program in West Texas. Even smartasset.com named Abilene one of the top 14 places where millennials are moving.

9

SPORTS AND RECREATION

With prime land and scenic lakes, the Big Country boasts a solid reputation for hunting and fishing. Sports enthusiasts can enjoy playing around on one of several world-class golf courses or finish a set at one of the tennis centers. The new state-of-the-art \$11 million Dodge Jones Youth Sports Center opened its doors in 2020 and offers a 55,500 square-foot multipurpose space.

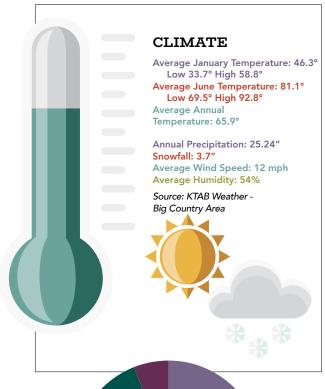
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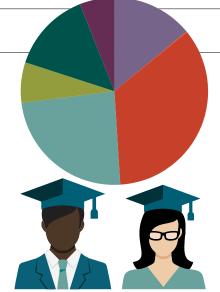
COMMITMENT TO DYESS AFB

Recently named one of the Top Five Great American Defense Communities, there isn't a community in the nation that shows a higher level of support for their base than Abilene, Texas. Perhaps you've heard of the Abilene Trophy? A community support award given out each year by the U.S. Air Force, Air Mobility Command, was won so frequently by Abilene, the Air Force said Abilene could no longer compete. Instead, the award was re-named the "Abilene Trophy."



Facts & Figures





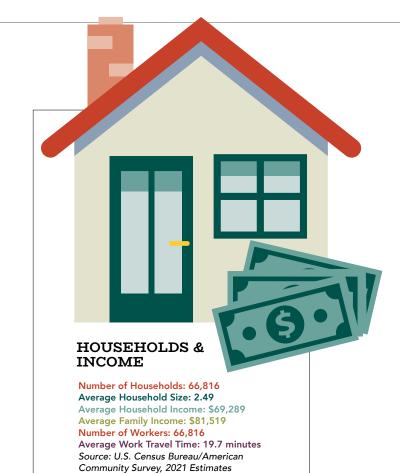
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

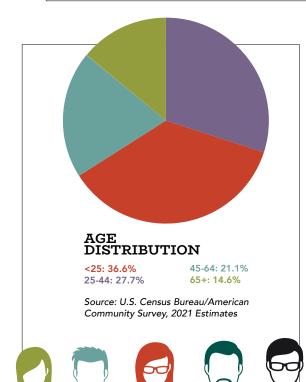
Some High School, No Diploma: 11.74% High School Graduate (or GED): 31.85%

Some College, No Degree: 23.70% Associate Degree: 7.86%

Bachelor's Degree: 16.20% Master's/Professional Degree: 7.67%

Doctorate Degree: 0.99% Source: Claritas, LLC 2022







ECONOMIC IMPACT

Manufacturing - \$724 million

Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting - \$6.9 million

Retail Trade - \$2.21 billion Wholesale Trade - \$2.8 billion

Oil and Gas - \$156 million

Source: Environics Analytics | Data Axle, Business Profiles

Travel Trade

Travel Spending - \$483.5 million

Generated Local Taxes - \$14.1 million

Generated State Taxes - \$28.7 million

Employed - 3,570

Annual Payroll - \$106.0 million

Hotel/Motel Rooms - 3,895

Source: Abilene Convention & Visitors Bureau

TOTAL POPULATION

2021: 125,182

Source: U.S. Census Bureau/American Community Survey, 2021 Estimates



COST OF LIVING INDEX*















	All	Grocery	Housing	Utilities	Transport	Health Care	Misc.
Abilene, TX	91.3	88.8	84	105.6	103.3	98.6	91.3
Austin, TX	101.4	89.3	113.1	93.5	90.9	105.9	101
Dallas, TX	104	97	101.5	110.6	89.5	112.4	110.8
Fort Worth, TX	95.5	93	85.7	110.6	91.1	92.3	103.5
Lubbock, TX	90.2	91	83.9	89.8	86.7	94.9	96.7

*Source: Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER)

AVERAGE PRICES*















	Beer	Coffee	Doctor Visit	Gas (per gallon)	Ground Beef	Movie	Veterinary Services
National Average	\$9.67	\$4.43	\$118.55	\$2.80	\$4.52	\$11.05	\$55.06
Abilene, TX	\$9.92	\$4.43	\$102.90	\$2.78	\$4.71	\$9.83	\$50.75
Austin, TX	\$10.08	\$4.14	\$120.94	\$2.81	\$3.68	\$12.21	\$53.46
Dallas, TX	\$10.60	\$4.48	\$131.93	\$2.82	\$4.60	\$12.74	\$71.12
Fort Worth, TX	\$9.89	\$4.36	\$89.91	\$2.81	\$4.43	\$10.69	\$59.18
Lubbock, TX	\$9.69	\$4.65	\$110.86	\$2.69	\$4.38	\$10.21	\$50.87

*Source: Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER)

City Leaders

The City of Abilene operates under the councilmanager form of government. Under this system, with approval of city council, the mayor appoints a city manager who acts as the chief executive officer of the government. In the chief executive capacity, the city manager works with the city council, city department directors and city staff to develop and implement policies guiding the city.

MAYOR ANTHONY WILLIAMS

(325) 676-6205 • anthony.williams@abilenetx.gov

Williams served as a city council member for 16 years before being sworn in as mayor in June 2017. In addition to his mayoral role, he is the chief diversity officer at Abilene Christian University, where he's worked for 25 years. Williams graduated from Abilene High School in 1987 and McMurry University in 1993. He's married to Lynette, and they have three grown children.

Williams' goals for Abilene:

- Grow Abilene by creating a larger economy and a smaller city government.
- Create a more friendly City Hall.
- Develop better communication between city government and its citizens.
- Continue efforts to conserve water usage and look to secure further sources.
- Promote equality and opportunity for all the people in the community.
- Bring people together and look at things from a holistic point of view.



CITY MANAGER ROBERT HANNA

(325) 676-6206 • robert.hanna@abilenetx.gov

Hanna was appointed city manager for the City of Abilene in April 2015. He was born and raised in Fort Worth and received both a bachelor's degree in applied arts and sciences and a master's degree in public administration from the University of North Texas. Robert previously served as the city manager of Denison, Texas; the assistant city manager for the City of Weatherford, Texas; the city administrator for the City of Hudson Oaks, Texas; and has held various positions with the City of Denton, Texas. He enjoys hiking, traveling and spending time with friends and family members.





First 14 Days

TURNING ON

CABLE/INTERNET

NextLink Internet (855) 698-5465 nextlink internet.com Rise Broadband (325) 266-3139 risebroad band.com **Optimum** (844) 874-7558 optimum.com

Taylor Telecom (325) 846-4111 taylortel.net Vexus (800) 658-2150 vexusfiber.com

WesTex Connect (325) 673-1930 wtconnect.com Access Taylor by Taylor Electric Co-operative (325) 793-8500 taylorelectric. com/access-fiber

ELECTRICITY & NATURAL GAS

AEP Texas Utilities

(877) 373-4858 aeptexas.com ATMOS Energy (888) 286-6700 atmosenergy.com PRO STAR Energy Services (469) 388-6258 prostarenergy.com Taylor Electric Cooperative (325) 793-8500 taylorelectric.com **TXU Energy Services** (844) 359-4255 txu.com

WATER

City of Abilene

(325) 676-6405 abilenetx.com **Scheduled Watering Days**

Even-Numbered Addresses Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

Odd-Numbered Addresses Wednesday, Friday and Sunday Industrial, Commercial, Government, Schools & Universities Monday, Wednesday and Friday

NEED A SERVICE? FIND A BUSINESS

Check out the Chamber of Commerce member directory beginning on P. 113 organized by category.







CLEANING UP

TRASH

The City of Abilene provides containers for those customers without alley service. Larger containers are provided for customers to share with their neighbors who border the container in the alley. Containers are emptied twice weekly. Call (325) 676-6053 for additional information. Trash removal is facilitated by the solid waste services component of the public works department but is included in your monthly water bill for your convenience.

RECYCLING

The Environmental Recycling Center, located at 2209 Oak Street, is a "One Stop Drop" Recycling Center as part of Abilene's voluntary recycling program. In addition to items that can be recycled at neighborhood drop-off sites, the Oak Street location accepts tree limbs and some household hazardous waste (such as oil, antifreeze and paint). Learn more at abilenetx.gov.

Recycle the items below at neighborhood drop-off sites:

- Aluminum cans, donated Bi-metal cans Cardboard
- Scrap metal, white goods, and appliances containing refrigerant gasses

To find the recycling site nearest you visit abilenetx.gov/482/Recycling-Centers

PUTTING DOWN ROOTS

MAIL

Nearby post office locations, mail forwarding and change of address services can be found online at usps.com. FedEx and UPS locations and hours of operation are also available online at fedex.com and ups.com.

DRIVER'S LICENSE

Visit txdps.state.tx.us for a list of required documentation to obtain a Texas Driver's License at the Department of Public Safety located at 4649 S. First St.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION

Register your motor vehicle at 300 Oak St., Suite 200. Be sure to bring your last registration or a copy of your title showing it is in your name, a completed title application, a registration form, proof of insurance and proof of Texas Safety Inspection. Active duty military located in another state may submit a vehicle self-certification form in lieu of the VI-30. This also applies for full-time students located out of state. All forms are available online at taylorcountytexas.org.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Register to vote in Taylor County by completing the application available at taylorcountytexas.org. Call (325) 674-1216 for more information.



HOUSING MARKET & COST OF LIVING

Abilene's cost of living index ranks one of the most affordable places to live in the United States. With an average home sale price that is 35% of the U.S. average, homeowners find living significantly cheaper.

Average Home Price in Abilene: \$175,465

GETTING AROUND

Abilene, Texas, offers all major forms of transportation including highways, rail, ground distribution and air, making the city well connected.



Ground

Abilene is located directly on Interstate 20, which connects west to El Paso, Texas, and east to Dallas/Ft. Worth moving approximately 40,000 vehicles on an average day. The city also serves as a hub for U.S. Highways 83, 84, 277 and State Highways 36 and 18. Encircling the east side of the city, Loop 322 links I-20 to U.S. Highways 84/84. Ground transportation services are available from major carriers including FedEx, UPS, Central Freight Lines, R&L Carriers, Saia, Yellow Freight Systems and twenty other providers in Abilene. Visit Lynkup at lynkupts.com for Abilene airport pickup and drop off, statewide shuttle service and local ride shares.



Air

The Abilene Regional Airport (ABI) is a Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) Part 139 certified airport on 1,700 city-owned acres and is located approximately three nautical miles southeast of the central business district. The airport is commercially served by American Airlines with regular daily flights to and from Dallas/Fort Worth International (DFW) airport. The airport is ten minutes from practically anywhere in the city and offers travelers amenities such as a restaurant, gift shop and car rental from Avis, Enterprise and Hertz.



Public Transportation

The residents of Abilene also have access to CityLink, the public transit system for the City of Abilene. CityLink offers an affordable transportation alternative for the citizens of Abilene that provides a safe, efficient and courteous service to every major area of town. The system includes fixed-route bus service, ADA Complementary Paratransit Service and demand-response evening service.



Rail

Rail transportation service is provided by Union Pacific and Southern Switching Company. SSC is a short-line railroad located in Abilene, Texas. Interchanging with the Union Pacific in downtown Abilene, SSC operates 8.5 miles of railroad within the city. It serves a variety of existing customers in shipping and receiving commodities such as grain, reed, fertilizers, oil, scrap, corn sweetener and lumber.

Distance to Austin: 216 miles
Distance to Dallas: 180.8 miles
Distance to Ft. Worth: 149.8 miles

Distance to Chicago: 1,086 miles
Distance to Los Angeles: 1,271 miles
Distance to New York City: 1,729 miles

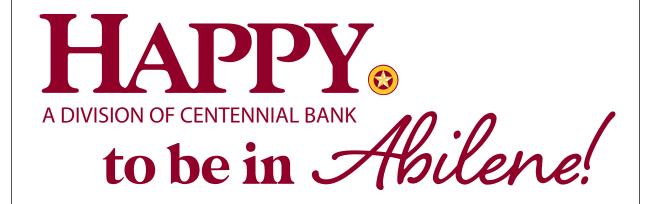
Internet for the way you live Taylor Telecom provides Residential and Business Fiber Internet Services that will help you prosper. Fiber Internet means powerful online speeds and network reliability. · Reliable & high-quality connection Connect all devices to WiFi Faster connection · Unlimited Internet usage with no data caps · Low maintenance and less vulnerability to glitches or interference - even from weather Get up to speed and future-proof your home or business with fiber technology. GET UP TO SPEED WITH TAYLOR TELECOM taylortel.net | (325) 846.4111

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- Stay up to speed with community events at abilenevisitors.com/calendar or by following the "Visit Abilene, Texas" Facebook page.
- Download the MyABI Mobile app to your smartphone or tablet to get access to community events, places to stay, news and announcements, restaurants and businesses, visitor information, and City of Abilene online bill pay.
- Click the CodeRED icon at abilenetx.gov to sign up for critical community alerts and notices about emergency situations.
- Not sure who to call? Dial 2-1-1 to connect with local information and referral specialists. These trained professionals
 have a database with more than 1,600 resources and social services.
- Watch Abilene Television Network Channel 2 for information about city happenings. The Education/Government Channel features broadcasts of City Council meetings, City Council workshops, Planning and Zoning Commission meetings and original programs. Air Force News airs on Fridays at 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.
- Learn about your genealogy or join a book club. Abilene's public library system offers books, electronic resources and other services for readers of all ages. Library cards are free to all Taylor County residents. Visit abilenetx.gov/apl for an application and more information.

HELP WANTED

For job listings in Abilene, visit AbileneWorks.com or Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas at 500 Chestnut St., Suite 1200 or online at workforcesystem.org. This non-profit also has specialized programs supporting youth, veterans and entrepreneurs.



One Village Drive, Suite 100 Abilene, TX 79606 happybank.com

 $A\ Home\ BancShares\ Company\ (NYSE:HOMB)$

325.698.2265







SECURITY TITLE

Abilene Eastland Breckenridge

a Texan ★ Title Company



Experience Matters

4400 Buffalo Gap Rd. Ste.1100 securitytitleco.com 325.695.1144



BUSINESS CLIMATE

Through the dedicated efforts of Abilene's public and private partners, dreamers start up and grow, existing businesses expand, and our world class workforce exceeds the needs of the business community. Businesses continue to be drawn to Abilene's low cost of living, warm climate and business-friendly culture. It's a great place to work, play and live!

IN THIS SECTION:

- Top Employers in Abilene
- Best Workplaces
- Navigator Program
- Innovate & Excel Investors
- Agriculture

BUSINESS CLIMATE

Top 10 Employers in Abilene

Dyess Air Force Base (military & civilians) 8,906

Texas Department of Criminal Justice
1,187

Hendrick Health 5,301

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas

Abilene ISD

Abilene Christian University
850

City of Abilene

Wylie ISD 800

Abilene State Supported Living Center 1,055

10 Taylor County 570

Source: Texas Labor Market Information and Abilene Regional Growth Alliance



ONLINE CHECK-IN

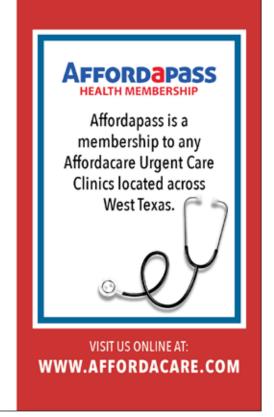
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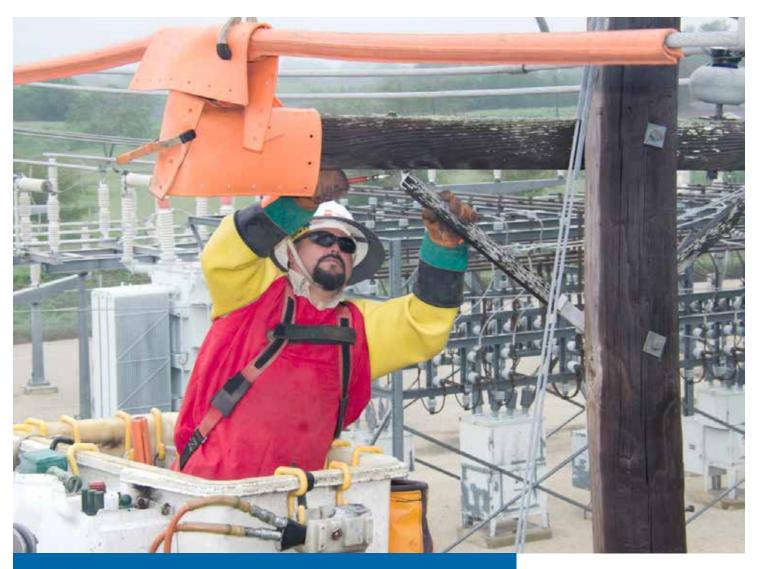
EXTENDED EVENING AND WEEKEND HOURS

MOST INSURANCE ACCEPTED

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

WE HAVE LOCATIONS IN ABILENE, BIG SPRING, STEPHENVILLE, GRANBURY AND WICHITA FALLS.





You Have the Power To Choose



BOUNDLESS ENERGY"

Power to Choose.org*

For more information visit: www.aeptexas.com

Follow us at:





*The Public Utility Commission of Texas created the Power to Choose website to provide a list of Retail Electric Providers in your area.

Abilene's Best Workplaces 2022

Presented by Hendrick Health

Abilene's inaugural Best Workplaces event took place in 2022 and is the Oscars of the human resources industry. Abilene businesses now have the opportunity to be nominated as one of the premier places to work. The Best Workplaces award recognizes the value of the work atmosphere within an organization and the impact of effective corporate leadership. Winners for 2022 were honored at a cocktail reception in August.

Best Small Business: Grain Theory

Grain Theory has a strong culture in the workplace and a commitment to belonging in the Abilene community.

The business has developed five values that define their culture and ensure a healthy workplace. Grain Theory values an open, honest work environment, treating others as equals.

- Quality
- Experimentation
- Education
- People
- Authenticity

The business is thankful and appreciative of their employees and finds a variety of ways to express this. The owners have a unique way to maintain their high standards and emphasis on quality by encouraging and guiding their employees to perfection.

With Grain Theory's emphasis on valuing people, they created a space, and a business, that is all about caring for people. They provide the community of Abilene a place to feel comfortable in and enjoy time with their friends and make new friends. They

are committed to downtown Abilene and strive to play a significant role in bringing people to the area. Whether that is accomplished through great food, a friendly environment or the fun block parties they throw, Grain Theory wants the best for the community.

Other finalists: Blizzard & Zimmerman Law Firm and My Emergency Room 24/7 + Urgent Care

Best Medium-Sized Business: Coleman County State Bank

Coleman County State Bank values not just their employees but the employees' families as well. They prioritize promoting employee experience and education as the company grows.

This truly is a family-first company. The annual Christmas party is an opportunity for the company to give back to the children of the employees. Toys are purchased by CCSB, wrapped, and given out by Santa Claus to the children attending the party.

In addition, each employee's child who makes the A/B honor roll can turn in their report card and CCSB makes a deposit into a savings account. When the students graduate from high school, they are presented a check for the entirety of the balance. This acts as a both a savings mechanism and a reward for their hard work in academics. Family support makes the employees feel valued.

Other finalists: Communities of Abilene FCU and Condley & Company LLP



Best Large-Sized Business: Funeral Directors Life

Funeral Directors Life has a strong desire to create the best working lifestyle for their employees, which means creating a flexible and open environment.

The goal is for the company to be a place where employees not only develop professionally but grow personally as well. The leadership of Funeral Directors Life strives to demonstrate what it means to have a servant's heart, be helpers of people, and be focused on mind, body, and soul.

Funeral Directors Life has numerous resources and benefits for the employees to complete a strong work-life integration. These resources include a nurse practitioner, a physical trainer, and a director of wellness. The director of wellness is available to provide body scans, nutrition advice, workout plans and mental health advice. The campus also includes an employee fitness center available to employees and their immediate family members 24/7. These unique employee benefits extend the care and support of the employees at Funeral Directors



Life. The company is always looking for creative ways to increase employee satisfaction.

Other finalists: Abilene State Supported Living Center and First Finanical Bank

Best Non-Profit: Betty Hardwick Center

Betty Hardwick is committed to the Abilene community by participating and sponsoring numerous local activities. Not only does the company support the community of Abilene, but their number one focus is supporting their clients and employees.

The employees give a voice to the people who often have not had a voice in the community, advocating for them and their needs. The culture of Betty Hardwick puts the clients first and treats everyone with dignity and respect. They work hard to remove stigmas from their clients' disabilities or illnesses and promote hope and second chances.

Betty Hardwick Center values a flexible work-life balance for their employees, and this includes three days off each year for personal leave to recharge and rest. The administration believes employees need to have healthy time away, not only to rejuvenate, but to focus on their own family, personal interests, and having fun. They



provide a full range of insurance and retirement benefits and offer a quarterly bonus based on years of service. Betty Hardwick has a diversity council to ensure each person that their cultures and beliefs are understood and recognized. The overall mission of Betty Hardwick is to empower people to live their best lives.

Other finalists: Goodwill West Texas and United Way of Abilene



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Pointing the Way Forward

West Texas Business Navigator sets a course for success for Abilene businesses



Local small businesses and entrepreneurs are accessing extra resources without the extra cost, thanks to a federal grant and the hard work of the Abilene Chamber of Commerce and several partner organizations in the community, making Abilene even more business friendly than usual.

The West Texas Business Navigator program launched in May 2021 with funding from a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) designed to bring business support to underserved entrepreneurs. The program is part of the American Rescue Plan initiative which aims to provide assistance during economic recovery. The Abilene Chamber is one of 51 grantees nationwide, and one of only two organizations in Texas to receive the funding.

"Your Chamber is focused on accelerating Abilene's business friendliness and developing an inclusive business environment for all. Through the help of this grant and our community partners, we know that we're getting closer to reaching those goals," said Laura Moore, 2021-2022 Chamber chair.

The program focuses on aiding small businesses, especially female, veteran and minority owned businesses, offering training and seminars on topics such as how to start or expand a small business, financial literacy, marketing, government contracting and business leadership.

Since its inception in May 2021, the program has offered 10 outreach activities and 19 training sessions, with more than 198 people taking part.

West Texas Business Navigator is structured so that the Abilene Chamber functions as a hub with several other local organizations serving as spokes to provide training and outreach. Cisco Junior College offers self-paced online business classes at no cost to small business owners. The Abilene Black Chamber of Commerce provides a course on how to find and write grants. West Central Texas Council of Governments arranges marketing and financial reporting workshops in rural areas. HERU Community Development Corporation is providing training in financial literacy. Other partners include Abilene Industrial Foundation, America's Small Business Development Center at Texas Tech – Abilene,

BUSINESS CLIMATE

City of Abilene, and Northwest Texas Procurement Technical Assistance Center.

The idea for Abilene's involvement in the program came about when HERU and Abilene's Black Chamber approached the Abilene Chamber about the grant opportunity. The Abilene Chamber brought in additional partners and put together a proposal, said Helen Usera, director of business retention and expansion. More than 700 entities applied and only 51 received the grant. The funding is used to pay for training, operations costs for outreach, and staff time for organization.

West Central Texas Council of Governments is a community economic development organization primarily focused on the rural counties around Abilene. Operations manager Terra New said this program is a perfect fit for their purpose as they expand the opportunities to smaller towns in the Big Country.

"It's brought an additional piece of small business training," she said. "We work through chambers and economic development corporations of these surrounding cities. Now we can bring training to them at no charge. That's a big win for rural communities, that they don't have to come to Abilene to take advantage of those resources."





BUSINESS CLIMATE



Eighteen78

Courtney Hill is one of the recent beneficiaries of the navigator's offerings here in Abilene. In the summer of 2022 she was in the midst of a new expansion for her boutique, Eighteen78, from online only to a brick-and-mortar storefront downtown.

"I was completely on my own, and it was hard," Hill said. "I don't have a business degree, and I didn't have any business tools."

Enter the West Texas Navigator's Business Bootcamp, an all day training class with a variety of speakers and topics geared toward new businesses and entrepreneurs.

"The navigator program just opened up so many doors as far as things I wouldn't have known about," Hill said. "It would have taken years for me to learn what I learned through the program. I did not have or know all the resources available to me until that boot camp."

For example, Hill realized she needed to outsource some marketing functions such as social media and website management.

A few months into the opening of her boutique location at 401 Pine St., Hill said business is slowly picking up, and she looks forward to what the future holds.







Lone Star Tactical Services

Two veterans who love Abilene and chose to retire here teamed up when they saw a need in Abilene that they could fulfill.

Pete Leija and Glen Pugh were both seeking a security certification and had to travel to Dallas for the requisite training. "Why can't we have this course available in Abilene?" they wondered, and began to speculate on how to provide it.

"We talked about it, kicked it around and lo and behold went ahead and decided to put an entity together," Leija said. "We started with a rough idea and things began to solidify as we formed."

The result of those plans and musings is Lone Star Tactical Services, now offering that same security training that was missing here locally, as well as a number of other services and classes, including security services such as personal protection, bodyguards and armed courier services as well as self defense classes, firearms training and active assailant training for groups.

Pugh is a retired military weapons instructor who had been working as an independent contractor. Leija already owned his own hog trapping business, but after 30 years in the military, he said he's always had an entrepreneurial spirit of looking for new ways to make extra money.

Both men were already involved with the Abilene Chamber programs and heard about Business Navigator through the Chamber's email. Since then, they've attended nearly every possible training. Marketing is what Pugh said has been the most immediately useful.

"We're in our 50s, and we can do technology and use social media, but we can't build a website, so we hired someone to do that," Pugh said. "We're learning how Google works, how to use Google reviews, and how to use social media and stay on top of it. For me, the marketing class was the best training — how to market a new business, how to make social media posts, how often and how long they should be."

They also attended classes on finances and grants, including a training that had a panel of banking professionals sharing information on loans.

"I think Abilene, for the size city it is, is a very business entrepreneurial minded city," Leija said. "For our business, just getting started, we're very proud of the fact that we are two people, retired military, bringing a total of 63 years of military service to one business. This is what we've done all our lives, just on a different scale. I'm proud that we have a very professional and customer-friendly company in how we operate."

For both Leija and Pugh, Abilene is their home of choice, and they see the benefit of the navigator program for themselves as well as for their broader community.

"The Chamber and AIF providing this opportunity is phenomenal," Pugh said. "It's probably saved us thousands of dollars. Having this training and assistance available at no cost — how much better can it get? I hope the program can capture new people coming in with ideas. When people are successful, they stay here and pay taxes and keep their money local, and that helps everyone succeed."

Impact Investors

As our highest-level investors in the Membership and Community Development divisions of the Chamber, organizations at the Impact level recognize the relationship between the prosperity of the region and the success of their own businesses. Their investment supports influential advocacy initiatives that protect the business environment. Companies at our Impact level value the Chamber's influence and view regional collaboration and growth as a key priority to achieving their firms' business objectives.

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- Communities of Abilene Federal Credit Union
- Condley and Company, LLP
- DATROO Technologies, LLC
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- Holland Hearing Center

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- Lockheed Martin
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- Mansefeldt Investment Corporation
- McMahon Surovik Suttle,
- McMurry University
- Mikiel Medical Mall
- My Emergency Room 24/7 + Urgent Care
- Northrop Grumman Aeronautics Systems
- Pennye Lane Properties
- Perry Hunter Hall, Inc.

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- Rentech Boiler Systems
- Gift from the Becky & Jack Rentz Donor Advised Fund at
- the Community Foundation of Abilene
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- 1. Haskell \$40,581,116 2. Fisher \$31,888,783 3. Runnels \$29,386,953 4. Jones \$26,917,272 5. Mitchell \$25,519,664
- **COW/CALF & STOCKERS**



- Eastland \$38,691,450
 Throckmorton \$24,330,250
 Nolan \$20,469,875
- 4. Taylor
 \$16,401,750

 5. Coleman
 \$16,227,500

HAY & ENSILAGE



1. Taylor \$8,475,309
2. Jones \$5,904,801
3. Eastland \$3,931,375
4. Callahan \$3,825,919
5. Fisher \$3,335,938

HUNTING & RECREATION



- Coleman \$10,100,000
 Stephens \$4,877,500
 Taylor \$4,582,250
 Callahan \$4,457,250
 Mitchell \$4,000,000
- WHEAT



- 1. Runnels \$16,302,462
- Haskell \$14,174,497
 Knox \$10,202,184
- Jones \$7,078,405
 Taylor \$4,905,679















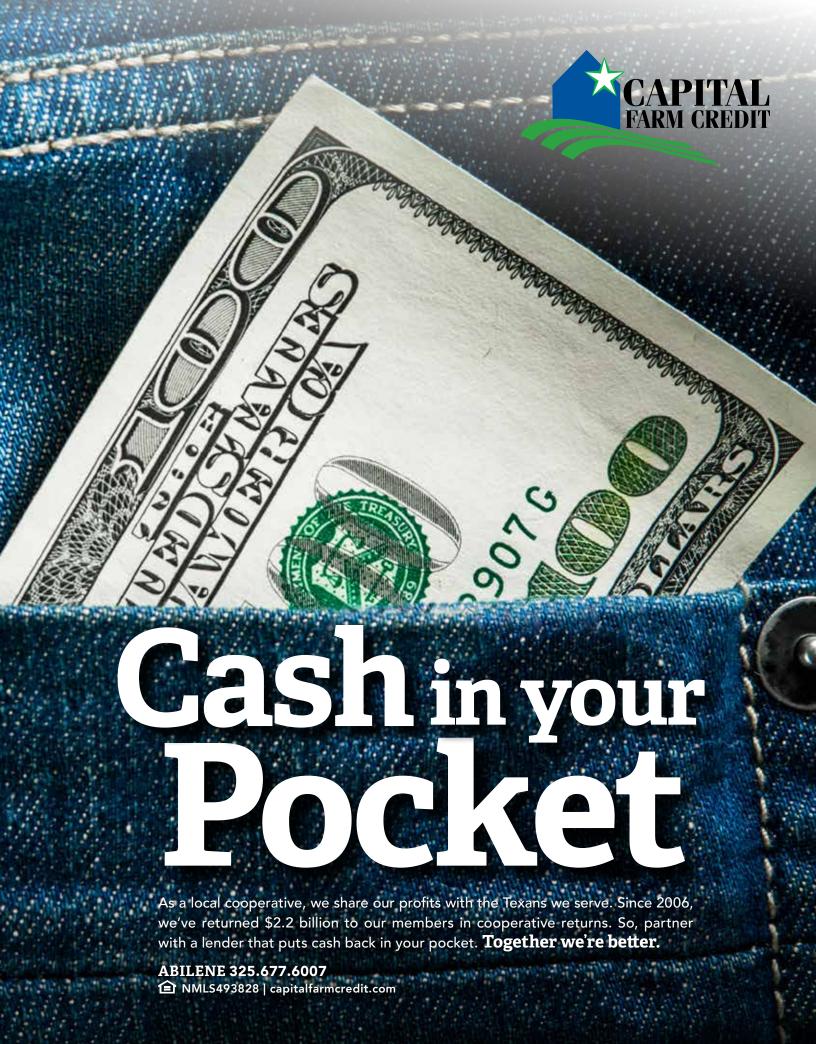


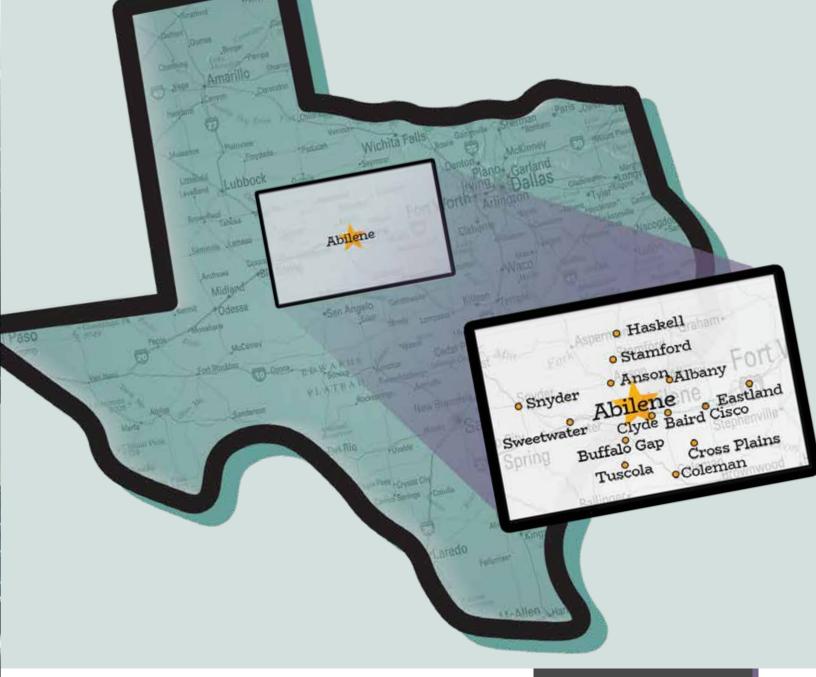


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SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

While the benefits of living in Abilene are plentiful, why stop there? Abilene is surrounded by smaller cities and towns with history, personality and unique cultures of their own. An easy drive in any direction will land you in one of the many Big Country communities where you can shop, dine, visit museums and experience the best of West Texas hospitality. Although this isn't a full list, here's a peek at a few of the great cities and towns in the Abilene area.

IN THIS SECTION:

- Anson
- Baird
- Buffalo Gap
- Cisco
- Clyde
- Cross Plains
- Eastland
- Haskell
- Snyder
- Stamford

ANSON

Founded in 1881, Anson is the county seat of Jones County and was named for Dr. Anson Jones, the architect of Texas Statehood and the last president of the Republic of Texas. Anson residents enjoy the pleasure and amenities of small-town life but are only 25 miles away from Abilene.

The city has a diversified recreational area with a city park featuring one of the largest swimming pools in the region, a nine-hole golf course, baseball fields, picnic facilities, a playground, a club house, and show barns for fairs and stock shows. Anson is located in the center of rich farming and livestock activities, and is home to the Anson North Lake – perfect for fishing and spending a day in the outdoors with family and friends. At the center of town is the beautiful and historic Jones County Courthouse.

The atmosphere in the Anson Independent School District is warm and inviting. Students learn from caring professionals who can give students the extra attention they need thanks to their small class sizes.



The time and effort teachers put into educating children shows in the district's 100% graduation rate. The Anson Tigers are more than a school or a team; they represent a tight-knit, caring, nurturing school system and community. Students graduate and choose to raise their families in the same school district that they grew up in.

Annual events in Anson include the Chamber Awards Banquet, Lawrence Hall Golf Tournament, North Lake Fireworks Show, Party in the Park, the Hoolie Golf Tournament, Trunk or Treat, Hay Bale Trail, Tour of Homes, Anson Parade of Lights, Miss Merry Christmas Pageant and the Texas Cowboy's Christmas Ball.

BAIRD

Established in 1880, Baird has a rich, colorful history – from cattle trails to railroad tracks to the interstate highway. Historical buildings dot the town and annual events celebrate the past and the present.

The vibrant community is located 20 miles east of Abilene on Interstate 20. Baird, the county seat of Callahan County, has plenty to offer residents, visitors and businesses.

The Baird Independent School District has a Career Technology Education program with a welding academy, as well as a partnership with nearby Clyde that allows students access to medical training through Clyde school district. Baird ISD also implemented dual credit opportunities with Cisco College.

A day in Baird might include a stop at the T&P Depot Museum, where visitors can step back in time at the historic depot and learn about Baird's railway history. You could also enjoy a round of golf at the beautiful Shady Oaks Golf Course before antique shopping and dinner at a local restaurant.

Every year, Baird celebrates the Railhead Festival, including a barbecue cook off, on the third weekend in May, as well as downtown trick or treating in October.



BUFFALO GAP

Just 10 miles south of Abilene, beautiful tree-filled Buffalo Gap boasts an array of restaurants, shopping, a history center, and a state park and lake. Small but charming, Buffalo Gap is perfect for lunch or a long weekend. Numerous vacation rental houses offer a heavenly escape – many loaded with wildlife and convenient access to trails and creeks, and all with spectacular sunrises and sunsets.

Buffalo Gap is home to the famous Perini Ranch Steakhouse with tenderloins favored by Oprah and the Taylor County History Center with a complete historic village to take you back in time. The Old Settlers Reunion Grounds is the perfect place for a family picnic, and the Community Center and Presbyterian Encampment can host all sizes of family reunions.

Community services include Shades of Hope, treating addictions of all kinds for people across the nation, and Camp Able, a therapeutic equine center with a national reputation for helping children with challenges. The state park offers camping, fishing, lake activities, hiking, and an enormous summer swimming pool.



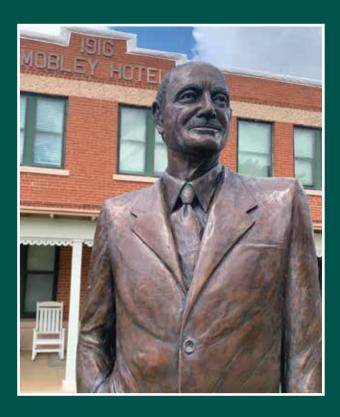
Many family-friendly special events occur throughout the year, including an Easter Egg Hunt and Lunch, a Fourth of July Parade, a special Christmas celebration during Thanksgiving weekend, a Scarecrow Festival in October, star-gazing every month with giant telescopes, a monthly flea market that attracts visitors from around the state, a Chili Cook Off each Labor Day weekend, Road Rally for Families, an amazing bicycle event, and a one-of-a-kind Adventure Run and Street Dance – all free to the public to watch and enjoy. Check out the events page of the Buffalo Gap Chamber website for details.

CISCO

Cisco is better known as the "Gateway to the West" for its major interstate and highways reaching from the east to the west coast. Cisco is located on I-20 in Eastland County, just forty-six miles east of Abilene and 105 miles west of the DFW area.

Cisco is rich in history, points of interests and culturally sound. The city is perhaps best known as the location of Conrad N. Hilton's first hotel. Now a museum, Hilton purchased his first hotel in 1919 after coming to Cisco to buy a bank.

Cisco also offers hiking trails through the zoo and fishing at a man-made swimming pool that was once the world's largest – not to mention the best kept secret in the state of Texas, Lake Cisco! In downtown Cisco, you will find shops to browse in as well as farm-to-table dining. Enjoy the brewery and the wineries while taking in the streets of Cisco with its cultural murals and historic buildings.



CLYDE

Established in 1881 and incorporated in 1907, Clyde is eight miles east of Abilene in northwestern Callahan County, located on the Callahan Divide between the Brazos and Colorado rivers. Clyde's early beginnings were tied to the Texas and Pacific Railroad. It's said that the city's name came from Robert Clyde's camp for railroad workers, established in 1880.

Clyde is a vibrant community located along Interstate 20. The City of Clyde has invested more than \$33 million in infrastructure improvements, modernizing its water system, sewer system, solid waste management and city parks, including new splash pads and rental cabins, RV parks and campsites at Clyde Lake. Clyde is also within 10 miles of the Abilene Regional Airport and 146 miles from the Dallas Fort Worth International Airport and 10 miles from commercial rail access.

The Clyde Independent School District is an accredited school district with an A Superior rating. The City of Clyde and Clyde ISD have entered into an interlocal



agreement to construct a \$14 million sports park complex. The Hanner Sports Complex, which will be open in June of 2023, consists of two championship baseball fields, a little league field, three championship softball fields, a soccer field, four pickleball courts, four tennis courts, two sand volleyball courts, a playground, splash pad and concession facilities.

Annual events include the Fourth of July Festival at the lake, Pecan Fest, Oktoberfest and the Christmas Parade.

CROSS PLAINS

Cross Plains, about 45 miles southeast of Abilene, is home to the Robert E. Howard museum, Woody's Classic Cars and Baseball Museum, a butterfly park and several annual festivals and events.

Woody's boasts a 22,000-square-foot collection of classic cars and baseball memorabilia with free admission year round. In addition to baseball memorabilia from early players like Ty Cobb and Babe Ruth, the museum showcases automobiles from the early 1900s, the 50s, 60s and 70s.

Robert E. Howard, creator of Conan the Barbarian, lived in Cross Plains, and his family home is now a museum dedicated to his life. Robert E. Howard Days, a festival on the second weekend in June, also honors his life and work and includes a car show, food trucks, craft booths and more.

Visit Cross Plains for Fourth of July fireworks and hotdogs or for the hunter's feed the first Saturday of November. The first Thursday in December, you'll find downtown lit up with Christmas lights, a visit

from Santa and a lighted parade contest.

The Cross Plains Independent School District includes 365 students in pre-k through 12th grade, and the district serves as a storefront for the community on Highway 206. The small school setting is made up of one elementary campus housing pre-k through 6th grade and a secondary campus for grades 7-12. The district offers a variety of extracurricular organizations that regularly qualify in regional state and national competition, including as one of the smallest schools competing in 11-man football. Cross Plains ISD was the 2015 Lone Star Cup Champion.



EASTLAND

Whether you're just passing through or a permanent resident, in Eastland, Texas, you will find a community with diversity. You might enjoy a walk around the beautiful downtown square and historical buildings or marvel at the big sky sunsets.

Located about 50 miles east of Abilene, Eastland is known for being the home of Old Rip, a horned toad that, legend tells, emerged alive after being entombed in a cornerstone of the courthouse for 31 years. He toured the nation as a celebrity and was received by President Calvin Coolidge. Eventually, the stress and strain of public adoration was too much, and he later died of pneumonia. Today, visitors to the Eastland courthouse can still find a preserved horned toad, who may or may not be the original Old Rip.

The Historic Connellee Hotel and Civic Center in the heart of downtown Eastland is named for Charles U. Connellee who was known as "The Father of Eastland." The hotel originally opened in 1928 and was acquired by the City of Eastland in 1997. Currently operated by the Eastland Community Foundation, the Connellee Hotel has eight floors and is the tallest and most prominent building in Eastland. Although



it no longer accepts overnight accommodations, there are many great features to see, including the historic Roof Garden Ballroom on the eighth floor, which offers elegance and beauty with a spectacular skyline view.

The historic Majestic Theatre was also built by Connellee and featured films and stage shows; Gene Autry and his horse, Champion, made their appearance, and live radio programs were broadcast every Saturday. Currently, the theatre is operated and managed by the Fine Arts Community of Eastland and features current hit films as well as classic films, concerts, conventions, touring stage shows and other events.

Annual community events include Rip's Ribs Cook Off on the second Saturday in April, RipFest on the first Saturday in October, and One Starry Night on the first Saturday in December.

HASKELL

Located about 55 miles north of Abilene on U.S. Highway 277, the city of Haskell is a slice of small-town living at its best. Here you'll find homes nestled next to cotton fields, family-owned retail shops and a community spirit rooted in family values, goodwill and the future.

Visitors and residents can enjoy antiques shopping in the downtown square and visiting the Fort Sam Military and Antique Vehicles Museum or the Texas Star Museum. Other attractions include concerts at the Historic Jones and Cox on the Square, the world-famous steak fingers at the Double A Drive-In and three local murals by artist Calina Mishay Johnson, who is a Haskell County native.

In the Haskell Independent School District, the 2020-21 seniors received \$504,000 collectively from scholarships, 26 graduated with college credit hours, and five held industry certification from the Rolling Plains Technical School. The junior high and high school campus boasts a new cafeteria, auditorium and gymnasium.

Annual events and festivals include:

• Wild Horse Prairie Days on the first weekend in June



- Wild Horse Prairie Days Sanctioned BBQ Cook Off, sponsored by Haskell Chamber of Commerce
- Annual car show hosted by Haskell County Knights
- Haskell Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet
- Annual lighted Christmas parade hosted by the Haskell Chamber of Commerce every second weekend in December
- Jingle and Mingle Holiday Shopping Extravaganza
- A community-wide garage sale on the first weekends in May and October
- Haskell Young Homemakers Annual Craft Show on the Saturday before Thanksgiving

SNYDER

Snyder, Texas, known as the home of the White Buffalo, is located about 80 miles from Abilene. Snyder is the county seat of Scurry County and had its beginnings in 1878 when a buffalo hunter and trader, William Henry (Pete) Snyder, a native of Pennsylvania, built a trading post on the banks of Deep Creek. Today Scurry County is a leading oil-producing county in Texas, and ranching and cotton farming also continue to employ a large part of the population.

Several annual events take place in Snyder, such as White Buffalo Days, a car show, and the West Texas Western Swing Festival.

City attractions include:

- Scurry County Museum
- Towle Park Historic Village
- A variety of downtown boutiques

The Snyder Independent School District is fully accredited by the Texas Education Agency and provides an instructional program for pre-kindergarten through 12th grade as well as programs of vocational education. Snyder ISD just opened a greenhouse, offering the students the opportunity to cultivate and sell plants. The school is also known for the Snyder Pride of the West marching band and a highly successful athletic program.

Snyder is also home to Western Texas College, a community college that focuses on helping students get the education that is right for them. Students can earn an Associate of Arts or Associate of Applied Science degree or a one-year certificate. WTC is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.



STAMFORD

Stamford is located along U.S. Highway 277 and State Highway 6, on the border of Jones and Haskell Counties. With a population of more than 3,000, Stamford's thriving economy includes agriculture, natural resources and a variety of professional service businesses.

Stamford is a member of the Texas Forts Trail and the home of almost 30 registered historical sites. Other attractions include the one of the only remaining operating Carnegie Libraries, a 9-hole golf course, and a large fishing and boating lake.

The highly-rated independent school system has modern, updated facilities, and all campuses achieved above average scores on all state accountability tests in 2021. State-of-theart technology is accessible to every student. Stamford ISD students participate in an exceptional athletic program in all sports, including a six-time state championship winning football program with back-to-back state championships in 2012 and 2013. The high school girls' softball program also won state competition in 2021.

City attractions include:

• Museum of The West Texas Frontier



- Stamford Carnegie Library
- Lake Stamford
- Stamford City Pool
- Historic Grand Theatre

The Texas Cowboy Reunion is a time-honored tradition since 1930, featuring the highly competitive United Professional Rodeo Association (UPRA) event, a parade around the downtown square, and other festivities each year in July.

Stamford Art Foundation's Preview Party celebrates western art, food, and dance, bringing people together from Stamford, Abilene, and beyond to celebrate the Westernheritage art and artists of Texas.

The Stamford Chamber of Commerce hosts other events throughout the year such as a Cinco De Mayo celebration, a fall festival, the Holly Jolly Christmas Classic Car Show, Santa Chase 5K and a cornhole tournament.





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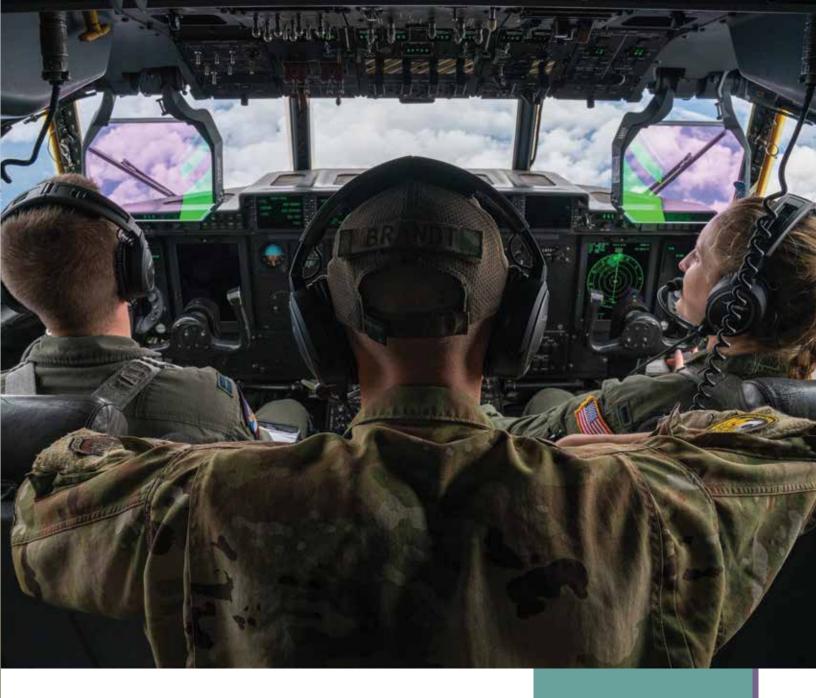
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DYESS AIR FORCE BASE

For more than 60 years, the Abilene community and Dyess Air Force Base have formed a unique and special relationship unparalleled in the history of the Air Force.

IN THIS SECTION:

- Committed to Community
- Dyess by the Numbers

Committed to Community



For more than 60 years, Abilene has been home to Dyess Air Force Base, and Dyess and the Abilene community have formed a unique relationship unparalleled in the history of the Air Force. Abilene proudly supports the commitment of the men and women of the military and has been recognized for its effort at all levels of command in the Air Force.

Dyess has been home to the B-1B bomber for almost 40 years. More recently, Abilene has seen the arrival of 33 new C-130 J aircraft that are now stationed at the base, making it the largest active-duty C-130 J aircraft base in the U.S. Air Force. Now Dyess Air Force Base is on track to receive the B-21 Raider and host operational flying squadrons, the weapons instructor course squadron and the operational test function.

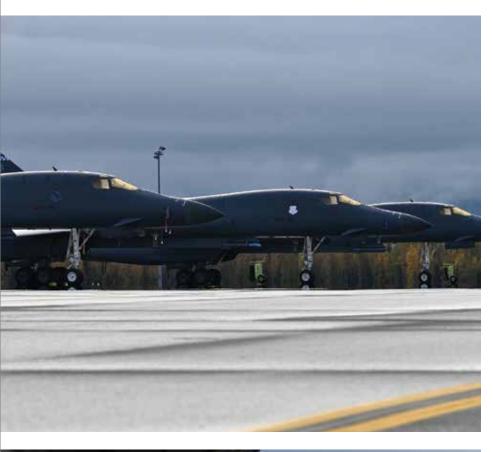
HISTORY

In 1942, the United States Army Air Forces built Tye Army Air Field, as it was commonly known, on the site of what is now Dyess AFB. On December 18, 1942, the field was opened and named Abilene Army Air Base. The name changed on April 8, 1943 to Abilene Army Airfield. The airfield was initially assigned to Second Air Force, and its mission was to be a flying training center for cadets.

Training continued until 1946. With the end of the war, the base was declared inactive. Although assigned to Continental Air Command, Abilene AAF was classified as an inactive subbase of Fort Worth Army Airfield and sold to the city of Abilene for \$1. It was used as a training facility for the Texas Army National Guard for several years.

Following the outbreak of the Korean crisis, Abilenians called for a military installation. Armed with 1,500 acres and

DYESS AIR FORCE BASE





determination, civic leaders besieged Washington, D.C., and Pentagon officials with their request for a military installation. Together with Senator Lyndon B. Johnson and Congressman Omar Burleson, civil leaders persuaded military and civilian officials to bring a military base to Abilene.

The Department of Defense announced in July 1952 Congress had approved the \$32,273,000 needed in appropriations for constructing a base in Abilene.

Known as Abilene Air Force Base, the Strategic Air Command base was dedicated in 1956. On Dec. 6 that same year, the base was renamed Dyess Air Force Base in honor of Lt. Col. William Edwin Dyess – a native of Albany, Texas, who was captured by the Japanese on Bataan in April 1942. Dyess escaped a year later and fought with guerilla forces on Mindanao until evacuated by submarine in July 1943. During retraining in the United States, his P-38 Lightning caught fire in flight on December 23, 1943 near Burbank, CA. He refused to bail out over a populated area and died in the crash of his P-38 in a vacant lot.

UNIQUE FEATURES

One of the many unique features of Dyess is its extensive collection of static military aircraft on display. Collectively known as the "Linear Air Park," it contains 30 aircraft from World War II to the present, many of them formerly based at Dyess, and is located along the base's main road, Arnold Blvd. All but one plane has been flown before. Its most recent addition is the first operational B-1B Lancer, known as "The Star of Abilene," which made its final flight in 2003. It can be seen at the front gate to Dyess along with a recently retired C-130 Hercules located on the other side of the road (a tribute to the two main aircraft currently housed at Dyess).

Another unique aspect of Abilene's Air Force base is that Dyess can be fully self-sustainable energy-wise. The base has diesel generators capable of generating 11.25 MW.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Almost 70 years ago, the Abilene Chamber of Commerce formed the Military Affairs Committee (MAC). MAC's mission is to maintain and expand the military presence and missions and continue the strong relationship with the military community. MAC is instrumental in ensuring Dyess remains a premier large aircraft installation, modernizing base infrastructure, and supporting more than 5,000 military and civilians in addition to 8,000 family members and retirees.

Prior to 1999, Abilene won the Strategic Air Command and Air Combat Command Community Support Award so often they subsequently retired the awards. In January 1999, the Air Mobility Command and the Abilene MAC co-created the AMC Community Support Award, which is now known as the "Abilene Trophy."

In 2017 and again in 2021, Global Strike Command awarded Abilene the "Barksdale Trophy" for the best community support of a Global Strike Base worldwide, and the greater Abilene area was one of five communities around the country named a 2020 "Great American Defense Community" by American Defense Communities.

MEMORIAL PARK

Dyess is home to a unique memorial park paying tribute to the 79 Dyess airmen and civilian employees who have perished in line-of-duty incidents, and the park won the 2020 Installation and Mission Support Center Honor Award for the United States Air Force best design in the Air Force.

Typically awarded to a military installation, this Air Force award is significant to Abilene due to the fact that it was awarded to the community at-large.

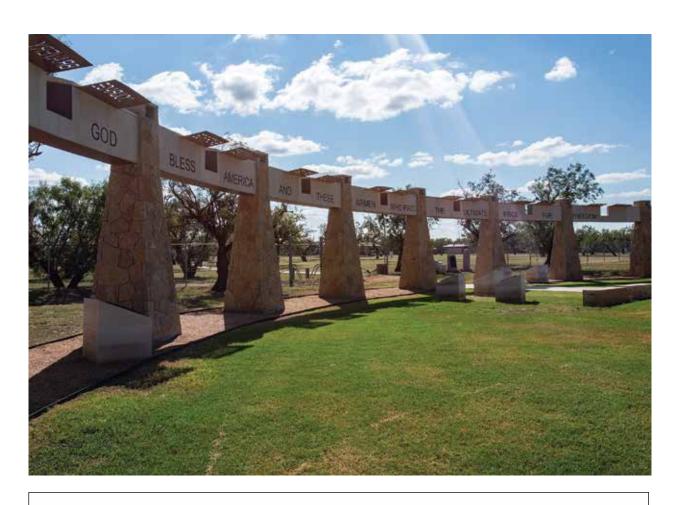
"This memorial is something our community is incredibly proud of," said Gray Bridwell, vice president of military affairs. "This pays tribute to the men and women who have sacrificed it all for our freedoms while reinforcing the commitment our Abilene community has for those who serve our country."

Mitch Wright, an Austin landscape architect, researched and designed the impressive structure that features a large arc-shaped formation that captures sunlight and directs a beam to a granite plaque sitting on a limestone pillar. Each of the plaques honors victims of a fatal crash, and the sun's beam hits the plaque on the anniversary day and time of the tragedy.

The park is located adjacent to the Dyess Museum in the 800 block of Arnold Boulevard, near the intersection of Arnold and Military Drive and is open to the public.



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Dyess Air Force Base By the Numbers

Global Strike Command Base

1

Air Mobility Command Tenant Unit

1

B-1 Flying Squadrons (including training)

2

C-130 J Flying Squadrons

2

B-1 Aircraft

33

C-130 J Aircraft

35

Employment (active duty and DoD civilian)

5,681

Total Annual Payroll

\$396.5 million

Total Economic Impact

\$513 million

Output to the Texas Economy

\$3.8 billion



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The best place for AISD students to be

is in AISD classrooms!

State-of-the-art facilities, contemporary academic programs, and conscientious, caring certified teachers are just three of the reasons that the best place for AISD students to be is in AISD classrooms. We are counting on parents and students to help us achieve our goal of an attendance rate of at least 96 percent for the 2022-23 school year. The best learning occurs with regular attendance. **So make it count!**



www.abileneisd.org/makeitcount



EDUCATION

Abilene is home to two award-winning public school districts, two charter schools and a wide array of private school options and homeschooling support as well as six institutions of higher education.

IN THIS SECTION:

- K-12 Public Schools
- Educational Options
- Higher Education

Abilene ISD At-A-Glance abileneisd.org



Abilene ISD features two traditional high schools, a STEM academy high school, a medical high school magnet program and an alternative high school for at-risk students. AISD is also home to four middle schools, thirteen elementary schools, one alternative placement campus, and one adult education center. Abilene ISD covers 106 square miles in Taylor and Jones counties. Approximately 15,300 students are enrolled in Abilene ISD for the 2022-23 school year. Abilene ISD employs nearly 2,500 individuals, more than 80% of whom work directly with students on a daily basis.

ETHNIC COMPOSITION

• American Indian: 0.2%

• Asian: 1.3%

• Black: 12.98%

• Hispanic: 46.6%

Pacific Islander: 0.20%

Two or more races: 4.5%

White: 34.21%

MISSION

AISD will equip learners to make a positive impact in their world through relevant, innovative, and challenging learning experiences.

BELIEFS

CONNECT

Each child, staff member and parent needs positive personal connections within the district.

Respect, care and having high expectations for each student is the foundation for learning.

LEAD

Initiative, innovation, and a strong work-ethic are important life skills for students and staff.

Developing partnerships throughout the Abilene community builds connections for future leaders to give back to the community.

SUCCEED

Intellectual, emotional, and physical safety are crucial components to a successful school environment.

Critical thinking, collaboration and problem solving are essential for deep learning.

VISION

Equipped Learners. Brighter Futures.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Establish a culture of collaboration between students, teachers, administrators and the AISD community.

Learners will be actively engaged in classrooms.

Abilene ISD will develop intentional strategic partnerships which capitalize on the strengths, resources, and talents of all stakeholders.

Tell the AISD story of being a school district of choice that provides unparalleled opportunities for all students, staff, and parents.

POINTS OF PRIDE

In 2022, Abilene High School had a student selected as a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist. Only 16,000 high school students receive this honor nationwide each year. Abilene High and ATEMS also had students selected as National Merit Scholarship Commended Students, placing them among the top 34,000 high schoolers in the nation.

A 2022 AHS graduate received the AP Capstone Diploma, which is the highest honor bestowed by the College Board Advanced Placement program. More than 40 other AISD high schoolers were designated as AP Scholars in 2022.

Abilene ISD has the highest average teacher salary in Region 14. The AISD Board of Trustees approved an increase in first-year teacher salaries to \$50,000, as well as a general pay increase of 2% for employees across the district.

AISD also leads area school districts in offering a benefit to all full-time employees of \$4,920 toward medical insurance premiums.

The 2021-22 Abilene ISD Elementary Teacher of the Year was also named the 2021-22 Region 14 Teacher of the Year and advanced to the state-level competition.

At the campus level, AISD is home to six elementary schools that have earned the "Leader in Me Lighthouse School" certification, among nearly 300 schools with this designation worldwide.

Two magnet schools in Abilene ISD are located on the



EDUCATION

campuses of Hardin-Simmons University (Holland Medical High School) and McMurry University (AISD Center for Innovation). The Academy of Technology, Engineering, Math, and Science (ATEMS) is now located at The LIFT, the district's state-of-the-art 120,000 square foot learning facility which also houses AISD's robotics, automotive, culinary arts, welding and construction sciences programs.

AISD is one of only 15 school districts in Texas to boast its own planetarium, and in 2019, a mobile planetarium was also added to the district.

In 2022, the Texas Education Agency designated seven AISD schools as Purple Star Campuses, including Abilene High School, Cooper High School, ATEMS, Clack Middle School, and Bassetti, Dyess, and Ward elementary schools. The Purple Star Designation was established to recognize public schools that provide high quality support to meet the unique needs of military-connected students and their families.

For the second year in a row, the Texas Art Education Association announced that Abilene ISD has been recognized as a TAEA District of Distinction in 2022. This award places AISD's visual arts programming among the top 4% of districts in Texas. AISD has also been named a Best Community for Music Education by the NAMM Foundation each year since 2018.

More than 100 AISD high school art students participated in the VASE art competition at the region level in 2022 and nine artworks advanced to the state VASE competition. In AISD middle schools, 79 students competed at regional level art competition with 56 receiving the highest score possible.

More than 100 AISD high school and middle school students placed in the TMEA Region and Area choirs, orchestras, and bands in 2021-22, and four music students from Abilene High School and Cooper High School were named to the TMEA All-State Band and Choir.

More than 50 AISD high school students qualified for the UIL State Solo and Ensemble contests by earning first division ratings in the 2020-21 school year.

In 2022, the Cooper High School drumline placed first at the prestigious Caprock Color Guard Circuit Championships for the third year in a row.

The Cooper High School theatre One Act Play cast and crew advanced to the regional event in 2022. Abilene High School and Cooper High School have a combined seven state championships in the UIL One Act Play competition.

In 2021-22, eight team sports programs from Abilene High School and eight team sports programs from Cooper High School advanced to the playoffs. Individual athletes





also advanced to postseason play in girls and boys tennis, cross country, track, golf, swimming, and gymnastics.

GROWTH & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

In 2022, Abilene ISD successfully completed construction of all projects that were part of the \$138.7 million bond package passed by the Abilene community in 2018. The final major projects in that package were new fine arts practice spaces at Abilene High School and Cooper High School.

Security features are being upgraded across the district, including a new secure entry vestibule at Alcorta Elementary School. Lighting and HVAC capital improvements are ongoing at multiple district facilities. New multi-purpose indoor turf athletic facilities are being added at Abilene High and Cooper High and should be ready for AISD student athletes to start the 2023-24 school year. Additionally, a brand new Daktronics scoreboard system was added to Shotwell Stadium in 2022 and the stadium will debut a state-of-the-art press box in 2023.

To encourage active students and healthy bodies and minds, AISD installed brand new playground equipment at all 13 elementary schools in 2021-22.

AISD HIGH SCHOOLS

Abilene High School

2800 N. Sixth St. Abilene, TX 79603 (325) 677-1731

Academy of Technology, Engineering, Math and Science

2034 Quantum Loop Abilene, TX 79602 (325) 794-4140

Cooper High School

3639 Sayles Blvd. Abilene, TX 79605 (325) 691-1000

Holland Medical High School

2442 Cedar St. Abilene, TX 79601 (325) 794-4120

Woodson Center for Excellence

342 Cockerell Drive Abilene, TX 79601 (325) 671-4736

AISD MIDDLE SCHOOLS Clack Middle School

1610 Corsicana Ave.Abilene, TX 79605(325) 692-1961

Craig Middle School

702 S. Judge Ely Blvd. Abilene, TX 79602 (325) 794-4100

Madison Middle School

3145 Barrow St. Abilene, TX 79605 (325) 692-5661

Mann Middle School

2545 Mimosa Drive Abilene, TX 79603 (325) 672-8493

AISD ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Alcorta Elementary School

2650 S. 32nd St. Abilene, TX 79605 (325) 690-3602

Austin Elementary School

3749 S. 23rd St. Abilene, TX 79605 (325) 690-3920

Bassetti Elementary School

5749 U.S. 277 Abilene, TX 79606 (325) 690-3720

Bonham Elementary School

717 Buccaneer Drive Abilene, TX 79605 (325) 690-3745

Bowie Elementary School

2034 Jeanette St. Abilene, TX 79602 (325) 671-4770

Dyess Elementary School

6733 Jennings Drive Abilene, TX 79606 (325) 690-3795

Martinez Elementary School

1250 Merchant St. Abilene, TX 79603 (325) 794-4160

Ortiz Elementary School

2550 Vogel St. Abilene, TX 79603 (325) 671-4945

Purcell Elementary School

3633 N. 14th St. Abilene, TX 79603 (325) 671-4845

Stafford Elementary School

1026 N. Pioneer Drive Abilene, TX 79603 (325) 671-4895 ext. 5598

Taylor Elementary School

1719 E.N. 10th St. Abilene, TX 79601 (325) 671-4970

Thomas Elementary School

1240 Lakeside Drive Abilene, TX 79602 (325) 671-4995

Ward Elementary School

3750 Paintbrush Drive Abilene, TX 79606 (325) 690-3666

Center for Innovation

1400 Sayles Blvd. Abilene, TX 79605 (325) 677-1444

AISD EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

Crockett Early Head Start Center

3282 South 13th St. Abilene, TX 79605 (325) 690-3770

Long Early Learning Center

3600 Sherry Lane Abilene, TX 79603 (325) 671-4594

Wylie ISD At-A-Glance wyliebulldogs.org

DISTRICT OVERVIEW

Wylie ISD includes an early childhood center, two elementary schools, two intermediate schools, two junior high schools, and a high school. The district spans 21 buildings and more than 136 square miles. Approximately 5,400 students are enrolled in Wylie ISD for the 2022-2023 school year. Wylie ISD has 696 employees, 365 of whom are teachers serving grades Pre-K through 12.

ETHNIC COMPOSITION

- 0.3% American Indian
- 2.7% Asian
- 4% Black
- 20.3% Hispanic
- 0.4% Pacific Islander
- 4.4 % Two or more races
- 67.9% White

MISSION

To provide an education of excellence for all our students so they may function effectively, successfully, and productively in society.

BELIEFS

That all students can learn with teaching and learning experiences that are meaningful and appropriate.

That parents, community, teachers, staff, administrators and Board of Trustees should be partners in the educational process.

That clearly defined teaching and learning expectations should be communicated to the community, students, and parents.

That a well-developed and progressive curriculum is the basis for instructional focus.

That a dedicated, creative and competent faculty, staff and administration should share the responsibility of teaching the necessary skills to all students for real-world and lifelong learning.

That a safe and orderly environment leads to a positive and effective school climate.

POINTS OF PRIDE

All schools in the district achieved the highest rating of "Met Standard" by the Texas Education Agency.

Wylie received an "A" rating in the Texas A-F rating system for the 2021-2022 school year.

WISD consistently scores 100% on the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas.

State of the art schools and facilities built to accommodate district growth.

Wylie ISD now offers free pre-k enrollment for full time employees' children who are 3 or 4 years old.







The Wylie High School campus has been designated as a Purple Star Campus, a designation awarded by the Texas Education Agency for campuses that show their support and commitment to meeting the unique needs of military connected students and their families by working to provide extra support systems.

Wylie High School offers a variety of Advanced Placement and Pre-Advanced Placement courses for our students as well as eight dual credit courses that can earn college credit as well as high school credit.

Stadium lights were installed at both the baseball and softball fields this last school year.

Wylie ISD consistently produces multiple teams that advance to the Global Finals in the Destination Imagination competition and have teams every year that place in the top ten in the world.

Students in band and choir at WISD are consistently chosen to participate in all-state band and choir through

the UIL programs.

The livestock judging team in the Wylie ISD agriculture program has qualified for the state contest the last five years in a row, and the cotton judging teams placed in the top ten at state the last two years. The agricultural mechanics teams have won more than \$67,000 in scholarship money.

Wylie ISD students consistently receive the highest ACT/SAT scores west of the I-35 corridor.

Wylie ISD continues to develop robust career and technology education courses for our students that introduce them to different career fields and allow for them to deepen their understanding of these fields.

GROWTH & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Wylie ISD is one of the top 40 fastest growing public school districts in the state. In 2022, Wylie opened a new campus, Wylie East Intermediate, that houses 4th and 5th



grade students on the east side of the district.

WYLIE ISD SCHOOLS Wylie High School (9-12)

4502 Antilley Road Abilene, TX 79606 (325) 690-1181

Wylie West Junior High (5-8)

4010 Beltway South Abilene, TX 79606 (325) 695-1910

Wylie East Junior High (6-8)

1682 Colony Hill Road Abilene, TX 79602 (325) 437-2360

Wylie West Intermediate (3-4)

3158 Beltway South Abilene, TX 79606 (325) 692-7961

Wylie East Intermediate (4-5)

4709 Oldham Lane Abilene, TX 79602 (325) 437-2340

Wylie West Elementary (1-2)

7650 Hardwick Road Abilene, TX 79606 (325) 692-6554

Wylie East Elementary (K-4)

7401 Maple Street Abilene, TX 79602 (325) 437-2330

Wylie West Early Childhood (PK-K)

6249 Buffalo Gap Road Abilene, TX 79606 (325) 437-2350



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Premier High School



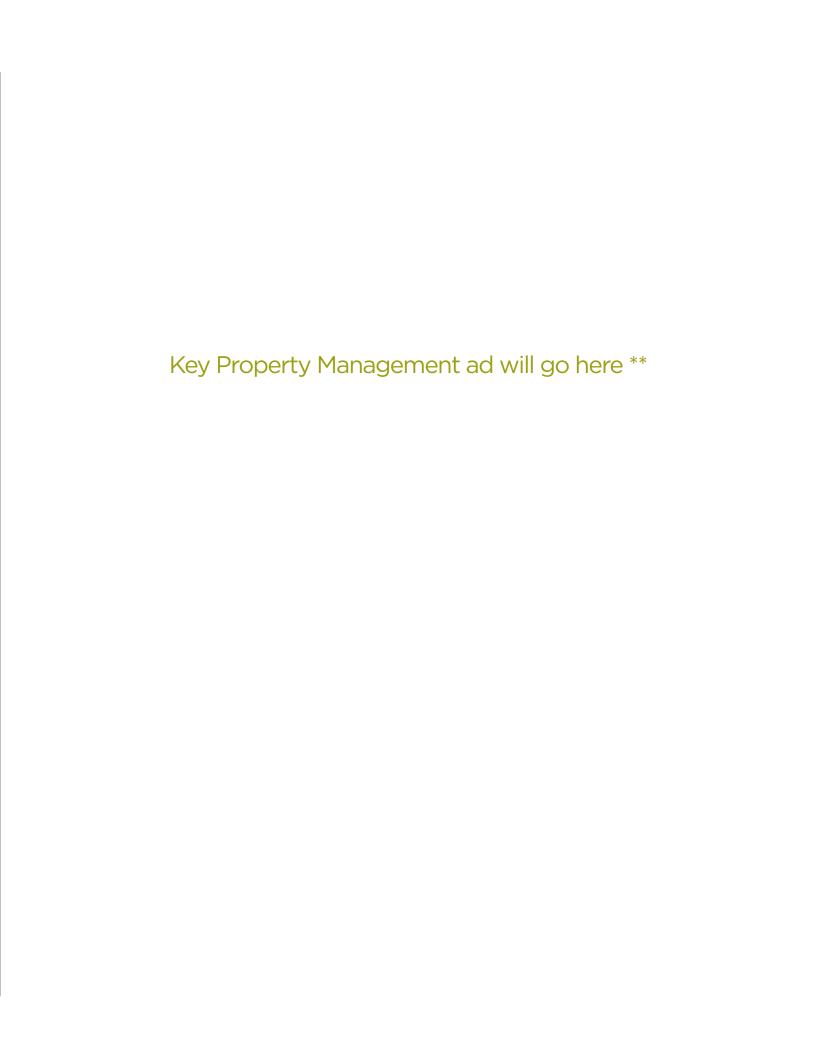
premierabilene.com

Premier High School offers students the unique opportunity to earn a diploma outside of the overcrowded high school setting through a self-directed academic program.

The staff at Premier High School help to design a program tailored to each student's individual and career goals. The academic system is built around the student's needs and with the correct tools for students to strengthen their academic weaknesses and improve upon their strengths. Premier's self-directed curriculum, passionate teachers and proven academic programs help students achieve their goals on their own terms.

As a charter school, the campus is small by design, which gives it a private school atmosphere where parents, faculty and staff can work together for the benefit of each child, but Premier High School is a tuition-free public school of choice.





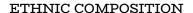
Texas Leadership of Abilene (TLCA)

texasleadershipabilene.com

DISTRICT OVERVIEW

TLCA Abilene is a public charter school that serves students in kindergarten through 12th grade at two different campuses and provides innovative learning in a challenging and enriching environment. All TLCA campuses have a focus on leadership and live by a shared mission, vision and values. Those principles guide faculty and staff to develop leaders with the necessary skills to achieve success in the 21st century. TLCA Abilene is a part of the Texas Leadership Public Schools District. As a public charter school

that is open to all students, regardless of attendance zone, academics and rigor are held to the same standards as a traditional ISD. The district focuses on data-driven instruction, one-to-one teacher interaction, innovative learning and high-quality instruction.



- Asian and Pacific Islander: 0.55%
- Black: 4.9%
- Hispanic/Latino: 48.23%
- Two or more ethnicities: 0.817%
- White: 45.5%

MISSION

TLCA's mission is to develop people and create an environment that instills quality education.

VISION

To see students become leaders in all areas of life.

BELIEFS

- Every student is a leader.
- Classroom leadership is effective.
- Every student is important, and every student has gifts.
- Giving students leadership responsibilities, valuing their opinions and helping them to find their voice.
- Students and parents are important allies in improving education.



POINTS OF PRIDE

- Texas Leadership Public Schools earned a B-rating for the district in the Texas Public Schools Accountability System.
- In 2022, TLCA Abilene was awarded Lighthouse status for the second time for outstanding achievement as a "Leader in Me" school, a highly regarded standard set by FranklinCovey.
- In the 2022-2023 school year, TLCA Abilene has intentionally increased safety and security measures that protect both staff and students.
- Advanced Academics Program for kindergarten through 6th grade
- Honors program for 7-12th
- Acceptance into the Amazon Future Engineers Program, among only 100 schools in the nation.
- Full STEM labs at elementary, junior high and high school.
- Expansion of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) in every grade level.
- UIL athletics including football, tennis, golf, basketball, volleyball, cross country, and track and field.

GROWTH & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

In 2021, TLCA Abilene opened a second location for grades 6-12. This multi-million dollar facility included a brand-new competition gym for volleyball and basketball, a new indoor running/walking track, 23 classrooms, three labs, a full library, a large hall for marching band and theater arts, an expansive cafeteria, and smart technology in every classroom.



Leaders in life.

325-480-3500 • TexasLeadershipAbilene.com • Public School



Leadership. Academics. Family. - COME TOUR TLCA TODAY -

Kinder-12th Grade • Public School • STEM Labs
Unbeatable Culture • CTE Courses
Amazon Future Engineer Partnership
UIL Sports and Academics • Open To **All** Students



Educational Options

In addition to thriving public schools, Abilene families can choose from several private schools, a homeschooling community and a traditional/homeschool hybrid education model.



ABILENE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL abilenechristian.com

Abilene Christian School is an accredited pre-K through 12th grade school on one campus. For more than 100 years, ACS has consistently achieved academic excellence by providing quality education in a Christ-centered atmosphere.

Abilene Christian School focuses on producing graduates with a strong Christian faith who are prepared to succeed academically and excel in life. A challenging curriculum promotes academic and spiritual growth and a full-range of athletic and fine arts opportunities. Bible classes, weekly chapel sessions, and service projects provide every student with a way to reach his or her Godgiven potential.

Students at ACS regularly compete at regional and state levels in academics, fine arts, athletics and Destination Imagination. K-5th grade students receive technology instruction in the classroom, and all secondary students have technology instruction in the digital learning center on a weekly basis. Students may accumulate college credit through dual enrollment partnerships with Cisco College and Abilene Christian University.

MISSION: The mission of Abilene Christian School is to equip students to excel academically, serve meaningfully, and walk faithfully with God.



BIG COUNTRY HOME EDUCATORS bched.com

For more than 25 years, Big Country Home Educators has supported home school families of the Texas Big Country. BCHE provides resources in the areas of mentoring, events, group classes and networking to help families have the richest home education experience possible.

BCHE is a non-profit (501c-3), Christian organization, led by an elected board of volunteers, offering homeschool families in the area multiple enrichment opportunities. All home-educating families are welcome, regardless of faith. While BCHE is a Christian organization, only those serving on the board and in leadership are asked to sign a statement of faith.

In addition to two different weekly co-op class options, activities for BCHE members include campouts, a science and history fair, weekly skating and bowling, zoo classes, art classes through the Grace Museum, a spelling bee, teen nights, banquets, proms, field day, weekly physical education classes, sports education, mentoring, holiday parties, National Honor Society, band, choir, competition archery, student council, field trips, graduation ceremonies and more.

CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL cornerstoneabitx.com

Cornerstone Christian School has been equipping students to excel for 40 years. The school includes seven dedicated teachers, including a qualified technology instructor. Future plans for development include creative arts, physical education, and Spanish courses, as well as junior high expansion.

Cornerstone graduates have received recognition through National Merit Scholarships, National Honor Society, top ten percent, Duke Scholarship Awards, Presidential Scholarships, Valedictorian, and UIL Rankings at the state and national levels.

KENLEY SCHOOL

kenleyschool.org

Kenley School is an accredited first through eighth grade school in Abilene. For more than 50 years, Kenley School has been a pioneer in the field of teaching students with learning disabilities.

Kenley School features small classes with a staff-student ratio of one to six. A highly trained staff provides differentiated instruction for students while incorporating hands-on experiences to facilitate learning. The goal of Kenley School is to help students with learning disabilities achieve their greatest potential in a place where they feel safe and successful and experience the joy of learning.

PEAK CHRISTIAN ACADEMY peaklearningcenter.com

PEAK Christian Academy is a hybrid school incorporating the best practices and philosophies of both home educating and playful learning. Meeting three days a week on "collaboration days" gives students the social learning atmosphere that is required for 21st century learners. Certified teachers instruct groups of mixed age students three days a week and give assignments for

"independent days" at home partnering with parents. PEAK currently serves elementary and middle school grade levels.

MISSION: Peak Christian Academy is a Christ centered community that forges character, fosters wisdom, and nurtures a life-long passion for learning.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL stjohnsabilene.org

St. John's Episcopal School began as a Kindergarten in 1952 with 18 students and today serves students from 2 years old through the 5th grade. SJES teachers support, stretch and challenge students to become resilient, self-reliant, independent learners and thinkers.

Students benefit from a comprehensive curriculum that includes music, technology, art, Godly play, library, Spanish, P.E. and science. By weaving Episcopalian principles into the very fabric of the school's overall life, St. John's ensures that its foundation is a Christian love that guides and challenges all who attend these schools to build lives of genuine meaning, purpose, and service in the world they will inherit.

St. John's students move on to higher education where, in past years, alumni include numerous valedictorians, salutatorians, National Merit finalists, gifted scholars, musicians and athletes. Their accomplishments speak for themselves and show how important it is to receive a strong educational foundation.

MISSION: St. John's Episcopal School shall provide an enriched academic program that emphasizes the development of each child's potential within a caring and Christian environment.



Higher Education



ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY acu.edu

Founded in 1906, Abilene Christian University is a diverse, welcoming, academically rigorous community redefining what it means to be a Christian university in the 21st century. It has been acknowledged as one of the top institutions in the nation for first-year experiences, service learning and learning communities. In 2022-23, *U.S. News & World Report* named it among the top 50 universities nationwide for both undergraduate research and undergraduate teaching.

A selective four-year private Christian university, ACU includes the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Biblical Studies, Business Administration, Education and Human Services, Graduate and Professional Studies, and Honors; the Graduate School of Theology; and the schools of Information Technology and Computing, Nursing, and Social Work.

ACU is affiliated with the Churches of Christ and is one of the largest private universities in the Southwest with 5,334 students, generally from 52 states and territories, and 46 nations. ACU has a student-to-faculty ratio of 15:1 with 266 full-time faculty members. Ninety-six percent of tenured or tenure-track faculty hold terminal degrees.

Students may choose from 87 baccalaureate majors that include more than 171 areas of study, 71 areas of study in master's degree and specialist programs and four doctoral programs.

Abilene Christian is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate, baccalaureate, master's and doctoral degrees.

ACU is a member of the Western Athletic Conference,



a Division I conference with impressive name recognition and history. Sports offered include football, women's soccer, women's volleyball, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's indoor and outdoor track and field, baseball, men's and women's golf, men's and women's tennis, and women's softball. Only four colleges and universities – including UCLA, Stanford and USC – have won more NCAA national team championships than the Wildcats.

MISSION: To educate students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world.

CISCO COLLEGE

cisco.edu

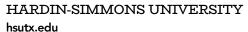
Since first admitting students in 1940, Cisco College has offered programs and activities intended to encourage lifelong learning and enhance the quality of life in the communities it serves. Cisco College has been offering workforce training and higher education in Abilene since 1973.

As a member of the Texas state system of publicly supported institutions of higher education, Cisco College maintains an open-door admissions policy and provides an array of learning, skill development and life experiences to motivate and challenge students. Classes are offered at two primary locations, Cisco and Abilene, in addition to several other off-campus sites. The college strives to maintain a student/faculty ratio which facilitates close interaction between faculty and students.

Cisco College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate level degrees.

MISSION: To provide quality, affordable, educational opportunities to meet the diverse academic, technical and career needs of the students and communities we serve.





Founded in 1891, Hardin-Simmons University is a Christian university rated among the top private colleges in Texas. It offers students the chance to discover their Godgiven potential in an atmosphere that feels like home.

The beautifully landscaped campus, located in Abilene, is a vibrant community with a small-town feel and genuine Southern hospitality. The campus includes plenty of green space like Anderson Lawn, home to a reflection pond, gazebo, and trees that serve as an area for daily campus activities, hammock hangs, study sessions, and live performances.

Private education at HSU is within reach. For the second year in a row, tuition and fees will not increase at HSU. Plus, academic scholarships have increased, with over \$17,000 in average financial aid awarded to incoming first-time freshmen. Most students at HSU pay about the same each year as someone who goes to a large public university.

Hardin-Simmons boasts five schools encompassing liberal arts, science and mathematics, business and professional studies, health professions, and nursing, plus graduate programs. Its core curriculum is based on a liberal arts foundation, providing students with skills that employers desire in their top candidates such as critical thinking, strategic communication and responsible leadership.

HSU offers over 50 programs, including business, science, engineering, and healthcare, which match industry jobs and prepare students through partnerships and internships with employers to help land that top job after graduation. HSU combines a rich and challenging academic classroom environment with hands-on experiential learning using real-world applications.

With a warm and inviting atmosphere, more than 40 organizations, and 18 intramural and club sports, students can



connect with their peers through long-standing campus traditions or express themselves through the arts, music, or theatre. Students have the opportunity for personal development by equipping the mind, spirit and body through leadership training, spiritual formation, community engagement and student-led activities.

MISSION: To be a community dedicated to providing excellence in education enlightened by Christian faith and values.

VISION: Hardin-Simmons University will be an innovative community of servant scholars engaging the minds and nurturing the spirits of future Christian leaders.

MCMURRY UNIVERSITY mcm.edu

Founded in 1923 as a United Methodist institution, McMurry University is a vibrant and comprehensive center of undergraduate education. McMurry has a national reputation for excellence and value through the achievements of its faculty, students and graduates. The university enrolls more than 1,100 students and has an 11:1 student-to-faculty ratio. No graduate assistants teach courses and 77% of our professors have achieved the highest degree in their academic discipline.

Students can choose from 45 majors in the arts, business, education and the sciences as well as our pre-professional programs in medicine, dentistry, engineering, law, pharmacy, physical therapy and others. The three-week May Term gives students an opportunity to explore a subject outside their major, and the Servant Leadership Program teaches students about ethics and helps develop leadership qualities.

McMurry has 40+ clubs and organizations and 21 intercollegiate sports. Students are engaged with the community and average 24,000 hours of annual service.



McMurry is guided by core values: Christian faith as the foundation of life, personal relationships as the catalyst for life, learning as the journey of life, excellence as the goal of life, and service as the measure of life. Students are equipped to exceed expectations and go on to make their mark in the world, by leading lives of leadership, service, and professional success.

MISSION: Shaped by Christian principles, McMurry University challenges students to examine our complex world from multiple perspectives in preparation for lives of leadership, service, and professional success.

TEXAS STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE tstc.edu/abilene

Serving Texas with 10 campuses statewide, Texas State Technical College has trained and placed Texans in great paying jobs for more than 55 years. TSTC graduates are highly valued by business and industry for their work ethic, knowledge and workplace skills. The college offers a wide variety of training that is in demand in the West Texas area, and it is conveniently located to serve military personnel and families stationed at Dyess Air Force Base.

In addition to its other teaching facilities, TSTC now serves Abilene and West Texas with a 56,000-square-foot Industrial Technology Center as the inaugural building of its new Abilene campus. The campus is situated on 51 acres near

Abilene Regional Airport and ultimately will be home to six to eight buildings with a capacity to support 5,000 students.

VISION: Texas State Technical College will be a leader in strengthening the competitiveness of Texas business and industry by building the state's capacity to develop the highest-quality workforce.

MISSION: Texas State Technical College System is a coeducational two-year institution of higher education offering courses of study in technical vocational education for which there is demand within the state of Texas. Texas State Technical College System shall contribute to the educational and economic development of the state of Texas by offering occupationally oriented programs with supporting academic coursework, emphasizing highly specialized advanced and emerging technical and vocational areas for certificates or associate degrees.

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER AT ABILENE ttuhsc.edu/campus/abilene

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at Abilene offers the latest in educational opportunities that provide the real-world experience necessary to understand and meet the challenges of the healthcare industry. The faculty in the schools of nursing and Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy as well as the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, which

An affordable education with a priceless experience.



semester graduation cap, HSU offers an affordable and excellent education enlightened by Christian faith and values.

Hardin-Simmons is committed to removing the financial barriers that prevent students from pursuing a higher education. For the second year in a row, tuition and fees will not increase at HSU. Plus, academic scholarships have been increased by an additional \$2,000 per student for 2023-2024 first-time freshmen.

After scholarships and grants, students at HSU often pay the same, if not less, than students who attend state schools.



Apply Now!

EDUCATION



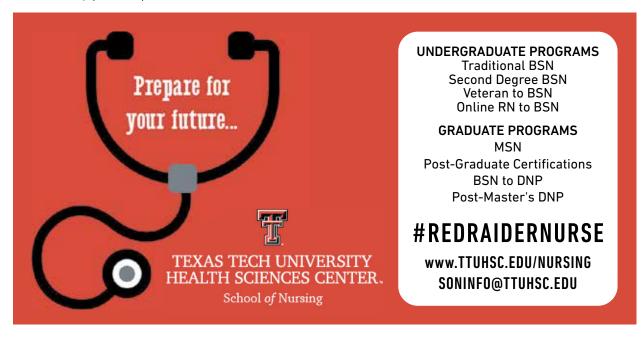
are among the top institutions in the nation, provide handson learning, helping students gain the practical knowledge necessary for their success.

The collaboration between Abilene city officials, community leaders and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center has created an innovative economic and academic development model for the future of the region's health care industry.

Community partnerships, such as that with the Hendrick

Health System, and more than 50 community pharmacies in the Abilene area, provide opportunities for TTUHSC to make an impact on the quality of health care, education and research in the region.

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award baccalaureate, master, doctorate degrees and professional certificates.





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 - Community Outings
 - Comfortable Lounges



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LyndaleAbilene.com | 6565 Central Park Blvd., Abilene, TX 79606

Lyndale Abilene Memory Care

(325) 666-5695 | LyndaleAbileneMC.com | 6568 Central Park Blvd., Abilene, TX 79606





QUALITY OF LIFE

With a thriving arts community, zoo, libraries, theatre performances, college sports, golf courses, hiking trails, lakes, and a wide variety of parks and recreation opportunities, there's no excuse for a dull moment in Abilene!

IN THIS SECTION:

- Downtown Guide
- Abilene Young Professionals
- Arts & Entertainment
- 700
- Libraries
- Heritage Square
- Parks & Rec
- Sports & Activities
- 10 Adventures Under \$10
- Pet-Friendly Places
- Healthcare
- Annual Events Calendar

Guide to Downtown

Downtown Abilene is the heart and soul of a thriving West Texas community, rich in heritage and dating back to 1881. A national model for the use of cultural arts to spark revitalization in the early 1990s, Downtown Abilene is experiencing a second renaissance today. Abilene's historic downtown includes shopping, dining, entertainment, museums and more.



ARTS & MUSEUMS

12TH ARMORED DIVISION MEMORIAL MUSEUM -

Experience World War II through the eyes of the 12th Armored Division "Hellcats" as you explore the three floors of this remarkable museum. Artifacts, photographs, oral histories, weapons, uniforms, vehicles, dioramas and a Holocaust memorial bring the story to life and honor the sacrifice of the great men and women who comprised the 12th. 1289 N. Second St.

THE CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTS – This unique arts center is home to more than 70 artist members and ten working studios. The Center's four galleries present more than 24 exhibits annually by regional, national and international photographers and artists. 220 Cypress St.

FRONTIER TEXAS! – Experience the dramatic Texas frontier as the story comes to life in this multimedia history facility. Visitors can meet — at least figuratively — some of the real people who lived and died on the

Texas frontier. Feel the terror of a wolf attack, the chaos of a buffalo stampede and the tension of a deadly card game shootout. 635 N. First St.

THE GRACE MUSEUM – The Grace Museum actually includes three unique museums. The Art Museum showcases art from the museum's private collection and traveling exhibits featuring Texas artists, and the History Museum recreates life in Abilene with displays and memorabilia. Spark is a newly renovated, fully interactive space on the second floor with 30+ interactive learning stations designed to inspire creativity, play and exploration. 102 Cypress St.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S

ILLUSTRATED LITERATURE – The NCCIL honors the finest original artwork in children's literature by producing vibrant exhibitions that travel to museums and galleries nationwide. The NCCIL designs educational programming in order to stimulate creativity, promote visual literacy, and enhance art appreciation. *102 Cedar St.*

FOOD & DRINK

BEEHIVE RESTAURANT & SALOON – From hamburgers to seafood, certified Black Angus beef steaks to chicken, you can't go wrong at this fine dining establishment. Enjoy gourmet desserts and a full service saloon. *442 Cedar St.*

BOGIE'S DOWNTOWN DELI – Offering a wide variety of deli and specialty sandwiches, soups and salads. The decor and menu item names highlight Humphrey Bogart movies. *241 Cypress St.*

CYPRESS STREET STATION – Abilene's landmark restaurant and first brew pub. Lunch features hamburgers, pastas, wraps, salads, soups and a daily special. Evening fare runs from sandwiches and pizza to steaks, pork, chicken and seafood. Enjoy gourmet desserts and a full service bar. 158 Cypress St.

FAROLITO – A family-owned Mexican restaurant that has been serving Abilene since 1936. 209 Cottonwood St.

FRONT PORCH COFFEE CO. & BAKERY – Front Porch serves artisan coffee as well as homemade baked goods, breakfast/brunch options, lunch sandwiches and

desserts. 702 N. 2nd St.

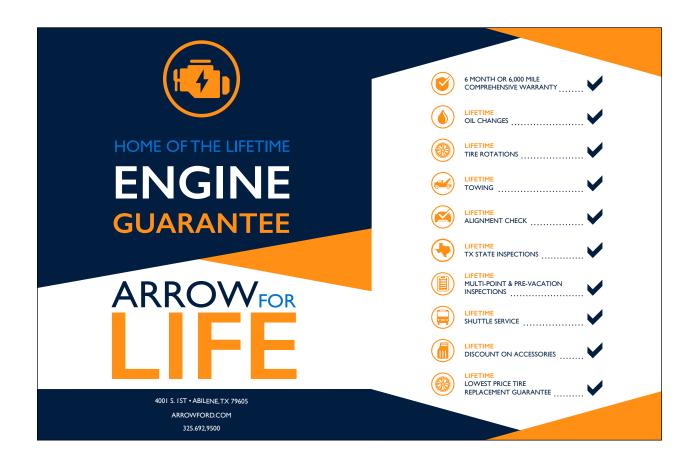
GRAIN THEORY – A brewery and taproom focused on aroma-packed and flavor-driven beer. Grain Theory also offers an expertly curated wine list, an in-house coffee bar, and a full kitchen serving a locally and internationally

MONKS COFFEE SHOP – Monks welcomes the work and conversations that go better with a cup of coffee. Wireless internet access. *233 Cypress St.*

inspired menu. 202 Pine St., Suite 201

THE LOCAL – An elevated take on contemporary mexican cuisine and cocktails combined with superior customer service in the heart of downtown Abilene. *250 Cypress St.*

VAGABOND PIZZA – Wood-fired pizza in the heart of downtown Abilene. *1056 N. Second St.*



SHOPPING & TREATS

ABILENE CANDLE CO. – Hand-poured candles with love and attention to detail, created in small batches here in Abilene. *806 S. 2nd St.*

THE ANTIQUE STATION – Furniture, glassware, china, jewelry, advertising memorabilia and primitives. 703 N. Third St.

THE ARRANGEMENT – Florist and unique gift shop with items that range from elegant to whimsical, rustic ranch décor, china, clothing, shoes and much more. 357 Walnut St.

BARNES AND WILLIAMS DRUGS – Abilene's oldest and only traditional drug store features old fashioned service for your health and beauty needs as well as a wide assortment of greeting cards, gifts, jewelry and fine perfumes. 701 Hickory St.

BIBLE HARDWARE – Complete hardware store with tools, plumbing, electrical, ropes, chains and paint. 333 Walnut St.

CANDIES BY VLETAS – Vletas, located west of the T&P Depot, was originally founded as the Olympia Confectionery in 1912. Today, Vletas continues that tradition of excellence with hand-dipped chocolates and fruits, brittles, fudges and candies that are made on site. *1201 N. First St.*

EIGHTEEN78 – An empowering, luxurious boutique with all the latest styles for women of all ages, located in the historic Windsor Hotel. **401-A Pine St.**

K. ELLIS BOUTIQUE – Clothing, accessories and gifts for women. 202 Pine St., Suite 102

KARSON'S – Reasonably priced handmade jewelry, boutique clothing and gifts. Open daily. 202 Pine St.

LONE STAR DRY GOODS – A unique shop specializing in gifts that any man would love. Featuring brands like Simms, Rep Your Water, Filson, Howler Brothers and more. *173 Walnut St.*

MAGNOLIA & OAK – A classically modern children's boutique with curated brands and styles. *1124 N. 2nd St.*

TEXAS STAR TRADING CO. – The National Store of Texas, offering Texas books, gifts, music, souvenirs, T-shirts, cookbooks, Texas gourmet, games, puzzles, greeting cards, affordable jewelry, candles, bath & body and home decor. Extraordinary service, free gift wrapping and great prices. 174 Cypress St.

UNDER ONE ROOF – Home to 30-plus specialty shops offering a wide variety of unique gift items, jewelry, clothing, shoes and more. *244 Pine St.*





LIBATIONS & ENTERTAINMENT

KAO LOUNGE – Craft cocktail bar and lounge in the South Of Downtown Abilene district. *137 B Oak St.*

THE LEAF – A premium cigar and pipe tobacco shop with an extensive selection of tobacco products, supplies and accessories. The Leaf boasts an industrial grade air filtration system and a spacious members-only lounge. 1166 N. 2nd St.

THE MILL WINE BAR – The Mill offers a wide variety of great wines, along with craft beer, appetizers, desserts and an on-site food truck. *239 Locust St.*

PARAMOUNT THEATRE – Experience the golden age of movies at this beautifully restored 1930s movie theatre. The auditorium is best known for its ceiling of twinkling stars and floating clouds. The lobby sports arched columns, twin grand staircases, hand-blown glass chandeliers and Pueblo-Deco art work ceilings. The theatre hosts concerts, live theatre, touring shows, classic and art films. 352 Cypress St.

PEACOCK PATIO BAR – Fresh cocktails and immaculate vibes. Major sporting events shown here. *536 Hickory St.*



SOUTH OF DOWNTOWN ABILENE

Once just an acronym back in the 1800s for South Downtown Abilene, The SoDA District is now a lively entertainment district with bars, venues, and wineries for locals and visitors to enjoy. SoDA – or South of Downtown Abilene – is an Abilene destination spot with restaurants, events centers, bars, housing and other ventures in the works. Previously vacant buildings and warehouses around the Taylor County courthouse that were empty or dormant are being repurposed and renovated.

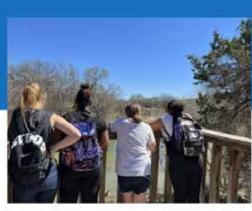
LIVE MUSIC

Looking for live music while you sip, shop or dine? You're in luck. Abilene is a "Music Friendly" city, as designated by the Office of the Governor's Texas Music Office, one of 10 cities to hold this honor. Here are a few places to catch live music around town:

- Betty Rose's (Catclaw location)
- Potosi Live
- Lytle Land and Cattle
- Sharon's BBQ
- The Mill
- Mulligans Sports Bar and Grill
- The Winery at Willow Creek
- Mezamiz Coffee House

CHANGING LIVES, ONE CHILD AT A TIME!







AT NEW HORIZONS, WE ARE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WITH BIG HEARTS AND THOSE READY TO CHANGE A CHILD'S LIFE FOR THE BETTER. WHETHER YOU ARE JUST BEGINNING YOUR CAREER OR ARE EXPERIENCED IN THE FIELD OF HELPING CHILDREN, WE NEED YOU.

WORK WITH US

- · Family Friendly Work Hours
- 100% Paid Health Insurance
- · Paid Time Off Starts Upon Hire
- · 3 Free Meals Per Day
- Cell Phone Plan Discount
- · Christmas Bonus

SCAN TO APPLY





Keeping Kids First

Abilene Young Professionals

AYP is a program of the Abilene Chamber of Commerce led by young professionals to attract, retain and engage other young professionals. AYP will celebrate its 10th birthday in 2022 and proudly boasts a membership of more than 570 and an average attendance at networking events of 120. AYP has three main purposes:

CONNECT

Make personal and professional connections with other like-minded young professionals.

- AYP After Five A casual environment with drinks and hors d'oeuvres that rotates to different locations every month in Abilene.
- AYP Membership Bash A celebration of the previous year and a look forward to the next AYP year.
- 20 Under 40 This prestigious program recognizes civic-minded individuals who have demonstrated leadership skills both professionally and personally.

DEVELOP

Help develop your Abilene community to be a better place to live, work and play.

- Get on Board An initiative to help nonprofits in Abilene reach out to gain young professional volunteers and board members.
- Campus Connect A
 program geared toward
 retaining college students to
 the Abilene area by showing
 them what it's like to live, work
 and play in the Big Country.
- Workforce Recruiting AYP helps welcome new young professionals or potential hires by grabbing a cup of coffee or lunch. No strings attached!

GROW

Optimize your job growth by obtaining key skills and knowledge needed to advance your career.

- Leadership Summit A
 half-day leadership event
 focused on professional and
 personal growth.
- ABIChat AYP's quarterly luncheon provides young professionals the opportunity to network during business hours.











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Arts & Entertainment in Abilene

Abilene is the cultural center for West Central Texas. The Abilene Cultural District downtown was one of the first five such districts designated by the Texas Commission on the Arts because of its vibrant arts scene.



STORYBOOK CAPITAL OF AMERICA®

storybookcapitalofamerica.com

In 2018, Abilene was designated the Storybook Capital of America by the U.S. Trade & Patent Office. Since 2012, the Abilene Cultural Affairs Council has raised and invested more than \$3 million to develop this storybook brand and "storybook setting" within the Abilene Cultural District. Key components of this brand include: the annual Children's Art & Literacy Festival; the Storybook Sculpture Project (the largest collection in the United States); 75 limestone benches with inspirational quotes from storybooks; and the Adamson-Spalding Storybook Garden, home to many of the sculptures and benches. Throughout the year you can visit downtown and see children's shows inspired by storybooks, tour the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature



art gallery, download apps to search for the sculptures and give the Cat in the Hat in Everman Park a high five.

CHILDREN'S ART & LITERACY FESTIVAL

abilenecalf.com

Thanks to generous support from the Abilene community, the Abilene Cultural Affairs Council is able to host the Children's Art & Literacy Festival (CALF) the second weekend of June each year. The CALF continues to grow, and in 2022, CALF's 10th anniversary year, 5,444 people attended from 172 cities in 17 states. The goal of CALF is to make art and reading exciting for families. The festival is three and half days and celebrates the summer artist on display at the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature. It starts with the Storybook Parade, storybook

sculpture unveiling and Sketch with the Artist on Thursday night. All day Friday and Saturday, books come to life with dramatic readings, costumed characters and art activities. Performers from all over Texas entertain with marionettes, puppets, balloon sculptures and magic. Strike a chord with the Abilene Philharmonic Instrument Petting Zoo or stroke an animal in the petting zoo.

ARTWALK

The second Thursday night of each month, the streets of downtown Abilene come alive. That's when the monthly mini-festival ArtWalk takes place. Galleries and museums are open late for free. Restaurants, shops and street vendors join in the fun. One month a year ArtWalk goes to the dogs for DogWalk. Another annual favorite is CarWalk, when classic cars and muscle cars of all kinds vroom in to show off. Another month there might be a street dance group performing, fire juggling or a zombie apocalypse imagined with the help of local health officials.

MUSIC

Abilene is in the serious business of growing and supporting the music scene in our city. The Texas Music

Office of the Governor has certified Abilene as a Music-Friendly community and given guidelines and resources to help attract performing artists and grow live music throughout the city.

R&B, country, Tejano, classical music or rock 'n' roll – you can find all kinds of performances here.

Abilene night spots bring in guest performers each week. Special concerts take place regularly at the Abilene Convention Center and the Taylor County Expo Center and have included artists such as Loretta Lynn and the Beach Boys.

The Abilene Philharmonic delivers world-class productions that draw audiences from more than 50 Texas cities each year. Guest artists have included Van Cliburn competition winners and Broadway singers.

The Outlaws & Legends Music Festival brings two days of outdoor concerts in March that showcase big names in the country music genre including Dwight Yoakam, Kris Kristofferson, Lee Ann Womack, Pat Green, Gary P. Nunn and more. Also at The Backporch of Texas, the Tejano Summerfest hosted by La Voz 93.3 FM takes place each June.

Follow the new Abilene Centerstage pages on Facebook and Instagram to stay in tune with the local music scene.



MUSEUMS & THEATRE

Are you looking for a place where you can pick up a paint brush? Or maybe a script with a great role? Or would you rather visit a museum where you can admire the work of others or attend a live performance that moves you? The Abilene arts scene has opportunities to do all these things.

The Grace Museum is known nationally as a true fine arts museum with a special focus on Texas artists. This landmark building houses three museums – art, history and an interactive children's museum. The Grace hosts arts classes throughout the year with local artists. The National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature hosts three exhibitions a year by nationally best-selling children's picture book artists. The NCCIL hosts special workshops and receptions throughout the year. Every Saturday, children can make a free art project. The Center for Contemporary Arts is home to more than 70 artist members, many with working gallery space in the building. Rotating exhibitions showcase work in a variety of media including photography. All three universities in Abilene have award-winning art departments and museums to showcase student, faculty and guest exhibitions.

Touring Broadway shows for all ages stop here. All three universities are home to theatre departments that produce

a range of shows, from laugh-out-loud comedies to heart-wrenching drama and catchy musicals. Abilene Community Theatre and Paramount Theatre produce their own shows, bringing together artists from Abilene and the region. There's also theater for children, and theatre starring local children. In Abilene, your star can shine.

OUTDOOR SCULPTURES

Abilene is home to approximately 40 whimsical, unique and thought-provoking outdoor sculptures. You can see them scattered around the city, from the "The Herd" of metal cows at the Winters Freeway and South 14th Street to Abilene Christian University's "Jacob's Dream," a towering 32.5-foot bronze of four angels descending and ascending a ladder between heaven and earth. Most of the sculptures are downtown. Every other year, the Abilene Cultural Affairs Council brings in new sculptures for the Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition – the longest running program of its kind in Texas. Downtown is also home to the Storybook Sculpture Project, a collection of nearly 40 sculptures of characters that have leapt off the pages of beloved children's books. For maps of sculpture locations, go to abilenecac.org.



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TOLAR

Free Consultation | www.tolarsystems.com



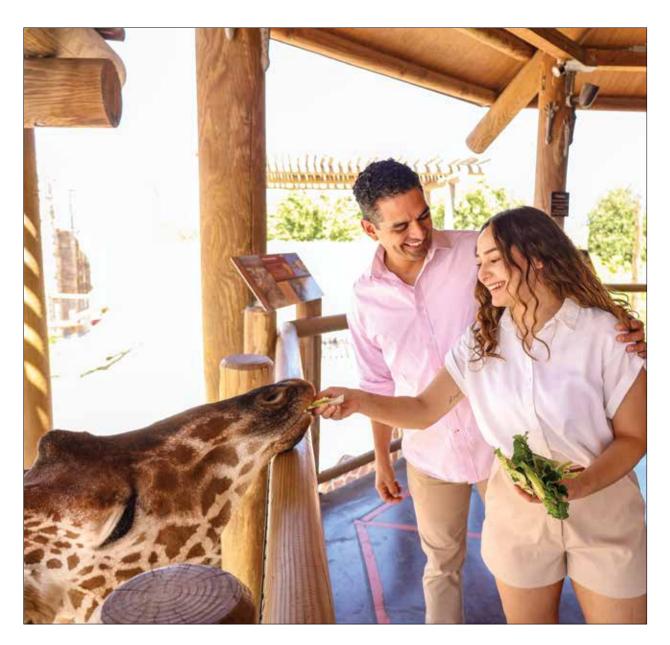
America's Small Business Development Center at Abilene

is hosted by Texas Tech University to provide no-cost business consulting and training to new and existing businesses.

- Small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs can come to us for face-to-face business consulting and at-cost training on a variety of topics.
- Providing Confidential Business Assistance for over 35 years with no charge to clients.
- Open to all No Affiliations or qualifications required for services.

749 Gateway St. # 301 Building C, Abilene, Texas 79602 • americasbdc.abilene@ttu.edu • (325) 670-0300





Abilene Zoo

When you visit the Abilene Zoo, you won't believe you're still in Abilene. The 16-acre park houses over 800 animals of more than 225 species. Each exhibit you visit is similar to the animals' respective indigenous habitat. Whether you're looking for furry mammals, slinky reptiles, beautiful feathers or lurking water-dwellers, there's something for everybody.

Transport to the savannas of Africa to see ostriches, warthogs, lions, and zebras. If you listen closely you may even hear the laugh or chatter of a hyena. Stop by the Giraffe Safari to feed the tallest mammal on the planet and see first hand

how long their tongues actually are. The lush Caribbean Cove is home to beautifully colored macaws, slow-moving sloths, and agile squirrel monkeys. Take a journey to Madagascar and meet animals found exclusively on the island nation like lemurs, the fossa and the tenrec. A hike through Elm Creek Backyard will bring you eye to eye with animals found closer to home: stealthy mountain lions, playful river otters, and the elusive North American porcupine.

Looking for more adventure? Book an Up-Close Tour to experience the animals in a whole new and interactive way.

Feed a giraffe, meet some reptile friends, learn about the giant anteater, or meet the members of the Zoo's Animal Ambassador team. After riding the Zoo Train, don't forget the Kilimanjaro Mining Sluice where aspiring miners can excavate to discover fossils and gemstones to their heart's content.

There are always plenty of new things happening at the zoo. The annual Boo at the Zoo is a fan favorite. This event features six themed zones to make Halloween even more fun and safe. The spectacular Christmas Celebration brings in Santa's reindeer, ice skating, and immersive light displays that make you feel like you're truly walking in a magical winter wonderland. Or check out Wild Days during spring break,

featuring one of a kind animal encounters and exclusive interactive shows.

Abilene Zoo offers a benefit-packed membership that grants animal lovers unlimited visits, exclusive discounts, and free members-only events for one year. Your membership also directly supports community outreach, animal rescue and educational programs, ensuring the safety and care of the animals, as well as bolstering conservation efforts both locally and world-wide. Become a member and help save the planet at abilenezoo.org.

MISSION: The Abilene Zoo is a place of learning and adventure, where families make memories, share the joy of discovery and become inspired to preserve wildlife.







Leap Into a World of Learning at Abilene's Library

Abilene's three public library branches open up a world of learning, imagination and literacy for Abilene.

In addition to the obvious – access to a wealth of books, movies, and electronic and audio resources – a free library card with the Abilene Public Library gives you hours of computer usage at any library location, access to books from other libraries across the state and nation, and opportunity for a wide variety of enrichment activities and programs.

Each location has free programs for all ages - from computer classes and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, the arts and math) programs for adults to all the traditional children's programming (story times, craft programs) and some that aren't so traditional – coding and computer skills classes for tweens and teens, as well as STEAM programs and a chess club. There's always something going on at the Abilene Public Library.

Among the other notable offerings, the APL has rooms for studying, larger spaces for public and club

meetings, and the Creation Station (maker space), where only your imagination can limit what you can do. Classes and maker-meet-up sessions to help you learn all about the Cricut and 3D printer machines are available when it's convenient for you.

For help with mobile devices such as smartphones, tablets and laptops, the library provides technology enrichment and collaborative help sessions at all three locations. For other computer software or technology issues you need help with, Book-a-Librarian at any location at your convenience for help with word processing, email, social media, and other applications.

Abilene Public Libraries also have free Notary Public services at all three locations, during regular work hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., but often also available during evenings and weekends. And don't forget Free Tax Help at Mockingbird and Main Branches during February through April 13.





A Modern Day Library and More

Construction and renovation is underway in the transformation of a historic school building into the new Abilene Heritage Square, a multipurpose center for learning, making, discovery, building community and innovating and encouraging future businesses.

In addition to a state-of-the-art public library, Abilene Heritage Square will include:

- A renovated 700-seat auditorium suitable for meetings, speakers, recitals, concerts and weddings.
- An exhibit hall for both local and touring exhibits from major museums and galleries.
- Programming space for The Grace Museum, including a new Children's Museum (in addition to the existing Children's Museum).
- The renovated and highly versatile Eagle's Nest gymnasium, which will be able to host events as varied as a school prom, square dance, civic club luncheon, craft show, family reunions, yoga classes, industrial exhibits, or wedding dinners. The facility will include a catering kitchen that allows catering service for up to 400 people seated at tables.
- A coffee shop adjacent to the library that can be accessed outside library operating hours.

- Classrooms for the Stone Owl Scholars, a program in which high school juniors and seniors can learn of constitutional principles and free-market economics while earning the Stone Owl Scholar designation and scholarship. Stone Owl Scholars is a program in partnership with Abilene Heritage Square and the Stone Owl Institute.
- The "Lawn at the Square" suitable for outdoor concerts, festivals, and special events.

Built in 1923, the historic building complex, originally designed by renowned West Texas architect David S. Castle, housed the former Abilene High School/Lincoln Middle School and was deliberately placed near the railroad with a goal of showing those traveling through that Abilene was a city devoted to education. Abilene Heritage Square is a redevelopment to celebrate that history and vision. The historic academic building and 1929 gymnasium will be renovated, while preserving their historic facades. New construction sensitive to the historic structures will be added to the west side of the academic building, creating a contemporary learning center for Abilene.

The \$44 million dollar project is expected to be completed in 2024.

Parks & Aquatic Features



The City of Abilene has a well-developed park system with **27 parks** totaling **1,002.22 acres** and a varied collection of modern facilities. Whether you want to relax, splash, exercise, play or gather with friends, Abilene has an outdoor space to enjoy.

ADVENTURE COVE 2742 S. 9th St.

At Adventure Cove, families enjoy a leisure pool with a zero-depth beach entry, a lazy river, a pair of water slides, a covered patio, and a new bathhouse. The facility has been designed with the future in mind, providing space to add features and expand the lazy river in the future. Adventure Cove's pavilion is available for rent, and the entire facility can be rented during after hours.

CEDAR CREEK WATERWAY

Jog, hike, bike or perhaps even kayak down the three-mile Cedar Creek Waterway beginning on E.S. 11th St. Future plans for the greenbelt stretching from Kirby Lake to Lake Ft. Phantom include ponds with picnic areas, waterfalls and fountains – a landmark oasis running through the center of Abilene.

ARTHUR SEARS PARK

2250 Ambler Ave.

- Baseball / Softball Field
- Basketball Court
- Benches
- Creek / Lake
- Pavilion
- Picnic Area / Tables
- Playground
- Recreation Center
- Restrooms
- Splash Pad
- Volleyball Court
- Walking Path

C.W. GILL PARK 1140 Sunset Drive

- Benches
- Creek / Lake
- Pavilion
- Picnic Area / Tables
- Playground



CAL YOUNG PARK 950 T&P Lane

- Baseball / Softball Field
- Creek / Lake
- Disc Golf
- Pavilion
- Picnic Area / Tables
- Playground
- Restrooms
- Skate Park / Hockey



CARVER PARK 541 N. 8th St.

- Basketball Court
- Benches
- Pavilion
- Playground
- Recreation Center

COACH JAMES VALENTINE PARK 1317 N. Pioneer Drive

- Benches
- Creek / Lake
- Picnic Area / Tables
- Playground

COBB PARK 2302 State St.

- Baseball / Softball Field
- Basketball Court
- Benches
- Creek / Lake
- Pavilion
- Picnic Area / Tables
- Playground
- Recreation Center
- Restrooms

EVERMAN PARK 1101 N. 1st St.

- Benches
- Fountain
- Statues/Sculptures



FANNIN PARK 1902 Shelton St.

- Baseball / Softball Field
- Playground

GROVER NELSON PARK

2070 Zoo Lane

- Baseball / Softball Field
- Benches
- Creek / Lake
- Dog Park
- Pavilion
- Picnic Area / Tables
- Playground
- Restrooms
- Splash Pad
- Walking Path
- Zoo

JACKSON PARK 2650 S. 32nd St.

• Baseball / Softball Field

JOHNSON PARK 273 Johnson Road

- Benches
- Creek / Lake
- Disc Golf
- Pavilion
- Picnic Area / Tables
- Playground
- Restrooms
- Volleyball Court



KIRBY PARK 249 S. 14th St.

- Basketball Court
- Benches
- Pavilion

LAKE KIRBY PARK & NATURE PLAY AREA

5650 Maple St.

- Baseball / Softball Field
- Benches
- Creek / Lake
- Pavilion
- Picnic Area / Tables
- Playground
- Restrooms

MLK PARK 501 Goodlow St.

- Baseball / Softball Field
- Benches
- Restrooms



NELSON WILSON PARK

1782 San Jacinto Drive

- Pavilion
- Picnic Area / Tables
- Playground

NORTH PARK 3802 Grape St.

• Basketball Court

OSCAR ROSE PARK 2601 S. 7th St.

- Baseball / Softball Field
- Basketball Court
- Benches
- Creek / Lake
- Pavilion
- Picnic Area / Tables
- Playground
- Recreation Center
- Restrooms
- Skate Park / Hockey
- Tennis & Pickleball Court
- Volleyball Court
- Walking Path

REDBUD PARK 3125 S. 32nd St.

- Baseball / Softball Field
- Benches
- Picnic Area / Tables
- Playground
- Prairie Dog Town
- Restrooms
- Splash Pad
- Walking Path

REYES FLORES PARK

633 Bois Darc St.

- Baseball / Softball Field
- Basketball Court
- Benches
- Pavilion
- Picnic Area / Tables
- Playground

SCARBOROUGH PARK

5402 Hartford St.

- Baseball / Softball Field
- Basketball Court
- Benches
- Disc Golf
- Pavilion
- Picnic Area / Tables
- Playground
- Restrooms
- Splash Pad
- Volleyball Court

SEA BEE PARK 6525 West Lake Road

- Benches
- Creek / Lake
- Pavilion
- Picnic Area / Tables
- Restrooms

STEVENSON PARK 441 E.N. 7th St.

- Baseball / Softball Field
- Basketball Court
- Benches
- Creek / Lake
- Pavilion
- Picnic Area / Tables
- Playground
- Restrooms
- Splash Pad
- Tennis Court

VAUGHN CAMP PARK

4709 Robertson

- Baseball / Softball Field
- Basketball Court
- Benches
- Creek / Lake
- Picnic Area / Tables
- Playground
- Tennis & Pickleball Court
- Volleyball Court

VERA HALL MINTER PARK 209 Cypress St.

- Benches
- Statues/Sculptures
- Outdoor colorized water curtain

WILL HAIR PARK 101 Ambler Ave.

- Baseball / Softball Field
- Basketball Court
- Benches
- Creek / Lake
- Disc Golf
- Pavilion
- Picnic Area / Tables
- Playground
- Restrooms
- Tennis Court

PARK AMENITIES

Auditoriums: 3

Gymnasiums: 4

Skateboard Parks: 1

Ball Diamonds: 96

(35 lighted)

In-Line Hockey Rink: 1

Soccer Fields: 14

Bocce Ball Courts: 1

Miniature Golf Courses: 2

Splash Pads: 5

Bowling Centers: 2

Movie Screens: 32

Swimming Pools: 2

Disc Golf Courses: 4

Parks: **27**

Dog Parks: 1

Park Playgrounds: 20

Tennis Courts: 21

Football Fields: 15

Recreation Centers: 7

Walking Trails: 5

Golf Courses: 6

Running Tracks: 24

YMCAs: 1

Group Picnic Shelters: 16

Sand Volleyball Courts: 6

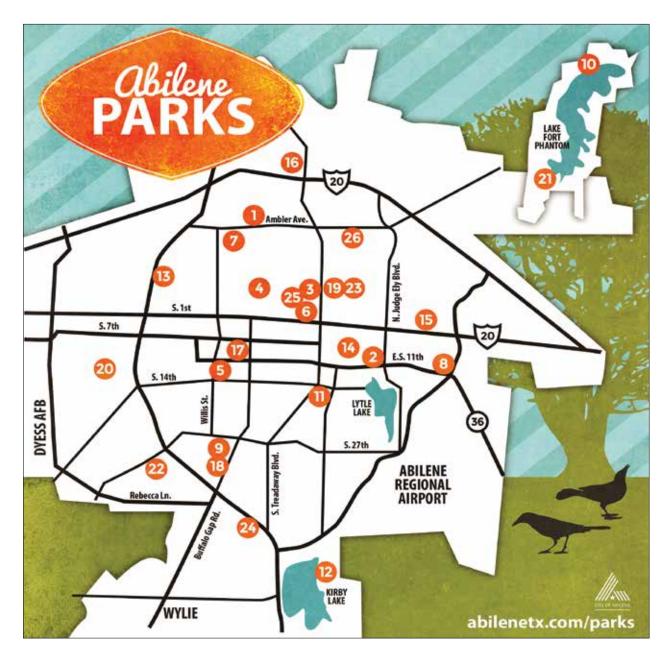
Youth Centers: 13



WATER WONDER

The water feature showcases a beautiful limestone wall behind a thin sheet of cascading water and LED color-changing lights that shine down from above. The water curtain operates with hundreds of nozzles programmed to create dazzling displays of words and shapes. At the base of the sculpture, multi-level limestone stacks bubble up with overflowing water when the water curtain turns off. Together, these features carry on the tradition Vera Minter Park has provided guests since its original opening in 1976.





- ARTHUR SEARS PARK (Ambler & Kirkwood)
- 2. CAL YOUNG PARK
 (T&P Lane & East South 11th)
- 3. CARVER PARK
 (North Treadaway & North Eighth)
- 4. COBB PARK
 (North 10th & Park)
- 5. C.W. GILL PARK
 (South Willis & South 13th)
- 6. EVERMAN PARK (North First & Cypress)
- 7. FANNIN PARK (North 18th & Shelton)

- 8. GROVER NELSON PARK (Loop 322 & Hwy 36)
- JACKSON PARK (Edgemont & Marshall)
- 10. JOHNSON PARK
 (Lake Ft. Phantom Dam)
- 11. KIRBY PARK
 (South 15th & Maple)
- 12. LAKE KIRBY PARK (Hwy 83/84)
- 13. COACH JAMES VALENTINE PARK
 (North 10th & Pioneer)

- 14. MLK PARK (South Seventh & Stafford)
- 15. NELSON WILSON PARK
 (Northway & San Jacinto)
- 16. NORTH PARK

(3700 Grape)

- 17. OSCAR ROSE PARK
 (South 7th & Barrow)
- 18. RED BUD PARK
 (South 32nd & South Willis)
- 19. REYES FLORES PARK
 (East North Seventh & Bois D'Arc)
- 20. SCARBOROUGH PARK (Hartford & Corsicana)

- 21. SEA BEE PARK (FM 600 & Fort Phantom Lake)
- 22. SOUTHWEST DR. COMPLEX (Southwest Drive)
- 23. STEVENSON PARK
 (Cockerell & East North Seventh)
- 24. VAUGHN CAMP PARK
 (South Winters Freeway)
- **25. VERA HALL MINTER PARK** (North Second & Cypress)
- **26. WILL HAIR PARK** (Ambler & Cedar Crest)

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Sports & Activities



Competitive youth sports leagues offered in Abilene include baseball, basketball, football, hockey, soccer, softball, tennis and volleyball. The Abilene Youth Sports Authority helps organize and promote youth sports, training, camps and clinics.

TENNIS

Abilene's **Rose Park Tennis Center** features 15 lighted tennis courts with dressing facilities, restrooms, covered bleachers, full line pro shop, and beautiful landscape. The center offers adult and junior USTA league play and tournaments, as well as private and group lessons for all ages with USPTA tennis professionals. The Abilene Country Club also has seven outdoor courts, seven covered courts and two indoor courts with championship lighting covering all courts. Country club members have

access to a complete tennis program conducted by a USPTA tennis professional.

GOLF

Abilene boasts five golf courses to accommodate golfers of all levels.

Abilene Country Club Main Course is a par-70 club course dating back to 1920. The course was redesigned in 1993 by George Williams and Garrett Gill, who reconstructed 10 holes. Pro golfers such as Tommy Bolt, Charles Coody, Don Cherry, Mike Standly, and Bob Estes have all spent time here.

Ron Garl and Charles Coody originally built **Abilene Country Club Fairway Course** in the 1970s. The club was purchased in the late 1990s and has been updated for the more modern game. Fairway is a long,

challenging course that hosted the Southwest Classic from 1981 to 1991.

Lytle Creek Golf Links, headed by Abilene resident and Senior PGA player Charles Coody, developed **Diamondback Golf Club**, an 18-hole daily fee championship golf course. Coody and Williams, Gill and Associates designed the par 71, 7,000-yard course, which opened in November of 1999 and features bentgrass greens and Tifway (419) hybrid Bermuda grass fairways, roughs, and tees.

Maxwell Municipal Golf Course does not overwhelm the average duffer with difficulty. Golfers can generally work their way onto the course at any time, and the greens have the reputation of being in outstanding condition.

Mulligans Sports Bar, Grill & Golf is a lighted par-3 course offering day or night practice and play. The course features bent-grass greens in excellent condition, a driving range for first timers and long-time pros. Lessons, leagues and memberships are available. The bar and grill features live music and karaoke as well as scramble every Monday night to help hone your competitive edge.





HIKING, BIKING & RUNNING

In addition to the hiking trails just south of town at **Abilene State Park**, there's a hike and bike trail at **Lake Kirby Park**, and you can jog, hike or bike down the three-mile Cedar Creek Waterway beginning on E.S. 11th St. Future plans for the greenbelt stretching from Kirby Lake to Lake Fort Phantom Hill include ponds with picnic areas, waterfalls and fountains.

Cycling enthusiasts can join the **Abilene Bike Club**. Members have access to Buck Creek Trails, an off-road trail in the northeast corner of town. The 12 miles of trails accommodate anyone from the beginner off-road rider to expert level. Tour de Gap, a popular family and cycling enthusiast ride in the hills of West Central Texas near Buffalo Gap, takes place annually and is now in its 36th year.

The **Abilene Runners Club** promotes and encourages a healthy lifestyle by supporting all runners, joggers and walkers. ARC promotes and conducts races, training runs and social gatherings. Several 5Ks, 10Ks and half marathons take place in and around Abilene each year.

HUNTING & FISHING

Hunting and fishing are part of the landscape of activity in West Texas, and Abilene is no exception. Most land for hunting is privately owned and requires a lease or permission, but a handful of public hunting locations can be found within an hour's drive of Abilene. Dove, deer, turkey and quail are popular choices for Abilene hunters. Lake Fort Phantom Hill and Kirby Lake are the two largest Abilene lakes for fishing. Blue catfish, hybrid striped bass, and white crappie provide the most consistent fishing opportunities at Fort Phantom Hill. Largemouth bass can occasionally be good as well. Blue catfish are concentrated off shore at Kirby Lake. High to moderate water levels bring fair to good fishing for catfish, crappie and largemouth bass at Lake Abilene, located in the Abilene State Park.

ABILENE STATE PARK

On the shady banks of Elm Creek, large trees arch overhead and deer and other critters wander by. Just 16 miles southwest of Abilene, the 529.4-acre **Abilene State Park** has a lake and fishing pond, a historic swimming pool, trails, camping and more.

On land, you can camp, hike, geocache, bird watch or ride bikes. Along with many picnic sites under the trees,





the park has a sand volleyball court, horseshoe pit, basketball goal and large open area. Explore the one-mile nature trail, half of which is ADA-compliant. On water, you can swim, fish and boat. The swimming pool is open each summer.

The park includes two group recreation halls. One is perfect for RV groups, as 35 campsites surround the hall. Camping is available in tents or RVs or in a screened shelter. For a bit of adventure, stay in one of the yurts.

Drop a line in **Lake Abilene** or **Buffalo Wallow Pond**. The pond is a favorite spot for kids of all ages. Remember, you do not need a license to fish from shore in a state park. Rent a canoe or kayak at headquarters (spring break through November).

WATER SPORTS

Abilene residents and visitors can enjoy paddle boarding, kayaking, sand volleyball, lakeside fire pits and more at Lake Fort Phantom Hill through **SUP Abilene**. SUP offers private kayak or paddle board lessons, rentals and outdoor event space.

A Game-Changer For Abilene

The Dodge Jones Youth Sports Center opened in 2020 and attracts families from the Big Country and beyond to participate in youth sports activities year-round.

The facility is home to the nonprofit Abilene Youth Sports Association, an organization that works to empower kids and families through positive youth sports programs that build friendships, instill character and leadership, encourage a healthy, active lifestyle, and create lifetime memories. AYSA offers basketball and volleyball leagues, tournaments, clinics, and other competitions and events.

Dodge Jones Youth Sports Center features a premier arena with four regulation basketball courts, four youth basketball courts, eight regulation volleyball courts, professional hardwood court flooring, and state-of-the-art technology and equipment, including live streaming, multi-angle video, instant replay technology that allows you to watch the games happening at the Dodge Jones Youth Sports Center from wherever you are. Having more facilities means more opportunities for kids in Abilene to participate in life-changing youth sports.

The goal of the new sports center is to offer a better youth sports experience for kids, parents, and coaches by creating an encouraging, "cheer only," positive and uplifting environment. Our programs encourage kids to stay active, learn teamwork, develop self-discipline, and have good, clean fun.

The Dodge Jones Youth Sports Center has multiple uses:

- Youth Basketball Leagues
- Youth Volleyball Leagues
- Club Volleyball/Basketball
- Skills Academies/Clinics
- Indoor Football Training
- Gymnastics Competitions
- Cheerleading Competitions
- Martial Arts Competitions
- Lessons (Individual/Groups)
- Meeting Rooms
- Party Rentals
- Conferences
- Sports Expos



110 Sider

Affordable Abilene Adventures

A night out or a day of fun shouldn't have to empty your wallet. These local excursions offer fun and adventure for \$10 or less per person.

Visit the Old West at Frontier Texas!

Take a trip back in time through the magic of state-of-the-art technology. Visitors experience the legendary Texas frontier through innovative exhibits and unique encounters at Frontier Texas!, located in the heart of downtown Abilene. The "Blood & Treasure on the Frontier" exhibit features a new high-definition, surround-sound welcome theater, and "Early Texas" showcases the natural history of the region including artifacts, interactive discovery stations and beautiful large murals by a local artist. Shop for unique gifts at the Museum Store, and don't forget to take photos in front of the iconic bronze buffalo, the giant buffalo skull or below the Flying Buffalo Herd. Adult admission is \$10, and kids are \$5. Senior and education discounts also available.



Experience the arts during ArtWalk.



ArtWalk is a family-friendly mini-arts-festival sponsored by the Center for Contemporary Arts that highlights the best of the visual and performing arts in Abilene. Every second Thursday of the month, Abilene's downtown cultural district comes alive with 800-1400 guests and the involvement of more than 100 businesses and organizations annually. Visitors come from Abilene, the Big Country and even further to see the work of artists and performers and to eat and shop downtown. Museums and galleries, including the Grace Museum and the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature, stay open until 8 p.m. often with artist talks, exhibit openings and various kids' crafts and activities – all with free admission during ArtWalk. Visual and performing arts are displayed all along Cypress Street downtown.

Get in touch with nature at Abilene State Park.

Head a little south of town to the 529.4-acre Abilene State Park. You can enjoy picnicking, fishing, swimming, biking, bird watching, hiking and more. A large grove of oak, cedar, elm and pecan trees, now a favorite picnic area, was once a campground for Comanche Indians. Kayaks and paddleboards are available to rent for use on Lake Abilene. Entrance fee

is \$5 for adults and free for children. Swimming pool admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.



Explore history at Fort Phantom Hill.

Located a short drive north of Abilene, Fort Phantom Hill is one of the most pristine historic sites in Texas. Originally known as the "Post on the Clear Fork of the Brazos," it was one of the second line of forts laid out in the early 1850s the westward-moving frontier of Texas: The fort was occupied by the U.S. Army until 1854. Shortly after the army abance Phantom Hill fire destroyed most of the

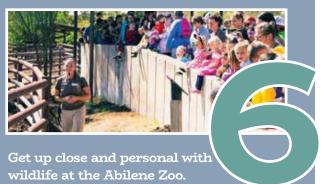
the westward-moving frontier of Texas settlement. The fort was occupied by the U.S. Army from 1851 until 1854. Shortly after the army abandoned Fort Phantom Hill, fire destroyed most of the log walls and thatched roofs of the post's buildings. However, much remains of the old fort for visitors to explore, inspect and study, including three original stone buildings (an intact stone powder magazine, a stone guardhouse and an almost-intact commissary or warehouse), more than a dozen stone chimneys, and stone foundations from the original fort. Selfguided tours are free.



Root, root, root for the home team(s).

Three local universities offer a variety of college-level sports.
Watch NCAA Division I football, basketball, volleyball, tennis and more at Abilene Christian University. Hardin-Simmons University competes in the NCAA Division II ACS conference, and McMurry University competes in Division III of ACS. Admission prices vary among schools and sports.





The 16-acre Abilene Zoo boasts more than 800 animals representing more than 225 species. Exhibits feature a wide array of animals displayed in modern areas that simulate a natural environment. You'll find lions, spider monkeys, turtles, King Cobra snakes, American bison, and ring-tailed lemurs, just to name a few. The zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and features animals native to North America, Africa, South America, Madagascar and the Caribbean. Admission is \$8 for adults and \$5.50 for children. At Twiga Terrace, you can encounter giraffes up close on the new deck and hand-feed them healthful romaine lettuce, available for \$5.



Follow the story(book) trail downtown.

The downtown area of the Storybook Capital of America is full of art and characters from well-loved children's books. Check out the art on display at the National Center for Children's Literature (always free admission) and head out on a downtown walk to see storybook sculptures at Everman Park, the Adamson-Spalding Storybook Garden and scattered throughout downtown. You can also download the GooseChase app to go on a storybook

around the downtown area.



Learn more about World War II.

Interested in World War II history? The 12th Armored Division Memorial Museum behind it. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children.

See the stars at The Historic Paramount Theatre.

The restored theatre provides a retreat to the 1930s era of movie-going where the environment is part of the experience. The auditorium space re-creates a Spanish/ stars. The Paramount Theatre is fully equipped with state-of-the-art sound, lighting, projection and multievents. Ticket prices vary by event, but movies are often





Make memories and a holein-one at PrimeTime.

all-access pass. Pizza, burgers, snacks,

Pet-Friendly Places

If you're out and about with your four-legged friends, here are a few places you can find fun and food with Fido in tow.



PLAY AND EXERCISE

CAMP BARKELEY – two, large fenced parks: one for smaller pups and another for big hounds. Both have wide open spaces where canines can run off some energy. **2070 Zoo Lane**

WOOD DOG PARK – at the Taylor Jones Humane Society, open to the public in the mornings, evenings and weekends. The park requires a sign-in to prove vaccinations and includes water stations, benches and space to run. taylorjoneshumane.com

Feel free to bring your dog to the ABILENE STATE PARK or any CITY PARKS, as long as he or she is leashed. The LUNSFORD TRAIL at Abilene Christian University is also a popular dog-walking spot.

DRINKS AND DINING

Dogs can join their owners at several restaurants, coffee shops and breweries around town that have outdoor patio seating. Keep in mind that fast food restaurants may be a challenge if it's just you and a pup, as you may not be able to bring your furry friend inside the restaurant to order.

COPPER CREEK

4401 Loop 322

CYPRESS ST. STATION

158 Cypress St.

FIREHOUSE SUBS

3858 Ridgemont Drive

GRAIN THEORY

202 Pine St. # 201

LYTLE LAND & CATTLE CO.

1150 E South 11th St.

MIGUEL'S MEX TEX CAFÉ

3001 S. Danville Drive

MONKS COFFEE SHOP

233 Cypress St.

THE WINERY AT WILLOW CREEK

4353 S. Treadaway Blvd.

STORES

JACKSON BROS.

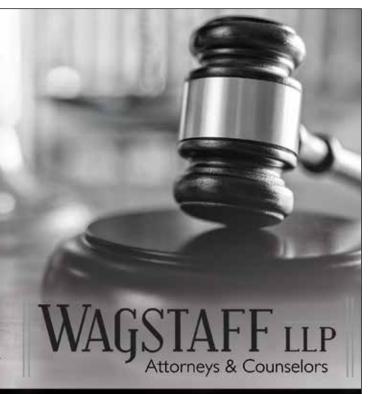
FEED & SEED

3818 S. Treadaway Blvd.

241 E.S. 11th St.



ROY B. LONGACRE DARRELL W. MOORE CHARLES L. BLACK LISA CHAVEZ BENJAMIN E. GRANT M. SHAUN GALOVICH GRANT R. MILLER JONATHAN S. MOORE DAVID W. THOMAS MARK A. MARSHALL JOSH MONHOLLON ROSE VANDENBRAND DIANN WADDILL OF COUNSEL



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ABILENE HEALTHCARE Committed to covering the community with care



Abilene is home to two major medical centers: Hendrick Medical Center and Hendrick Medical Center South. These facilities offer innovative treatments and preventive healthcare measures that include cardiovascular care, neurology and neurosurgery, neonatal and pediatric intensive care, orthopedics, women's health and cancer services.

With more than 5,000 employees, Hendrick Health is the second largest employer in Abilene and serves 24 surrounding counties.

As the regional healthcare provider for almost a century, Hendrick Health continues to grow along with the communities around it. From the more than 180 medical providers at Hendrick Clinic, to the Hendrick Pharmacy on Ambler and from hospitals in Abilene, to Hendrick Medical Center Brownwood, Hendrick Health is focused on providing access to care where patients need it, when they need it.

Patients can find specialty care for asthma, cancer, diabetes, emergencies, heart and vascular, neuroscience, orthopedics, ostomy, palliative, birth, pulmonary, radiology, rehabilitation, respiratory, sleep disorders, stroke, women's

health, and wound care. In addition, Hendrick offers urgent care clinics in Abilene and Brownwood.

HENDRICK HEALTH

Hendrick Health was founded in 1924 as a not-for-profit healthcare institution in response to a community need for quality healthcare. Today, Hendrick Health includes three hospital campuses – Hendrick Medical Center and Hendrick Medical Center South in Abilene and Hendrick Medical Center Brownwood.

As a faith-based institution, Hendrick Health is proud to continue this legacy through its commitment to expand access to high quality healthcare throughout the Texas Midwest region, while holding true to its mission of delivering "high quality healthcare emphasizing excellence and compassion consistent with the healing ministry of Jesus Christ."

Hendrick Health is affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas and cares for people of all ages and races, regardless of their ability to pay.

AWARDS AND ACCREDITATIONS

- Gallup Exceptional Workplace Award (16 years in a row)
- Modern Healthcare's Best Places to Work in Healthcare
- Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society Stage 7
- Healthcare's Most Wired recognition from the College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME)

WEST TEXAS REHABILITATION CENTER

West Texas Rehabilitation Center provides a wide array of services including outpatient physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, audiology, orthotics, prosthetics, and hospice care.

The West Texas Rehabilitation Center is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation that was founded in 1953 as a facility to treat children with cerebral palsy.

It began with just one location and one physical therapist treating seventeen patients. Over the years, the organization has grown to meet the needs of the community.

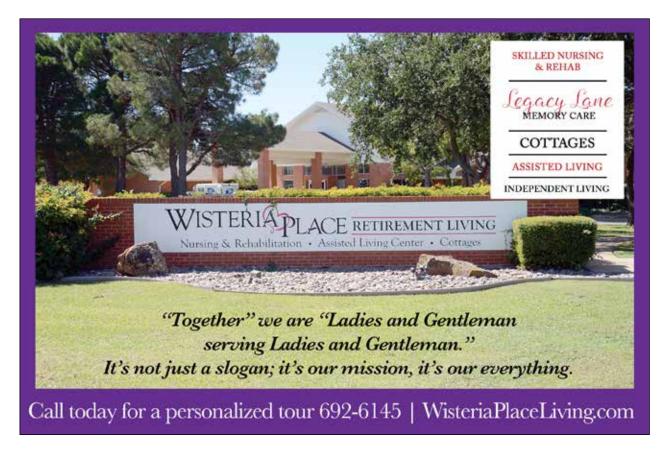
Now West Texas Rehab proudly serves thousands of children and adults in three different locations across West



Texas with more than 300 employees.

No other provider in West Texas offers the full complement of outpatient rehabilitation treatment services available at West Texas Rehabilitation Center, and the philosophy of providing quality care regardless of the patient's financial status distinguishes it from other providers of outpatient rehabilitation care.

Each year, West Texas Rehab serves more than 650 patients per day through its Abilene, San Angelo, and Ozona facilities as well as outreach programs throughout the Concho Valley and Big Country.



Mark Your Calendar abilenevisitors.com/calendar ANNUAL ABILENE EVENTS

Many events are subject to change.

Check organization websites and abilenevisitors.com/calendar for the latest updates.

FEBRUARY

Texas Farm Ranch Wildlife Expo

The Texas Farm Ranch and Wildlife Expo (TFRWE) is a one-of-a-kind agribusiness event for vendors to interface directly with farm, ranch and/or wildlife managers and rural consumers in the Big Country. This event, hosted by the Abilene Chamber of Commerce's Agricultural Committee, showcases more than 80 businesses and 150 booths with an attendance of 3,500 plus.

MARCH

Outlaws & Legends

Known as "The Biggest 1-Stage Event in Texas," this two-day country music festival features iconic and up-and-coming performers on the sprawling grounds of the Back Porch of Texas. Proceeds support the Ben Richey Boys Ranch & Family Program, a nonprofit child care facility that serves the Big Country area.

Business Expo

The Abilene Chamber of Commerce's annual high-energy, high traffic trade show attracts about 7,000 businesses and consumers in a dynamic business-to-business atmosphere. Presented by the Abilene Business Council, this signature event of the Abilene Chamber is a great opportunity to get new leads, customers, and to give your brand visibility in the Big Country marketplace. It is also an ideal venue to introduce a new product or service, or reacquaint the business community with your company.

MAY

Small Business Week

As part of National Small Business Week, the Abilene Chamber of Commerce highlights the impact of outstanding entrepreneurs and small business owners across the Big Country. Events include a press conference, networking, an awards luncheon and social media spotlights.

Western Heritage Classic

Held on the grounds of the Taylor County Expo Center, this three-day event embodies the essence of cowboy lifestyle and history. The showcase event is the Ranch Rodeo, and other favorites include the World's Largest Bit & Spur Show, a Chuckwagon Cookoff, Matched Horse Races, Children's Stickhorse Rodeo, Cowboy Poets & Western Artisans, Ranch Horse Clinics, Western Trade Show, the Rhinestone Round-Up, the World Finals RHAA Competition, and a giant Western Parade.

Big Country Air and Space Expo

A weekend full of fun and flight featuring a variety of static and in-air displays on the grounds of the Abilene Regional Airport.

JUNE

Children's Art & Literacy Festival

The second weekend of each June, Abilene's downtown streets fill with children, families, costumed characters, tourists, food trucks, music, art and more during the annual Children's Art and Literacy Festival. Each year, the CALF hosts a children's book illustrator in conjunction with the exhibition at the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature.

JULY

Freedom Festival

Abilene's two-day Freedom Festival event includes the Stars & Stripes Parade downtown, more than a dozen entertainers, a car and bike show, a kids' area, food trucks, outdoor booths, food booths and, of course, spectacular fireworks.

SEPTEMBER

West Texas Fair & Rodeo

At the West Texas Fair & Rodeo you're sure to find a plethora of delicious food, a carnival with a variety of rides for everyone to enjoy, two rounds of a Tractor Pull, a week of PRCA Rodeo, a barn full of some of the best livestock from across Texas. musicians, entertainment and much more.

Abilene Beer Summit

Abilene Beer Summit is a one-day craft brew experience featuring more than 125 beer flavors from more than 40 breweries. A general pass gets guests 10 beer samples chosen from all participating brew masters, along with live music all afternoon. VIP passes give beer lovers access to a special VIP area, more sampling, exclusive brews to taste, party swag, and catered food. Proceeds from the event benefit New Horizons, a home for children.

OCTOBER

Business Mercado

Hosted by the Abilene Hispanic Business Council, Business Mercado (Market) is an annual showcase of business products and services with the intent of building the bridge with the Hispanic consumer. Open to all businesses interested in connecting with the Hispanic market, this high energy, family friendly event spotlights the Hispanic culture in Abilene with mariachis, ballet folklorico and other family fun activities throughout the day. Business Mercado features more than 100 exhibitors and close to 2,000 attendees.

NOVEMBER

The Nutcracker

Abilene Ballet Theatre presents its annual production of "The Nutcracker" at the Paramount Theatre each November to usher in Abilene's dreamy holiday season. Perhaps it is all a dream for Clara, who receives a magical nutcracker at her family's Christmas party and is transported into another world. Following a battle between scurrying mice, soldiers and her Nutcracker hero in her living room under a giant Christmas



tree, Clara is transported through a snowy forest to the Land of the Sweets, where she is greeted by dancing characters from all over the world. Don't miss this beloved holiday classic!

DECEMBER

City Sidewalks and FOX West Texas Christmas Lights Parade

Discover the charm of Christmas in downtown Abilene in the annual City Sidewalks celebration. Merchants, museums and galleries will open their decorated doors for a full week of holiday cheer, fun activities and shopping. Highlights include a parade of lights, lighting of a 47-foot Christmas tree, musical performances and free goodies.

Winter Lightfest

Bundle up and stroll through tree-lined paths lit with thousands of twinkling lights and breathtaking animated displays. Stop in Christmas Village for refreshments and activities (hot chocolate, food trucks, T-shirts, light of jewelry, and Santa). Bring your camera to capture your family at several photo ops. In 2020, guests from all over Texas and the U.S. enjoyed Winter Lightfest's unique displays containing more than 2.1

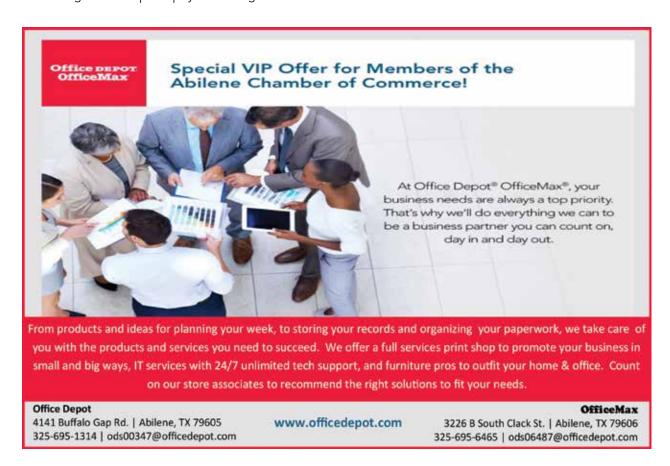
million lights. Proceeds provide direct support to partner agencies that make West Texas an amazing place to live.

Abilene Zoo Christmas Celebration Powered by Reliant

Take a trip to a Wild Christmas Wonderland. All the zoo's various zones undergo a complete holiday transfiguration. Wander through an 85-foot long tunnel of lights and enjoy a nightly Christmas tree lighting. Children can visit Santa in his sleigh complete with live reindeer, then head to Mrs. Claus' Texas Bakery to decorate their own Christmas cookie. You can make your own s'mores at the s'mores station and warm up with a hot chocolate, including spiked hot chocolate and hot toddies for adults. Watch a professional ice carver make a stunning ice sculpture or give skating a try at the ice-skating rink.

Christmas in the Garden

The Adamson-Spalding Storybook Garden is decorated with twinkling Christmas lights and holiday decorations. Put on your pajamas and join us for a special family night of fun with Santa Claus, book readings, costumed characters, art activities and live music and entertainment.







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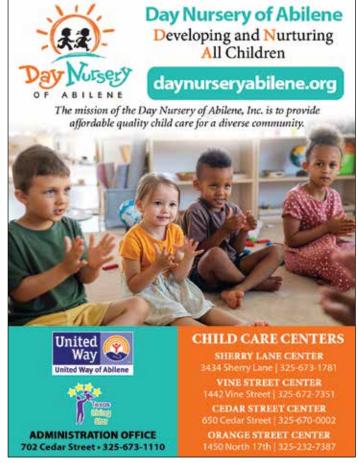
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Your Way Computer Tech Team – YWTT Inc.

(325) 690-1171 ywctt.com

COMPUTERS – SOFTWARE & SERVICES

Adobe

(502) 530-0418 adobe.com/acrobat/ online/jpg-to-pdf.html

Carrier Management Systems, Inc.

(325) 677-5900 nams.net

Milsoft Utility Solutions

(325) 695-1642 milsoft.com

CONCERTS

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CONCRETE - READY MIX



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DPR Construction

(214) 979-9900 dpr.com

JAR Construction

(325) 665-3469 jarconstructionllc.com

RHS Construction

(325) 455-0522 rhs-construction.com

Teinert Construction

(325) 704-1211 teinert.com

CONSTRUCTION – DRIVEWAY/ ROAD

Badger Dirt & Septic LP

(325) 669-8181 badgerdirtand septictx.com

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BRIERCROFT CONSTRUCTION

(325) 692-0017 briercroft.com

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Mattman Services, LLC

(325) 864-3692 mattmanservices.com

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(214) 630-1010 terracon.com

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(325) 548-9369 raydon-inc.com

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Jeff Luther Construction Company

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(325) 734-8585 abilenenewlife.com

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(325) 672-1263

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Disability Resources, Inc.

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Taylor County Adult Literacy Council

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Christian Women's Job Corps of Abilene

(325) 701-9250 cwjcabilene.org

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Wyatt Electrical Services, Inc.

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EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

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FaithWorks of Abilene, Inc

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(325) 670-9941 raisingcanes.com

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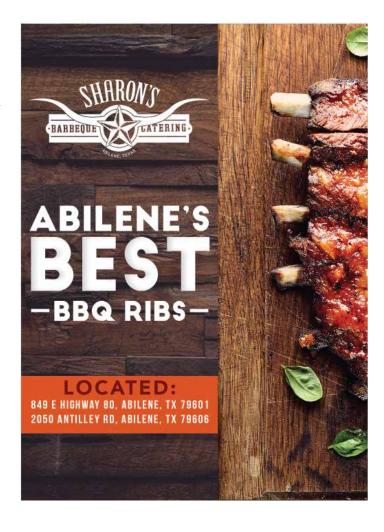


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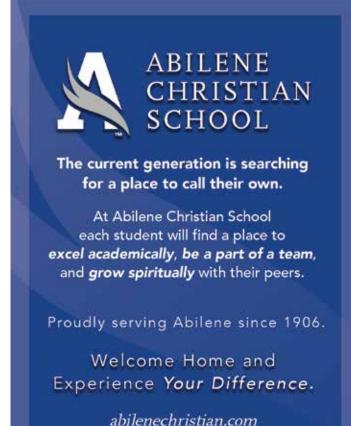


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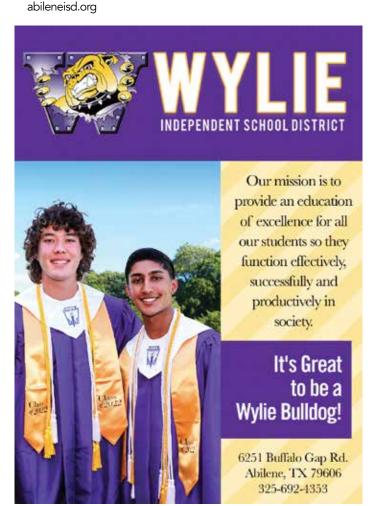
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