



ABILENE CHAMBER

DAILY BUSINESS BRIEF

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

NORTHWEST TEXAS SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER AT TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SETS RECORDS

Texas Tech University's Northwest Texas Small Business Development Center (NWT SBDC) helped entrepreneurs secure more than \$100 million dollars in loans and equity over the past fiscal year, which concluded Sept. 30. These capital funds were used by businesses to create and save 5,155 jobs this year in 95-county areas served by NWT SBDC Centers -- Lubbock, Abilene, Amarillo, Midland/Odessa, Stephenville and Wichita Falls.

"Many people do not realize the impact the NWT SBDC has on the local economy," said Judy Wilhelm, executive director of the NWT SBDC. "We help small businesses in starting and expanding their business. The record \$100 million of capital put into the hands of business owners would not have been possible without our staff, who tirelessly worked in person, over phone, by email and virtually over the fiscal year.

"We typically assist clients in securing between \$30 million and \$50 million a year, but \$100 million is a record and more than three times our goal for the region set by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)," said Randy Burch, NWT SBDC associate executive director.

[Read more.](#)

WORKERS CONSTRUCTING NEW FUTURE AT HISTORIC ABILENE BUILDING

Construction workers are working to bring a new future to a historic Abilene building.

The old building on South First Street that went from being Abilene High School (AHS) to Lincoln Middle School will soon serve as a multipurpose community center with a library and entertainment features.

Jane Beard, the grant administrator for the Dian Graves Owen Foundation, said that the school was purposely built next to the train tracks.

"They wanted everyone who drove by or who went by on the train to see that Abilene was a community that valued education, it was really their first attempt at economic development," said Beard.

AHS was built in 1923, but designer David Castle quickly realized they needed more room.

"He intended for the building to be E shaped, if you looked down on it from the top it was going to be an E," said Beard.

So, they added an east building.

The original design plan included a west wing, but the Great Depression thwarted those plans. Beard says it's their goal to follow through with the historical plans and build one, which will become a three-story library.

"It will be a library like we haven't ever had in Abilene, because it will be more than just a place for books," said Beard.

[Read more.](#)

JIM NED CISD VOTERS APPROVE TWO BONDS WORTH MORE THAN \$33 MILLION DOLLARS

Tuesday night, voters in the Jim Ned CISD approved two bonds, which when combined for more than \$33 million dollars in renovations and improvements.

"We experienced a significant growth rate in 2019-2020, almost 10%," said superintendent Dr. Glen Teal.

One proposition is roughly \$25 million dollars, which will focus on expansion and improvements throughout the district.

Some of those projects include building a new intermediate school, an updated middle school kitchen and cafeteria, and adding parking at the high school.

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WHAT WE'RE READING

China exports 2020 vs. 2019

As politics waxes and wanes, keep a close eye on China's buying trends.

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To the Rescue! How Small Businesses Are Helping Each Other Survive During COVID-19

During the COVID-19 pandemic, these small business owners have come together to help out and support their fellow entrepreneurs.

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

NOV 10 PARTNER WEBINAR: ESTABLISH YOUR ONLINE ADVERTISING STRATEGY WITH FACEBOOK Facebook Trainer Lizzy Forzley will explain how to define your online advertising goals with clear objectives, reach your target at the right time and place and measure the ad campaign's success. Learn how Facebook Marketing tools, such as Facebook Business Pages, Facebook Stories, Boosting, Ads Manager Video and more, can help small businesses grow. [Register here.](#)

NOV 13 HOW TO GET YOUR LOCAL BUSINESS ON GOOGLE SEARCH AND MAPS FOR FREE SBDC ABILENE in partnership with Grow with Google. The event is from 11 AM - 12 PM CST. [Register here.](#)

NOV 17-19 CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP CONFERENCE: BUSINESS SOLVES
A virtual event —held in conjunction with the 21st annual Citizens Awards—about confronting the extraordinary economic and health challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the call for inclusion and equity that has swept our communities and workplaces into a new era, all while trying to build a more sustainable world. Discussions will focus on how business will lead through our recovery and chart a resilient path forward, working hand in hand with cross-sector partners to help our communities emerge stronger. Featured speakers will include Blackrock CEO Larry Fink, Khan Academy founder & CEO Sal Khan, Ad Council President & CEO Lisa Sherman, and more [Register here.](#)

NOV 20 ENERGY AND ECONOMY CONFERENCE The Federal Reserve Banks of Dallas and Kansas City will host their fifth joint energy conference on November 20 virtually. Leading energy experts will join Dallas Fed President Robert Kaplan and Kansas City Fed President Esther George in conversation about the state of the energy sector, the outlook for global oil and gas markets, opportunities and risks of the global energy transition, challenges in energy finance, and the changing U.S. energy landscape. [Register here.](#)

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