



ABILENE CHAMBER

DAILY BUSINESS BRIEF

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

WATCH: BACK TO SCHOOL TOWN HALL WITH AISD, BIG COUNTRY SCHOOL OFFICIALS

In an effort to ensure parents are prepared for the back-to-school season, the news division of KTAB and KRBC held a community conversation with AISD and other Big Country school officials.

To see the entire town hall, [click here](#).

CONVENTION CENTER HOTEL STILL ON TRACK FOR DOWNTOWN ABILENE

As the pandemic slows the momentum of some new businesses, the Convention Center Hotel remains on track for Downtown Abilene.

With this continued progress, the city is also preparing plans to reconfigure North Sixth Street and close part of it down.

The hotel is expected to be a DoubleTree by Hilton, and is currently in the design process.

[Learn more](#).

UNEMPLOYMENT NUMBERS DECREASE FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 1

According to the [DOL's weekly unemployment claims report](#), initial data shows 1,186,000, claims for the week ending August 1, this marks a decrease in applications after the previous two weeks saw an increase. The national unemployment rate was 11%; which is a decrease of 0.6% from the previous week's revised rate. The advance number for nationwide insured unemployment for the week of July 25 was 16,107,000; which is a decrease of 413,250 from the previous week.

According to initial data from the TWC, 61,940 claims were filed the week of August 1; which continues the trend of decreases in applications. Approximately 3.2 million unemployment claims have been filed in Texas since March 14. TWC is reporting on state unemployment numbers, including claims by industry and county, [here](#).

TABC UPDATES 51 PERCENT RULE

In an industry notice, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission [notified businesses](#) they can update their gross receipts to establish their business derives less than 51% from the sale of alcoholic beverages. This will allow businesses to qualify as a restaurant under GA-28, with the ability to provide dine-in services to the public. To qualify, businesses may fill out an Alcohol Sales Reporting Affidavit to include a calculation of gross receipts from April 1 through the date of submission. Alternatively, businesses that have changed their model to incorporate permanent food services, may apply for a Food and Beverage Certificate.

WHAT WE'RE READING

Mystery seed identification begins

USDA identifies seeds as vegetables, herbs, ornamentals, fruits and weeds; recipients urged to mail to authorities.

[Read more.](#)

AISD announces partial rules for games at Shotwell Stadium this season

High school football games at Shotwell Stadium this fall, like most everything else in 2020, will look different.

[Read more.](#)

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

8/11 TEXAS ALLIANCE OF ENERGY PRODUCERS SUMMER CONFERENCE join this FREE webinar on Tuesday, August 11 at 2:00 pm to hear from distinguished energy professionals on issues important to you and your company. [Register here.](#)

8/11 HOW TO START A SMALL BUSINESS WEBINAR Business Counselor, Manzel McGhee will overview what steps and procedures should be taken to start a small business including risks, opportunities and rewards. [Register here.](#)

8/13 GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING VIRTUAL LUNCHEON PANEL DISCUSSION discussion about government contracting for Women-Owned Small Businesses. [Learn more.](#)

8/19 BEST PRACTICES FOR THE NONPROFIT WORLD For many small and mid-sized non-profits, knowing how to build and maintain the health of the organization, using current best practices and the very best management strategies, is critical and can mean life or death for the organization. [Learn more.](#)

MORE FROM THE CHAMBER:

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