

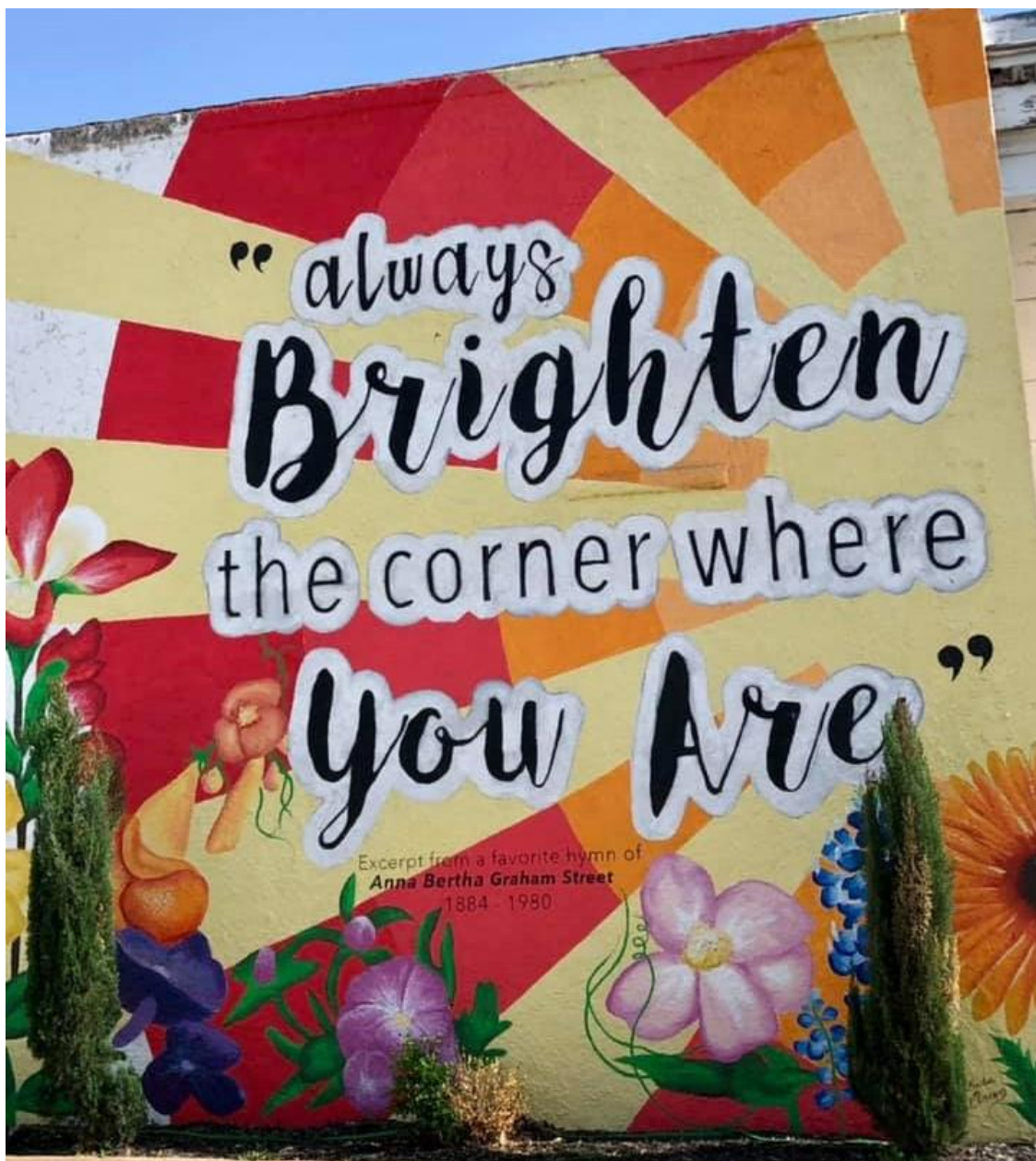


Become A Member

Upcoming Events

Communities Working Together to Accomplish What One Community Cannot Do Alone

The **E—Update**



"What you do today can improve all your tomorrows."
– Ralph Marston

It's time to Network!

It's time, too, to renew your TMCN Membership so your community won't have to skip a beat getting back in the congregation flow!

Please join us for another year of leadership development, peer-to-peer networking, sharing and addressing mutual challenges, showcasing our tourism destinations, strengthening regional participation on statewide concerns, and building our resources for the betterment of our region.

Membership renewal forms have already been sent to your community. If you haven't received one, please contact the TMCN office and we can give you more information.

NEW THIS YEAR - THE FIRST 20 COMMUNITIES THAT GET THE ONE-PAGE INVOICE RETURNED (with PAYMENT) GET ENTERED INTO A DRAWING! We will have a cool gift to give you at the 28th Annual Conference! And it will be cool!

IT'S TIME TO *Whoop!* RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO TEXAS MIDWEST COMMUNITY NETWORK!

With many of the twists and turns of 2020 lining out somewhat, we are all looking forward to resuming some face-to-face time.

And we want to be a part of your re-introduction to the real world. TMCN has been a vital part of this region in the areas of economic development, legislative issues, and regional tourism for nearly 28 years. We strive to provide training, education and up-to-date news and resources to YOU, our members.

Please join us for another year of leadership development, peer-to-peer networking, sharing and addressing mutual challenges, showcasing our tourism destinations, strengthening regional participation on statewide concerns, and building our resources for the betterment of the region.

We are once again offering our discounted ONE-INVOICE-ONLY at the same low cost as last year! NO PAYMENTS ARE REQUIRED AT THIS TIME but we do need to your commitment by September 1st. An invoice will follow on September 15th and we can set up a payment plan which works for you and any partnering organizations' budgeting needs. Questions? Give me a call at 254-734-5916 for more information.

PS-Our membership year begins October 1st so we're sending this notice now to allow you time to look over your options and ensure the continued receipt of TMCN's timely information and resources.

Communities working together to accomplish what one community cannot do alone.

YOUR MEMBER BENEFITS

Networking and Resources—Three Membership Meetings are held throughout the year and our daylong Annual Conference in October offers participants information on trending issues presented by industry professionals. Throughout the year, work shops and seminars are held on issues of significance to our members—i.e. Leadership TMCN, Social Media, Chamber Best Practices, and Newly Elected Officials to name a few. A periodic newsletter provides information on various resources for funding and training as well as noteworthy articles from our statewide and regional partners.

Marketing—TMCN publishes the annual Texas Midwest Guide which showcases our member cities with a keen focus on bringing economic growth and sustainability to the region through tourism. The Guide offers low rates, statewide distribution, and online digital formats with links to local accommodations, dining, events, visitor sites and advertisers.

Legislative Awareness—During Legislative Sessions, TMCN organizes a Texas Midwest Day at the Capitol where member community leaders have an opportunity to meet with State Agencies to learn about their various programs available to Texas cities and visit with our state legislators and their staff to provide input and seek guidance in lobbying local issues. On off Legislative years, TMCN hosts a lawmakers Luncheon providing direct access to the lawmakers who serve the TMCN region. Key decisions and issues from past and upcoming Legislative Sessions are shared and discussed.

Hi there! I'm Lori - and oh wow, your outfit is not a very attractive choice.



How to be more open to new ideas

By Becky McCray

When you're introduced to someone, you wouldn't start the conversation with, "Hi, I think your hair style is a big mistake."

So why do we greet new ideas with "That will never work"?

How to greet an idea respectfully

Picture being introduced to someone you've never met. You look them in the eye, and you shake their hand. You want to make a good first impression while you're also forming your first impression of the other person. Now is not the time to hit them with all the negative thoughts that pop into your head.

You hold your opinions to yourself for now and make time to get to know the person better. You show interest in them, ask questions to learn more about them and listen to their answers.

You don't necessarily agree with everything they say, but you show respect for them by listening first.

You can do the same when you greet new ideas.

Practice greeting each new idea with a friendly hello and pause

Listen to the new idea without responding. You don't have to agree with the idea, or think it's a good idea. Hold your objections for later.

First show interest in the idea. Ask questions that help you learn more about it, not to help you poke holes in it. Avoid throwing out all the potential problems and reasons not to try it that pop into your head.

People learn by doing, trying and sometimes by failing. If you stop them from trying, you're stopping them from learning. But there's one question you can ask that will help them learn the most while failing the least.

The magic question to ask of all new ideas:

How could you test that idea in a tiny way?

Every idea is good enough to test. It might lead to another idea or a new approach. It might inspire someone else to try another new idea.

The smaller the test, the smaller the possible failure.

That's the Idea Friendly way.

Bottom line- *Greet a new idea like you would greet a new person: with your respect, not your opinion.*



Live and In Person and Coming to an Awe-Inspiring Location near you

July Membership Meeting July 29



Our July Membership Meeting will be held at the [West Texas Rehab Center in Abilene](#). We will be touring this awe-inspiring facility and enjoying some real-time networking during lunch.

The key topic for the July meeting will be moving forward in an "open" Texas. We know that even though Texas has been open since March 2021, there is still much to be aware of regarding health, wellness and respect for all. Our guest speaker will be Quang Ngo. Quang is President/CEO of the TORCH Foundation and Executive Vice President of TORCH (Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals). Come hear Quang speak regarding the impact of the

COVID Pandemic on our personal and professional lives and the valuable lessons learned in the process. The meeting will end with a tour of the WTRC facility and the incredible work they are doing in the areas of adult and pediatric therapy, employer services, orthotics and prosthetics, audiology, and family support services.

Mark your calendars today

July 29, 2021 11:30-3pm
 West Texas Rehab Center
 4601 Hartford St. Abilene, TX 79605

Thank you West Texas Rehab Center - newest TMCN Champion Partner
 and host for this Membership Meeting

How does your page rate in the TMCN Visitor Guide?



It's a Rhetorical Question...but if it made you think... Do you *like* your page? Maybe you have refreshed your community's page/look recently...or have you? We all get *really busy* doing the day to day business of our jobs. And to be honest, most of us were not hired for our design/layout skills, or maybe even our ability to come up with a catchy slogan or a good tagline. Believe me, I *totally understand*. (Transparency Notice: I can remember going more than a year or two without changing my community's page)

But be encouraged! Raise that hand **NOW** if you need some help! We have people ready and willing to help, and they are good at it! But you need to let us know **NOW!** TMCN Guide Participation forms were mailed out the first of July. If you haven't received yours, please contact the office or send an email so we can get one to you ASAP.

Let's get to work on a page that reflects the vision, passion and fun that your community possesses. Let's *show off* the best of what you've got in the 2022 TMCN Visitors Guide!

Newly Elected Officials Seminar **UPDATE**

This year's Newly Elected Officials seminar held Tuesday July 13 saw record numbers representing 12 communities. This speaks volumes of the committed individuals in the TMCN region. It is with great pride that I left that day thinking about the fact that there are now nearly 40 more well-trained elected officials and city officials that are ready to do their job - the job their constituents faithfully placed them in.



Valuable Information + Engaging Networking = Highly Effective Public Officials

Our friends at West Central Texas Council of Governments did a good job getting all the behind the scenes things done as well as participating as speakers. Big Thanks to P.J. Sumner, Terra New, Brittany Genoway, Jason Kelton, Doug Burks and tech/sound Chris Bradley.

We would like to commend Darwin Archer, TMCN officer and Cisco City Mgr. for facilitating the day-long event. Darwin did an excellent job keeping it on time and

everyone engaged (read: awake).

A LARGE THANK YOU our expert presenters: Justice John Bailey, 11th Court of Appeals, Eastland; Diana Lopez, City Manager, City of Coleman; Terra New, Operations Manager and Brittany Genoway, Economic Development District, WCTCOG; Jeff Betty, Attorney, San Angelo; Emily Crawford, City Manager & Mayor Steven Haynes, City of Brownwood; Larissa Place, Field Representative, TX Dept. of Agriculture and Rachel Hering, Director, Keep Texas Recycling – Keep Texas Beautiful. We would also like to express our gratitude for Rep. Glenn Rogers for taking the time to participate in the virtual Zoom luncheon and bring us up to date on the current Special Session the 87th Legislature.

Look for a SAVE THE DATE coming SOON for 2022.

Update on the 87th Regular Legislative Session from Senator Charles Perry

Dear Fellow Texans,

Many of you may be wondering what legislation passed during the 87th Legislative Session and what the Texas budget looks like. Below is (almost) all of the information you need regarding how the Legislature worked for you and rural Texas.

However, the work is not over. There will be more legislation passed during the upcoming 1st Called Special Session starting on July 8th. I will send out more information about that soon.

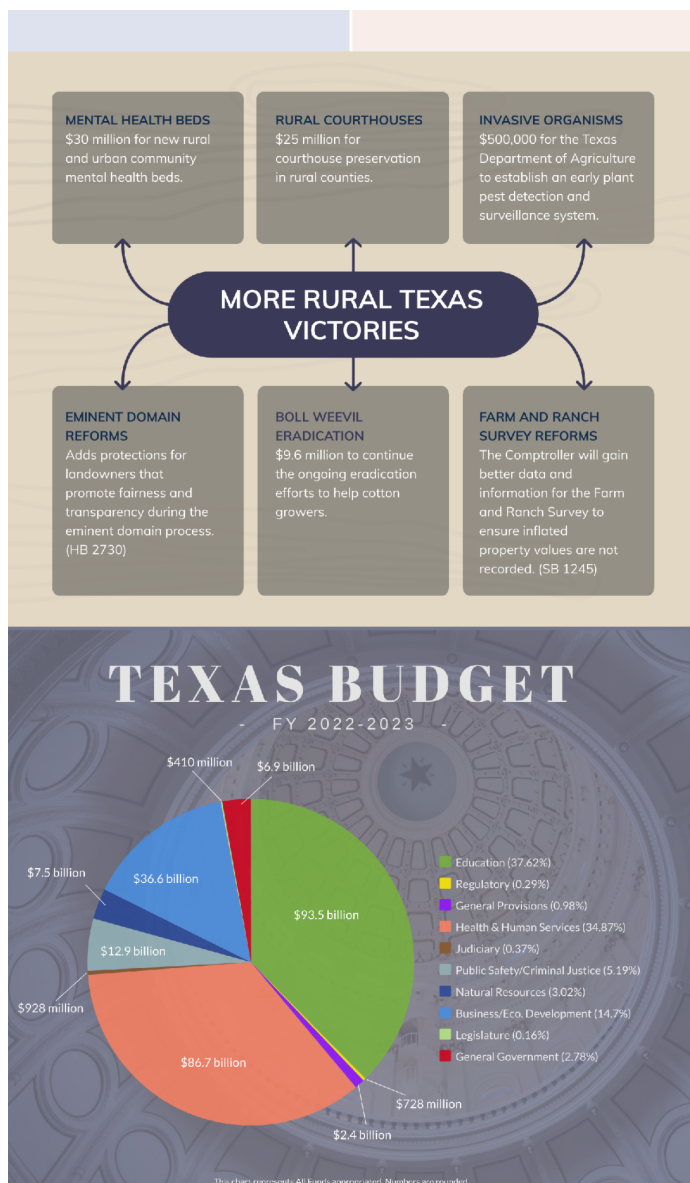
For Texas,
Sen. Charles Perry

87th LEGISLATIVE SESSION 140 DAY OVERVIEW

State Senator Charles Perry

TEXAS BUDGET & LEGISLATION

\$248.5 billion 2-year balanced budget	Abortions banned after an unborn child's heartbeat is detected (SB 8)
Promoted fiscal responsibility and limits spending below population plus inflation	Rural Broadband Office created to spur access to quality and affordable broadband in Texas (HB 5)
\$123.5 million increase in Medicaid reimbursements for rural hospitals in Texas	Tele-dentistry allowed to increase access to oral health in rural areas (HB 2056)
\$23 million for the Texas Tech University School of Veterinary Medicine, a \$5.6 million increase	Texas Produced Water Consortium, housed at Texas Tech, created to develop new sources of water (SB 601)
\$500,000 for Angelo State University's new Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence Center	Bullet-resistance windshields now required to protect Department of Public Safety (DPS) officers (SB 2222)
\$352.6 million, a \$10 million increase, for women's health programs	Promoted "middle mile" broadband to help increase broadband access in rural Texas (HB 3853)
\$8.4 billion for mental health services across 25 different state agencies	Protected against the shutdown of churches by executive orders during a declared disaster (HB 1239)
\$3.1 billion to fund enrollment growth for students in public education	Passed major ERCOT reforms in response to Winter Storm Uri (SB 2, SB 3, SB 1580, & HB 4492)
\$1.1 billion in school district property tax relief for Texas homeowners and businesses	Created the I-27 Ports-to-Plains Advisory Committee to evaluate a new interstate in West Texas (SB 1474)
\$1 billion to increase security on the Texas/Mexico border	Improved coordination of care for medically fragile children (SB 1648)
\$4.2 million to enhance the PUC and other regulatory services to oversee ERCOT	Stopped the dangerous "defunding of the police" movement (SB 23 & HB 1900)
\$76.9 million increase to address the interest list for Medicaid waiver programs for those with a disability	Limited state general revenue spending to population growth plus inflation (SB 1336)
\$30.2 billion for transportation needs across Texas which includes new and expanded roads, in addition to road maintenance	Banned COVID-19 vaccine passports, and protected against stopping medical procedures during a declared disaster (SB 968)
\$897.6 million, an increase of \$39.5 million, to maintain current health insurance premiums and benefits for retired teachers	Protected visitations to long-term care residents and family members during a declared disaster (SB 25)



DID YOU KNOW...?

OPEN MEETINGS ACT SUSPENSIONS TERMINATE SEPTEMBER 1

In March 2020, as Texans worked to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, [Governor Abbott's office granted](#) the attorney general's request to suspend certain open-meeting statutes. The temporary suspension allows, among other things, for telephonic or videoconference meetings of governmental bodies that are accessible to the public in an effort to reduce in-person meetings that assemble large groups of people.

On June 30, 2021, the [governor's office approved](#) a request by the attorney general to lift those suspensions. The suspensions will lift at 12:01 a.m. on September 1, 2021. Thus, as of September 1, 2021, all provisions of the Open Meetings Act will be effective and all Texas governmental bodies subject to the Open Meetings Act must conduct their meetings in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act as written in state law.



Contact the attorney general with questions about the lifting of the suspensions at (888) 672-6787 or via email at TOMA@oag.texas.gov.

PERSONAL INFORMATION OF ELECTED PUBLIC OFFICERS IS CONFIDENTIAL

[H.B. 1082](#), signed into law by the Governor on May 19, 2021, went into effect immediately. The bill provides that certain information a city holds as an employer is excepted from the Public Information Act (PIA), regardless of whether an elected officer affirmatively elects the information be kept confidential. Specifically, the information includes the home address, home telephone number, emergency contact information, social security number, and personal family information of an elected public officer.

With regards to information contained in records maintained by the city in a non-employment capacity, an elected public officer's home address, home telephone number, emergency contact information, date of birth, social security number, and family member information is excepted from the PIA if the elected officer chooses to keep the information confidential.

Do H.B. 1082's protections extend to information on an application for a place on the ballot given that the Texas Election Code provides that the application is public immediately upon filing? It's unclear. As of this writing, some cities have requested a ruling from the attorney general's Open Records Division regarding that question, but none has yet been issued.

Manufacturing Data by Region Now Available for Texas



One of the main objectives of the Comptroller's overall mission is to keep tabs on the Texas economy — one of the world's largest. This monitoring effort generates large quantities of data, much of which the agency shares directly with the public.

Toward that end, the Comptroller's Office has compiled [manufacturing data by region](#) for the Lone Star State. Among other facts, they found that

manufacturers directly employed almost one million Texans in 2019, contributing \$241 billion to Texas' gross domestic product (GDP), or about 13 percent of its total economic output.

They've posted a statewide manufacturing overview as well as profiles for the state's 12 economic regions (see links in the right margin of the [overview webpage](#)). Visit their website now to learn how manufacturers make it happen in Texas!

Note: These data were collected before the COVID-19 pandemic and reflect the economic situation of the state of Texas at that time.

Partner Highlight - Texas State Technical College

Texas State
Technical College is
a vibrant community
of ten campuses in
ten different



communities. TSTC has been the backbone of superior, innovative technical training in Texas since 1965. [Learn more about](#)

TSTC

We deeply appreciate your support!

Job Openings

Looking for a career change? Check out the current opening throughout the region [here](#). Member community representatives who would like to have their job posted, please contact us at tmcn@tmcn.org.



Regional Career Changes

Here are a few career changes within our region you may have missed. We extend our best wishes to those accepting new positions or moving on to new opportunities.



Jlmi Coplen [Visit The Rural Spark](#)



Your Regional Resource Connection

We have worked diligently to bring you timely information and resources to assist you and your community in overcoming the challenges presented by COVID-19 and put you on a path to economic recovery.

If you have not already done so, please check out the **Resource & Links** under the **Members Tab** on our [website](#). This page is continually updated with the latest news, announcements and resources coming out of Washington, the Governor's Office, State agencies, and our vast base of local and regional community partners. You will also find contact information for various State agencies, National and State Legislators, Workforce and SBDC Offices.

We are also posting timely informational resources, sharing articles of interest, and links to informative webinars on our Facebook Page through our internal TMCN ListServ and on our [Facebook Page](#). We trust you have found this information timely and of value to you and your communities. Our promise to you is to continue to be diligent in keeping you abreast of the current news and events affecting our region.



July 21: Regional Broadband Roundtable hosted by WCTCOG Connellee Hotel in Eastland **contact** [Kelly Cheek](#)

July 21: Career & Education Information Webinar/Zoom West Texas Workforce [Register here](#)

July 27: Howard College Nonprofit Training Initiative **Get Your Nonprofit Communications In Shape!** [Register here](#)

***July 29:** TMCN Quarterly Membership Meeting, West Texas Rehab Center, Abilene, FMI [Click Here](#)

Varied dates in July/August TCEQ Public Water System Webinars [Register here](#)

July 30: Texas Downtown Awards Applications due [TDA website](#)

Aug 3-4: 2021 West Texas Legislative Summit, San Angelo TX [Click here to register](#)

***October 27:** Texas Midwest Annual Conference, Abilene Convention Center, FMI [Click Here](#)

*** TMCN Event**

ASU - SBDC Summer Training Opportunities for Professionals and Business Owners

Angelo State University- Small Business Development Center has a full summer line-up of great trainings for small businesses, new starts, EDC/Chamber personnel that need an knowledge-boost in a variety of areas.



South-West Texas Border

Small Business Development Center Network

Angelo State University SBDC

Business Brown Bag: Making Sense of Online Marketing in the Pandemic: A Simple Checklist for Success

Tuesday, July 20, 2021 | 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM | No Cost

The ASU Small Business Development Center is excited to partner with the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce and the Business Factory to host this no-cost webinar.

If you're just getting started with online marketing or not seeing the results you've hoped for...this session is for you. You'll learn the foundational elements that will help you get the word out about your business and you won't need a marketing degree to do it!

Restaurant Reality 2021 Series- Opening Your Restaurant after COVID 19

Thursdays, July 22, through August 12th | 9:00 - 10:00 AM | No-Cost

Join us every Thursday from 9:00 am to 10:00 a.m. for the Restaurant Reality 2021 Series. You will learn from Special guest speaker Chris Tripoli, who has 40 years of service in the Hospitality Industry as a designer, developer, owner and operator presents. Each session has a different focus to help you ramp up your restaurant, everything from startup and reopening, to managing the menu and your team. Don't miss this stand out opportunity to improve your restaurant.

HUB Virtual Forum

Friday, July 30, 2021 | 9:30 - 11:30 AM | No Cost

Join us if you are a woman or minority-owned business and you are looking to grow your business by selling to the state of Texas.

At this training event, you will receive a general overview of how to effectively do business with state government entities as a HUB Vendor. This session will include details on what information is needed and how to complete the application to become HUB certified. You will want to stick around for the second part of this session to hear the details of upcoming contracts and the secrets of working with each organization. The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, the Texas Department of Public Safety, and Angelo State University will all have representatives available to share about their individual purchasing needs and procedures.

Profit Mastery: Enhance Your Financial Management Skills

Friday, July 22-23, 2021 | 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM | Fee | Location: BRC

If you're serious about improving your business's finances and want a no-nonsense but easy-to-understand approach then you do not want to miss the next Profit Mastery® training series. Register now for this two-day Profit Mastery training program to gain the skills and resources that will guide you through improving your business's efficiency, increasing profits, and truly understanding business finance.

Learn the Basics of Google Ads

Tuesday, July 27, 2021 | 3:00 - 5:00 PM | No Cost | Location: BRC

In this workshop, you will learn how to reach more customers and grow your business with Google Ads.



We Appreciate Our Partners!

The Marketing & Promotions Opportunities Program is one of the primary reasons for the continued success and sustainability of our organization.

We proudly promote and recognize our partners' unwavering support given not only to our organization as a whole but the 53 communities who make up Texas Midwest Community Network. We recognize and express our sincere gratitude for the longstanding and continued support of the following partners and, ask you, where possible, to demonstrate this appreciation by utilizing their services:

Champion: [Golden Spread Electric Cooperative](#) & [West Texas Rehabilitation Center](#)

Patrons: [Hendrick Health System](#), [Jacob|Martin](#), [Republic Services](#) & [Texas State Technical College](#)

Neighbors: [Atmos](#), [AT&T](#), [Center for Community Health & Development](#), [Enprotec/Hibbs & Todd](#), [Howard College-San Angelo](#), [Raise Your Hand Texas](#) & [Tolar Systems](#)

Event Sponsors: [Abilene CVB](#), [Abilene Regional Airport](#), [Angelo State University SBDC-San Angelo](#), [Cisco College](#), [Coleman County Electric Cooperative](#), [Fullerton & Associates PLLC](#), [Oncor](#) & [Texas Tech University SBDC-Abilene](#)

Interested in becoming one of distinguished Marketing Partners? [Click Here](#) for more information and how your company can benefit!

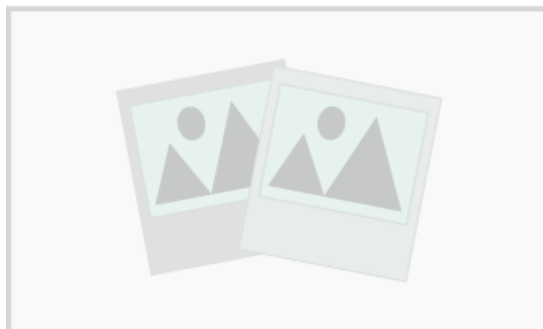
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