

The **E—Update**



WE ARE RURAL

Cultivating, Collaborating, Innovating

2019 Annual Conference - October 30th **McNease Convention Center** **San Angelo**

Recognition of TMCN Founding Community Members

Award of Leadership TMCN Scholarships

Scheduled Speakers/Sessions

Kim Alexander, Chancellor Collegiate Edu-Nation - Roscoe

Innovation Ensures Student Success: Collegiate P-20 System Model

Stan Wiek, City Manager, City of San Saba *

Cultivating a Community of Engagement: Keep America Beautiful Principals

Craig Rotter, Executive Director, Texas Rural Leadership

Cultivating a Catalyst for Change in Rural Communities

Panel: Kim Little, Executive Director, Coleman EDC and Karen Wright, Executive Director, Dublin EDC

Innovation Sparks Entrepreneurial Spirit - Jr. Business Academy & The Launch Pad

Panel: Steve Spillette, President, Community Development Strategies, Ray Tipton, Executive Director, Brownwood MDD and Guy Andrews, Executive Director, City of San Angelo Development Corporation *

Collaborating to Answer the Need for Market Based Housing

Panel: Julie Raymond, Founder, Art in Uncommon Places and Alejandro Castanon, Local Artist and SBDC Business Specialist

Cultivating Community Transformation Through Art

Panel: Julie Smith, Executive Director, Stephenville Tourism & Visitors Bureau, Diann Bayes, Vice President, Discover San Angelo and Representatives of the Texas Film Friendly & Music Friendly Communities

Collaborating to Foster the Music and Film Industry in Local Communities

**Additional Speaker Confirmations Pending*

*"Start by doing what's necessary, then do what's possible
and suddenly you are doing the impossible."*

Saint Francis of Assisi

New Legislation Effective September 1st

Texas Government Insider

More than 800 new laws authored by the 86th Texas Legislature went into effect on September 1, 2019.

Prompted by actions during Hurricane Harvey, legislators passed **HB 1177** that prevents citizens from being charged with a crime for carrying a handgun without a license while evacuating from a declared state or local disaster area or while returning to that area. New legislation also clarifies rules about carrying guns in churches. Churches must post signs if they choose to prohibit guns from their premises.

Addressing reports of a backlog of untested rape kits across the state, **HB 8** amends current law to extend the statute of limitations for certain sexual offenses for which evidence is collected in a rape kit. It also requires an audit of untested rape kits and sets deadlines by which the kits must be analyzed and processed.

Similar to existing laws that protect first responders, tow trucks, and transportation department personnel, a Transportation Code amendment titled **Slow Down to Get Around** requires drivers to move over and slow down for solid waste collection vehicles such as recycling, composting, and garbage trucks that are collecting waste. Thirty-one collection-related fatalities were reported in the U.S. in 2016.

Credit card skimming at gas stations and theft of mail will carry stiffer penalties. **HB 37** changes the definition of mail to add packages dropped off by a delivery service or left for pickup.

Starting this month, **SB 21** will raise the legal age to purchase, use, and possess tobacco and vaping products from 18 to 21. Military servicemembers at least 18 years old are exempt.

And, it will now be legal for children to operate a lemonade stand without a permit after the passage of **HB 234** which states authorities may not adopt or enforce an ordinance, order, or rule that prohibits an individual younger than 18 years old from temporarily selling lemonade or other non-alcoholic beverages from a stand on private property.



City Manager Stan Weik Shares the San Saba Story

San Saba Hosts Inspiring Regional Meeting

Small-town roots and Texas-sized spirit - it's more than you imagined!

That's the message from City Manager Stan Weik as he shared the story of the community's success as an Affiliate of Keep Texas Beautiful. Over the last twelve years of transformation, [San Saba](#) has experienced a boom in tourism and an influx of new businesses, which city leaders attribute to effective community engagement. Once struggling due to blight and

economic downturn, revitalization efforts have transformed San Saba into a bustling magnet for visitors and residents alike.

Stan described five *Keep America Beautiful Principals* which have guided the community through its transformation and inspired everyone to put them into practice back home: *Get the Facts, Involve the People, Plan Systematically, Focus on Results and Recognize the Volunteers.*

Following the presentation and delicious lunch catered by Gage's BBQ, attendees were treated to a great tour of some of San Saba's best tourism draws including [Millican Pecan Company](#), [San Saba Olive Oil Company](#), [Old Man Scary Cellars Winery](#) and [Wedding Oak Winery](#). Special thanks to San Saba Economic Development Secretary/Treasurer Sarah Saldivar for arranging the day - San Saba truly is "more than you imagined"!

Coleman Farmers Market Gets Creative with Zucchini 500

Looking for ways to add some fun and excitement to your Farmers Market? The Coleman Farmers Market did just that when they held its first ever Zucchini 500 on July 20th. The fun-filled community event included 22 racers from ages 2 to 13. Prizes were awarded to the top 3 finalists in Lightweight, Heavyweight and Most Creative.

Take a look at the rules for entry:

GET A ZUCCHINI - Any size will do, just make sure it's big enough to decorate and put wheels on. Heavier zucchini go faster, if you have the need for speed! We suggest 8-10 inches for speed optimization.

DECORATE IT - Feathers. Glitter. Tiny hamster. Whatever! Prize for most creative! Throw some wheels on there, give a test run and GO!

RACE IT! - See how your car stacks up! Race your friends family, or new friends you've made at the Farmers Market!

KEEP IT OR RECYCLE YOUR ZUCCHINI - If you don't want to take your zucchini car home, we will take care of it for you. All zucchini will be donated to be used at a local farm for feeding pigs.

For more information on the Zucchini 500 or the Coleman Farmers Market, check their [Facebook Page](#) or contact Ashley Davis 817-598-8599.



Texas Tribune to Host Livestream About Rural & the 86th Legislative Session

The Texas Tribune is touring the state with a series of post-session events recapping the major policy debates of the 86th Texas Legislature and what they mean for Texas' communities.

On **September 5th**, they will host an event at Angelina College in Lufkin to recap the session with area legislators. The conversation will include discussions about public education, taxes, immigration, health care, spending and other consequential matters with two legislators representing rural Texas districts - State Rep. Trent Ashby (District 57) and State Sen. Robert

Nichols (District 3). The conversation will be moderated by Evan Smith, co-founder and CEO of The Texas Tribune.

You can join via Livestream beginning at **11:30 AM** [here](#).

Texas Department of Agriculture Accepting Grant Applications

Are you currently creating or expanding an agricultural business in Texas? Consider applying for the **2020 Young Farmer Grant Program**. The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is now accepting applications for this grant.

The Young Farmer Grant Program is administered by TDA under the direction of the Texas Agricultural Finance Authority (TAFA). The purpose of this program is to provide financial assistance in the form of dollar-for-dollar matching grant funds to individuals between the age of 18 and 46 years of age who are engaged or will be engaged in creating or expanding an agricultural business in Texas.



Additional details, instructions and the 2020 Round 1 application materials can be found [here](#). Applications are due by the close of business (5 p.m.) on **Thursday, October 10, 2019**. Contact the Grants Office by email at Grants@TexasAgriculture.gov with questions.



Applications Available Soon for the Community Outdoor Outreach Program Grants

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department Recreation Grants Branch will soon be accepting applications for their **Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) grants**. December 4, 2019 is the next grant deadline for grants to be awarded in 2020. Applications will open mid-September

and only be accepted through our new Rec Grants Online portal*.

Recreation Grants staff will host a series of grant writing workshops to introduce the new scoring criteria implemented with this application. Workshops will discuss program requirements, provide an overview of the application process and answer questions from applicants. Those unable to attend an in-person grant writing workshop will have the opportunity to participate in an online webinar.

The Community Outdoor Outreach Program provides funding to tax-exempt organizations for programming that engages under-represented populations in TPWD mission-oriented outdoor recreation, conservation and environmental education activities. Grant awards range between \$5,000 - \$50,000 used for personnel, training, transportation, food and program supplies. *This is NOT a construction grant and has a **deadline of December 4, 2019**. Additional information can be found [here](#).

Upcoming grant writing workshops near the TMCN Region are listed below. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. [Click here](#) to register and get detailed information on these workshop locations:

Workshop Schedule:

September 10, 2019: Austin

September 24, 2019: Grand Prairie

October 8, 2019: Online webinar

*Please be aware that Recreation Grants will be utilizing a new online grant management system (RGO 2) beginning with this upcoming round of grant applications. If you have an existing CO-OP grant, you will continue to manage it in the current system, but if you plan to apply for a 2020 CO-OP grant, you will be using the new RGO 2 system for that submission. Additional information about setting up an account and completing an application in the new system will be provided to you in the near future.

OSHCON Program Available to Private Texas Employers

The Occupational Safety and Health Consultation (OSHCON) program (www.txoshcon.com) is a free and confidential service available to private Texas employers through the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation. Their professional safety and health consultants across the state are available to help employers identify and eliminate occupational hazards in the workplace, whether or not the company carries workers' compensation insurance.



Studies have shown that thousands of Texas employers experience fewer reported injuries and illnesses following their participation in the OSHCON program each year. OSHCON helps employers understand and comply with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) health and safety requirements, and teaches them how to maintain safe and healthy workplaces.

For more information, contact Chandra Eggemeyer, Office of the Governor, West Texas Region, Economic Development and Tourism, at chandra.eggemeyer@gov.texas.gov or 325-213-2826.

Upcoming Events & Application Deadlines

September 17 - Nonprofit Financial & Risk Management: What Every Nonprofit Should Know, Howard College San Angelo, FMI [Click Here](#)

September 17 - SBDC Texas State Comptroller, Abilene, FMI [Click Here](#)

September 19 - Lessons from the Campaign: Practical Fundraising Techniques for Nonprofits, Community Foundation of Abilene, [RSVP to kjones@cfabilene.org](mailto:RSVP%20to%20kjones@cfabilene.org) or 325-676-3883

September 20 - ED Sales Tax Workshop, San Antonio, FMI [Click Here](#)

September 23 - Digital Marketing on a Shoestring Budget, Cleburne, FMI [Click Here](#)

September 24-26 - ARCIT Annual Conference, Georgetown, FMI [Click Here](#)

September 26 - SBDC Meet the Lenders Luncheon, San Angelo, FMI [Click Here](#)

October 3 - Department of Information Resources Technology Forum 2019, Austin, FMI [Click Here](#)

October 8-10 - TCEQ Autumn Environmental Conference, Austin, FMI [Click Here](#)

October 9-11 - TEDC Annual Conference, San Antonio, FMI [Click Here](#)

October 11 - THC Workshop: The Road to Great Exhibits, Wichita Falls, FMI [Click Here](#)

October 15 - SBDC Local Government Contracting, Abilene, FMI [Click Here](#)

October 16 - SBDC State Contracting & HUB/DBE Programs, Abilene, FMI [Click Here](#)

October 30 - 26th Annual Texas Midwest Conference, San Angelo, [See Membership Renewal for One Invoice Discount](#)

November 1 - Deadline for Home-Delivered Meal Grant Program, FMI [Click Here](#)

November 6 - THC Workshop: The Road to Great Exhibits, Fredericksburg, FMI [Click Here](#)

November 19 - Public Information Officer Awareness Training, Abilene, FMI [Click Here](#)

November 30 - Small Business Saturday, FMI on How to Participate [Click Here](#)



December 13 - ED Sales Tax Workshop, Austin, FMI [Click Here](#)

Registration for TMCN events is available [here!](#)



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26th Annual Texas Midwest Conference
October 30, 2019, San Angelo
McNease Convention Center



Join us Tuesday evening, October 29th, for a reception and tour of *Paint Brush Alley* as well as the *Grand Opening of Pop Art Museum* in downtown San Angelo. Monica Ramos with [Downtown San Angelo, Inc.](#) will provide the tour and both projects are the creative ideas of [Art in Uncommon Places](#). Check back soon for great hotel rates for Conference attendees!

Other Ways to Connect

Stay up to date on all the exciting events and activities going on in the region as well as upcoming educational opportunities by following us on [FACEBOOK](#).

Have a question of your peers within the region? Join and send your inquiries to the [TMCN Forum](#) for opportunities to learn from each other.

And finally, are you a recipient of our weekly "[Fun Things to Do This Weekend](#)" email blast? The blast provides a listing and links to all the TMCN community events found in the Texas Midwest Guide Calendar. If you'd like to be included in the blast or have additional events to add, simply send a request to tmcn@tmcn.org and we'll be happy to include you!





Partner Highlight: Jacob & Martin Engineering

Jacob & Martin Website

JACOB | MARTIN, formerly Yeatts & Decker, Inc. was founded in 1948. Our firm offers a wide scope of architectural, engineering, surveying and specialized services to meet the needs of public and private organizations.

We're still providing service to many clients that started with us almost 70 years ago.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

These principles define who we are and guide everything we do. We believe that relationships are built on a foundation of integrity, excellence and trust. We believe that honesty and open communication are the keys to success for every relationship and every project. The services we provide, the designs we generate, and the method in which we deliver them are testimony to these principles.

THE JM ADVANTAGE

WE LISTEN.

WE HAVE ANSWERS. Not only about the latest design considerations, we help clients develop budgets, find funding, and maintain compliance.

WE PAY ATTENTION. Not only to changing regulations and market forces, we're attentive to our clients' priorities and concerns.

WE INVEST. Not only in emerging technologies, we make lasting investments in our clients and their communities.

WE DELIVER. Not only reliable products on time, we make a habit of providing ideas and solutions that exceed our clients' expectations.

For more information on services provided by Patron Marketing Partner Jacob & Martin Engineering click [here](#).

Thank You to Our Partners & Event Sponsors

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 50 communities who make up Texas Midwest Community Network. Please join us in offering our sincere gratitude for the longstanding and continued support of the following partners who have renewed for 2019 and, where possible, please demonstrate this appreciation by utilizing their services:



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

Patron: [Hendrick Health Systems](#), [Jacob & Martin, LLC](#) & [Texas State Technical College](#)

Neighbors: [Abilene Industrial Foundation](#), [Atmos Energy](#), [AT&T](#), [Big Country Chevy Dealers](#), [Center for Community Health & Development](#), [Enprotec Hibbs & Todd](#), [Howard College - San Angelo](#) & [Tolar Systems, Inc.](#)

Event Sponsors: [Abilene CVB](#), [Abilene Regional Airport](#), [America's SBDC - Abilene](#), [Cisco College](#), [Coleman County Electric Cooperative](#), [First Financial Bank](#), [Gayla Fullerton CPA](#), [Oncor](#), [Steve Smith - Raymond James Financial & ResourceCare](#)

[Check Out Available Marketing Partner Opportunities](#)

Texas Midwest Community Network | 325-795-8626 | tmcn@tmcn.org | www.tmcn.org

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Texas Midwest Community Network, 3702 Loop 322, Abilene, TX 7602

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