

The E—Update



It's HERE!

***Check out our new website at tmcn.org!
Eye-Catching Content, Intuitive User Experience,
Heightened Focus on Tourism and Economic
Development, and a Community Photo Gallery!***

**Special Thanks to Danny & Philip with [Zachry Associates](#)
for their insight and expertise in helping us tell our
collective story in the development of the site and Fisher
with [Flight Reach Productions](#) for sharing some of his
amazing video clips of our region.**

2020 Travel Guide Being Finalized

We are putting the final touches on the **2020 Edition of the Texas Midwest Travel Guide** and are excited to once again showcase our region's unique assets, visitor experiences and cultural history to the rest of the State.

With the increasing number and popularity of **wineries and craft breweries** in our region, we would like to provide potential visitors a listing of them in this year's edition - move over Hill Country, here comes the Texas Midwest. That said, if you have not already submitted your community listings, please get them in this week

and be sure to include any of these venues in your area. If you have already submitted your listings and have a new venue to add, simply drop us a quick email and we'll make sure they are included.

We also have a **limited number of advertising spots** available for those distinctive shopping and visitor venues in our region. And, if you're doing business in one of our member communities, we've got some hard-to-beat pricing to give you statewide visibility. Give us a call at 325-795-8626 or email us at tmcn@tmcn.org for details!



2019 Leadership TMCN Class & Kevin Tutt

Leadership TMCN Students Shine at Annual Conference

The most common reaction at this year's Annual Conference in San Angelo as the **Leadership TMCN** projects were shared was "WOW". As with the previous five years, this year's class inspired attendees by their passion and creativity in their pursuit to expand the quality of life in their community and encourage others to do the same.

The competition was again fierce and our judges took quite a bit of time to discuss and review their final decisions. In the end, the students of Snyder, Baird and Anson took away this year's scholarships. Below are the communities and students involved as well as a short review of the various projects:

Snyder (First Place) - *Jesi Hunter, Meere Bhakta, Ruth Cabrera & Bonnie Jasper*: The **STREAM Project** addressed the outcome of research which reviewed the gender inequity of females in STEM accentuated by the lack of access and education in the household. The end result was a fully equipped mobile STEM lab which travels to various community events to share and teach their passion of science, technology, engineering and math.

Baird (Second Place) - *Aaron Halliburton, Max Dayton & Oren West*: The **Long Live the Lake Project** began as a park improvement project but grew into an impactful quality of life project for local veterans. Through the team's partnership with Hunters for Heroes, the project encompassed a total renovation of the campgrounds used to support veteran activities.

Anson (Third Place) - *Peyton Goza, Carmen Flores, Jillian Thompson & Megan Stinnett*: The **Public Safety - 911 Address Project** began through a desire to assist local first responders, postal service carriers and concerned citizens of Anson. The end result was the enlistment of numerous community volunteers who painted curbs and install mailbox stickers on 206 homes and businesses.

Breckenridge - *Axel Puebla, Liberty Blades & McKenly Roberts*: The **Historic YMCA Project** was born out of desire to establish an accessible community center geared toward providing a

safe and fun environment for the entire community. Armed with a successful engineering report and \$8,000 in funding, the team completed Phase I of this catalyst project which included landscaping, window and door replacements, window treatments and light fixtures and first floor cleanup.

Early - Vance-Cady Gordon & Madison Green: The **Sound the Alarm Project** came about through an expressed need of the community's volunteer fire department to provide adequate safety to its firefighters. With funding from their community-wide fundraising efforts, the team was able to purchase new durable, dial channel radios for the department.

Gorman - Isaiah Landa: The **Park Renovation Project** addressed the need to replace playground equipment in the downtown city park. Through donations and fundraisers, Isaiah was able to assemble a team of volunteers to build the playground, picnic area and fire pit as well as improving the overall landscaping of the park.

Haskell - Kelsea Tidros & Braelyn Bevel: The **Park Beautification & Ramp Project** was born out of the team's desire to allow senior citizens better access and enjoyment of community activities. The team used funds from the community's 2018 All Star Community Award and the Abilene Gives Day to build a ramp for the park's gazebo, repaint the flag display and refurbish the sand volleyball court.

Munday - Bryann Cude & Shawn Earthman: The **Events Center Kitchen Remodel Project** addressed a need discovered by hosting a community forum and surveying those who utilize the center for various events and activities. The project enlarged the existing kitchen and removed numerous safety hazards and paved the way for additional improvements to the facility in the future.

On behalf of our entire region, we thank these inspiring and dedicated young leaders for their vision and homegrown community passion. When driving through these communities, we encourage everyone to seek out these projects and perhaps duplicate them in your own community. The **2020 Class** is forming now. To learn more about the **Leadership TMCN Program** take a look at the [Program Brochure](#) or give us a call at 325-795-8626.

Founding Member Communities Recognized

The Texas Midwest Community Network started as a group of community leaders getting together in July of 1993 to brainstorm about the strengths, weaknesses, and needs of the area around Abilene. Quickly it grew into a core of committed volunteers who wanted to see something good happen for the region. The initial gathering, called the Big Country Development Forum, was sponsored by Abilene Reporter News, Abilene Chamber of Commerce and West Texas Utilities and included a steering committee representing eleven communities from region.

Those eleven communities were recognized for their leadership and vision at the 26th Annual Texas Midwest Conference held on October 30, 2019 at the McNease Convention Center in San Angelo. The founding communities included Abilene, Albany, Anson, Breckenridge, Brownwood, Coleman, Haskell, Merkel, Munday, Sweetwater and Winters.



**Sweetwater, Anson, Brownwood, Albany,
Haskell, Munday & Winters
Representatives**

Region to Host Broadband Discussion

In cooperation with Representative Stan Lambert, the Texas Rural Funders Collaborative, Connected Nation-Texas, and the Dodge Jones Foundation, TMCN is hosting a broadband and education discussion entitled "**Connect 2019**" on



State Representative Stan Lambert, District 71

Thursday, December 5th at the Region 14 Education Service Center in Abilene from 10 am to 3 pm.

The event will include four distinct hour-long panels including experts in the respective fields of Education, Non-Profit Foundations, Telemedicine and Technology as it relates to the need for broadband accessibility and coverage in rural areas of our region. Everyone is encouraged and invited to participate in this timely discussion.

To reserve your seat at the table, **RSVP** today to Robyn Wertheim at Robyn.Wertheim@house.texas.gov. A follow-up report to this meeting will be provided in the January E-Update.

Texas Counts Pooled Fund - Request for Proposals

As part of the Complete Count Committee for Texas, **Educate Texas** supports census efforts across the state by administering grants through the Texas Counts Pooled Fund. The purpose of such grants is to support organizations that will be engaging in collaborative get-out-the-count activities targeting hard-to-count populations in Texas, ensuring a complete and accurate count.



The Texas Counts Pooled Fund is seeking proposals from organizations that will be engaging in get-out-the-count activities targeting hard-to-count populations in Texas. For a map of hard-to-count areas of Texas, please visit <https://www.censushardtcountmaps2020.us>.

Potential grantees should focus on a collaborative approach with other Census organizers to increase participation in the 2020 Census. Organizations and entities from the same town or region are strongly encourage organizations to coordinate efforts and apply jointly for funding, if possible. FMI on this grant [click here](#).



Missed the Annual Conference? Connect with Our Speakers and Exhibitors

An estimated 200 member communities and interested citizens and business professionals attended the 26th Annual Texas Midwest Conference held on October 30th in San Angelo.

A number of regional and statewide experts provided information on some of the most challenging community aspects facing small

communities today - broadband accessibility, housing, workforce development and training, career focused education, code enforcement and blight removal, lead generation and entrepreneurial development. Additional breakouts took a closer look tourism and marketing through the lens of community art and film and music friendly communities designations. We were also fortunate to host a number of exhibitors who provided information on their services geared to our member communities.

If you were unable to attend, please take a look at our [Conference Program](#) and seek out the information and services offered at the event. Session Speaker, Sponsor and Exhibitor contact

information is provided in the Program and we would be happy to make any introductions or provide related session documents.

Thank you to those who attended! We hope you walked away with ideas and information you could put to work in your community. Should you have any comments or suggestions for next year's event, please let us know by calling our office at 325-795-8626 or emailing us at tmcn@tmcn.org. We'd love to hear from you!

Upcoming Events & Application Deadlines

December 5 - Connect 2019, Abilene, RSVP to Robyn.Wertheim@house.texas.gov

December 5 - Making a Difference in Customer Service, Menard, FMI [Click Here](#)

December 5 - THC Incorporating Transportation History into Exhibits, Webinar, FMI [Click Here](#)

December 12 - Ready...Set...Go...Essentials to Business StartUp, San Angelo SBDC, FMI [Click Here](#)

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

January 23 - TMCN General Membership Meeting, Abilene, FMI [Click Here](#)

February 7 - Texas Preservation Trust Fund Application Deadline, THC, FMI [Click Here](#).



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

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!



**Golden Spread
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Partner Highlight: Golden Spread Electric Cooperative

Golden Spread Electric Cooperative, Inc. is a tax-exempt, consumer-owned public utility, organized in 1984 to provide low cost, reliable

electric service for its rural distribution cooperative members.

Its 16 Member systems provide service to approximately 282,000 member-consumers located in the Oklahoma Panhandle and an area covering 24 percent of Texas land area including the Panhandle, South Plains and Edwards Plateau Regions.

Golden Spread owns Mustang Station, a 480 megawatt, a gas-fueled, combined cycle generating plant located near Denver City, Texas, as well as Mustang Station Units 4, 5 and 6, two 150 megawatt combustion turbine-generators and one 163 megawatt combustion turbine-generator with inlet chilling located at the Mustang Station site. In 2011 Golden Spread added to its generating fleet Antelope Station, a 168 megawatt generating facility made up of 18 quick