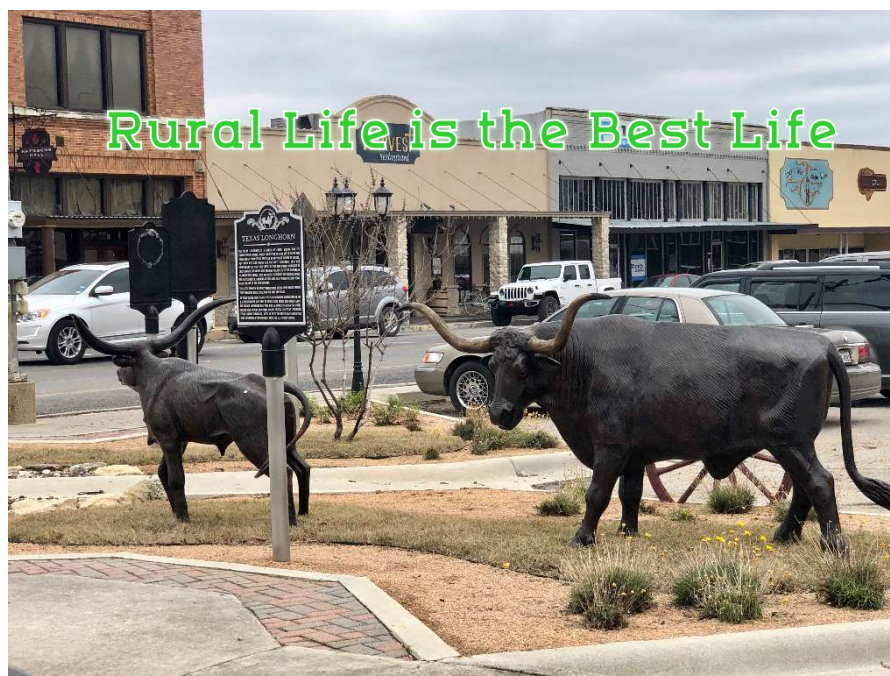


*Communities Working Together to Accomplish What One Community Cannot Do Alone*

## *The* **E—Update**



**It's time to being rolling out the well-known  
Texas Midwest hospitality according to new data released  
by MMGY Travel Intelligence.**

***"Among the key findings, road trips and travel to destinations  
closer to home will likely drive much of the tourism recovery  
once pandemic restrictions on travel are lifted. The percentage  
of travelers who agreed that they are more likely to travel by  
car after COVID-19 passes increased in the last two week from***

***35 percent in Wave II to 47 percent in Wave III. And, the percentage who said they are more likely to travel to destinations close to home increased from 36 percent in Wave II to 42 percent in Wave III."***

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## **State Opens Applications for Coronavirus Relief to Cities & Counties**

In his [letter](#) dated May 11, 2020 to City and County Leaders, Governor Abbott informed of the approximate \$1.85 billion which the state has now made available to those cities and counties who did not receive a direct U.S. Treasury allocation of the CARES Act enabled Coronavirus Relief Fund. The distribution of funds is based on a calculation of \$55 per capita. Find your city's allocation [here](#).

These funds may only be used to cover costs that:

- Are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
- Were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 (the date of enactment of the CARES Act) for the state or government; and
- Were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020.

For further guidance, please see the [Frequently Asked Questions](#). If you do not see your specific question answered, city and county leaders are encouraged to forward them to the TDEM staff at [CRF@TDEM.TEXAS.GOV](mailto:CRF@TDEM.TEXAS.GOV) as the program details continue to be defined.

The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) will manage the distribution of funds, review of expenses and reimbursement. Initially, each eligible jurisdiction will receive an immediate distribution of 20 percent (20%) of the allocations listed in this document. The remainder of the allocation will be reimbursement based. Jurisdictions will submit documentation to TDEM and request reimbursement.

To claim your allocation, City and County Leaders must go to the TDEM website and scroll down to the bottom of the page. To find your regional representatives, [click here](#).

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**Join Us for Next Week's**



## Webinar: Virtual Mastery

While there's no doubt we miss seeing our members face-to-face, technology has allowed us to continue to gather together to share our challenges, bring forth some incredible best practices, and continue to provide the resources

and training our members need in these unprecedented times.

Such is the case for next week's webinar **Virtual Mastery: How to Use Technology to Successfully Operate Your Community and Serve Your Constituents During COVID-19.**

Partnering with TMCN Marketing Partner [Tolar Systems, Inc.](#), this webinar will provide successful tips and information on how to leverage technology to do the business necessary in your community and improve communication with your citizens and constituents. We'll also learn about some Cyber Security best practices to ensure effective communication and compliance, including those associated with House Bill 3834. This webinar will be most valuable to municipalities as well as economic development practitioners desiring to provide advise and assistance to their local businesses.

**When:** May 27, 2020 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

**Register in advance for this meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/tZAldOuqpzIqGNFURvwyvc8yrSWyggfFY3LW>

**After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.**

We hope you can join us for this valuable and informative webinar. There is no cost for the webinar. We encourage you to continually check the [events page](#) on our website and our [Facebook Page](#) for upcoming training opportunities and "morning brew" chats. Working together the Texas Midwest will rebound better and stronger than ever.

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## TMCN Communities Exceed State Average for May Sales Tax Receipts

On May 1st Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar stated that he was releasing May Sales Tax revenues a bit earlier than normal noting that the "they are unprecedented numbers - how quick they have gone down". We, as a state, started to experience the economic slowdown by mid March and many communities were holding their breath. However, we saw some creative "Shop Local" campaigns and residents were indeed staying closer to home.



Perhaps these are the reasons May Sales Tax Receipts (March revenues) across the Texas Midwest region were up 6.86% over the same month last year compared to the -5.06% decline seen statewide. Year-to-date comparisons were much closer with our region up 6.73% compared to the state increase of 6.86%. This news is not meant to overshadow the somewhat sharp decline eight of our communities experienced but let's hope the local support of our businesses continue as we move through the next couple of months.



## Sending Best Wishes

We have seen a few career changes over the last month and we want to extend best wishes to those accepting new positions as well as those who will soon be enjoying some great retirement adventures:

**City of Baird:** Leslie Palacio, new Economic Development Director replacing Dela Pickens

**Cisco Development Corporation:** Justin

Jaworski, new Executive Director replacing retiring John Diers

**Jacksboro Chamber of Commerce:** Valerie Monk, new Executive Director replacing Leslie Chalmers

**Jacksboro Economic Development Corporation:** Leslie Chalmers, new Executive Director replacing retiring Lynda Pack

**City of Throckmorton:** Angie Scarlett, new City Secretary replacing retiring Melanie Gober

## Travel Awaits Across the Texas Midwest

Social distancing hasn't been easy for any of us. Even if you have a great back yard, you're probably itching to stretch your horizons.

The good news for those of us who live in the Texas Midwest region is that there are many short and scenic road trips available to you without even having to stop to fill up for gas.



During the recent National Travel and Tourism Week, we created a series celebrating and highlighting the social distancing treasures that await you in the Texas Midwest. In case you missed them, check out the series below and share all the Texas Midwest has to offer with your friends and family!



## #TravelAwaits

[Travel the Texas Midwest - Volume I: Abilene to Brownwood](#)

[Travel the Texas Midwest - Volume II: Cisco to Eden](#)

[Travel the Texas Midwest - Volume III: Goldthwaite to Miles](#)

[Travel the Texas Midwest - Volume IV: Munday to Seymour](#)

[Travel the Texas Midwest - Volume V: Snyder to Winters](#)



## Check Out the Resource Link

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.

If you have not already done so, please check out the **Resource Link** on our website at <https://tmcn.org/resources-links/>. 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.

We are also posting timely informational resources, sharing articles of interest, and links to informative webinars on our Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/TexasMidwest/> and through our internal TMCN ListServ. We hope 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.

## Calendar of Events

**May 20:** Online Exploring the Future of Retail, The Retail Coach, to Register [Click Here](#)

**May 20:** Governor's Small Business Webinar Series - Business Strategies for an Evolving Future, to Register [Click Here](#)

**May 21:** Online Digital Marketing: Connecting with Your Customers Online, ASU SBDC, to Register [Click Here](#)

**May 21:** Online Data Speaks: Making Sense of the Numbers Important to your Organization, Howard College - San Angelo, to Register [Click Here](#)

**May 22:** Online Business Recovery Plan: Tools & Information for Your Small Business, ASU-SBDC, to Register [Click Here](#)

**May 27:** Online Virtual Mastery: How to Use Technology to Successfully Operate Your Community and Serve Your Constituents During COVID-19, to Register



[Click Here](#)**May 27:** Online Museums Beyond Reopening: Thriving in Your New Normal, THC, to Register[Click Here](#)**June 24-25:** Rural Hospital Symposium, Texas Rural Health Association, Abilene, to Register[Click Here](#)**July 14:** Newly Elected Officials Seminar, TMCN & WCTCOG, to Register [Click Here](#)**July 30:** Quarterly TMCN Membership Meeting, Abilene, to Register [Click Here](#)*\* TMCN Events***\*\*\* SAVE THE DATE \*\*\*****Oct 28:** 27th Texas Midwest Annual Conference, Abilene**Nov 9-10:** Future of Rural Texas symposium, Lubbock

## Partner Highlight: Raise Your Hand Texas

The future of Texas - our economy, communities, and citizenry - depends on how well we prepare our students today. All students deserve a level playing field and equal access to a quality public education. RYHT believes our public schools represent our greatest hope for educating and preparing all 5+ million Texas students for the future.

That is why Raise Your Hand Texas supports public policy solutions that invest in our students, encourage innovation and autonomy, and improve college and

workforce readiness. That is also why the Raise Your Hand Texas Foundation is reinventing public education from the inside, for the future, by developing and strengthening school leaders and teachers, engaging families in the educational experience, and advancing classroom learning with innovative instructional practices to benefit all students.

For more information on TMCN Event Sponsor Raise Your Hand Texas [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:** [Atmos Energy](#), [AT&T](#), [Big Country Chevy Dealers](#), [Center for Community Health & Development](#), [Enprotec Hibbs & Todd](#), [Howard College - San Angelo](#), [Raise Your Hand Texas](#) & [Tolar Systems, Inc.](#)

**Event Sponsors:** [Abilene CVB](#), [Abilene Regional Airport](#), [America's SBDC - Abilene](#), [Angelo State University SBDC](#), [Cisco College](#), [Gayla Fullerton CPA](#), [Oncor](#), & [ResourceCare](#)

**[Learn More About Becoming a TMCN Marketing Partner!](#)**

Texas Midwest Community Network | 325-795-8626 | [tmcn@tmcn.org](mailto:tmcn@tmcn.org) | [www.tmcn.org](http://www.tmcn.org)

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