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# September 2024



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Texas School for the Deaf players burst onto the field through smoke and confetti.  
Photo by Scott Van Osdol

ABOVE  
Cooperative volunteers from CoServ help build a ramp for a North Texas resident with mobility limitations.  
Photo by CoServ

# Boosting Rural Texas

A STATEWIDE NONPROFIT wants to make sure rural communities don't miss out on their share of the billions in federal dollars available for broadband, water and energy upgrades; transportation infrastructure; and other projects.

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Our state is expected to receive about \$2.5 billion for water infrastructure. As the state with the largest rural population, it also will receive billions in federal dollars in broadband infrastructure grants. In more than half of Texas counties, a majority of residents lacks access to high-speed internet.

To see if TRF can help your town or organization, visit [texasruralfunders.org](http://texasruralfunders.org).



**365** The length, in feet, of an aircraft in development called the WindRunner, which is intended to deliver wind turbine blades too large for transport on public roads. Its proposed record-breaking length would be three times the distance of the Wright brothers' first powered flight, in 1903.

## FINISH THIS SENTENCE

My first job was ...

**TCP** Tell us how you would finish that sentence. Email your short responses to [letters@TexasCoopPower.com](mailto:letters@TexasCoopPower.com) or comment on our Facebook post. Include your co-op and town.

Here are some of the responses to our July prompt: **I'd like to be famous for ...**

Designing a health care system for all.

DORIS REDMAN  
BLUEBONNET EC  
BRENHAM

A little while.

VERA FIELDS  
VIA FACEBOOK

Being a quiet listener instead of a loud talker.

JOE BABIN  
BLUEBONNET EC  
BASTROP

Making sweet potato pie.

ELENORA RICKETTS  
VIA FACEBOOK

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# Calling an Audible

**Texas School for the Deaf fights preconceptions and a pandemic with gridiron grit**

BY MARK WANGRIN • PHOTOS BY SCOTT VAN OSDOL

**ENERGIZED AND RAUCOUS**, it was largely a pep rally like any other. Teams introduced. Cheerleaders cheering. Students screaming. The sound was deafening, even if in fact nearly all the attendees were already deaf.

The differences in the packed Austin gym on the Thursday before the Texas School for the Deaf's homecoming game were subtle but noticeable. No band. No chanting.

Sign language more than made up for that.

That's the rule at TSD, the only Deaf high school in Texas. Although there's a wide range of hearing loss among the students and staff, American Sign Language is the only allowed means of communication.

Except on the football field. There, anything goes.

Pad-popping hits are a universal language. Players who can talk, talk loudly and emphatically—the Rangers even got flagged in a recent season for “cussing.” Music blares in the weight room, the more bass the better. But communication is mostly by sign language, the intense looks on coach's faces and the use of other senses sharpened by hearing loss.

Players can't watch their opponent and coaches simultaneously, so signing from the sidelines isn't an option on the field. They can't hear opponents changing plays to better counter or attack, or teammates shouting adjustments. Paul Hubbard, a player at Gallaudet College, a Deaf school in Washington, D.C., invented the football huddle in the early 1890s to prevent opponents from stealing signs.

TSD's Kenneth Montanez, who shared head coaching duties with Archie Savannah Jr. in 2023, played multiple sports growing up but always loved football. He played five years at what is now Gallaudet University and kept feeding his passion by playing semipro football and rugby.

“It's more than physical for them,” writes Montanez, who lost his hearing as a baby in New York City. “It teaches self-discipline and how to achieve things as a community.”

The Rangers' annual 10-game schedule includes at least two games against other Deaf state schools, one home and one away. The host school puts on a dinner and dance for the visitors, with the idea of forming a nationwide network of peers who face similar obstacles.

Ursa Rewolinski's network was closer to home. Her godfather is former TSD head coach Andy Bonheyo, and she grew up in Austin as a fan of the football team. By age 3, she could identify NFL teams playing on TV by their helmets. After



OPPOSITE AND TOP: Quarterback Xiovan Tomlinson is aware of preconceptions in the hearing world. “They think that we have low IQs or we can't drive,” he says. “But really, deaf people can do anything.” ABOVE: Ball carrier Daniel Sweet looks for an opening during a scrimmage.

graduating from the Maryland School for the Deaf, she returned to teach at TSD in 2019, her football passion evident but unfulfilled.

“Everybody’s like, ‘Why are you not a coach?’ You know what, the door hadn’t really opened up for me,” she says through an ASL interpreter. “And so, long story short, I came back here, became a teacher and the door opened, and now I’m here.”

She became the team’s first female coach last season.

## Great and Small

TSD began playing sports with a baseball team in 1887. Since then its teams have won 69 national championships in 12 sports, including 16 in football. And while those titles were meaningful, they weren’t statement-making the way a 2020 championship was. All it took was a pandemic and remarkable adaptability.

When the COVID-19 pandemic began in spring 2020, it hit TSD hard. Some 40% of the 500 students live on campus—they come from all over the state—and many concerned parents kept their children home. Other players fell ill.

Football is a physical sport that requires numbers—11 players per team on the field at any one time. It began looking like the Rangers might not have the numbers to field a team, much less compete, as the pandemic tore through its roster.

TSD belongs to the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools, which also sponsors six-man football, with smaller teams that play on shortened fields. To keep playing, the Rangers downsized.

“To continue to have a football program, it was the best decision that we ever made,” says athletic director Chris Hamilton, a member of Pedernales Electric Cooperative. “However, we had to deal with some very upset community



“It’s more than physical for them. It teaches self-discipline and how to achieve things as a community.”





OPPOSITE, FROM LEFT: Family members escort Lev Shayman, a member of the homecoming court, onto the field. Jeremiah Garcia played most of his life in the hearing world but didn't feel he got the proper support, academically or socially. He transferred to TSD in 2022. ABOVE: Cheerleaders keep school spirit front and center for the fans.

members and explain to people that we just couldn't make it as a full team.

"So it took time. The community kind of went through a grieving process."

And the team went through, well, a shrinking process. An 80-yard field was marked at their on-campus stadium, even as the goalposts remained in place for a 100-yard field. Illness and injury occasionally limited the 20-person roster to seven players.

But they won. And kept winning, through a 63-32 state championship victory over crosstown power Veritas Academy, which had routed them in a preseason scrimmage.

"Winning the state title as a Deaf school is way more challenging than winning the national title," writes Kylar Sicoli, a senior wide receiver on that team, in an email. "A Deaf school will always win the [Deaf] national title. We never won a football state title, so we made history."

## Sound of Success

Winning the state title was another step in dismissing preconceptions hearing people might have.

"They think that we have low IQs or we can't drive. Things like that," says quarterback Xiovan Tomlinson, a third-generation deaf player at TSD. "But really, deaf people can

## Sign of Their Times

**American Sign Language has thousands of signs, from "aah" to "zucchini," but sometimes they just don't seem to be enough.**

For example, there are two signs for Ranger, the TSD mascot. One is for park ranger. One is for forest ranger. Phil Mauro, a former TSD athletic director, didn't think either evoked the courage, resourcefulness and independence of the name-sake legendary Texas lawmen.

"Texas A&M had Gig 'Em, Miami had the 'U,'" recalls Mauro, 79, who is still coaching football in Ohio. "The biggest thing was to make the kids feel they were on the same level as everyone else."

Mauro borrowed the Hook 'em Horns sign from that school 3 miles up Congress Avenue in Austin, the University of Texas, and customized it by wrapping the middle finger over the index finger—the ASL sign for "R."

Almost 40 years later, it still represents what it means to be a Ranger.

"I'm really glad they still use it," Mauro says. "It was and is our Rangers No. 1 sign."





ABOVE: Players come together after a pregame pep talk. RIGHT: Theo Savannah with his father, Archie, who shared head coaching duties last season.

do anything.”

Montanez points out that he’s seen studies that deaf drivers are safer because they aren’t easily distracted and “have a lifetime’s learning on using their peripheral vision. It’s the same in football.”

AD Hamilton, who joined the school in 2001, says this is nothing new.

“Historically, Deaf teams have been oppressed just as deaf people have been oppressed, but hey, we’re here,” he says. “We’re doing this. We can do it. We’re just like you, and we’re better than you in some cases.”

Jermiah Garcia played most of his life in the hearing world and was a budding standout as a freshman at Shoemaker High School in Killeen, but he didn’t feel he got the proper support, academically or socially. So, encouraged by his interpreter, a TSD alumnus, Garcia transferred to TSD for his sophomore season in 2022.

“I was really lost trying to communicate with my teammates. I couldn’t have my interpreter on the field,” Garcia says. “My interpreter would tell me, some of the students are saying that you can’t do this, you can’t do that, you can’t play.”

Teammate Niven Zhang is more succinct. “I just feel like going to a public school would be really a waste of time because there’s a lot of logistical things that we have to work





“When coaches like me are able to communicate clearly, in depth and spatially, I can see the ‘aha’ moment in their eyes and faces.”



Ursa Rewolinski grew up with strong connections to the TSD football team. She became a teacher at the school in 2019 and last season became an assistant coach, the first woman to do so in the team's history.



out with interpreters,” he says. “Here at Texas School for the Deaf, everything works just like it should.”

Montanez knows his players are in the right place for success.

“Too often, when they’re being coached by someone who doesn’t understand them (tends to be hearing), things fly over their head,” he writes. “When coaches like me are able to communicate clearly, in depth and spatially, I can see the ‘aha’ moment in their eyes and faces.

“I love seeing that.”

## Help Ahead

One of the main challenges of a football player not being able to hear is, not surprisingly, communication.

Whistles. Audibles. Referee warnings. In-game coaching. Fans. Trash talk.

“Oh yeah, every opponent we go against has a lot of trash talk,” junior Theo Savannah says. “Then we show them we can play.”

Midway through the 2023 season, AT&T introduced a field-leveling technology, equipping helmets with 5G-augmented reality lenses that can display text.

NCAA rules, which many high school associations, including TAPPS, follow, prohibit electronic devices in hel-

metts, but Gallaudet was granted a one-game waiver to use the technology. The Bison promptly ended a four-game losing streak.

Sicoli, one of several TSD alums playing for the Bison, writes that the technology could help them avoid late hit penalties caused by not being able to hear the ref’s whistle.

“That could be a game changer for some deaf players,” Sicoli writes. “Also the helmet would help the coach and players communicate during the game. The coach always has difficulty getting the player’s attention.”

David Goodnight, a referee from Somerville who is a member of Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative, doesn’t know ASL—few who officiate TSD games do—but officiating deaf teams’ games is an ongoing education.

“I just learned two words last week,” he says. He points just above his temple for “heads” and puts the palm of his right hand over the top of left hand and wags his left index finger for “tails.”

Goodnight says deaf players do a good job avoiding late hits. “Coaches say you play to the whistle,” he says. “Deaf players understand you play till the end of the play.” ■



# THE RAMP CHAMPS

**Volunteers and wood corralled by the Texas Ramp Project lift neighbors statewide**

BY BOB MCCULLOUGH

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Patsy Beasley with her late husband, ramp recipient Oral Beasley. Cooperative volunteers from CoServ with a ramp they built in Denton, and Wood County EC volunteers with one of their finished projects. OPPOSITE: CoServ volunteers have built dozens of ramps, and the CoServ Charitable Foundation has awarded more than \$70,000 to the Texas Ramp Project.

**Texans love the ability** to go and do as they desire—freedom that a lot of folks can take for granted. For some, leaving home is a struggle.

But Texans also care about their neighbors, so it's not surprising that a statewide army of 3,500 volunteers works year-round to give life-changing mobility to those dependent on wheelchairs.

The nonprofit Texas Ramp Project has coordinated the construction of more than 27,500 ramps that, if placed end to end, would stretch 142 miles. Recipients of the simple but durable wooden ramps are low-income older adults and others with disabilities identified by health care providers.

"Ramps change lives," says Keith R. Henderson, TRP president. "They bring safety, independence and improved quality of life. They also ease the burden on family and caregivers. With safe access, older adults can age in place at home in their own environment. Where else can you show up on a Saturday morning and go home four hours later having transformed a person's life?"

Such transformations originated in 1985, when members of the Richardson Kiwanis Club built a wheelchair ramp. One build after another led to the creation of the Dallas Ramp Project, which led to the construction of 1,400 ramps and showed a clear statewide need.

In 2006, TRP was incorporated to build ramps on a much

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: BOB MCCULLOUGH, CO-SERV, WOOD COUNTY EC, OPPOSITE: CO-SERV.



*"Where else can you show up on a Saturday morning and go home four hours later having transformed a person's life?"*

broader scale. John Laine, who had served as volunteer director of the Dallas Ramp Project, founded TRP and became its executive director. He continued in that capacity until late last year.

"Personally, I believe God gave each of us skills, and our job is to learn what those skills are and to use them to help others," Laine says. "I was given certain skills that seem to have blended well with TRP. It has been a blessing for me to have had this work put into my path."

TRP doesn't accept direct requests from clients or families seeking ramps. Referrals must come from a third-party health care provider via the TRP website, [texasramps.org](https://texasramps.org). That's also the web address for volunteering and making donations.

After an eligible ramp request is processed, TRP directs a trained surveyor to visit the prospective ramp recipient and design a structure that meets the client's needs. A volunteer construction crew then implements the design, typically in a few hours, with the help of precut wood delivered by TRP.

"Two hours of preparation probably saves three hours at the build site," says Tom Canfield of Fredericksburg, a surveyor and construction coordinator. Canfield has had a hand in more than 100 ramps.

**Shortly after daybreak** in July 2023, he and four friends converged on the rural home of Oral Beasley, who used a motorized wheelchair because of a stroke. Thanks to Canfield's prep work and his team's carpentry skills, Beasley was cruising smoothly on his new ramp by midday.

Beasley died just three months after the build, but his wife, Patsy, says the ramp drastically improved his well-being. She praises Canfield and his crew "for doing such a beautiful thing, the first time anyone helped us like that. It took away my husband's fear about tumbling over."

Regaining freedom and no longer feeling trapped at home are common experiences relayed by ramp recipients.

To make mobility miracles happen, TRP partners with churches, civic clubs, businesses, military units, youth groups and other organizations, says Sandy Knutson, TRP executive director. Among the most active are electric co-ops, which are guided by the co-op principle of Concern for Community.

Co-op employees live up to that principle by performing community service for members who are also their neighbors and friends.

CoServ, an electric co-op based in Denton, became actively involved in TRP in 2016, and since then CoServ employees have built more than three dozen ramps. The CoServ Charitable Foundation has awarded \$71,000 in grants to the nonprofit.

"For people facing surgery or who have other mobility issues, traversing even a few steps can be dangerous," says Conan Tearney, CoServ client services manager. "It's a great feeling knowing you helped build something with your hands that means so much to a co-op member."

Another ardent TRP supporter, Wood County Electric Cooperative, has donated \$25,000 through its member-funded charitable foundation that helps nonprofits in its nine-county service area in northeast Texas. Employee volunteers are also involved in builds.

"Our mission statement is: Providing safe and reliable electric service while improving our communities where we live and serve," says Paige Eaton, communications director. "Caring for the communities we serve is embedded in what we do every day. Our members are our neighbors, and in Co-op Country, you look out for one another. TRP is just one of the ways we can do that." ■







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30	9.06	7.88	9.79	8.66	14	11	18	16	58	29.07	21.98	50.58	36.96	91	65	172	119
36	9.21	8.31	10.35	9.51	15	13	22	18	59	31.60	23.51	55.57	39.88	101	71	190	129
37	9.21	8.58	10.54	9.93	15	14	22	20	60	34.14	24.28	61.26	42.99	113	76	209	140
38	9.21	8.71	11.69	10.25	17	14	24	21	61	37.60	25.65	66.80	47.11	126	86	238	157
39	9.46	8.86	12.35	10.66	18	15	25	22	62	41.49	27.91	74.28	51.33	141	95	267	172
40	9.63	9.10	12.94	11.08	18	16	27	24	63	44.70	34.39	85.55	59.60	157	104	288	190
41	10.05	9.22	13.66	11.83	20	17	30	27	64	48.23	38.53	93.16	64.38	173	114	327	212
42	10.48	9.26	14.21	12.67	22	19	33	29	65	53.18	41.15	101.79	70.36	191	127	361	234
43	10.98	9.50	14.74	13.52	25	20	39	31	66	59.15	44.62	115.13	75.41	213	139	398	258
44	11.58	9.84	15.80	14.36	27	22	43	34	67	65.66	49.09	130.13	83.65	235	152	443	284
45	12.25	10.17	17.07	15.20	29	24	48	38	68	74.33	59.65	145.11	112.92	262	174	491	322
46	12.84	10.65	18.09	16.18	31	25	51	40	69	82.98	65.91	161.68	129.33	293	188	548	352
47	13.43	11.16	19.18	17.07	33	27	56	44	70	93.20	73.30	181.25	148.72	330	204	615	387
48	13.48	11.88	20.44	17.76	35	29	58	48	71	102.45	82.71	204.38	159.34	374	235	702	443
49	13.71	12.33	21.77	18.77	38	31	63	52	72	113.68	94.13	232.46	172.23	427	272	807	512
50	14.46	12.99	23.41	20.00	40	34	69	57	73	127.55	108.24	267.15	188.15	493	319	937	596
51	15.38	13.75	25.38	21.18	45	35	78	62	74	142.08	123.01	303.50	204.84	562	367	1074	685
52	16.37	14.87	28.02	22.76	50	38	88	67	75	159.25	140.48	346.45	224.56	644	424	1235	789
53	17.46	15.88	31.30	24.81	55	44	101	79	76	200.03	174.92	418.29	276.67	785	530	1489	982
54	18.69	16.72	34.39	26.21	61	47	114	85	77	249.54	216.74	505.52	339.94	956	658	1797	1215
55	20.70	17.51	37.60	27.86	67	50	127	92	78	310.70	268.40	613.27	418.11	1167	817	2179	1504
56	22.69	19.48	42.17	31.37	74	56	140	101	79	374.78	322.52	726.16	500.00	1389	983	2578	1807
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MESSAGE  
FROM  
BOARD  
PRESIDENT

DAVID  
LEHMANN

## FEC, New GM Welcome Members to Annual Meeting

**FAYETTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** opened the doors of the K.C. Community Center in La Grange to a flood of its members at 5:30 p.m. July 17, eagerly awaiting fellowship with their neighbors, news about their cooperative and the chance to win some fun prizes at the co-op's 87th annual meeting.

One of the first-time attendees was also the co-op's general manager, Doug Lambert. But though he may be new to Fayette EC, he's worked 32 years for electric cooperatives, starting his career at Wharton County Electric Cooperative, down the

District 4, who both ran unopposed.

"Your board of directors has worked very hard over the last year for you," said Karen Mahoney-Woods, FEC's attorney. "They have been facilitating and overseeing the construction of our new building and very conscientiously keeping costs at the very minimum."

Lincke voiced her thanks for the vote of confidence.

"It has been my great pleasure to represent you on this board," she said. "This is an exciting time in the life of the cooperative, with a brand new, state-of-the-art building that I can't wait for y'all to come see."

The new headquarters, at 2111 N. Von Minden Road in La Grange, was completed after years of issues brought about by the pandemic and supply chain delays. It replaces the undersized headquarters built in 1963. Lambert is excited about this investment in the future of the co-op.

"This building is state-of-the-art, and there's all kinds of tech that we can use," he said. "The first thing we're doing is really looking at all of our existing technologies



FEC General Manager Doug Lambert

road in El Campo. He most recently worked at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

"I've had the pleasure of walking into the doors of about 400 different rural electric cooperatives, and nothing brings me more pleasure than to come back home, to be part of this community and to serve you," Lambert said to the attendees.

Lambert started July 1 in the position vacated by retired General Manager Gary Don Nietzsche. Nietzsche could not be in attendance at the meeting, but expressed his thanks to the membership, employees and community for allowing him to serve for almost four decades.

As the members filed in, their first stop after greeting the FEC Board of Directors, was to register to vote. The 396 members put their voices to work in the democratic process, reelecting incumbent directors Gale Lincke, District 3, and Leo C. Henke,

and assessing what we can do to better utilize the investments we've already made."

The co-op also invests in the local community. Concern for Community is a principle all cooperatives follow.

At the annual meeting, Tracy Denton, marketing and training manager, awarded academic scholarships to local students Andrea Eckermann, Alivia Eindorf, Kelly McAfee and Brooke Wanjura. In 2022, FEC began awarding scholarships to students who planned to attend a trade or technical school or take classes for a certificate or an associate's degree in an applied science. Students who received this scholarship were Brigham Kelley and Nathan Olsovsky.

For the first time, the FEC board held a drawing for high school graduates who did not receive a scholarship from the regular contests. This contest,



called the Luck of the Draw Scholarship, awarded \$1,500 to a student in attendance at the annual meeting, with Teagan Branch hearing her name called for the prize.

Another way FEC supports local youths is through the Government-in-Action Youth Tour, sponsoring two students from the co-op's service territory on the trip of a lifetime to Washington, D.C. Reagan Moreau of Fayetteville High School and Rylynn Thumann of Weimar High School represented Fayette EC along with 145 of their peers from across rural Texas in the nation's capital, where they visited monuments, met with congressional staff and forged lifelong friendships.

"The Youth Tour strengthened my belief that, even as the daughter of two public servants living in a small Texas town, I can be a doctor, senator or even the president with enough hard work and support," Moreau said. "Fayette Electric Cooperative, Texas Electric Cooperatives and the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association are moving America forward in a variety of ways, and we were small, yet fortunate, beneficiaries of these efforts."

Another group that benefits from Concern for Community is local non-profit organizations.

As one of his first official duties as GM, Lambert announced that the Veterans Memorial Park of Weimar; Combined Community Action; Flatonia Area Food Pantry; and Court Appointed Special Advocates of Bastrop, Fayette and Lee Counties each received grants of \$5,000. These funds came from specially allocated accounts from FEC and a match from CoBank's Sharing Success matching grant program.

In his video, Nietzsche provided his final update to the membership, discussing the history of the cooperative as well as its financial health.

Operating revenues for 2023 were \$38.4 million, up \$3.6 million from 2022. Operation expenses also increased, totaling \$32.1 million in 2023, up from \$29.3 million in 2022. The co-op realized profit margins of \$803,051, which will eventually be returned to members as capital credits.

Other highlights of the meeting included homemade cookies and drinks served by members of the local Fayette County 4-H clubs; games of chance and skill with FEC swag as prizes; and an appearance by Solar Sam, a Touchstone Energy Cooperatives mascot.

And no annual meeting is complete without drawing names for fabulous door prizes, which this year included gift cards, electric bill credits and two TVs. Even kids were able to get in on the action, winning gift bags that included Walmart and Sonic gift cards.

An evening of fun, festivities and fellowship wouldn't be possible without the dedicated employees at Fayette EC, and in his video, Nietzsche recognized employees who were celebrating career milestones at the co-op: Joey Jasek, Aaron Tonn and Brian Zbranek for five years of service; Mahoney-Woods and Justin Whited, 10 years; Denton, 20 years; Greg Noak, 25 years; and Robert Thomas, 35 years.

Once the official adjournment had been called and members headed to their cars, the employees stayed until everything was cleaned up and put away. They don't go home until the job's done, just like they've done since the cooperative's founding.

"We're dedicated to assuring that we continue to provide affordable power to our members, continuously working toward improving their quality of life in doing so, and remaining dedicated to this community and serving this community since 1937," Lambert said. "We have a legacy to uphold, and we owe that to our membership. We're here to serve them." ■

# Fayette Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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**Toll-Free** 1-866-968-3181  
**Email** [electric@fayette.coop](mailto:electric@fayette.coop)  
**Web** [fayette.coop](http://fayette.coop)

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Bill Briscoe, Secretary-Treasurer  
David A. Stancik  
Leo C. Henke  
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## Your General Manager

Doug Lambert

24/7

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## ABOUT FAYETTE EC

FEC serves Austin, Bastrop, Colorado, Fayette, Lavaca, Lee and Washington counties.

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- Pay in Person
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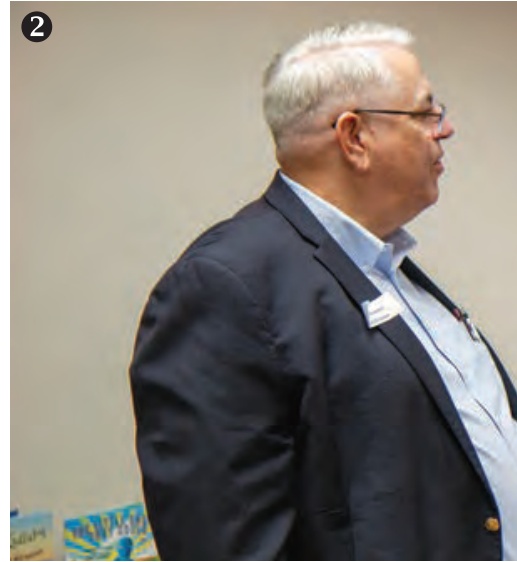
## TEXAS CO-OP POWER

Fayette EC provides *Texas Co-op Power* and [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com) to give you information about events, safety, special programs and other activities of your cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the co-op office.

## VISIT US ONLINE

[fayette.coop](http://fayette.coop)









1. Members' children and grandchildren took home goody bags from the meeting. Children under 10 also got to register for a special children's drawing.
2. State Rep. Stan Kitman, left, speaks with justice of the peace and Fayette EC member Kyle Hartmann.
3. Lineman Justin Whited watches a member try her luck at the Wheel of Fortune game.
4. Customer service representative Lezli Thomas greets a member upon registration.
5. Members and their guests enjoyed the parking lot transportation provided by FEC employees.
6. Carolyn J. Aulick was the lucky recipient of a \$50 credit on her energy bill.
7. Guest mascot Solar Sam greeted members during the meeting.
8. Youth Tour winner Reagan Moreau spoke about her experiences in Washington, D.C.
9. Fayette County 4H-ers served homemade cookies, coffee and lemonade to members and their guests.







Many members won fun prizes at the Plinko game.



John Michael Gatlin was the winner of a 70-inch ONN Roku Smart TV.



## LUCK OF THE DRAW SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to La Grange High School graduate, Teagan Branch, daughter of Amanda & Bryan Branch. Teagan’s name was drawn at the annual meeting to receive one \$1,500 scholarship. She will be attending Oklahoma Wesleyan University in the Fall.



# FEC Members Reelect 2 to Board



**GALE  
LINCKE**

**DISTRICT 3**



**LEO C.  
HENKE**

**DISTRICT 4**



# Annual Meeting Door Prize Winners

## \$50 Cash

Colorado Valley  
Communications  
by Kathy Norwood, CFO  
Patrick J. Pilat

## \$50 Energy Bill Credit

Arleen A. Billings  
Roy L. Kulhanek  
Ferdinand N. Khater  
Beatrice Santos Kilian  
Connie Cummins  
Henry Paul Galipp Jr. by  
wife Helen  
Norma C. Adams  
Carolyn J. Aulick  
Gilbert A. Winkler  
Roy C. Pieper  
Helen M. Janda  
Harvey Oeding  
David Goerig by  
wife Mary  
Elton Klesel

## \$50 Farmers Lumber Gift Card

Rachel S. Castillo  
Karen A. Koopmann

## \$50 H-E-B Gift Card

Danny D. Rudloff  
Ginger Friemel

## \$50 Visa Gift Card

Amos Hrbacek by  
wife Rosie  
Diana A. Walter and  
Devron A. Walter  
Thomas W. Falke  
E & H Fietsam Farm by  
Harold Fietsam  
Louis Vacula Jr.  
Harry J. Cull  
Dorothy A. Gabler  
L. Paul Crain  
Mary Lou Fritsch

## \$50 Walmart Gift Card

Glen Minzenmeyer by  
wife Gina  
Willie Joe Svetlik  
Allen E. Faldyn Jr.  
Alwin A. Oeser

## \$75 Energy Bill Credit

Elizabeth A. Votaw  
Colorado Valley  
Telephone Co-op, Inc.  
by Kathy Norwood, CFO  
Margie L. Collins  
Robert Hollas

## \$75 H-E-B Gift Card

Henry G. Miksch Jr.  
Gary Antosh

## \$100 Amazon Gift Card

Caroline Mazoch  
Georgia Ann Vyvial

## \$100 Cash

James D. Holub  
Roy Liebscher  
Rodney Hollas

## \$100 Energy Bill Credit

Roger Brandt by  
wife Janice  
Kermit L. Thiele Sr. and  
Mildred J. Thiele  
Jim Sladek DVM  
John F. Haas

## \$100 H-E-B Gift Card

George Kana Jr.  
Tom F. Kristof by  
wife Gladys  
J. Weldon Koenig

## \$100 Tractor Supply Gift Card

Ronald E. Briggs

## \$100 Visa Gift Card

Eugene J. Krupala  
James H. Kahlden  
Janice G. Smajstrla

## \$150 Energy Bill Credit

Ty Reeves by  
wife Tanya

## \$200 H-E-B Gift Card

Dennis W. Zbranek  
Gilbert T. Marburger

## \$250 Energy Bill Credit

Marcus J. Jasek

## \$250 Mastercard Gift Card

Gayle A. Kocich

## Next Energy Bill Paid (Up to \$250)

David R. Noak  
Alton J. Chadwick and  
Cheryl L. Chadwick

## 58-Inch Hisense Roku Smart TV

Harlan J. Schroeder by  
wife Barbara

## 70-Inch Onn. Roku Smart TV

John Michael Gatlin

## Children's Prize Winners

Aubrey McCullough  
Avery Walla  
Emery Walla  
Adam Reeves  
Logan Schwenke

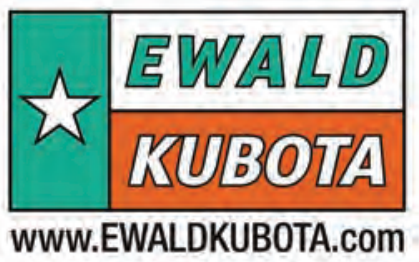
# Thanks for the Donations!

**LISTED BELOW** are the very generous suppliers of goods and services to FEC that contributed a door prize for our annual meeting this year. We sincerely appreciate the relationships we have with these vendors and thank them for their support.

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Smith Power Line Construction  
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# Thanks for Your Support!

**A BIG THANK YOU** to Ewald Kubota of La Grange and Kleiber Tractor and Equipment for providing the use of their utility vehicles to transport our members from the parking lot to the front steps of the KC Community Center. We appreciate your support!





The Veterans Memorial Park of Weimar received a \$5,000 grant from FEC and CoBank. From left are Doug Beddingfield, David Lehmann, FEC Board President, and Raymond Adams.

## FEC Announces Sharing Success Grant Winners

**FAYETTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**, in partnership with CoBank, awarded grants to four area not-for-profit organizations at the annual meeting July 17. These donations were made possible through CoBank's Sharing Success charitable contribution program.

Launched in 2012, Sharing Success aims to give back to co-ops and the nonprofits they support, matching FEC's charitable contributions to local nonprofit organizations. Since its inception, the program has provided \$86 million in combined donations to support nonprofit organizations nationwide.

"Every donation made by our customers—large and small—contributes directly to the growth and vibrancy of America's rural communities," said Tom Halverson, president and CEO of CoBank. "Sharing Success allows CoBank to double these donations and double our customers' impact. It's a collaboration that gets right to the heart of CoBank's mission and embodies the cooperative spirit. It's a privilege to partner with our customers in this way, and we look forward to the continued success of the program."

This year, FEC and CoBank awarded grants of \$5,000 each to the following organizations:

**Veterans Memorial Park**—The grant will be used to update the tables and chairs at the Veterans Memorial Hall, a venue for community events, local fundraisers, high school proms, and volunteer fire department fundraiser dinners and meetings.

**Combined Community Action/Meals on Wheels Rural Capital Area**—These funds will enhance their Meals on

Wheels program in Fayette County, serving five meals a week to older adults, ages 60 years and older, with a focus on reaching the most rural people.

**Flatonia Area Food Pantry**—The grant will cover food purchases for families in need in the Flatonia area as well as monthly expenses, including utilities and insurance. The pantry aims to expand its facility to serve more families by the end of the year.

**Court Appointed Special Advocates of Bastrop, Fayette and Lee Counties**—CASA will use the funds to ensure that every child in Fayette County who experiences abuse and neglect and is removed from their home has a trained advocate to support them throughout their involvement with the child welfare system.

"We are honored to support these incredible organizations that work tirelessly to enhance the quality of life in our communities," said Doug Lambert, Fayette Electric Cooperative general manager. "Through our partnership with CoBank's Sharing Success program, we can double the positive impact on our local nonprofits, ensuring they have the resources needed to continue their invaluable services. This collaboration truly exemplifies the cooperative spirit and our commitment to fostering strong, vibrant communities." ■





**1.** Combined Community Action received a \$5,000 grant from FEC and CoBank. From left are Noelia Buck, Meals on Wheels senior services director; FEC Board President David Lehmann; Kim Barker, Meals on Wheels Fayetteville site manager; and Cyndy Lee, Meals on Wheels Flatonia site manager.

**2.** The Flatonia Area Food Pantry received a \$5,000 grant from FEC and CoBank. Pictured are Lehmann and Director of Development Larry Haas.

**3.** CASA of Bastrop, Fayette and Lee Counties received a \$5,000 grant from FEC and CoBank. Pictured are Lehmann and CASA Executive Director Kristi Bauer.

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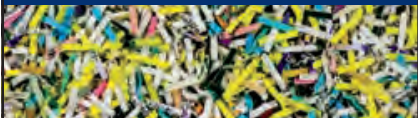
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The Beatles perform at Dallas Memorial Auditorium in September 1964.

# Invading Dallas

Frenzied fans saw—but barely heard—music history when the Beatles came to Texas

BY LORI GROSSMAN

IT HAS BEEN MORE than 60 years since what some people call the world's first boy band appeared on a Sunday night TV show and changed everything. And this month marks exactly 60 years since the Beatles first came to Texas.

The British pop band's first U.S. tour brought them to Dallas Memorial Auditorium on September 18, 1964. The band touched down at Love Field just after midnight that day, greeted by thousands of screaming fans. North Texas was abuzz with anticipation, including 10-year-old Pud (short for Puddin') Kearns of suburban Greenville.

In early 1964, Kearns was a fourth grader when word spread that the Beatles would be on the *Ed Sullivan Show* on February 9. That night, she was watching.

"I was just blown away," she remem-

bers. "I'd never heard anything like that before. And I immediately fell in love."

Kearns and her friends acquired the band's records and read about them in fan magazines. Later that year, North Texas Beatles fans got some thrilling news: John, Paul, George and Ringo were coming to Dallas for one of 32 shows in 25 cities over 33 days.

"There was a lot of excitement when it was announced," Kearns says. "At that time, I didn't think there was any possibility that I would get to go."

But Eliza, the 10-year-old granddaughter of a family friend, had tickets and invited Kearns.

"I couldn't believe my luck!" Kearns says. The girls had no idea that a big surprise awaited them before the concert. They showed up early to have a

picnic behind the auditorium (now part of the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center).

"All of a sudden, an ambulance drives down the ramp past us towards the auditorium. This was an old-fashioned station wagon," Kearns says. "The Beatles were in it! They looked out of the window and waved, and then they were gone. I remember seeing Paul and Ringo. They were only 20 or 30 feet from us."

A sellout crowd of 10,000 fans packed the venue and waited through three opening acts—Clarence "Frogman" Henry, the Exciters and Jackie DeShannon, all backed by Bill Black's Combo. Pud and Eliza's \$5.50 tickets earned them balcony seats, where they eagerly waited for Dallas DJ Irving Harrigan (aka Ron Chapman) to introduce the main act.

"All the girls were screaming. Eliza and I did, too," Kearns says with a laugh. "George was my favorite. I remember *All My Loving* and the first chord of *A Hard Day's Night*. You could hear opening notes but not much more because of the screaming."

The Beatles' 30-minute set list included 12 songs. The band returned to Texas in August 1965 for two sold-out shows at Houston's Sam Houston Coliseum.

An editorial in *The Dallas Times Herald* that day in Dallas took a dim view of the band: "While some others may be able to recall who or what they were in ... five years, most people will not."

Kearns knew better.

"I was a rock star in fifth grade for a while before and after the concert. I knew that I had seen something very, very special," she says. "And 60 years later, it's still a big deal." ■



# Football Favorites

We've recruited proven winners for your game day lineup

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ, FOOD EDITOR

I first made my slow cooker bean dip for a Super Bowl fiesta, and boy was it a hit. It was soon requested for every family gathering and was one of the first recipes added to my slow cooker cookbook. This elevates canned beans to a whole new tasty level.

## Slow Cooker Bean Dip

1 teaspoon olive oil  
½ onion, diced  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
2 cans pinto beans (15 ounces each), drained and rinsed  
2 cans red beans (15 ounces each), drained and rinsed  
2 cans black beans (15 ounces each), drained and rinsed  
2 cans kidney beans (15 ounces each), drained and rinsed  
2 cans Mexican-style diced tomatoes (15 ounces each), undrained  
½ cup chopped cilantro, plus more for garnish (optional)  
2 teaspoons cumin  
2 teaspoons chili powder  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon ground black pepper  
Shredded cheddar cheese, for garnish  
Mexican crema or sour cream, for garnish

1. Heat oil in a skillet over medium-high heat. Add onion and sauté 3 minutes, or until light and translucent. Add garlic and cook, stirring often, for 2 minutes. Remove from heat.

2. Combine sautéed onion and garlic, beans, diced tomatoes, ½ cup cilantro, cumin, chili powder, salt and pepper in a slow cooker. Stir until combined. Cover and cook on low 2 hours.

3. Serve warm, topped with more cilantro, shredded cheese, and Mexican crema or sour cream.

SERVES 12

**TCP** Follow Vianney Rodriguez as she cooks in Cocina Gris at [sweetlifebake.com](http://sweetlifebake.com), where she features a recipe for Tex-Mex Onion Dip.





# Dry Rub Baked Chicken Wings

JACKIE MCEATHRON  
PEDERNALES EC

These tender, juicy baked chicken wings coated in a mouthwatering homemade dry rub will have football fans raving! And they're so good, you won't miss the deep fryer. Serve with your favorite dipping sauce.

- 2 pounds chicken wings
- 2 tablespoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 3 teaspoons paprika
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line a baking sheet with foil or parchment paper. Coat a baking rack with cooking spray and place on the baking sheet.
2. Dry chicken wings with paper towels. In a medium bowl, combine baking powder, salt, paprika and garlic powder. Add chicken wings to bowl and toss to coat evenly. Shake off each wing and place on the baking rack.
3. Bake 30 minutes, then turn and bake until golden and crispy, about 10–15 minutes longer. Serve warm.

SERVES 4



\$500 WINNER

# Texas Chili

GWEN JONES  
BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES



This brisket chili is a surefire crowd pleaser—hearty, a little spicy and packed with flavor. Garnish with your favorite toppings to make the perfect meal-in-a-bowl. Double the recipe to ensure tasty lunch leftovers.

SERVES 6–8

- ¼ cup canola oil
- 1 small red onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 red bell peppers, diced
- ½ tablespoon kosher salt
- 2 tablespoons chili powder
- 1 tablespoon chipotle powder
- 2 tablespoons smoked paprika
- 1 pound smoked lean beef brisket, diced
- 2 cans diced fire roasted tomatoes (14.5 ounces each)
- 4 cups beef broth
- 1 small bunch cilantro, chopped
- Sour cream, for garnish
- Shredded cheddar cheese, for garnish

1. Heat oil in an 8-quart pot over medium-high heat. Sauté onion, garlic and peppers until tender.
2. Add salt, spices, brisket, tomatoes and beef broth. Reduce heat to simmer, cover and let cook 2 hours. Remove from heat and stir in cilantro.
3. Serve topped with sour cream and shredded cheese.

# TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

**EASY BREADS** DUE SEPTEMBER 10  
If you make bread that skips the kneading and hours of rising, we want to know. Send those recipes in for a shot at \$500. Don't loaf around; enter by September 10.



MORE RECIPES >



# Jalapeño Wontons

SUZANNE HAWKINS  
CENTRAL TEXAS EC

The crispy wonton cups and filling can be made pregame. When it's time to nibble, fill the wontons, pop them in the oven and bake until golden.

**12 wonton or eggroll wrappers**  
**Kosher salt**  
**8 slices fully cooked bacon, diced**

**1 package cream cheese (8 ounces),  
room temperature**  
**1 cup shredded cheddar cheese**  
**½ cup sour cream**  
**¼ cup mayonnaise**  
**1 jalapeño pepper, finely diced,  
seeds removed for less heat**  
**3 green onions, chopped**  
**¼ cup chopped cilantro, for garnish**

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Coat a muffin pan with cooking spray.
2. Slice wonton or egg roll wrappers in half and place two strips crisscross in each muffin cup. Sprinkle wontons with kosher salt. Bake wontons 5–8 minutes or until lightly golden brown.
3. In a large bowl, combine bacon, cream cheese, cheddar cheese, sour cream, mayonnaise, jalapeño and green onions. Mix well. Spoon filling into wontons.
4. Bake 10–15 minutes, until bubbly. Serve warm, garnished with cilantro.

MAKES 12

# Kick Things Off Right

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ

**Team spirit:** Add a few drops of food coloring in your team colors to frosting for cupcakes or cake. Sneak team colors into popcorn by stirring in colored candy.

**Drinks:** Keep plenty of beverages on hand to balance out all the salty snacks you're serving. Include options for those who don't drink alcohol, like sparkling water or soda. Don't forget the ice!

**Stay fresh:** Keep food at the ideal temperature in a slow cooker or chafing dishes. Cover food with lids or foil if hosting outdoors, and place dips and guacamole over a bowl of ice to keep them chilled.

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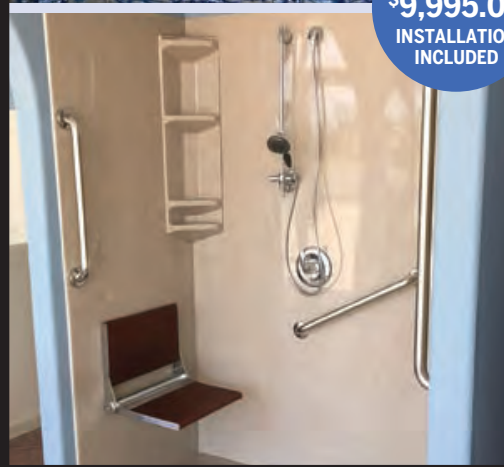
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COURTESY CHET GARNER

## Creeping Back in Time

The Munster Mansion in Waxahachie brings 1960s Hollywood to life

BY CHET GARNER

**IN MOST CIRCLES**, asking someone if they prefer *The Munsters* or *The Addams Family* can make for fun dinner conversation. But in Waxahachie, there's only one right answer. Because even though *The Munsters'* beloved sitcom wrapped in 1966, the family's iconic mansion on 1313 Mockingbird Lane lives on in this growing town south of Dallas.

Pulling up to the house felt like the opening scene to a scary movie, with overgrown trees obscuring the mansion's dark facade. However when I knocked on the door, I was greeted with a kind Texas smile from owner Sandra McKee, who grew up watching the show and dreaming of someday living in the kooky mansion.

When she had a chance to make her dream a reality, she and her husband, Charles, obsessed over all 70 episodes of the show to recreate the exact layout and dimensions of the haunted abode, which, ironically, never existed in real life but was just a collection of soundstages on a Hollywood backlot. But this home feels as real as Spot, the pet dragon under the stairs. The McKees host paid private tours by appointment only.

Not only has Sandra collected a number of authentic props, such as a complete dining room set, she's also found life-size mannequins of all the characters, including a towering Herman Munster and his beautiful bride, Lily. Upstairs I found Eddie holding his famous bat and Grandpa tinkering in his lab. I couldn't believe the details and the true-to-screen secret passages.

Each cobweb-filled room tapped into the dusty vaults of my brain and brought back memories of watching the show from my grandparents' floor.

Sandra proudly shared the story of the time actor Al Lewis (aka Grandpa) visited, and his eyes filled with tears of joy and disbelief. It seems this spooky reality is better than fiction. ■

ABOVE Chet cozies up to a likeness of Grandpa from *The Munsters*.

**TCP** If you dare, join Chet as he checks in on the Munsters. Watch the video and see all his Explorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.



## Know Before You Go

Call ahead or check an event's website for scheduling details, and check our website for many more upcoming events.

## SEPTEMBER

7

**Fredericksburg** Friends of Pioneer Memorial Library Book Sale, (830) 997-6513, [pmlfbg.com](http://pmlfbg.com)

**Levelland** Cotton and Crude Concert, (806) 894-3157, [facebook.com/cottonandcrudefest](https://facebook.com/cottonandcrudefest)

**Palestine** Dogwood Jamboree: All About Classic Country, (903) 724-2556, [visitpalestine.com](http://visitpalestine.com)

10

**Corsicana** [10, 12–15] *A Wrinkle in Time*, (903) 872-5421, [thewlac.com](http://thewlac.com)

12

**Grapevine** [12–15] *GrapeFest*, (817) 410-3185, [grapevinetexasusa.com](http://grapevinetexasusa.com)

13

**Kerrville** [13–14] Arts & Crafts Show, (830) 895-0100, [tbck.org](http://tbck.org)

**Brenham** [13–21] Washington County Fair, (979) 836-4112, [washingtoncofair.com](http://washingtoncofair.com)

14

**Chappell Hill** Airing of the Quilts, (979) 337-9910, [chappellhilltx.com](http://chappellhilltx.com)

**Rosenburg** Ride to Rosenberg Car Show, (713) 502-3168, [rosenbergartsalliance.com](http://rosenbergartsalliance.com)

**San Marcos** Treasure Sale, (512) 392-4295, [heritagesanmarcos.org](http://heritagesanmarcos.org)





## Pick of the Month

### Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza

Lake Jackson, September 14, 21  
(979) 480-0999, gcbo.org

Get a close-up look at ruby-throated hummingbirds as they make their yearly migration. Professionals will band the tiny birds, and you can symbolically adopt a hummingbird to support conservation efforts. The event includes educational booths, activities for kids, a plant sale and nature store.

21

**Azle Lord's Acre Harvest Festival & Car Show**, (817) 444-1382, facebook.com/silvercreekmc

**Blanco Classic Car Show**, (512) 632-0648, blancoclassiccarshow.com

22

**Giddings Wendish Fest**, (979) 366-2441, facebook.com/texaswendish

25

**New Braunfels [25-29] Comal County Fair & Rodeo**, (830) 625-1505, comalcountyfair.org

MORE EVENTS >

## TCP Submit Your Event

We pick events for the magazine directly from TexasCoopPower.com. Submit your December event by October 1, and it just might be featured in this calendar.

Fredericksburg is the Polka Capital of Texas  
Downtown Historic Fredericksburg on Marktplatz  
[www.oktoberfestinfbg.com](http://www.oktoberfestinfbg.com)



## Cast-Iron Skillet

### Giveaway Contest

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\*\*\*\*\*

**COME TO WHERE THE REAL  
LONESOME DOVE HAPPENED**

**HORSEHEAD CROSSING, ON  
THE PECOS RIVER**

**OCTOBER  
25-26**

**WINDS ACROSS  
THE PECOS**

**LIVING HISTORY CELEBRATION**

Chuck Wagon Meals &  
Cooking Contests

Re-enactors

Live Cannon Fire

Historians & Presenters

Trail Rides

Cowboy Poetry

Exhibitors

CONTACT BETTY DAMRON

BETTYDAMRON986@YAHOO.COM

OR DELANE CAGLE

DELANEC@GMAIL.COM

\*\*\*\*\*



SEPTEMBER EVENTS CONTINUED

27

**Giddings [27-28]**  
Texas Word Wrangler Book  
Festival, (979) 542-2716,  
giddingspubliclibrary.org

**Mason Old Yeller Day**, (325)  
347-5446, mason.ploud.net

**Harper [27-28]**  
Frontier Days, harper  
communitypark@gmail.com,  
harpercommunitypark.com

**Lewisville [27-28] Western  
Days**, (972) 219-3401,  
lewisvillewesterndays.com

**Winnsboro [27-28]**  
Cowboy Music and  
Poetry Gathering,  
(903) 342-0686,  
winnsborocenterforthearts  
.com

28

**Lakehills Medina Lake  
Cajun Festival**,  
(830) 460-0600,  
cajunfestival-medinalake.com

OCTOBER

4

**Dripping Springs [4-5]**  
Lone Star Gourd Festival,  
texasgourdsociety@hotmail  
.com, texasgourdsociety.org

5

**Huntington Catfish  
Festival**, (936) 635-3306,  
shophuntingtontx.com

**New Braunfels Das Fest**,  
(830) 629-2943,  
newbraunfelsconservation  
.org

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# Parenthood

It's the toughest, most rewarding job there is. From the moment a child is born, parenthood is an exercise in nurturing, teaching and letting go. And when the time comes for our offspring to experience the world on their own, they remain in our hearts and are never far from our thoughts.

CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ



1

**1 CHARLES BAXTER**  
COSERV

"Mother mallard and nine ducklings."

**2 SANDRA DRAKE**  
BLUEBONNET EC

"My daughter, the youngest of four, has waited a long time for her turn at parenting. The joy her newborn baby boy brings can be seen in every fiber of her being."

**3 LINDSAY HUMPHREYS**  
SOUTH PLAINS EC

"Learning to fly fish the rivers of New Mexico with Dad."

**4 HELEN FOWLER**  
PEDERNALES EC

A father's love on his daughter's wedding day.



2



3



4

## Upcoming Contests

DUE SEP 10 **Parks**

DUE OCT 10 **I Love**

DUE NOV 10 **Small Spaces**



Enter online at [TexasCoopPower.com/contests](https://TexasCoopPower.com/contests).

**TCP** See Focus on Texas on our website for many more Parenthood photos from readers.



## The Farmer's Regret

A farm tractor will get you far—  
if you look after it

BY JOHN TERRY WENDE  
ILLUSTRATION BY  
DAVID MOORE

**THIS WAS SUPPOSED** to be a really good deal. Smart too.

We had bought a 15-acre farm south of Austin in 1974 and now, 10 years later, our (new to us) 1940s Farmall B tractor was the perfect choice for our small operation.

Living on an educator's salary and applying my knowledge as a high school economics teacher, I was proud of myself for taking extra-close care of my tractor. I even built a small shed to keep it protected and dry.

I remember that no matter what happened or what the problem was, I always found a way to keep that Farmall in good running condition.

Over the years, I have seen a number of tractors—and pictures of tractors—silently keeping vigil in their temporary-turned-final resting places.

An old Ford tractor, for years on end, sits under the canopy of a large live oak tree, proudly displaying a “for sale” sign. Then there's the tractor sitting near the corner of a fence row with an assortment of brush and vines winding their way through it. I had often wondered: How could a person abandon their machine and leave it out there all by itself?

I would never do that—would I?

Then I started having battery and generator issues and struggled to get the parts I needed to fix my Farmall. The longer that tractor sat outside in the very same spot, the less I thought about hauling it back to the shed, so I could at least get it out of the weather.

Suddenly I had become that farmer who let his machine down.

It's not just the weather you have to watch out for either. A friend told me about his family trying to raise cattle in Arkansas in the 1950s, and when that didn't work, they moved back to Texas and settled in Taylor County. They brought back all their farm equipment, including a Minneapolis-Moline tractor, which they parked between the house and the county road.

He said that, over the years, people would sneak onto his property and help themselves to various tractor parts. It made him really mad because, he said, all they had to do was ask.

Farm tractors are nearly indestructible—if you take care of them. For what I bought it for, my Farmall B gladly did everything I asked it to do. My responsibility was to take good care of it and keep it running.

I didn't hold up my side of the deal, and my Farmall fell victim to the mystic landscape of abandoned tractors, forever stuck in the mud a few feet from my tractor shed. ■



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Where engineering excellence meets sleek design - a lightweight, safe, customizable, and stylish scooter for UNLIMITED FREEDOM.

## How did Anna start to enjoy life to the fullest?

At the age of 56, a back operation left me dependent on a cane, significantly impacting my daily life. Simple tasks like going to the store or meeting friends became challenging, and I even had to cancel a long-awaited anniversary trip to Italy.

My husband purchased a scooter for me, but it was cumbersome and uncomfortable for everyday use, leaving me feeling more constrained than liberated. However, everything changed when I came across the ATTO SPORT. This remarkable scooter proved to be a game changer. Not only is it robust and reliable, but it also conveniently splits into two pieces, allowing me to effortlessly lift it into my car trunk on my own. I was even able to stow it in the overhead compartment on the plane, enabling us to finally take that trip to Italy! I am now independent once more, able to go wherever I please and do so with a striking sense of style. In fact, I now find that my husband struggles to keep up with me!



CRUISES



ROAD TRIPS



FLIGHTS

## What makes ATTO so unique?

- **Independence and convenience:** Easy to use and conveniently folds into a compact suitcase size for simple storage. It easily separates into two parts in seconds, with the heaviest piece weighing just 37 pounds, making it easier to lift into your car trunk.
- **Go anywhere:** Conquer any terrain with puncture-proof, shock-absorbing tires and a 4-inch ground clearance. Equipped with electronic stability control for added safety on descents and turns, it is also flight-approved, ideal for air travel and cruise ships. With a driving range of up to 12.5 miles (25 miles with the XL battery), a top speed of 6.2 MPH, and a maximum weight capacity of 300 pounds, this durable scooter is designed for longevity.
- **Top-Notch Engineering:** Guaranteeing both comfort and durability, this scooter offers ample legroom and a big comfortable seat. The ATTO is super portable and lightweight, and still rides like a heavy-duty scooter.
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<sup>4</sup>Using U.S. and imported parts.