

Ranch-O-Rama slated for May 8 in Austin

More than forty years ago, Ranch-O-Rama (ROR) was the most popular social gathering in Texas for the deaf community that took biannually. TAD President Paul Rutowski is reviving this event with the assistance of Chairperson Marilyn Swanson and her well-rounded committee. Rutowski wants ROR to be family-oriented and invites everyone to attend the western-themed social event and have fun. ROR will take place at Pioneer Farms in Austin on May 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and there is no admission charge.

Many old-timers and their children fondly recall the fun they had at the “rodeo” gatherings, which last took place in 1968. They dressed in 19th century western attire and partook in games like horseshoe throwing, pig chasing, potato sack races, and greasy pole climbing. Of course, the food and beverages were great, but the wonderful fellowship and TAD spirit were what they remembered the most about past RORs.

One such person is Jack Ford of Austin, who attended the 1966 ROR as a youngster. He recalls his uncle Maurice Ford of Fort Worth dressed as a saloon gambler as part of a troupe of actors. The ROR was located at what is now commonly known as the “Y” where Routes 71 and 290 split west and north, exactly where Oak Hill Austin Community College is now situated. Jack remembers the joy of experiencing a taste of what the frontier used to be. He has every intention of bringing his children and family to the May 8 ROR, making it a three-generation



Old cotton-picking machinery from the 1880s near the James Bell Homestead

experience of memories.

Swanson’s mission is to get everyone to step into the 19th century lifestyle on Pioneer Farms, 200 acres of “living history” with 15 authentic buildings. The ROR committee is made up of narrators, guides, parking attendants, ticket sellers, BBQ workers, game workers, and beverage sellers. Golf cart drivers, courtesy of Texas School for the Deaf, will drive seniors around the historic park for guided tours. There

will also be information booths, portable toilets, water supplies and canopies.

There will be a \$5 parking fee, reasonable food and beverage costs, and many game tickets for sale. The first 100 people to arrive will get a free gift and early arrivals will enjoy fresh coffee and donuts. Attendees can participate in contests like horseshoe throwing, cow chip throwing, washer throwing and nail hammering. Plenty of prizes will be available for the winning contestants. Also on the agenda are a petting zoo, pony rides and a hayride. For the reader’s convenience, there is a wealth of ROR information in this newsletter.

Get into your western attire and enter the 1800s on May 8, experience a fun-filled day, and then have a relaxing evening at Austin Association of the Deaf!

Note: The deadline for booths and sponsorships has been changed to May 1. Contact Ronny Taylor at: ronnytaylor@yahoo.com to get a booth. The booth fees have been reduced from \$150 to \$100 for commercial booths and from \$75 to \$50 for non-profit/state agencies.

Check TAD’s website at www.deaftexas.org today!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Editor's Report: Looking through the eyes of Texas</i>	<i>Page 3</i>
TAD board updates	<i>Page 4</i>
New membership card unveiled	<i>Page 4</i>
Ranch-O-Rama information	<i>Pages 6-9</i>
Ranch-O-Rama photos	<i>Pages 10-11</i>
TSD grapplers national co-champions	<i>Page 14</i>
Experiencing Italy with Hands On Travel	<i>Page 15</i>
Membership form	<i>Page 19</i>

St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser



Peggy Ann Wenger and Steve Baldwin award first place to Ash ScheMoore for best Irish costume.



TAD President Paul Rutowski awards second place for best Irish costume to Dale and Sharon Hovinga.

2009-2011 TAD Board

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*For more information,
visit www.deaftexas.org*

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Heather Goff

TAD Mission

Promote leadership, growth and equality among Deaf and hard of hearing Texans.

Looking through the eyes of Texas



Tim Jaech

Here we go! This issue of *The Deaf Texan* (TDT) is my inaugural splash as its new editor and I wish to thank the TAD board of directors for making this possible. I must comment that the previous issues of TDT have impressed me a great deal. During the past few weeks, I have been

working with Steve Baldwin, the previous editor, who has done a bang-up job of providing me the tools for making a nice transition into my new duties. As a result, I look forward to future issues with mucho gusto!

Readers may wonder why I chose the headline of *Looking through the eyes of Texas*. Since moving to Texas a year ago, my Longhorn research came across the inspirational song, *The Eyes of Texas*. This song is known for its message to University of Texas students: Go out and do great things! I like the dignity of this message and am convinced it applies to TAD officers and members.

New stuff? Big changes in the current TDT format? Not quite, as I like what I see in the latest publications and I strongly suspect you do too. In fact, there are quite a few people outside of Texas who have said TAD appears to exhibit strength and a growing membership. On the national stage, TAD has become extremely visible! This strength comes from its membership and current TAD members are urged to recruit new members by actively encouraging people to join our growing organization.

Speaking of new people, we would like to initiate a

new series of interviews with deaf Texans, tentatively titled, "Profiles of Deaf Texans," in future TDT issues. If you have names of deaf people residing in Texas who you think are worth interviewing, by all means send their names to me at: TDTeditor@deaftexas.org.

There is one other item I would like to clarify to all of our readers. There has been much confusion about the use of the term "deaf" in many written publications. Specifically, consider the use of "Big D" as opposed to "little d" when using the word "deaf" in written works. This capitalization issue is intended to separate the identification of culturally deaf persons from non-culturally deaf persons. Theoretically, a culturally deaf person is someone who uses American Sign Language (ASL) as a primary language and sees acceptance of one's deafness as a positive rather than as a medical condition that needs to be fixed.

The TAD certainly does see itself as an organization that supports and encourages the positive cultural identity of its deaf members. You might have expected to see the "Big D" as in "Deaf members" in the previous sentence. Using it in a publication causes problems because it is often confusing and difficult to determine when and when not to use it. One could easily argue its use does not agree with rules of English and/or English usage. So, you will not see the use of "Big D" in TDT for these reasons: clarity and consistency. Just don't misunderstand and think we aren't proud to be deaf persons. This is just the TDT editor trying to avoid headaches while using proper English whenever possible.

Don't worry about the new kid on the block. He's always on your side, dear readers.

E-mail address correct?

The Deaf Texan is delivered to TAD members via e-mail only. It is not sent through the United States Postal Service, because it is much more economical to have an online version only. A limited number of hard copies are printed and distributed to organizations and offices that require a hard copy.

The question is, do we have your correct e-mail address in the membership files? We cannot e-mail TDT to cell phones and/or pagers. We must e-mail to regular e-mail addresses. If you need to update your e-mail address, contact: TADmembership@deaftexas.org. A suggestion for those who do not have an e-mail account: give us a friend or relative's e-mail address.

TAD board updates:

Working for the Texas deaf community and you!

Since December, the TAD board has been active with fundraisers, board and committee meetings, website and newsletter updating, and planning the Ranch-O-Rama event on May 8. There also have been five fundraisers since Dec. 12. In between, we supported the National Association of the Deaf's and Deaf Youth USA's endeavors as reported in the winter issue. The biggest event of the year will be Ranch-O-Rama, the mother of all fundraisers and social events.

Other fundraisers also benefited from TAD's generosity. The TAD board donated \$250 to Texas School for the Deaf (TSD) Foundation's Diamond Gala and the annual TSD triathlon event. As tradition dictates, TAD and TSD continue to share the goal of providing quality education for deaf and hard of hearing school-age children.

Another partnership is between Sprint Corporation, TAD and selected groups from Dallas, Houston, Big Spring and San Antonio. There will be four Relay Texas town hall meetings: April 23 at Dallas Association of the Deaf, May 23 in Houston, June 12 at SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf (SWCID) and October 23 with Alamo Community Association of the Deaf in San Antonio. Sprint will provide refreshments at the town hall meetings, then show the documentary *Journey Through Deaf Texas* at no cost. Look for further details at

New membership card unveiled



TAD is proud to announce a new membership card design. Thanks to the suggestions of Steve Baldwin and Jose Ovi Velasquez, Chris Kearney came up with this beautiful colorful design. New members will receive the new cards this spring.

the TAD website and other sources.

Another board action was the appointment of Susie Grona of Hideaway as TAD's six-year director. She replaces Katie Murch, who moved to California. The board also voted to have its June 12 meeting in Big Spring with SWCID serving as the host prior to Relay Texas's town hall meeting.

The TAD board is carefully studying the site options for its 2011 conference. Due to the weakened economy, we are foregoing Corpus Christi or Port Aransas as possible conference locations. Watch for a public announcement about the final conference site. TAD's website is constantly updated, so stay in touch as will TAD for you!

News Flash! *The TAD board has voted to host the TAD 2011 conference at the South West College Institute for the Deaf (SWCID) in Big Spring in June 2011. Details to follow in the next TDT issue.*

Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities comments on TAD film and *The Deaf Texan*

Jo Virgil, Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities community outreach and information coordinator, sent TAD her thoughts about *The Deaf Texan* and *Journey Through Deaf Texas*. The newsletter and film were nominated for the Barbara Jordan documentary and media awards, but did not win. Even so, a judge said about the film: "Well done, comprehensive, in-depth and historical."

Virgil commented on the newsletter: "...the level of submissions also served as an inspiration for all of us to know that the days are long gone when people with disabilities are hidden in the shadows and not allowed full and equal access to productive lives. Journalists such as you make sure that the public perception is realistic and positive."

Indeed, TAD is proud to be recognized for its media efforts on the state level.

Grona selected as newest TAD board member



Pat and Susie Grona (Photo courtesy of the Grona family)

When Susie Grona and her husband Pat moved to a retirement home in Hideaway from Corpus Christi, Susie kept her promise about becoming part of the TAD family. She immediately accepted the offer to become a six-year board director in place of Katie Murch, who resigned to work in California.

Susie had taught in the Corpus Christi area since 1979. She and Pat were very active in the Corpus Christi deaf community for years. She is currently an adjunct instructor at Tyler Junior College's Interpreter Training Program. She has been appointed by Governor Perry to serve a one-year term on Texas' State Independent Living Council. Susie continues to present workshops for interpreters, teachers, and parents of Deaf children.

TAD board welcomes Susie and looks forward to her expertise in early childhood, interpreting and community service.

TSD Foundation receives donation for Annual Diamond Gala



From left: TAD treasurer, John Mills, TSDF treasurer Hal Caldcleugh, TSDF president Danny Lacey, and The Deaf Texan editor Tim Jaech

The Texas School for the Deaf Foundation (TSDF) recently received a Pearl sponsorship check from TAD for its Fourth Annual Diamond Gala event, held on May 6 (see flier on page 18).

Texas School for the Deaf 2010-2011 School Calendar

August 23 Semester begins	Dec. 20-31 Winter Break
September 6 Labor Day	January 3 Semester begins
October 9 TSD Homecoming	March 14-18 Spring Break
October 18 Student Holiday	May 30 Memorial Day
November 25-26 School closed	June 2 Semester ends; graduation day
December 16 Semester ends	

Source: Texas School for the Deaf



Special TAD Hall of Donors

The TAD board and members thank the following donors for their generosity.

- Anonymous
- Michael Samaripa
- Chuck Baird
- San Antonio Spurs Management
- Steve Baldwin
- Texas School for the Deaf Alumni Association
- Amy Benner
- March 12, 2010 fundraiser: booster sales, \$87
- Steve and Paula Bonillas
- Raffle sales, \$560
- Kathy Caldcleugh
- Larry Evans
- Gertie Galloway
- Paul Rutowski

YOU ARE... WANTED

Members, Friends, & Families

Saturday, May 8, 2010

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

FREE Admission!

First 100 People Get FREE Prizes!

Covered Wagon, Hay & Pony Rides!

Food, Beverages, & Games Available!



RANCH-O-RAMA!

Pioneer Farms

10621 Pioneer Farms

Austin, TX 78754

Contact: Marilyn@deaftexas.org

www.deaftexas.org





Ranch-O-Rama Schedule At Pioneer Farms in Austin



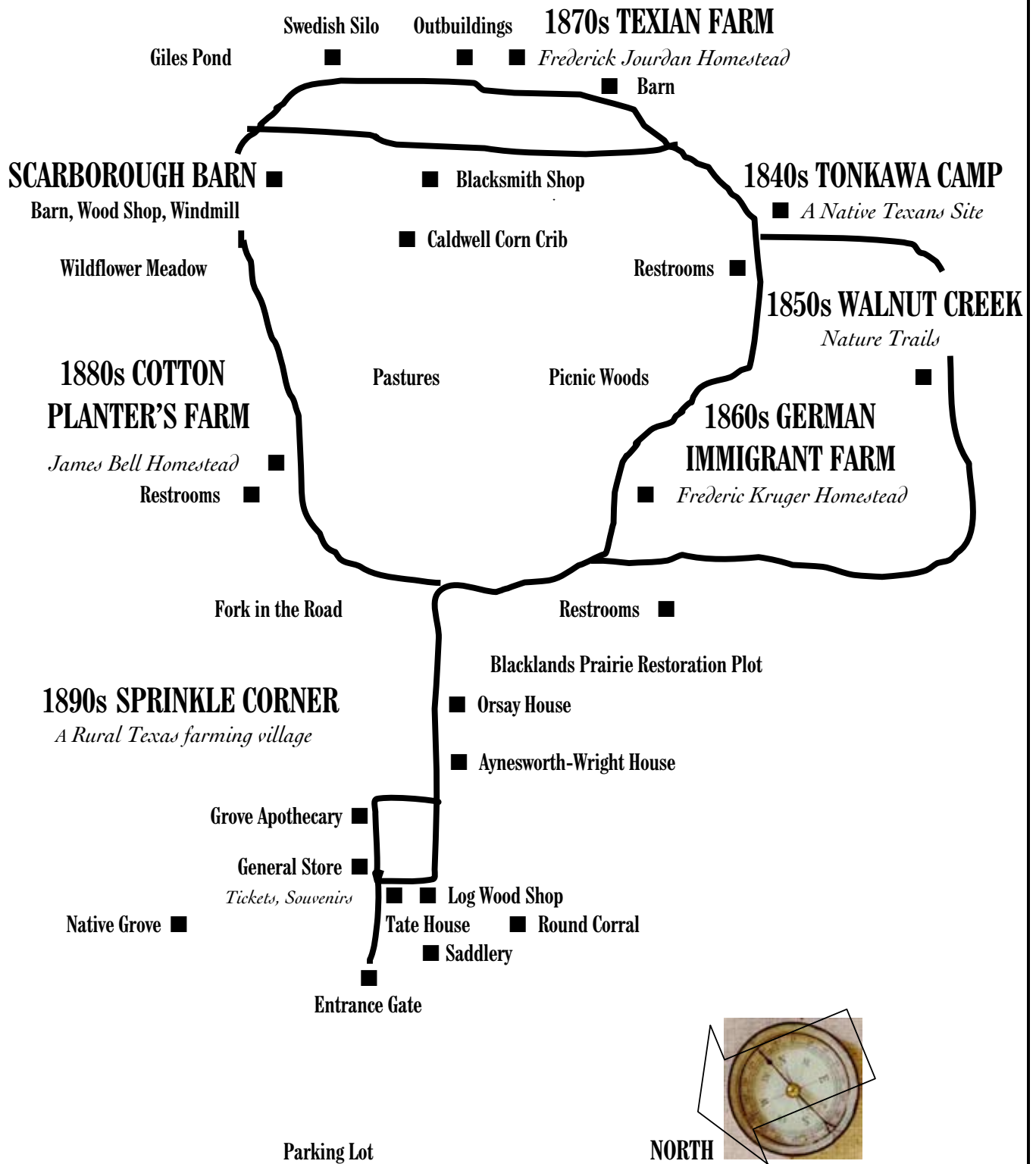
- 9:00** Parking lot gate opens (\$5 parking fee)
Admission free!
First 100 people get prizes!
Coffee/Donuts served (until sold out)
All booths open (all day)
- 9:30** Open field area games start (all day)
Scheduled 1st contest starts (every 30 minutes)
Scheduled 1800's history-walking tour starts (every hour)
- 10:00** Door Prizes
Petting Farm Animals (10am-12pm)
Scheduled 2nd contest starts
Photo Studio with 1800's spirit (clothes and props)
(Location on-site TBA... one hour only)
Covered wagon/Hay rides start (10 am-2pm)
- 10:30** Scheduled 3rd contest starts
Scheduled 2nd 1800's history-walking tour starts
Cook out lunch served-\$5 meal ticket per person-10: 30 to 2pm
- 11:00** Scheduled 4th contest starts
- 11:30** Scheduled 3rd 1800's history-walking tour starts
Scheduled 5th contest starts
- 12:00** Pony Rides starts (12-2pm)
Photo Studio with 1800's era (clothes and props)
(Location on-site TBA...one hour only)
Scheduled 6th contest starts
- 12:30** Scheduled 4th and last 1800's history walking tour starts
Scheduled 7th contest starts
- 1:00** Scheduled 8th contest starts
- 1:30** Scheduled 9th and last contest starts
- 2:00** Door Prizes/Announcements (Mr. and Mrs. Cactus
and Best 1800's costume awards)
- 3:00** Close booths and all other activities
- 4:00** Parking lot closes



NOTE: Ticket booths will sell tickets for drinks, games, petting farm animals, pony rides, covered wagon, hayrides, photos taken at on-site studio, cook out meals, and much more!

Come one, come all with 1800's spirit!

JOURDAN-BACHMAN PIONEER FARMS



What is Pioneer Farms?



At Pioneer Farms (PF), you'll find five-themed historic areas to explore: an 1840s Tonkawa Encampment, an 1860s German Immigrant Farm, an 1870s Texan Farm, an 1880s Cotton Planters Farm and an 1890s Sprinkle Corner rural village. In each area you can see and smell Texas history first-hand. Explore 200 beautiful, wooded acres, and discover exciting, memorable ways to experience Texas. Make this favorite pastime with your family. Don't miss the Scarborough Barn where you can get up close with your favorite farm animal friends, especially donkeys!

Directions to Pioneer Farms:

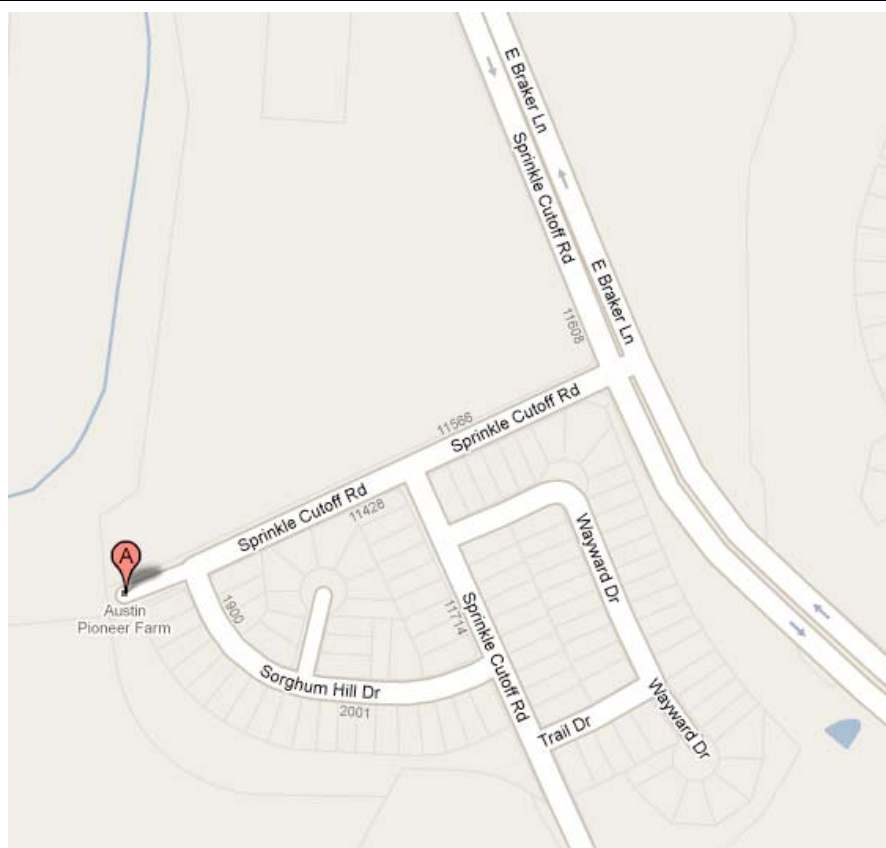
Exit East Braker Lane from I-35 (from North, Exit #244/from South, Exit # 241)

Stay on East Braker until Dessau Rd. (3rd traffic light), turn left (follow small brown PF signs)

Stay on Dessau Rd. till East Braker (1st traffic light), turn right on East Braker, continues following the PF signs

Turn right on Pioneer Farms Drive (old name was Sprinkle Cut Off Rd.)

At end of the Pioneer Farms Drive, you will see Pioneer Farms gate. Enter right gate.



2010 Ranch-O-Rama



2010 Ranch-O-Rama



Texas Association of the Deaf
Ranch-O-Rama
May 8, 2010 – 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Pioneer Farms
Austin, Texas 78754



CALL FOR EXHIBITORS*

TAD Ranch-O-Rama in 1800s setting will have excellent outdoor exhibit space. But we have a limited number of 8X10 tables and chairs, so register early. First come, first served policy applies. There will be about 500 in attendance. Any selling of food/drinks is not allowed. Please respond by April 9, 2010.

Name (Title): _____

Company/Program: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Products/Services exhibited: _____

* Bring own canopy if you wish

() Commercial \$150 _____

() Non-Profit/State Agency \$75 _____

Exhibit Total _____

Email this application to **Marilyn Swanson** at marilyn@deaftexas.org

Mail booth payment to Jo Bienvenu at **TAD, PO Box 1982, Manchaca, Texas 78652**

Make check payable to: **Texas Association of the Deaf**

Questions? marilyn@deaftexas.org



SPONSOR OPPORTUNITY

The Texas Association of the Deaf (TAD) is an organization for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing. It is a membership organization to provide information and education, including surveys and studies, to bring the viewpoint on various issues affecting the lives of those who are deaf or hard of hearing at all levels of the community. TAD also helps to ensure communications accessibility in our state, counties, and cities to our deaf and hard of hearing citizens. It has proven its commitment to address the needs of deaf and hard of hearing members for more than a century. We will also be happy to provide a form to document your tax-deductible contribution.

Levels of Sponsorships:

_____ Gold (\$1,000+) _____ Bronze (\$500+)

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Sponsorship money or donations payable by check or money order to Texas Association of the Deaf. Purchase orders from state agencies are accepted. Send to Marilyn at e-mail address given below.

Marilyn Swanson, General Chair

If you have questions please send them to: Marilyn@deaftexas.org



TSD grapplers 2010 national co-champions!



The National Deaf Interscholastic Athletics Association has announced that the Texas School for the Deaf wrestling team has been honored as the 2010 National Co-Champion Wrestling Team along with the Maryland School for the Deaf.

This is an outstanding achievement for the TSD grapplers. They were selected out of all schools for the deaf in the United States. TSD not only snared the co-championship, but its wrestling coach, Brian Laird, also was bestowed the singular honor of being the Wrestling Coach of the Year.

That isn't all, folks, as TSD senior Adrian Barajas copped the Wrestler of the Year award. Every single one of the Rangers on the TSD wrestling team deserves to be called a champion.

The TAD proudly salutes TSD students, staff, and coaches who supported the wrestling team.

New *The Deaf Texan* Ad Rates

Full-page color: \$75 per issue or \$250 per year
(four consecutive issues)

Half-page color: \$50 per issue or \$175 per year
(four consecutive issues)

Quarter-page color: \$25 per issue or \$75 per year
(four consecutive issues)

File Specifications

Formats: .jpg, .tif, .pdf **Resolution:** 300 dpi

Ad Sizes (width x height; in inches)

Full page: 7.5 x 10

Half page: 7.5 x 5

Quarter page: 3.75 x 5

Deadlines

Summer 2010: Friday, June 18, 2010, 3:00 p.m.

Fall 2010: Friday, September 17, 2010, 3:00 p.m.

Winter 2011: Friday, January 7, 2011, 3:00 p.m.

Send ad to: Tim Jaech, TADeditor@deafTEXAS.org

Mail check to: Texas Association of the Deaf

P.O. Box 1982

Manchaca, TX 78652

How to print a page from *The Deaf Texan*

We have received requests for information on how to print pages or articles from the electronic version of *The Deaf Texan*. Below are instructions.



From an online copy (your e-mail copy) of *The Deaf Texan*, do the following:

1. Click on the printer icon (drawing) in the PDF toolbar at the top of your screen.
2. On the "Print" menu box that shows up, click on Pages.
3. Highlight the page numbers shown.
4. Delete the page numbers and type the page number you want to print.
5. Click on the "Print" box.
6. Your printer will print your paper copy (hard copy).
7. Use the copy to fill in and mail in or file away.

Experiencing Italy with Hands On Travel

By Betty Bounds

On March 14, a small group set out to tour Italy with Hands On Travel, under the lead of Hands On Travel owner and Rome resident Terry Giansanti. There were eight of us, including Ronald and Melvia Nomeland, Richard and Lu Bonheyo, Bob and June McMahon, and Larry and Betty Bounds-Evans.

We flew into Rome from different U.S. cities. Once everyone arrived, we took off for the Amalfi Coast area and stayed three nights near Sorrento. Sorrento is on a ledge under the mountains, over the Mediterranean. The area is filled with lemon and olive groves, and people can buy lemon cream, lemon oil, and so many other things made from lemons and olives. We enjoyed riding around the very steep hillsides and viewing houses built there with great ocean views. We also walked around the small shopping areas and sampled the foods offered. It takes courage and/or experience to drive safely on the steep curved and very narrow roads around the mountainsides. After a few initial scares, we felt confident that Terry was a safe driver.

We then headed to Pompeii, where we viewed what was left after the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in A.D. 79. We got a better understanding of what life must have been like 2,000 years ago. The ruins have been preserved and we were able to explore what was left. Pompeii at one time was a thriving port of 20,000 residents and was an important city.

We returned to Rome on March 18. Wow, such a crowded city! There seemed to be just as many visitors there as there were residents. We took a historic walk around the center of Rome. We visited the Forum, Colosseum, Capitol Hill, Pantheon and Piazza Navona areas.

On March 20, we visited the heart of the Catholic world, which included the Vatican museums and St. Peter's Church, along with Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica. Terry was amazing as he told us the stories of each famous area. We also visited Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica.



The Amalfi Coast envelops the group in Positano, Italy.

There are four miles of displays in the immense museums, and it was crowded with so many visitors from all over the world. We were impressed with the displays of centuries-old artwork that was also on the ceilings. In the evening we enjoyed dinner at the International Wine Academy of Rome, owned by a deaf man, who also owned an elegant hotel across the street. The food was elegant and tasty!

The next day, we went to Tuscany and Siena, where many postcard pictures are taken. The wine there is considered unbeatable. We visited several rustic towns. Throughout our tour, whenever we stopped to

eat, Terry was recognized by the owners and received special attention for his tour groups. We did what Terry suggested: "Relax and soak in the beauty of Tuscany."

We also drove to the fortified village of Monteriggioni where the medieval walls were built in the Middle Ages and are still fully intact! Afterwards we went to the Fattoria La Muraglia, owned by deaf brothers Giovanni and Paolo Convito. Giovanni is responsible for the winery while Paolo runs the bed and breakfast. Giovanni gave us a very entertaining visit of the winery.

In Florence we stopped by Michelangelo's David, the Duomo and Baptistery. So many churches and sculptures! Terry was efficient and smooth in getting us through the long lines at all the museums.

We headed to Pisa to visit the famous Leaning Tower the next day. We were in awe of its leaning over, appearing ready to fall anytime! Richard and Lu Bonheyo bravely took the steps all the way to the top and back down again. The next day we headed to Venice and spent the afternoon exploring the city. You may know that Venice is on an island with no roads – thus not a car was in sight throughout our stay there. We visited St. Mark, the Doge's Palace and the Bridge of Sighs, and visited Venice's many art treasures. Venice has amazing places to shop and dine at.

On March 29, we finally had to return home to the U.S. We have such incredible memories and the utmost respect for Italians. Thanks must go to our excellent tour guide, Terry.



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Sharon Kay Crawford Forestal Hovinga, Ed.S.
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WARNING: Please be aware that, currently, some numbering limitations of VRS-based 911 video calls may prevent automatic referral of your location information to 911 emergency authorities. The resulting need to gather this information and convey it to emergency responders manually increases the amount of time for these calls, as well as the risk of error. For this reason, if you do not have a registered 10-digit telephone number, or reside in an area where a geographically appropriate telephone number could not be readily provided to you, The Z™ recommends for you to dial 911 from a TTY or use a traditional TTY relay services to make 911 calls.

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Guests will indulge in gourmet, wine-paired courses, thrill to silent and live auctions, and enjoy special entertainment featuring TSD & its students.



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MAY 6, 2010 AT 6PM

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Sponsor benefits include recognition in 200 event programs as noted below. Sponsors will also be featured on www.tsdfdiamondevent.com, listed in pre-event email blasts, press releases and other media as appropriate.



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Texas Association of the Deaf Membership Application Form

P.O. Box 1982, Manchaca, Texas 78652

Established in 1886

**PLEASE PRINT OUT THIS FORM AND FILL OUT OR FILL OUT
AND EMAIL TO US OR GO ONLINE TO DEAFTEXAS.ORG TO JOIN**

Today's Date: _____

Full Name:	
Organization/Department:	
Address:	
City:	State:
Zip/Postal Code:	
TTY Phone:	
Voice Phone:	
FAX Phone:	
E-mail address:	
Total paid: \$	

Check which is applicable:

- Active Members:** \$20.00 for two years – Any person, 18 years old and up, who is a resident of the State of Texas
- Associate Member:** \$15.00 for two years – Any person, 18 years old and up, who is a non-resident of the State of Texas
- Retired Member:** \$15.00 for two years – Any Texas resident who is 55 years of age or older

Payable to: **Texas Association of the Deaf**
P.O. Box 1982
Manchaca, Texas 78652

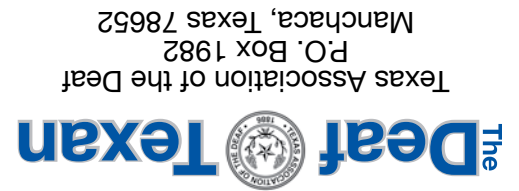
TAD is a 501(c)3 organization. All contributions are tax-deductible.

A returned check will be added extra \$30.00 for processing fee

Thank you for your support of TAD!

For questions about TAD membership,
Contact Membership Chair, tadmember@gmail.com
Website address: deafTEXAS.org

Revised April 4, 2010



Texas Association of the Deaf
P.O. Box 1982
Manhaca, Texas 78652

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