



"The Surrender of Santa Anna" by William H. Huddle,
located in the south entrance of the Texas Capitol. Injured General Sam Houston laying near Deaf Smith

Special 175th Texas Independence Three-part series about Deaf Smith

By Steve Baldwin, TDT Assistant Editor

Editors Note: *The Deaf Texan* is publishing a three-part series about Texas history's most famous deaf person, Erastus "Deaf" Smith. While the Internet provides a wealth of information about the famous spy/scout of the Texas Revolution, there seems to be an increase of inaccuracies, misinformation or inadequate facts about the significant role of Deaf Smith. *The Deaf Texan* is pleased to enlist the authority of Dr. Steve Baldwin who has been researching and writing about Deaf Smith since 1980. If any reader wishes to ask a question about Deaf Smith, email your question to the editor at jaechtajsr@gmail.com. *The Deaf Texan* will also feature an inserted question-and-answer box to accompany the next two issues of the series.

Part I: Was Deaf Smith really deaf?

World history has witnessed and documented the late deafness of Thomas A. Edison, Ludwig Beethoven and Goya. In fact, each historical figure had already written about his gradual deafness in his journal. The literature also correlates the impact of their late deafened lives on their respective inventive, musical and artistic achievements. However, this article will not focus entirely on the pathological, audiological or medical aspects of Erastus "Deaf" Smith (1787-1837) and his deafness. In view of his amazing military saga that covered only six months of the Texas Revolution, the reader needs to think of how Smith compensated for his lack of hearing and became famous for his remarkable feats.

Smith already had health issues with his lungs, most likely tuberculosis, due to a difficult breech birth when

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he was born in New York. By moving to Mississippi in 1817, then Texas in 1821 on a permanent basis, his frail health improved, probably due to the change in climates. Smith also credited skunk meat for the partial improvement. Consequently, entrepreneurs would sell cookbooks, peanut butter and other foodstuffs in Smith's name.

During his frequent hunting trips, he trained his dog to alert him by tugging at his trousers when there was a critter or even an enemy nearby. While the dog was his "ears", Smith was also called the "eyes of the (Texian) army." His contemporaries also noted that his voice was "high-pitched" and "squeaky". In several battles, he often told his fellow soldiers that whizzing bullets never bothered him and thus enabled him to observe the progress of the battle. Unfortunately, one bullet found its mark on December 3, 1735 on an old San Antonio roof during a house-to-house combat with the Mexican army in a victorious pre-Alamo battle. Smith was back in action in a few weeks after recuperating from his wounds. It is believed that those old wounds and his chronic respiratory infection killed him at the age of 50 in 1837.



Portrait by T. Jefferson Wright, commissioned by Sam Houston, in 1836

His friends often pointed out his mannerisms, in which he always hunted alone, avoided social gatherings or rarely engaged in heavy conversations. Witnesses also noted that Smith tended to mumble or curse to himself in a self-imposed isolation fashion. Although he learned to speak Spanish fluently after marrying in 1822 in old San Antonio, Smith was rarely home for his wife and children. He was often gone for weeks on hunting or other adventurous businesses. It should be pointed out that his favorite son-in-law, Henrick Arnold, a free Black that fought with Smith in his spy and scout unit, often spoke on behalf of Smith in different situations.

Another source of information that proves that Smith was deaf, regardless of the degree of hearing loss, comes from relatively few contemporary examples of his own writing that were preserved in some museums, libraries, archives or reprinted in historical magazines. One such document was dated November 25, 1832, in a letter to General Rusk, which shows misspelled or nasal-sounding words that sometimes are attributed to people who are hard of hearing or suffer from a progressive hearing loss. This writer has a hard of hearing sister who writes in the same manner or style as Deaf Smith, more or less.

Before the age of political correctness influenced society, nearly all the historical documents refer to his deafness and forever use his sobriquet, "Deaf," with respect in a civil manner that was never meant to be insulting. During the Texas Sesquicentennial, Deaf Smith was featured in the 1986 Texian Calendar and Diary along with other heroes such as Sam Houston, Stephen F. Austin, James Bowie, David Crockett and other prominent Texan revolutionary heroes. In the calendar, Smith's "hearing loss" is mentioned along with his some of his incredible military feats.

Perhaps the best evidence of his progressive hearing loss is seen in the huge original painting by William H. Huddle in the main foyer of the Texas capitol, called the "Surrender of Santa Anna," which was done in 1886. Incidentally, Huddle interviewed surviving veterans of the Battle of San Jacinto (1836) and that was how the painter realized the extent of Deaf Smith's hearing loss. (Coincidentally, Huddle's wife was an art teacher at the Texas School for the Deaf.) Placing Smith conspicuously next to General Houston signifies the prominent role Smith played in the pivotal victory. Cupping the hand by the ear was a practice that Edison, Beethoven and Goya also utilized to try to "catch" sounds, just as Deaf Smith did. Of course, none of these gentlemen used sign language, but communicated often through pencil and pad, which Smith seldom utilized.

There is no question about Deaf Smith's progressive hearing loss, but how he compensated and accomplished incredible military feats in a short time underscores his contributions towards the independence of Texas in 1836.

Part II: What are the documented feats of Deaf Smith? (Spring issue.)

Part III: Does a recently discovered painting validate Deaf Smith's pivotal role in the Texas Revolution? (Fall issue.)

Editor's View

Looking through 'Eyes of Texas'

Tim Jaech, Editor



Look left. See anything different? It's the same guy, but minus the cowboy hat. OK, it isn't a photo like the last time. I finally got up enough nerve to use a very nice drawing of yours truly by our own nationally known artist, Chuck Baird. It's not a new me I

want to show off, but just a way for me to pay tribute to Chuck and his remarkable talent. At my age, I need to cheat to look better.

While working on this issue, we had to call your attention to so many different things. First off the bat, we had more information to share for the TAD conference in Big Spring during July 16-19, 2011. We had so much that we decided to print a TAD Conference 2011 Special Edition and send it out to all the members separately from this issue. If you haven't gotten your special edition yet via email, it means one of two things – you need to update your email information or you need to renew your membership. If you are not a TAD member, please go to page www.deaftexas.org

If you join between now and June 16, 2011 the TAD will honor your new membership through June 2013!

Note the special offer in red at the bottom of the application.

Assistant Editor Steve Baldwin has given all of us a special treat in this issue. It's the first part of a three-part series on Deaf Smith -- quick, what's his real first name? Erastus, and it was he who contributed much to the independence of Texas in 1836. Baldwin is sure to keep us in suspense until the second and third articles come up in the next two issues. Nice way for TAD to celebrate Texas' 175th birthday.

A great time was had by all who attended the events during the week when the TAD and NAD boards held their meetings simultaneously right here in Austin, where many hosted the dignitar-
A Texas Association of the Deaf Publication

ies and members at the Texas School for the Deaf, the Rutowski residence, and the various weird-but-great Austin sites. Be sure to look at the TAD section where there are reports and great pictures.

The TAD section has some serious legislative updates on bills affecting the deaf community. The TAD board, Billy Collins, Jr., and David H. Pierce are to be commended for their superb voluntary watchfulness. The spirit of volunteerism lives on in the Lone Star state!

The TSD Alumni Association looks to keep up with new technology in keeping its members up to date on what keeps the TSDAA strong. Read President Andrew Horn's letter on page 11.

I had a wonderful time with Austin Attorney Faye Kuo, with whom I sat down for an interview back in August of 2010. It took a bit longer than planned, but I'm sure you will find that interview interesting. You might even think about becoming a lawyer, or encouraging your deaf children and grandchildren to look into that field. Yes, they can be lawyers!

Last month I had the pleasure of listening to Miss Deaf Texas pageant director Amanda Tuite outline the plans for the Austin fundraiser and the competition to be held in Houston this year. Amanda and her crew are to be applauded for the fantastic work they have put in thus far. It's hard work, believe me. Read the articles and flyers in this issue.

Did you know that DARS DHHS Director David Myers and his staff have created the first trilingual interpreter certification in the nation? Right here in Texas! Read Myers' report in this issue.

If you love professional hockey, go to page 21 of this issue and make plans to attend the TAD fundraiser event sponsored by the Dallas Stars. \$5.00 of every ticket sold for the Stars vs. Minnesota Wild game on March 11th will go to the TAD!

Last, but not least, the *TDT* back cover page lists all the known TAD presidents since 1886. This will win someone a lot of bets if he or she memorizes the names – perhaps more bets if the names and corresponding term years are memorized. Texas Deaf Trivia game inventors, get to work.

By the way, this year the TAD celebrates the 125th anniversary of its founding!

Greetings from the TAD President

By Paul Rutowski

The Texas Association of the Deaf hit the ground running when the calendar for 2011 had just barely greeted the month of January!

On January 20, 2011, David Pierce, a loyal TAD sentry for issues affecting the deaf community at the Texas legislature, and I attended a Texas legislative luncheon and met with several legislators to socialize and discuss upcoming deaf-relevant bills during the current Texas 82nd legislative session. The TAD was one of the 23 statewide organizations attending this important gathering, which was arranged by the Disability Policy Consortium (DPC). See elsewhere in this issue a discussion of bills identified by Billy Collins, Jr. and David Pierce.



David H Pierce, Representative John Kuempel, Paul Rutowski at the Disability Policy Consortium luncheon at the capitol.

The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) board members and officers arrived in Austin that same evening of January 20th to kick off its 3-day schedule of activities, the first being a joint TAD/NAD board member dinner at Guero's Taco Bar on South Congress Avenue.

On January 21-22, the Texas School for the Deaf graciously lent its facilities to host the separate board meetings of the TAD and NAD on those days. Members of both organizations and the public were welcome to attend and observe both meetings.

A very successful fundraising event was held on Friday night at the TSD Deaf Smith Center. We auctioned off gourmet cupcakes and donated original artworks by Chuck Baird. Later, attendees wound up at a downtown honky-tonk nightclub, riding and bucking its mechanical bull.



NAD Vice President Chris Wagner, outgoing NAD CEO/executive director Nancy Bloch and Howard Rosenblum, her successor.

The following Saturday night, another fundraiser by the NAD was hosted at the Rutowski residence that included a live TV (iDeaf news) cooking show and a roasting for outgoing NAD CEO Nancy Bloch, who has served as CEO for 18 years. Special videophone calls came in nationally from Dr. Roz Rosen, Drs. Harvey Goodstein and wife Astrid, Dr. T. Alan Hurwitz, Merv Garretson, Dr. Glenn Anderson

and several others. This special roast was well attended by over 80 people and all proceeds went to the NAD Bloch Internship scholarship.

The iDeaf live broadcast caught comments from the NAD vice president, Chris Wagner, saying, "...What a fabulous evening! Keep up the great work and thanks for supporting the NAD!" and Nancy Bloch, who said, "Hats off for a wonderful evening and I appreciate your rooting for the NAD!" Howard Rosenblum, incoming NAD CEO, had a huge smile all evening.

I want to thank Peggy Ann St. John-Wenger for her efforts with planning the logistics for the NAD and TAD board members/officers during that exciting weekend.

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Winter 2011

Dates to circle on your calendars:

March 11, 2011 - Deaf Awareness Night at the Dallas Stars vs. Minnesota Wild hockey game in Dallas. \$5.00 from every ticket sold will be donated to the TAD! (See flyer for this event in this issue)

April 2, 2011 - Amanda Tuite, director of the 2011 Miss Deaf Texas Pageant (MDTP) has great plans for the Deaf Masquerade Gala fundraiser on April 2, 2011 in Austin. See you there behind a mask! (Also see flyer in this issue)

June 16-18, 2011 - TAD Biennial Conference in Big Spring, Texas. Kathy Weldon and Steven Meyer of SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf have very promising plans for the event. Plan on attending! *The Deaf Texan* has already published and e-blasted a TAD Conference 2011 Special Edition with information needed to attend the conference. The colorful edition is available online at www.deaftexas.org and a limited number of hard copies are available.

July 23, 2011 - Amanda Tuite has lined up an all-star committee for a most enjoyable MDTP competition in Houston. (Look for a flyer in this issue and *The Deaf Texan* 2011 spring issue for details)



TAD President Rutowski and NAD President Bobbie Beth Scoggins appear before the NAD board

TAD board meeting highlights

For the first time since June 2009, President Paul Rutowski had a full board in attendance on January 22 at the Texas School for the Deaf. Unlike past meeting formats, the board meeting was broken into two parts: officers' reports and other essential business matters on Friday, then reconvened the next morning to hear from standing committee chairs.

The TAD board was pleased to receive updated reports from the following: Kathy Weldon and Steve Meyer of SWCID on the exciting conference plans; Amanda Tuite about the wonderful gala and pageant competition plans; Billy Collins, Jr. about eight pending bills affecting all of us; and Tim Jaech on *The Deaf Texan* business and his latest meeting with people dealing with the Gallaudet University Regional Center - Southwest at Austin Community College.

According to a former TAD officer who attended both TAD meetings, it was one of the most informative, organized, and

economical meetings in a long time. In a rare moment between these meetings, President Rutowski introduced the TAD board to the NAD board, which were meeting in the same building on the TSD campus. It may have been the first time that there was a state association meeting at the same time in the same building as the NAD board, albeit in different rooms. Both boards also met for lunch and dinner, which was arranged by the special TAD/NAD/TSD liaison Peggy Ann St. John-Wenger.

For the record, TAD passed four new business motions during its formal meeting. They are as follows: 1) Agreed to donate \$250 to the Nancy Bloch internship scholarship; 2) Approved a



L-R: S. Grona -Director, P. Rutowski - President, M. Myers - Vice President, L. Evans -Director, J. Mills - Treasurer, S. Baldwin - Secretary, and C. Nagy -Director

signed copy from co-producers Steve Baldwin and David Pierce of the TAD documentary film/DVD "A Journey Through Deaf Texas" to Nancy Bloch as a gift from the TAD; 3) Voted to make replicated DVD copies of the TAD documentary available to the public this year; and 4) Agreed to offer a special incentive to new and old members who join TAD after January 22, 2011 by extending the membership to June of 2013.

During the evening of January 21, over 75 people attended the combined community/fundraiser event at TSD. Nearly \$2700 was raised for NAD, thanks partially to Chuck Baird's two donated original artworks. The long weekend ended with a nice roast of the departing NAD CEO/Executive Director Nancy Bloch at the home of Paul and Avonne Rutowski in the presence of 85 invited guests and was shown live on iDeafNews by Seth Gerlis and his crew.



Nancy Bloch responds to another amusing roast comment.

Call for nominations of TAD officers/board directors

The Texas Association of the Deaf is looking for new officers and board directors to serve the state association for the term from 2011 to 2013. The biennial election will take place in Big Spring, Texas, where SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf will host the 46th biennial conference from June 16 to 18, 2011.

If a member wishes to nominate someone, be sure the nominee is a paid member in good standing of TAD and agrees to be nominated. Although deadline for all nominations is May 2, 2011, last-minute nominations may be taken from the floor during election after the general meeting on the afternoon of June 18.

Please mail your nomination to Karl Ewan in care of TAD, P.O. Box 1982, Manchaca, Texas, 78652, or email Ewan at: kaewansj@gmail.com.

Call for nominations for TAD awards

The TAD is also seeking worthy nominees for four traditional awards to be given at its 46th biennial conference at SWCID in Big Spring, Texas. The criteria for each award is as follows:

TAD Volunteer Award: Given to a TAD member who volunteers consistently on his/her own free time for the last two years with a heart of gold in the best interest of TAD's mission and goals.

Education Award: Given to a person who is a dedicated educator who works as a teacher, administrator, classroom aide or some other professional capacity in the field of deaf education in a residential or day school setting. The nominee must demonstrate a strong bond with his/her students, communicate well with the parents, and is considered by his/her peers to be an excellent model for the profession.

Distinguished Service Award: Given to a person inside or outside the TAD whose services on behalf of the deaf and hard of hearing in Texas have a significant impact on their welfare.

TAD/NAD Golden Hand Award: Given to any person or organization who has actively been involved in impressive activities from 2009 to 2011 that improve the social, economic and educational well being of the deaf and hard of hearing communities in Texas.

One helpful rule of the thumb would be the fact that the nominee in general must be someone who goes over and the above the call of duty in any conspicuous capacity and is not substantially paid by an agency or company to perform those given responsibilities to or for the Texas deaf community.

Nominations must be received by the deadline of May 2, 2011 by 5:00 PM. The nominator does not have to be a TAD member. Send only by email to TAD board director Susie Grona at suzygrona@yahoo.com. The winner will be notified by the end of May. There is no formal nomination form, but the nominator must include justifications for the award as well as the nominee's email address and mailing address.



Cindy Nagy, TAD board Director with Rachel Mazique, the reigning Miss Deaf America

Report on the current Texas 82nd Legislative Session

By Billy Collins, Jr.



As we enter this Legislative Session, it should prove to be quite interesting indeed. The state of Texas is faced with approximately a \$27 billion dollar deficit. Ten billion of that will be from Education. We may see more consolidation of agencies, elimination of services and huge cuts in funding across the board. This will definitely affect TSD, the Regional Day School Programs and DARS in both monetary cuts and program reductions.

We may see cuts in Medicaid services, more refusal by doctors to see patients on Medicaid and possibly even Medicare. Voter registration, illegal immigration and imminent domain issues have been given emergency status by the Governor.

Texas will also be looking at redistricting in the near future with the addition of three seats in Congress as a result of the recent census.

Currently there are eight bills already filed that have either direct or indirect impact upon individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

These bills are:

- ☐ SB 270 by Senator Uresti. This bill broadens the current statutes regarding newborn and infant hearing screening requirements.
- ☐ SB 104 by Senator Brown. This bill abolishes the Higher Education Coordinating Board that currently oversees colleges and universities requirements including the tuition waiver and transfers the powers and duties to the Texas Education Agency.
- ☐ SB 32 by Senator Zaffirini. This bill combines waivers for tuition and special target populations into one place and requires schools to monitor combined costs associated with such waivers. If they total over 1 million dollars, then a special report must be issued to the legislature. This includes the current tuition waiver utilized by the deaf and hard of hearing students in Texas colleges and universities. This could possibly even affect DARS should the waiver ever be eliminated, reduced or changed.
- ☐ SB 286 by Senator Harris. This bill deals with the payment of professional services in guardianship proceedings. This includes the payment of interpreter services.
- ☐ SB 220 by Senator Nelson. This bill has to do with covering the costs incurred in guardianship services including the costs of interpreters.
- ☐ HB 331 by Representative Guillen. This bill deals with court costs including interpreters. It requires payment into a general local fund that would be used to cover such costs.
- ☐ SB 170 by Senator Ellis. This bill gives authority to public defenders to investigate the financial condition of a person who is appointed representation by the court. The purpose may possibly require repayment of costs incurred by the court including the cost of interpreter services.
- ☐ HB 686 by Representative Dutton. This bill outlines all who are covered in the secrecy of the grand jury proceedings and includes the interpreter as well.

Any further changes regarding additional requirements for the sign language medical interpreter that we as an organization wish to see should be pursued as well. Representative Rodriguez' aide has stated that they are willing to pursue this since it has been strongly felt that the current recommendation of the medical interpreters task force did not do enough for sign language interpreters. There seems to have been an increase in entry-level interpreters and even interpreting students being used in medical situations. This is not always done as result of

necessity but as a way to cut costs and maximizing profits at the expense of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The Deaf-Blind Task Force is seeking funds for a pilot project funded through the state's relay services. It is my understanding they hope to be able to utilize the support service provider (SSP) to help individuals who are deaf-blind to access telecommunications services and relay services. I think that the TAD's support of this endeavor would be a very positive push for this group. I believe that Representative Naishtat will be filing this bill. It should have little to no fiscal impact upon the current costs of relay services.

There are also major changes occurring on the national level. The FCC has been busy making changes to relay services, captioning services, and internet services. It is quite likely more changes are to come and we all need to be sure and stay on top of these issues as they arise.

TSD is seeking alternate funding sources such as fundraising through the TSD Foundation. This is a creative and necessary way to make up some of the steep cuts they will be facing this session. Any support we can afford them will help our future generation of deaf students.

CSD has begun a new project nationally to help deaf and hard of hearing individuals access the internet and obtain netbooks so that they can utilize relay services.

TSID is also very interested in working with TAD in watching these issues and has asked each local chapter for a representative or representatives to aid us in getting the word out at the local level should we need immediate action on any items during this session. Thanks to Rita Lee and Erma Webb for their support in these efforts.

I would like to thank David Pierce for monitoring many of these bills and alerting us all when new bills are filed. The feedback he is able to receive back from those on his listserv provide much needed assistance in seeing and feeling the pulse of the deaf and hard of hearing community.

I would also like to recognize Mark Seeger for his help in watching what is happening both locally and on the national level and now, with the assistance of Faye Kuo, both will be a great asset to us all.

Thanks finally to the TAD board and its legislative committee for their tireless work and willingness to be ready in an instant to spend the day at the Capitol whenever necessary.

(Editor's note: In view of Collins' vital legislative update, we are reminded again about the crucial role the TAD is playing to safeguard our rights. After 125 years of advocating for civil rights, the work of the TAD continues.)

Texas Deaf Issues: Legislative updates

In addition to the above report by Billy Collins, Jr., which lists eight bills, David H. Pierce, our loyal moderator of TexasDeafIssues Listserve Yahoo group, lists four more bills as of February 4, 2011. With more than 90 days left of the 82nd legislative session, more bills affecting the deaf and hard of hearing community will be filed.

Based on the experience of past TAD officers and faithful watchdogs, most bills do not always go beyond the committee or public hearings and they may just languish until the next session in two years. However, whenever the chosen TAD legislative committee representatives hear of a beneficial bill that needs immediate testifying, arrangements are made pronto to visit the capitol.

Pierce and Collins are two of the several friends we have who are keeping a close watch on all 12 bills as listed in the publication. Texas Legislature Online has an excellent daily progress report on each of the given bills, so TAD members and friends need to take advantage of this technology.

Here are the other four bills to be on the lookout for:

- HB 386 Author: Raymond Last Action: 12/06/2010 H Filed Caption: Relating to the instruction of American Sign Language in public high schools.
- HB 543 Author: Dutton Last Action: 01/07/2011 H Filed Caption: Relating to the admissibility of certain confessions in capital cases.
- HB 921 Author: Lewis Last Action: 01/26/2011 H Filed Caption: Relating to the reimbursement of certain medical, dental, or health-related services as a condition of community supervision and to the revocation of community supervision for failure to make certain payments.
- SB 229 Author: Nelson Last Action: 01/31/2011 S Referred to Health & Human Services Caption: Relating to birthing facilities required to offer newborn hearing screenings.

11th Clerc Classic Tournament

The Texas School for the Deaf (TSD) hosted the 11th Clerc Classic Basketball tournament for the first time in Austin from Jan. 13 to 15. Seven schools flew in for the national event, except for The Learning Center of Massachusetts, which cancelled its trip due to a blizzard back east.

The Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD) defeated a strong team from the Alabama School for the Deaf (AIDB) for the boys' championship round and the Indiana School for the Deaf girls' team won their championship. The MSD boys' team won for the third time in 11 years and the girls from Indiana won for the first time. TSD won the consolation championship for both the boys' and girls' teams. The Model Secondary School for the Deaf won the cheerleading championship and TSD's own Marisa King placed on the all-star Spirit team. TSD's all-around senior athlete Austin Hill was named to the all-star team. For further results, check the adjacent page, courtesy of TSD.

Accolades are in order for co-chairs Chris Hamilton and Jesse Bailey with TSD athletic department assistant administrator Terri Levine for planning all the logistics for the productive tournament. TSD continues to validate its reputation as an effective and efficient national host for major athletic sports.

[Editor's note: The smooth operation of

the tournament was a credit to Athletic Director Hamilton's crew. Jesse Bailey's referees ran the floors and ruled professionally. No one knew they were deaf until they used signs to communicate among themselves and the players. Jesse Bailey did a bang-up job of pulling this excellent team of referees together for this great tournament.]



Award Winners

Cheerleading	
All-Tournament	
Karla Weiner - Maryland	Tiara Finch - Indiana
Ivy Davis - Fremont	Marisa King - Texas
Marilyn Rivas - Riverside	Raven Sutton - Alabama
Seth Washington - Model	Minesha Kabba - Arkansas
Spirit Award	
Indiana	
Team Awards	
1 st place: Model	
2 nd place: Indiana	
3 rd place: Maryland	
Basketball	
Team Awards	
Boys	Girls
1 st place: Maryland	1 st place: Indiana
2 nd place: Alabama	2 nd place: Alabama
3 rd place: Fremont	3 rd place: Maryland
Consolation Champs: Texas	Consolation Champs: Texas
All-Tournament	
Boys	Girls
Todd Bonheyo, Maryland	Megan Bernella, Indiana
Jesse Steingieser, Maryland	TraciAnn Hoglind, Indiana
Trey Gordon, Alabama	Tuesdae Dunklin, Alabama
Demetric Snider, Alabama	Kanisha Jones, Alabama
Antoine Nathaniel, Fremont	Augusta Seremeth, Maryland
Mohamed Kamara, Model	Alexandria Brinkley, Fremont
Austin Hill, Texas	Marika Beyer, Texas
Raymond Nelson, Riverside	Adele Fass, Model
Kyle Bingham, Indiana	Shani Ambrester, Riverside
	Raki Gist, Arkansas
MVP	
Boys	Girls
Shawn Harrington, Maryland	Kate Fetzer, Indiana
School Sportsmanship Award	
Boys: Alabama	Girls: Arkansas



Clerc Classic MVPs:
Kate Fetzer of ISD,
the versatile sparkplug
who led ISD over ASD for
the girls' championship.

Shawn Harrington of
MSD, all-around player,
earned MSD its
victory over ASD for the
boys' championship.



Greetings from TSDAA

By Andrew Horn
TSDAA President



We would like to share
the news of TSDAA
with you. We had our
annual meeting as well
as the election of offi-
cers during Homecom-
ing Day last October.

The Bylaws were changed and approved.
Executive board meetings will be held twice
a year instead of four times a year. We will
have had our first official meeting on January
29, 2011 (by the time this issue is published).

Our first goal is to raise funds for the
TSDAA general fund. We are thinking
of having a picnic. Our second goal is to
change our TSDAA website by using Word
Press, which is very convenient for our of-
ficers to use for communicating with each
other. We can add or post information on
the Word Press website, as well as store all
our information into the archives. Our cur-
rent website is not able to do that. Our new
website is still under construction because it
needs tuning and tweaking. Once it is ready,
it will be turned over to Walker Estes, '74,
who is the TSDAA webmaster.

By the way, we still have our TSDAA infor-
mation on Facebook on TexanVRS, which
no longer exists. If you have been a fan
of TexanVRS, please move to the TSDAA
Facebook site, For TexanVRS. We are still
working on this.

Well, we are now into the year 2011 and it
means that our Homecoming Day will arrive
soon in the fall. I don't have the Homecom-
ing dates yet. Once I know the dates, it will
be announced on the TSDAA website.

If you are interested in joining TSDAA,
please contact me or one of the officers at
www.tsdAA.org Thank you!

Austin Hill named football player of the year!

The National Deaf Interscholastic Athletic
Association (NAIAA) named Austin Hill, a versatile
student/athlete senior at Texas School for the Deaf,
as the 4th annual fall sports 11-man football player
of the year. NAIAA is made up of athletes of 30
schools for the deaf across the country. There are
about nine schools that field 11-man football teams
and the selections are made by personnel at these
nine schools, including TSD's athletic director Chris
Hamilton.

Hill had a stellar season for the varsity football team
as a wide receiver, right back, and linebacker. At five
feet and ten inches and weighing 178 pounds, Hill
made 47 catches for a total of 1173 yards and 19
touchdowns.



It should also be
noted that TSD
placed another
player on the
first NAIAA All-
American team.
S o p h o m o r e
Dalton Etkie
passed 133
times out of 263
attempts with
21 touchdowns.
Both Etkie
and Hill played
o u t s t a n d i n g
defense with the
former making

29 tackles and the latter achieving 41 tackles.

(Sources: NAIAA and TSD Athletic Department.)

Profiles of Deaf Texans

Interview with Faye Kuo, Attorney

By Tim Jaech, Editor

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 was signed into law on July 26, 1990, by President George H. W. Bush. The ADA specifies, under certain circumstances, that discrimination based on disability is illegal. Faye Kuo is an attorney in Austin, Texas who once considered her legal future in bankruptcy and family law as well as other areas, but found ADA law much more appealing for a reason; she is deaf.



Kuo and her older brother were born deaf to hearing parents in Chicago. She also has a hearing sister and brother. Her mother was a progressive parent who learned sign language in the '70s upon learning that her eldest son was deaf. Kuo grew up learning language via the "Total Communication" (TC) method, which encouraged the use of signs in English word order. At present, Kuo is comfortable following American Sign Language (ASL) receptively, but prefers to use signs expressively in English word order.

After graduating from high school, Kuo enrolled at the University of Illinois and later transferred to the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) to take advantage of its superior support services provided by the National Technical Institute of the Deaf (NTID). After obtaining her B.S. degree in Psychology from RIT, she graduated with a JD (juris doctorate) from the John Marshall Law School in Chicago.

One of the most challenging experiences Kuo had during law school was educating law students and professors (attorneys and judges themselves) on how to interact with deaf law students and deaf persons (as clients). Kuo said, "Most law students are hearing people and the majority will probably never meet a deaf lawyer during their careers or have a deaf person as a client."

During lawyer-client meetings, if Kuo has any difficulties communicating with certain types of deaf signers, she has no problem relying on the use of a certified deaf interpreter (CDI), to make sure that all is understood -- for the benefit of both herself and the deaf client. When asked if this situation might negatively affect the relationship between the deaf client and her as the attorney, Kuo replied, "Actually, I think it improves the relationship because I am trying to assure that the deaf client understands what is going on."

Continued on Page 13

Anxiety is common among people who go to court as a client of an attorney; it may be more so for deaf clients, since communication is typically a deaf person's greatest challenge in life. However, Kuo agrees that deaf people today are less nervous in court when accompanied by a deaf attorney who understands deaf culture. When asked about whether the number of deaf attorneys was increasing today, she said, "There are probably over 250 deaf attorneys now." This eye-opening estimate represents a dramatic rise in the number of deaf and hard of hearing attorneys over a period of the previous ten to fifteen years.

[Editor's note: With such an increase in deaf attorneys, it is a pleasure to note that the National Association of the Deaf recently announced the appointment of its new executive director, Howard K. Rosenblum, a deaf attorney from Chicago.]

After explaining that she enjoyed helping deaf people learn about their rights under the ADA (especially) "...with issues involving communication access in places of public accommodations," Kuo was asked if she ever wanted to be a trial lawyer. She responded that it was never something she could picture herself as being fully comfortable litigating in front of a judge and jury, but she would do it if her client's case demanded it of her.

What TV law shows come closest to reality? Kuo said it was probably the original version of "Law and Order."

Kuo indicated she was interested in other areas of law, such as divorce and preparation of wills, since they were very common in life. She recognizes that the deaf community often does not have effective communication in obtaining representation for these matters. The absence of attorneys who sign or understand the deaf culture has presented a void in the deaf community's legal needs that qualified deaf attorneys in those areas would provide an important bridge to gaps in such services.

Faye Kuo represents the new generation of deaf professionals who have developed confidence in themselves and pursued fields of expertise heretofore thought not possible for deaf persons. She has given ADA law its due – by providing us with an impressive example of what has become possible for deaf persons, when they learn how to access their rights to any kind of education and profession.

Correction

On page 13 of our TAD 2011 Conference Special Edition in the "About the Hotel" box, the Group code should be "SWCID" not "TAD2011"

MDTAP recruiting contestants

By Amanda Tuite, MDTAP Director

The Miss Deaf Texas competition is coming to Houston on July 23, 2011!

It will be at Lone Star College Center for the Arts, 9191 Barker Cypress Road, Cypress, TX 77095. Limited seating is available. Tickets will be on sale in spring 2011.

We are actively recruiting contestants. Please pass along this information to all the young deaf females between the ages of 17-29. For more information, please log on www.missdeaftexas.com

The MDT Ambassador Program (MDTAP) motto is, "It is the Time of Your Life." Hence, the MDTAP is not just a contest of beauty. It is a lifetime enrichment and motivational program. It is open to young deaf women from the State of Texas representing their hometowns. The MDTAP offers these women the opportunity to:

- Receive educational rewards in the form of scholarships
- Enter the Miss Deaf America Ambassador Program
- Share awareness of deaf culture and concerns
- Develop self-confidence
- Display talents
- Share ambitions & goals
- Develop leadership skills
- Become a winner!

Eligibility Requirements:

- Single
- Never have been married
- Never have borne a child
- United States citizen
- Resident of Texas for at least 1 year
- Between the ages of 18 and 30 by July 1, 2012
- Hearing loss must be 65-decibels or more
- Never been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony



The contestant usually represents an organization (deaf or hearing) or a business. A sponsor also may be a school or college that has a deaf program, a business, a private club (Lions, Quota, Deaf Club, Frat Divisions, etc.), parents, friends, etc. The sponsor is responsible for the hotel expenses and food.

The Miss Deaf Texas Ambassador Program as well as the Miss Deaf America Ambassador Program is judged on the following:

- Private interview
- Platform
- Artistic Expression
- Evening gowns
- Stage interviews

Miss Deaf Texas will represent the Texas Association for the Deaf at public events, ceremonies, and presentations for two years. She will be a great role model for young deaf people in Texas. She also will participate in the Miss Deaf America Ambassador Program during the biennial National Association of the Deaf Convention held in July 2012. The winner of the Miss Deaf America Ambassador Program will represent the National Association of the Deaf for two years.

Interested applicants may log on at www.missdeaftexas.com and fill out the application form. Contact information: Amanda Tuite, MDTAP Director, MissDeafTexas98@gmail.com

A Texas Association of the Deaf Publication

Deaf Masquerade Gala

Date: April 2, 2011

Time: Six p.m. to Midnight

Location: DoubleTree Hotel in Austin,
6505 IH-35 North, Austin, TX 78752

Tickets: \$50 per person, \$95 per couple by February 19, 2011,
\$70 per person, \$135 per couple after February 19, 2011

Attire: Formal with Mask

Email: DeafGala@Gmail.com

Money Order or Check payable to:
MDTP/TAD

Mail it to:

Deaf Masquerade Gala

P.O. Box 692488

Houston, TX 77269

*Age Requirement: 21 and up



From the Miss Deaf Texas Director...

Deaf Masquerade Gala

So many people are looking forward to this event on April 2nd. Why? Everyone gets to dress up like he or she is going to a ball. It's been a long while since my husband and I have been to a formal dance. The last time was my freshman year in college. Ah, those were the sorority days! I did think to myself, "Why wait for someone to host a formal event if we can make one happen?" My good friends, Melissa and Eric Emmons proposed a great idea...a "Deaf Masquerade Gala!" Louisiana has hosted so many Deaf Masquerade Galas. The Emmons went to the 2010 Deaf Masquerade Gala and definitely had a "ball!" We are truly honored and very excited to host the first Deaf Masquerade Gala sponsored by the Texas Association of the Deaf.

The gala should prove to be a wonderful night out with friends. There will be dancing, so why not go all out with your dresses and tuxedos or black ties? There will be a delicious Cajun buffet. Doubletree Hotel's desserts are to die for! The Deaf Masquerade fundraising committee has been hard at work to make this special. Be sure to check our Deaf Masquerade Gala Facebook page. In order to see it, you need to sign in your profile and type "Deaf Masquerade Gala" in the search box. You will be able to see examples of what the attire will look like.

It's the time to get away to mingle with a masquerade mask on, meet new "hidden" faces from different cities, and see some new beautiful artwork painted by our guest of honor, Chuck Baird. Hurry and buy your tickets now before they are sold out! The hotel rooms are booking fast. I am truly excited for everyone to experience this beautiful evening.

Because of this exciting event, the Miss Deaf Texas Ambassador Program (formerly known as Miss Deaf Texas Pageant), will be made possible. I want to take the time to thank Cindi Nagy, Steve Baldwin, Paul Rutowski, Caroline Koo, Amy Rincon, Kelly Reagan, Jenny Rice, Nicole Zatzkin, Meli Emmons, Eric Emmons, Andrea Alford, Jennifer Leeper, Candice Dodson, Jason Taylor, Staci Powers, Laura Hill, Jose Ovi Velasquez, Long Duong, Grant Laird, Tim Jaech, Chris Kearney and many people for their support in promoting this beautiful Gala! See you on April 2nd!

Best Regards,

Amanda Tuite

MDTAP Director



Miss Deaf Texas Ambassador Program

Advertising Information
www.missdeaftexas.com

Greetings!

Texas Association of the Deaf is hosting Miss Deaf Texas Pageant (MDTP), and it will be held in Houston, Texas on July 23rd, 2011. The program book will be a soft cover publication with about 20 to 30 pages. It will be distributed to all attendees at the pageant. This book will contain the evening's events, director's greeting, contestant's brief biography, history, your ads, even your ads' photos and much more! To purchase an advertisement space in the program book, please fill out this form and submit the ad to publish through email attachment. For further questions or assistance with the ad publishing, please contact MDTPprogrambook@gmail.com.

Pageant Program Advertisement: (Color ads)

Full Page	Half Page	Quarter Page	Business Card size
\$150	\$100	\$75	\$50

Please enclose a money order or check to:

Miss Deaf Texas Pageant
c/o Keri Wilson
P.O. Box 692488
Houston, TX 77269

Upon receipt of your ads through email attachment, and money order/check along with this fill-out form through mail, we will notify you by email.

Deadline: March 31, 2011

Keri Wilson
MDTP Program Book Coordinator
(Cut this dotted line and mail this to MDTP)

Name of Company/Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone/VP: _____

Page Size: _____ How many: _____ Amount: _____

DHHS Interpreter Training

By David Myers, Director, DARS DHHS



The Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS) has varied areas of responsibility for providing services that benefit Texans who are deaf or hard of hearing. That responsibility extends to interpreter services and to the interpreters who provide the services. The DHHS is well known for its Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) Interpreter Certification Program, and for its BEI Trilingual Interpreter Certification Program. In recent years, the DHHS, being aware that 65% of the Texas interpreters are certified at BEI Levels I or II, or BEI Basic, has provided interpreter training that focuses on upgrading the skills of interpreters. There are 13 interpreter training programs (ITPs)

located throughout Texas that provide interpreter training for individuals who have attained the signing skills needed to become interpreters. But after these trainees complete their ITP training, there are not a lot of opportunities for upgrading their skills, other than the annual Texas Society of Interpreters of the Deaf (TSID) conferences and a scattering of one-day or two-day workshops.

Starting in 2005, the DHHS began partnering with various organizations and entities to provide one-week intensive interpreter training series during the summer months at the SouthWest Collegiate Institute of the Deaf (SWCID) in Big Spring, Texas. The SWCID has been a tremendously important partner in this training effort by providing classroom space, dorm/meal services, and even transportation to and from the Midland-Odessa Airport -- all at a very reasonable cost. So, for the last 6 years this DHHS training at the SWCID has been one of the most active skill upgrade interpreter training programs in the country.

While the focus has been on training American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters/transliterators, specialty areas have been another focus. Hispanic Trilingual Interpreter training, probably the only such option available in this country, has been offered annually for the last 5 years. Equally important is the Deaf Interpreter training offered the last two years -- this too is a rarity in this country. Court Interpreter training, still another specialty area, was provided at the SWCID in 2010 and at locations in Austin, San Antonio, Corpus Christi, Dallas, and Houston in past years. The Trilingual Interpreter, Deaf Interpreter, and Court Interpreter trainings, though predominately serving Texas interpreters, has attracted trainees from more than a dozen states and Puerto Rico, as well as Canada and Mexico.

During 2010, the Trilingual Interpreter training at the SWCID attracted 30 trainees. The numbers could have been much larger but due to a limited number of staff, careful screening was necessary. For the Deaf Interpreter training, there were 19 trainees and careful screening also applied here. For the ASL Skill Building training, there were 59 trainees. There were 25 Court Interpreter trainees. The DHHS plans to continue its interpreter training offerings to the

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extent that is possible -- depending on funds available and especially on the support provided by partners. Over the 6-year period during which the DHHS and partners have provided the various interpreter trainings at the SWCID and elsewhere, more than 600 interpreters have participated.

The important partners who have provided support for the DHHS interpreter trainings are CSD of Texas, Sorenson Communications, Communications Access Ability Group (CAAG), the National Consortium of Interpreter Education Centers, and of course, the SWCID. Randi Turner, DHHS Advocacy and Training Coordinator, has used her organizing and coordinating skills to facilitate all of the trainings, teaming with other DHHS staff. Yolanda Chavira, DHHS Interpreter and Trilingual Coordinator, planned and coordinated the Trilingual training and recruited trainees and staff. Ann Horn, DHHS Communication Access Services Coordinator, provided assistance for most of the ASL trainings and did the planning and coordination for the Deaf Interpreter training and recruited trainees and staff. Lauri Metcalf has provided leadership and much expertise, having been heavily involved from the beginning in 2005 -- she has been an instructor for the ASL training each year.

Others involved include Amy Kalmus, Chris Grooms, Mark Seeger, Byron Bridges, Holly Warren-Norman, Jeff Anderson, Charles Trevino, Marcus Myers, Wess Smith, Marcie Murphy, Amy Frasu, Leslie Knowles, and Mindy Gold. For the Trilingual training, Gina Gonzalez, Carmen Garcia, Beatrice Burke, and various Spanish language instructors have contributed. For the Deaf Interpreter training, Eileen Forestal, Gino Gouby, Byron Bridges, Debbie Peterson, and Chris Grooms have served. For the Court Interpreter training at the SWCID and other locations, Carla Mathers of Washington, DC, a Texas native, and Ben Hall from Ohio have sometimes been solo instructors. Buddy Bauer and Lynn Weisman have also contributed.

TAD partners with CSD's Project Endeavor

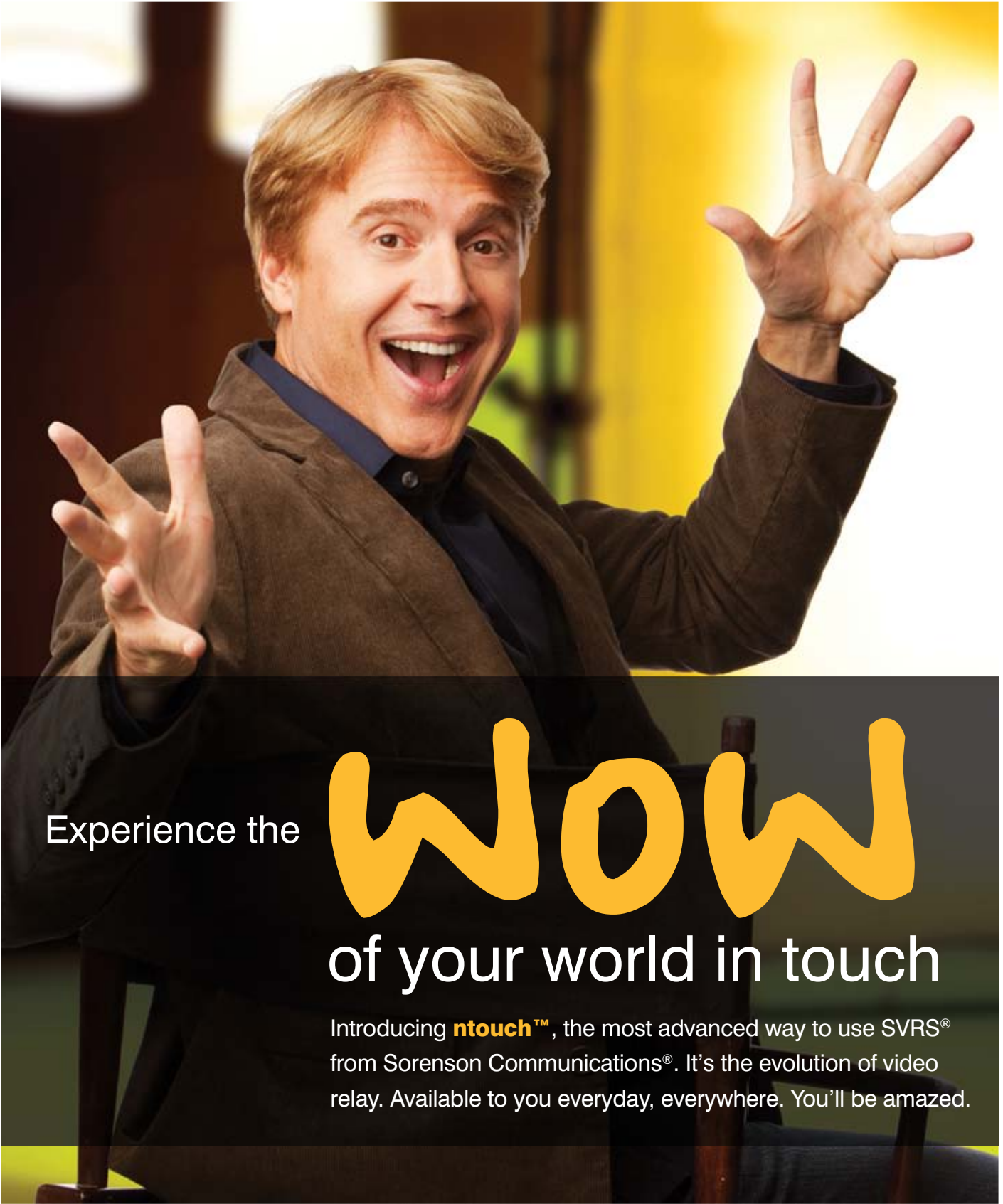
The Texas Association of the Deaf board has approved a partnership with CSD, which has received a federal grant, which focuses on providing low cost broadband to deaf consumers that are income qualified – defined as 150% of the poverty level. Mark Seeger of CSD of Texas says that deaf consumers may also qualify for this service if they are already part of government programs, such as SSDI.

According to Seeger, if deaf consumers do not currently have broadband and qualify for the program, CSD will be able to get them hooked up and provide them with equipment to use the Internet. Consumers may use IP or VRS relay services, surf the web, and will receive content or information in American Sign Language (ASL), as well as technical support in ASL.

Seeger said, "I'd love to partner with the TAD to 'get the word out,' so that we're able to get more people who are deaf that cannot afford to get broadband 'hooked up' by using these recovery dollars (from the federal government)."

"I invite your thoughts or pointing me to the right point of contact (POC) at the TAD to start the dialogue." The TAD has appointed board member Susie Grona as the POC. Interested deaf persons should contact Ms. Grona at suzygrona@yahoo.com . Mr. Seeger is available at mseeger@c-s-d.org .

[Ed. Note: Go to page 23 for more information on CSD's Project Endeavor]



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Friday, March 11, 2011
Stars vs. Wild, 7:30 P.M.



<u>Seating Location</u>	<u>Gate Price</u>	<u>Your Price</u>	<u># Tickets</u>	<u>Total \$</u>
Platinum	\$85	\$70	_____	_____
StarsClub Luxury	\$99	\$50	_____	_____
Priority Terrace	\$40	\$30	_____	_____
Terrace	\$30	\$20	_____	_____
Total			_____	_____

DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT – March 7, 2011

All payments must accompany order. To ensure seating together, tickets must be ordered together. Orders will be filled on a first come, first served basis and subject to availability. Make checks payable to Dallas Stars and send to Attn: Megan Walker, 2601 Avenue of the Stars, Frisco, TX 75034.

\$5 of every ticket will be donated back to TAD!



Completed orders can be faxed to 214.387.5540, by phone to Megan Walker at 214.387.5514, or e-mailed to MWalker@DallasStars.com.
Order online at <http://stars.nhl.com/deaf>
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Project Endeavor is a new, nationwide information initiative promoting high-speed Internet services for America's deaf and hard of hearing community. The program offers discounted high-speed Internet (also known as broadband or cable), technology training and video-capable notebook computers to eligible individuals.

Go to www.projectendeavor.com to learn more about available resources, training and opportunities.



Notebook computers for \$230 to eligible consumers, with 12 months of broadband Internet included!

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(No records)	1893-1908	Larry Evans	1977-1979
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R.C. Morris	1926-1929	Kent Kennedy	1991-1995
Albert Tulley	1929-1931	Larry Evans	1995-1997
Kelly Stevens	1931-1935	Tim Rarus	1997-1998
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Glynn Whittemore	1962-1965	Steve Baldwin	2006-2009
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Carl Brininstool	1967-1971		