

Youth Tour 2009

Win a Free Trip to Washington, D.C.!

Wood County Electric Cooperative (WCEC) is calling all eligible teens between the ages of 15 and 19 to apply for the 44th Annual Government-in-Action Youth Tour. **One lucky teen will win an all-expenses-paid trip to experience a guided tour of our nation's capital from June 11-19, 2009.** The trip will include airfare, transportation while in Washington, hotel rooms, food costs and tours of the many exciting, educational and inspiring sites.

It's simple to enter. Candidates must submit a 450 to 500 word essay (about one typed page), which will be judged by an independent panel. This year's topic is timely and important and is devoted to conservation. Essayists

should write about everyday electrical consumption. They should describe three tips consumers can use to reduce their electric bills while lessening negative impacts on our environment. The essays will be judged on composition, neatness, originality and knowledge of the subject.

The winner will travel with students from across Texas and, upon arrival in Washington, will join approximately 1,500 Youth Tour participants from across the country. This tremendous learning opportunity will include tours of national treasures such as Mount Vernon and the Smithsonian Museums, a boat cruise on the Potomac River and visits to other various historical sites and memorials. Additionally, one day will be dedicated to touring the House and Senate chambers, the Library of Congress and meeting with lawmakers from Texas.

Wood County Electric's 2008 delegate, Philip Hayes, a Lindale High School student, encourages all to compete for this trip, saying, "This trip was an invaluable experience for me. To be able to experience the seat of our nation's government firsthand was an incredible trip that no one should pass up."

Those wishing more information about the tour should visit www.youthtour.org to see pictures and videos from past annual tours.

2009 ELIGIBILITY AND RULES

Submit an essay not to exceed 500 words, which outlines three practical energy-saving tips.

Essay entries should be mailed to:

Wood County Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Attention: Youth Tour 2009

P.O. Box 1827

Quitman, TX 75783

Entries must have arrived at WCEC on or before Feb. 20, 2009. Entries received after that date will be disqualified.

STUDENT ESSAYISTS MUST BE:

- High school students between the ages of 15 and 19.
- Dependents of a Wood County Electric Cooperative member with permanent resident status in the WCEC service area.
- No name should appear on the essay. On a separate cover sheet, the contestants should include: Student essayist's name, name and address of parent/guardian who is a member of WCEC, contact telephone number and WCEC account number.
- Reference materials from various sources, including libraries and the Internet should be used, but the essay should be in the student's own words.



WCEC SALUTE TO OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Wood County Electric Cooperative (WCEC) was established on democratic principles, is member-owned and has an elected board of directors. Knowing that without elected officials democracy could not be carried out, we recognize and thank our state and U.S. representatives and senators who serve our members residing in Camp, Franklin, Hopkins, Rains, Smith, Titus, Upshur, Van Zandt and Wood counties.

Committed to public service, the men and women of elected office must study and make plans to address complex issues that affect our state and nation. While they are in session in Austin and Washington, D.C., and working within the counties they represent, these decisions must also keep the constituents in mind. And, our leaders have a good track record of that.

With this page as a reference, we encourage our readers to know the names of all the honorable men and women who represent the members of WCEC. We also encourage each member to become educated on the issues and legislation that each of our officials is involved with, because the decisions they make will and do affect you. And also know that as our lawmakers do their jobs, they want and need you to do your part by letting them know your ideas and concerns.

Call or write your representative or senator today and thank them for accepting such enormous responsibility, and also be sure to share your ideas with them. They'll appreciate it. Together, as citizens and as members of a cooperative, we can help keep alive the democratic ideals on which our country was founded.

This data was compiled by 2008 WCEC summer intern Macie Rushing.

U.S. SENATE



U.S. SEN. JOHN CORNYN
PARTY: Republican
LENGTH OF SERVICE: Since 2002
COMMITTEES: Armed Forces Committee; Judiciary Committee; Budget Committee; Vice Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Ethics
WCEC SERVICE AREA: Entire state
CONTACT: Tyler Office, (903) 593-0902



U.S. SEN. KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON
PARTY: Republican
LENGTH OF SERVICE: Since 1993
COMMITTEES: Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation; ranking member of the Subcommittee for Aviation Operations, Safety and Security; Committee on Appropriations; Ranking Member of the Subcommittee for Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies; Committee on Veterans Affairs; Committee on Rules and Administration; chair of the Republican Policy Committee
WCEC SERVICE AREA: Entire state
CONTACT: Dallas Office, (214) 361-3500

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



U.S. REP. LOUIE GOHMERT
PARTY: Republican
DISTRICT: 1st District of Texas
LENGTH OF SERVICE: Since 2005
COMMITTEES: House Judiciary Committee; Natural Resources Committee; Small Business Committee; ranking member of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security
WCEC SERVICE AREA: Smith and Upshur counties
CONTACT: Tyler Office, (903) 561-6349



U.S. REP. RALPH HALL
PARTY: Republican
DISTRICT: 4th District of Texas
LENGTH OF SERVICE: Since 1980
COMMITTEES: Energy and Commerce Committee; ranking member of the Committee on Science and Technology
WCEC SERVICE AREA: Camp, Franklin, Hopkins, Rains and Titus counties
CONTACT: Sulphur Springs Office, (903) 885-8138



U.S. REP. JEB HENSARLING
PARTY: Republican
DISTRICT: 5th District of Texas
LENGTH OF SERVICE: Since 2003
COMMITTEES: Congressional Oversight Panel; Financial Services Committee; Budget Committee; chairman of the Republican Study Committee

WCEC SERVICE AREA: Van Zandt and Wood counties
CONTACT: Athens Office, (903) 675-8288

TEXAS SENATE



TEXAS SEN. KEVIN ELTIFE
PARTY: Republican
DISTRICT: Senate District I
LENGTH OF SERVICE: Since 2004
WCEC SERVICE AREA: Camp, Franklin, Titus, Upshur and Wood counties
CONTACT: Tyler Office, (903) 596-9122



TEXAS SEN. BOB DEUELL
PARTY: Republican
DISTRICT: Senate District 2
LENGTH OF SERVICE: Since 2003
WCEC SERVICE AREA: Hopkins, Rains, Smith and Van Zandt counties
CONTACT: Greenville Office, (903) 450-9797

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



TEXAS REP. BRYAN HUGHES
PARTY: Republican
DISTRICT: 5
LENGTH OF SERVICE: Since 2002
WCEC SERVICE AREA: Camp, Upshur and Wood counties
CONTACT: Mineola Office, (903) 569-8880



TEXAS REP. TOMMY MERRITT
PARTY: Republican
DISTRICT: 7
LENGTH OF SERVICE: Since 1996
WCEC SERVICE AREA: Smith County
CONTACT: Longview Office, (903) 881-2077



TEXAS REP. MARK HOMER
PARTY: Democratic
DISTRICT: 3
LENGTH OF SERVICE: Since 1999
WCEC SERVICE AREA: Franklin, Hopkins and Titus counties
CONTACT: Paris Office, (903) 784-0977



TEXAS REP. DAN FLYNN
PARTY: Republican
DISTRICT: 2
LENGTH OF SERVICE: Since 2003
WCEC SERVICE AREA: Rains and Van Zandt counties
CONTACT: Canton Office, (903) 567-0921

A Texas Pastime is Prime Time in Purley

The game of dominoes is sometimes thought of as one for old-timers. But to hear Trey Newsome speak about it, you get the feeling that it will soon be making a comeback. At least if he has anything to do with it! Specifically, his game is Texas 42, sometimes called the national game of Texas. And really, the only thing about the game that resembles dominoes is that Texas 42 is played with a regulation double-six dominoes set, which has 28 game pieces.

Texas 42 is much more like the card games of bridge or whist and is played by two two-person teams. Unlike cards four suits, Texas 42 has seven suits: blanks, ones (aces), twos (deuces), threes (treys), fours, fives and sixes. For each trick, or hand, each player is given seven dominoes. The highest bidder for each trick gets to name one suit “trump,” which means it wins over all others.

The game is said to have actually been invented by two Texas teens in what’s

now known as Garner. Back in 1887, card playing was considered a sinful activity, but dominoes were not. However, the boys felt regulation dominoes were boring. So they set out to invent a game as exciting as cards that used dominoes. Once they had devised the game, they taught others in their town who taught more still. The rules were always passed along orally, with the game ultimately becoming a regional pastime with games seen on the courthouse square, behind the gas station and in rural family homes across the state.

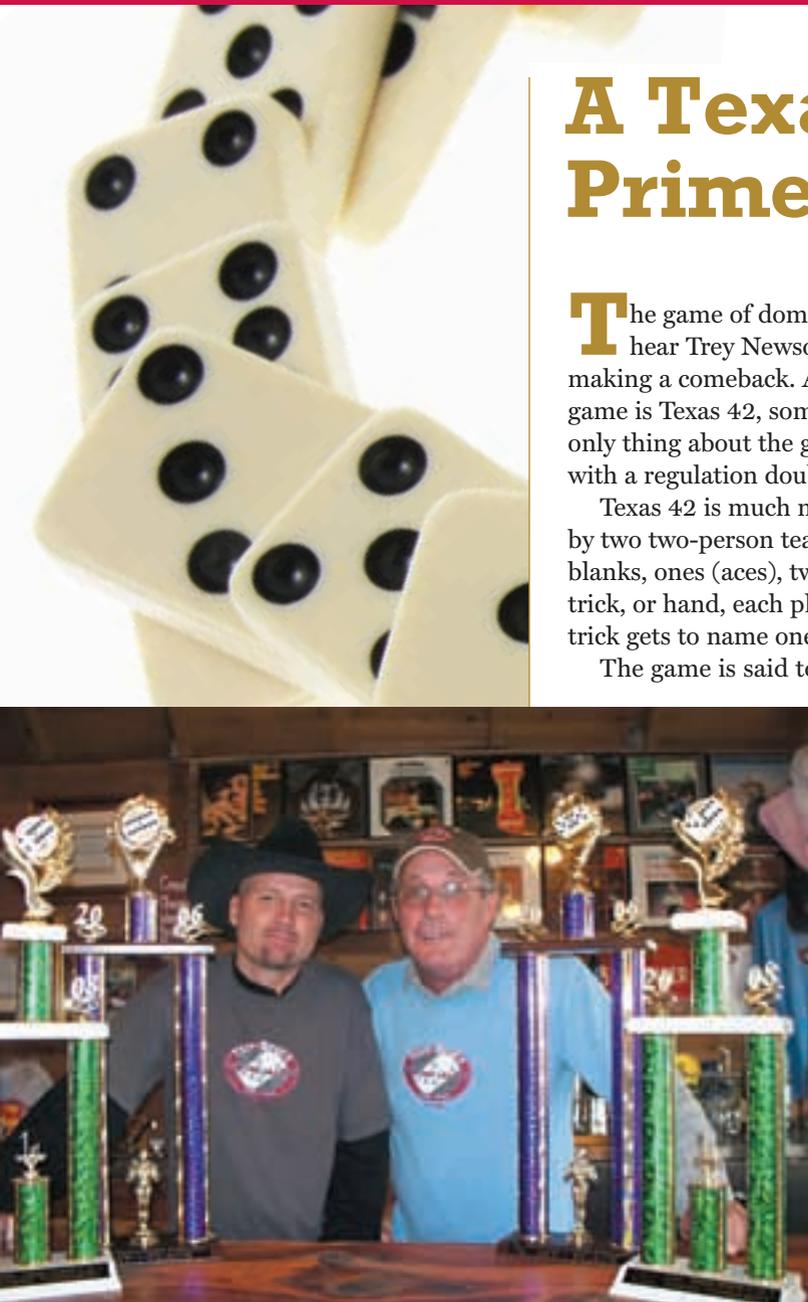
Many, like Trey, learned the game at the knees of their parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts. Trey said, “I don’t ever remember not knowing how to play.” He said his entire family always played the game, and it was his uncle, Lanford Lawrence, who was responsible for teaching him, starting when Trey was still in diapers. And, by the looks of it, Mom and Dad, Diane and Waymon Carl Newsome Jr., encouraged Trey every step of the way. One example is the nickname

they gave him. Trey’s given name is actually Waymon Carl Newsome III, but the family picked up on the lucky three (trey) suit in Texas 42 and began to call their only son Trey.

With a name like that, and a deep family history of 42, it’s not surprising that Trey has risen to become one of the state’s top 42 players. In 2005, he and his Uncle Lanford entered the annual state tournament in Hallettsville. Trey says they did not rank very high, but they had a lot of fun and decided to make it an annual pilgrimage. Then, the very next year, they took home the state championship. In their return in 2007, they tied for fifth. But in 2008 they once again claimed the state championship, also securing recognition as the only team to win the state championship twice.

Of the championship tournaments, Trey says, “You do get a little bit of money, but mostly it’s the bragging rights and the trophies.” But, even if there was not the excitement of tourney play, one gets the impression Trey would still be involved in the game. He says, “I’ve always been a big games player, including sports and cards. Forty-two is by far my favorite game. It takes strategy.” And, he talks about the unpredictability of the game with a gleam in his eye. “In cards,

Trey Newsome, left, and Lanford Lawrence show off their trophies from the 2006 and 2008 Texas Domino Championships.



you know what a straight flush always beats. You know all of the possibilities in the game. In 42, any game can change based on the trump. One domino can make the difference in a player having the highest hand to having the lowest.”

In addition to the Texas state tournament this year, Trey also participated with teammate Derrick Hosmer in the New Mexico tournament. He said they did pretty well, but they were eventually beat by the tournament winners who, by the way, Trey and Lanford had beat out to win the Texas tournament. That’s another thing Trey says he enjoys about the tournaments: a close-knit but jovial rivalry held among the players. Speaking of fun rivalry, Trey and Derrick also won the 2008 Autumn Trails 42 tournament, beating out Trey’s great aunt and uncle, twin sister-and-brother team Glennis Kaczor and Glen Wilcox.

Never played the Texas national game? Well, Trey and his family invite all to come out to their place in Purley. It’s called the Trey-Deuce Domino Saloon. Initially, the saloon was built as a homestead for Trey, and it was a place for him to come home to when he was not working in Dallas. He completed construction in 2006, mainly as a place to hang out with friends and play 42. But, as a lover of all games, in addition to the many dominoes tables, Trey also outfitted his place with a pool table, foosball table, dartboard and satellite TV. Moving outdoors, there’s volleyball, tetherball, horseshoes and washers. With all of those activities, it wasn’t long before local area organizations and businesses heard about it and started renting his place out for events.

It’s no surprise that family members have hosted an International 42 Players Association tournament, but they have also held weddings, class reunions, Rotary, church and corporate events and even a wrestling match. Since word has gotten out, Trey-Deuce is now booking up to 1½ years in advance. The building holds about 50 for a sit-down dinner, or up to 200 with the grounds for a more informal event. Diane does not have a set menu but is happy to discuss options she can cook or local caterers can provide.

When the place is not rented out for a private party, Waymon Jr., Diane and Trey put their heads together for planned activities that are what you’d call open castings. Anybody can come. Diane says, “We get in a rut ourselves. You never know what we are going to do next. We try to make it different every time.”

For example, they’ve held a Robert Burns Scottish Poet Party that included bagpipes and kilts and then moved on to having a “camo” event that included a knife show, bird dog demonstrations, chili potluck and a special ladies event—a demonstration on how to make duct tape handbags.

A couple of annual events also are becoming legendary. In December there’s the ugly sweater contest. The objective? Wear the most gaudy and awful sweater you can find and come on by. And from the way I hear it, the sweater has got to be mighty, mighty ugly to be named the winner. And even if you don’t have an ugly sweater to wear, take note that Trey-Deuce was voted by Franklin County as “one of the best places to be seen” in 2008.

Trey-Deuce Domino Saloon is in the Purley community at 4450 CR SW 3010, Mount Vernon, TX 75457, and is served by Wood County Electric Cooperative. It is open every Friday through Sunday, unless there is a private party or a rare closure. If the big porch light is on, it means come on in. To check on the calendar of events, or to book a private party, call (903) 588-2490.

Reference—Dennis Roberson (1997). Winning 42: Strategy and Lore of the National Game of Texas.



While relaxing at one of the many domino tables at Trey-Deuce, Trey, center, enjoys joking with parents Diane and Waymon Newsome as they discuss the basics of Texas 42.