



"Prosperity is hard work. If you are going to prosper, you are going to have to get up and get after it."

'No Day Is Over if It Makes a Memory'

A local basketball legend recalls her storied career

BY ANNIE MCGINNIS

TUCKED INTO THE ROLLING HILLS OF HOOD COUNTY, YOU WILL find the small town of Granbury, the county seat and home of the nation's winningest high school basketball coach.

Leta Andrews was born and raised in Granbury, where her family farmed 1,500 acres. Growing up, she played basketball with her sister in the chicken yard. She kept playing all through junior high and high school. Her high school coach encouraged her to go on to college, get a degree and become a coach, she recalled.

"He said I had such a love for the sport," Andrews said. "And I did. And I never looked back."

After graduating from Granbury High School, she went on to play at Weatherford College. She married David Andrews, her high school sweetheart, and decided to focus on her schooling.

"David and I married, and I thought I better get serious about my education," she said. "So I quit playing and started school."

While her husband finished his degree, Andrews spent a year coaching and teaching at Tolar High School. Then they moved to Gustine before moving to Comanche two years later. The family stayed in the area for 12 years while their two oldest daughters finished school. Andrews said they didn't want to move them until they were out of school.

Family plays a huge part in Andrews' life. From growing up with three siblings working the field, to raising, coaching and

teaching her three daughters, she firmly recalls family memories. Andrews and her husband never went to the movies or out alone, she said, but stayed with the girls.

"We never went anywhere those three girls couldn't go with us," she said. "And they are all just real clingy to us still, which is good."

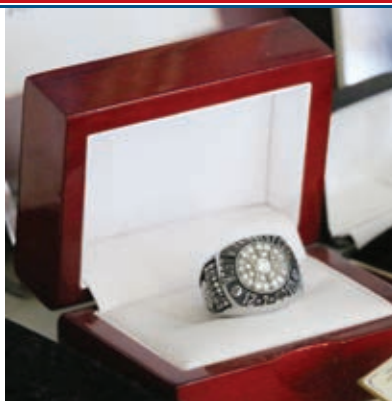
To this day, she is close with her family, and their bond is strengthened every year. For 54 years, the Andrewses' Christmas gift to the girls was a ski trip in Breckenridge, Colorado. The weeklong trip included time on the slopes during the day and memorable nightly games of 42. With a family full of competitors, Andrews said it was a wild time.

"It was a battle," she said, laughing. "No one liked to lose. David and I would laugh about it later, but it was hard when everyone wanted to win."

Aside from love for her family, some of Andrews' most impressive characteristics are her humility and passion. She speaks with such devotion for the game of basketball and the young ladies she coached. 8001293502

As I stood open-mouthed in her "barnment"—a pool equipment barn decorated in memorabilia—I could not believe how such a passionate individual could be so humble. Every inch of the barn was covered in memories of her accomplishments, yet she could only speak of what she hoped for her athletes.

"I never did this for myself," she said. "I wanted all my young



"You are going to make a mistake out there. Fix it and move on."



"You give it all. All the effort you got, you give it all."



ladies to taste the fruits of success. So many of them got an education by going on and playing college basketball and got their education for free."

From photos of her daughters to newspaper clippings and resolutions from the state of Texas, the barnument was a true testament to her successes. Each piece of memorabilia and each award represented memories of those she met along the way. She shared story after story behind the items in the barnument, but she said the memories are what she values most today. "All of this is wonderful, but the greatest things are my memories and the wonderful ladies I worked with. No day is over if it makes a memory."

Andrews affected many lives, both on and off the court, during her 52 seasons. She was dedicated to fundamentals of the sport, success and personal growth. Winning was everything to her and her athletes. She spoke of the young ladies on her teams as family, and on the court, she was never called coach.

"I told my ladies anybody can be a coach," she said. "There will be some good ones, and there will be some bad ones. Just call me Mrs. Andrews."

Later this year, the movie *It's All in the Game* will hit the box office as a follow-up to the 2017 documentary *It's All in the Game: The Leta Andrews Story*. With such a powerful story to tell, it is not hard to believe Andrews has received numerous inquiries about book and movie deals.

"You just got too good a thing not to get it out there," Andrews recalls hearing from Janet Kelly, the documentary producer. "People need to see how a woman can work and be successful, hold her marriage together, have a family, and have children and them be successful. People need to see that that can happen."

The documentary walks through Andrews' life, from childhood in Granbury through her successes leading five high school teams, and highlights her love for her family, the ladies she coached and the game. 800827596

Andrews did more than become the winningest high school basketball coach in the United States and rack up 1,416 career wins. Her success flowed from the court to her teaching career and personal life. It was clear she had a love for basketball, but the love and support from her family is what completes the drill of life. Andrews said she had the best career a woman could ask for because she was able to be with her family while at work.

"I just think I had the perfect career for a wife and a mother," she said. "I was with my family all day long. And that's what it's all about is family."

Next time you drive down Weatherford Highway into downtown Granbury, take a second to look up at the water tower and take in a piece of history. In a town focused on Texas history, it is fitting that Andrews, the winningest coach in high school history, calls it home.



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DIY Energy-Saving Ideas

DO YOU LOVE WATCHING HOME IMPROVEMENT SHOWS? DO YOU find yourself tackling projects on your own every weekend? If you answered yes to either of these questions, then you will love these do-it-yourself energy-saving ideas.

Insulate your electric water heater tank. Unless you have a new model, your water heater tank is probably not insulated. All you need is an insulation blanket and a friend to help you hold it in place. First, turn off your water heater and measure it carefully. Cut the insulation blanket to fit the tank, then wrap it around, temporarily taping it into place. Once it's secure, cut out holes for the control panels to fit through, then tape the blanket permanently in place. This project can reduce standby heat losses 25–45 percent. 800669562

Seal air leaks. When you have tiny air leaks around your windows and doors, hot air can make its way into your house during the summer, and cool air can come in during the winter, forcing your heating and cooling system to work harder. To fix this, buy a caulking gun and caulk. Clean the area thoroughly, removing any old, cracked caulking. Hold the caulking gun at a 45-degree angle and release the caulk while moving the gun smoothly from one side of the door or window to the other. If the caulk does not make it all the way into the gap, use a spoon or other utensil to push it in before it dries. After you have caulked the perimeter of

the door or window, clean up any spills and you're done.

Install a window film. If you have a bigger budget for home improvements, consider replacing windows with Energy Star models, but if you don't, then installing a window film is a great alternative. Window films block the sun's heat from coming indoors. Curtains and blinds also can help prevent heat from getting into your home, but you have to close them to reap the benefits. With a window film, you don't have to lose your view to start saving energy.

Plant for savings. Another great way to save on your heating and cooling bills is to plant more trees around your home. Plant deciduous trees on the west side of a house to provide cooling shade in the summer and allow warming daylight in the winter, when those trees lose their leaves. Plant evergreens on the north side of your home to block icy winter winds. Trees, shrubs and ground cover plants also can shade the ground and pavement around the home, reducing heat radiation. Use a large bush or row of shrubs to shade a patio or driveway. Plant a hedge to shade a sidewalk. Build a trellis for climbing vines to shade a patio area. Remember to think about the tree's full-grown size and shape before you dig, and never plant trees near power lines. Properly placed trees around your home can reduce energy costs by up to 30 percent.

Advancing Automation: A Powerful Partnership

SYSTEM UPGRADES ARE IMPORTANT FOR

Tri-County Electric Cooperative to run efficiently. Advancing technology, equipment maintenance and vegetation management all assist in providing a better member-owner experience. Upgrading our metering system is just one more way we are improving our co-op's operations.

Tri-County EC has operated on an automated meter reading, or AMR, system for the past 20 years. In 2021, the system will no longer be supported by the manufacturer. That's why we are preparing to deploy more than 110,000 Landis+Gyr meters across our service territory.

"Upgrading our meters was becoming necessary, almost like upgrading a 15-year-old phone," said Nichole Eshbaugh, Tri-County EC's chief technology officer. "This meter upgrade benefits Tri-County EC, but even more importantly, it benefits our member-owners."

Landis+Gyr is a world leader in the meter industry with a large local footprint. The company has more than 10 million meters in Texas and serves large utilities like Oncor, AEP, Austin Energy, Pedernales Electric Cooperative, CoServ and United Cooperative Services.

At the end of 2017, Landis+Gyr had 152 million electronic meters spread throughout the nation, including 79.8 million advanced metering infrastructure smart meters, according to Chris Clark, a Landis+Gyr account executive. In Texas, the company has supplied 10.6 million electronic meters—84 percent of which are AMI meters—to investor-owned utilities, municipalities and electric cooperatives.

Tri-County EC is excited to partner with Landis+Gyr and deploy industry-leading meters throughout our system. With advanced features like enhanced security, reactive monitoring, reconnect and disconnect capabilities, usage monitoring and load studies, we will be able to provide a better member service experience to our member-owners.

Currently, member-owners can only see their monthly usage. With these new meters, usage readings come multiple times a day, allowing for better consumption monitoring. They also improve the member-owner experience during outages. When a member-owner loses power, the meter notifies the cooperative for restoration, which allows for more



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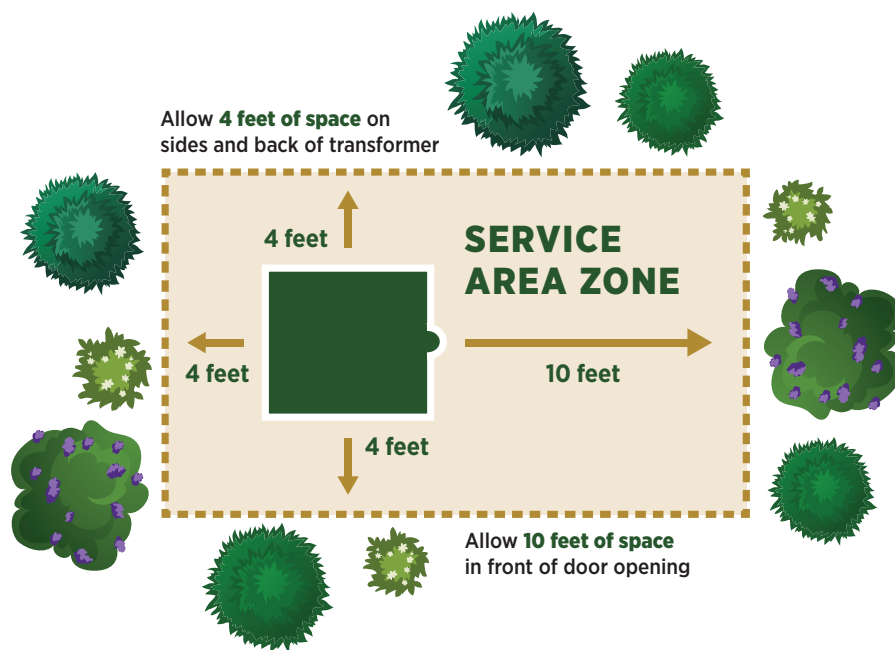
efficient power restoration accuracy.

Landis+Gyr has best-in-class security. It follows an industry standard and risk-based approach when it comes to security. Regular testing and auditing processes ensure trust, privacy and integrity of the system. Preventive testing identifies risks and possible threats before they affect the system. Privacy and security are addressed in all facets of the AMI system.

The process to select a new metering system began 18 months ago with a committee of 33 Tri-County EC employees and, according to Eshbaugh, has played an important role in the co-op's quest to provide excellent service to our member-owners. 800827596

"Selecting Landis+Gyr was a long process involving several employees from different groups and a lot of reference checking," she said. "In the end, they were the unanimous decision with their expansive cooperative experience, their attentiveness to customer service and their state-of-the-art technology."

As our industry continues to evolve, Tri-County EC is modernizing its metering infrastructure to incorporate new, proven, safe and secure technology that will benefit our member-owners and save money. Landis+Gyr is a key player in our mission to provide the best service possible and take care of our member-owners.



Avoid the Big Green Box

WHILE TRANSFORMERS FOR OVERHEAD POWER LINES ARE MOUNTED ATOP TALL UTILITY POLES, padmount transformers, aka big green boxes, are at ground level.

Whether high or low, transformers change voltage from higher levels to lower levels that people can safely use in their homes for their electronics, appliances and lighting. And while ground-level transformers are safe, you should always steer clear of them. 800669562

To stay safe around those big green boxes, observe these tips:

Keep areas surrounding padmount transformers clear so that workers can safely access them when needed. Co-op technicians need at least 10 feet of clearance on the opening side of a padmount transformer and approximately 4 feet of open space at the rear and on the sides of the metal housing. These distances allow for tool use, including hot sticks, which are typically 8 feet long and used to work with energized equipment. It also ensures that technicians working on a transformer have space to maneuver if problems occur.

Respect these distances when planting shrubs or building structures. Restricting access not only can prolong outages but also creates a significant safety risk for our employees. 800633997

Never dig near padmount transformers. They are surrounded by underground cables. Hitting a cable could result in electrical shock or disruption of service. Always call 811 before you dig.

Make sure children know to never touch, climb or play on padmount transformers. Never put fingers, sticks or other objects through openings in the transformer box.

Report problems. If you notice anything amiss, like an unlocked transformer or one that has been damaged, please contact Tri-County Electric Cooperative immediately.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

begins at 2 a.m., Sunday, March 10.
Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour when you go to bed Saturday.

CATHERINE LANE | ISTOCK.COM



MEL POMENEM | ISTOCK.COM

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

May your pockets be heavy and
your heart be light. May good luck
pursue you each morning and night.



Where Do You Get Your Power?

"I get my power from the co-op,
so I can put my energy into feeding the community."
From farms to front yards, from cattle ranches
to cul-de-sacs, Tri-County Electric Cooperative
energizes local communities with the power and
information they need to build a better future.

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Your source of power. And information.



Tri-County Electric Cooperative

600 NW Parkway, Azle 76020

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IT PAYS TO STAY INFORMED!

Find your account number in pages
18-25 of *Texas Co-op Power*, and you will
receive a \$20 credit on your TCEC elec-
tric bill. Simply contact one of the offices
listed above and make them aware of
your discovery!



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Slow Down for Safety

YOU'RE DRIVING ALONG ON A SUNNY DAY, MINDING THE SPEED LIMIT, WHEN YOU encounter a Tri-County Electric Cooperative crew working on the side of the road. Do you slow down, move over or continue driving normally? If you can safely do so, moving over to give our crew an empty lane as a buffer is ideal. If you're unable to move over before passing the crew, your next best option is to slow down significantly. 800838497

In 2015, speeding was involved in 28 percent of fatal crashes that occurred in construction or maintenance zones, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Texas' Move Over/Slow Down requirement, though it doesn't extend to Tri-County EC's employees specifically, nevertheless offers excellent guidance for safely negotiating any roadside work. The law states that when drivers encounter tow trucks, police, fire, emergency medical service or Texas Department of Transportation vehicles stopped on the side of the road with emergency or alternately flashing lights activated, the motorist must:

► **Vacate the lane closest to the applicable vehicle** stopped on the side of the road (if the road has multiple lanes traveling in the same direction).

► **Or slow down to 20 mph below the speed limit.**

While this statute may not officially apply to our personnel, they face the same risks when working alongside a busy roadway as all of the workers the law includes. For their safety, we'd appreciate if you'd extend to them the same courtesy that the law requires for first responders and others. Whether they're restoring an outage, trimming trees or otherwise clearing rights-of-way, our employees perform an invaluable service, and we care about them deeply. With your help, we can make sure they go home to their families every day.



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Thank a Farmer

Celebrate National Ag Day

MARCH 14 IS NATIONAL AG DAY, HOSTED

for the 46th year by the Agriculture Council of America. It's a good time to reflect on and appreciate the contributions of American farmers, who receive just 14.8 cents, on average, of every food dollar consumers spend throughout the year, according to the National Farmers Union. The remaining 85 percent of food revenues go to marketing, processing, wholesale, distribution and retail costs.

National Ag Day coincides with the beginning of cotton, corn, sorghum and soybean planting season for many Texas farmers. Think of the wide variety of commodities and products those crops alone make possible—clothing and other textiles, animal feed, renewable fuels such as ethanol and many convenience food products. 800770168

With each U.S. farmer feeding an average of about 165 people in exchange for a modest financial reward and, frequently, a lack of recognition, let's take a moment to honor the hard work they do for our country's benefit and that of others around the world. Agriculture is America's No. 1 export, a vitally important contributor to sustaining a healthy economy, and these stewards of our nation's bounty deserve our gratitude and support.



BLACKBERRY | ISTOCK.COM

Tex-Mex Lasagna

VICKIE STOTLER-SMITH | FORT WORTH

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 medium onion
- 1 can Rotel chiles
- 1 can Bush's chili hot beans
- 12 corn tortillas
- 2 pounds Velveeta cheese, cubed

1. Brown ground beef and onion in a 13-inch frying pan. Add chiles and beans and cook until warmed through.
 2. Lightly spray a 9-by-13-inch baking dish with nonstick spray and line with six corn tortillas. Pour half of the chili mixture over the tortillas. Add another layer of six tortillas and top with the remaining chili mixture. Top with cubed Velveeta.
 3. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes, or until cheese is bubbly and delicious.
- Serves 6-8. Enjoy! 259500237



Memorabilia and Memories Wanted

2019 MARKS THE 80TH YEAR OF TRI-County Electric Cooperative serving our members and communities!

If you or your family have any historical photos, newspaper articles, member bulletins or other memorabilia associated with Tri-County EC that you would like to share, please contact Annie McGinnis at (817) 752-8116 or amcginnis@tcectexas.com.

Do you have stories from over the years about Tri-County EC? If so, let us know! We would love to hear from you. 800636644



Tri-County EC Member Recipe Submission Form

NAME

CITY

EMAIL or PHONE NUMBER

RECIPE NAME

Please return to:

Email: Please include the above information with your recipe and send to pr@tcectexas.com.

Mail: Please detach and submit this form with your recipe and mail to:

Tri-County Electric Cooperative
Attn: Recipe Submission
600 NW Parkway
Azle, TX 76020