



Howdy, Jennifer -

There's no better place to celebrate the independence of America than Deep in the Heart of Texas. But it's not just Texas' big cities or the Fourth of July that see festivities of epic proportions, echoing the widely known Friday Night Lights expression "Go Big or Go Home."

Full of both national and state pride, grand Texas culture saturates the state year-round. Here at the Fair we're excited to highlight some of Texas' hidden treasures with this month's **#ExploreTexas** feature!

**Mitchell Glieber**  
President, State Fair of Texas



**Texas Celebrates America - Independence Day Celebrations Across the Lone Star State**



Looking to take a trip to a small town festival? Visit [TourTexas.com](http://TourTexas.com) for help in making travel plans.



**Texas Sandfest - Port Aransas**

Rated as one of the top 15 small town American festivals, Texas Sandfest, located at Port Aransas beach, bustles with participants working to build the most creative sand sculptures. Area visitors can also enjoy live music, entertainment and sand-sculpting lessons.

Port Aransas

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### Seguin: Small Town, Big Party

As one of the oldest towns in Texas, established a mere 16 months after the Texas Revolution, it's no wonder Seguin goes all out to celebrate our national independence. The town's annual multi-day patriotic event includes a Fireworks Fiesta, wave pool, live music, mayor's luncheon and its claim to fame, the **"Biggest Small Town Fourth of July Parade in Texas."**

### "Out in Luckenbach, Texas"

The subject of Willie Nelson's famous country song and one of the tiniest towns in Texas, **Luckenbach's Independence Day** is anything but small. The tiny town's annual family-friendly Fourth of July picnic boasts live performances, games, food and drinks, as well as Luckenbach's celebrated Lawn Mower Parade!

### Rodeo Belton

It doesn't get much more Texan than BBQ, sweet tea and PRCA rodeo. Add in nationalism, patriotic festivities, a parade and a carnival, and you have **Belton's Fourth of July spectacular**. To top it off, the event was named by USA Today as one of the nation's "Top 10 Places to Fly Your Flag on the Fourth."

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## Music and Culture Festivals Around Texas

### Tall City Blues Fest

Featuring performing artists from coast to coast, the **2015 Tall City Blues Fest** will feature a Louisiana Music Hall of Fame inductee and five-time Blues Music Award recipient, along with a full lineup of award-winning musicians. The festival also includes educational-workshop programming in partnership with Midland College.



### Texas Renaissance Festival

Castles and knights galore! Travel back in time to the 16th century at the **Texas Renaissance Festival** in Todd Mission, Texas, home to just more than 100 people. Each day of the six-week festival sees more than 200 performances, 300 arts and craft shops and more than 60 food and drink options!



### Katy Jazz Fest - Katy

Don't miss out on this great weekend of live jazz and art! The Katy Jazz Festival showcases world renowned musicians, jazz groups and a display of visual art during this weekend event in April.

Katy Jazz Festival



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### Mark Your Calendar for Fourth of July Fun in Fair Park

Don't forget to mark your calendars for **Fair Park Fourth!** Celebrate at Fair Park all day long – the State Fair of Texas Midway will be open from 12 noon to 11 pm, where you can enjoy rides, games, concessions, live music and a spectacular fireworks show later in the evening.

## Unique Texas Festivals

### Luling Watermelon Thump

Seed-spitting contests are one of the most talked about elements of the **Luling Watermelon Thump**, which also hosts a melon-eating contest, auction, family-friendly activities and live performances from popular artists like Josh Abbott Band.



### Texas Rose Festival

Known as the "Rose Capital of the Nation," **Tyler, Texas hosts an annual rose festival** that dates back to 1933. This fall event includes a rose parade, coronation ball and symphony concerts in the park. Home to 14,000 rose blooms and hundreds of different types of roses, this is a nature lover's ideal event.

### Texas Cheeseburger Festival-Friona

Friona is the "**Official Cheeseburger Capital of Texas**." Each year hundreds of West Texans compete for cash prizes and, more importantly, bragging rights.

[More Information](#)



*Celebrating*  
ALL THINGS TEXAN

SEPT. 25  
to OCT. 18  
2015