

# the echo

**Texas Prison News**

Established 1928

Vol. 97 No.6

August 2025



## Exclusive *ECHO* Interview: TBCJ Member Fordyce Affects Future Through Life of Service, Determination

Tom Fordyce visits with *The ECHO*.

**+ Contest Finalist | Capping A Career | Art Expo**

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c/o Windham Admin. Bldg.  
P.O. Box 40  
Huntsville, TX 77342-0040.

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Annual subscriptions to *The ECHO* can be purchased for \$12. Money orders or personal checks must be made out to *The ECHO/Windham* and sent to:

**The ECHO**  
Attn: Subscriptions  
P.O. Box 40  
Huntsville, TX 77342-0040  
  
ISSN 1530-7298

Find the digital versions of *The ECHO* online by searching: *The ECHO* newspaper at Windham's website: [wsdtx.org](http://wsdtx.org).

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*Superintendent / Publisher*

**Bambi Kiser**  
*Managing Editor*

**Blair Dupre**  
*Assistant Managing Editor*

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**Fabian W. Flores**

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**Robert E. Morgan**

**Joshua P. Schnizer**

**Tim Scoggin**

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Lisa Jackson—O'Daniel Unit

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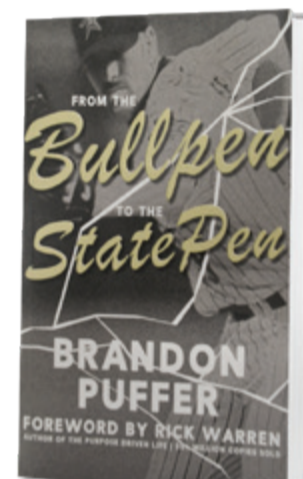


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# Letter to the Editor

**Bambi Kiser | Managing Editor**

*The ECHO*  
c/o Windham Admin. Bldg.  
P.O. Box 40  
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## **To the editor,**

This letter is to all my brothers and sisters serving life sentences with or without parole. I want you all to know I feel your pain when you have moments of despair. But always remember, no matter where you are physically, your life is what you make it. A positive attitude and positive view of the world will give you purpose. I used to be a negative person, but this was hurting my own mental health. Make an effort to be a resident with a purpose that is a positive — you will feel better and be proud of yourself in the long run.

Your status doesn't matter. In the court room, the judge sentenced me to life without parole — but I am setting goals for the future. I have no choice but to be here physically. I may not have all good days, but even the bad days will pass, too. To keep reminiscing about old memories won't bring anything that is long-lasting. Strive for mental peace, physical strength and spiritual insight. It doesn't matter what your status is — you are strong on the inside.

**Rufus Lockett**  
**Allred Unit**

## **To the reader,**

*Thank you for writing and sharing a courageous and healthy reminder. You bring forth an important viewpoint that applies to all of us, always. In your words: "Your life is what you make it. A positive attitude and positive view of the world will give you purpose." We applaud you for recommending mental strength and positivity in all situations. Again, thank you.*

SOMETIMES  
THE ONLY  
GOOD THINGS  
YOU WILL  
HEAR ABOUT  
YOU ARE THE  
THINGS THAT  
YOU SAY TO  
YOU.

- Les Brown

A photograph of a Christmas dinner table. In the background, a Christmas tree is decorated with lights and ornaments. The table is set with plates of food, glasses, and lit candles. The scene is warmly lit, creating a cozy holiday atmosphere.

# Distant Memories

By Brenda Williams | Murray Unit Reporter

**A**s I sit and ponder my early days, I remember having big dreams and plans for a bright future. Mom and Dad owned a bar and had a tree business. I had 15 brothers and one sister. With so many of us, life was always busy, to say the least. When I was young, we lived in a small house with only one bathroom, so bathing was a crazy time of day.

Time went on and we all started growing up. I was about seven years old when we bought a new house with two showers for us kids and one for our parents. That was a great improvement for everyone. This house had a game room with a pool table. We all loved to play pool and were pretty good at it from spending so much time at Mom and Dad's bar. We spent hours playing each other.

There was a huge yard at this house with a large garden. All of us kids were required to pitch in, tending to the lettuce, tomatoes, potatoes, okra, squash, black eyed peas, watermelon and cantaloupe. We had fresh vegetables with every meal. We also ate lots of beans and cornbread.

Each day was an adventure, but what I miss most are the holidays. There were so many of us that every meal resembled Thanksgiving with the table full of food and the whole pack of us around it. Easter and Christmas are two of my fondest memories.

We loved to run in our yard searching for Easter

eggs. Our parents would always hide one egg with money in it. Dad would usually put the money egg in the top of a tree, but we always managed to find and retrieve it.

Christmas was amazing because there were so many of us that the presents would spill out from underneath the tree clear out to the middle of the room. It was such a wonderful time of year and we all received what we asked for.

I tried out for the cheerleading team in middle school and made it. My brothers played on the football team, so this was another time when the family came together. We all experienced neat events.

One by one we all started to leave home and begin our young adult journeys. I married way too young, so my life changed quickly and drastically. Looking back, I wonder why my mom allowed me to marry at 15, but no matter what came my way, I overcame all obstacles.

Did I make mistakes and poor choices? Absolutely! However, all of that molded me into the woman I am today. A woman full of love and kindness for others, who thinks before she acts. God has given me the ability to stand strong regardless of what the storm may entail.

We all have memories we can reflect on. Those I have shared with you comprise my life story. What's yours? €

# Fitness Expert Chady Garibaldi Offers Tips at O'Daniel



Fitness expert Chady Garibaldi (photo center) recently inspired residents at the O'Daniel Unit through a presentation emphasizing the connection between physical and mental health. She led a Q&A session and a fitness workout for women and shared her personal story. Garibaldi encouraged participants to take ownership of their health, demonstrating how consistent physical activity can support personal growth and rehabilitation. Her visit was supported by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Chaplaincy and Volunteer Services Division. An interview with Garibaldi and her husband, performance painter David Garibaldi, will be featured in the next issue of *The ECHO*. €

Do you want to be part of The ECHO? There are several ways of getting involved.

## HELP SHAPE THE ECHO CONTENT

1. Showcase your artistic talent! Send in examples of your artwork to be shared and highlighted in the Art Expo issues.
2. Send in a delicious recipe for the Chow Hound section.
3. Need advice or want to give out some? Write advice columnist Dear Darby who is ready and willing to help with questions about relationships, daily concerns, general life and prison etiquette.

## PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE:

Have you learned something in a class that you want to share with the rest of the readers? Are you getting closer to your reentry date and want to leave some parting words of wisdom? Send a copy of your submission to:

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## ATTENTION STAFF:

Do you spend your day repeatedly answering the same question? If there was something you wished the resident population understood better? Are you a facilitator of a graduating program or class? Contact [Bambi.Kiser@wsdtx.org](mailto:Bambi.Kiser@wsdtx.org) and share your idea or information with *The ECHO* readers throughout Texas.



# Exclusive *ECHO* Interview: TBCJ Member Fordyce Affects Future Through Life of Service, Determination

By Todd R. Carman | Staff Writer



Tom Fordyce visits with *The ECHO*.

“Once you’re released from TDCJ, we want you to be productive,” said Texas Board of Criminal Justice (TBCJ) member Tom Fordyce during a recent visit to *The ECHO*. “We can’t change our past — that’s done. But we can affect the future. That’s what I want to do as a board member: try to make things better.”

Fordyce seeks to serve and make a positive impact on the staff and members of the TDCJ population through his position on the TBCJ, but his service to Texas and the United States dates back more than 50 years. Fordyce said he was in high school during the Vietnam conflict when he decided to serve as a Marine.

“When I was 17 years old, I signed up for the Marine Corps,” Fordyce said. “I came home and told my dad I just joined, but I couldn’t go until I was 18 — I had to wait until I graduated high school. My dad congratulated me — he was in the Marine Corps in World War II.”

Fordyce was stationed just off Hill 5 Southwest of Danang in 1966 for six months before moving North to Khe Sanh in 1967. Unfortunately, his career as a Marine was cut short when he was wounded on Hill 861. The Corpsman saved his life but was severely injured.

“Having spent a year in Vietnam and the loss of [my] left arm, I knew that my service as a Marine was over, so I knew I had to return home and complete my formal education,” Fordyce said.

Coming back to the Huntsville area, Fordyce saw Sam Houston State University as his best option, so he enrolled and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in agriculture.

“It [education] just gives you more tools for your toolbox by learning different things,” he said.

Fordyce then saw TDCJ as a logical choice to put the skills he learned while earning his degree to use.

“I was married and had two kids, and I had to have a job, so I went to work for TDCJ in agriculture,” Fordyce said. “I went to Ellis [Unit]. I was an agriculture livestock supervisor and just

kept promoting up. Those were the days when we had sugar cane. We planted cotton, corn and milo.”

Beyond his college education, Fordyce found more tools for his toolbox by networking with the Texas agriculture community and agricultural education system.

“I also had an office over at Texas A&M. This allowed me to stay abreast of all the new innovative tools that were coming out that we could bring back to TDCJ to make us more efficient in how we raised crops and livestock,” he said. “I also took a trip down to King Ranch to visit.”

During a visit to the ranch, Stephen “Tio” Kleberg, a King Ranch descendant and then vice president of agricultural operations, gave Fordyce guidance in running the sprawling TDCJ agriculture program.

“I called Tio up and I said, ‘Man, I’ve got to have some help,’” Fordyce said. “He just asked for two things. He said, ‘Bring your budget and bring your organizational chart.’”

That feedback helped Fordyce optimize the TDCJ agriculture program, increasing efficiency and productivity. He continued to serve in various roles within agriculture, culminating with him being named Director of Agriculture for TDCJ in 1990, a position he held for 15 years before retiring in 2005.

Not ready to live the life of a full retiree, Fordyce explored other options to continue his service to Texas. He ended up serving on the parole board for six years. He said that initially he found the parole decision-making process difficult.

“The parole board considered 80,000 cases annually,” Fordyce said. Years later he can still recount some of the cases that came before him while he was a commissioner.

“One case involved a drunk driver that hit a family coming back from church, resulting in a death,” Fordyce said. “I told the mother [of the victim] that this guy was up for parole, and I was sure that she would be against him making parole.”

The girl’s mother surprised him, though, when he asked her if she was against him making parole.

“Absolutely not. I want him out today,” Fordyce recounts her saying. “I said,

**“What I want to do as a board member is to make things better, not only just for you [those incarcerated], but for all the employees. I want to make the system a more positive place.”**

- Tom Fordyce  
Texas Board of Criminal Justice (TBCJ) member



Tom Fordyce visits with *The ECHO*.

would you please explain that to me?”

The mother then told him how devastated she was and how she ended up on a downward spiral. However, she found her way back to peace with the help of her church and a TDCJ victim mediation program that Fordyce still recommends. TDCJ’s Victim Services Division offers Victim Offender Mediation Dialogue (VOMD) as a source of healing. VOMD is a victim-initiated program that provides an opportunity for a crime victim to meet with the person who is responsible for their victimization.

“She told me that after participating [in the victim mediation process] that all the anger and bitterness was gone — that she was in peace,” he said.

Fordyce’s experience would continue to grow. He said that while working as a parole commissioner, he gained a deeper understanding of the TDCJ population, serving time, and the effect of incarceration on an individual. He summarized these realizations: “I agree with the point that being incarcerated is punishment enough,” he said, “but being incarcerated may have saved your life, since you were on a downward path.”

Fordyce said incarceration is also an opportunity for growth and change, and he shared how TDCJ’s 2030 plan reflects this concept.

“I’m glad we’re moving forward. TDCJ’s having more compassion,” Fordyce said. “There’s a whole lot more that we can do.”

He also advised those incarcerated to be active in changing their lives.

“Instead of doing time, make time work for you

— because when you leave TDCJ and you go out into the private sector, you’ll have some job skills. I’d rather see you get out, go to work, earn a paycheck and take care of your family.”

Along with a progressive viewpoint on gaining job skills, Fordyce said TDCJ is expanding programs and services to afford the opportunity for members of the TDCJ population to be better citizens in outside communities.

“Get yourself better for when you get out so you don’t come back,” he said, emphasizing the many programs available to the TDCJ population.

Fordyce’s personal desire to serve has led him to work on at least seven boards, including the Trinity River Association; the Mighty Oaks Foundation, a non-profit aiding veteran with trauma and Unlocking Doors, a Dallas area non-profit helping formerly incarcerated people find resources and employment opportunities. He acknowledged that guidance from someone in the Texas legislature also shaped his focus, and he described how surrounding himself with the right people has helped him serve others.

“I try to surround myself with people that are a whole lot smarter than I am — with people that can educate me,” Fordyce said. “A friend of mine in the legislature told me that if [something’s] in the best interest of the state of Texas, you’ll never go wrong. I’ve always tried to keep that in the back of my mind. If you’re doing this for the best interest of the State, you’re doing this for the best interest of you, too.”

Still contributing and sharing his skills and experiences at 78 years old, Fordyce continues his service journey. He said this path that has taken him to every unit within the TDCJ system. His focus with TBCJ now is to make the system better for everyone involved.

“What I want to do as a board member is to make things better, not only just for you [those incarcerated], but for all the employees,” Fordyce said. “I want to make the system a more positive place.”

Fordyce also emphasized the need to not focus on the past but instead look to the present to prepare for a better future.

“The past never leaves. It’s with you,” Fordyce said. “No matter how much you torment yourself with guilt, the past won’t change. No matter how much you consume yourself with anxiety, the future will not be altered, so don’t ruin the present — live in the now with determination and courage.” €



FATHER

# My Father Taught Me



SON

By Mohammed Awde | Telford Unit

**T**he many things my father taught me. I'd be lucky to emulate any of the wonderful mannerisms and etiquettes that adorn my father's character, an outward reflection of his unique heart. Countless amounts of pen, paper and words wouldn't suffice one's attempt to describe what can only be experienced by those who've spent any amount of time near him.

Though he spent many years teaching advanced calculus, physics and chemistry before I was born, he taught me a lot about other things. Some were repetitive, intentional one-on-one talks, while others I learned through observation.

First lesson: quickly adapt to change. Born into a family of refugees and ultimately fleeing from civil war in his birth country, he arrived in Texas with my mom and three sisters. He quickly learned that his foreign teaching certificates would not be honored here. With little money and four other mouths to feed, he did what many immigrants did in the 1980s — he found work at convenience stores. Instead of inaction, he quickly adapted to the culture of where he was becoming loved by the community of "Poly" (Polytechnic Heights). A short time later, my two brothers and I were born.

Working 17 hours a day, seven days a week, my father taught us about

sacrifice, patience and planning. Not spending money on selfish luxuries and meeting every need of his wife and six kids, he eventually owned his own store. "There is nothing like working for yourself," he'd say.

My dad taught us not to waste what we have. On so many levels, this applies to every life situation. He explained how, at eight years old, he sold ice cream on foot to help pay for school. He said kids in other countries would love to be in a big, air-conditioned classroom with their own desk — for free. He wanted us to understand the golden opportunity of free education in America that so many people, unfortunately, throw away.

Even after owning a successful convenience store, he was the first person in our household willing to eat the bottom-of-the bag remnants of hardened pita bread. While breaking the pita chips into his hot cup of tea,

*"When I thought all hope was lost and when it seemed like even the strongest person would've thrown in the towel, my dad taught me optimism."*

he'd say in Arabic: "*Ni 'mat-Allah*" or "Blessings from God." A lesson not to overlook even the smallest provisions. Out of respect and gratitude, he taught us not to toss food across the table. He told us about times in his bachelor days when all he had to eat was grilled tomatoes and pita bread.

By observing my father, I learned how to get along with everyone, regardless of any possible differences. "We all come from one Adam and one Eve," was a common slogan of his. He showed me the meaning of friendly interaction with the public and how to make excuses for people's shortcomings, overlooking superficial unpleasantries.

When I started heading down a self-destructive path as an adolescent, he quickly put me to work with him at his store. In this, he taught me the critical importance of having a positive mentor at this stage in a teenager's life. He also demonstrated the necessity of having a plan to fill one's schedule with productivity and not leave it to chance. Working from 1700-0100 with him, seven nights a week, not only kept me out of trouble, but also established a relationship between us. I learned what it meant to be relied upon and trusted with immense responsibility. He'd eventually allow me to run the store alone for short periods.

Over the years, each night, he gave me a lesson in hospitality. He showed me how to make the customers feel welcome, even when the rest of society may have shown them disdain. With so many gentle talks in between serving customers, he taught me that a person who only looks for the bad in others is likely to miss the wealth of good they will surely offer.

Seeing my dad's cracked heels and aching knees from standing at the store all night after running errands all day taught me that nothing good comes easy. He taught me how to mop, stock, bookkeep and take out the trash. He taught me that he wouldn't be around forever and that if I didn't strive in my youth, then it'd be harder to provide for myself and others in the future. He taught me that we don't

need to get rich, but we should at least have enough to avoid burdening others by begging.

My dad repeatedly emphasized the importance of obeying and respecting my mother. "One should not even say, '*Uff!*' (an Arabic expression denoting any sound of discontent) to their mother!" he'd say, referencing a very popular verse from the Quran. He'd gently remind me that she carried me in difficulty for nine months, nursed me and helped me when I was weak — so she deserved to be treated and protected as I would a treasure chest.

Furthermore, he explained that even though he and my mom argued at times, they still loved each other. "There is nothing more important than family, Baba. You see me — Home, work. Work, home. Some other men mess with other women or other substances, but me, I'm a family man. I love my family." I'm assuming these words of his, repeated until I unintentionally memorized them, were his best efforts to teach me fidelity and the traits of a responsible and loving

**"By observing my father, I learned how to get along with everyone, regardless of any possible differences... He showed me the meaning of friendly interaction with the public and how to make excuses for people's shortcomings, overlooking superficial unpleasantries."**



husband and father.

Another thing he taught us was not to be afraid to tell someone how much we love them. “No one will ever love you more than your mother and father. Believe me, one day you’ll have kids, and you’ll remember that what I am telling you is true.” On rare occasions, I’d find him lying on the living room couch for a short rest. It seemed as if a single tear was rolling down his cheek.

“Are you crying?” I’d ask. I’d get closer, and his reddened eyes, full of tears, looked as if he’d opened them underwater in a chlorine-filled pool. He’d wipe the tears away and say, “Yeah, I just remembered a time when I made my mother angry, and I felt sadness and regret over it.”

When I thought all hope was lost and when it seemed like even the strongest person would’ve thrown in the towel, my dad taught me optimism. He kept his tongue moist with words of hope and trust in the Creator. “*Allah Kareem*” or “God is

Generous” would be followed up with a phrase that can be roughly translated as, “God will sort things out.”

Lastly, and maybe most importantly, my dad taught me how to forgive someone who messes up big time. How to preserve their dignity, confidence and trust no matter how epic their failure. How to correct their mistake while letting them know you still love them and that the mistake does not define that person. There were so many youthful screw-ups on my part, that I was sure my world was over, but he still provided solutions without question or judgement.

No matter how foolishly arrogant, selfish or rebellious I acted he never gave up on me. He never considered me down for the count — he

stayed in my corner, picking me up and dusting me off so we could try another strategy.

He taught me that someone can be helped and nurtured toward successful independence, even when they’ve forgotten how to care for themselves. He taught me to stick with them until they remember again.

Although this brief essay won’t fully give the credit my father is due, I pray that my unworthy attempt somehow honors my father’s lifelong efforts. I’d consider myself fortunate if I received the blessing of the ability to put a fraction of these lessons into practice. As my father currently struggles through his lack of physical and verbal ability, so unlike his old self, I hope he feels a reassuring peace and awareness that he passed the test of fatherhood. €



ECHO WRITING CONTEST FINALIST, FICTION  
Just a Moment

Rebba Caryn Stuart | Hobby Unit

He sits there close to her. Holding hands with fingers intertwined. She looks at his hands worried and says, “Your knuckles are about to pop out of their sockets you’re so tense.” He shifts relaxing his shoulders, leaning back on the deck. “It was a hard day at work.”

She slides behind him, wrapping around him, becoming his chair and pillow. “Any requests for dinner?” Relaxing fully into her embrace, one hand holding hers, he replies, “It was so bad I’m not even hungry.” She softly kisses and caresses his neck as she holds him.

As the sunset begins to blend shades of blue and red with the yellows fading away, water touches his toes as the tide begins to change. He pulls her tightly against him then starts to get up while continuing to hold on.

She gasps, then starts laughing,

**“I realized that I was tired of living this way, so I signed up for every class they offered me.”**

“What are you doing?” as they fall back. He gets up and scoops her up, then lets her regain her balance. “Piggy-back from the ground never works.” They walk up the pier arm-in-arm, laughing, hanging onto each other, kissing and canoodling around.

Collapsing on the couch, she pulls him in close, holding him in her heart. “Are you hungry?” Adjusting into her embrace, he says, “No, but we can cook if you want.” A little later, he falls asleep in her embrace. She lays there holding him, watching him sleep. She breathes him in, slowly accepting sleep.

She wakes up, and he is gone. It’s seven o’clock in the morning, and the sun is in her eyes. She cooks breakfast as the kids start coming in. “Thank you, Mom.” When she finished, the kids were at the bus stop. €

# Collier Shares Final Thoughts as TDCJ's Executive Director



Bryan Collier

By **Todd R. Carman** | Staff Writer

“Use the system,” Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Executive Director Bryan Collier advises residents. “Everything you want to take advantage of is there [within TDCJ], but it’s not going to come grab you and pull you in. You have to take initiative and say, ‘I want to do it!’”

Collier has 40 years of service within TDCJ, with the last nine years in the executive director position. His career with the agency comes to a close at the end of August. Collier visited *The ECHO* to share his thoughts about his tenure as executive director and the direction of the agency. He also talked about how the agency was able to get adequate funding these last two legislative sessions.

“We have received more resources — almost \$2 billion last [legislative session] of new money, and

about \$2.2 billion of new money this past session,” Collier said. “What it really goes to is infrastructure — a lot of it is major repairs.”

Beyond repairs, Collier explained how the funding will help with providing more cool beds and dorm housing.

“We will add another 18,000 beds of air conditioning,” Collier said. “We also are building 5,600 air-conditioned expansion dorm beds, where we staff at a hundred percent or better, like in El Paso or down in the Rio Grande Valley. When we finish all the things that we just got the funding for, as well as the things in motion, [we’ll have] at least 90,000 beds in the system that are air-conditioned.”

The additional funding also allowed TDCJ to purchase an air-conditioned facility that was built in West Texas in Garza County.

“There was a prison near Lubbock that was built by the county,” Collier said. “It’s an air-conditioned 2,000 bed facility that is fairly new.”

Collier also touched on the topic of building new facilities.

“At some point, Texas will have to look at maybe building a prison,” he said. “That’s probably more like 2027 or 2029. A big facility, like a 4,000-bed unit, would be about \$1.8 billion. You can figure beds these days cost \$250,000 to \$500,000 per bed.”

Beyond funding, Collier believes that he has had a positive impact on the agency.

“Our retention rates on our staff turnover have continued to improve every month for the last couple of years,” he said. “Some other security features like the body cameras are important to bring into the system for various reasons. I think they’ve helped us be more transparent and to really see what’s going on and what we need to deal with.”

Another accomplishment Collier is happy with is the growth of peer-led programs.

“To me, [peer-led programs are] a game changer,” Collier said. “I think the field ministry program helped us put our toe in the water. You have wardens that want those programs. They see the value of those peer-led programs and they use them in ways I never would have thought of. That tells me [peer-led programs are]

going to stick around and hopefully grow.”

Collier believes that peer-led programming helps unit administrators reach part of the resident population that they have difficulty reaching.

“You want to give [wardens and administrators] all the tools they need to be really effective at what they do,” Collier said. “Part of the effectiveness of peers is they’ve been there and done that. They can talk to other [residents] better than I can, and people will listen to them. They may not listen to me; they may not listen to a volunteer. But if a peer says, ‘Man, I was there and I’ve been through this and here’s where I’m at,’ that’s a game changer. It’s got credibility that none of [the non-residents] can have.”

One of his ultimate goals for the agency is for peer-led cognitive classes to become a part of new residents’ intake.

“Going through a cognitive program within the first 90 days — that’s what we’re trying to do with the peer programming,” Collier said. “Hopefully we’ll get there — I would love to see that one day.”

Collier again touched on residents being assertive with their own rehabilitation.

“If it’s opportunities you want, they may not be instantly available, but they’re here,” Collier said. “There are methods to get into those, and if a particular program’s not available [where you’re at], then another one might be. Be flexible, take the initiative and identify what you need to do.”

He said that if a resident isn’t sure what they could be doing program-wise, then all they have to do is ask.

“If you need help figuring that out, we can help,” Collier said. “But at the same time, you have to take that next step and go out and do it. The people I’ve seen that are successful when they get out — they’re the people that said, ‘I’m going to do something and I’m going to do that because I’m improving.’ When you get out, you want to be as well-prepared as you can be.”

As far as challenges he’s experienced at the helm of TDCJ, Collier said there were many, but the COVID pandemic was the largest.

“The pandemic was very challenging for the agency,” Collier said. “People outside the agency would ‘chunk rocks at’ [i.e. criticize] the facility and the system — and thought prisons were where it [COVID] was coming from. [TDCJ] had a higher survival rate than the general public did.”

Collier then shared what he felt were two of the biggest issues the agency is dealing with today.

“Right now contraband’s a huge issue — not nuisance contraband, but narcotics,” Collier said. “The narcotics nowadays have fentanyl in them, and people don’t always know what they’re getting a hold of — and it’s killing them. I think that’s a huge challenge.”

He went on to say that staff shortage is the other main issue for TDCJ, due to the pool of potential employees being smaller from a low unemployment rate.

“In Texas, the unemployment rate is really low, and what that tells us is that everybody who can work is working — employers are competing for the same person.”

This low unemployment rate affecting agency staffing has a positive effect on those newly released.

“On the flip side of it, there’s never a better time for people getting out of TDCJ to find jobs,” Collier said. “This is the best job market I’ve ever seen, and I think that’s a good side of it.”

When asked why he felt this was the right time to retire from the agency, Collier said there were several reasons.

“I prayed about it for a long time,” he said. “I think it became clear this last year. We had the Sunset Review process, and I wanted to get through that. I wanted to get through our legislative cycle and do some reorganizing within the agency’s structure. You never get everything done you need to get done or that you want to get done, but I felt like this was a good, opportune time for me to go and transition out of the agency.”

Collier then further explained his retirement.

“I hope I left the agency better than when I came in,” Collier said. “I feel like the culture in the system has improved in general. I hope whoever comes behind me leaves it better than when I was here. If I did my job right, that’s what will happen. For me, the investment in people — the staff, the leadership teams, but also the population — and trying to help make it all better is something I’ll miss. I’m really proud of the people.”

Collier’s final advice was for residents of TDCJ returning to the community: focus on the present, not the past.

“When you get out, you can’t make up any of this time [spent in TDCJ], so don’t try to,” Collier said. “Pace yourself. Get out and don’t worry about that — just focus on what’s ahead. Rip off the rear-view mirror and go forward. That’s the best advice I can give you.” €

# Paying Homage to One of Sport's Greatest Figures

By Robert Morgan | Staff Writer

**B**oxing is one of the oldest known sports in the world, dating as far back as 3,000 B.C. Due to its savagery — combatants with fists wrapped in studded leather becoming bare-knuckled brawlers — the sport was banned across many cultures only to reemerge during the 1600s. It has further evolved into an artistic gloved contest enjoyed across today's world.

Despite its brutal reputation, boxing has brought forth many influential figures — champions both in and out of the ring. One of the greatest champions of all time was boxing legend George Foreman, who passed away on March 21, 2025 in Houston, Texas at the age of 76. “Big George” as he was called inside the ring, provided many of boxing's greatest moments, yet his story is much more — a myriad of trials and triumphs.

## *Early Days*

Foreman was born in Marshall, Texas, although grew up in what was at the time considered one of Houston's most notorious neighborhoods: the Fifth Ward. As an impoverished youth, Foreman struggled in school and often bullied younger children. Even though he enjoyed playing sports like football and basketball in school, by the age of 15 he dropped out of school and developed a reputation on the streets as a mugger and a brawler.

Thanks largely in part to the interventions of his mother Nancy and the social policies of then-president Lyndon B. Johnson, Foreman was saved from his downward spiral. In 1964, Foreman enrolled in the

Job Corps, which provided young people from low income communities with basic education and paid career and technical education training. By joining the Job Corps, Foreman realized that he could get the skills and credentials to land a well-paying job. Foreman finally had a plan and a purpose: to be more than an alcoholic and street tough.

Foreman was shipped to Oregon to do construction work and forestry, and he was now able to send money home to support his family. Despite his new surroundings, he could not escape trouble. Due to his social awkwardness, Foreman was constantly teased by his peers, inevitably leading to altercations that jeopardized his position within Job Corps.

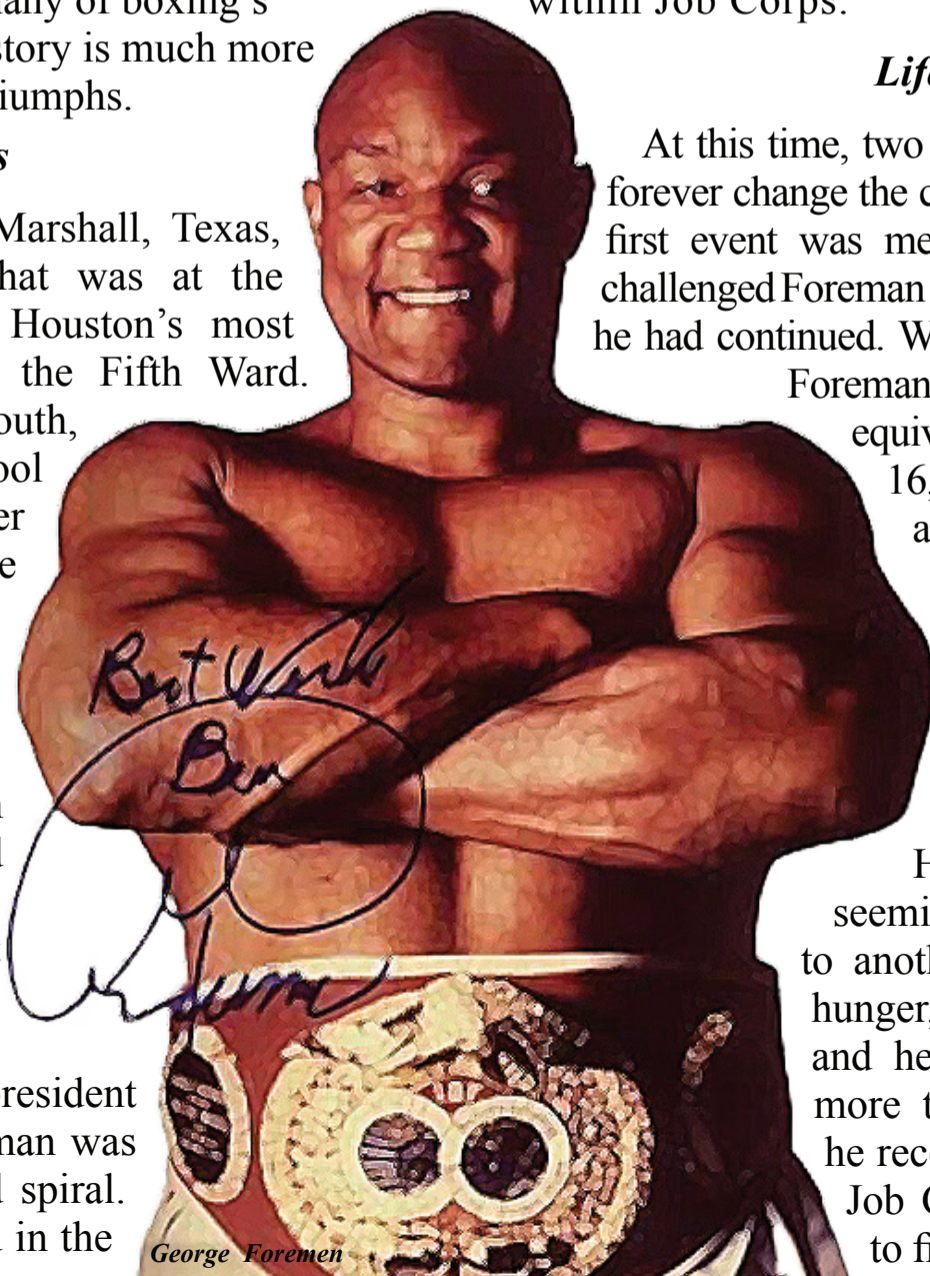
## *Life Changes*

At this time, two events happened that would forever change the course of Foreman's life. The first event was meeting Richard Kibble, who challenged Foreman to be more than a bully, a habit he had continued. With Kibble's encouragement,

Foreman attained a high school equivalency certificate. Now aged 16, Foreman read his first book and began to have improved social interactions.

The second event was meeting Charles “Doc” Broadus, who used the sport of boxing to instill discipline into Foreman.

His entire life, Foreman seemingly moved from one fight to another. As a youth he fought hunger, he fought peer pressure and he fought alcoholism. Thus, more than the skill and training he received during his time at the Job Corps, Foreman knew how to fight.





“Never forget that you can be who you want to be.”

— George Foreman

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia

Foreman fights Muhammad Ali.

Yet becoming a boxer was different than being a street fighter. Foreman was embarrassed during sparring sessions and nearly gave up before he began. Broadus took his young charge under wing, not letting him quit — an attribute that Foreman would embody over the course of his storied career.

While many of his opponents were faster, wlier and more experienced than Foreman, few, if any, could match his strength. Overcoming the embarrassment of his first foray into the ring, Foreman scored a first-round knockout over his next opponent. After living a life as a social outcast, the accolades he now received became addictive — fueling him.

### *Golden Gloves*

In 1967 “Big George” Foreman’s career as a boxer began to take shape. After his first loss, Foreman began observing other boxers — appreciating their skills and use of technique. Although he still relied on his overwhelming strength to defeat opponents, Foreman developed technique and was finally able to win at Golden Gloves, capturing the 1968 Amateur Heavy Weight championship.

The next milestone in Foreman’s illustrious career was his journey to become an Olympic champion. Foreman once again was faced with new adversity from an uncommon foe. Olympic tryouts were steeped in politics and favoritism, forcing Foreman to defeat opponents in the ring and out. Once again, Foreman strength and tenacity saved the day. He either knocked out or thoroughly outboxed opponents, leaving no room for a controversial finish.

With each victory at the Olympics, Foreman garnered more of the media spotlight, which at the time was dominated by America’s growing social

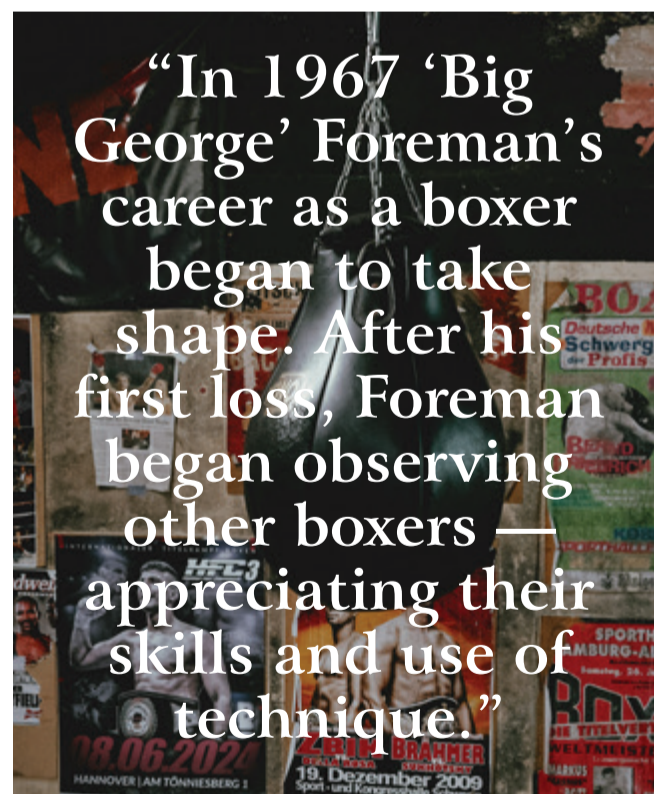
and civil unrest. He successfully dodged questions about his political leanings, while continuing to soak up the admiration of the public. Every match he fought carried with it the implications that could cement growing racial and political ideologies.

In the days leading up to the championship match, Foreman watched fellow Americans Tommie Smith and John Carlos raise black-gloved fists in protest, only to be stripped of their medals. Although he was sympathetic to their situation, Foreman remained focused on his upcoming bout against the heavily-favored Soviet champion

Ionas Chepulis. Much to his chagrin, Foreman, once an outcast, now found himself representing something greater than himself.

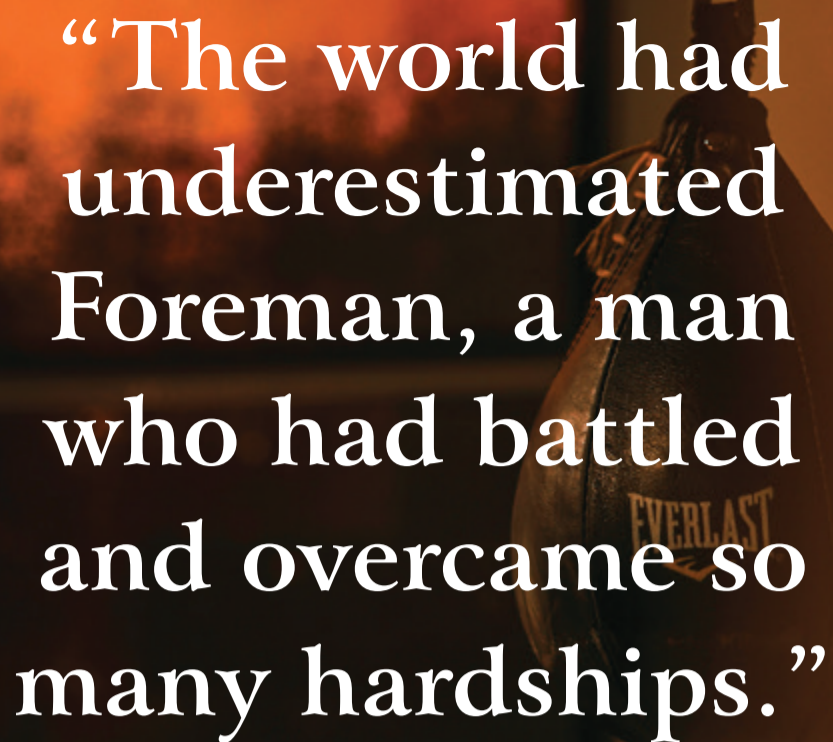
### *Olympic Gold*

After so much hard work and setbacks, many of them self-inflicted, Foreman was able to achieve his goal. In the thin Mexico City air, he and Chepulis fought an exhaustingly quick but brutal match, resulting in Foreman winning gold at the 1968 Olympics. In what would become one of the most controversial moments of Foreman’s career, he took his celebratory bows while waving an American flag.



“In 1967 ‘Big George’ Foreman’s career as a boxer began to take shape. After his first loss, Foreman began observing other boxers — appreciating their skills and use of technique.”

After his success at the Olympics, Foreman’s eyes turned to his next mountain — winning the heavyweight title. Despite the fallout from his



“The world had underestimated Foreman, a man who had battled and overcame so many hardships.”

Olympic celebration, Foreman’s became highly sought out by media outlets. When he announced his championship aspirations, sports writers and boxing enthusiasts were thrilled.

The start to his heavyweight career was a whirlwind. If not making appearances on various talk shows, Foreman was leaving a path of destruction in the ring. Where most championship caliber fighters took three to four fights a year, Foreman’s first year as a professional saw him amass 20 consecutive wins — 17 of which were by knockout.

Unbeknownst to him at the time, while his manager and trainer Sadler continued to feed him opponents that further padded his record, boxing aficionados criticized him for padding his record against a list of “has been” and “never was” opponents. As Foreman would come to learn, this reputation only served to make his climb that much steeper.

### *Smokin’ Joe*

Yet as was his style, Foreman kept his eyes on Joe Frazier, the current heavyweight champion. With a still-banned Muhammad Ali primed to regain his boxing license, the boxing landscape became a picture of beaten, battered and broken brawlers.

Foreman slugged his way through all competition to position himself as the top contender, only to have his chances stalled by sport promoters fighting over who would host the fight between Foreman and Frazier. Ali’s eminent return muddied the waters since an Ali-Frazier rematch stood to be a bigger draw. Finally, in 1973 the two sides were able to agree to terms on a fight in Jamaica.

“Smokin’” Joe Frazier was the heavy favorite.

While they appreciated his knockout prowess, boxing experts and the public at large did not think highly of Foreman or his chances of lasting in the ring versus Frazier. Boxing legend Joe Louis, a man Foreman revered, was the only person outside those of his camp that believed Foreman had a chance.

The world had underestimated Foreman, a man who had battled and overcame so many hardships. Foreman summoned a lifetime of anger and unleashed it on Frazier. The world was stunned as they watched Foreman obliterate Frazier, capturing boxing’s heavyweight championship for the first time.

Over the next year, Foreman defended his title against such opponents as Ken Norton while he awaited the long-anticipated bout versus Muhammad Ali, who was in the midst of scoring a winning via decision versus Frazier.

The Foreman-Ali fight has become one of the most noteworthy of all time and not just because of the action inside the ring. The prefight theatrics were worth the price of admission alone during the months leading up to the main event. Ali, ever the showman, won over sportswriters and local fans, while Foreman remained uncharacteristically quiet, choosing instead to focus on training. This contrast led boxing experts to favor Foreman, believing he was laser-focused, whereas Ali was taking it lightly.

### *Jungle Rumble*

“The Rumble in The Jungle” as the fight was dubbed, took place in the early morning hours in Zaire. Thousands packed the newly-built arena, with scores more tuning in from around the world. The long-awaited bout began, and as fans expected, Ali unleashed a flurry of punches onto Foreman, putting him on his heels. What took place next is still considered today as one of the cleverest maneuvers in sports history, not to mention a dangerous one.

At the start of the second round, Ali switched tactics and instead of attacking, laid on the ropes. Foreman pounced, bombarding Ali with a barrage of thunderous blows. To all who witnessed the event, they knew it was only a matter of time before Ali went down. Yet as the rounds wore on, Ali still stood — offering very little offense. In the eighth round, Foreman’s onslaught began to lessen — he had punched himself to exhaustion. It was the moment Ali was waiting for, and he again went on the attack. Foreman fell to the canvas, the first time in his career and failed to rise. The fight was over, and Foreman’s reign as champion was over after one year.

After falling victim to Ali's "Rope-A-Dope" tactic, Foreman took on a string of fights, trying to garner a rematch. His trail of destroyed boxers ended with a loss via decision, versus Jimmy Young. In the dressing room after the fight, Foreman had a seemingly near-death experience, which resulted in him "being reborn."

### *Saving Souls*

Foreman suddenly retired from boxing on Mother's Day 1977 at the age of 28. His new mission had switched from becoming heavyweight champion to saving souls. Like he did in boxing, Foreman gave everything he had to his life as a preacher. From the streets to the pulpit — even in Zaire — Foreman's popularity opened doors across various media platforms, providing him opportunities to spread his ministry efforts.

In 1978 Foreman became an ordained minister — preaching to small groups that eventually grew into larger masses. Two years later he returned to Houston and founded and built the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, where he preached multiple times a week.

In 1984, he used his personal savings to build the George Foreman Youth and Community Center. Foreman's commitment to serving the city's youth did not go unnoticed. He was awarded the Horatio Alger award, which honored the achievements of outstanding leaders in spite of adversity. Winners of this award personified the "American Dream" while serving as role models to the youth.

Although this endeavor provided local kids with the opportunity to safely work out and play sports, it nearly bankrupted him. His financial difficulties threatened to close his church and youth center. Struggling to continue the financing of those operations, Foreman knew one way he knew he could quickly make money — by boxing.

### *Comeback Time*

Thus, in 1987, Foreman returned to the ring. Foreman contacted his former connection in the boxing world to assist with his comeback. Men that rose due to his prior success now refused to help — believing he would fail. Foreman, not to be deterred, took charge of his own training and promotion. He used the media to his advantage. Sportswriters wrote opinionated articles doubting the former heavy weight while poking fun at his age and weight. Instead of defending or countering them, he smartly used those same headlines and jokes to poke fun at himself.

Foreman's return to boxing was much like his beginning. He tore off a string of victories with 24 consecutive fights, 22 by way of knockout. He finally

got his chance at the championship in 1991 versus Evander Holyfield. The bout went 12 rounds, with Holyfield winning via decision. It brought in a record \$75 million. Foreman, monumental figure in the world of boxing, took the loss in stride while still keeping his eye on regaining the title.

He was also a media sensation, and advertisers flocked to him. Since the early 1990s, Foreman had discovered his talent for salesmanship, and by the end of the decade, he was making millions off of his appearances in infomercials marketing the George Foreman Lean Mean Grilling Machine.

### *Straight Right*

Foreman's next opportunity came against Michael Moorer, who dethroned Holyfield to become champion. Moorer was heavily criticized for passing over higher-ranked contenders, but for him, Foreman represented a huge payday.

Foreman trained in private, and his jovial persona morphed into something more resembling the grouchy brute he had been known as earlier in life. Moorer and the boxing world were confident that he would score a victory against the fan favorite. Similar to the Holyfield fight, Foreman was peppered with a flurry of jabs by a younger, much quicker opponent.

Along with his cornerman, Foreman believed that he was down on the judge's score cards. After 30 minutes of fighting, he unleashed the one punch that had carried him his entire life — his legendary straight right. As a result, on Nov. 5, 1994, at the age of 45, Foreman knocked out champion Michael Moorer, recapturing the heavyweight title. At present, Foreman still holds the record as the oldest heavy in boxing history. He finished his career with 76 wins, 68 by way of knockout.

George Edward Foreman defied the odds. Although his early life was filled with turmoil, Foreman did not let his mistakes and the opinions of others define who he was or who he could become. "Never forget that you can be who you want to be," Foreman urged in his book "George Foreman's Guide to Life." His dedication to his craft and to building a better life for those around him sets the bar for the life of a champion. €

### *Sources:*

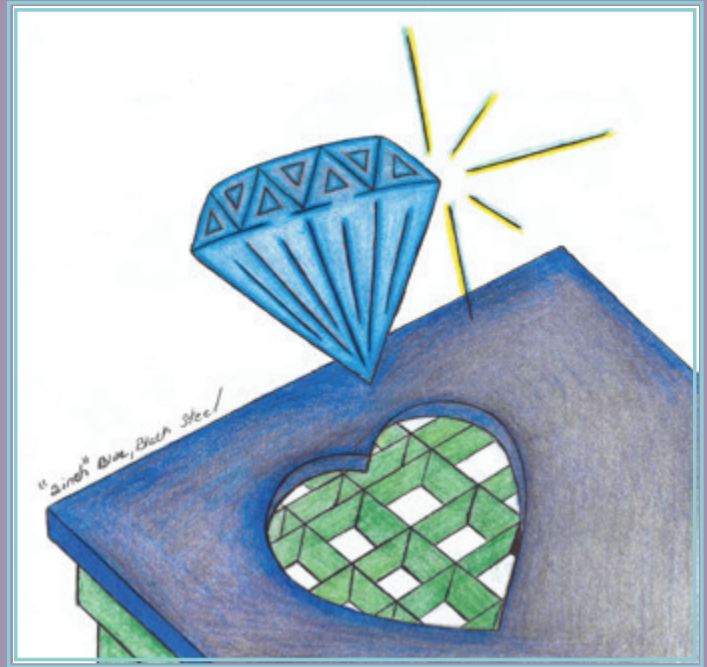
"George Foreman's Guide to Life," by George Foreman; "No Way But to Fight," by Andrew Smith.

# ART EXPO

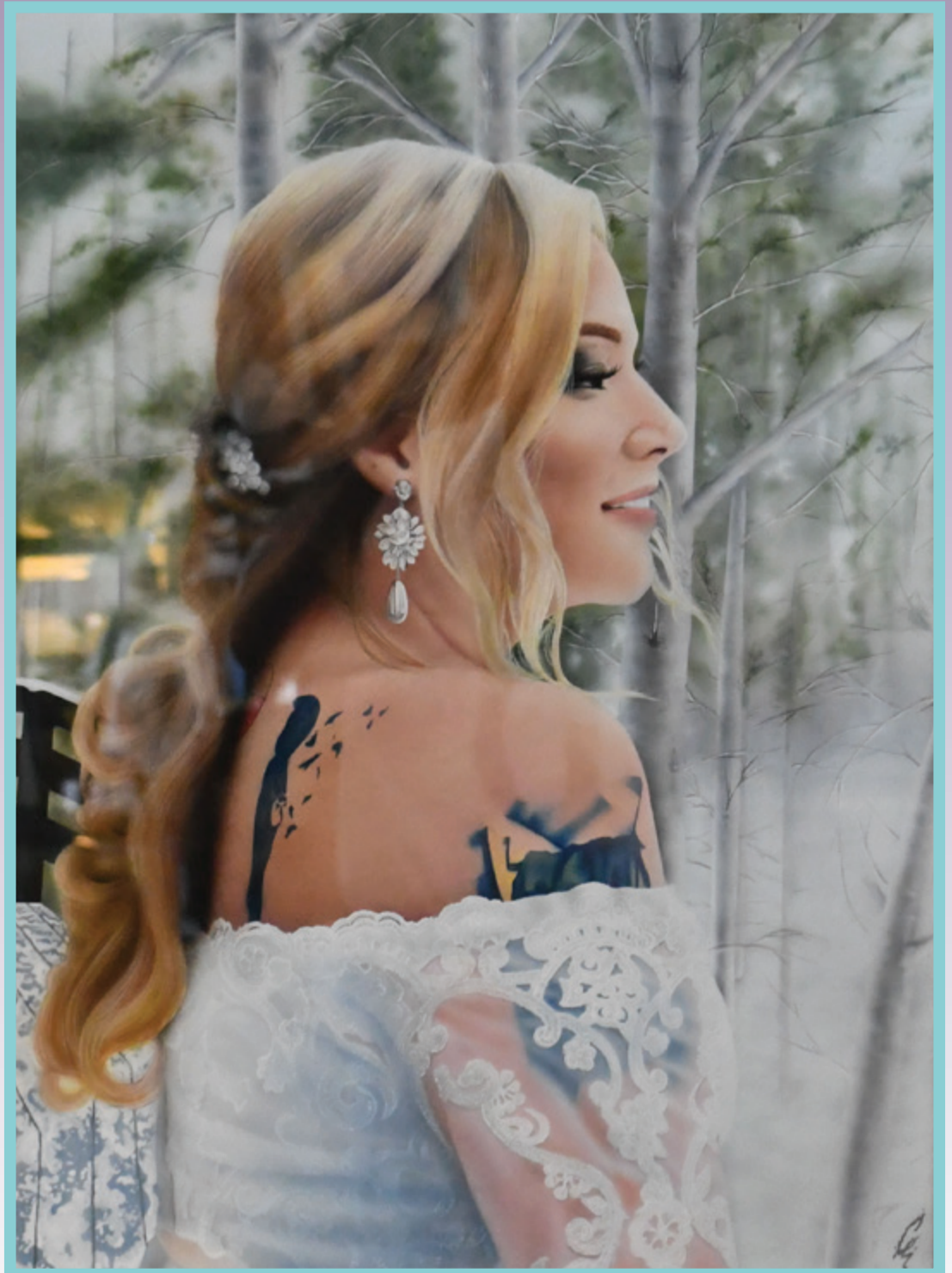
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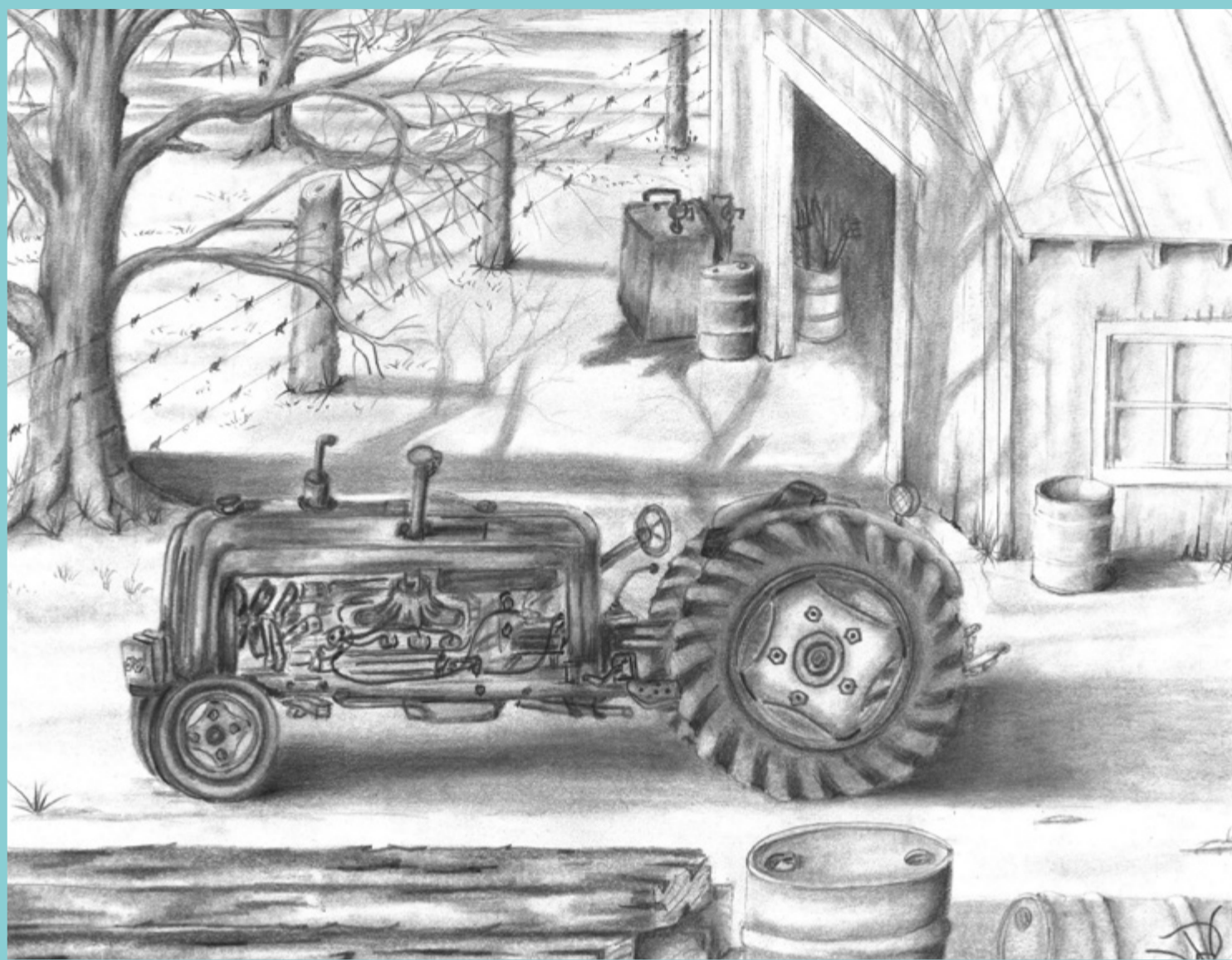
**Loving Couple** | Daniel Vasquez  
Pencil on Illustration Board | 15" x 20"



**Winter Wedding** | Charles Silvia  
Air Brush Color on Illustration Board | 15" x 20"



**Ni** | Heather Smith Sell  
Ink, Pencil & Water Color  
on Paper | 9" x 12"



**Old Tractor** | Derwin Wynn  
Color Pencil & Ink on Illustration Board | 15" x 20"



**Comic Book Heroes** | Tyler Devich  
Color Pencil & Ink on Illustration Board | 15" x 20"

art expo

# Sports View

This sports column represents the viewpoints of sports fan and sportswriter Will Hill, reflecting his opinions and observations. These opinions do not represent official opinions of TDCJ or of *The ECHO*. Enjoy them; respond to them. *The ECHO* welcomes your letters and input!

## Dallas Cowboys: Building 'America's Team'

By Will Hill | Staff Writer

Over the past several months, I have been writing articles about the history of different sports. You are welcome. However, in doing so I have neglected my first love: the Dallas Cowboys. Then I had an idea. Why not write a column chronicling the making of "America's Team?" Once again, you are welcome.

While the National Football League's (NFL) record books show the Dallas Cowboys began playing in 1960, they actually existed in the mind of Clint Williams Murchison Jr. long before that. Murchison was one of the more than 17,000 spectators to watch the "Dallas Texans" play the New York Giants on Sept. 28, 1952, in the famous Cotton Bowl. This was not the "Dallas Texans" that would eventually become the Kansas City Chiefs, but an earlier version that went bankrupt after only one season.

In his black, horn-rimmed glasses and crew cut hairstyle, the 29-year-old Murchison looked more like one of the computer geeks at the recently opened Texas Instruments than what he really was — one of the wealthiest men in the United States. Scion to the founder of Southern Union Gas Company, one of Texas' "Big Four" oil companies in operation during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Murchison was born into the world of wealth and privilege. He had a blunt and cutting personality that rubbed foes and

even friends the wrong way. It is reported Murchison once told a business competitor, "You have all the qualities of a dog, except loyalty."

He was known to walk past close associates





without even acknowledging them. Those who liked Murchison attributed his personality to his introverted nature while others attributed it to a great universal truth — individuals with his level of wealth did not have to make nice.

After watching that first game, Murchison began inquiring about applying for an expansion franchise, but he was repeatedly told the NFL had no plans to expand beyond the 12 existing teams. Rebuffed but not dissuaded, Murchison sought out teams that he might purchase including the aforementioned “Dallas Texans.” Eventually he reached an agreement with George Preston Marshall, the owner of the Washington Redskins, to buy the team for \$600,000. However, that deal fell through at the last moment when Marshall demanded he be allowed to stay on as president of the team for 10 years instead of the five years that had originally been negotiated. The collapse of the deal created bad blood between the two men that would last throughout the ensuing years.

Murchison was not the only businessman in Texas looking to get into the NFL game; Lamar Hunt and K.S. “Bud” Adams were also trying to purchase teams. Hunt and Adams, frustrated by the NFL’s decision to not expand, decided to form the American Football League (AFL) with Hunt owning a team in Dallas and Adams owning one in Houston. The formation of the new league was the incentive the NFL needed to expand, and they picked Murchison to head a franchise in Dallas.

Murchison named the team the “Dallas Rangers” in honor of his grandfather who had been an agent with the legendary Texas Rangers law enforcement agency. The only thing that could derail Murchison’s dream of owning an NFL franchise was the vote of the owners at the annual league meetings in January. While he enjoyed support from many of the owners, his old nemesis Marshall was attempting to raise enough objections to scuttle his ownership bid. However, Murchison had a trick up his sleeve.

Marshall’s ex-wife had written the words to the Redskin’s fight song “Hail to the Redskins,” that the Redskins’ Wigwam Band played before, during and after games. A couple of weeks before the vote, Murchison informed Marshall that he had purchased the rights to the song, but he would be amenable to a trade — the rights to the song in exchange for Marshall’s vote. That is all it took for Dallas to become an NFL city.

Murchison’s first hire for the new franchise was Texas “Tex” Ernest Schramm Jr., the former general manager of the Los Angeles Rams. Murchison ran his football team the same way he ran his other businesses: by hiring experts in their field and stepping back while they did their jobs. I wonder if Jerry Jones realizes that is even an option?

Schramm knew the success of the franchise was dependent on two things: choosing the right coach, and acquiring good players. In regards to the first element, Jim Lee Howell, head coach of the New York Giants, told Schramm he should talk to Tom Landry whom he considered to be, “the greatest coach in football.”

**Murchison named the team the ‘Dallas Steers’ and then the ‘Dallas Rangers’ in honor of his grandfather who had been an agent with the legendary Texas Rangers law enforcement agency.**



“Bob Dylan once sang that the only thing that stays the same is that everything changes. The times have changed, values have changed, the game of professional football has definitely changed, but through it all one thing has remained the same: the Dallas Cowboys are still and forever, ‘America’s Team.’”

Landry had already agreed in principle to coach Adams’ AFL Houston Oilers when Wellington Mara, the owner of the Giants, advised him to talk to Murchison in Dallas. On his way to interview with the Oilers, Landry stopped off in Dallas and instead of signing with Houston, Landry signed a five-year, \$34,500 contract to coach the new team in Dallas, which also happened to be his offseason home.

With a coach secured, Schramm turned his attention to the second element of his plan — acquiring players. Schramm reached out to his former colleagues with the Rams to see what players might be available. They gave him one name: Gil Brandt.

Brandt was a baby photographer in Milwaukee who never played college or professional football nor been a full-time scout. However, he knew how to analyze and evaluate players like very few others could, and he had a photographic memory filled with stats. It did not take much to convince the photographer to drop the camera and pursue his true love — football.

The first two players signed by Schramm were Don Merideth, a quarterback from Southern Methodist University (SMU) and Don Perkins, the record-setting running back from New Mexico University. Technically, Merideth and Perkins were signed to “personal service” contracts even before the NFL owners had voted on

whether to allow Murchison into their club. Merideth was drafted by the Chicago Bears in November 1959, but he made his future plans clear: he would play in the NFL with the Dallas Cowboys, or he would practice law.

The NFL conducted a special expansion draft by giving Dallas access to five players from each of the existing teams’ roster. Merideth was the future of the Rangers, but Landry wanted a veteran to mentor him so Schramm signed Eddie LeBaron, the diminutive quarterback nicknamed “The Little General” due to his five-foot seven-inch frame. LeBaron was on the back end of his All-Pro career, and he was also making plans to go into law after his playing days were over. As an incentive for him signing on with Dallas, Bedford Wynne, the team’s minority owner agreed to hire him at his law firm.

Eventually, Murchison decided to change the name of the team from the Rangers to the Cowboys due to fan’s confusion over which Rangers team was being talked about, the minor-league baseball team “Dallas Rangers” or the NFL expansion franchise “Dallas Rangers.” The decision to go with Cowboys did not go over well with everyone in the organization.

“That [name] was totally Fort Worth,” Wynne said. “The name didn’t have anything to do with Dallas.”

With a new name and a roster of players, the Dallas Cowboys made their home debut on Saturday, Sept. 24, 1960, at the Cotton Bowl on the grounds of the State Fair of Texas against the Pittsburgh Steelers. Bobby Layne,

the local hero from SMU, quarterbacked the Steelers to a 35-28 victory. Layne was so “old school” he was one of the few players in the league that still played without a face mask on his helmet.

As a promotional gimmick the team invited Roy Rogers, King of the Singing Cowboys, and his wife Dale Evans to ride around the stadium in a convertible car smiling and waving to the crowd. Unfortunately, not all of the fans waved back, instead pelting the movie stars with paper cups, programs and ice cubes before security hustled the couple out of harm’s way and out of the stadium.

The Cowboys have come a long way since those early days. The team has had three owners, Murchison, H.H.

“Bum” Bright and the aforementioned Jones all who made their fortunes in oil. The team has won five Super Bowl titles, made eight Super Bowl appearances and has had 32 members of the organization including players, coaches and contributors enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Bob Dylan once sang that the only thing that stays the same is that everything changes. The times have changed, values have changed, the game of professional football has definitely changed, but through it all, one thing has remained the same: the Dallas Cowboys are still and forever, “America’s Team.” €

## **Note From The Editor:**

*Thank you for your many great comments concerning  
The ECHO’s new digital magazine format on the tablets!*

**FYI:** Traditional newsprint issues are still being printed and delivered in smaller quantities to the units and to other interested stakeholders. For readers outside of TDCJ, such as family members, friends and others, *The ECHO* is now offered as a worldwide publication, available for free on the internet via the Windham School District and TDCJ websites: (at [wsdtx.org](http://wsdtx.org) and [tdcj.texas.gov](http://tdcj.texas.gov)). Readers who search for “*The ECHO* Newspaper” will be treated to the latest edition and recent back issues. Please let your loved ones know this is where they will find news of your accomplishments and success stories, along with creative efforts, opportunities for growth, and agency updates. They can see it at the same time as you!

*The ECHO* has been serving readers since 1928, bringing news and tools needed to change futures. We appreciate the unique opportunity to write and publish for the men and women of TDCJ — along with those who care about them.

Please keep writing! Your input is awaited, valued and enjoyed!

*Best regards always,  
Bambi Kiser  
Managing Editor  
The ECHO*



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# Brandon Puffer: 'It is Not About Me'

By Will Hill | Staff Writer

**Y**ou are better than your worst decision," says Brandon Puffer, a former Major League Baseball (MLB) pitcher who was also a former resident of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ).

Puffer is speaking not only about his career in baseball but also about the decisions that led to his incarceration. Like many people in TDCJ, Puffer's future changed forever on the basis of a bad choice. Coach "Puff," as he is sometimes called, still carries the look and confidence one associates with a former professional athlete, but today, there is a definite humbleness and enthusiasm for serving others — whether it is coaching his travel youth baseball teams, or returning to prison to speak to others.

"I was trying to be a good family man and do the right thing, and I just compromised one time too many," Puffer says. "After 15 years of being a pro ball player, I woke up one day in an orange jumpsuit."

## Trading Cleats for Incarceration:

In 2008, Puffer, was enjoying his role as player and coach for the Frisco RoughRiders, the Double A affiliate of the Texas Rangers. The younger players on the team had tried for the entire season to coax "Grandpa Puffer," as they called him, to go out drinking with them, and for the entire season, he had rebuffed their requests — until the night he didn't.

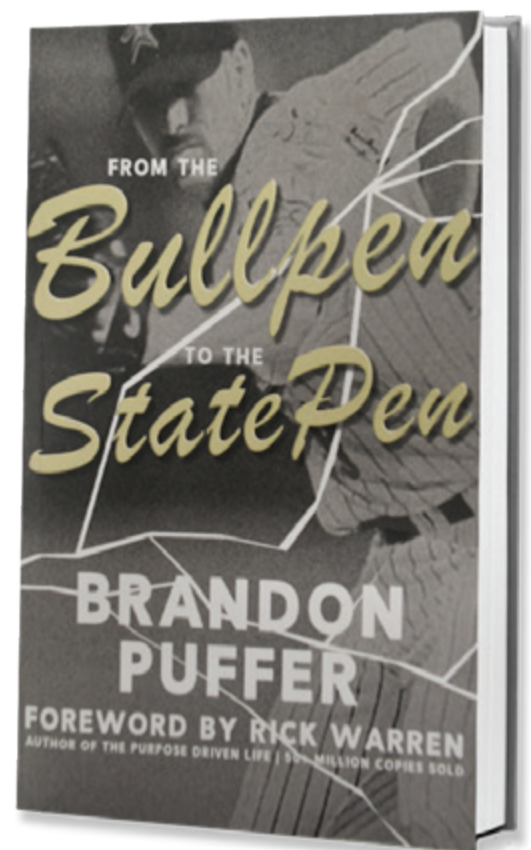
September 12, 2008 began as a normal day in Puffer's life as a professional baseball player. The RoughRiders and Puffer had both enjoyed a season of resurgence. The team had made the postseason and was playing the Arkansas Travelers in a best-of-three series, and Puffer had amassed an 8-0 record as a reliever. After losing the first game against the Travelers by a score of 10-3, Puffer decided to go out drinking with

his teammates.

Following a few drinks at a bar, the party eventually made its way to the apartment complex where several members of the RoughRiders organization lived. Around 3 a.m., when others were ready to call it a night and go to bed, Puffer was looking to keep the party going. He went

to a friend's apartment that lived in the same complex and knocked on the door. Not surprisingly at 3 a.m., no one answered. What was surprising was that the door was unlocked, and Puffer entered the apartment uninvited. He ended up passing out in a woman's bed.

"There are things you don't remember while intoxicated, but there are also things worthy of shocking oneself into sobriety, and that young woman's scream was one of them. I will never forget that scream," Puffer wrote in his 2022 book, "From the Bullpen to the State Pen."



Above: Coach Puffer's book, "From the Bullpen to the State Pen."

## Finding Positives in Prison

After a three-day trial, Puffer was sentenced to five years in the TDCJ for burglary of a habitation with intent to commit a felony. It was after the sentence

was read and he was led away in handcuffs that his prayer changed.

“My prayer prior to that point was, ‘Keep me out of prison; I’ll be a good boy. I’ll go be a baseball coach,’” Puffer says. “My prayer then changed to, ‘[Show me] whatever you have for me from here on forward, not when I get out, but right here and right now.’” Puffer insists his life path, changes and success have not been about him, but instead about the God he serves.

Puffer says that in TDCJ he became the guy who is always smiling, singing and laughing, whether mopping the hallways or working in the kitchen’s scullery. In his book, he credits two people who really had a positive impact on him while incarcerated in TDCJ: Mrs. Bewley, a former Windham School District Cognitive Intervention Program (CIP) teacher at the Cole campus and Chaplain Hart.

“The content of [Bewley’s] class was incredibly useful, but the style and grace in which she taught it was amazing,” Puffer wrote in his book. “Chaplain Hart truly invested in you, even if it was just a kind

word or a smile, it went a long way.”

## Restoring Relationships at Home

Yet Puffer’s incarceration had negative sides, too. There was the issue of being away from his son and two daughters. He had consistent contact with his son through phone calls and occasional visits, but he lost communication with his daughters for almost two and a half years — until their mother got the phone connected.

Puffer remembers how excited he was the first time he heard the girls’ voices again after all that time. Yet that excitement soon turned to heartbreak. While talking to the youngest daughter, he heard her ask her sister, “Do you wanna’ talk to Daddy?” He says he heard her sister reply, “That’s not my daddy; that’s your daddy.”

“I will never forget that as long as I live,” Puffer says. “It was devastating. It crushed me, but every time I talk to residents, I share that story because today we visit, we FaceTime and we talk every day. I just pray that every person who reads this gets to experience the restoration of relationships.”

Another challenge Puffer had to overcome during his incarceration was the disappointment of receiving a two-year set off during his first time up for parole.

“The first I ever heard of a two-year set off was when I was getting one,” Puffer says. “It was a gut punch. I had to lock in and set my mind on being in here for another two years. I knew there wasn’t anything I couldn’t endure with God and my family.”

The transition of entering society after incarceration was almost as much of a transformation as going from professional baseball player to TDCJ resident, Puffer recalls. One of the challenges of making that change was overcoming the feeling that everybody will see you as someone who served time in prison.

“I remember going to the Apple store to try and get a phone, and I was having a little trouble with it, so I just blurted out, ‘Look man! I just got out of prison,’” Puffer says, recounting an experience after his return to the community. “My parents were there, and they were like, ‘How did that come out?’ I was like, ‘He knows!’, and they were like, ‘Okay, just slow down.’”

Another obstacle during Puffer’s transition into society was finding a job. That was about the time when Reid Ryan, Puffer’s longtime friend and the son of Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher Nolan Ryan, offered him a maintenance job at the stadium of the Round Rock Express: Dell Diamond.

“My first real job out of prison was taking out the trash, cleaning the aisles and helping maintain the baseball field,” Puffer says. “It was humbling going

“It was humbling going from pitching on the field to cleaning it, but I loved every bit of it.”





Coach Puffer and his wife at the Wynne campus.

“It’s your mindset that matters. How are you going to approach every single day? Are you going to approach it as, ‘Woe is me. I don’t want to be here,’ or are you going to approach it as, ‘I’m here for a reason and there might be an opportunity for my growth or the growth of somebody else — an opportunity to be an encourager!’”

from pitching on the field to cleaning it, but I loved every bit of it.”

### Coaching Dream Returns

Before his incarceration, Puffer’s career plan was to get into coaching and eventually become a big-league pitching coach. However, he suspected his dream of coaching was just one more loss due to his crime. This changed one day when a member of the Express organization approached Puffer and said someone had called the front office requesting a private pitching lesson for their son. He asked Puffer if he would like to give the lesson.

“I asked him, ‘Me?’” Puffer says. “Their answer was, ‘Why not you? You pitched in the big leagues.’ I did it, and it went so well the parents asked for another lesson. Then a couple of more people came in and asked for lessons. The organization promoted me to baseball outreach coordinator, which is a position that oversees youth camps.”

Eventually Puffer was coaching so many kids that it made sense to start his own business with a few friends: God Provides Strength (GPS) Legends, which is a travelling baseball team. GPS Legends has since grown into more than 30 teams comprised of kids from age seven to college age players.

“Our mission is to advocate for young men to have

a chance to go to college,” Puffer says. “In the six years we’ve been doing it, we’ve seen 130 players receive scholarships and six kids drafted into the MLB.”

Today, Puffer is married, has great relationships with his children and is a proud grandfather — all while living his dream of coaching baseball.

“A long time ago, I had a dream of how I envisioned the rest of my life playing out. Today, every day that I wake up, I get to live out a reality that’s even better than that dream from a couple of decades ago,” Puffer says.

### Actively Inspiring Others

Despite demands on his time, Puffer returned to TDCJ this spring with this wife to attend the grand opening ceremony of the Bartlett Innovation Unit and to speak to the first Trust, Healing, Restoration, Independence, Vision and Empowerment (THRIVE) program graduates. The crowd’s response to his address was lively and enthusiastic.

“To see these men and their pride in what they’ve accomplished filled me with pride,” Puffer says. “I also saw family members so proud of their men. It was a life-changing experience.”

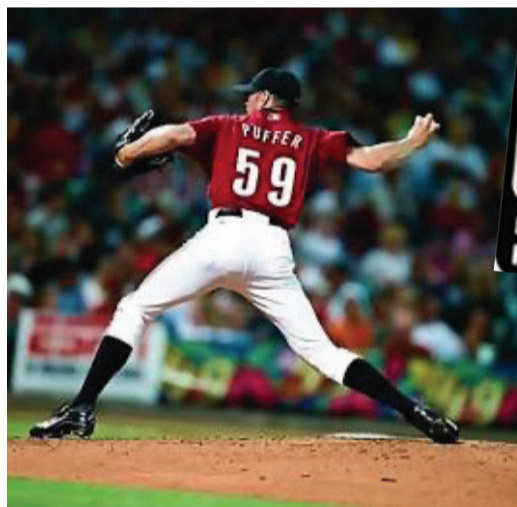
Puffer also has a message of hope for all men and women in TDCJ. He says prison is not the end of life; it is only the beginning of the next phase of life.

“It’s your mindset [that matters]” Puffer says. “How are you going to approach every single day? Are you going to approach it as, ‘Woe is me. I don’t want to be here,’ or are you going to approach it as, ‘I’m here for a reason and there might be an opportunity for my growth or the growth of somebody else — an opportunity to be an encourager!’”

Puffer’s positive attitude also motivates his wife, who works with him and is frequently at his side, visiting and motivating others. She says she describes her husband with just one word — “Inspiring.”

“He inspires me just to see how he doesn’t let anything hold him back from reaching goals or freely encouraging anyone and everyone,” she says. “I find myself several times thinking, ‘What would Brandon do?’ When people ask me about his journey, I tell them that, today, he is a man of integrity.” €

Baseball cards from Coach Puffer's early career playing for the Houston Astros.



Coach Puffer and his wife visit *The ECHO*.



# Eat Up!

Please send us your recipes. Write to:  
*The ECHO*, c/o "The Chow Hound,"  
WSD Admin. Bldg., P.O. Box 40,  
Huntsville, TX 77342-0040.



## Pecan Rolls

*Amanda Hallam  
Crain Unit*

### Ingredients

1 pk. vanilla wafers  
1 pk. maple syrup oatmeal  
1 pecan pie

### Directions:

Separate pie filling from crust and mix filling with oatmeal. Add water or milk until mixture obtains creamy consistency. Make crust by crushing wafers adding water until it sticks together. Put crust in wafer bag and flatten, spread pie mixture on top. Roll into log and let it sit. Great instantly but even better the next day. Enjoy!

# Enjoy!

## Amarillo Mud Pie

*Jeff McDonough  
Estelle Unit*

### Ingredients:

1 pk. chocolate cream or duplex cookies  
½ pk. Maria cookies  
2 Snickers candy bars  
2 pks. instant milk  
2 pks. cream cheese  
water

### Directions:

Place two packages of cream cheese into hot pot insert, add cream fillings from cookies and two Snickers bars, broken into pieces. Add an ounce of water and place insert into hot pot. Crush all cookie pieces into a large bowl, adding 10 spoonsful of water; mix until dough is formed. Press into bowl to make a crust. Add two packages instant milk in a different bowl, pour melted Snickers into milk then stir until blended. Pour into crust and let stand for two hours. Enjoy!

## Allred Strawberry Cheesecake

*Jeff McDonough  
Estelle Unit*

### Ingredients:

1 bottle strawberry preserves  
1 pk. vanilla or duplex cookies  
1 pk. vanilla wafers or Maria cookies  
2 pks. cream cheese  
2 pks. instant milk

### Directions:

Separate cream filling from cookies and place into hot pot insert. Add both packs of cream cheese, ¼ bottle of strawberry preserves and ½ inch of water. Place in hot pot. Crush cookie pieces and ½ package of vanilla wafers in spread bowl. Add 10 spoonsful of water and mix until it attains consistency of dough. In separate bowl, mix hot pot insert contents with two packs of instant milk and mix until all lumps are gone. Pour into crust then let stand for about four hours. Enjoy!

## Cam's Pasta with Spaghetti Sauce

*Camron Roland  
B. Moore Unit*

### Ingredients:

2 cans V8 vegetable juice  
1 pk. pasta shells  
1 pk. instant potatoes  
2 pks. taco meat  
3 bowls

### Directions:

Heat V8 until hot, then pour in one of bowls. Pour instant potatoes in V8 juice, mixing well until it becomes a sauce. Heat taco meat and cook pasta shells until done. Pour taco meat in sauce, stirring constantly. Split pasta shells evenly into two remaining bowls and pour sauce over them. Can eat as is, or garnish with crushed chips of your choice, diced jalapeno peppers and/or bagel chips. Makes two or three servings. Enjoy!



Home games are in ALL CAPS

## DALLAS COWBOYS

Sept. 4	at Philadelphia	7:20 p.m.
Sept. 14	N.Y. GIANTS	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 21	at Chicago	3:25 p.m.
Sept. 28	GREEN BAY	7:20 p.m.
Oct. 5	at N.Y. Jets	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 12	at Carolina	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 19	WASHINGTON	3:25 p.m.
Oct. 26	at Denver	3:25 p.m.
Nov. 3	ARIZONA	7:15 p.m.
Nov. 9	<b>BYE</b>	
Nov. 17	at Las Vegas	7:15 p.m.
Nov. 23	PHILADELPHIA	3:25 p.m.
Nov. 27	KANSAS CITY	3:30 p.m.
Dec. 4	at Detroit	7:15 p.m.
Dec. 14	MINNESOTA	7:20 p.m.
Dec. 21	L.A. CHARGERS	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 25	at Washington	12:00 p.m.
TBD	at N.Y. Giants	TBD

## HOUSTON TEXANS

Sept. 7	at L.A. Rams	3:25 p.m.
Sept. 15	TAMPA BAY	6:00 p.m.
Sept. 21	at Jacksonville	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 28	TENNESSEE	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 5	at Baltimore	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 12	<b>BYE</b>	
Oct. 20	at Seattle	9:00 p.m.
Oct. 26	SAN FRANCISCO	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 2	DENVER	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 9	JACKSONVILLE	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 16	at Tennessee	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 20	BUFFALO	7:15 p.m.
Nov. 30	at Indianapolis	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 7	at Kansas City	7:20 p.m.
Dec. 14	ARIZONA	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 21	LAS VEGAS	3:25 p.m.
TBD	at L.A. Chargers	TBD
TBD	INDIANAPOLIS	TBD



## ARIZONA CARDINALS

Sept. 7	at New Orleans	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 14	CAROLINA	3:05 p.m.
Sept. 21	at San Francisco	3:25 p.m.
Sept. 25	SEATTLE	7:15 p.m.
Oct. 5	TENNESSEE	3:05 p.m.
Oct. 12	at Indianapolis	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 19	GREEN BAY	3:25 p.m.
Oct. 26	<b>BYE</b>	
Nov. 3	at Dallas	7:15 p.m.
Nov. 9	at Seattle	3:05 p.m.
Nov. 16	SAN FRANCISCO	3:05 p.m.
Nov. 23	JACKSONVILLE	3:05 p.m.
Nov. 30	at Tampa Bay	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 7	L.A. RAMS	3:25 p.m.
Dec. 14	at Houston	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 21	ATLANTA	3:05 p.m.
TBD	at Cincinnati	TBD
TBD	at L.A. Rams	TBD

## ATLANTA FALCONS

Sept. 7	TAMPA BAY	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 14	at Minnesota	7:20 p.m.
Sept. 21	at Carolina	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 28	WASHINGTON	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 5	<b>BYE</b>	
Oct. 13	BUFFALO	6:15 p.m.
Oct. 19	at San Francisco	7:20 p.m.
Oct. 26	MIAMI	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 2	at New England	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 9	Indianapolis	8:30 a.m.
Nov. 16	CAROLINA	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 23	at New Orleans	3:25 p.m.
Nov. 30	at N.Y. Jets	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 7	SEATTLE	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 11	at Tampa Bay	7:15 p.m.
Dec. 21	at Arizona	3:05 p.m.
Dec. 29	L.A. RAMS	7:15 p.m.
TBD	NEW ORLEANS	TBD

## BALTIMORE RAVENS

Sept. 7	at Buffalo	7:20 p.m.
Sept. 14	CLEVELAND	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 22	DETROIT	7:15 p.m.
Sept. 28	at Kansas City	3:25 p.m.
Oct. 5	HOUSTON	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 12	L.A. RAMS	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 19	<b>BYE</b>	
Oct. 26	CHICAGO	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 30	at Miami	7:15 p.m.
Nov. 9	at Minnesota	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 16	at Cleveland	3:25 p.m.
Nov. 23	N.Y. JETS	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 27	CINCINNATI	7:20 p.m.
Dec. 7	PITTSBURGH	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 14	at Cincinnati	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 21	NEW ENGLAND	12:00 p.m.
TBD	at Green Bay	TBD
TBD	at Pittsburgh	TBD



## BUFFALO BILLS

Sept. 7	BALTIMORE	7:20 p.m.
Sept. 14	at N.Y. Jets	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 18	MIAMI	7:15 p.m.
Sept. 28	NEW ORLEANS	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 5	NEW ENGLAND	7:20 p.m.
Oct. 13	at Atlanta	6:15
Oct. 19	<b>BYE</b>	
Oct. 26	at Carolina	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 2	KANSAS CITY	3:25 p.m.
Nov. 9	at Miami	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 16	TAMPA BAY	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 20	at Houston	7:15 p.m.
Nov. 30	at Pittsburgh	3:25 p.m.
Dec. 7	CINCINNATI	3:25 p.m.
Dec. 14	at New England	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 21	at Cleveland	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 28	PHILADELPHIA	3:25 p.m.
TBD	N.Y. JETS	TBD

## CAROLINA PANTHERS

Sept. 7	at Jacksonville	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 14	at Arizona	3:05 p.m.
Sept. 21	ATLANTA	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 28	at New England	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 5	MIAMI	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 12	DALLAS	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 19	at N.Y. Jets	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 26	BUFFALO	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 2	at Green Bay	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 9	NEW ORLEANS	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 16	at Atlanta	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 24	at San Francisco	7:15 p.m.
Nov. 30	L.A. RAMS	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 7	<b>BYE</b>	
Dec. 14	at New Orleans	3:25 p.m.
Dec. 21	TAMPA BAY	12:00 p.m.
TBD	SEATTLE	TBD
TBD	at Tampa Bay	TBD

## CHICAGO BEARS

Sept. 8	MINNESOTA	7:15 p.m.
Sept. 14	at Detroit	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 21	DALLAS	3:25 p.m.
Sept. 28	at Las Vegas	3:25 p.m.
Oct. 5	<b>BYE</b>	
Oct. 13	at Washington	7:15 p.m.
Oct. 19	NEW ORLEANS	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 26	at Baltimore	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 2	at Cincinnati	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 9	N.Y. GIANTS	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 16	at Minnesota	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 23	PITTSBURGH	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 28	at Philadelphia	2:00
Dec. 7	at Green Bay	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 14	CLEVELAND	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 20	GREEN BAY	TBD
Dec. 28	at San Francisco	7:20 p.m.
TBD	DETROIT	TBD

## CINCINNATI BENGALS

Sept. 7	at Cleveland	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 14	JACKSONVILLE	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 21	at Minnesota	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 29	at Denver	7:15 p.m.
Oct. 5	DETROIT	3:25 p.m.
Oct. 12	at Green Bay	3:25 p.m.
Oct. 16	PITTSBURGH	7:15 p.m.
Oct. 26	N.Y. JETS	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 2	CHICAGO	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 9	<b>BYE</b>	
Nov. 16	at Pittsburgh	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 23	NEW ENGLAND	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 27	at Baltimore	7:20 p.m.
Dec. 7	at Buffalo	3:25 p.m.
Dec. 14	BALTIMORE	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 21	at Miami	7:20 p.m.
TBD	ARIZONA	TBD
TBD	CLEVELAND	TBD



## CLEVELAND BROWNS

Sept. 7	CINCINNATI	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 14	at Baltimore	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 21	GREEN BAY	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 28	at Detroit	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 5	Minnesota	8:30 a.m.
Oct. 12	at Pittsburgh	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 19	MIAMI	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 26	at New England	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 2	<b>BYE</b>	
Nov. 9	at N.Y. Jets	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 16	BALTIMORE	3:25 p.m.
Nov. 23	at Las Vegas	3:05 p.m.
Nov. 30	SAN FRANCISCO	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 7	TENNESSEE	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 14	at Chicago	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 21	BUFFALO	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 28	PITTSBURGH	12:00 p.m.
TBD	at Cincinnati	TBD

## DENVER BRONCOS

Sept. 7	TENNESSEE	3:05 p.m.
Sept. 14	at Indianapolis	3:05 p.m.
Sept. 21	at L.A. Chargers	3:05 p.m.
Sept. 29	CINCINNATI	7:15 p.m.
Oct. 5	at Philadelphia	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 12	N.Y. Jets	8:30 a.m.
Oct. 19	N.Y. GIANTS	3:05 p.m.
Oct. 26	DALLAS	3:25 p.m.
Nov. 2	at Houston	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 6	LAS VEGAS	7:15 p.m.
Nov. 16	KANSAS CITY	3:25 p.m.
Nov. 23	<b>BYE</b>	
Nov. 30	at Washington	7:20 p.m.
Dec. 7	at Las Vegas	3:05 p.m.
Dec. 14	GREEN BAY	3:25 p.m.
Dec. 21	JACKSONVILLE	3:05 p.m.
Dec. 25	at Kansas City	7:15 p.m.
TBD	L.A. CHARGERS	TBD

## DETROIT LIONS

Sept. 7	at Green Bay	3:25 p.m.
Sept. 14	CHICAGO	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 22	at Baltimore	7:15 p.m.
Sept. 28	CLEVELAND	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 5	at Cincinnati	3:25 p.m.
Oct. 12	at Kansas City	7:20 p.m.
Oct. 20	TAMPA BAY	6:00 p.m.
Oct. 26	<b>BYE</b>	
Nov. 2	MINNESOTA	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 9	at Washington	3:25 p.m.
Nov. 16	at Philadelphia	7:20 p.m.
Nov. 23	N.Y. GIANTS	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 27	GREEN BAY	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 4	DALLAS	7:15 p.m.
Dec. 14	at L.A. Rams	3:25 p.m.
Dec. 21	PITTSBURGH	3:25 p.m.
Dec. 25	at Minnesota	3:30
TBD	at Chicago	TBD

## GREEN BAY PACKERS

Sept. 7	DETROIT	3:25 p.m.
Sept. 11	WASHINGTON	7:15 p.m.
Sept. 21	at Cleveland	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 28	at Dallas	7:20 p.m.
Oct. 5	<b>BYE</b>	
Oct. 12	CINCINNATI	3:25 p.m.
Oct. 19	at Arizona	3:25 p.m.
Oct. 26	at Pittsburgh	7:20 p.m.
Nov. 2	CAROLINA	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 10	PHILADELPHIA	7:15 p.m.
Nov. 16	at N.Y. Giants	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 23	MINNESOTA	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 27	at Detroit	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 7	CHICAGO	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 14	at Denver	3:25 p.m.
Dec. 20	at Chicago	TBD
TBD	BALTIMORE	TBD
TBD	at Minnesota	TBD

## INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Sept. 7	MIAMI	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 14	DENVER	3:05 p.m.
Sept. 21	at Tennessee	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 28	at L.A. Rams	3:05 p.m.
Oct. 5	LAS VEGAS	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 12	ARIZONA	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 19	at L.A. Chargers	3:05 p.m.
Oct. 26	TENNESSEE	3:25 p.m.
Nov. 2	at Pittsburgh	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 9	Atlanta	8:30 a.m.
Nov. 16	<b>BYE</b>	
Nov. 23	at Kansas City	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 30	HOUSTON	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 7	at Jacksonville	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 14	at Seattle	3:25 p.m.
Dec. 22	SAN FRANCISCO	7:15 p.m.
Dec. 28	JACKSONVILLE	12:00 p.m.
TBD	at Houston	TBD

## JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

Sept. 7	CAROLINA	12:00 p.m.
SEPT. 14	at Cincinnati	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 21	HOUSTON	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 28	at San Francisco	3:05 p.m.
Oct. 6	KANSAS CITY	7:15 p.m.
Oct. 12	SEATTLE	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 19	L.A. Rams	8:30 a.m.
Oct. 26	<b>BYE</b>	
Nov. 2	at Las Vegas	3:05 p.m.
Nov. 9	at Houston	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 16	L.A. CHARGERS	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 23	at Arizona	3:05 p.m.
Nov. 30	at Tennessee	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 7	INDIANAPOLIS	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 14	N.Y. JETS	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 21	at Denver	3:05 p.m.
Dec. 28	at Indianapolis	12:00 p.m.
TBD	TENNESSEE	TBD

## KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Sept. 5	L.A. Chargers	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 14	PHILADELPHIA	3:25 p.m.
Sept. 21	at N.Y. Giants	7:20 p.m.
Sept. 28	BALTIMORE	3:25 p.m.
Oct. 6	at Jacksonville	7:15 p.m.
Oct. 12	DETROIT	7:20 p.m.
Oct. 19	LAS VEGAS	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 27	WASHINGTON	7:15 p.m.
Nov. 2	at Buffalo	3:25 p.m.
Nov. 9	<b>BYE</b>	
Nov. 16	at Denver	3:25 p.m.
Nov. 23	INDIANAPOLIS	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 27	at Dallas	3:30 p.m.
Dec. 7	HOUSTON	7:20 p.m.
Dec. 14	L.A. CHARGERS	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 21	at Tennessee	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 25	DENVER	7:15 p.m.
TBD	at Las Vegas	TBD

## LAS VEGAS RAIDERS

Sept. 7	at New England	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 15	L.A. CHARGERS	9:00 p.m.
Sept. 21	at Washington	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 28	CHICAGO	3:25 p.m.
Oct. 5	at Indianapolis	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 12	TENNESSEE	3:05 p.m.
Oct. 19	at Kansas City	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 26	<b>BYE</b>	
Nov. 2	JACKSONVILLE	3:05 p.m.
Nov. 6	at Denver	7:15 p.m.
Nov. 17	DALLAS	7:15 p.m.
Nov. 23	CLEVELAND	3:05 p.m.
Nov. 30	at L.A. Chargers	3:25 p.m.
Dec. 7	DENVER	3:05 p.m.
Dec. 14	at Philadelphia	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 21	at Houston	3:25 p.m.
TBD	N.Y. GIANTS	TBD
TBD	KANSAS CITY	TBD

## LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

Sept. 5	Kansas City	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 15	at Las Vegas	9:00 p.m.
Sept. 21	DENVER	3:05 p.m.
Sept. 28	at N.Y. Giants	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 5	WASHINGTON	3:25 p.m.
Oct. 12	at Miami	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 19	INDIANAPOLIS	3:05 p.m.
Oct. 23	MINNESOTA	7:15 p.m.
Nov. 2	at Tennessee	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 9	PITTSBURGH	7:20 p.m.
Nov. 16	at Jacksonville	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 23	<b>BYE</b>	
Nov. 30	LAS VEGAS	3:25 p.m.
Dec. 8	PHILADELPHIA	7:15 p.m.
Dec. 14	at Kansas City	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 21	at Dallas	12:00 p.m.
TBD	HOUSTON	TBD
TBD	at Denver	TBD

## LOS ANGELES RAMS

Sept. 7	HOUSTON	3:25 p.m.
Sept. 14	at Tennessee	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 21	at Philadelphia	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 28	INDIANAPOLIS	3:05 p.m.
Oct. 2	SAN FRANCISCO	7:15 p.m.
Oct. 12	at Baltimore	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 19	Jacksonville	8:30 a.m.
Oct. 26	<b>BYE</b>	
Nov. 2	NEW ORLEANS	3:05 p.m.
Nov. 9	at San Francisco	3:25 p.m.
Nov. 16	SEATTLE	3:05 p.m.
Nov. 23	TAMPA BAY	7:20 p.m.
Nov. 30	at Carolina	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 7	at Arizona	3:25 p.m.
Dec. 14	DETROIT	3:25 p.m.
Dec. 18	at Seattle	7:15 p.m.
Dec. 29	at Atlanta	7:15 p.m.
TBD	ARIZONA	TBD

## MIAMI DOLPHINS

Sept. 7	at Indianapolis	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 14	NEW ENGLAND	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 18	at Buffalo	7:15 p.m.
Sept. 29	N.Y. JETS	6:15 p.m.
Oct. 5	at Carolina	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 12	L.A. CHARGERS	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 19	at Cleveland	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 26	at Atlanta	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 30	BALTIMORE	7:15 p.m.
Nov. 9	BUFFALO	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 16	Washington	8:30 a.m.
Nov. 23	<b>BYE</b>	
Nov. 30	NEW ORLEANS	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 7	at N.Y. Jets	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 15	at Pittsburgh	7:15 p.m.
Dec. 21	CINCINNATI	7:20 p.m.
Dec. 28	TAMPA BAY	12:00 p.m.
TBD	at New England	TBD

## MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Sept. 8	at Chicago	7:15 p.m.
Sept. 14	ATLANTA	7:20 p.m.
Sept. 21	CINCINNATI	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 28	Pittsburgh	8:30 a.m.
Oct. 5	Cleveland	8:30 a.m.
Oct. 12	<b>BYE</b>	
Oct. 19	PHILADELPHIA	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 23	at L.A. Chargers	7:15 p.m.
Nov. 2	at Detroit	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 9	BALTIMORE	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 16	CHICAGO	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 23	at Green Bay	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 30	at Seattle	3:05 p.m.
Dec. 7	WASHINGTON	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 14	at Dallas	7:20 p.m.
Dec. 21	at N.Y. Giants	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 25	DETROIT	3:30 p.m.
TBD	GREEN BAY	TBD

## NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Sept. 7	LAS VEGAS	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 14	at Miami	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 21	PITTSBURGH	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 28	CAROLINA	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 5	at Buffalo	7:20 p.m.
Oct. 12	at New Orleans	3:25 p.m.
Oct. 19	at Tennessee	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 26	CLEVELAND	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 2	ATLANTA	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 9	at Tampa Bay	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 13	N.Y. JETS	7:15 p.m.
Nov. 23	at Cincinnati	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 1	N.Y. GIANTS	7:15 p.m.
Dec. 7	<b>BYE</b>	
Dec. 14	BUFFALO	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 21	at Baltimore	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 28	at N.Y. Jets	12:00 p.m.
TBD	MIAMI	TBD

## NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Sept. 7	ARIZONA	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 14	SAN FRANCISCO	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 21	at Seattle	3:05 p.m.
Sept. 28	at Buffalo	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 5	N.Y. GIANTS	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 12	NEW ENGLAND	3:25 p.m.
Oct. 19	at Chicago	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 26	TAMPA BAY	3:05 p.m.
Nov. 2	at L.A. Rams	3:05 p.m.
Nov. 9	at Carolina	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 16	<b>BYE</b>	
Nov. 23	ATLANTA	3:25 p.m.
Nov. 30	at Miami	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 7	at Tampa Bay	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 14	CAROLINA	3:25 p.m.
Dec. 21	N.Y. JETS	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 28	at Tennessee	12:00 p.m.
TBD	at Atlanta	TBD



## NEW YORK GIANTS

Sept. 7	at Washington	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 14	at Dallas	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 21	KANSAS CITY	7:20 p.m.
Sept. 28	L.A. CHARGERS	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 5	at New Orleans	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 9	PHILADELPHIA	7:15 p.m.
Oct. 19	at Denver	3:05 p.m.
Oct. 26	at Philadelphia	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 2	SAN FRANCISCO	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 9	at Chicago	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 16	GREEN BAY	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 23	at Detroit	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 1	at New England	7:15 p.m.
Dec. 7	<b>BYE</b>	
Dec. 14	WASHINGTON	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 21	MINNESOTA	12:00 p.m.
TBD	at Las Vegas	TBD
TBD	DALLAS	TBD



## NEW YORK JETS

Sept. 7	PITTSBURGH	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 14	BUFFALO	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 21	at Tampa Bay	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 29	at Miami	6:15 p.m.
Oct. 5	DALLAS	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 12	Denver	8:30 a.m.
Oct. 19	CAROLINA	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 26	at Cincinnati	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 2	<b>BYE</b>	
Nov. 9	CLEVELAND	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 13	at New England	7:15 p.m.
Nov. 23	at Baltimore	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 30	ATLANTA	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 7	MIAMI	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 14	at Jacksonville	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 21	at New Orleans	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 28	NEW ENGLAND	12:00 p.m.
TBD	at Buffalo	TBD

## PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Sept. 4	DALLAS	7:20 p.m.
Sept. 14	at Kansas City	3:25 p.m.
Sept. 21	L.A. RAMS	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 28	at Tampa Bay	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 5	DENVER	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 9	at N.Y. Giants	7:15 p.m.
Oct. 19	at Minnesota	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 26	N.Y. GIANTS	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 2	<b>BYE</b>	
Nov. 10	at Green Bay	7:15 p.m.
Nov. 16	DETROIT	7:20 p.m.
Nov. 23	at Dallas	3:25 p.m.
Nov. 28	CHICAGO	2:00 p.m.
Dec. 8	at L.A. Chargers	7:15 p.m.
Dec. 14	LAS VEGAS	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 20	at Washington	TBD
Dec. 28	at Buffalo	3:25 p.m.
TBD	WASHINGTON	TBD

## PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Sept. 7	at N.Y. Jets	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 14	SEATTLE	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 21	at New England	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 28	MINNESOTA	8:30 a.m.
Oct. 5	<b>BYE</b>	
Oct. 12	CLEVELAND	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 16	at Cincinnati	7:15 p.m.
Oct. 26	GREEN BAY	7:20 p.m.
Nov. 2	INDIANAPOLIS	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 9	at L.A. Chargers	7:20 p.m.
Nov. 16	CINCINNATI	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 23	at Chicago	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 30	BUFFALO	3:25 p.m.
Dec. 7	at Baltimore	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 15	MIAMI	7:15 p.m.
Dec. 21	at Detroit	3:25 p.m.
Dec. 28	at Cleveland	12:00 p.m.
TBD	BALTIMORE	TBD

## SAN FRANCISCO 49ers

Sept. 7	at Seattle	3:05 p.m.
Sept. 14	at New Orleans	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 21	ARIZONA	3:25 p.m.
Sept. 28	JACKSONVILLE	3:05 p.m.
Oct. 2	at L.A. Rams	7:15 p.m.
Oct. 12	at Tampa Bay	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 19	ATLANTA	7:20 p.m.
Oct. 26	at Houston	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 2	at N.Y. Giants	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 9	L.A. RAMS	3:25 p.m.
Nov. 16	at Arizona	3:05 p.m.
Nov. 24	CAROLINA	7:15 p.m.
Nov. 30	at Cleveland	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 7	<b>BYE</b>	
Dec. 14	TENNESSEE	3:25 p.m.
Dec. 22	at Indianapolis	7:15 p.m.
Dec. 28	CHICAGO	7:20 p.m.
TBD	SEATTLE	TBD

## SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Sept. 7	SAN FRANCISCO	3:05 p.m.
Sept. 14	at Pittsburgh	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 21	NEW ORLEANS	3:05 p.m.
Sept. 25	at Arizona	7:15 p.m.
Oct. 5	TAMPA BAY	3:05 p.m.
Oct. 12	at Jacksonville	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 20	HOUSTON	9:00 p.m.
Oct.	<b>BYE</b>	
Nov. 2	at Washington	7:20 p.m.
Nov. 9	ARIZONA	3:05 p.m.
Nov. 16	at L.A. Rams	3:05 p.m.
Nov. 23	at Tennessee	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 30	MINNESOTA	3:05 p.m.
Dec. 7	at Atlanta	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 14	INDIANAPOLIS	3:25 p.m.
Dec. 18	L.A. RAMS	7:15 p.m.
TBD	at Carolina	TBD
TBD	at San Francisco	TBD



## TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Sept. 7	at Atlanta	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 15	at Houston	6:00 p.m.
Sept. 21	N.Y. JETS	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 28	PHILADELPHIA	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 5	at Seattle	3:05 p.m.
Oct. 12	SAN FRANCISCO	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 20	at Detroit	6:00 p.m.
Oct. 26	at New Orleans	3:05 p.m.
Nov. 2	<b>BYE</b>	
Nov. 9	NEW ENGLAND	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 16	at Buffalo	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 23	at L.A. Rams	7:20 p.m.
Nov. 30	ARIZONA	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 7	NEW ORLEANS	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 11	ATLANTA	7:15 p.m.
Dec. 21	at Carolina	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 28	at Miami	12:00 p.m.
TBD	CAROLINA	TBD



## TENNESSEE TITANS

Sept. 7	at Denver	3:05 p.m.
Sept. 14	L.A. RAMS	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 21	INDIANAPOLIS	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 28	at Houston	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 5	at Arizona	3:05 p.m.
Oct. 12	at Las Vegas	3:05 p.m.
Oct. 19	NEW ENGLAND	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 26	at Indianapolis	3:25 p.m.
Nov. 2	L.A. CHARGERS	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 9	<b>BYE</b>	
Nov. 16	HOUSTON	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 23	SEATTLE	12:00 p.m.
Nov. 30	JACKSONVILLE	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 7	at Cleveland	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 14	at San Francisco	3:25 p.m.
Dec. 21	KANSAS CITY	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 28	NEW ORLEANS	12:00 p.m.
TBD	at Jacksonville	TBD

## WASHINGTON COMMANDERS

Sept. 7	N.Y. GIANTS	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 11	at Green Bay	7:15 p.m.
Sept. 21	LAS VEGAS	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 28	at Atlanta	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 5	at L.A. Chargers	3:25 p.m.
Oct. 13	CHICAGO	7:15 p.m.
Oct. 19	at Dallas	3:25 p.m.
Oct. 27	at Kansas City	7:15 p.m.
Nov. 2	SEATTLE	7:20 p.m.
Nov. 9	DETROIT	3:25 p.m.
Nov. 16	Miami	8:30 a.m.
Nov. 23	<b>BYE</b>	
Nov. 30	DENVER	7:20 p.m.
Dec. 7	at Minnesota	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 14	at N.Y. Giants	12:00 p.m.
Dec. 20	PHILADELPHIA	TBD
Dec. 25	DALLAS	12:00 p.m.
TBD	at Philadelphia	TBD

# HOUSTON ★ ASTROS. 2025 SCHEDULE

## MARCH-APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				27 3:10 M	28 7:10 M	29 6:15 M
30	31 7:10 SF	1 7:10 SF	2 3:10 SF	3 3:10 T	4	5 1:10 T
6 1:10 T	7 8:40 S	8 8:40 S	9 3:10 S	10	11 7:10 A	12 6:10 A
13 1:10 A	14 6:45 E	15 6:45 E	16 12:15 E	17	18 7:10 SD	19 6:10 SD
20 6:10 SD	21 7:10 W	22 7:10 W	23 6:40 W	24	25 6:40 KC	26 6:10 KC
27 1:10 KC	28 7:10 D	29 7:10 D	30 1:10 D			

## MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 6:40 S	3 1:10 S
4 1:10 S	5 6:40 P	6 6:40 P	7 12:10 P	8	9 7:10 C	10 6:10 C
11 1:10 C	12 7:10 KC	13 7:10 KC	14 7:10 KC	15 7:05 T	16 7:05 T	17 6:05 T
18 1:35 T	19 6:05 TB	20 6:05 TB	21 12:10 TB	22 7:10 S	23 7:10 S	24 3:10 S
25 1:10 S	26	27 7:10 A's	28 1:10 A's	29 7:10 TB	30 7:10 TB	31 3:10 TB

## JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 1:10 TB	2	3 5:40 P	4 5:40 P	5 5:40 P	6 6:10 C	7 3:10 C
8 12:40 C	9 12:40	10 7:10 S	11 7:10 S	12 7:10 S	13 7:10 T	14 3:10 T
15 1:10 T	16 9:05 A's	17 9:05 A's	18 9:05 A's	19 9:05 A's	20 8:38 A	21 8:38 A
22 3:07 A	23	24 7:10 P	25 7:10 P	26 1:10 P	27 7:10 CC	28 6:15 CC
29 1:10 CC	30					

## JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 7:40 GR	2 7:40 GR	3 2:10 GR	4 8:10 LA	5 6:15 LA
6 3:10 LA	7 7:10 C	8 7:10 C	9 7:10 C	10	11 7:10 T	12 6:35 T
13 1:10 T	14	15	16	17	18 9:10 S	19 8:40 S
20 3:10 S	21 8:40 A	22 8:40 A	23 2:40 A	24 7:10 A's	25 7:10 A's	26 6:10 A's
27 1:10 A's	28 7:10 W	29 7:10 W	30 1:10 W	31		

## AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 6:10 R	2 3:10 R
3 12:35 R	4 5:40 M	5 5:40 M	6 3:40 M	7	8 6:05 NY	9 TBD NY
10 TBD NY	11 7:10 R	12 7:10 R	13 6:10 R	14	15 7:10 E	16 6:10 E
17 1:10 E	18 5:40 D	19 5:40 D	20 12:10 D	21 6:15 D	22 6:05 D	23 6:05 D
24 12:35 D	25	26 7:10 GR	27 7:10 GR	28 1:10 GR	29 7:10 A	30 6:10 A
31 1:10 A						

## SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 1:10 A	2 7:10 NY	3 7:10 NY	4 6:40 NY	5 7:05 T	6 6:15 T
7 1:35 T	8	9 6:07 W	10 6:07 W	11 2:07 W	12 6:15 A	13 6:15 A
14 12:35 A	15 7:10 T	16 7:10 T	17 7:10 T	18	19 7:10 S	20 6:10 S
21 1:10 S	22	23 9:05 A's	24 9:05 A's	25 2:35 A's	26 8:38 A	27 8:38 A
28 2:07 A	29	30				

SCHEDULE AS OF 01-15-2025  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE

HOME FRIDAY NIGHT FIREWORKS AWAY



# 2025 SCHEDULE



## MARCH/APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
23	24 <b>KC</b> 7:05	25 <b>KC</b> 1:35	26	27 <b>BOS</b> 3:05	28 <b>BOS</b> 7:05	29 <b>BOS</b> 6:05
30 <b>BOS</b> 1:35	31 <b>CIN</b> 5:40	1 <b>CIN</b> 5:40	2 <b>CIN</b> 11:40 AM	3	4 <b>TB</b> 7:05	5 <b>TB</b> 6:05
6 <b>TB</b> 1:35	7 <b>CHC</b> 6:40	8 <b>CHC</b> 6:40	9 <b>CHC</b> 1:20	10	11 <b>SEA</b> 8:40	12 <b>SEA</b> 8:40
13 <b>SEA</b> 3:30	14	15 <b>LAA</b> 7:05	16 <b>LAA</b> 7:05	17 <b>LAA</b> 7:05	18 <b>LAD</b> 7:05	19 <b>LAD</b> 3:05
20 <b>LAD</b> 1:35	21	22 <b>ATH</b> 9:05	23 <b>ATH</b> 9:05	24 <b>ATH</b> 9:05	25 <b>SF</b> 8:35	26 <b>SF</b> 3:05
27 <b>SF</b> 3:05	28 <b>ATH</b> 7:05	29 <b>ATH</b> 7:05	30 <b>ATH</b> 7:05			

## JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 <b>BAL</b> 7:05	2 <b>BAL</b> 7:05	3	4 <b>SD</b> 5:40	5 <b>SD</b> 8:40
6 <b>SD</b> 8:30	7 <b>LAA</b> 8:38	8 <b>LAA</b> 8:38	9 <b>LAA</b> 8:38	10 <b>LAA</b> 8:38	11 <b>HOU</b> 7:10	12 <b>HOU</b> 6:35
13 <b>HOU</b> 1:30	14	15 <b>ALL-STAR GAME</b>	16	17	18 <b>DET</b> 7:05	19 <b>DET</b> 6:05
20 <b>DET</b> 1:35	21 <b>ATH</b> 7:05	22 <b>ATH</b> 7:05	23 <b>ATH</b> 7:05	24	25 <b>ATL</b> 7:05	26 <b>ATL</b> 6:05
27 <b>ATL</b> 1:35	28 <b>LAA</b> 8:38	29 <b>LAA</b> 8:38	30 <b>LAA</b> 8:38	31 <b>SEA</b> 8:40		

## MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 <b>ATH</b> 1:35	2 <b>SEA</b> 7:05	3 <b>SEA</b> 6:05
4 <b>SEA</b> 1:35	5	6 <b>BOS</b> 5:45	7 <b>BOS</b> 5:45	8 <b>BOS</b> 12:35	9 <b>DET</b> 5:40	10 <b>DET</b> 5:10
11 <b>DET</b> 12:40	12 <b>COL</b> 7:05	13 <b>COL</b> 7:05	14 <b>COL</b> 7:05	15 <b>HOU</b> 7:05	16 <b>HOU</b> 7:05	17 <b>HOU</b> 6:05
18 <b>HOU</b> 12:05	19	20 <b>NYN</b> 6:05	21 <b>NYN</b> 6:05	22 <b>NYN</b> 11:35 AM	23 <b>CWS</b> 6:40	24 <b>CWS</b> 3:10
25 <b>CWS</b> 1:10	26 <b>TOR</b> 3:05	27 <b>TOR</b> 7:05	28 <b>TOR</b> 7:05	29	30 <b>STL</b> 7:05	31 <b>STL</b> 3:05

## AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 <b>SEA</b> 9:10	2 <b>SEA</b> 3:10
3 <b>SEA</b> 3:10	4 <b>NYN</b> 7:05	5 <b>NYN</b> 7:05	6 <b>NYN</b> 1:35	7	8 <b>PHI</b> 7:05	9 <b>PHI</b> 6:15
10 <b>PHI</b> 1:35	11 <b>AZ</b> 7:05	12 <b>AZ</b> 7:05	13 <b>AZ</b> 1:35	14	15 <b>TOR</b> 6:07	16 <b>TOR</b> 2:07
17 <b>TOR</b> 12:37	18 <b>KC</b> 6:40	19 <b>KC</b> 6:40	20 <b>KC</b> 6:40	21 <b>KC</b> 1:10	22 <b>CLE</b> 7:05	23 <b>CLE</b> 6:05
24 <b>CLE</b> 1:35	25 <b>LAA</b> 7:05	26 <b>LAA</b> 7:05	27 <b>LAA</b> 7:05	28	29 <b>ATH</b> 9:05	30 <b>ATH</b> 9:05
31 <b>ATH</b> 3:05						

## JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <b>STL</b> 12:05	2	3 <b>TB</b> 6:35	4 <b>TB</b> 6:35	5 <b>TB</b> 6:35	6 <b>WSH</b> 5:45	7 <b>WSH</b> 3:05
8 <b>WSH</b> 12:35	9	10 <b>MIN</b> 6:40	11 <b>MIN</b> 6:40	12 <b>MIN</b> 12:30	13 <b>CWS</b> 7:05	14 <b>CWS</b> 3:05
15 <b>CWS</b> 1:35	16	17 <b>KC</b> 7:05	18 <b>KC</b> 7:05	19 <b>KC</b> 1:35	20 <b>PIT</b> 5:40	21 <b>PIT</b> 3:05
22 <b>PIT</b> 12:35	23 <b>BAL</b> 5:35	24 <b>BAL</b> 5:35	25 <b>BAL</b> 5:35	26	27 <b>SEA</b> 7:05	28 <b>SEA</b> 3:05
29 <b>SEA</b> 1:35	30 <b>BAL</b> 7:05					

## SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 <b>AZ</b> 7:10	2 <b>AZ</b> 6:40	3 <b>AZ</b> 2:40	4	5 <b>HOU</b> 7:05	6 <b>HOU</b> 6:15
7 <b>HOU</b> 1:35	8 <b>MIL</b> 7:05	9 <b>MIL</b> 7:05	10 <b>MIL</b> 1:35	11	12 <b>NYN</b> 6:10	13 <b>NYN</b> 3:10
14 <b>NYN</b> 12:40	15 <b>HOU</b> 7:10	16 <b>HOU</b> 7:10	17 <b>HOU</b> 7:10	18	19 <b>MIA</b> 7:05	20 <b>MIA</b> 6:05
21 <b>MIA</b> 1:35	22	23 <b>MIN</b> 7:05	24 <b>MIN</b> 7:05	25 <b>MIN</b> 1:35	26 <b>CLE</b> 6:10	27 <b>CLE</b> 5:10
28 <b>CLE</b> 2:10	29	30				

Schedule subject to change.

EXHIBITION GAMES HOME GAMES

# HELP WANTED

## **Facilities Division Maintenance - Asbestos Operations**

**Unit List: Statewide  
Workers for the following position:**

### Asbestos Workers

## Skills & Qualifications Needed To Apply

**> Must be able to understand written instructions and also write.**

1. Must be able to pass physical, pulmonary and X-ray tests
2. Must be able to pass a written exam at the end of 32 hours of training
3. Extensive travel is involved
4. Workers will learn to do a job that they can also do when they leave TDCJ to make a good living

*Training will provided by an outside instructor.*

**> G1 status is required**

**> No work/medical restrictions**

**Applicants: An I-60 should be mailed to:**

**Asbestos Operations**

**P.O. Box 4011**

**Huntsville, TX 77342**

# HELP WANTED

**Unit List: Statewide**

**Workers for the following positions:**

## Wastewater & Water Attendant

### Skills & Qualifications Needed To Apply

**> Must be able to understand written and verbal instructions; have basic math skills (add, subtract, multiply, and divide).**

- Knowledge of mechanical repairs
- Wastewater/Water experience preferred but not required
- Ability to use or learn to use testing equipment such as PH, DO, chlorine, and ammonia
- Work in inclement weather may be required
- No prohibitive work restrictions

**> G1 status is required**

**> No work/medical restrictions Send**

**I-60 with all experience to:**

**Water/Wastewater Operations**

**P.O. Box 4011**

**Huntsville, TX 77342**



# UNSOLVED HOMICIDE

## Lillian Desiree Descoteau



The body of Lillian Desiree Descoteau, 51, of Irving, was found on an entrance ramp to I-20 off FM 450 in Hallsville on Oct 7, 2013. She had short blonde hair, wearing only a light-blue pullover and one diamond stud earring. Officials believe her body had only been there for a few hours. Descoteau had been sexually assaulted, beaten and strangled. Authorities also stated she had lived a "transient lifestyle" spending time in Alaska, Colorado, Ohio, Georgia, Maryland, and Louisiana, in addition to East Texas. If you have any information on this homicide, you can contact the Texas Department of Public Safety, Cold Cases Division or contact the TDCJ Crime Stoppers Office at P.O. Box 1855, Huntsville, TX 77340. TDCJ Crime Stoppers will pay \$50 up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest, filing of charges, or indictment of person or persons that committed a felony crime or is a wanted fugitive. Crime Stoppers guarantees your anonymity.

*Looking for a job  
that can become  
a career?*

*Wynne  
Computer  
Recovery  
wants you!*

### ON-THE-JOB TRAINING INCLUDES:

- Civil Drafter
- Computer Programmer
- Computer Specialist
- Graphic Designer
- Quality Assurance Technician
- Warehouseman

To apply, send an I-60 with a complete resume to:

**Plant Manager Toby Powell**  
Wynne Computer Recovery  
810 FM 2821  
Huntsville, TX 77349-0001



### APPLICANTS MUST MEET CERTAIN CRITERIA:

- No disciplinary cases related to contraband electronic devices
- No major cases in the past two years
- G2 custody level
- Prior completion of college or Windham career and technical education programs
- Computer experience is preferred, but not required

Be prepared for a phone interview and to offer references to previously held TDCJ positions. You will be notified if you have been accepted.

# Indigent Fan Program

The Indigent Fan Program will supply indigent TDCJ residents with a registered property fan for FREE from the commissary. The program runs from January 1 to August 31 each year, and you must submit your request within this time period.

To qualify for a FREE fan from this program, you must meet ALL eligibility requirements listed below:

1. Have less than a \$5 balance in your Trust Fund account.
2. Be classified with an indigent status for more than 180 days.
3. Have never received a fan through the TDCJ Indigent Fan Program.



**You must submit request on an I-60 and send through truck mail or regular mail to:**

**Commissary & Trust Fund /  
Indigent Fan Program  
P.O. Box 629  
Huntsville, TX 77342**

**Information provided must include:**

**I would like to request a fan from the Indigent Fan Program.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

TDCJ# \_\_\_\_\_

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

**When you get your  
attitude right, you  
can handle anything  
the world throws  
at you; even life in  
prison.**

**– Bill Dallas**