the echo

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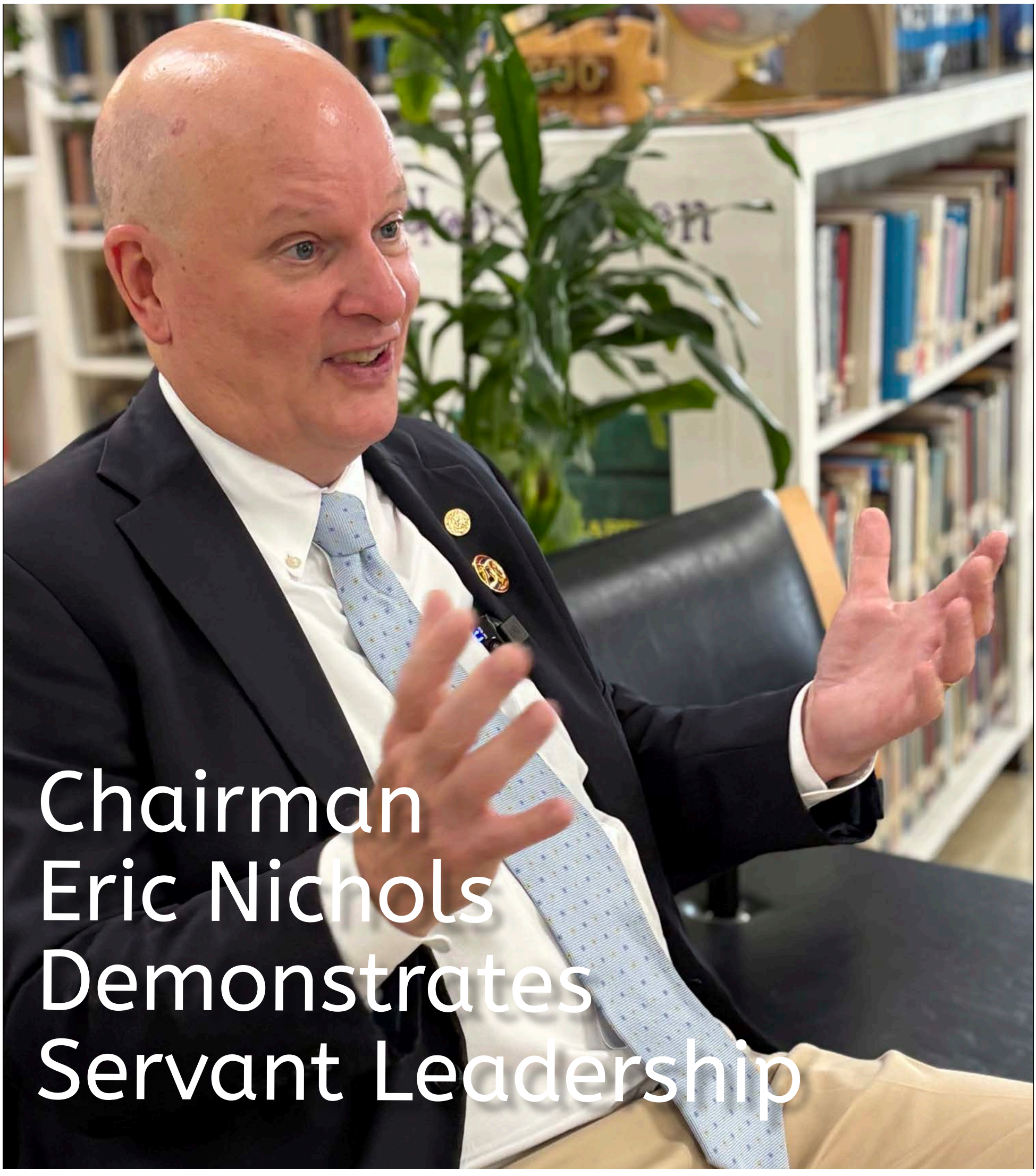

Chairman Eric Nichols Demonstrates Servant Leadership

+ TDCJ Book Portal / TDLR Occupational Licenses / Marriage Seminar

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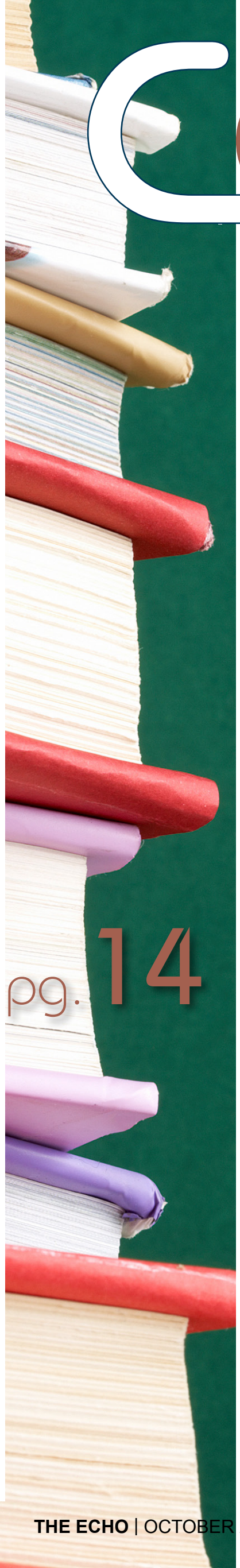

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Letter to the Editor

Bambi Kiser | Managing Editor





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To the editor,

In an earlier issue of *The ECHO*, I was very impressed with the success story about former resident Heather Langford. She said, "Success is restoration with family. It's standing on my own two feet and knowing that I am capable and that I can do life. I can be good at it and be productive." Those words are not only wise, but very inspiring.

Langford's story is very familiar, as are the addiction and grievous decisions that disrupted her and led her off course. Many in prison can relate. There are many who have not experienced success "legally" and consistently. With all of the programs and the increasing number of employers willing to help former residents, it seems that more residents would get involved in rehabilitation and self-help programs that prepare us not only for job opportunities, but for success in every area of life.

Like Heather Langford and other Windham alumni, we too can become successful. We can do life and be productive members of society. With the help of God, we can go out and make a difference in our community, our nation and in all of our world. Why not us, why not now?

Right there in your facility, in that classroom, in your house, greatness can start. Like Heather, that is what I decided to do. I am, with help from above, the cartographer of my map and the course I plot in life.

Prison is where we are, not who we are. It starts here, right now! "Negativity is not allowed," is something that Heather's instructor, Mr. Munday, told her. She got focused and has not looked back since. Now she is out there being a successful, productive member of her community. I am inspired to do the same.

Clifton Hennington,
Clements Unit

To the reader,

Thank you for your feedback on Ms. Langford's story. You make excellent points about personal success, the beginnings of change and the potential for influencing others. We commend you for sharing these inspirational points, and we look forward to bringing you more of these positive stories. Your letter is appreciated!





Dear Darby | Letters to the Darbster

Dear Darby,
The National Hockey League (NHL) season just started. Could you please print the schedule the same way you did with the National Football League (NFL) schedule? We hockey fans would really appreciate it! Thanks, Darb!
Alexa M. Ponce and Eloisa Valedespino
Carol Young Medical Facility

Dear Alexa and Eloisa,
Hockey? Really? Are you from Texas, or are you a transplant from somewhere cold? Anyway, ol' Darb did some checkin', hopin' to help you out, and learned that there are 32 NHL teams (same as the NFL) — but each team plays 84 games, as opposed to the NFL's 17. Think about that for a minute. That's a lot of print real estate for a sport that has only one Texas team, the Dallas Stars. We'll still try to help you, though, and publish the Dallas schedule in the print edition of The ECHO*, and then see if we can squeeze the other schedules in the digital version. Happy hockey-ing!*

Dear Darby,
Since you're a food connoisseur, let's talk about breakfast. Which is more crucial: biscuits or pancakes? And who makes them the best? Just for fun: Do you enjoy having breakfast foods for dinner? I've always thought a plate of pancakes is comforting at any time. Got any recipes for us breakfast snackers?
An Early Starter
Wainwright Unit

Dear Early,
You're a newboot, aren't you? A plate of pancakes is comforting? I've been down so long that if you stacked up the number of pancakes I've had over the years they'd be taller than the Empire State Building! I gotta' admit, though, that if you have 'em fresh, where they melt the butter, they're still pretty good. Add some peanut butter, and they're even better! But given a choice, my crusty heart goes for biscuits every time — add gravy (sausage gravy is the best!), butter, peanut butter or jelly, and they're the star attraction of my breakfast tray! Not to mention that you can add an egg, cheese or meat to make a breakfast biscuit sandwich. Now, as far as breakfast recipes, I asked the Chow Hound, and he said he doesn't remember any, but that he's open to printing some that our readers send in — so get to writin'!



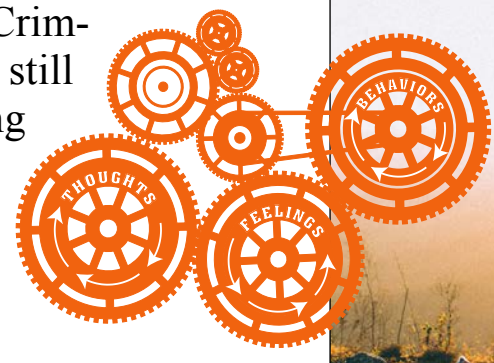
Letters to D-Best | Dear Darla



Dear Darla,

I have been in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for a few years now, but I still have a long time to go. I've been finding myself discouraged by this and can't seem to shake it. Do you have any advice or thoughts?

Sincerely,
Discouraged Doing Time
Hilltop Unit





Dear Discouraged,

I think we can all relate to feeling that way. Even if we can kick the feeling, discouragement has a tendency to sneak back up on us when we're doing well.

It is easy to get stuck, ruminating on thoughts that produce and reproduce a negative cycle of feelings and actions (cognitive behavior cycle at its worst). To break out of this cycle, I find it necessary to purposefully change what I'm thinking about. Personally, I choose my favorite music playlist and break a sweat with an intense workout. This helps me to naturally release healthy endorphins while feeling accomplished and disrupting discouraging thoughts. Another option is to change your thoughts by changing your environment. Go to recreation and get some sunlight (Vitamin D has been shown to boost your mood) or visit the dayroom and draw, write or socialize.

Keep in mind it's OK to not be OK all the time. What you don't want to do is wallow in it. So, if that doesn't work, I'm going to give you some sage advice someone gave to me ... JUST STOP IT!

Sincerely,
D-Best Cousin Ever, Darla ☺

CRIME STOPPERS Unsolved Homicide

Patricia Apodaca



Patricia Apodaca

In the early morning hours of June 18, 1995, the body of 28-year-old Patricia Apodaca was found lying in the street at 700 NE 28th St., Fort Worth, with a gunshot wound to her chest. The location was a mixed neighborhood, with residential and commercial buildings. It was described as busy during the day and quiet at night.

If you have any information on this homicide, please 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.

CRIME STOPPERS Unsolved Homicide

Patricia Gail Jackson-Lee



Patricia Gail Jackson-Lee

On Sept. 3, 1995, Patricia Gail Jackson-Lee, 38, was found deceased in a vacant field at 500 Precinct Line Road, Fort Worth. She had been bound and strangled. She resided on Sanders Drive in Fort Worth.

If you have any information on the following homicide, please 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.

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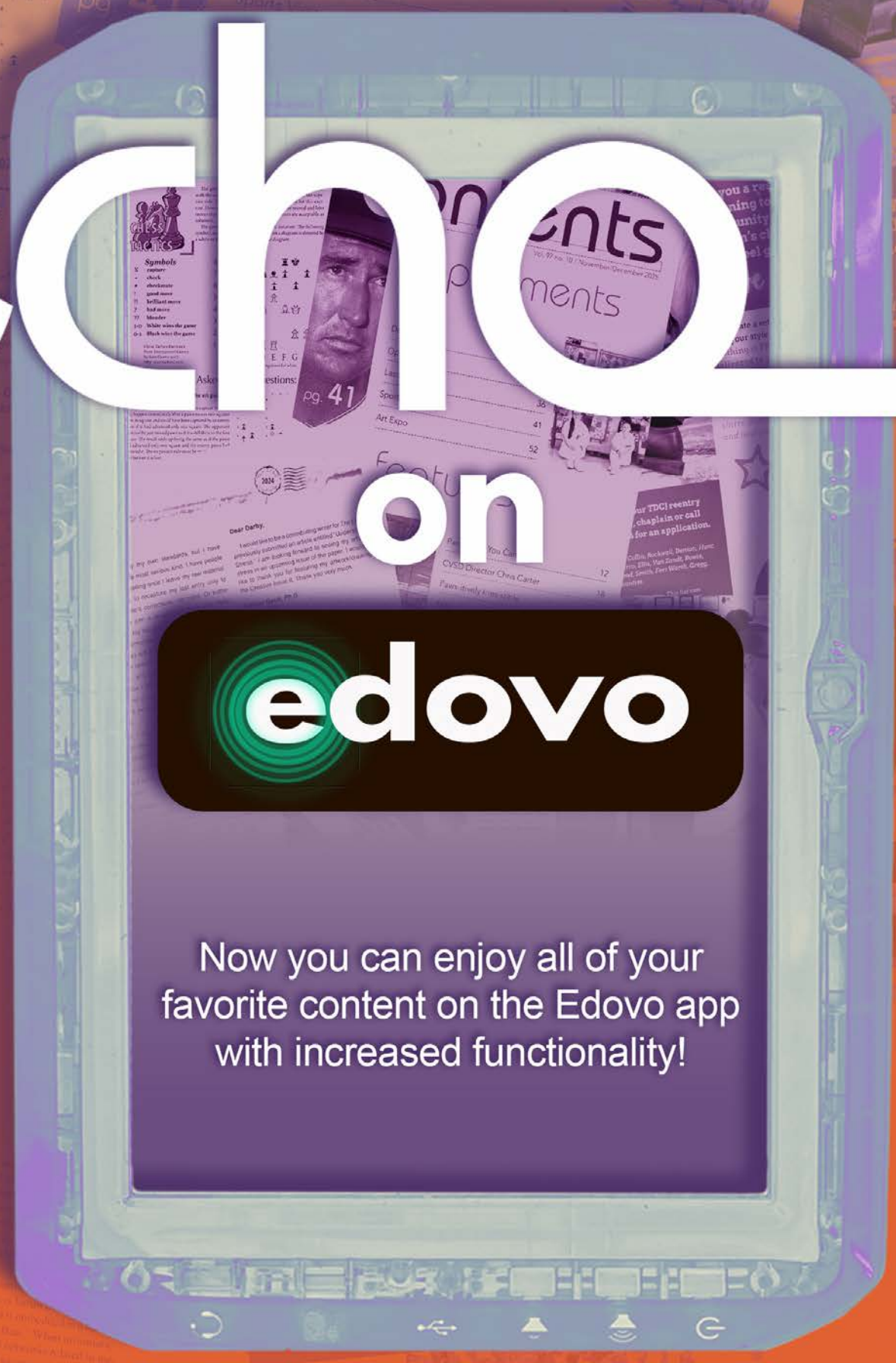

Self-Harm Prevention Office Supports Women



Dr. B. Edwards of Murray SHPO meets with tier walkers M. Batchelor, G. Romero, S. Gallegos and V. Cameron.

By Ashley Morrison and Kelly Roddy
Staff Writers

The first Self-Harm Prevention Office (SHPO) at a women's facility within the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) is now open at the Murray Unit, offering support and hope to residents in need.

The SHPO is a collaborative team consisting of mental health staff, security staff and trained resident peer supporters, known as tier walkers. This team works in unison to promote safety, connection and emotional well-being across the unit.

"Self-Harm…is something we need to take very seriously," Dr. B. Edwards, mental health clinician with the Murray SHPO, said. "That's what the [SHPO] is all about – recognizing risk, building connection, supporting one another and helping people get the right help when they need it."

The SHPO's mission is to help identify individuals who may be struggling, provide supportive peer contact, encourage healthy coping skills and connect people with necessary resources. SHPO staff can also make referrals to appropriate services when necessary.

"We are out walking every day," tier walker Mary Batchelor said. "There's always somebody to talk to. Don't be ashamed. Don't be scared. Just call us out. We're ready to listen."

Through wellness checks, peer support, coping skills resources, education and collaboration with other departments, the SHPO strives to ensure no one faces difficult times alone.

"I want people to feel that we genuinely care about them and to know they are not alone," tier walker Stephanie Gallegos said. "This has helped me to give back to a community that I have been a part of for so long."

Tier walker Gloria Romero, who speaks English and Spanish, said she increases SHPO's outreach by being able to assist those who only speak Spanish.

"I had a hard experience," Romero said. "I want to help others with an experience like mine – and everyone who's had a hard experience. It's important for me to help [residents] who only speak Spanish and may feel alone."

While the SHPO is not a substitute for mental health treatment and cannot solve every problem an individual may be facing, it can provide support, encouragement, resources and assistance in connecting individuals with the help they may need.

"Our department is new, so I think it is important to get the word out about who we are, what we do, why we exist and what we can do to help," Edwards said.

On Sept. 23, Murray's SHPO hosted its first annual Helping, Healing Hoping:

continued on next page

SHPO Helping, Healing, Hoping: Celebration of Life Event



By His Grace Praise Dance Team performs at Murray Celebration of Life Event.

continued from previous page

Celebration of Life, an event where residents came together to learn about what the SHPO is, listen to testimonies and simply celebrate life.

"[This event] is not meant to tell you life is always easy, and it's not meant to tell you that you should always think positive or your problems aren't real," Edwards said. "It's meant to remind you there is hope, there is help and you don't have to struggle alone."

Guest speaker and life coach Dominique Betancourt shared advice for residents who feel like they are struggling.

"Focus on yourself and get yourself right," Betancourt said. "You have to apply yourself. You have to lock in on yourself, because nothing is more important than your life. You can't get this time back."

The SHPO's goal of making everyone feel heard and valued was evident in the resident testimonies.

"Don't be afraid to speak up and out for help," resident Daphne McDaniels said. "You're not alone. Your voice is very important. Your feelings are valid."

The SHPO's impact is important to the residents of the Murray Unit, and tier walkers said they are grateful for this opportunity to give back to their peers through their work and the Helping, Healing Hoping: Celebration of Life event.

> "... Nobody has to suffer in silence. We're here for them to talk to anytime."
>
> *Dr. B. Edwards, Murray SHPO*



"I had a lot of healing to do," tier walker Vanessa Cameron said. "It's time for me to start pouring into other people."

The tier walkers, life coaches, peer support coaches and others were available during and following the event to provide an outpouring of hope and an opportunity to celebrate life.

"We really got our mission across [during the event]," Edwards said. "People got the message – nobody has to suffer in silence. We're here for them to talk to anytime."

Cameron agreed.

"Nobody's here alone," Cameron said. "I know it might feel that way at times, but there are many other women here. It doesn't even have to be a [tier walker], it can be your neighbor; it can be anybody. Ask for help."

The SHPO provides connection, hope and early intervention. The staff emphasized that they strive to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others by offering support and encouragement.

"Reaching out for help is never a sign of weakness," Edwards said. "I think it's actually a sign of great strength, as reaching out for help is one of the hardest things to do. I think that proves you have great strength if you can reach out for help."

Editor's Note: If you or someone you know is struggling, place an I-60 in the sick call box or notify a staff member. No one should struggle in silence.



Personal Perspective:

Going From Self-Harm to Self-Love

By Ashley Morrison
Staff Writer

There is a lot of misconception behind self-harm, and I don't expect my story to take all that away, but I do hope it will shed some light on a not-so-talked-about subject. My experience begins in the dark and ends in the light.

In my family, there was a sense of shame associated with expressing negative feelings. So, my struggle began with feeling ashamed of my negative emotions — and especially my pain. I didn't have the worst childhood, but I didn't have the best, either. I remember thinking there were other people who had it worse, so how dare I be hurt by any abuse or bullying going on in my life?

One of the common misconceptions is that people who self-harm automatically have life-ending thoughts. When this first started, I was depressed and suffered from these thoughts, but it didn't stay that way. This manner of thinking lasted throughout high school, but ended completely when my youngest sibling was born. I have multiple siblings and I call them my saving angels, because I wanted to be there to protect them. However, I still continued to harm myself.

Another common misconception I've heard later in life is, "People who self-harm only do so for attention." For me, it was never about attention. I was intentional to only do so where no one could see. My pain was for me to process, not fuel for someone else's fire. It was about everything that had hurt me and left me wounded emotionally, but where were the physical wounds? I couldn't process my feelings or thoughts regarding trauma or pain. So, the only way I coped was by expressing it physically. It wasn't a healthy way, but it was my way.

I eventually learned other ways to cope. I had to learn how to love and value myself. I literally began everyday looking in the mirror and saying a self-written mantra of positive affirmations. I wish I could say once I started this process that I no longer felt the urge to cope by harming myself, but that's not the case. If you've ever had anything you depended on in an unhealthy manner, then you'll know that the road to recovery isn't simple. The first steps may be the most important, but there are many more after them. This was the case for me.

Continued on next page

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It seems contradictory. How can someone who loves themselves also harm themselves? I had learned to love and value myself. I had worked hard to start healing. These were truths no one could take away. The problem was the false relief behind harming myself always whispered temptations to me. I would think I had finally overcome it, but something negative would happen. I'd resist for a while, and sometimes I could ignore it completely, until I couldn't.

So, what's different now? It's partially that I pushed through to a new level of self-awareness. Those first steps I took built a foundation of self-love, self-respect, self-confidence and more. I learned to believe the light within me was more powerful than the darkness trying to consume me. I chose positive over negative. Time passed and I truly healed from childhood traumas. I gave myself even my weakest moments, knowing I'd come out stronger on the other side. For so long I believed I needed to do something harmful to cope with my pain. I believed I had to paint it out for myself to see so I could validate the hurt I was dealing with.

Now, the temptation to self-harm is no longer the first thought I have when things go bad, nor even the last thought. Something integral within me has shifted. When things are bad or I fall into despair over any of the negative feelings or situations that occur in life, I am strong enough to turn to the healthy coping skills I've learned over the years. I have finally moved past a pivotal point in my healing to share my story and hope that it positively impacts anyone who needs to hear it.

The inspiration to finally share my story came when the self-harm prevention office became available on the Murray Unit. Even though I know I'm in a healthy place, they didn't, and they were quick to check on me and others with a history of self-harm. It is so meaningful to me to know this office genuinely cares and is there for us during the highs and lows of life. Remember if the darkness ever tries to whisper temptations, we have people to call on to help us not give in.

Editor's note: The experiences shared in this article reflect one individual's personal journey. While some people can navigate challenges through personal determination and self-reflection, every recovery journey is unique. If you are struggling with self-harm, thoughts of self-injury or emotional distress, reach out to your unit's life coaches or field ministers for peer-led support, mental health staff, chaplains, counselors or a Self Harm Prevention Office (SHPO) where available. Seeking help is a sign of strength, and support is available. Є





Stronger Together:

Couples Renew Commitments at Recent Marriage Seminar

Reggie and Michelle Hicks

By Robert L. Gonzales
Staff Writer

Worldwide Voice in the Wilderness Prison Ministry (WVIW) recently partnered with Brother's Keeper Prison Ministry (BKPM) to sponsor a marriage seminar at the Wynne Unit, hosted by TDCJ's Chaplaincy and Volunteer Services Division. BKPM founder Reggie Hicks and his wife, Michelle, promote, coordinate and facilitate marriage seminars, crediting them for contributing to the success of their own marriage. Reggie was formerly living in incarceration in TDCJ. Before he even knew he would be reentering his community, he and wife Michelle worked to strengthen their relationship at marriage seminars conducted by WVIW founders Johnny and Betty Moffitt. The Hicks have worked diligently to serve the community through BKPM and assist the Moffitts with their ministry.

"We're working very closely with them," Michelle said. "They started this; we're just a product of their faithfulness over the years and a testimony to how well these marriage seminars work."

Relationship Challenges

Johnny and Betty have served WVIW for 48 of their 54 years of marriage. They became ordained ministers in 1978 and 1988, respectively. Although they were married, their relationship endured challenges. Betty said she knew she and Johnny loved each other, they loved God and they each wanted to be good spouses. She couldn't understand why marriage seemed so difficult, and she wondered when somebody was going to address the challenges in marriage. The Moffitts attended conferences where pastors' wives would speak, and Betty hoped she would gain some insight and guidance on how to live and have a happy marriage.

"I had not been happy in my marriage when we still lived in Georgia and this church called inviting us to come and teach on marriage," Betty said. "I believe in telling the truth and I'm not one to hold back. I don't believe relationships will improve if you have to fake it. You have to be honest and real."

Betty said she refused to promote the message that, "if you just give your life to God, your life will be easy, your marriage will be so blessed and you'll never have any problems," because she said that's not totally true. "God is here to purify us by helping us walk away from the flesh, walk away from immaturity and walk away from selfishness," Betty said. "Johnny and I had both been selfish, and it's hard to give that up."

Honest Assessments

Johnny requested that Betty remain honest during the presentation of their first marriage seminar at a church, giving her permission to publicly say anything about him she thought might help somebody else. Betty decided Johnny was a pretty good man in that moment, because he had the nerve and self-confidence to release her to speak openly about their marriage struggles and experiences.

Continued on next page



Marriage seminar participants and supporters gather to build successful relationships.

Continued from previous page

In time, the Moffitts were invited to participate in their first marriage seminar at Indiana State Prison, where the average sentence length stood at multiple life-terms. Betty said she didn't understand the need for people in that position to have a marriage seminar.

When Johnny was given an opportunity to speak to the wives in the seminar, he asked them, "Why do you stay with these men?"

He said one woman in the audience raised her hand and said, "You're wrong. My husband has led me to the Lord. I didn't know God. I've stopped drinking. I've stopped smoking. I've started going to church. My life is stable. I've been able to keep a job. He is being a father to my children from this prison. He is leading us in the right direction. So, you're wrong."

Betty recounted thinking these seminars were more complicated and beautiful than she could have ever imagined. But that still didn't make her want to conduct them in the prison setting.

At first, she said the prospect of serving people in prison through church ministry was daunting. Betty explained that she had not experienced dysfunctional trauma in her own life, and she didn't know how to relate to people who had. However, she said she experienced a change of heart.

"I've realized there's [value in] ministry, that people are willing and they're open and God wants this — He's anointed me to do this — apparently because it works," Betty said.

Global Reaches

Since then, the Moffitts have ministered in prisons in England, Canada, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Scotland and many former Soviet Union countries. Johnny recounted their first trip to Jamaica in 1992 through Christ for the Nations Institute (CFNI) in Dallas, Texas. CFNI built a school in Jamaica and requested him to teach for a week. The Moffitts had a chance encounter with a pastor who was a member of the board for CFNI-Jamaica. The pastor extended an opportunity for them to visit the prison after learning about their passion for serving prison ministry.

"All ministry is built on relationships," Betty said. "It's who you know, but it really is who you know. First, you know Jesus, and I know Jesus. You have to be real and committed to form relationships — they're progressive."

The Moffitts said their desire and ability to form relationships with an underserved community have opened doors across the globe. Their decision to serve led them to setting an example for many others, including the Hicks.

"We were brought alongside of Johnny and Betty Moffitt, and we honor them with everything that we are," Reggie said. "We're just taking what they've been doing and bringing a little more youth and a little more energy."

Current marriage seminars are conducted over a three-day period, offering married couples at least 30 hours together to strengthen their relationships. BKPM is dedicated to equipping couples with the tools they need for healthy and lasting marriages — even during separation.

"I like the model," Reggie said. "I like the curriculum and I like everything about the weekend. ϵ



Johnny and Betty Moffitt interview with ECHO *staff writer Robert L. Gonzales.*



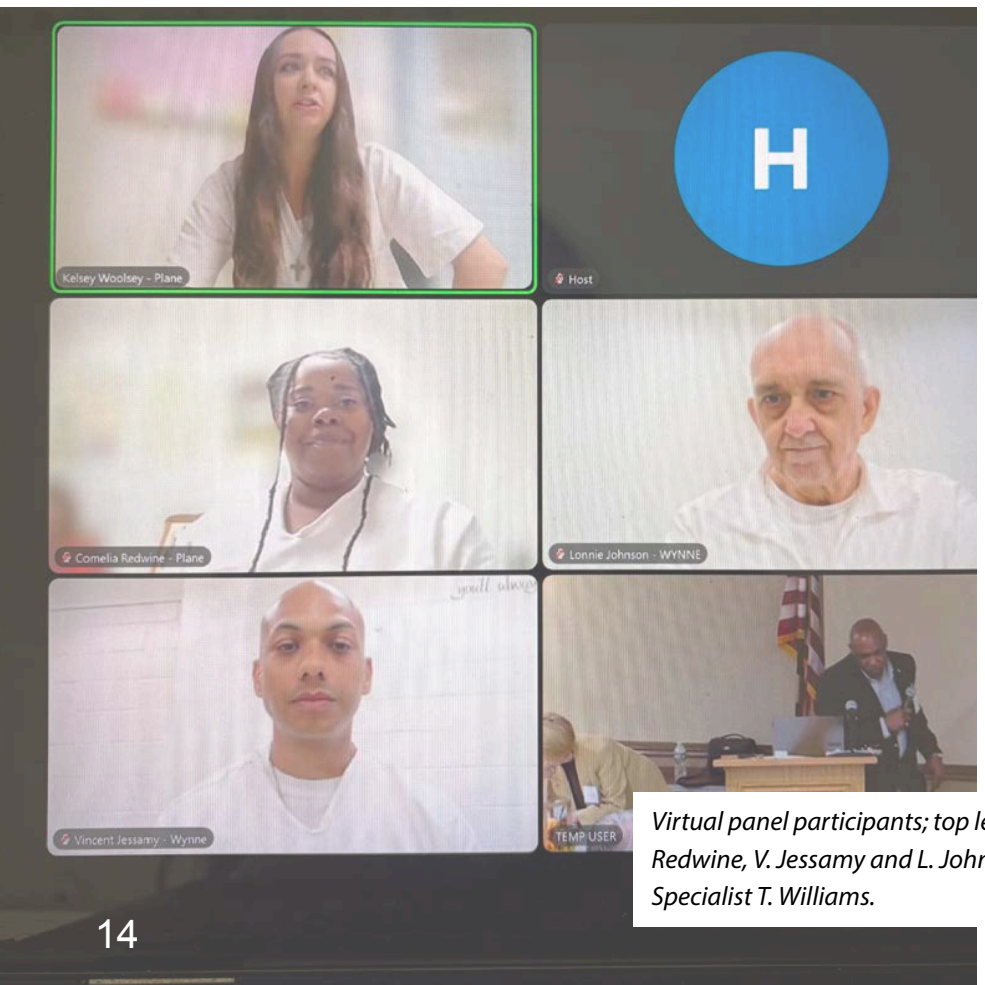
Virtual panel member K. Woolsey (right) speaks with the higher education conference as T. Williams of Lee College moderates.

Lee College Hosts 12th Annual Texas Education in Corrections Conference

By Todd R. Carman
Staff Writer

"Higher education has actually helped me in taking personal accountability and assisted me in changing my world views," Lee College graduate and virtual panel participant Lonnie Johnson said.

Lee College recently held the 12th Annual Texas Education in Corrections Conference, celebrating "60 years of Second Chances" and conducting panel discussions concerning the current state of higher education within the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) and its projected trajectory through 2036. Attendees included Lee College and Windham School District alumni; leadership from TDCJ, Windham and Lee College; and members of other state agencies and community partners.



Virtual panel participants; top left, counterclockwise: K. Woolsey, C. Redwine, V. Jessamy and L. Johnson talk with Lee College Reentry Specialist T. Williams.

Four Windham alumni and Lee College students were selected from the Wynne and Plane campuses to provide their perspectives to participants through a virtual panel. They shared the ways higher education has impacted them and their mindsets, and they were able to give feedback to conference attendees. Kelsey Woolsey and Cornelia Redwine of the Plane campus participated, along with Lonnie Johson and Vincent Jessamy of the Wynne campus.

Other speakers at the conference included Cheri Chafin Norris, founder of Cornbread Hustle; Luis Soberon with Texas 2036; an alumni panel moderated by Lee College instructor Dr. Brandon Warren and a Texas Prison Education Program consortium panel. The conference also included a presentation about Texas trends in labor market outcomes delivered by Dr. David McCoy and Thomas Boswell of the University of Texas at Austin Ray Marshall Center, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs.

The impact of higher education was summed up by Lee College President Jacob Atkin.

"When you spend time with our graduates, you quickly realize this isn't just about earning a degree," Atkin said. "It's about people finding purpose, rebuilding their futures and creating new possibilities for themselves and their families. That's why this partnership has mattered for 60 years." Є



Speaker C. Norris, Founder of Cornbread Hustle

The ECHO Welcomes Holiday Submissions

Quincy Patterson — Staff Writer

***The ECHO* is looking for holiday-themed material for publication in upcoing issues. We are seeking submissions from aspiring artists, poets, storytellers and chefs to bring a holiday vibe to readers.**

Holiday Memories

Writers, share your favorite holiday memories or create a holiday-themed story. Submissions are not limited to well known holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas or New Year's Eve, and all will be reviewed for publication.

Holiday Recipes

Cooks, tell our readers what you'll whip-up over the holidays as appetizers, main courses and desserts using commissary-provided items.

Holiday Art

Artists and poets, showcase holiday art in *The ECHO* to represent the festivities of the seasons.

Submission Guidelines

All submissions should be appropriate for publication. By sending yourwork you give *The ECHO* and Windham School District permission for use as needed or desired. No work will be returned to the author or artist, whether used or not. Send your submissions via truck mail or regular mail to:



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P.O. Box 40
Huntsville, Texas 77342



Chairman Eric Nichols Demonstrates Servant Leadership

By Robert L. Gonzales
Staff Writer

"In my mind, the whole principle of servant leadership is that it's not about the leader," Chairman of the Windham School District (Windham) Board of Trustees and Texas Board of Criminal Justice Eric J.R. Nichols said. "I'm privileged and blessed to be able to serve on a board of nine members."

The members of the board are responsible for the oversight of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) and the Windham School District. Nichols has served on the board since January 2020, and held the chairman position since August 2023.

A portion of the chairman's responsibilities include visiting TDCJ units across Texas. During these visits, Nichols has witnessed the implementation of multiple proactive initiatives offered through TDCJ and Windham.

"I've seen faith-based incentive housing, fitness-incentive housing, education incentive housing areas, veterans' dorms and sober living dorms — and that's just to name a few," Nichols said.

Nichols is enthusiastic about supporting opportunities for focused self-development. He noted the veterans' program and a reentry tradition at the Bartlett Innovation Unit as examples.

"My favorite part is seeing somebody ring that [freedom] bell," Nichols said. "It happens when I see somebody walk out of the Bartlett Unit with an education, knowing they've also attended CHANGES [Changing Habits and Achieving New Goals to Empower Success] or other cognitive life skills courses, and they have earned a license or certificate allowing them to walk right into a job."

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Nichols said his primary objective is to support every member of the TDCJ and Windham teams. With public safety in mind, the board's mission is to empower staff and members of the population to serve society to the best of their ability.

"Education, rehabilitation, and reentry are matters near and dear to my heart. They're near and dear to the overall heart of the Board," Nichols said. "We recognize the challenges individuals who find themselves in TDCJ have faced in their lives when they have not had the structures [necessary to] develop skills needed to be productive members of society."

During his unit tours, Nichols has meaningful conversations which provide insight on how to support and expand program activities to expand positive opportunities.

"We do our best to make sure that members of the population who are willing to step forward have access to educational opportunities, including career and technical education (CTE)," Nichols said.

The chairman is thrilled about technological advancements used as educational tools to prepare for successful reentry.

"One of the most important things for me in my role is to support both Windham and TDCJ in their efforts to modernize, to use technology responsibly," Nichols said. "I was just in a [Windham] classroom talking about the virtual reality headsets that allow individuals in a class to go through real-life experiences, such as working their way through a grocery store, [operating] an ATM, driving a truck or other things."

Continuous support and expansion of beneficial opportunities is an important part of the board's duties. Nichols predicts offering opportunities for self-advancement through incentivized programs will become even more favorable among the TDCJ population and staff.

"Once incentive housing areas are established and effective, people are going to step forward," Nichols said. "I view it as a situation where, I'm hopeful that by taking those first steps, it's going to lead to a second step. I can easily see a day and time where we've got units across the state that have multiple incentive housing areas. That evolution is developing in a way that's very positive for everyone."

Even after observing multiple instances of transformative change inspired by introducing incentivized environments, Nichols still remains cognizant of challenges.

"We all recognize that there is a true danger in terms of synthetic substances coming into our system, that we do not know what's in there," Nichols said. "It breaks my heart when a member of our population is exposed to a substance that can cause them injury and even death."

Nichols and the Board believe consistent support of rehabilitative and transformative programs will empower participants to steer clear of pitfalls, such as the drug epidemic.

"I tell members of the population that I see across the state that we offer all kinds of programs, education, cognitive life skills and CTE-type training as different pathways for self-development," Nichols said.

Nichols also supports helping individuals become independent, contributing members of society. He urges those in TDCJ to become involved in available programs, not only as students, but also as future leaders.

"I see so many who want to serve others," Nichols said. "I have seen many success stories of individuals who have been through our system, and as a result of their experience, they want to serve others who have found themselves in the same situation."

Nichols said he wants to make the TDCJ population aware that they have a team supporting them in their rehabilitative journey. He encourages each individual to utilize the resources available on their unit.

"If you want to advance yourself, improve yourself — and make life better for yourself and for your families and for others — you will have the opportunity to do that in our system," Nichols said. "I'm very sensitive to the fact that we have certain programs that are in some units and not in others, but we are working very hard to make those opportunities available to everyone." ϵ

"I have seen many success stories of individuals who have been through our system, and as a result of their experience, they want to serve others who have found themselves in the same situation."

Chairman Eric Nichols



TDCJ Launches New Book Portal

ECHO Staff Report, from TDCJ News Release

As part of enhanced measures to reduce contraband, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) launched its new Book Portal on Oct. 15, introducing a standardized, secure registration system for all individuals sending books or magazines to residents. Outside individuals will now be required to create an account with ID.me and log every book or magazine they are sending to a resident through the Book Portal.

Although the portal launched on Oct. 15, senders had until Nov. 15 to create an account and document incoming books. After Nov. 15, any book that is not registered to a verified user and logged in the Book Portal will not be delivered.

"Protecting the safety and well-being of every person who works or is confined in TDCJ facilities remains our highest priority," Texas Board of Criminal Justice Chairman Eric J.R. Nichols said. "The Book Portal is a major step forward in both modernization and increased safety against dangerous contraband."

The Book Portal was announced earlier this year when the agency updated its book policy to combat illegal narcotics entering its facilities. In April 2026, the agency announced that senders would only be allowed to send softback books that are in like-new or new condition to residents. Additionally, Windham School District began managing all book donations for TDCJ.

"Since April, we have seen a 73% decline in overdose deaths of those incarcerated in our system," TDCJ Executive Director Bobby Lumpkin said. "This decrease is a step in the right direction, but there is still work to be done. The Book Portal gives us the extra tools we need to enhance safety and maintain secure operations across the system."

The portal, modeled after the agency's visitation system, will allow TDCJ to connect books sent through the mail to registered, verified users.

"The purpose of the portal is to decrease the amount of illegal narcotics entering the system through books and magazines as it will connect the sender to the publication. If a publication tests positive for a narcotic, we will know who sent it," TDCJ Chief of Programs Jason Clark said. "Likewise, if a publication is not in the system, we will know it is from an unverified sender and it will not be delivered."

Family, friends and loved ones wanting to learn more about the process of creating an account with ID.me and registering books through the portal should visit the TDCJ Book Portal at bookportal.tdcj.texas.gov.

About ID.me

ID.me is the next-generation digital identity wallet that simplifies how individuals securely prove their identity online. Consumers can verify their identity with ID.me once and seamlessly sign-in across websites without having to create a new sign-in and verify their identity again. Over 156 million users experience streamlined sign-in and identity verification with ID.me at 21 federal agencies, 50 state government agencies and more than 70 healthcare organizations. More than 600 consumer brands use ID.me to verify communities and user segments to honor service and build more authentic relationships.

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TDCJ Resident Book Policy

TDCJ only accepts books that are softback and in new condition. Hardback books or books in used condition are no longer allowed.

To send a book to a resident in TDCJ, individuals must create an account with ID.me and log every book or magazine being sent in the Book Portal.

After Nov. 15, 2026, any book or magazine that is not registered to a verified user and logged in the Book Portal will not be delivered.To begin, outside individuals should follow these steps to create and connect an account to TDCJ:

- **Go to the Book Portal sign-in page**
- **Select Sign In With ID.me**

If they already have an ID.me account:

- **Sign in using their existing account and consent to share their information with TDCJ.**

—OR—

If they need a new account:

- **Create an ID.me account with their personal e-mail and complete identity verification.**

Important: They may only have one ID.me account. If they need help accessing their existing account, visit the ID.me Help Center.

Once an ID.me account is created and connected to TDCJ, the Book Portal will allow the user to log new shipments of books and publications to send to incarcerated individuals or check the status of books submitted.

To Log Books

- **Login to the Book Portal with their ID.me e-mail address and password.**
- **Select View My Dashboard**
- **Select Add New Shipment**
- **Complete the information on the form, including the book title, author, vendor and date ordered**
- **Use a TDCJ or SID number to find the resident who will receive the book**
- **Select "Search"**
- **Confirm the individual is the correct recipient**
- **Select "Submit Shipment"**

A confirmation number will appear and they will have the option to register another submission or press "No More Recipients to Add" to return to the dashboard.

The Book Portal also allows them to use the searchable table to check the status of a book. Clicking on the title of the book will provide them with more information about the submission request.

Donated Books

Windham School District manages all book donations from groups and organizations to libraries, chapels and units. For more information about this process, tell your family, friends or loved ones to visit the Windham website.

Books that are donated by a volunteer organization to a specific individual can be mailed to the unit but must be softback and in new condition.

Resources:
TDCJ's website: tdcj.texas.gov
Windham's website: wsdtx.org. ϵ





Windham Department Director of Instruction Jason Evans of congratulates graduate Delfino Chavira Jr.

Legislation Enables Occupational Licenses to be Issued Prior to Reentry

From Windham School District News Release

"Windham has long been committed to providing students with education and career training that leads to strong employment opportunities following reentry," Windham School District (Windham) Superintendent Kristina J. Hartman said. "Together with our Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) partners, we are creating clearer pathways to employment that support successful reentry and meet the workforce needs of Texas employers."

Windham, TDLR and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) recently celebrated a new pathway from education to employment for certain program graduates following the implementation of Senate Bill 1080 from the 89th Texas Legislature.

Senate Bill 1080 allows eligible individuals incarcerated in TDCJ to be issued an occupational license prior to reentry upon completion of certain career and technology education (CTE) programs offered by Windham or a partnering institution of higher education. The bill entered a new phase of implementation on Sept. 1, 2026, as Windham is working to strengthen the connection between CTE, occupational licensing and employment for students that are soon to return to our communities.

Issuing occupational licensing prior to reentry is the culmination of years of collaboration between Windham, TDLR and TDCJ.

TDLR provides ongoing training for Windham staff on licensing eligibility and application procedures, sustaining the district's ability to support students pursuing careers in regulated professions. Windham works closely with TDLR to identify and guide students who participate in training for regulated industries through criminal history evaluation, program enrollment and the licensing application process.

"An occupational license can be the bridge between learning a trade and building a stable future," Executive Director of TDLR Courtney Arbour said. "By working with Windham and TDCJ, we can help eligible students complete the licensing process before reentry — while upholding the standards that protect Texans."

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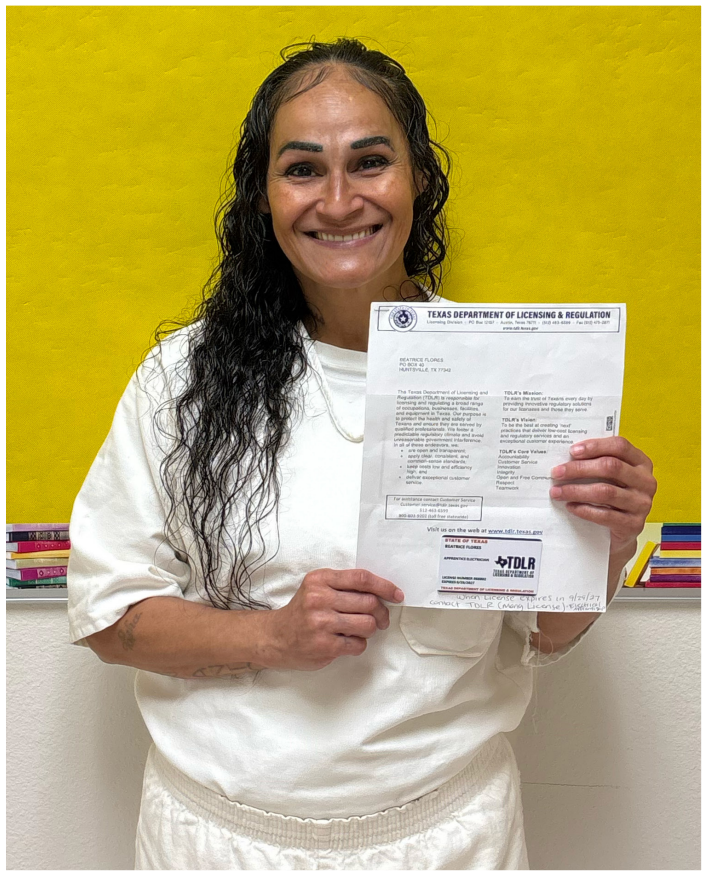
“When individuals leave our facilities equipped with both the skills and the credentials to apply them, they are better positioned to build productive, self-sufficient lives.”

TDCJ Executive Director Bobby Lumpkin



B. Flores of Murray Campus receives her TDLR license.

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These collaborative efforts strengthen the connection between Windham, partnering higher education institutions, TDCJ and TDLR. They enable relevant education and training, professional credentialing and workforce participation.

“When individuals leave our facilities equipped with both the skills and the credentials to apply them, they are better positioned to build productive, self-sufficient lives,” TDCJ Executive Director Bobby Lumpkin said. “This partnership demonstrates what can be accomplished when agencies work together to reduce barriers to employment while still upholding public safety.”

Windham’s College and Career Readiness department aids eligible residents in completing occupational license applications. Windham Division Director of Instruction Kevin Sawnick recently presented Windham program graduate Eloy Gonzalez Jr. his license at the McConnell campus. Delfino Chavira Jr. of the Hamilton campus and Beatrice Flores of the Murray campus also received TDLR licenses as some of the initial license recipients under the new legislation.

Occupational licensing opportunities expand the Windham commitment to enabling students with viable education and career pathways that bolster successful reentry and support the workforce demands of Texas communities. ϵ



Windham Division Director of Instruction Kevin Sawnick presents a TDLR license to graduate Eloy Gonzalez Jr.



"Relationships move at the speed of trust."
— Stephen Covey

Trustworthy Friends Aid in Healing

By Misty Weaver | O'Daniel Unit

Trustworthy friends are a treasure. I want friends who will help me grow, but do I allow my friends to make me better, or make me "feel" better? According to Proverbs 27:17, friends are supposed to sharpen each other. Friends bring a different perspective, but if I am not open to growing, then I won't be challenged. What this tells me is that I am pretty good at fixing surface-level imperfections, but in reality, I am ignoring the ticking time clock inside me.

People will only tell us what we allow them to tell us. This means that we set the standard and expectations of our conversations and relationships. Relational struggles are what commonly cause someone to tap out of the challenge in deciding to be healed. Trustworthy friends can create safe places to allow us to accept the challenge, but sometimes, in the midst of my struggles, I feel like I can't be myself. I have discovered that this is usually a result of not being honest with myself. I seek an easy fix, because if I try to address the complexities of the struggles I experience, then I will have to deal with some unresolved disappointments that I have ignored up until this point. That leads to more questions about how much I really want to be healed.

Am I prepared or willing to tap out of God's plan for my life because I don't want to explore the tensions or the pains that have led to disappointments? Psalms 121:1-3 tells me that time does not heal, but help can. Our disappointments and unmet expectations can cloud our judgment and separate us from what can bring healing. We can be bold enough to surrender control, but that doesn't mean we have to exchange trust for control.

Our boundaries are not meant to create walls to keep people out. Boundaries are necessary to produce life-giving spaces for living waters, not overwhelming seas. My boundaries can become walls if I convince myself that I can only trust myself and my knowledge. If I try to micromanage every detail of my life, I become immune to the growth that could be happening.

No one else can make the decision for me to heal. Not only do I have to desire healing, but I also have to seek it, ask for it and knock until I fully receive it. Matthew 7:7-8 taught me this. Healing won't find me — I have to find healing. Healing hurts, but not healing hurts as well. Choose the hurt that is worth your focus. Trustworthy friends are a treasure. Є

KNOW YOUR PEOPLE

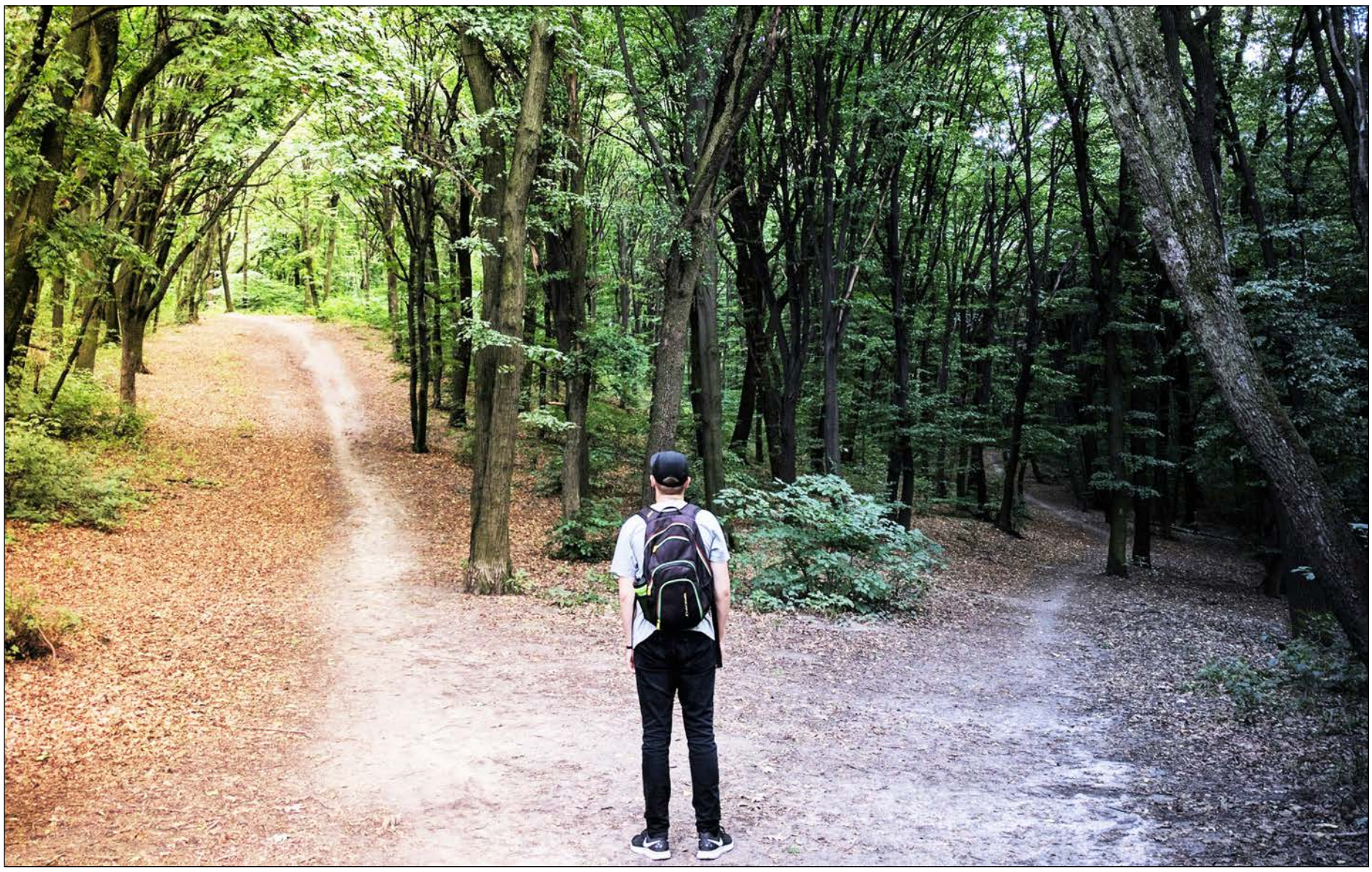
By Restin Burk | Lynaugh Unit



You can never give the right message to the wrong audience, and you can never say the right thing to the wrong person. Not everyone is good for you, and you can't make the wrong person right. Good people aren't made; they are found. American entrepreneur Jim Rohn said, "You don't send your ducks to eagle school." He was correct. People are more than capable of changing themselves, but it is impossible for us to change anyone else. What I'm saying is this: Choose the company you keep based on who is a good match for you, not simply who is available.

If things don't seem right where you're at, then maybe it's time to move on. You're not a tree, and that means you're not stuck in the same spot. You don't have to stay in a friendship or a relationship that's turned out to be bad for you. You owe it to yourself to get out of any situation that's hurting you or hindering your mental, spiritual or emotional growth and well-being. Your feelings are like an emotional GPS trying to guide you in the right direction. So, if it feels wrong, it probably is.

Listen when that still, small voice is speaking to you, and as soon as you realize you've found yourself in a bad situation, get out as soon as you safely can. Є





Choosing Self-Discovery Over Self-Destruction

By Jessica Lewis | Coleman Unit

Many of us become so influenced by the thoughts, ideas and opinions of others that we begin to define ourselves by the culture and environment around us. Eventually, we may look in the mirror and no longer recognize the person staring back. For so long, I've been caught up in a cycle of self-destruction that when I became incarcerated, I had a wave of relief wash over me. I was relieved from the stress of the world, the pressure I felt from friends and my craving for everything considered toxic.

Once I was in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, I felt free. It wasn't until I found this new sense of freedom that I was able to start a new cycle — a cycle of discovery. I started to realize that the things I had been placing value in didn't value me back, and the people I went out of my way for only wanted me out of the way. The choices I was making affected more than just me, and instead of drowning in a very crowded pool of self-pity, I decided to hit the reset button and start over. Going all the way back to the very beginning, there was the Word, and in that Word was God's truth. It was in God's truth that I found my true identity.



I am now a virtuous woman who is capable of all things. I am clothed with strength and dignity, and I laugh without fear of the future. I am now surrounded and influenced by like-minded women and find my identity in my Creator. So, you choose — self-destruction or self-discovery? €

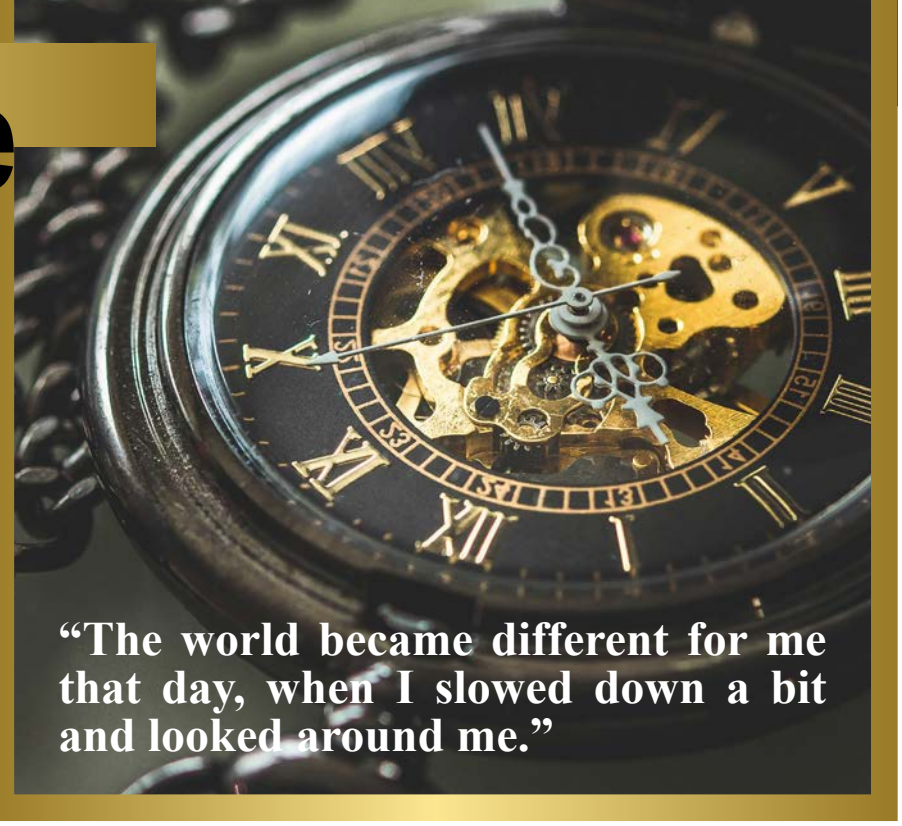
Taking Your Time

By Troy Glover | Hightower Unit

Many people may find this hard to believe, but life in incarceration actually moves at a hurried pace. It is kind of oxymoronic, if you think about it, because everyone in incarceration has nothing but "time."

After more than 20 years, that was how I had pretty much lived my life — in a rush.

One day, I was doing my usual cardio workout routine. It consisted of push-ups, sit-ups, jumping jacks and a quick-paced jog around the yard between each cycle. On this particular day, each time I would begin jogging, I would have to go around this tall, thin man of about 60 years old, who was just walking along in a carefree manner, taking his sweet time. It irked me. At the end of recreation, I approached the guy. I suggested that he move his strolling to the center of the rec-yard where he would not be in anyone's way and could take his time. The older man looked at me with sincere patience and asked me why I was in such a rush. He said that I was in such a hurry to stay healthy and live longer, but asked when I took the time to enjoy those things in life for which I wanted to stay healthy and live longer.



"The world became different for me that day, when I slowed down a bit and looked around me."

He had an interesting point of view, and I asked him to explain.

We walked back to the building entrance with him pointing out the vivid blue contrast of the sky to the cotton-colored, fluffy clouds. He brought my attention to the emerald-green leaves of the trees, and how they varied in color, yet still looked the same. The world became different for me that day, when I slowed down a bit and looked around me. ϵ

TDCJ Worker Job Openings

Texas Department of Criminal Justice

Manufacturing, Agribusiness and Logistics (MAL)

Unit: Terrell

Position: Diesel Mechanic

Skills/qualifications needed to apply:

The ability to:

- Repair fuel, oil, cooling and charging systems on various diesel and gasoline engines.
- Use proper hand and air tools on engine components.
- Diagnose equipment to look for problems.
- Weld and cut using arc-welding and flame cutting equipment-preferred.
- Perform brake jobs on diesel and gasoline heavy duty trucks and buses.
- Replace wheel seals and bearings on diesel trucks and buses.
- Demonstrate knowledge of R-134A air conditioning systems preferred.

Minimum Requirements:

- Must be classified as G1.
- No medical/work restrictions.
- No major disciplinary cases within past year.

ATTENTION APPLICANTS:

An I-60 should be mailed to:
MAL HQ/IWTP
P.O. Box 4011
Huntsville, Texas 77342

Position: Automotive Mechanic

Skills/qualifications needed to apply:

The ability to:

- Repair and overhaul automotive vehicles.
- Repair or replace defective parts and reassemble.
- Repair or replace brake shoes and cylinders, adjusting is required.
- Repair or replace brakes and components.
- Replace and adjust headlights.
- Repair or replace shock absorbers.
- Rewire ignition system, lights and instrument panel.
- Replace spark plugs, ignition wiring, coil packs and filters as required.

Minimum Requirements:

- Must be classified as G1.
- No medical/work restrictions.
- No major disciplinary cases within past year.

ATTENTION APPLICANTS:

An I-60 should be mailed to:
MAL HQ/IWTP
P.O. Box 4011
Huntsville, Texas 77342

Texas Correctional Industries (TCI)

Unit: Wynne

Position: Sign Painter (Sign and Plastics Factory)

Minimum Requirements:

- Must be classified as G2 or G3 status.
- Have experience with airbrush painting and fine detail hand painting.
- Have experience painting on wood and sign foam.
- Must have a good attitude and excellent work ethic.
- Must be able to work 4:30 a.m. — 12:30 p.m. Monday — Friday.
- Must be able to accept constructive criticism.
- Have a minimum of two years left in TDCJ.
- Have no major disciplinary cases within the past year.
- No medical/work restrictions that would prohibit performing job duties.

ATTENTION APPLICANTS:

If you are interested, send an I-60 or letter with your work experience to:
Wynne Unit Sign and Plastics Factory
Ms. Whitney, Plant Manager
810 FM 2821
Huntsville, Texas 77349

Position: Carpenter (Sign and Plastics Factory)

Minimum Requirements:

- Must be classified as G2 or G3 status.
- Must be skilled in usage of woodworking tools (table saw, chop saw, planer, joiner and router, etc.)
- Must have a good attitude and excellent work ethic.
- Must be able to work 4:30 a.m. — 12:30 p.m. Monday — Friday.
- Must be able to accept constructive criticism.
- Have a minimum of two years left in TDCJ.
- Have no major disciplinary cases within the past year.
- No medical/work restrictions that would prohibit performing job duties.

ATTENTION APPLICANTS:

If you are interested, send an I-60 or letter with your work experience to:
Wynne Unit Sign and Plastics Factory
Ms. Whitney, Plant Manager
810 FM 2821
Huntsville, Texas 77349

Manufacturing, Agribusiness and Logistics (MAL)

Unit: Wynne

Position: Diesel Mechanic (Tire Shop)

Skills/qualifications needed to apply:

The ability to:

- Repair fuel, oil, cooling and charging systems on various diesel and gasoline engines.
- Use proper hand and air tools on engine components.
- Diagnose equipment to look for problems.
- Weld and cut using arc-welding and flame cutting equipment-preferred.
- Perform brake jobs on diesel and gasoline heavy duty trucks and buses.
- Replace wheel seals and bearings on diesel trucks and buses.
- Demonstrate knowledge of R-134A air conditioning systems preferred.

Minimum Requirements:

- Must be classified as G1.
- No medical/work restrictions.
- No major disciplinary cases within past year.

ATTENTION APPLICANTS:

An I-60 should be mailed to:
MAL HQ/IWTP
P.O. Box 4011
Huntsville, Texas 77342

Position: Diesel Mechanic (Mechanical)

Skills/qualifications needed to apply:

The ability to:

- Repair/maintain diesel and gasoline engines used in machines including buses, trucks and construction machinery, using hand tools, precision-measuring instruments and machine tools.
- Diagnose trouble, disassemble engines and examine parts for defects and excessive wear.
- Recondition and replace parts.
- Utilize hand tools and precision-measuring instruments.
- Use technical manuals to check tolerances against manufacturer's specifications.
- Test/calibrate fuel injection systems used on various diesel engines.
- Use job specific personal protective equipment.
- Locate/repair using diagnostic equipment.
- Work on A/C and auto electrical systems.
- Repair medium duty diesel/gasoline Class 7 & 8 vehicles.
- Perform other tasks when assigned by staff.
- Maintain good working relationship with fellow resident workers and supervisors.
- Adhere to all safety rules and regulations.

Minimum Requirements:

- Must be classified as a G2.
- No medical/work restrictions.
- No major disciplinary cases within past year.

ATTENTION APPLICANTS:

An I-60 should be mailed to:
MAL HQ/IWTP
P.O. Box 4011
Huntsville, Texas 77342

Texas Correctional Industries (TCI) – Garment Factory

Unit: Hightower

Positions: Sewing Machine Operator, Garment Inspector, Quality Assurance Technician, Material Coordinator, Accounting Clerk

Minimum Requirements:

- Basic literacy and numeracy are necessary, as is the ability to learn and follow production instructions.
- No major cases within the last 12 months.
- Maximum sentence time: 50 years.
- No work restrictions which limit the ability to perform the position desired.
- If applying for clerk, you must meet the job DOT code regulations for this position.

ATTENTION APPLICANTS:

Hands-on training is provided by TCI; however, prior career and technical education or sewing experience may make a resident a more competitive candidate. Residents must maintain consistent attendance (one year full-time attendance before becoming eligible for any other TCI-related transfer), meet safety and productivity standards and adhere to workplace rules — failure to do so can result in disciplinary action and/or ineligibility in the TCI transfer program.

Eligible residents interested in transferring to this facility for assignment in the Garment Factory are encouraged to submit an I-60 directly to the Hightower Garment Factory or to IWTP. All transfers are subject to current eligibility requirements and agency approval.

Facilities Regional and Unit Maintenance

Unit: Statewide

Position: General Clerk

Skills/qualifications needed to apply:

- Skillful in the use of hand and power tools related to construction and maintenance.
- Highline positions must be skilled in maintenance and repairs of high voltage equipment and construction.
- On-the-job training provided for some positions.
- Apprenticeships available for some positions.

Minimum Requirements:

- Must be classified as G1 or G2 to work in unit maintenance.
- Must be classified as G1 to work in regional maintenance.
- No medical/work restrictions that would prohibit performing job duties.
- No major disciplinary cases within past year.
- Must not have a history of sexual offenses, kidnapping or any disciplinary cases for aggressive sexual misconduct.

ATTENTION APPLICANTS:

If you are insterested, send an I-60 with all of your work experience to:

Facilities Maintenance Division
Two Financial Plaza
Suite 400
Huntsville, Texas 77342
Attention: Director of Maintenance and Operations

Positions: Electricians, High Line Workers, AC Technicians, Plumbers, Kitchen & Laundry Technicians, Carpenters, Welders, General Maintenance

Skills/qualifications needed to apply:

- Skillful in the use of hand and power tools related to construction and maintenance.
- High line positions must be skilled in maintenance and repairs of high voltage equipment and construction.
- On-the-job training provided for some positions.
- Apprenticeships available for some positions.

Minimum Requirements:

- Must be classified as G1 or G2 to work in unit maintenance.
- Must be classified as G1 to work in regional maintenance.
- No medical/work restrictions that would prohibit performing job duties.
- No major disciplinary cases within past year.

ATTENTION APPLICANTS:

If you are insterested, send an I-60 with all of your work experience to:

Facilities Maintenance Division
Two Financial Plaza
Suite 400
Huntsville, Texas 77342
Attention: Director of Maintenance and Operations

All eligible workers are encouraged to apply.

POETRY NOOK



I Wonder

Submitted by Dennes Bowles
Ramsey Unit

I wonder — does the sun rise the same for you,
charming her lonely sky with that golden hue?
Embers lost from the darkness of creation,
rising in your eyes with raw emotion.
With a glance you set fire to the morning dew,
and your ravenous eyes captured me, that is true.
Obsidian pales beneath their raging sea,
silenced my soft breath — no gentle words to be.
Cast away, I've drowned in your moonless ocean,
my stilled heart filled with true devotion.
Without thought you put a little spell on me,
such sweet deception by your careless beauty.
So, tell me how does the sunrise leave that clue,
dancing in those soft dark eyes in your sky, too?

Hard Times



Submitted by Keon Crosby
Coffield Unit

Hard times
can lead to devastating moves.
Patience is a virtue,
but really easy to lose —
it's easy to think before the move.
But under pressure,
what would you do?
The answer is,
nobody knows,
'cause in a clinch,
anything goes.
But as long as you're in position
you can always make a way.
And since there's no competition,
you can never lose the race.

Not a Failure

Submitted by Monica Vincent
Plane Unit

You can change for the good or you can change for the worse.
What would you change if you could? Don't let your destiny be cursed.
What is it about change that people don't like?
They want the outcome without the pain, without the fight.
It's the journey of changing that tests your ambitions.
If you don't like where you are, you can change your position.
Rise above difficulties and don't let life drag you down.
Just know your troubles will turn around.
Stay sincere and strong in your joys and your sorrows.
When it gets tough, pray for better tomorrows.
I know it's hard, but remember bad days don't last.
God gave us the promise that this, too, shall pass.
Even the one who is forever the same and never changes
reminds us that it can get better and that He can rearrange it.
Use His strength to carry on,
and know your misfortunes won't last long.
I understand your dilemma; I know it can be overwhelming.
There is so much more that title isn't telling.
It never states your attributes,
so let us use this as a chance to change their attitudes.
Harness your potential and never give up on your dreams,
no matter how hard the process seems.
Your character is built during the battle you endure.
Make sure you fight with intentions that are pure.
Don't give up on the idea of greatness and keep your resilience.
Change takes courage; let us overcome this with perseverance.



I Cannot Read My Tombstone

Submitted by William Hill
Wynne Unit

If with pleasure you are viewing
all the good things I am doing.
Do not wait; tell me now.

Don't withhold your approbation
until the preacher makes his flowery oration
and I lie with lilies over my brow.

No matter how loud you shout it,
I won't really care about it.
Nor will I know how many tears you shed.

If you think some small praise is due to me,
now is the time to say it to me.
For I cannot read my tombstone when I am dead.

If I earn your praise, bestow it.
If you care about me, let me know it.
Now is the time kind words should be said.

Do not wait until this life is over
and I am lying underneath the clover.

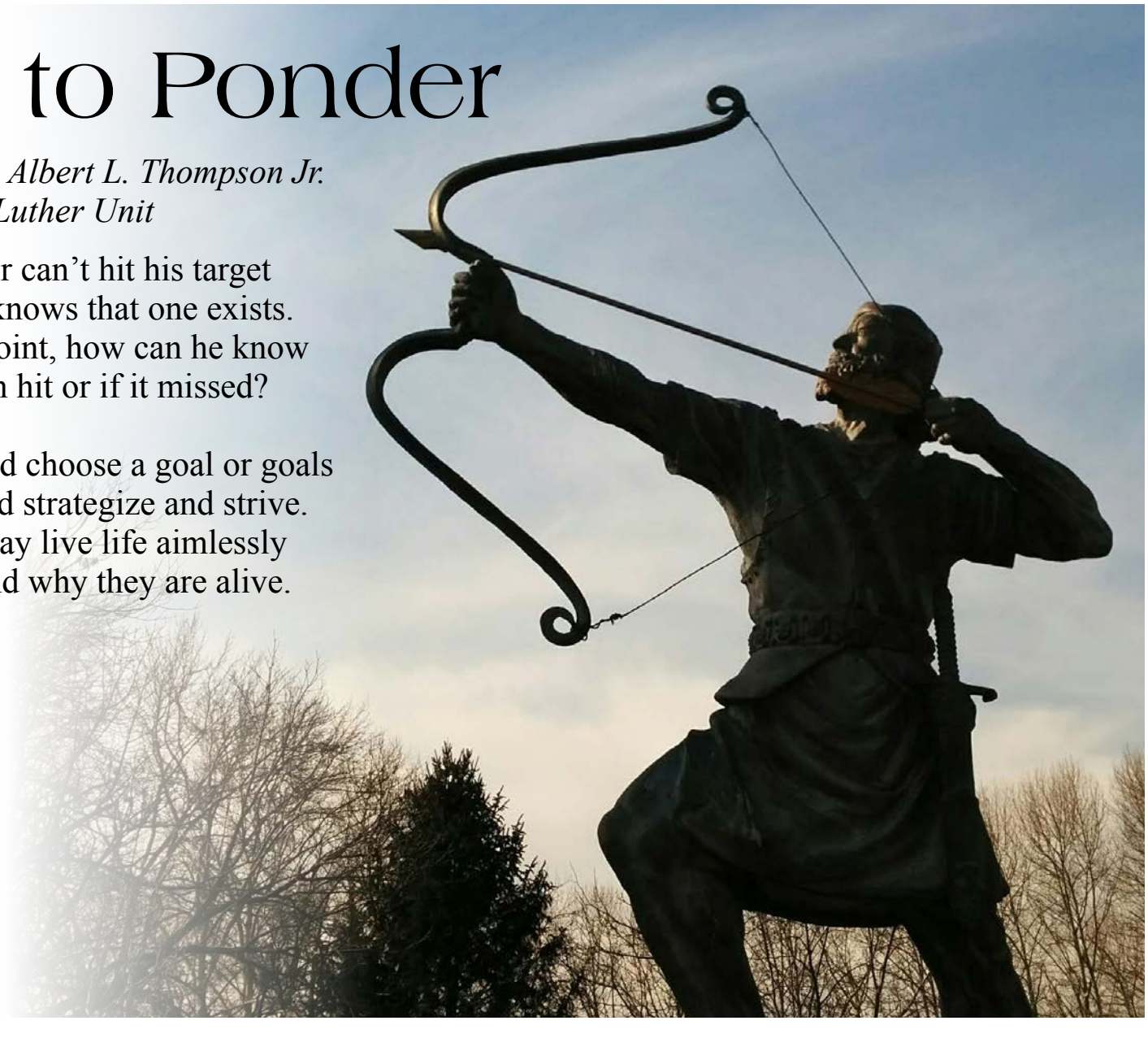
I cannot read my tombstone when I am dead.

A Point to Ponder

Submitted by Albert L. Thompson Jr.
Luther Unit

An archer can't hit his target
unless he knows that one exists.
Until that point, how can he know
if his aim hit or if it missed?

So, one should choose a goal or goals
and plan and strategize and strive.
Or they may live life aimlessly
and not find why they are alive.



ME 7

Submitted by Letousha Marshall
Murray Unit

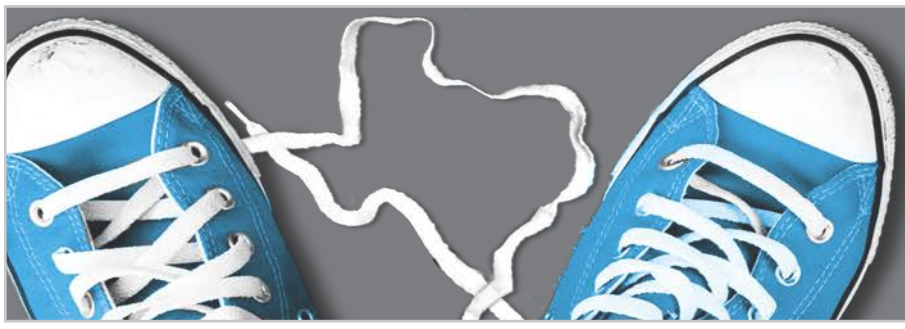
Do you see me,
or do you see me?
You probably looked at my skin,
and let it define me.
If you looked at me
and not at me,
you would know there's more to me,
than what you see.
I'm not just painted skin,
I'm a masterpiece within.
A real work of art — if you really look at me
you'll see the hues of my heart,
the structure of my soul,
the symphony playing on my lips.
Just look at me and not at me,
open your eyes and see me.



People

Submitted by C.R. Lindley
Wainwright Unit

Emotions are like dreams; they come and go.
Once gone, they are hard to remember.
People come and go, in and out of our lives; others stay.
Some you wish would stay, but they go.
Some people leave your life only to return.
Some people are heartless, others have hearts of gold.
Some people are good in your life, while others are bad.
Some people take advantage of you; others take care of you.
Some people are meant to be in your life; others are not.
A true friend knows your weaknesses, but shows you your strengths,
feels your fears, but fortifies your faith.
They see your anxieties, but free your spirit.
They recognize your disabilities, but emphasize your possibilities.
While people are people, true friends stay forever.



Lace Up

Brief News, Big Achievements

ALLRED UNIT

Ministry Provides Connection Through Worship

By Patricio Sevillano | Allred Unit Reporter



The God Behind Bars team and Crossroads Prison Ministry recently brought an uplifting, inspirational program to the Allred Unit. This ministry is dedicated to bringing hope, encouragement and positive connections to residents through worship.

BARTLETT CAMPUS

Bartlett Campus Celebrates Culinary Graduation

By Phillip Lockhart | Bartlett Unit Reporter

Nineteen graduates at the Bartlett campus recently commemorated their completion of the Windham School District Culinary Arts program, successfully completing 300 hours of intensive training focused on precision knife skills, operational discipline and comprehensive kitchen management.



Culinary Arts instructor T. Stephenson watched the graduates with great pride.

"Seeing these graduates growth from day one until their completion has been a great journey," Stephenson said.

Graduate Vincent Deller shed light on the collective efforts utilized among participants throughout the curriculum.

"We learned many new things," Deller said. "We all came from various backgrounds, and we came together to make great meals and great memories."

BARTLETT CAMPUS

Celebrating New Beginnings: THRIVE Cohort 6 Graduates at Bartlett

By Phillip Lockhart | Bartlett Unit Reporter

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) proudly celebrated the graduation of Cohort 6 from the Trust, Healing, Restoration, Independence, Vision and Empowerment (THRIVE) program in a recent ceremony at the Barlett campus.

Surrounded by supportive family members, peers, Windham staff and numerous TDCJ administrators and employees, the ceremony highlighted the profound impact of institutional collaboration and personal dedication.

The presentation of the graduates was led by Rehabilitation and Reentry Division (RRD) Director April Zamora. She opened the ceremony by explaining the critical role that THRIVE plays in equipping participants with essential life skills for reentry into their communities. Class speaker Lonzie Hall Jr. also addressed the graduates, offering reflection for their next chapters.

"We have all seen the growth in each other since arriving at the Bartlett Unit. We all came in understanding the THRIVE program was giving us an opportunity to leave TDCJ with positive momentum," Hall said.

As the ceremony concluded, the sound of the "Freedom Bell" rang loudly, and families beamed with excitement and pride.













BRADSHAW CAMPUS

Activity Facilitates Student Teamwork

As part of the Personal Foundations portion of the Parenting course, Parenting teacher L. Pepin at the Bradshaw campus recently facilitated a team-building activity where students worked together to design and build the tallest freestanding tower using only paper and tape.

The activity encouraged students to identify and utilize their individual strengths while working together to solve problems and support one another.



COLEMAN UNIT

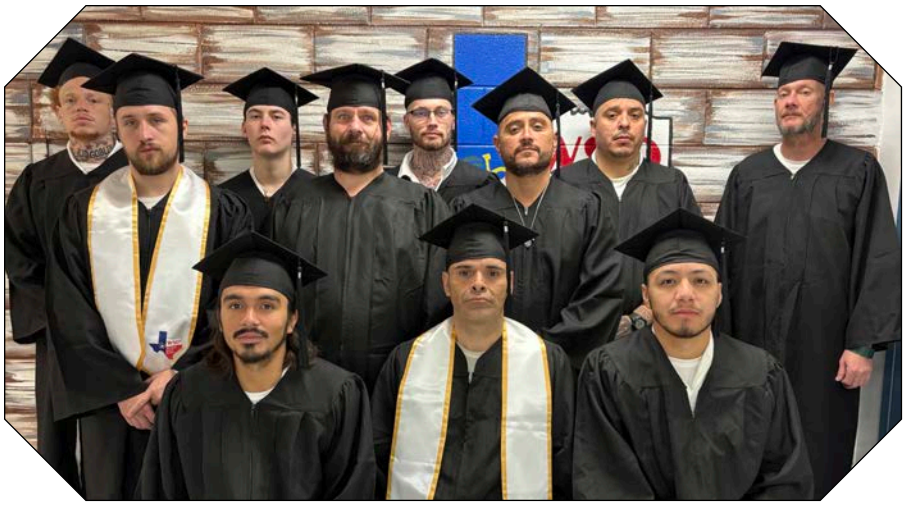




Leadership Supports Entrepreneurial Event

The Empowering Women Out of Prison (EWOP) Pitch and Reveal event at the Coleman Unit brought entrepreneurial business pitches to industry leaders. Residents presented Shark Tank-style proposals to showcase the skills they have built through reentry programming.

TDCJ leadership, partners and a Federal Bureau of Prisons delegation joined together at the event to support and learn more about EWOP's impact.



FORMBY CAMPUS

Formby Campus Celebrates Graduates

Over 27 graduates at the Formby campus were celebrated recently at a graduation ceremony. Graduates were awarded their Texas Certificate of High School Equivalency (HSE); Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning and Culinary Arts certificates.





GARZA WEST CAMPUS

Garza West Campus Celebrates Graduates

In a recent ceremony, graduates at the Garza West campus were honored for completing their respective programs, congratulated by staff and loved ones. Certificates awarded included high school equivalency, Introduction to Construction Careers and Heavy Equipment Operator.



GOREE UNIT

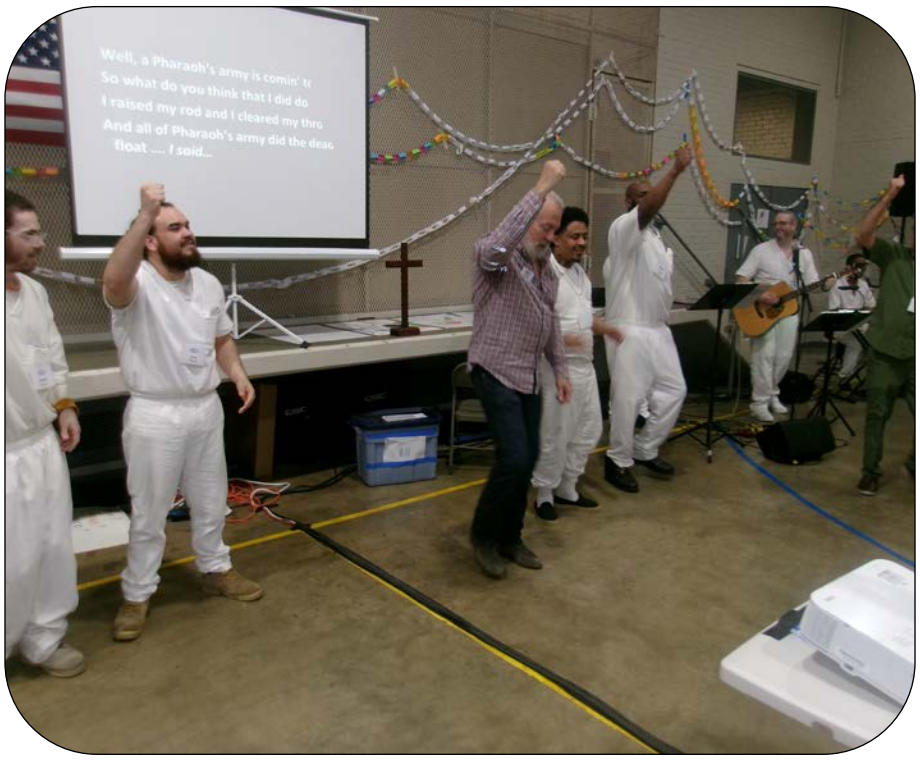
Goree Unit Experiences Agape Love Through Kairos Weekend

By Patrick Russo | Goree Unit Reporter

The Goree Unit recently concluded its third Kairos weekend, where 42 residents had a rare and profound encounter with agape love – a form of unconditional love referenced in the Bible and demonstrated through the Kairos Prison Ministry.

Kairos is unofficially referred to as the "cookie ministry," as they are known for distributing cookies to the entire unit during the weekend. However, for the men who attend the entire program, the experience goes far beyond baked goods. Candidates receive meals from the community each day, hear uplifting messages and witness the dedication of both inside volunteers and the outside team responsible for food preparation and support.

At the closing ceremony, each of the 42 participants shared what the weekend meant to them, offering gratitude to everyone involved.







JESTER III UNIT

Unit Holds Softball Tournament

By Jonathan Covington | Jester III Unit Reporter

Residents at the Jester III Unit excitedly participated in a softball tournament, creating an atmosphere of hope and a healthy community.

Player Dallas Christian, on his first at bat, sent the ball deep into the outfield where it was ultimately caught. However, the energy of his teammates and the crowd carried him through.

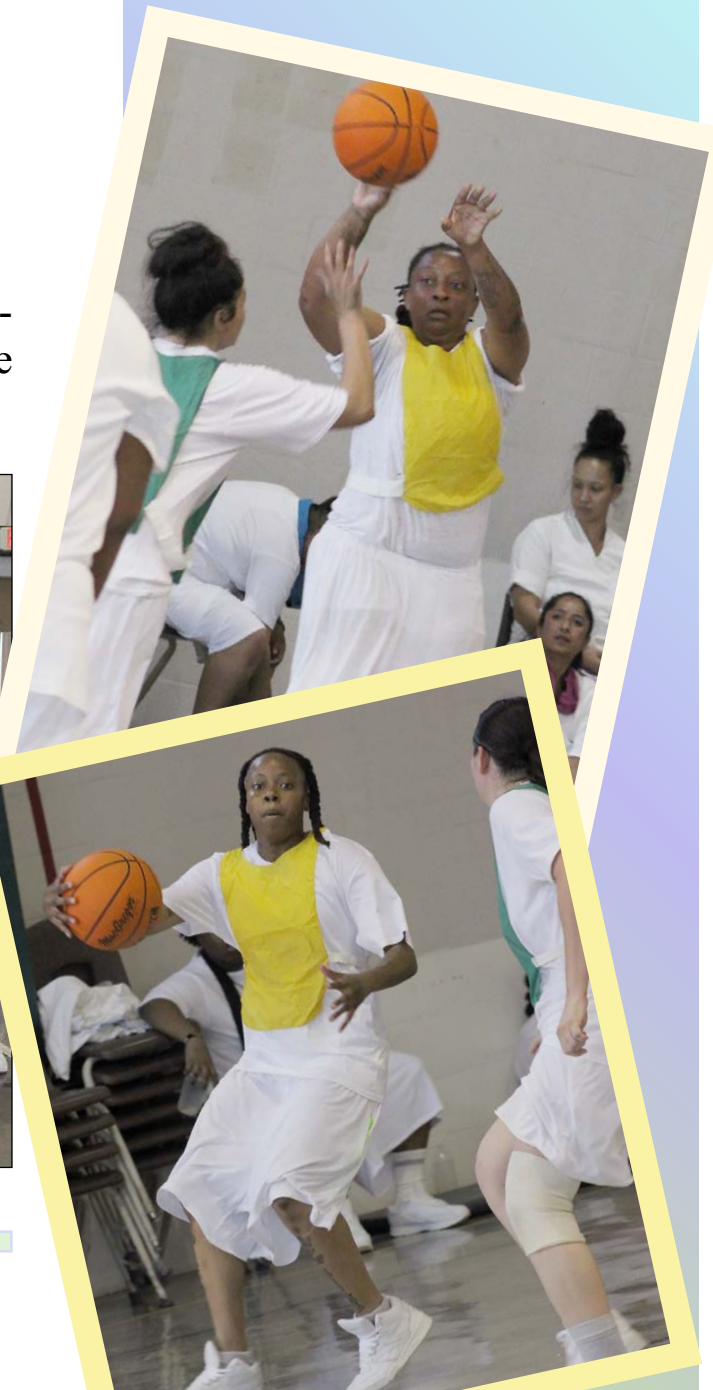
"Not getting on base my first hit [was disappointing], but hearing everyone cheer for me was exactly what I needed in that moment," Christian said.

MURRAY UNIT

Murray Unit Hosts Basketball Tournament

Residents at the Murray Unit participated in a five-versus-five basketball tournament. Many teams participated, but ultimately the "Stunners" were crowned the champions.





Universal Beyond Bars Brings Hope

The ministry Universal Beyond Bars (UBB) recently held a tent revival and celebrated graduating residents for their once-a-week classes, including Overcoming Anger and Shackles Off at the Murray Unit.

During the tent revival, Bishop Bira shared a word with the residents. Testimonies were shared, prayers were made and spirits were lifted. There have been multiple revival events led by UBB throughout TDCJ.

UBB volunteers also celebrated graduates of multiple classes at Murray in a recent ceremony. The classes help residents develop positive soft skills as they prepare for reentry. For residents who have yet to have an in-person experience with UBB, the ministry can also be found on their tablets in the Pando app.





O'DANIEL CAMPUS

Residents Participate in Health, Wellness Class

Students at the O'Daniel campus participated in a health and wellness class focused on social and intellectual wellness. They participated in different activities including being challenged to build the tallest paper tower they could in just seven minutes.

This class was part of Windham's 8 Dimensions of Wellness program. Once a class has studied all eight dimensions, students receive a certificate of completion.



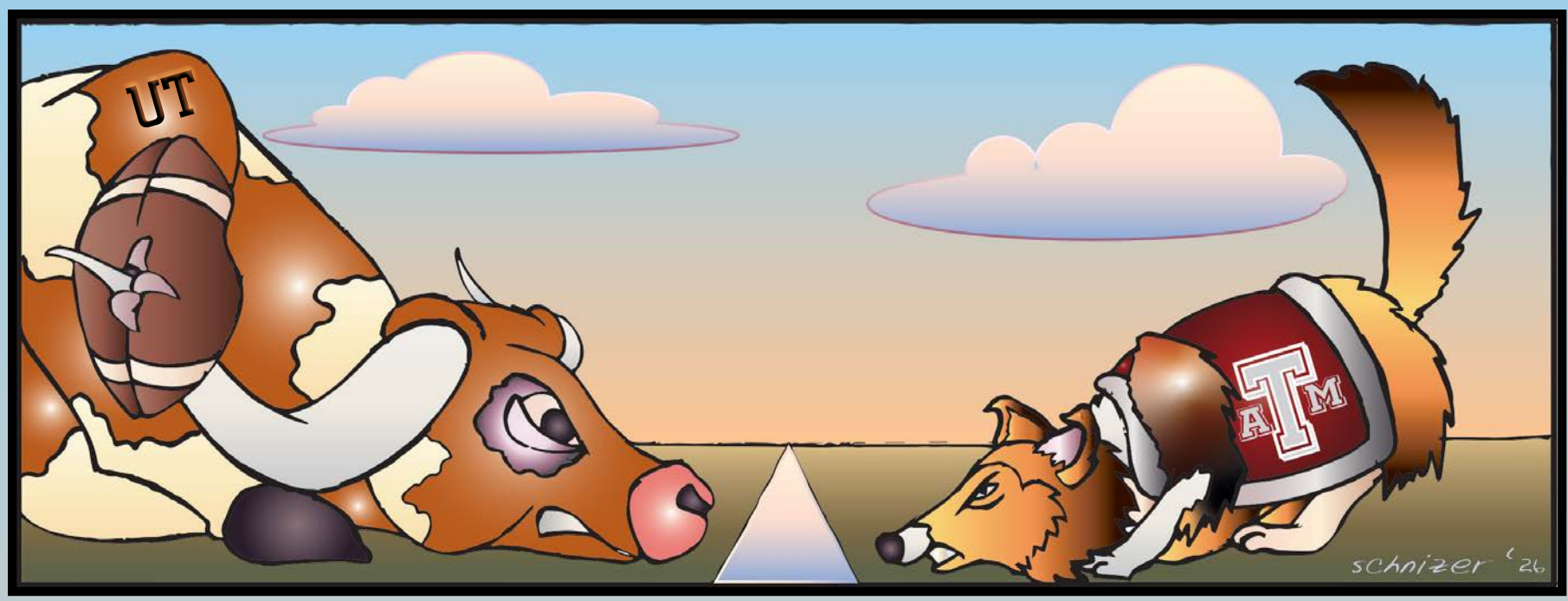


WYNNE UNIT

Messianic Community at Wynne Celebrates Fall Holy Days

The B'nai Shalom Messianic Community on the Wynne Unit hosts baptisms and observing Fall Holy Days such as Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot and the Eighth Day Assembly.





Texas Longhorns vs. Texas A&M Aggies

The Rivalry

Will Hill

Contributing Writer

The first college football game played in America was in 1869 between the Rutgers Scarlet Knights and the Princeton Tigers. From that humble beginning, college football began to spread like a wildfire.

One of the many things that makes college football the sporting spectacle it has become today are the rivalries. These rivalries can be created due to a myriad of things, including geographical closeness of the campuses, slights or perceived slights and of course, winning and losing. Some of the sport's notable rivalries include Army Black Knights vs. Navy Midshipmen, Ohio State Buckeyes vs. Michigan Wolverines, Georgia Bulldogs vs. Florida Gators and the Alabama Crimson Tide vs. Auburn Tigers. However, none of those contests can match the traditions, pageantry and outright venom of the game between the Texas Longhorns and the Texas A&M Aggies. This game is bigger than Texas itself.

Former Texas Head Coach Mack Brown is quoted as saying, "The Oklahoma rivalry is state versus state, but the A&M rivalry is family versus family."

The Beginning

Texas was reinstated to the Union in 1870 at the end of the American Civil War. Amazingly, the state had a prison system in place almost 30 years before it had its first college. Texas' first public institution of higher learning opened in 1876 as the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas in a tiny village named College Station. Eventually, it would become known as Texas A&M. Seven years later, in 1883, the University of Texas (UT) opened its doors in Austin. With the two campuses separated by a mere 107 miles, a natural rivalry was born.

The Series

To truly be considered a rivalry, both sides have to win. The first football game between the two teams occurred on Oct. 19, 1894 in Austin, and resulted in a 38-0 Texas victory. The Aggies went back to College Station and practiced for four years before suiting up and trying it again in 1898, but the result was even worse, a 48-0 defeat. In the first 10 games, Texas' record against A&M was 8-1-1. In fact, A&M didn't score a point in any game until the ninth matchup when they won 11-0. Did somebody say rivalry?

After the 1911 game, Texas refused to play the boys from College Station claiming that the Aggies played too rough or "dirty" under then-Head Coach Charley Moran. The boycott ended only when both teams were charter members of the now defunct Southwest Conference in 1914. This forced the teams to have to play each other every season. The game quickly became a statewide event.

From 1940-1983, the Longhorns dominated the matchup with their rivals from College Station, going an impressive 36-7-1 overall, and 10-0 from 1957-1966. This was the era when Longhorn football became a national powerhouse.

The Aggies have also had their day in the sun. From 1984-1994 they won 10 of the 11 matchups, and six straight from 1984-1989.

However, the Aggies' run did not last long as the Longhorns went 12-5 from 1995-2011. The 2011 game in the Aggies home stadium was one for the ages. The game was tightly contested, with the Aggies holding a slim 25-24 lead in the final seconds as the Longhorns were driving. With only enough time remaining for one last play, Justin Tucker trotted out on the field and calmly kicked a walk-off field goal to win 27-25. After the 2011 season, the Aggies left the Big 12 Conference to join the Southeastern Conference (SEC), and the two teams did not play again for more than a decade. The Aggies' defection to the SEC ended a streak of 97 consecutive years with a Texas-Texas A&M game, most of them played on Thanksgiving night. Somehow, the absence seems to have made

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the rivalry even more intense, if that is even possible. During the hiatus, both student bodies expressed their desire to resume the games even if it wasn't a conference game. In 2013, a state legislator introduced a bill that would have required the two teams to play each other once a season. Although it did not receive enough votes to pass, it made it all the way to the House Committee on Higher Education.

In 2021, the Texas Longhorns and the Oklahoma Sooners agreed to leave the Big 12 Conference and join the SEC. One hundred and thirty years after the first Texas-Texas A&M game in 1894, the two teams renewed their rivalry on Nov. 30, 2024. It was a tough, hard-fought game, and of course, the Texas Longhorns came out victorious. In 2025, the Aggies entered the game undefeated and ranked third in the nation. They were on the brink of the school's first-ever appearance in the SEC title game. The Longhorns were ranked 16th in the nation and fighting for a berth in the College Football Playoffs, so the game was a David-versus-Goliath affair. Once again, little David defeated big, bad Goliath and spoiled the Aggies' dreams of a conference title. Sorry, not sorry.

Team Names

Originally, the UT teams were called "State" or "Steers," but the most popular term used for them was "Varsity." It would not be until 1903 when the term "Longhorns" became the official moniker of the school's teams.

You may be wondering why the name longhorn was chosen as the team name in the first place. The Texas longhorn had long been a staple on Texas ranches. Ranchers valued them because they are able to survive in conditions most other cattle breeds cannot. Nothing screams "Texas" more than the longhorn, especially since Texas is conveniently already in the breed's name. By the way, the Texas Legislature named the Texas longhorn the state's official large mammal in 1995. In case you are wondering, yes, the state also has an official small mammal, the armadillo.

In the early years, A&M teams were called "Farmers," "Cadets" or sometimes simply "Bryan." The term "Aggies" began being used in the 1910s, but it would not become the official name for Texas A&M students until 1949. The name reflects the agricultural roots of the school.

Team Colors

In the 1890s, UT's uniforms were gold and white. By the end of the decade, fans were wearing every shade of yellow, orange, crimson and heaven forbid, even blue and maroon. Finally, the school's regents wanted to designate an official color, so they allowed the student body to vote. The winners were orange and white. By the way, the second most popular color combination was orange and maroon. That would have been awkward. For the record, the burnt orange color is called "Focal Orange."

Originally, the Aggies' colors were red and white, so how and why did the colors become maroon and white? Sometime in the late 1920s, the school ordered new football jerseys in their red and white colors. When the order arrived, the jerseys were the now-familiar maroon and white. Someone in the athletic department decided that since there were already a lot of schools using the color red, A&M should differentiate itself and kept the maroon jerseys.

Team Mascots

It may surprise many Longhorns fans to learn that Texas' first mascot was not a bull, but a dog. Well, it was sort of a bull, since it was a pit bull terrier named Pig. Unfortunately, Pig had a penchant for chasing cars, and one day he caught one and died. The dog was buried on campus, and a sign placed on his grave read, "Pig's dead. Dog gone."

The more-famous Texas mascot is a longhorn steer named Bevo. The first Bevo was discovered in 1916 by a Texas graduate who found a steer whose hide was so orange he knew he had found his beloved alma mater's mascot. The steer was presented to the Texas student body at halftime of the A&M game, which was tied 7-7. The steer must have inspired the football team, because they won the game 21-7.

Sorry to all the Aggie fans out there, but Bevo did not get his name from Aggies branding 13-0 on the side of the steer, although that did happen. Bevo was named in 1916 and the branding was not done until the following season. The name seems to stem from adding an "o" to the word beeve. By the way, the poor steer that was branded was later barbecued and enjoyed at a banquet by both Longhorns and Aggies.

The Aggies' mascot is a Rough Collie named Reveille. She is known as the First Lady of Aggieland and the highest-ranking member of the Corps of Cadets. In 1931, a group of cadets hit a small black and white dog while driving to campus. They nursed it back to health in their dorm room. When a bugler began playing Reveille the next morning to wake the cadets, the dog began barking madly, earning her the name. Whenever a Reveille dies, they are buried outside the north end of Kyle Field, where they have their own scoreboard so they can watch their team. Poor things, as if a lifetime of watching Aggie games is not enough.

Team Fight Songs

To illustrate just how much disdain the two student bodies have for each other, consider the two fight songs. The UT fight song is "Texas Fight," written by Colonel Walter S. Hunnicutt in response to Aggies making fun of "The Eyes of Texas." The song includes the words "and it's goodbye to A&M."

Not to be outdone, A&M's fight song is the "Aggie War Hymn," written by J.V. "Pinky" Wilson in 1918 while serving in the Marine Corps during World War I. Originally, the song was titled "Goodbye to Texas University." The second verse says, "So long to the orange and white" and "The Eyes of Texas are upon you/That is the song they sing so well." After the second verse, Aggie fans will link arms and sway side to side, imitating the motion of sawing and sing "saw Varsity's horns off." So sad.

Pranks

One of the things that marks a great rivalry, besides victories, are the pranks, and the Longhorn-Aggie series has more than its share of good ones. For UT students, attempting to ignite the Aggie bonfire early seemed to be their main target. Bonfires have long been a homecoming or pep rally staple nationwide, but especially in Texas. According to a Nov. 22, 1933 article in "The Battalion," the Aggie student newspaper, some "college radicals" attempted to light the Aggie bonfire early. In 1948, a UT student "borrowed" a plane

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and decided it would be a great idea to fly over the A&M campus dropping gasoline and flares. Additionally, after several harmless kidnappings of Bevo by the Aggies, UT students successfully took Reveille VI before the Aggies played in the 1993 Cotton Bowl. She was returned safe and sound nearly a week later.

Besides kidnapping Bevo and branding him, the Aggies also put their farming skills to use before the 1950 game. Some enterprising students sowed winter oats on the field at UT's Memorial Stadium in a pattern to spell "A and M." As if that wasn't enough, in the next season, UT students' planted seedlings on the Aggies' Kyle Field in the shape of "TU," the Aggies' disparaging name for Texas.

Even after the Aggies left the Big 12 Conference in January 2012 to join the SEC, the pranks continued. In 2014, genetically-modified maroon bluebonnets mysteriously sprouted on the UT campus.

Team Traditions

Arguably, the most recognizable hand gesture in college sports is the "Hook 'em Horns." In 1955, Longhorn head cheerleader Harley Clark and his roommate H.K. Pitts were making hand shadow puppets on their dormitory room wall (give them a break, it was the 1950s) and they discovered that by extending the index and pinkie fingers on one hand, they could make a reasonable rendering of a longhorn head. Clark unveiled the sign at the pep rally before the Longhorn's game with Texas Christian University (TCU). The dean of students tried to stop the new tradition due to the gesture being considered offensive in other parts of the world.

While UT has its "Hook 'em Horns" gesture, A&M has its "Gig 'Em." Before the Aggies' 1930 game against TCU, A&M regent Pinky Downs added a "thumbs up" hand gesture to the gig 'em yell.

In 1941, after eight consecutive away game losses to A&M, students consulted a fortune teller about how to supposedly hex the Aggies. They were told to hold a "Hex Rally" and to burn red candles. The strategy must have worked, because the Longhorns beat the Aggies 23-0 in Kyle Field. The student body still holds hex rallies before games against other opponents, but they don't carry the same intensity. Eventually, the rallies faded away until they were revived in 1986.

The Aggies may not be good at football, but they are great at coming up with traditions. One of the most well-known of the Aggie traditions is the "12th Man." In Aggie lore, the 12th Man symbolizes the entire student body. The tradition began in 1922 when the Aggies' roster was nearly depleted due to injury. Head Coach Dana X. Bible called student E. King Gill down from the stands to the sideline. After suiting up, Gill stood ready to play throughout the game. Today, the student body actually stands for the entire game, symbolizing their readiness to go into the game if needed.

Unity Trumps Rivalry

Sadly, tragedy struck the Texas A&M student body in 1999 when its annual bonfire collapsed during construction, killing 12 people — 11 active students and one former student — and injuring 27. Proving that while they are opponents on the field but Texans and friends off of it, Texas canceled its Hex Rally, opting instead for a "Unity Gathering" at the UT Tower and inviting all Aggies to attend. Out of respect for the victims of the collapse, the tower was darkened and white candles were lit instead of red ones in memory of the fallen.

Eight days after the tragedy, the teams played their annual game, this time at Kyle Field. At halftime, the Longhorn band dedicated its performance to the students injured and lost in the collapse. The band ended its portion of the halftime show with a rendition of "Amazing Grace" and "Taps," before removing their white hats in tribute and walking off the field.

The Fighting Texas Aggie Band also paid tribute to its classmates, and in a break from normal tradition, marched off the field in silence. In another break of Aggie tradition, the student body that normally sits during the performance of the opposing team's band instead stood up for both bands' performances.

This is a sports column, after all, and I would be remiss if I failed to mention that the Aggies secured the 20-16 victory by forcing and recovering a Longhorn fumble with 23 seconds to play.

Rivalry Recognized in Pop Culture

General Mills recognized the then-third longest running college football rivalry with a special edition box of Wheaties cereal in 2006. One side of the box of cereal featured the helmet of the Texas Longhorns and their home stadium, Darrell K. Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium, with the Texas A&M Aggies and Kyle Field on the other side. This was the first time a rivalry had ever been featured on a Wheaties box.

2026 Rendition

This year, the 2026 edition of the Lone Star Showdown will be played on Nov. 27, the Friday after Thanksgiving Day, in College Station at 6:30 p.m. The game will be televised on ABC, and whether you are a Longhorn, an Aggie or even a Texas Tech Red Raider (perish the thought!) be sure to tune in and pick a side. ϵ

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!

Preparing for inclement weather: Recognition of cold-related illness, injury

Editor's Note: The following information was provided by TDCJ Risk Management.

Frostbite

Not only can wind chill cause a rapid body heat loss, it also can cause frostbite — the freezing of body tissues. Frostbite can occur in 15 minutes or less at wind chill values of 18 below zero or lower. Residents can be at an increased risk to frostbite because of factors such as exhaustion, hunger and dehydration, which further lower the body's defenses against cold.

Hypothermia

Hypothermia is a condition occurring when the body loses heat faster than the body can produce it. With the onset of this condition, blood vessels in the skin constrict (i.e., tighten) in an attempt to conserve vital internal body heat, thus affecting the hands and feet first. Hypothermia, the severe or prolonged loss of body heat, begins when a person's body temperature falls below 95 degrees. Because the temperature drop may be gradual, and an early symptom of hypothermia is mental confusion, the victim may not know a problem exists. If one's body continues to lose heat, involuntary shivers begin. This reaction is the body's way to produce more heat and is usually the first real warning sign of hypothermia. Further heat loss produces speech difficulty, forgetfulness, loss of manual dexterity, collapse and finally death.

Some residents can be at an increased risk to hypothermia if they have predisposing health conditions or take certain medications. Some of these conditions include cardiovascular disease, diabetes, hypertension, poor physical condition, poor diet, and/or advanced age.

Watch for the following symptoms of frostbite:

- **cold, white and hard skin;**
- **pain;**
- **itching;**
- **loss of feeling in the affected area;**
- **spots or blotches on skin;**
- **swelling and blistering;**
- **skin becomes red and blotchy; and**
- **tissue loss, depending on the severity of the frostbite.**

Watch for the following symptoms of hypothermia:

- **confusion;**
- **drowsiness;**
- **slurred speech;**
- **a drop in blood pressure;**
- **shallow breathing; and**
- **a pinkish tint to the skin.**

Report all incidents of cold-related illness to a staff member immediately. ★

National Hockey League
2026-27 Schedule for the Dallas Stars

All Times Local

Date	Time	Opponent
Fri. Oct 2	8:00 PM	**St. Louis**
Sat. Oct 3	7:00 PM	AT Nashville
Mon. Oct 5	7:00 PM	**San Jose**
Thu. Oct 8	7:00 PM	AT Buffalo
Sat. Oct 10	7:00 PM	AT Pittsburgh
Tue. Oct 13	7:30 PM	**Colorado**
Wed. Oct 14	7:30 PM	AT Colorado
Sat. Oct 17	6:00 PM	AT Chicago
Tue. Oct 20	7:00 PM	**Boston**
Thu. Oct 22	7:00 PM	**Winnipeg**
Sun. Oct 25	5:00 PM	**N.Y. Islanders**
Tue. Oct 27	7:00 PM	**New Jersey**
Thu. Oct 29	7:00 PM	**Montreal**
Sat. Oct 31	7:00 PM	**Columbus**
Tue. Nov 3	7:00 PM	AT Washington
Thu. Nov 5	7:00 PM	AT Columbus
Sat. Nov 7	7:00 PM	**San Jose**
Thu. Nov 12	7:00 PM	**Winnipeg**
Sat. Nov 14	7:00 PM	**Buffalo**
Sun. Nov 15	7:00 PM	**Florida**
Tue. Nov 17	7:00 PM	AT Vegas
Thu. Nov 19	7:00 PM	AT Vegas
Sun. Nov 22	6:00 PM	**Pittsburgh**
Wed. Nov 25	7:00 PM	**Nashville**
Fri. Nov 27	1:00 PM	AT St. Louis
Sat. Nov 28	7:00 PM	**Utah**
Tue. Dec 1	6:40 PM	AT Seattle
Thu. Dec 3	6:40 PM	AT Seattle
Sat. Dec 5	8:00 PM	AT Vancouver
Wed. Dec 9	6:30 PM	**Toronto**
Sat. Dec 12	7:00 PM	**St. Louis**
Tue. Dec 15	8:30 PM	**Washington**
Thu. Dec 17	7:00 PM	AT Edmonton
Sat. Dec 19	6:00 PM	AT Winnipeg
Sun. Dec 20	5:00 PM	AT Winnipeg
Tue. Dec 22	7:00 PM	**Calgary**
Sun. Dec 27	7:00 PM	AT Montreal
Tue. Dec 29	7:00 PM	AT Ottawa
Thu. Dec 31	8:00 PM	**N.Y. Rangers**
Sat. Jan 2	7:00 PM	**Chicago**
Mon. Jan 4	7:00 PM	**Detroit**
Wed. Jan 6	7:00 PM	AT San Jose

Date	Time	Opponent
Fri. Jan 8	7:00 PM	AT Anaheim
Sat. Jan 9	6:00 PM	AT Los Angeles
Tue. Jan 12	7:00 PM	**Ottawa**
Thu. Jan 14	7:00 PM	AT Boston
Fri. Jan 15	7:00 PM	AT N.Y. Islanders
Sun. Jan 17	6:00 PM	AT N.Y. Rangers
Tue. Jan 19	7:00 PM	AT New Jersey
Wed. Jan 20	8:30 PM	AT Chicago
Fri. Jan 22	7:00 PM	**Colorado**
Sun. Jan 24	3:00 PM	AT Colorado
Tue. Jan 26	7:00 PM	**Anaheim**
Thu. Jan 28	7:00 PM	**Vancouver**
Sat. Jan 30	8:00 PM	AT Minnesota
Mon. Feb 8	7:00 PM	**Los Angeles**
Fri. Feb 12	7:00 PM	AT Tampa Bay
Sat. Feb 13	6:00 PM	AT Florida
Tue. Feb 16	7:00 PM	**Minnesota**
Thu. Feb 18	7:00 PM	**Philadelphia**
Sat. Feb 20	7:00 PM	**Vegas**
Tue. Feb 23	7:00 PM	**Vancouver**
Thu. Feb 25	7:00 PM	**Tampa Bay**
Sat. Feb 27	2:00 PM	**Edmonton**
Sun. Feb 28	8:00 PM	AT St. Louis
Wed. Mar 3	7:00 PM	**Minnesota**
Fri. Mar 5	7:00 PM	AT Philadelphia
Sat. Mar 6	7:00 PM	AT Detroit
Mon. Mar 8	7:30 PM	AT Toronto
Wed. Mar 10	8:30 PM	**Anaheim**
Sat. Mar 13	6:00 PM	AT Los Angeles
Mon. Mar 15	7:00 PM	AT Utah
Wed. Mar 17	7:30 PM	AT Calgary
Sat. Mar 20	1:30 PM	AT Edmonton
Tue. Mar 23	7:00 PM	**Carolina**
Thu. Mar 25	7:00 PM	AT Carolina
Sat. Mar 27	7:00 PM	**Nashville**
Tue. Mar 30	7:00 PM	**Calgary**
Fri. Apr 2	7:00 PM	AT Minnesota
Sat. Apr 3	5:00 PM	**Chicago**
Mon. Apr 5	7:00 PM	**Seattle**
Wed. Apr 7	7:30 PM	AT Utah
Fri. Apr 9	7:00 PM	**Utah**
Sat. Apr 10	5:00 PM	AT Nashville



“Nobody has ever accomplished anything significant on their own.”

ART WILLIAMS