

The ECHO

TEXAS PRISON NEWS

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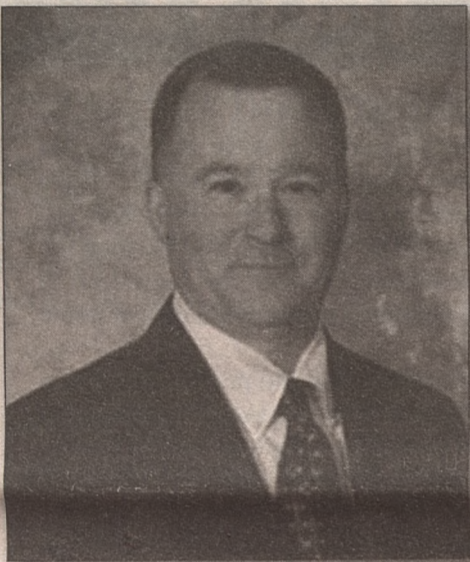
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'Sweet
Pea'
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Published Since 1928

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Distributed Free to Texas Prisoners

Collier named executive director of Texas Department of Criminal Justice



Newly-appointed Executive Director for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice: Bryan Collier

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) has a new executive director. Bryan Collier, the agency's deputy executive director, was appointed to the top position by the Texas Board of Criminal Justice during its scheduled meeting June 24th in Austin. The nine-member board is appointed by the governor to oversee the agency and is responsible for hiring the executive director. Collier assumed the new role Aug. 1.

"Bryan is a proven leader who stands ready to continue to fulfill the department's mission and commitment to public safety," said

Texas Board of Criminal Justice Chairman Dale Wainwright. "He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience, having served more than 31 years in various positions within the department. I'm confident he'll serve TDCJ and the state of Texas well in this new role."

Collier, 51, joined the TDCJ in 1985 as a clerk. He has held a wide variety of positions to include correctional officer, parole officer, unit supervisor, program administrator, and Parole Division director. Collier has served as deputy executive director since July 2007.

"I am honored and humbled by this appointment and the confidence shown in me by the Board of Criminal Justice," said Collier. "I look forward to the opportunity to serve the dedicated professionals employed by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice who do the important work of keeping our communities safe."

Collier has served on the American Correctional Association (ACA) Delegate Assembly, was previously recognized as one of the ACA's "Best in the Business", and is currently the Chair of the ACA Adult Corrections Committee.

DIRECTOR OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE continued on page 6

Federal government to fund college courses for Texas inmates

by Khorri Atkinson and Annie Daniel
The Texas Tribune, June 29, 2016, reprinted with permission

More than 2,500 Texas inmates will participate in a national experiment which started in July 2016, using federal money to take college courses.

For decades, the federal government has banned the use of Pell Grant funds for such rehabilitation efforts. But recently, the Obama administration launched the Second Chance Pell Pilot Program as a way to study whether reinstating Pell Grants for prisoners might boost their chances of finding employment. Nationwide, up to 12,000 inmates, all of whom are set for release within five years, will be eligible to earn a certificate, associate's or bachelor's degree while incarcerated.

"Promoting education and job training for incarcerated individuals makes communities safer by reducing recidivism and saves taxpayer dollars by lowering the direct and collateral costs of incarceration," U.S. Secretary of Education John King Jr. said in a statement.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT continued on page 9

Austin businesswoman lists education, faith, sobriety as lifesavers

Education, faith, sobriety and determination rewrote the dramatic story of Austin's T. Harryman, a successful businesswoman who overcame substance abuse and incarceration.

Harryman was a childhood drug abuser, in and out of Texas jails and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) until age 34. She became discouraged, considering herself a loser, a failed mother and a potential suicide victim. A teacher she met through Windham School District (WSD) in prison was the first person to help her feel differently. Today she is energetic and optimistic, enjoying creative work, relationships with her children, opportunities to encourage others, and



T. Harryman

her favorite role: grandmother. Yet "getting here from there" was not easy. She was born in Houston and was only three when her father died of a heroin overdose —

around the same time she was first exposed to drugs.

"I was introduced to marijuana at two and a half years old, and at four and five, I was rolling and smoking it," she recalls. "I was taking it to school with me in second and third grade, and my mother was addicted to heroin, too."

Harryman and her brother moved around, "shifted from family member to family member, living in an environment of heroin addiction and alcoholism," she says.

SUCCESS STORY continued on page 6

The ECHO

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LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

To the editor,

On Jan. 23, 1959, I was introduced to the greatest woman I have ever known. I didn't realize it because I was only in her presence for a short while. As the years passed on, I was thankful for her presence in my life. Sadly, I lost the greatest woman I have ever known on April 9, 2016. I never thought I would ever say these next words.

I would like to thank the entire TDCJ administration for allowing me to pay my last respects to my mother by allowing me to attend her funeral. My overall outlook of this place has changed, and to be honest, it has changed my thought process toward the future. Special thanks to the officers.

**Clarence Murphy Luckey
Terrell Unit**

To the reader,

Sometimes a great loss helps us focus on the present and future in a different, better way. Thanks for sharing with our readers and thanks for writing to The ECHO.

To the editor,

I have participated in many of the programs that TDCJ has to offer and Bridges to Life is one of the best. In 13 short weeks I was able to let my sorrow, pain and regrets come out. When you hurt someone else, it is harder to forgive yourself than it is to act like it never happened at all, and I carried those things for many years. Bridges to Life helped me to open that door, and my heart became very remorseful; I asked for forgiveness.

I have taken many programs that have brought tears to my eyes. Seeing the love that volunteers show is amazing. The encouragement that they give is priceless because it gives me a purpose in life.

Sometimes life can seem so difficult, but when you have a goal and a purpose, difficult things will no longer have dominion over you.

**Anthony R. Ford
Estelle Unit**

To the reader,

Thanks for your comments about the Bridges to Life program. We at The ECHO receive very positive feedback about this program and how it affects the participants. Offenders may check with unit chaplains to get on a list for this program. It seems to be well worth the time and effort. Thanks for writing to The ECHO.

Letter from the editor:



Diligence pays off

Things were not looking good at this point for Poncho. Years ago I raised wire-haired fox terriers in order to make extra money. We lived out in the country and I had built a dog kennel — three runs, concrete, dog houses, six-foot-high chain link fence — the whole enchilada. For many years I had one male and three females and through the course of a year would have two to three litters of about five pups each. It turned into a good part-time business, especially since I could do it at home and I loved dogs.

After raising these dogs for about 10 years, I had the process down to a science. I raised the dogs in the country and then took them to Houston to sell them through an ad in the *Houston Chronicle* — that was back in the day when people still read paper newspapers. Usually, after about two weekends of ads, I would sell a litter of five pups.

Then along comes the story of Poncho. A man at my job said he wanted to buy one of my pups, so he came out to the house and picked Poncho out of the litter right after he was born. He said he would return for him when the pup was about five weeks old, the time when I usually took them to Houston.

Well, to make a long story short, I had taken two trips to Houston and sold the whole litter. I kept reminding my coworker to come and get Poncho. Well, you guessed it, he backed out of the deal and didn't want the pup. I guess I should have made him pay a deposit or the whole price up front, but I trusted him.

As fate would have it, I ran several more ads on Poncho with no luck. Things were looking bad as he was now getting older and bigger and growing out of the "puppy stage." I'm thinking I'm never going to be able to sell this dog. He's not a cute little puppy anymore.

Then it happened. I received a call from an ad. The lady lived in Houston and wanted me to bring the dog to her house for her to look at. I was desperate. That Saturday morning I jumped in my truck with the half-grown dog and headed to the big city.

I followed her directions and ended up in the River Oaks section of Houston — one of the wealthiest areas in Houston. I found the address and drove up to a huge, two-story, Tudor-type mansion on about a three-acre landscaped lot! I thought, oh my gosh, places like this really do exist!

You guessed it! The lady loved Poncho, bought him and he had a great new home — a place to spend the rest of his life!

Although things did not start out well for Poncho, through a twist of fate he ended up probably having the best life of any of the puppies I ever sold. What a turn of circumstances!

One never knows what will happen. We can all make plans in life and work towards them as I had in the dog business. But sometimes in life things happen like my co-worker backing out on me. I determined to stay diligent in running ads and talking with prospective buyers and one day it all turned out well — especially for Poncho!

In life we need to make plans and be diligent to work hard and follow through with those plans to the best of our ability. 🐾

DEAR DARBY

LETTERS TO THE DARBSTER

Dear Darby,

What's the deal? I thought women were supposed to be cleaner than men; however, I got a chance to see how the men's unit is so much cleaner. Women leave all their ratchet mess behind for us "dorm janitors" to pick up after them. Last time I checked, my kids were at home. I refuse to live in this filth, so I do what I have to do. But hello, you're a lady! Wake up; get it together. We're grown — pick up after yourselves!

Stephanie Limauro
Marlin Unit

Dear Steph,

Being a slob transcends gender — guys aren't the only messy folks! Sadly some folks behind bars think it's their job to make a mess so the janitors have something to do. Mommy always took care of them, so they never learned to pick up after themselves.

Dear Darby,

I just wanted to touch base with you again and share with you something I've noticed recently. I have been gone from the freeworld for so long and crazy things are happening out there. I heard on the radio that buffalos now have wings! Really?! They are selling them in restaurants. I'll bet those wings are gigantic. And what would they taste like? Chicken? Speaking of chicken, I've been gone so long, chickens now have fingers! It's true! I heard it on the radio! I think I will stick to eating the legs and thighs. I mean, how much meat could there be on a chicken's finger?

P.S Where's my Blue Bell?
I'm shrinking!

Ricky Moulder
Allred Unit

Dear Ricky,

I've been down a minute, too, so I've never experienced buffalo wings either. Did some diners get buffaloed into buying the wings? Did some restaurateur in Buffalo get a big shipment of wings and figure out a special sauce to put on them? Until we get out and use something called "Google," we'll never know! I think the chicken fingers are what chicken nuggets come from — they cut them up and debone them, or at least that's what I heard from the street. Glad I could clear that up for ya!

Supposedly Blue Bell will be com-

ing back soon. I thought I'd drop a few pounds without my weekly pint of Rocky Road, but I haven't. Maybe the ice cream is calorie free! Seems like the only logical explanation!

Dear Darby,

I've been reading you for years. This is my fourth time down and you're my favorite thing to read in *The ECHO*. I don't really have anything to complain about. I realize this is prison and lots of stuff doesn't bother me because I am grateful I am not sleeping on a freezing sidewalk and eating old comdogs out of a dumpster.

I have a question: can we check our account balance with the dayroom phones or is this just another rumor like TDCJ selling iPods or eCigarettes?

Paul "Dimebag" Riley
Skyview Unit

Dear Dime,

Dude, the corndogs in the chowhall aren't THAT good... to come back for a fourth time! Next time you're out, go to Valero — I've heard that they have quite a variety of hotdogs, and I'm sure they've got tasty corndogs, too. Worst case scenario, go to the State Fair! They have freshly fried everything! Anyway, I've heard the rumor about checking our account with the dayroom phone, but my sources say it's not in the cards for the immediate future. You still have to go to commissary to see your current balance, and hopefully you won't have to do the "walk of shame" — going back to the house with an empty commissary sack!

DENTAL BITTES

Dr. David Seals, UTMB dentist

Tips from the Dentist: Recent studies show that certain oral bacteria can contribute to heart attacks in the general population by increasing the amount of plaque formation in heart vessels. Those whose gums regularly bleed on brushing are unknowingly causing a temporary circulation of these agents while chewing food or brushing their teeth. Healthy gums, which do not bleed on brushing or flossing do not put us at risk. So, staying heart healthy begins with tooth health. ♣

DARBY'S RECOMMENDED READING

FANTASY SERIES

The Darbster got tired of folks saying there's nothing good to read, so starting with this issue, he's giving ECHO readers some excellent reading recommendations. All lists are Darby-read and approved!

1. George R. R. Martin, *Song of Ice and Fire series (Game of Thrones)*
2. Robert Jordan, *Wheel of Time series*
3. Sara Douglass, *Wayfarer Redemption and Axis trilogies*
4. Steven Erikson, *The Malazan Book of the Fallen series*
5. Patrick Rothfuss, *The Name of the Wind (Kingkiller Chronicle)*
6. Terry Goodkind, *Sword of Truth series*
7. Terry Brooks, *Shannara series*
8. Katherine Kurtz, *The Deryni novels*
9. Stephen R. Donaldson, *The Chronicles of Thomas Covenant series*
10. Stephen King, *The Dark Tower series*

Have a criminal record?
Under community supervision-parole/probation?
Been released from prison or jail recently... or about to be released?
Need assistance getting connected to the services and resources that are right for
YOU to help **YOU** move forward toward a future of self-sufficiency that is crime-free?

Transitioning back into the community isn't easy... but, it is possible with the proper guidance and tools!

UNLOCKING DOORS CAN HELP!!!!

Let UNLOCKING DOORS open the many opportunities that are available to YOU!
Contact us today or upon release to meet with your PERSONAL REENTRY BROKER and begin your positive journey to a new life:

Phone: (214) 296.9258
Email: info@unlockingdoors.org
Mailing Address: 12225 Greenville Avenue, Suite 850, Dallas, Texas 75243

Unlocking
DOORS
Texas Reentry
Network

Forgotten

Eva Shelton
Crain Unit

They've left me here; they actually left me behind. I'm not sure how I missed the call for the bus ride, but somehow I have. I thought surely as they checked the travel cards, the faces and the IDs, the correctional officers would realize someone had forgotten me locked by myself inside this cell. Somehow I was a misplaced one; the elements of mistakes and forgetfulness aligned just right so no one missed this single prisoner. Three different buses; three different units; all of my friends split-up and headed in different directions. So why would anyone look for me? My friends must have figured I was on another bus headed towards a new place — a similar but different life.

I assumed when the buses unloaded someone would realize their horrible, awful mistake. A mistake I would be forced to pay for. At the first count time the warning bells would sound and someone would finally come. But no one did, and no one has. I sit here alone with no one as my dearest friend.

The first couple of days were really cool, being alone and grateful for I had often prayed for silence. I slept quite a bit, washed my clothes, pressed them and let them sit. I wanted to look my best when they returned for me. On the third day, the electricity shut-off. With a loud click that sounded like the closing of a door, the darkness flew down the hallway; the insubstantial light forced to fly away. The only light I had was the muted, cloudy hours of sunlight that fought to shine through the unbreakable, mesh reinforced window of my cell.

One day during the second week I went to flush the toilet and there was only a gurgle — a desperate hissing sound as the toilet attempted to fulfill its duty with drastically — weakened water pressure. Today I push the sink button for the water, there's only the faintest little trickle. I wedge the button and set my cup in the sink. It'll take a while to fill up but, at least the trickle still continues dripping. Today the water has taken on a foul, rusty taste.

I've toyed with my lock, but these cells were built for hardened criminals and crazed maniacs; there is no way for me to get out. What commissary I had has dwindled, away leaving an echo in my box too loud for a mouse to ignore. It has been a month and I know there is money on my books; I've made lots of commissary lists. Late at night I dream of the images that haunt me throughout the day; burritos, nachos, lava cakes, coffee. I dream of hot food and hot beverages. Have you ever been forced to cook a soup with cold, rusty water?

The coldness comes raging in. One week temperatures in the 70s, and then the next you're lucky if you see 50. If you don't like the weather in Texas, wait five minutes and it will get worse. My clothes are dirty, my socks are soiled, but I can't wash them because the water is going. I'm not certain when it will be completely gone. Who is here to judge whether I

bathe or what I wear or if I've combed my dirty, oily hair? It's too cold this week to remove any clothing.

I thought my family would rally the hunt for me, but I doubt they even know I'm gone. I'd told them there were rumors of this place closing down and being condemned, with certain legislators saying some prisons have got to go. There were so many rumors — and not a spark of truth.

I told them, "If I get moved, I'll call you." My phone calls have always been sporadic. I never write home like I'm supposed to. I rarely do anything I promise. I know it'll be a longer while before they miss me — probably when the ecomm rolls over and they wonder why I haven't called with my list. I always want something. It's probably a relief to them I haven't called. I have a stack of mail ready to go out.

This ID card is burning a hole in my pocket. The commissary is just down the hall, around the corner, and through the furthest door. I wouldn't even have to stand in line for once. I have to re-do my list again tonight. I don't feel well and I may need to drop a form to medical.

I'm to the point where I must force myself out of bed and trail after my foggy breath. I believe I'm thin enough I could squeeze through the bars, but it's like some genius builder knew the exact circumference of my head and made the bars just a tiny bit too close together. I can't get my head to go through.

I have been eating sheets of paper. I nibble on old commissary lists. I write down menus of my favorite meals and eat them. I don't get any fuller. I scribble pork link, pork meatloaf, beef noodle casserole and bologna. I'd eat all of it. I will never complain about chow hall food again. I'd even eat the peanut butter and jelly sandwich from a "johnny" if someone would bring one by.

How long can the human body go without food? If I could go to the library, I would look that up. It'd be nice information to know. The library is down the hall, around the corner opposite the commissary, through a covered walkway and into the Education building.

I wonder if I'll make my next parole. I think at this point the state owes it to me. I hear we can apply for three months worth of emergency food stamps. I want steak, a baked potato, bacon and a large salad with Catalina dressing. I'll even order a pizza and eat the whole thing.

I'm writing from my bed now. I can't even force myself to get up. I'd like to have a drink, but my cup is just too far away. No one is coming for me. I have been forgotten. I don't need to go to the library any longer, I already know the answer.

Suddenly, the call for chow wakes me up. Was it all a dream... a really bad dream? I sure am hungry! 🇺🇸



A Woman's Perspective: Personal manners reflect the person

Jennifer Toon
Contributing Writer

I was deeply involved in an episode of Law & Order when a woman shuffled by the television on her way to the trash can. Her hair was unkempt and pieces of dried Ramen noodle and cheese clung to the front of her shirt. She tossed an empty wrapper towards the half-opened can and watched passively as it bounced off the lid and sent a shower of noodle particles all over the floor. The empty bag then floated to the floor as gently as a feather in a spring breeze. She belched loudly and turned and walked away.

Home training is a term we use in reference to each other's level of manners and personal hygiene efforts. Home training is the set of self-care habits taught to us in childhood. Believe it or not, some people really didn't get that much home training because of neglect or sheer ignorance (which is not stupidity; it is a lack of knowledge). For example, I once had a neighbor with foul, terrible breath. I discovered she had never been taught to brush her teeth daily, much less her tongue. Considering all the stories about her upbringing, I believed her.

Yes, some people have bad habits due to a lack of awareness and education. However, many of us disregard basic hygiene and good manners because of laziness and depression.

I'm not advocating extreme vanity or anxiety driven obsessive compulsive behavior. Reapplying makeup after you shower and are going to bed is crazy. Scrubbing the cracks in your cell with a toothbrush ten times a day is too much, and pressing your work clothes for a job at the poopoo pond is a bit overboard to me. In suggesting we should be presentable, I'm not suggesting we vacuum the living room in evening wear and heels. Good hygiene and good manners mean having self respect and respect for others. The advice columnist Miss Manners wrote that these habits don't just reflect our own dignity but, "always considers the other person's feelings and dignity." Your bad habits affect and reflect on us all.

So whether you were never taught or you're just lazy, here are some gentle reminders: take a shower or wash off at least once a day, and wear clean clothing — especially fresh underwear. Brush your teeth — and tongue — upon waking, after meals and before bed. Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. Wash your hands, especially after using the restroom, and before eating. Do your part in keeping your personal cell and the shared living areas clean. Filth attracts germs and bugs, none of which any of us desire.

I do feel a little silly reminding grown men and women the importance of good personal habits, but poor hygiene, sloppiness and unsanitary living areas are a reflection on us as a whole. What do these things say about our self worth as a community and as an individual? 🇺🇸

Preparing for cold weather: recognition of cold-related illness, injury (Revised Sept. 2016)

Editor's Note:

The following information was provided by TDCJ Risk Management.

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 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.

Some offenders can be at an increased risk to hypothermia if they have predisposing health conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes and hypertension, take certain medication, and/or are in poor physical condition, have a poor diet, elderly, wet when exposed to cold temperatures, or exposed without adequate clothing or blankets.

Offenders working in cold weather should consider the appropriate clothing such as thermal underwear, insulated jackets, cotton or leather gloves, insulated hoods, work shoes and socks. The wind chill index shall be used to determine the need for insulated hoods and leather gloves. There are three categories of hypothermia; categories two and three can lead to imminent death. Below are the signs to recognize hypothermia:

CATEGORY 1:

- loss of body heat;
- shivering;
- lack of interest or concern;
- speech difficulty;
- forgetfulness;
- mild unsteadiness in balance or walking;
- loss of manual dexterity;
- lips turn blue.

CATEGORY 2:

- shivering stops;
- exhaustion;
- drowsiness;
- confusion;
- sudden collapse;
- slow pulse and breathing;
- pupils dilated;

- cardiac arrest.

CATEGORY 3:

- comatose;
- no palpable pulse;
- no visible respiration.

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 degrees below zero or lower. Offenders 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.

Watch for the symptoms of frostbite:

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

TREATMENT AND PREVENTION OF HYPOTHERMIA AND FROSTBITE:

- dress appropriately;
- drink warm, sweet fluids;
- move extremities often to enhance blood circulation;
- move to warm environment;
- remove wet clothing;
- insulate person with blankets or additional clothing;
- if frostbite exists, gently heat affected area with warm water or towels, heating pad, or hot water bottles;
- monitor breathing;
- if heart is stopped, perform CPR if possible and get medical attention ASAP.

REPORT ALL INCIDENTS OF COLD RELATED ILLNESS TO A STAFF MEMBER IMMEDIATELY! ➔

Prison Rape Elimination Act Ombudsman (2015 revision)

In 2007, the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Ombudsman was established by the 80th Legislature (Texas Government Code §§501.171-.178) and was appointed by the Texas Board of Criminal Justice (TBCJ). The PREA Ombudsman office was created to provide offenders, family and friends of offenders, and the general public with an independent office to report sexual abuse and sexual harassment occurring in Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) correctional facilities. The PREA Ombudsman also provides a confidential avenue for offenders to report sexual abuse and sexual harassment and ensures impartial resolution of complaints and inquiries related to allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. The PREA Ombudsman reports directly to the TBCJ Chairman and may be contacted at the following address:

PREA Ombudsman P.O.Box 99 Huntsville, Texas 77342

TDCJ has a "zero tolerance" for all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment of offenders. Offenders knowledgeable about offender-on-offender or staff-on-offender sexual abuse or sexual harassment that occurs within a TDCJ correctional facility are encouraged to immediately report the allegation to the facility administration, PREA Ombudsman or the Office of Inspector General. Offenders may remain anonymous upon request.

Acta de Eliminación de Violación en Prisión Ombudsman

En el 2007, el Acta de Eliminación de Violación en Prisión (PREA) Ombudsman fue establecido por la 80a Legislatura (Código de Gobierno de Texas §§501.171-.178) y fue nombrado por la Junta de Justicia Criminal de Texas (TBCJ). La oficina PREA Ombudsman fue creada para proporcionar a los ofensores, familia y amigos de ofensores, y al público en general con una oficina independiente para reportar el abuso sexual y el acoso sexual que ocurre en los establecimientos correccionales del Departamento de Justicia Criminal de Texas (TDCJ). El PREA Ombudsman también proporciona una vía confidencial para que los ofensores reporten el abuso sexual y acoso sexual y asegura resolución imparcial de las denuncias y consultas relacionadas con las acusaciones de abuso sexual y acoso sexual. El PREA Ombudsman reporta directamente al presidente de TBCJ y puede ser contactado en la siguiente dirección:

PREA Ombudsman P.O. Box 99 Huntsville, Texas 77342

El TDCJ tiene una política de "cero tolerancia" para todas las formas de abuso sexual y acoso sexual de ofensores. Ofensores con conocimiento acerca de un abuso sexual o acoso sexual de un ofensor a otro ofensor, o de un empleado a un ofensor que ocurre dentro de un establecimiento correccional de TDCJ se les recomienda hacer inmediatamente la denuncia a la administración de la unidad, PREA Ombudsman o a la Oficina del Inspector General. Los ofensores pueden permanecer anónimos al solicitarlo. ➔

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

Easy

8	9	5	2	7	3	4	1	6
3	1	4	8	6	5	9	7	2
7	6	2	4	9	1	8	3	5
9	3	8	6	5	7	1	2	4
6	4	7	1	2	8	5	9	3
2	5	1	9	3	4	6	8	7
4	7	9	3	8	6	2	5	1
5	8	6	7	1	2	3	4	9
1	2	3	5	4	9	7	6	8

Difficult

4	8	3	5	1	2	9	7	6
1	9	6	7	4	3	8	2	5
5	2	7	8	9	6	3	4	1
7	4	8	1	5	9	6	3	2
3	6	1	4	2	8	5	9	7
9	5	2	3	6	7	4	1	8
6	3	5	9	7	1	2	8	4
8	1	4	2	3	5	7	6	9
2	7	9	6	8	4	1	5	3

HELP WANTED

Coffield Unit Maintenance Department

The Coffield Unit Maintenance Department is seeking two (2) HVAC-R technicians.

Applicants should have:

- At least five years experience in the service of all types of air conditioning equipment.
- Experience in refrigeration equipment (including ice machines).

Applicant MUST:

- Have troubleshooting skills.
- Be eligible to transfer to the Coffield Unit.
- Be classified as a "G2" or better.
- Have no major disciplinary cases within the last year.
- Have no history of tobacco or other serious contraband cases.

Interested offenders should send their qualifications to:

Truck Mail:

Mr. J. Marrinan
Coffield Unit Maintenance
Coffield Unit / 006

Regular Mail:

Mr. J. Marrinan
Coffield Unit Maintenance
2661 FM 2054
Tennessee Colony, TX 75884

Ellis Unit cotton gin

The Ellis Unit cotton gin department is looking for a welder combo ginner.

Experience in one or more of the following areas is preferred:

- Welding and metal fabrication
- Electrical (three phase)
- General maintenance
- Operation of a cotton gin

Requirements:

- Outside trusty (G1)
- Travel approved preferred
- No medical restrictions
- Willing to learn

Interested offenders: send an I-60 with work qualifications to:

R. West, AG headquarters, Huntsville, Texas

SUCCESS STORY continued from page 1

"There was no stable home life and no staying in the same school for any length of time. I was ridiculed by teachers and classmates, and I felt stupid. I tried so hard to learn and really wanted to be successful, but I just couldn't get it."

Harryman dropped out of school with a seventh grade education and became a mother at 16, still engaging in marijuana use.

"After my second child was born at 17, I started drinking," she recalls. "My alcoholism kicked in, and I was introduced to cocaine at 19. I was instantly hooked."

That same year she was incarcerated for delivery of cocaine. Throughout the next 15 years, she would spend time in various facilities, including a TDCJ Substance Abuse Felony Punishment Facility. She found herself enrolled in a WSD literacy class in TDCJ, where she was urged to earn her GED.

"Windham didn't ask me if I wanted to get a GED," she says. "If you don't have a GED or diploma, you have to be put in school in TDCJ. I don't think I would have got it if that wouldn't have happened. I was a straight-F student, and I didn't think I could even learn anything. I had a teacher who wouldn't give up, I finally earned that GED, and I began to believe I was not stupid."

Harryman's new confidence helped her fight her lifelong enemy: substance abuse.

"I was in a vicious cycle of addiction and incarceration until I committed to a 12-step program," she says. "I had gotten out of prison and jail a couple of times, planning to be successful, but I would take that first drink and spiral downwards. I'd quickly find myself back behind bars. I was scared and suicidal and did not see a way out."

"It was very, very difficult to get a good job after prison, so I considered starting a business. Of course, I knew nothing about life, making a change, being self-supportive or staying out of prison," she says. "I did know that continuing in a 12-step program, staying sober and taking care of my family were priorities. I joined a 12-step program, becoming sober in

2000. After that, I just kept putting one foot in front of the other with a whole lot of faith, and I slowly started my own business in 2002: Artcrete Designs.

"Artcrete is a decorative concrete business in Austin providing services to homeowners, homebuilders and commercial project contractors. We create and treat concrete floors, countertops, fireplaces, driveways, and pool decks with an artistic approach. We provide beauty and unique flooring solutions to customers in surrounding areas. Overall, this has been a huge learning curve for me. It's messy, difficult work, but I enjoy being able to provide good service to people."

Harryman works with project crews of four or five employees, including adult son D. Harryman. Growing up with a young mother struggling with addiction and incarceration, he also had to overcome his own substance abuse and criminal background.

"D. Harryman is in his fifth year of sobriety now, and he also earned his GED from WSD," T. Harryman says. "I was proud to be able to attend his graduation. He, too, has had challenges and had to make changes. He and I have the opportunity to inspire others, so we spend time speaking to people dealing with addiction or incarceration. Their question is usually 'How do you get from there to here?' I tell people it's all about the power of God, faith and the steps I took. I had to first learn that I could do anything, and my actions had to change."

"I am also no longer hiding behind the fact that I dropped out and did not have a high school education. I'm no longer limited. Instead, I'm blessed with work and family. I can even help provide financially, emotionally and mentally for my grandchildren. This means everything!"

"It's been hard, but I've grown this business into a highly-respected part of our community," T. Harryman says. "People trust me, handing me the keys to their homes and businesses. I've earned their trust, and I've learned my own value." ❖

DIRECTOR OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE continued from page 1

He is the past president of the Texas Correctional Association (TCA) and received the Dr. George J. Beto Hall of Honor award from the TCA in 2013. He has a bachelor of science degree in criminology and corrections from Sam Houston State University.

Collier replaces Brad Livingston, who announced his retirement earlier this year. Livingston has been one of the longest tenured executive directors in the history of TDCJ.

The TDCJ has more than 38,000 employees and a total annual operating budget of more than \$3 billion. The agency is responsible for the care and custody of nearly 147,000 offenders and the supervision of more than 87,000 individuals released from prison on parole or mandatory supervision. It also has broad oversight of adult probation departments that provide direct supervision to nearly 245,000 individuals on community supervision. ❖

Correction:

The photo story subject R. Cartmill was misidentified as R. Cartwright in the May, 2016 edition of *The ECHO*. *The ECHO* apologizes for any misunderstanding or inconvenience caused by this mistake. ❖

Living under the shadow of a manipulator

*Ruben D. Constante Jr.
Torres Unit Reporter*

Nobody likes to be stereotyped. Each of us believes we are unique individuals who are comprised of personalities and quirks which set us apart from everyone else. Social processes and cultures which shape our understanding of the world are inevitable forces that influence how we view one another, forming stereotypes that are almost impossible to avoid. Our human experience is largely directed by the various ways we stereotype people. When we play into these preconceived judgments, no one truly benefits from possible blessings from others.

In addition, when we stereotype someone, we secretly demand that they abide by the behaviors we think they should be displaying. We watch them carefully, looking for signs that confirm what we already believe about them, and when they exhibit said signs, we say, "Aha!" and then disregard anything else they may have to offer. However, when they don't show signs, we wait

patiently for them to slip, because we believe they just haven't had enough time to reveal their true selves. This type of madness creates self-fulfilling prophecies, because we mentally arrange for people to live according to what we already believe about them. You can imagine how many potentially good relationships are not formed because of this! Ultimately, we force those whom we stereotype to live under someone else's shadow.

This whole arrangement is actually a humbling experience for me because I'm reminded of how easily I stereotype others. I am guilty of prejudging people and have not allowed them to merit their own reputation with me. Whenever I catch myself doing this, I silently repent and do my best not to repeat that mistake. Being stereotyped also encourages me to be responsible and to realize I'm only one decision away from losing my "high profile" status and confirming

the stereotype placed upon me. My privileges exist only because I am intentional about making positive decisions. I can be a con artist, but I choose not to. I can be a manipulator, but I refuse that lifestyle. I can be a liar, but I prefer the truth that sets me free.

In the end, I still don't like living under the shadow of a manipulator, but I wasn't the first offender to enter the system. Millions have gone before me and have carved an indelible impression into society's mind regarding the inmate population. That's the way the criminal justice cookie crumbles.

The flip side of this: other offenders will arrive after me, which gives me the exceptional privilege of casting a favorable shadow for them to live under. I have an opportunity to create a positive stereotype and a good example for others to emulate. By the grace of God, I'm casting shadows worth dwelling under. Are you? ♣

Rigorous honesty

*J. Michael Mallory
Staff Writer*

Since time's beginning, wiser people than me have advocated honesty as a spiritual principal. The ancient sages taught that we should not endeavor to deceive others with our words, and also that our words have an innate power. Don't use them lightly. With our speech we can comfort, harm or educate. The flames of the American Revolution were stoked by words like "liberty" and "freedom" printed on pulpy newspaper. Mahatma Gandhi quietly spoke of nonviolence and tolerance of those different from us and transformed a nation.

Honesty is a universally understood concept, so I won't condescend to include Webster's definition here. I think everyone knows what we mean when we say "honesty." But is it really as simple as just telling the truth? Is it even permissible in some circumstances to bend the facts a bit?

For example, say you answer your front door on a summer morning in Berlin, Germany, circa 1944. The officer standing before you inquires if you are harboring any Jews inside your home. You reply in the negative. The officer doesn't notice the sweat forming on your brow and the storm trooper patrol continues on its way. Unbeknownst to them, a terrified family huddles together in the darkness of your attic; for the time being, they are alive and spared the horrors of the camps. Your dishonesty saved their lives.

Or have you ever been asked by a spouse: "Does this skirt make me look fat?" Answering with perfect honesty probably wouldn't have served either party involved. They would feel bad and you would be spending a night or two on the couch. Of course, this isn't the best example, as the spouse wasn't really curious about their weight. They were wanting to have their partner compliment them and make them feel good. They

wanted an affirmation.

Exceptional circumstances notwithstanding, I'm going to stand on a soapbox now and advocate honesty for a couple of paragraphs or so. When I got sober after a decade of crazy living, I received the excellent counsel of those who had trod the path before me. They said you are only as sick as your secrets. You need to find a way to come clean about everything in your life and get everyone on the same page. I can remember thinking that it's just the truth, and I didn't have to be afraid of it.

Over time, I proceeded to cultivate what is known in some circles as rigorous honesty. In a nutshell, this means to actively work at telling the truth and making it a priority in your life. It was transformative for me. I learned that sometimes uncomfortable things need to be said, and that's okay. I discovered the joy and freedom of not having to keep a running mental checklist of who I had lied to and about what. It turns out that I didn't need all those people-pleasing little fibs I had come to rely upon. I certainly didn't need the gigantic whoppers I was telling myself and half-heartedly believing.

Maybe I'm not the person I should have been or even the person I could be, but I'm definitely better than the person I was. I made a series of small changes that added up over time to the person writing this article; a person who aspires to say what they mean and do what they say. Most of the time I think I hit that mark, and everyone in my life benefits.

Words are powerful, and understanding this, we need to be good stewards of this power. Used wisely to communicate what we think and feel, language can shine a light into dark places. Used to deceive, words can become a flood in which we are swept away. ♣

WSD summer school offers expanded educational opportunity to thousands of Texas offenders seeking reentry skills

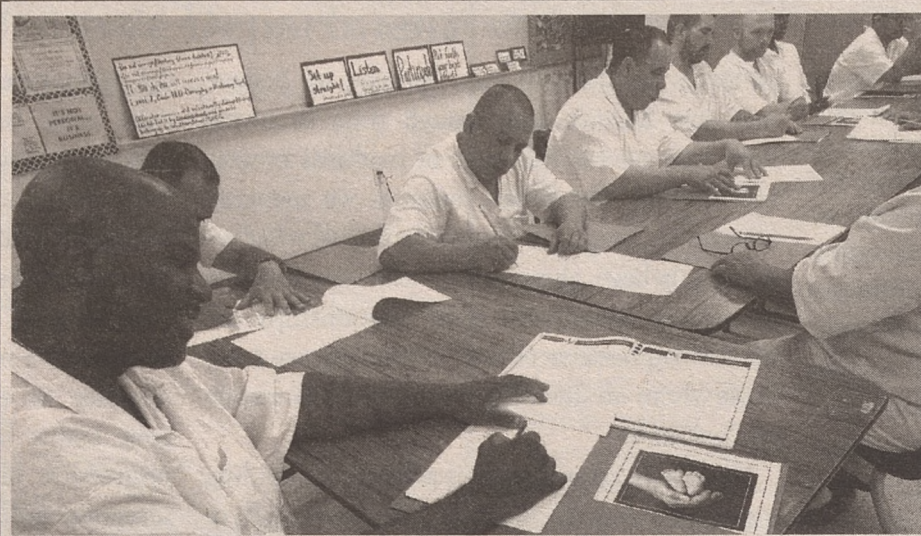
Responding to legislative leadership, the Windham School District expanded educational opportunities for offenders this July by offering its first summer school courses. Classes were focused on giving offenders skills and certificates supporting employability. Courses included workplace, financial literacy, parenting skills and personal wellness. Soft skills lessons within these course offerings enhanced job readiness and career potential. Classes were voluntary and open to all minimum custody offenders in the general population, and instructors included WSD teachers and other staff, public school teachers and retired educators. The courses were offered at 46 TDCJ units during the three-week initiative.

"While involving some of our current students, we were striving to help additional offenders become employable," said Travis Henderson of WSD's Operational Support Department, who assisted with implementation of the new initiative. "With TDCJ's support, we provided new services to even more offenders in July. This was the first time many of these men and women were able to participate with WSD and experience academic success. They were learning important reentry skills, building self-esteem and preparing for future employment."

To develop appropriate courses for a correctional environment, the WSD partnered with Texas-based Acceleron Learning, producing an educational video series.

"Acceleron specializes in the development of video lectures and planning tools for practical life skills," Henderson said. "The WSD series was customized for incarcerated students. Its development included a series of WSD student interviews and pilot lessons on Windham campuses."

In addition to the life skills curriculum, summer



Parenting is a critical skill and the focus of a WSD summer school class offered this July. The course helps develop skills for men and women to become better parents, grandparents and family members after their release from TDCJ. Three weeks of summer school programs created additional opportunities for thousands of offenders to learn skills leading to successful reentry and employment after release.

course offerings were selected from WSD staff proposals and current WSD classes. Staff-proposed courses included Computer Basics, Introduction to Graphic Design, Creative Writing, Entrepreneurship, Anger Management, and Coping Skills. Current WSD courses included Perspectives and Solutions, a 10-hour OSHA safety course, and a two-week Parenting class.

"There was tremendous response to these offerings," Henderson said. "Enrollment was requested by individuals who want to be better parents, employees and members of society. Teachers and students involved with summer school have also reported very positive experiences."

"Summer school this year was absolutely fabulous!" said S. Carter, Beto Unit Cognitive Intervention instructor and summer school teacher for financial and workplace skills. "Students loved summer school and asked if these courses could be offered at different intervals during the year. They were taking notes, asking questions and trying to see how these skills would work in their own lives. I've never seen such intense student involvement. Acceleron did an exceptional job of creating lessons and materials that are meaningful to our students' lives."

Offender L. Jackson participated in the WSD Career Planning course at TDCJ's Wynne Unit and reported a positive experience.

"I learned that I need to be more proactive and productive in employment," Jackson said. "I now know how to fill out job applications, start my own small business and get credits and student aid for classes. This knowledge will help me financially because I will be able to get a job. It also helps me a lot emotionally. I have confidence now that when I get

out, I can get a job and stay out of prison. I have forgotten so much after being locked up for 21 years. The information I got — I really needed. It put me back on the right path.

"Everyone in the class was paying attention and participating," he said. "They gave us lots of good information. Guys are still talking about the classes at the trusty camp."

"I thank WSD for offering this course!" said B. Logan, who studied financial literacy at the Dominguez State Jail. "At times during the week I felt like I wasn't an 'inmate', but rather someone who is about to turn his life around. This class really helped!"

Henderson said offenders successfully completing a summer school course received a certificate of completion which may be used to demonstrate reentry preparations to the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles.

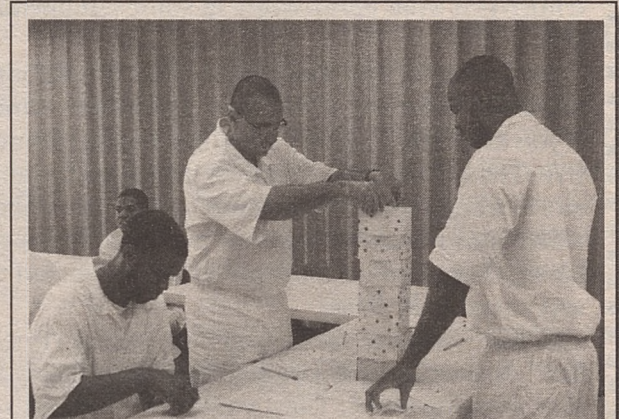
"WSD Superintendent Dr. Clint Carpenter and I recently reviewed summer school course offerings with the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles," he said. "We wanted to make sure they have an awareness of the program and an understanding of training provided to students. The board also had a positive response to our first summer school."

Carpenter said he was pleased with the opportunity to implement new educational services.

"We appreciate the guidance of the Texas legislature in creating WSD's summer school initiative," he said. "We also appreciate the solid support of the TDCJ Correctional Institutions Division; the diligent work of the WSD employees who promoted the program, prepared the coursework, taught the classes and supported the initiative in countless ways, and of course, the enthusiastic participation of students who made the classes a success each day. Together we are building pathways to brighter futures for these students and their families. WSD looks forward to evaluating, improving and offering summer school again in the future." ❖



The Workplace Skills course gives WSD summer school students extra opportunities to prepare for successful employment. Job application and interview skills, time management, resume writing, critical thinking and preparing for other challenges of the work world are just some of the topics explored in programs held at 46 TDCJ facilities.



Team building to meet challenges is emphasized during a summer school study of workplace skills.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT continued from page 1

Texas provides some inmates access to education through the Windham School District. But steep budget cuts in 2011 by the legislature forced the statewide prison education system to eliminate more than 250 full-time positions and reduce its programs. College programming for offenders is offered through the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Three of the nine Texas schools participating in the national pilot - Mountain View College in Dallas, Southwest Texas Junior College in Uvalde and Wiley College in Marshall - will be offering prison-based education for the first time. The programs include a mixture of liberal arts and vocational training courses.

For Lee College's prison program in Huntsville, the pilot would build on a 50-year-old program offering certificates and associate's degrees to offenders in the Texas prison system. The school currently teaches about 1,200 inmates, according to Donna Zuniga, dean of the college's Huntsville Center. Federal funding will allow enrollment to grow.

"I have absolute faith that this will reduce recidivism," Zuniga said. "Ninety percent of them are going to get back in the community, and I would want at least the ones around me to be educated and have a chance to apply for jobs and get a livable wage so they don't have to resort to crime."

Cedar Valley College in Lancaster is using the federal aid to reestablish its prison education program. Ruben Johnson, executive dean of the college's Business and Technology Division, said budget cuts at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice had forced the school to stop offering certificates and associate's degrees to inmates in 2012, after more than 10 years. Now, about 120 inmates from the Sanders Estes Correctional Center in Venus are expected to enroll in its Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Technology certificate program.

"It will definitely ease the financial burden. It will also give [inmates] some hope to enter the workforce, so they don't have to go back to the lifestyle they used to live," said Johnson. He added that the state should allocate funds to further expand rehabilitation programs.

A 2013 RAND Corporation study funded by the Department of Justice found that inmates who participated in correctional education programs were 43 percent less likely to return to prison. Those inmates were also 13 percent more likely to have a job after finishing their sentence.

With the country's largest prison sys-

tem at nearly 150,000 inmates, it costs the State of Texas approximately \$20,000 to incarcerate each inmate per year.

Congress voted to ban prisoners from receiving Pell Grant funds in 1994 as part of a broader crime bill signed by President Bill Clinton. At the time, some critics argued that money spent to fund prison education was unfairly reducing aid to traditional college students.

King, the education secretary, said the pilot program costs less than 0.1 percent of the overall \$30 billion annual budget that funds the Pell Grant program for college students - about \$30 million.

The Second Chance Pell Pilot is part of the Obama administration's effort in re-evaluating some longstanding barriers that prevent people with criminal records from getting jobs and affordable housing. However, the White House received some pushback from Republicans last summer, when plans for the pilot were first announced.

"This may be a worthwhile idea for some prisoners, but the administration absolutely does not have the authority to do this without approval from Congress," U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tennessee, said at the time.

Other conservatives charge that the pilot program is focusing on the right problem but with the wrong solution.

"It shows that at least we're affirming that education should be a part of rehabilitation," said Derek Cohen, deputy director of the Center for Effective Justice at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a conservative think tank. "Are Pell Grants the right way to create the policy? I would say no."

Rather than restoring Pell, Cohen said Congress should pass proposed reforms that would cut some sentences and ease reentry after prison.

Zuniga, who has been working with the Lee College program for 30 years, said the value of educating prisoners can't be underestimated. There's no more rewarding feeling than seeing her students entering the workforce after completing a stint in prison, she said.

"If you have ever been to one of our annual graduations, you would see their families come, and maybe for the first time they have something to stand up and clap about," said Zuniga.

Editor's Note: This story has been edited for length. ➔

Child Support Corner

The Authorization for Release of Information and Payments form

If you are in jail or prison, getting child support information concerning your case can be confusing. The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) is limited by federal and state law about what child support information it can release.

A custodial parent (CP) or noncustodial parent (NCP) has the option to choose another person, private collection agency or attorney to receive case information by completing an Authorization for Release of Information and Payments form.

The Authorization for Release of Information and Payments form has guidelines that must be met and may not be an option in every case. In simple terms,

- The authorization form will allow the OAG to provide case information about your child support case to the person you select on the form,
- The authorization form will allow the OAG to send payments received for your child support to the person you select on the form, and
- The above mentioned authorizations will cease if you complete a revocation form.

Completing the authorization form is an easy and temporary way to choose a person to receive information about your case and to temporarily redirect your child support to the person caring for your child(ren). This option should be carefully considered when a custodial parent is redirecting his or her child support and will be in jail or prison longer than two years.

There are three ways to request the Authorization for Release of Information and Payments form. First, parents who do not know what office is handling their case can complete an I-60 to request the **Inquiry Form for Incarcerated Parents** from the law library at their facility. Complete the *Inquiry Form for Incarcerated Parents* and check "I would like the address and phone number of the child support office handling my case." Once a response is received, mail a written request for the authorization form to the address provided.

The second option is to have the person you plan to designate to receive child support information on your behalf go to a local child support office. That person can request an authorization form be sent to you in jail or prison. Even though this is an option, the field office may not send the form without a written request from you.

The final option is to have the person you plan to designate to receive child support information on your behalf access the child support section of the OAG website at www.texasattorneygeneral.gov. A downloadable copy of the Authorization for Release of Information and Payments form is available by choosing Forms from Your Favorite Pages and scrolling down to TAC Forms. The Authorization for Release of Information and Payments form is available in English and Spanish.

It is important to remember the OAG only responds to child support questions submitted on the inquiry form. Handwritten letters or multiple requests for child support information may not be answered. If your release date is less than six months away and you need information about your child support case, have someone call (800) 252-8014. Automated payment and case information is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Child support representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. ➔

*In Remembrance of 9/11***Culture shock***In Remembrance of 9/11*

Submitted by Shane Barnett
Robertson Unit

This world has quickly become a different place.
We've rushed into the future at a breakneck pace.
There is YouTube, Twitter and Facebook,
and we have iPhones, iPods, and books on a nook.

Long gone are the cassette tapes and VCRs,
now it's all about iTunes and shows saved on DVRs.
Dish Network, Netflix, and Game Stop
have caused Blockbuster to close up shop.

You can buy a battery-powered self parking car,
and smoke electronic cigarettes at an oxygen bar.
Big plasma flat screen TVs hang on the wall,
and now we have instant replay in Major League Baseball.

There are people wearing Google glasses,
and kids that no longer have to carry books to their classes,
do homework, watch a movie, text, or make a call.

They have cell phones to do it all.
Times have changed so very fast,
technologically speaking, 10 years is the ancient past.
The internet and electronics are all the rage.
They have become the life blood of this modern age.

Grand theft auto is a game and not a crime,
but bullying somebody will sure get you some time.
People now worship at the altar of celebrity,
and idolize train wrecks like crazed paparazzi.

Relationships have now become so easy to end,
all you have to do is hit unfriend.

The constant threat of terrorism is now a fact of life,
and marriage is no longer just for a husband and wife.

In my day, having a beeper and watching MTV were cool,
with this new generation; I am considered "old school."

Wanting eyes

Submitted by Spencer D. Myers
Neal Unit

Looking out the second story window the snow starts to fall,
this grey dreary day my mind is in a stall.

She looks up with wanting eyes,
wondering why her knight has told her lies.

Why does every good thing in her life come to an end,
as if only I could've stopped this downward trend.

The lies have tried to be covered and untold,
inevitably they continue to unfold.

True words shall never be,
is a thought in her mind the words that come from me.

No matter how I explain or try to mend,
actions speak louder than words which is what I want to send.

Breaking the covenant of our holy vows,
only thinking to live in the here and now.
Three angels with white wings and red hair,
I only wonder how they shall fare.

As she walks away loosening the tie,
her long red hair from worry all awry.
From the one that hurt her and told her lies,
no more will she have to look up with wanting eyes.

Full disclosure

Submitted by Rafael Estrada
Sayle Unit

With these eyes I have seen it all
and with this mind I have perceived it all.

From the moment of divine birth,
through every waking moment on this earth,
I have known love and I have known hate,
I've been to war twice,
repeatedly testing fate.

I have known poverty, and I have known wealth
and through it all I've been blessed with constant health.
I've known true freedom and I've known incarceration.
In only 27 years I've indulged in almost every temptation.

Joy and pain, I know too well,
regardless of success I continue to fail.

Failure is the best teacher I've come to know.
Through her I've expanded my mind and will to grow.

My thirst for knowledge is at an all time high.
The more I learn the more I ask why.

I've learned that the global stage has been set by a few,
while the rest are psychologically enslaved to TV or what's new.

The sadness of it all is that deep down we know,
yet we continue to do nothing as we watch the world go.

War has become a business and peace is but a dream

and prohibitions have done nothing but increase crime and violence,
perpetuating the drug scene.

War rages all over, but the one in our minds should matter the most,
because for now we are just parasites and the earth's our host.

The symptoms of our sickness are as clear as can be,
but from here we must truly open up our eyes and see.

By our lack of true knowledge and habit to accept what is,
we've surrendered our will and power to that or this.

We lack the ability to govern our own mind,
thus leading us to follow whoever and whatever as if we were blind.

We must no longer look outward for our translation,
we can only look inward to find our salvation.

It's time to bring truth to light,
within this hidden knowledge we can regain our might.

We must keep our minds open and take all into account,
we owe it to ourselves, and every one of us count.

If we do this we will bring real change in time,
and maybe get to see a day with no more crime.

I hope these words have struck deep,
'cause at this point it will take a big leap.

If mankind can come together on this,
we may eventually find our true bliss.

Clements Unit holds one-day peer education conference

Wylie Bone
Clements Unit Reporter

The William P. Clements Unit in Amarillo hosted the panhandle's Peer Education Conference. The one-day event was attended by 85 "men in white" from nine Region V units (Baten, Clements, Dalhart, Formby, Jordan, Neal, Roach, Tulia and Wheeler). There were also visitors and presenters from Huntsville, Gilead Pharmaceuticals, the American Heart Association, Texas Tech and UTMB Health Division. There was also a lively presentation by M. Young from the City of Houston Public Health Department.

The Clements Unit has had the privilege of hosting previous annual conferences for Region V. Generally, these events have had several common objectives. These include increasing basic knowledge regarding infectious diseases and chronic ailments in TDCJ, helping new and seasoned peer educators receive updated training on Wall Talk or Safe Prisons curriculum, and improving existing skill sets on the delivery of those subjects. The training agenda included information on new hepatitis treatment presented by Dr. K. O'Reilly of Gilead Pharmaceuticals. G. Barnes and D. Young of the American Heart Association also conducted a session on cardiovascular health and nutrition. S. Jones, RN, who is the TDCJ sexual assault nurse examiner coordinator,

completed an enlightening presentation pertaining to Safe Prisons procedures. This conference fulfilled the goals of continued training and education, but there was something special which set this meeting apart: a superhero theme chosen to show Peer Education's impact throughout TDCJ.

Three months prior to the event, a unit-wide talent show was held to select individuals for a conference band. The competition had 60 different musicians, and 12 winners were selected. These men became The Band S.H.I.E.L.D. This year, with sound/music help from S.H.I.E.L.D., hosts presented a five-act mini-play written by Clements educator R. Meek. It portrayed a soon-to-be released offender taking stock of his life before, during and after discharge.

One of the best aspects of this conference was the efforts of so many departments at Clements coming together to "make it happen". Maintenance, food service, laundry and the chaplaincy all pitched in. An extra effort was put forth by the recreation department which built props and helped with gym set-up. Additionally, there were several artists on the unit who helped create an effect that will not soon be forgotten. Ultimately, all the contributors made this conference an outstanding and memorable experience. ♣

Faith-based program provides a rehabilitating transition for G4 offenders on Beto Unit

Quincy Patterson
Beto Unit Reporter

A faith-based program for medium custody offenders on the Beto Unit was unheard of until July 20, 2015. Beto Unit's senior warden Catoe gave the idea a chance with his approval and support.

"The program is not designed to give G4 offenders any extra privileges but it does provide an opportunity for spiritual nourishment and rehabilitation. It provides a way for mental and spiritual growth with a team effort," said volunteer chaplain B. Shehee. "G4 offenders have daily assignments in reading the New Testament in a six-month time span. Each day they have questions to answer from the chapters that were read, which are recorded in their assignment workbooks. Three days a week they meet with chapel volunteers for classes and counseling."

Meetings may include a Christian-based anger management DVD and study questions. Group representatives speak in front of the whole congregation about what they learned from their anger management.

Volunteers D. Merritt and V. Hunter show the Alpha DVD series that teaches biblical principles. Afterwards, there is group discussion and an open microphone session. Volunteer T. Pellman shows a series that is a tour through the Bible, revealing the attitudes that keep humanity stuck in an unpleasant disposition.

"This course has the potential to reduce medium custody recidivism," chapel clerk P. Wilson said.

During the three days the G4 faith-based community meets, they are provided with one-on-one spiritual counseling upon request. They are also encouraged to stay involved with chapel activities once released from medium-custody.

"I am overwhelmed with the sincerity of these men who are striving to change," Shehee said.

Participants praised the program.

"We really want to change, and we are tired of our old way of living. Now, we have a way to devote our time to something positive," program participant C. Cooper said.

"The program is helping me change my life and make better decisions," G. Solis said.

"It is very uplifting and inspirational. It helps us get a better understanding of life and solid principles, which produces success," T. Bowman said.

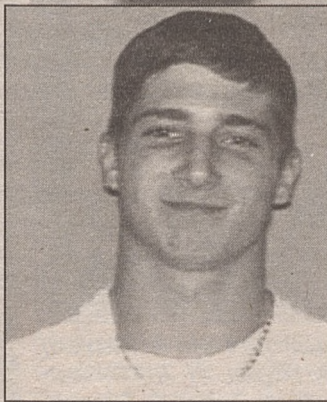
"This is a very good course to take for anyone who is trying to develop true wisdom. This program has been my foundation; it keeps me rooted with daily Bible reading and spiritual homework to occupy my time," B. Russell said.

"It is ingenious and biblical to reach out to the least esteemed in a society. Medium custody has never had an opportunity to participate in any rehabilitation programs. Instead of focusing on punishing them, this program is designed to assist them in becoming better men," chapel clerk M. Triplet said. ♣

Unsolved homicide

CRIME
STOPPERS

Blasé Allen Wright



Blasé Allen Wright was 21 years old and a 2004 graduate from Samuel Clemens High School. He had previously attended St. Phillips College in San Antonio. On Feb. 2, 2007, Wright was fatally shot during an apparent burglary of his apartment in Universal City. Witnesses reported seeing a black male subject leave the apartment and enter a gold colored car occupied by another black male passenger and a Hispanic female driver with reddish hair. A composite drawing of the female driver was obtained.

TDCJ Crime Stoppers will pay from \$50 up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest, filing of charges, or indictment of a person or persons who committed a felony crime or is a wanted fugitive. Crime Stoppers guarantees your anonymity.

TDCJ/WINDHAM BULLETIN BOARD



Mountain View Unit GED graduates are A. Cuadros-Fernandez, S. Deblanc, J. Hinton, A. Kavali, S. Livingston, A. Lopez, W. Sam, K. Simmons, T. Sinclair, D. Stone and P. Morin.



Mountain View Unit horticulture technician students receiving Master Gardener certification are K. Green, W. Caldwell, C. Miliara and L. Padgett.



TDCJ Holliday Unit art class completers are D. Cady, P. Flores, T. Galan, R. Gamboa, S. Gumm, D. Hill, G. Hunter, S. Ratcliff, R. Renteria, C. Rescendez, R. Schultz, J. Shaunese, P. Spiller, T. Tubbs, J. Vasquez, and volunteer instructor J. Delaney from Sam Houston State University.



Holliday Unit basketball tournament winners are D. Stelly, N. Randle, L. Jackson, K. Turk and C. Ahuero.



Dalhart Unit CHANGES graduates are M. Navarrete, M. Saunders and D. Blankenship.



Smith Unit Electrical Trades program graduates are R. Manzo, E. Mosley, A. Nelson, C. Willis, M. Geral, A. Lopez, W. Anderson, H. Tascano, J. Veliz, C. Jones, N. Mitchell, A. Trejo, R. Rivera, D. Price and instructor J. Ramon.

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Gurney Unit GED graduates are G. Arnold, L. Basham, G. Bernal, M. Bolden, F. Booty, C. Caldwell, J. Colwick, G. Craig, G. Fielden, A. Fox, M. Francis, E. Fulton, J. Gibson, M. Gilbert, J. Goggans, N. Gosselin, A. Hamrick, A. Hernandez, B. Hays, D. Jacobs, S. Johnston, C. Kirf, H. Lamkin, A. Loyd, J. Loreda, A. Marty, C. Mathers, M. Maynor, J. McDavid, J. Mendiola, D. Morgan, J. Nieto, J. Nix, J. Pease, D. Raybourn, D. Rodriguez, I. Rodriguez, P. Rodriguez, B. Santillan, R. Tamayo, C. Wehrmann, J. White, and D. Williams.



Cole State Jail Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning graduates are J. Jenkins, J. Oliver, B. Vogt, T. Maddux, N. Bassett, R. Brown, D. Brooks and F. Owens.



McConnell Unit GED graduates are T. Salinas, R. Serna (valedictorian), M. Gholston, I. Ramos, A. Otiz Jr., S. Trevino, E. Alexander (salutatorian), J. Alcantar III and C. Garcia.



Murray Unit hospitality and tourism students receiving their ServSafe Food Handler and ServSafe Food Protection Manager certifications are J. Vasquez, S. Plake, K. Milburn and S. Deleon.



McConnell Unit CTE graduates are R. Wolf, C. Pierce, L. Forward, G. Hoover, D. Watson, R. Page, O. White, A. Littles, D. Hernandez, J. Cantu, J. Trevino Jr., A. Robles, O. Moran, P. Shoemaker, S. Palmer, A. Lockett and K. Kyle.



Ferguson Unit GED graduates are J. Quintero, E. Gibson, B. Robertson, W. Johnson, X. Turner, A. Alvarez, W. Estrada and J. Cavazos.

Sweet Pea

Craig C. Davis
Garza East Unit



We found Sweet Pea clinging to a branch on the edge of the Comal River. The kitten was a miserable sight: cold, wet and scared; its cries could barely be heard over the rushing water. Too weak to hold on any longer, the baby cat was dragged into the current, and, in a twist of fate, swept toward our inner tubes.

We had arrived just in time.

My sister, Leah, and I instantly bonded with the fading feline and started arguing over its name the moment it was on board. Always the voice of reason, Leah insisted Rio was appropriate because we had found it in the river. I was partial to Ozzy because, well... it was a cool name and, if one day the creature were so inclined as to bite the heads off bats (or rats), then it would be quite acceptable — even expected.

Picking us up from the river, our Aunt Fay won out with Sweet Pea: it was the sweetest thing she had ever seen. Once home, the battered kitten was met with a warm reception from our mother and a casual indifference from our father.

The one member of the family that took a special interest to the new addition was our hound Waldo. As the only pet in the house, Waldo enjoyed *carte blanche* on all praise and affection and had so for years.

Malnourished and eaten-up by mange, Sweet Pea's recovery was slow but steady, and, steadily, Waldo also warmed to the wayward cat.

With grandfatherly poise he allowed the kitten to drink from his water bowl, sample his food and eventually take up residence beside him on his bed and pillow. Curled up tight, the small knot of fur snuggled into the warmth of Waldo's back as the old dog snored and chuffed, dreaming bliss-filled dog dreams.

As the years passed, the two became close companions, integral parts of each other's lives. While they were both considered outside pets, they slept indoors, thus sharing schedules. Whenever the door opened, either Waldo or Sweet Pea could be seen coming in or going out, usually together.

Eventually, though, life began to take its toll on Waldo. Despite his frequent trips to the vet and refined diet, his sight began to fail. It was only a matter of time before he was completely blind.

His usual jaunts around our property were shortened, and a definitive path was etched into the grass, forming a dusty track in between a stand of elms and the back of our house.

With the loss of his sight, Waldo missed out on his favorite past time: barking at the squirrels. Beyond the elms, the squirrels would raid the oaks of their acorns.

Chittering and chatting in squirrel-speak, the busy critters would peer down at Waldo with their oil-drop eyes, only to bolt when he let loose a machine gun barrage of barks.

Unable to navigate the thicket at the edge of our property, Waldo could often be seen on the furthestmost point of his route, sniffing the air in the direction of the oaks, but no barks from Waldo would be heard.

We had grown accustomed to Waldo's silent treks and were surprised at the sudden

reemergence of his rapid fire barks. At first we thought it was a squirrel that had strayed too close to the yard; but after closer observation, we discovered how Waldo got his bark back.

As we are all creatures of habit, most mornings found us in our usual spots around the breakfast nook looking out of the picture window at a world coming to life. After feeding Waldo and Sweet Pea, we would release them into the wild to do their business and their morning exploring.

Anyone who had ever watched their cat or dog when it thinks it is alone has entered this wonderfully secret show in the animal kingdom. It was only after several days of keeping a close eye on the old dog did we discover Waldo's secret weapon: it was his buddy Sweet Pea.

Scanning for errant wildlife to pounce upon, Sweet Pea had taken up a position on the fringe of Waldo's route. Grooming herself in the morning sun, she would watch Waldo do his lazy laps. It was when the old dog caught a scent of interest that Sweet Pea sidled up next to the hound and, in the manner of a guide, led the senior sniffer into the woods in search of the elusive squirrel.

We soon realized that the amount of time that passed in between their disappearing into the wood and the onslaught of barks varied only by a few minutes. Apparently Sweet Pea had taught Waldo to wait and listen for his quarry in order to strike fear into their little hearts.

Throughout the fall Waldo and Sweet Pea would venture into the oaks, and on some occasions, even return with a squirrel. In those days of Waldo's twilight, he still managed to get worked up, furiously wagging his gray tail as Sweet Pea presented us with their kill.

After witnessing the animals' camaraderie in what our mother had dubbed "their safaris," our father developed a new found respect for Sweet Pea.

"Ain't that the damndest thing," he would say. "A seeing-eye cat."

For the remainder of the season, the cat and dog were inseparable: hunting, eating and sleeping together everyday. Gradually the seasons changed, as seasons tend to do, and winter arrived.

It was Waldo's last winter.

In addition to a laundry list of elderly canine ailments, his arthritis had gotten the best of him. It took much cajoling on our part just to coax him outside each morning. Then, once there, his walks grew shorter and shorter. After only a few moments, he would be pawing at the sliding glass door, searching the passing shadows through clouded eyes.

He stayed close to us in those final days, always seeking the comfort, warmth, and safety of others. Never more than a few feet away, his pal Sweet Pea was there for him: to guide him to the door, to the food bowl, and eventually to the veterinarian's office.

Waldo has been gone for awhile now, but he is not forgotten. As always, Sweet Pea remains vigilant; sitting at the edge of the yard and, with her own tired eyes, the old cat waits and watches. A few feet away is her favorite spot, a small granite marker that bears a brief yet poignant epitaph: *Waldo, our friend.* ♣



'As the years passed, the two became close companions, integral parts of each other's lives.'



THE SPORTS VIEW: THE INVENTED HISTORY OF BASEBALL'S INVENTION



William Hill, Staff Writer

On a warm and sunny day in 1839, the sounds of a piece of wood making contact with a ball could be heard along with shouts of approval and hoots of derision. A group of men in a cow pasture outside of Cooperstown, New York were making the noise as they played what was the very first game of baseball. The man who was responsible for setting down the rules and drawing up the first diagram for the now familiar diamond shaped field was future Civil War general and hero Abner Doubleday. To honor him, Major League Baseball (MLB) placed its hall of fame in Cooperstown and named a baseball field after him where a minor league team now plays their home games.

What a great tale of the birth of America's pastime! Unfortunately, that is all that it is — a tale. History and the facts do not support any of it. In 1839, Abner Doubleday was not even in Cooperstown; he was a cadet at the United States Military Academy. After graduating from West Point he served in the Mexican War where he was promoted to Major General. He was in command of the Union troops at Ft. Sumter in South Carolina during the start of the War Between the States; he also fought at the battle of Gettysburg. After the Civil War, he became a very popular writer and speaker and left an extensive archive of many journals and letters; in none of them did he ever mention the game of baseball in any context and certainly nothing about inventing the game.

So, how did he become associated with baseball? The answer comes down to money, and in this particular case, how MLB could make more of it. In 1905 the major leagues wanted to document

the origins of the game so they established a committee to investigate. Chaired by Abraham G. Mills, the president of the National League, the committee authored a report that stated that writer and war hero Abner Doubleday invented the popular pastime. This committee largely relied on only one letter from a man named Abner Graves, who claimed to have been present when that first game was played. On the basis of this evidence, the commission named Doubleday as inventor of baseball. The game quickly became the national pastime. Graves turned out to be not the most credible of sources as he later killed his wife and spent the rest of his life in an institution for the criminally insane.

Today baseball historians recognize a Manhattan bookseller by the name of Alexander Cartwright as the "father of modern day baseball". He is rightfully credited with creating many of the modern day rules of the game such as: nine players to a side, three strikes constituted an out, base runners had to be tagged with the ball to be considered out instead of being allowed to retire them by throwing and hitting them with the ball, and setting the distance between the bases at 90 feet. Other major changes were that foul territory was introduced into the new game for the first time, as well as the introduction of flat bases. These rules were created for his team, the Knickerbocker Base Ball Club of New York, which he named for his volunteer fire department (Knickerbocker Fire Engine Company). These rules became known as the Knickerbocker rules.

The first clearly documented game of baseball under the new rules was played by the Knickerbocker Base Ball Club and the New York Nine at the Elysian Fields in Hoboken, New Jersey. The New York Nine won the game 23-1 (apparently Cartwright did not come up with the idea of the mercy rule).

The wrong was finally righted in 1938 as MLB enshrined Cartwright in its National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, where he so richly deserves to be.

Resources:
Baseball, 2008 World Book Encyclopedia, Vol. 2, pg.132
www.wikipedia-Alexander Cartwright ↴



RECIPES

Grasshopper's fishy burgers

Don Meyers
Jordan Unit

Ingredients:

2 tuna pouches
2 spicy soups
2 jalapeno peppers
1 bag pork skins
¼ bag of jalapeno chips
1 bottle of Squeeze Cheese
1 sandwich spread
8 slices of bread

Directions:

In a large mixing bowl put crushed soups and seasonings, tuna, finely crushed pork skins, diced jalapeños and crushed jalapeno chips with ½ hot pot of hot water. Mix well and flatten out like a pizza; wrap with a towel and set aside for 15-20 minutes.

In a cup mix together four heaping spoonfuls of sandwich spread and four heaping spoons of cheese.

Mold soup mixture into four even patty shapes. Lay out all eight slices of bread and put one spoonful of cheese mixture on each slice. Place each slab of soup mixture on its own slice of bread then cover with remaining slices.

Now you have four of Grasshopper's fishy burgers that are yummy for the tummy.

Maple oatmeal cookie cake

Michelle Vargas
Marlin Unit

Ingredients:

½ package duplex cookies
2 packages maple oatmeal
1/3 cup of water
3 spoons of peanut butter
4 spoons of cocoa
3 spoons of water

Directions:

Crush cookies until crumbly, then mix in oatmeal until mixed well. Add 1/3 cup of water; mix until dough is completely wet and thick. Leave dough in bowl and pat down with spoon. In separate cup mix three spoons of peanut butter, four spoons of cocoa and three spoons of water. Mix well until it becomes thick. Spread icing on top of cake and enjoy!

SUDOKU

Easy

8				3	4	1	
3				5	9		
	6		4				
9		8		5			
	4						9
				3	6		7
				6		5	
		6	7				9
	2	3	5				8

Difficult

	8		5		2			6
1							8	2
		7						1
	4			5				
								7
9		2	3		7			
6			9			2		4
		4			5		6	
	7		6		4	1		



RECIPES

Chicken- a la king

Melanie Jackson
Plane State Jail

Ingredients:

1 pouch of chunky chicken
1 package flour tortillas
2 chicken soups and seasoning habanero sauce, to taste
1 bottle of squeeze cheese
2½ jalapeno peppers, diced
black pepper to taste
2 bags of vinegar Big Bang chips
½ bag of unsalted crackers

Directions:

Cook each soup in its own bag and set to the side for seven minutes. Cook chicken pouch in hot pot. In a large mixing bowl, combine well the diced jalapeno peppers, seasoning from soups, crushed chips, black pepper, squeeze cheese, chunky chicken pouch and habanero sauce to taste. In a separate bowl, layer in half of chicken mixture. Top with two flour tortillas, add the rest of the chicken mixture, layering two more tortillas on top. Drizzle cheese on top of tortillas and sprinkle with a few of the diced jalapenos and some chips.

Pearl's peanut butter cups

Rhonda "Pearl" Castilaw
Mountain View Unit

Ingredients:

1 package duplex cookies
1 Hershey bar
2 tablespoon peanut butter
1 package plain peanuts, crushed

Directions:

Separate the cream filling from cookies and place in bowl. Crush only chocolate half of cookies with Hershey bar adding enough water to combine. Make as many balls as possible and make into a cup by placing thumb in middle and pressing. Mix cream filling and peanut butter gradually add crushed peanuts in. Place inside chocolate cup and enjoy.



Library Corner

'To acquire the habit of reading is to construct for yourself a refuge from almost all miseries of life.'

— Samuel Maugham

Project Legacy was developed on the Stevenson Unit in 2015 by unit library staff and offenders for library patrons as a means of illuminating worthy people who have achieved significance in their respective fields and contributed greatly to the lives of others. The purpose of shining a light upon these individuals is multifaceted. First and foremost, they are deserving of remembrance. Each person being honored has led a fascinating life and inspired future generations. Additionally, these role models and their meaningful life experiences have something to teach us: their stories contain a message.

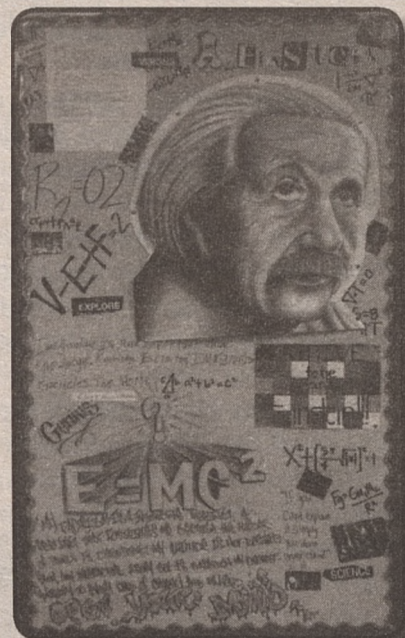
It is the intention of Project Legacy to educate and encourage library patrons, letting them know that they are capable of making a significant contribution to society. Every life has value and every person has a choice to make about how they will be remembered. Sometimes it takes seeing a trailblazer to motivate others to follow in their footsteps. May Project Legacy inspire many participants.

As part of the project, Albert Einstein and Selena were selected by the library staff for their achievements and honored with custom artwork and bulletin boards.

Project Legacy would like to recognize the contributions of offenders S. Marshall, T. Stewart, H. Saenz and J. Vanover. The artwork was provided by F. Jimenez, J. Klein and J. Mendoza.



Offenders J. Vanover, T. Stewart, and S. Marshall all contributed to Project Legacy. The portrait of Selena was created by F. Jimenez.



Project Legacy honored Albert Einstein's achievements in theoretical physics.

Did you know that Selena...

- was considered the Queen of Tejano?
- has a statue in her honor in Corpus Christi?
- has sold 60 million records worldwide?
- has a makeup line coming out in October 2016?
- was a spokesperson for Coca-Cola?
- is honored on April 16 – known as Selena Day?

Did you know that Einstein...

- Was a theoretical physicist?
- Had his brain removed after he died, and it is still preserved today in hopes it will help neuroscientists?
- Developed the General and Special Theories of Relativity, which includes the equation (energy equals mass times the speed of light squared)?
- Had three children (two boys and one girl)?
- Loved music because it brought him joy?
- Did not speak until the age of three and doctors thought he was developmentally delayed?