

# The ECHO

Texas Prison News

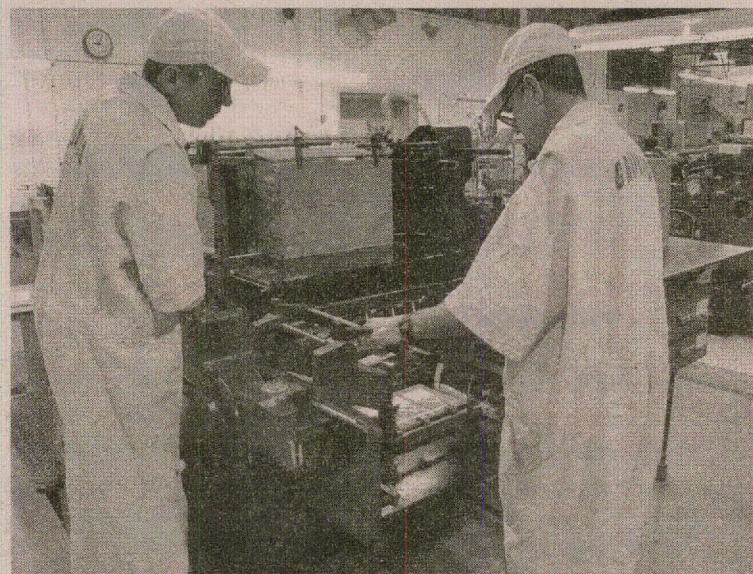
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Published Since 1928

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Distributed Free to Texas Prisoners



Handicap placards are created at the Wynne Graphics facility in Huntsville.

## Wynne Graphics: Providing products through Texas Correctional Industries

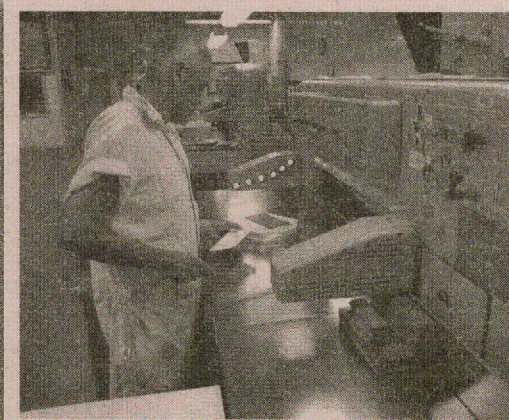
Lion M. O'Neil  
Wynne Unit

**W**hen you see stickers, decals or parking permit placards throughout the state of Texas, chances are they were made right here at the Wynne Unit," said K. Gilliland, plant manager for Wynne Graphics.

Texas Correctional Industries (TCI) is a vital part of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), offering a variety of products and services exclusively for state and federal agencies, schools and universities. Wynne Graphics is one of 31 industries overseen by TCI.

Wynne Graphics, formerly known as the validation sticker plant, specializes in the mass production of stickers, decals, hanging tags, magnets, permits, property ID tags, signage up to 4 ft. x 8 ft., banners up to 6 ft. x 30 ft., and custom designs and print services to fit customers' desired specifications.

Every morning, approximately 100



A worker creates business cards with a cutting machine.

offenders arrive to work in the industrial plant that houses Wynne Graphics. They perform various aspects of the production process in a concerted effort needed to manufacture quality goods. Employees such as graphic designers, silk screen operators, material coordinators, quality assurance technicians, quality control and machine operators work in conjunction with the offenders to produce the end product.

WYNNE GRAPHICS continued on page 14

## Offender grievance office explains procedures

**T**he Offender Grievance Office has submitted the following reminders. For more information, please contact your unit grievance investigator.

1. Offender grievances are to be placed in the grievance boxes located throughout the unit or given directly to grievance staff. Grievances sent directly to the central grievance offices will be returned to the offender unprocessed with directions on how to correctly submit the grievance.
2. Time limits for return of grievance: Step 1 and Step 2 — **40 days**; disciplinary appeals — **30 days**; medical grievances — **45 days**. **Time frames are now the same at both steps.** There are 11 screening criteria listed on the back of the Step 1 grievance form which may be used by grievance staff to return the grievance to the offender unprocessed. An offender will have 15 days from the date the grievance was screened to make corrections and resubmit to grievance staff.
3. Three of the screening criteria cannot be corrected: #1, Grievable time period has expired; #8, The issue presented is not grievable (**except a disciplinary appeal submitted prior to a hearing being held**); and #9, Redundant — the issue presented in the grievance has already been addressed on a previous grievance.

GRIEVANCE continued on page 9

## Are you living effectively?

Eva Shelton, Contributing Writer

*"If you were doomed to live the same life over and over again for eternity, would you choose the life you are living now?"*

— William Alexander "The #64 Tomato"

**O**f course, we would definitely say no to this question if we're looking at its surface. What fool would choose to live this life in a cage? But I'm not just asking the question of your physical life; I also want to know about the inner life. Would you choose to live with the thoughts you have in your head? With the actions you've done today? With the comments you've made to others? How would you feel to be stuck

in a time warp that causes you to replay this day over and over again?

As inmates, we don't need to think too hard on this last question. Everyday is a time warp. The same outfit, the same food, the same route to work, the same routine of work, the same classmates, the same questions, and there's nothing we can do to change these circumstances in which we live. We live in a physical time warp of daily repetition.

LIVING EFFECTIVELY continued on page 5

# The ECHO

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Offenders can write **The ECHO** by truck mail.

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LETTERS  
TO THE EDITOR

To the editor,

I would like to thank your contributing writer Von Short. A few months back he wrote a story titled “*Ripped and Ready*,” and I really related to him being able to make a whole meal out of his locker without getting off the bunk! I was way overweight, unhealthy and miserable. If he started his crusade hoping to reach at least one person, well I’m here to let him know he did! With his inspirational article and a 10-week program on the Clements Unit called “*Silver Sneakers*,” I am not only off my bunk, but have left the cookies and chips alone. Since graduating the course, I now go out to recreation and have lost a tremendous amount of weight.

Thank y’all for inspiring me to get my health back.

**Fred Dorsey Woods**

“**Amarillo Slim**”

**Clements Unit**

To the reader,

*Thanks for your inspirational words. Losing weight can be a tough challenge but well worth the time and effort. Let’s hope your words and success will inspire others. Thanks for sharing with The ECHO.*



To the editor,

I would like you to go on a journey with me, one filled with lots of different things — sadness, emptiness, confusion, anger, hurt, loneliness, feelings of worthlessness, and a life with no direction. Coming to prison was a kind of rescue for me. I was so negative and the lifestyle I was leading was destined for either one of two places: prison or death. I was caught up in the life of drugs and gangs; I felt accepted, needed, wanted, and loved by all these negative people who were experiencing the same problems I was. I couldn’t let go of the past, my memories controlled me. Not only that, the outside world seemed to recede further and further away from my understanding. I know I was anti-social when I came to prison, but here I am after all these years and I am still anti-social. How come the system doesn’t have any programs that will make me



## Letter from the editor: Endearing friendships are special

**T**he year 2015 was good in many ways, but it was sad, too. One author starts his book by saying, “It was the best of times; it was the worst of times” (Dickens’ “*A Tale of Two Cities*”).

The year 2015 was a good year for me in many, many ways. So many good things happened — too many to count. But I lost two very significant people to me in the year 2015; now, months later, I still think of them but am encouraged by their lives and the friendships I shared with them through the years.

Robert had been a co-worker with me for several years. We literally worked side-by-side in an office setting performing routine paperwork functions. We both were hired at the same time and became good friends. Robert was a hard worker, a family man, a man of faith and a friend who would do anything for me. He had served in Vietnam, had a two-year college degree and was absolutely committed to his family of a wife and five children. We spent many years together, and I enjoyed each and every one of them. Our careers separated, but our friendship didn’t. We kept up with each other by an occasional phone call through the years. In his later years he battled high blood pressure, diabetes and eventually cancer. Cancer took his life in 2015. He was a great friend and I miss him. We had many great times together — and for that I am thankful. He lived a great life and I am thankful that I was a part of it.

I also lost an elderly relative to dementia last summer. We had lived in the same town for many years and had spent much time together during the last few years of his life.

He had been a great encouragement to me in my early life, and I hope in his later years, I had been an encouragement to him. Dementia is a very difficult disease to deal with as a patient or as a loved one of the patient. Memory starts to fade away. The brain eventually shuts down, resulting in death. Fortunately for me and my friend, he always remembered who I was as I visited him in the nursing home almost daily during the last few months of his life. He was such a special person — had a successful career, loved his family and loved me. I will always remember the good times we had together. He had a great life, and I am thankful that I was a part of it.

In conclusion, I am so thankful to have had these two people in my life. As I reflect, I hope I am a good friend to many people and that my life means something to others. We all have our time here, and we need to be very intentional about what we do with our time and lives and who we spend our time with. The key word is “intentional.” Once the day is gone, time is lost, never to be regained or lived again. I would encourage and challenge you to become intentional with your time and your life — it’s your choice!

more social, or pro-social? How come there are no programs that address the terrible power that memories have over the incarcerated person? How come we are not instructed on how to deal with the past, or come to inner change without having to immerse ourselves in religion of spiritual questions? There has to be a way; please help me.

**Michael T. Wade**

**Terrell Unit**

To the reader,



*It sounds like you are in a good place mentally since you have evaluated your life of the past and now seek to change. Since I don’t know what is specifically offered at your unit, I would suggest that you contact your WSD counselor and unit chaplain for their ideas. There are many, many types of programs offered throughout TDCJ by volunteers and staff that could assist you. There is a reason one of the most popular programs is called **CHANGES**. Seek and you shall find! Good luck.*

## DEAR DARBY LETTERS TO THE DARBSTER

Dear Darby,

When I get *The ECHO* I go straight to your column — it's the best column in the paper! But why is it getting smaller? Anyway, I'm not writing about the sagers, or the loud disrespectful guys in the dayrooms — hey, it's a necessary evil, I see it as a deterrent to prison. I'm not writing about re-used soap, either.

No, I just have a few thoughts that everyone needs to think about: Hey folks, when you get mad at an officer and you flood the run or make a mess, you are not hurting the officers. They don't have to clean it up; the SSI does. And it hurts those who live by you.

And for you guys who throw food and candy wrappers on the floor, thinking, "That's what SSIs are for," did you do that in the world thinking, "That's what moms are for?" I like job security as much as the next guy, but what does that behavior really say about you? The trash cans are your friends — use them! Just something to think about.

Here's some more things to think about. How come the guys playing basketball and handball can't get their own balls when it goes past the yellow line?!? They are running up and down the court but stop at the yellow line and yell to others who are sitting down and enjoying the fresh air, "Hey, ball, ball, get the ball!" Why can't they run past the yellow line?

And you all know the guy: he's your neighbor, maybe your cellie. You know him — he goes to the store and buys all food and no coffee, and yet he drinks coffee. Then he expects everyone else to support his habit. Where does TDCJ get these guys?

I could go on forever, but I said all that to get you guys to think about the patterns of thought behind your behavior, no matter what the behavior is. You are using the same negative thought patterns that you used in the world to commit your crimes, thereby reinforcing them instead of changing them. Interested in CHANGING them? Sign up for the Cognitive Intervention Program (CIP) and CHANGES classes in the schoolhouse. Life IS what you THINK it is. In life pain is inevitable, but misery is optional.

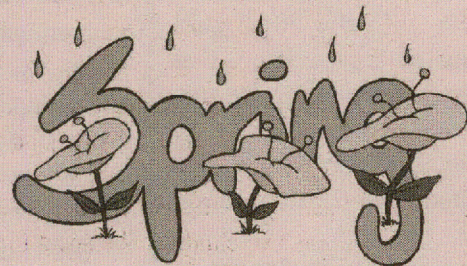
Thoughts become beliefs, beliefs become actions, and if your thoughts/beliefs are negative, then your actions will be harmful to yourself and others.

Think about it. Negative thoughts and behaviors will not meet your needs over time!

**D.J. the SSI, Telford Unit  
CIP class of 2010,  
Ms. Williams' class**

Dear DJ,

*You're spot-on with your thinking on your multiple topics. Folks trashing places just make work for others to clean up. If you drink coffee, you should be buying it in commissary. And taking classes such as CIP and CHANGES to correct negative thinking patterns is definitely a way to walk a better path in life, both in here and on the outside. By the way, "Thoughts lead to feelings, which lead to behavior" is straight out of cognitive psychology and is very true. Keep your head up!*



Dear Darby,

Please tell me that TDCJ will start selling TVs so that those of us with IQs of over 80 can watch a little TV, too? Over here, no news, no nature programs, only sports and reruns of "Supernatural," "NCIS" and "Bones."

Don't the officials know that selling TVs would bring in millions of dollars in sales, and they could charge a yearly \$15 cable fee to more than cover the cost of installing cables to all the cells and cubicles? What is the downside? Right now there are nothing but arguments and near fights over the TVs and always it's the more aggressive, selfish, manipulative viewers who control the TVs. I mean who would want to get a case over a stupid TV program, but believe me, if the couch potatoes don't get their way they would threaten to fight.

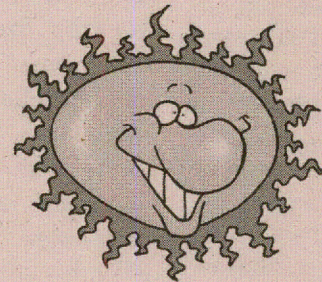
Hope you will check into why TDCJ won't do this.

**Roy Roy  
Michael Unit**

Dear RR,

*Don't get me started on the TV thing. I haven't been able to watch my Beverly Hillbillies or Gilligan's Island reruns in*

*years! Stupid American Idol! Anyway, they've thought about selling TVs, but it never made it through to the end. I think some folks feel they'd be coddling us - not realizing that a significant portion of interpersonal angst results from choosing what comes on the "one-eyed monster" sitting in front of the day-room. You can opt out, though, by going to the library and checking out a book that way you can choose the "channel" you're "watching" in your head as you read the book.*



Dear Darby,

I have a few suggestions as to the problem with the current problem of a lack of respect for those around us. It seems that the prison just keeps getting in more airheads right off street corners. They come in and walk into a dayroom, and it's like a street corner with TVs and domino tables.

There is only one solution to the problem of a lack of respect for others and that is to take out all the dominos and make watching sports a no-no. The slamming domino players and the sports freaks should be put in dorms and cell blocks away from others.

I used to love watching a good sporting event, but it has gotten so bad because you would be sitting there and a play was made and the fools around you would start screaming right into your ear, and it

never ends! If you are not watching the sporting event you never get a minute's rest until the game is over.

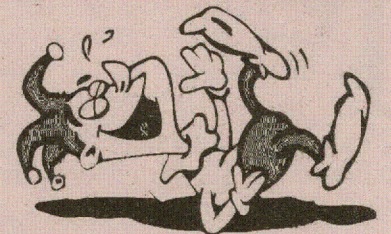
Same with the slam dunk domino players, they respect no one. It's like a cannon going off every 10 seconds or so, and it goes on late into the night. I know this won't happen, but it would be so nice to do one's time with just a little bit of peace and quiet.

**One tired of everything,  
Edward Digges  
Michael Unit**

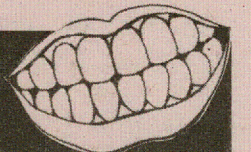
Dear Tired,

*I feel your pain, Bro. Unfortunately prison is an inherently noisy place, and the screaming and slamming just add to the cacophony — although slamming dominoes IS against the rules (and poor etiquette). Cheering the 'Boys (or even the Texans) CAN get loud, especially when they pull a rabbit out of the hat and win when they should have lost, but it would be loud at the stadium, sports restaurant or neighborhood hangout, too. Get a set of earplugs from the commissary, grab a good book and try to tune out the ruckus around you.*

## APRIL FOOLS



## DENTAL BITES



Dr. David Seals

UTMB dentist

**Tips from the Dentist:** Dental x-rays [man-made gamma radiation] provide valuable information in the early detection of oral disease. They can also determine the extensiveness of an ongoing problem. A few people worry that exposure to any x-rays is bad. Little do they realize, everyone is exposed to natural gamma radiation from the cosmos all the time. This type of radiation is called background radiation. The amount of radiation one is exposed to for a 20-film adult dental survey is equivalent to being exposed to normal background radiation while being in a shaded area on a bright sunny afternoon. Digital x-rays reduce that exposure by one tenth. ♣

## Book review: 'Running on Ice,' by Vonetta Flowers

Garrett Cushinberry  
Echo Staff

**"R**unning on Ice," the story of Olympic gold medalist Vonetta Flowers, is a very inspirational story. At the age of nine, Vonetta had dreams of going to the Olympics, representing her country and winning the gold medal. Being a success at track and field from elementary school through college, Vonetta achieved many awards. In 1996, at the age of 26, Vonetta competed in the Olympic trials in Atlanta, Georgia, but to her dismay, she did not qualify for the United States track and field team. She felt that this was her last chance at achieving her dreams as she and her husband had planned to extend their family — and she was getting older.

Fortunately, her husband saw an ad asking the track and field athletes that didn't qualify at the Olympic trials to try out for women's bobsledding. Being an African American from Alabama, Vonetta rarely saw snow and knew nothing about winter sports. After further encouragement from her husband, she decided to give it a try.

USA bobsled team member Bonny Warner took Vonetta as a team member and taught her everything that she needed to know about bobsledding and being a brakewoman. Vonetta trained hard and had hopes of finally living her dream of going to the Olympics and winning the gold medal. Unfortunately, after making it to the winter Olympics team trials, Bonny Warner

decided to cut Vonetta from her team and opted to use Gea Johnson as her brakewoman.

Once again, Vonetta was feeling unable to accomplish her dreams and decided to give up trying out for the Olympics. But her husband Johnny encouraged her to continue practicing, believing that someone would ask her to be their brakewoman in the Olympics. Following her husband's advice, she kept practicing. Two weeks later Vonetta received two calls from women seeking to have her as a brakewoman in the 2002 Winter Olympics.

Vonetta decided to team up with bobsled driver Jill Bakken. They went on to become one of the two teams to represent the USA in the 2002 Winter Olympics. At the finish of the bobsled competition for women, Vonetta and Jill closed with a time of 1:37.76 and walked away with the 2002 gold medal for the women's bobsled competition. Not only did Vonetta Flowers accomplish her dreams of going to the Olympics and winning the gold, she also became the first black athlete ever to win a Winter Olympics gold medal, and broke many records in the process.

Vonetta Flowers is a woman of determination with a wonderful husband who stands behind her every step of the way. This is one amazing story that I encourage everyone to read! ➔

## The ECHO requests submissions

**T**he ECHO attempts to reflect positive values to fulfill the expectations you have placed on our prison newspaper. We request that **YOU** consider writing quality articles, commentaries, etc., to be published. All submitted articles will be appreciated and considered.

Please do not send anything more than 1,000 words (five pages handwritten, or three pages typed and double-spaced typed). Publication is not guaranteed, and it may take a few issues for an article to appear.

### Suggestions:

**Article:** An article is an objective discussion in an informative manner on any number of topics, such as health, history or legal issues. New and detailed facts need to have cited sources.

**Commentary:** A commentary is a discussion of any number of topics, but it is based upon the opinions or experiences of the writer.

**Book Review:** A book review details the subject, style and key plot elements of the book and generally concerns relevant topics of the day. Opinions about

the book are welcomed.

**Extras:** Extras refer to letters to the editor, letters to Darby, puzzles, recipes and short stories, to name a few.

**Poetry:** Poetry is a piece of writing chosen and arranged to create a specific emotional response through meaning, sound and/or rhythm. (*The ECHO* already has more than 100 poems approved for publication and always has an abundance of poetry submitted, but if you have a really great poem, go ahead and send it.)

When submitting any of the above, write a heading at the top of the first page with your name, number, unit of assignment and the type of submission you are sending. For example:

**John Doe, #1234567**

**Huntsville Unit**

**Letter to the Editor (or article, poem, etc.)**

Don't hesitate to send us your work — even if you are not a professional writer. We will edit your submissions for clarity and effectiveness. Thank you for your continued support of *The ECHO*. ➔

## A Woman's Perspective: Freedom for all

Jennifer Toon  
Contributing Writer

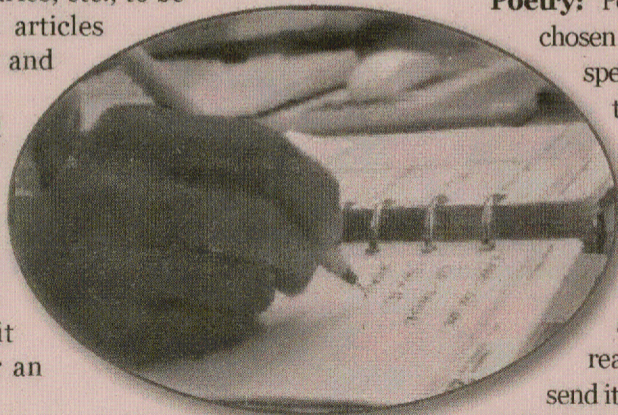
**L**aw is not our enemy. Law does not exist to limit our freedom but to expand it. Your eyes are narrowing; you're clenching this newspaper right now, aren't you? I understand. This is a difficult concept, especially for us, because humans are individualistic at heart. We resist restraints on our behavior. Some of us resist harder than others, but law and authority are necessary to ensure the liberty we all desire. This seems like such a contradiction, but let me explain.

The philosopher Benedict de Spinoza wrote in his book, "Tracitatus Theologico-Politicus," that alone no one is strong enough to defend himself, much less acquire all the things he needs, so mankind creates social organizations to increase his chances of survival. In other words, we agree to give up certain behaviors and follow rules of conduct in exchange for the protection offered by the State, as we live in the free world. We are protected from others, because they have also agreed to these restraints of behavior.

The true purpose of the State in the free world then is not domination, but rather "to free each man from fear so that he may live and act with full security, without injury to himself or his neighbor...it is to enable their bodies and their minds to function safely. It is to lead men to live by, and exercise a free reason; that they may not waste their strength in hatred, anger and guile, nor act unfairly toward one another." It is when we can expect and experience safely living among other human beings that we are the most free. We are free from fear and violence. We are free to make decisions about our lives without threat of harm.

We need basic social order. The word authority makes us cringe, but how quickly we call for it when subjected to chaos! Spinoza said humans are not naturally inclined to social order, but the dangers that arise without it draw us together. Once together, society "gradually nourishes and strengthens the social instincts." He also believed that the ideal state would only limit the conduct of its citizens when such conduct is mutually destructive to the citizen and society. Sound familiar?

We must change our attitudes and beliefs about law and authority. These are not enemies of freedom but instead guardians. The small concessions they ask of us are nothing compared to the benefits they provide. This will require our diligent effort, because as Spinoza said, "We are not born for citizenship but must be made fit for it." ➔



## Reentry and Integration Division explains TCOOMMI reentry program

The Reentry and Integration Division would like offenders to know that the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI) has 10 special needs reentry case manager positions located at select units: Carole, Young, Crain, Duncan, Estelle, Hospital Galveston, Hughes, Jester IV, Michael, Skyview, Montford.

Should you have a significant or terminal medical condition and/or have a severe and persistent mental illness, TCOOMMI services will be offered during reentry case planning through the Texas Risk Assessment System (TRAS) prior to your release on supervision. The TRAS is a tool to decide the proper level of supervision and also to detect any identified barriers in which assistance can be provided. It is important to know that offenders do not have to release on supervision to receive TCOOMMI services.

If you are determined eligible for TCOOMMI services prior to release, a special needs case manager can:

- Assist you in submitting benefit applications prior to release;
- Work with unit medical staff and TCOOMMI human service specialists for post-release continuity of care needs and
- Assist in obtaining birth certificates and other identification documents prior to release.

The Texas legislature recognized the need to enhance continuity of care for offenders with severe and persistent mental illness and expanded the criteria for those eligible to receive TCOOMMI continuity of care and case management through the local mental health authorities.

To receive TCOOMMI mental health services in the community through a local mental health authority, an offender must be on community supervision and have one or more of the following diagnoses:

1. anxiety disorder
2. delusional disorder
3. major depressive disorder
4. post-traumatic stress disorder
5. psychotic disorder
6. schizoaffective disorder, including bipolar and depressive types
7. any other diagnosed mental health disorder that is severe and persistent in nature.

For offenders who are releasing on flat discharge, special needs case managers cannot make a referral to the local mental health authority but can provide information to the offenders on where to access mental health services once released.

If assigned to a unit not listed above, contact a reentry case manager for a TCOOMMI referral to see if your significant medical or mental health needs qualify for TCOOMMI services prior to release. 📍

## Free fan from TX-CURE — How to get one —

If you have been indigent for six months or more, you may qualify for a FREE fan from TX-CURE. Follow these simple instructions to apply for a fan:

**1. Write an I-60 request to: TDCJ-CID TRUST FUND, P.O. Box 60, Huntsville, TX, 77342**

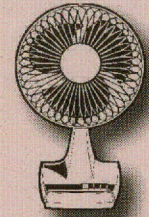
Inmate Trust Cure Fan

I would like to get a fan from TX-CURE.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Unit \_\_\_\_\_



**2. The Trust Fund will then forward the request to the TX-CURE Fan Project.** Your request must be dated **Jan. 1, 2016**, through **June 30, 2016**.

**3. Wait patiently. The Fan Project works from donations only. If you do not get a fan this year, you can request one next year if you are still indigent.**

**4. You may request a fan between Jan. 1, 2016, and June 30, 2016. No earlier, no later.** The rule is one fan per prisoner, even if yours gets broken, stolen, confiscated or if you received a fan under a previous TDCJ number. TDCJ keeps accurate records, so please don't apply for a fan if you've received one in the past. Protect your property papers. Report a malfunctioning **new** fan to unit property. If you do not receive a fan this year, try again next year.

**Mike Jewell, Director**  
**Cheri Ledbetter, Fan Project**  
**Joan Covici, Secretary**  
**Dallas Office (214) 348-0293**

### LIVING EFFECTIVELY continued from page 1

Yesterday is being relived today and more than likely we'll do it all again tomorrow. We will see the same people and you'll give out your good mornings which are meaningless to us and seems more of an automated response with no thought behind them. A simple "Hey," a head nod, a finger wave, and the acknowledgement of such. We have been sentenced to live the same life over and over again.

Most of us know exactly what type of life we would now lead. We know

the life we are living now and whether we'd choose a different path. We know whether or not we are living a decent life and if we fall asleep with no regrets. We know if we write home bragging about our accomplishment of it our letters and phone calls are filled with lies. Do we tell our cellmates lies in order to make ourselves appear better than those we've been sentenced to live with? We do things repeatedly because we've been given the chance to live the same life over and over again.

We have the opportunity to change our lives and become something better. We can learn to control our actions, thoughts and words. We can be nicer to not only others, but also to ourselves. These changes can come in the smallest of steps.

We can say good morning and mean it. It is not a bad thing to step outside ourselves and truly hope someone has a decent day. Tonight when you go to bed, replay the day's conversations. Did you say things that if used to describe you, you'd be happy to hear, or would you be geared up to fight? When you write home or call your family, tell them exactly what you've done today. Find something to be grateful for and be thankful that you have it in your life, and maybe tomorrow you will find something else to be proud of. No one can hand us a better, improved us. We know what we don't like about ourselves, and we have to be the one to do the work to change it. Everything can be changed.

Be present and purposeful in your life. Treat others with more respect than you treat yourself, and you'll end up treating yourself to better days. We've chosen to live the same life over and over again.

**"Stop making excuses and do something about it."**

— William Alexander "The #64 Tomato" 📍

## Sudoku

### Easy

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

### Difficult

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

## Last call

Von Short  
Contributing Writer

I called home to Arizona today, like I do every weekend. When my sister, who lives in Texas, answered the phone, I knew something was amiss. I could tell by the cracking of her voice that my world was about to be flipped on its end. The first thing she said was, "Mom's alright." Instead the crisis was my 24-year-old niece, who was born two months after I came to prison.

I'm about to put some family business out there and perhaps even get a little graphic; but I feel this is a story many need to hear. At 2 a.m. and under the influence of alcohol and Xanax, my niece plowed into the back of a van in a new Dodge Charger at a high speed. She was not wearing a seat belt. The car flipped and slid on its roof for many feet, stripping away metal and flesh in the process. When the car finally stopped, my niece had lost three fingers, her ear, and most of the top of her scalp, a broken rib, and damaged her spleen. Both of her lungs were collapsed and she looked like a burn victim due to road rash. Thankfully, she had dropped off her children before the wreck. As I write this, she's in surgery.

She's a beautiful young woman with her whole life ahead of her. My heart aches for her as she has a long road to recovery, and the legal ramifications to face. I used to see the commercials for MADD (Mother Against Drunk Driving), and I'd say, "What are they so mad about? Get off our backs!" Now I'm the one mad. To lose a child or

have someone you love be disfigured because of something so senseless and preventable will tend to stir a person's anger. I'm not mad at my niece. I'm just disappointed that she didn't see the correlation between my drinking and eventual incarceration.

I read somewhere that alcohol takes everything. First it takes your money, then your relationships, your possessions, your dignity, your freedom and eventually your life. That's the reason I got into treatment and then Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). I got the Big Book of AA and read the Grapevine. Please, if you're dealing with addiction, you need to stop and get some help. It's almost impossible to do yourself. If you have kids or loved ones out there, talk to them about the dangers of addiction, and then beg and plead for them to never get behind the wheel of a car drunk. My niece is very lucky the people in the other car weren't killed or she would be facing serious prison time after recovery.

The seriousness of getting behind the wheel incapacitated is becoming clearer to me. It truly is a matter of life and death. I want to scream and shout at the other family members of mine who continue to drink to excess: "Open your eyes!" I haven't even written about the physical toll it takes on the heart, brain and liver. I hope the story of this young woman's tragedy will make people stop and think before getting behind the wheel of a car drunk. It simply is not worth the risk to yourself — or others. ♣



## 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.

## HELP WANTED: HUNTSVILLE TEXTILE MILL

The Huntsville textile mill is looking for qualified offenders to fill the following position: **HVAC Technician.**

**Job duties include performing the following:**

- Daily operational duties
- Preventive maintenance

**Requirements:**

- Able to climb a ladder
- Able to read and write English
- Classified as a S3/G2
- Has no medical restrictions
- Has no major cases in the past 12 months
- Has no STG affiliation
- Able to multitask in various positions as needed

Qualified applicants should send an I-60 with experience information to:

**Textile Plant Manager, Huntsville Unit  
Huntsville, Texas**

Transitioning back into the community isn't easy...

**UNLOCKING DOORS CAN HELP!**

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Been released from prison or jail... or about to be released?

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Phone: 214.296.9258

Email: info@unlockingdoors.org

Mail: 17101 Preston Road, Suite 260, Dallas, Texas 75248

You will meet with your Case Manager at the following location:  
1402 Corinth Street, Suite 235, Dallas, Texas 75215

Unlocking  
**DOORS**  
Texas Reentry  
Network

# The sports view: Finish, finish, finish!

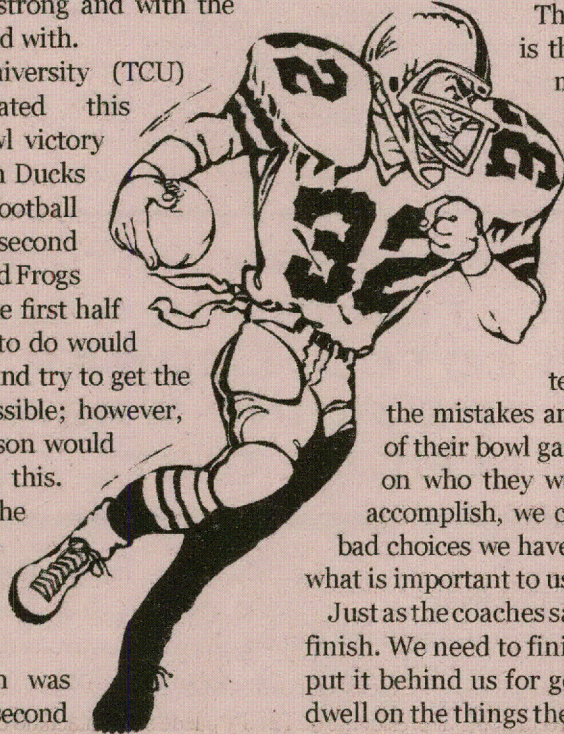
William Hill, Staff Writer

**H**ave you ever heard the cliché “It’s not how you start, it’s how you finish”? If you are even a casual sports fan, you have. Coaches often use it as a motivational tool because it is true. A coach for my high school football team used to use this mantra: finish, finish, finish. It meant to finish each play, finish each drive and to finish each game as strong and with the same intensity that you started with.

The Texas Christian University (TCU) football team demonstrated this philosophy in its Alamo Bowl victory over the University of Oregon Ducks after the 2015 college football season. Playing with their second string quarterback, the Horned Frogs quickly fell behind 31-0 in the first half of the game. The easy thing to do would have been to go into a shell and try to get the game over as quickly as possible; however, TCU head coach Gary Patterson would not allow his players to do this. Halftime was a time for the Horned Frog team to decide what kind of effort they were going to put forth in the second half.

The effort they put forth was worthy of champions. In the second half, the team from TCU put together a complete team effort to make a comeback for the ages. TCU quarterback Bram Kohlhausen ran the offense like a seasoned pro instead of a career backup. The Horned Frog defenders played an inspired brand of defense during the second half, holding the Ducks to zero second

half points until the first overtime period and less than 80 yards of total offense. This defensive stand allowed the Horned Frogs to score 31 unanswered points, culminating with Jaden Oberkrom’s 22-yard field goal to tie the score with 19 seconds remaining in regulation. They then went on to win the game in triple overtime, matching the largest comeback victory in Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) history.



The lesson to be learned here is that it is never ever too late to make a comeback. We have the rest of our lives to live, and we need to learn the value of finishing strongly. Each one of us has had a setback for whatever reason, but we do not need to allow this time to define us or to dominate the rest of our life. Just as the team from TCU did not allow

the mistakes and bad choices of the first half of their bowl game to cause them to lose focus on who they were and what they wanted to accomplish, we cannot allow the mistakes and bad choices we have made to remove our focus on what is important to us.

Just as the coaches say, we have got to finish, finish, finish. We need to finish this portion of our life and put it behind us for good. TCU did not continue to dwell on the things they did wrong in the first half of their game. They focused on what they were going to do in the second half of the game. While we can and should learn from our past mistakes, this does not mean that we have to continually dwell on them. Dwelling on the past is not only unhealthy, it is also unwise.

We need to develop a new game plan for the future, execute it to the best of our ability, and finish it. What does that mean? Perhaps it means that we need to distance ourselves from the people and places that helped lead us to this place. Is being around certain people or living in a certain town or neighborhood of more importance to us than staying out of prison? I am not advocating cutting ties with everybody that has ever played a role in our lives. We all have those people in our life that exert a positive influence on us. Those are the relationships that we need to continue to cultivate. The relationships that we need to distance ourselves from are those that are going to continue to lead us down the same roads that led to us being incarcerated. Giving up relationships that we have had for a long time can be a difficult idea to contemplate; however, we may have to ask ourselves what is more important: being loyal to someone from our past or staying out of prison.

Halftime is almost over. The time to decide how you are going to play the second half is here and only you can make that decision. Coach Patterson could have made the most inspiring halftime speech since Knute Rockne’s “Win one for the Gipper”, but if none of the TCU players had bought into it and decided that they were going to finish the game strong, it would not have worked. It took determination and pride on the part of every player on that team, and that is exactly what it is going to take from each of us also; a determination that we are not going to spend the rest of our lives in prison.

Finish, finish, finish! ➔

## Dead giveaway you’ve been locked up

Lydia M. Meja  
Carole Young Medical Facility

1. You wake up at 3 a.m. to get ready for breakfast.
2. You put all the rice into an empty tortilla bag and save the rice bag to cook with.
3. You volunteer to go to HEB to get groceries and you come back with 30 bags of chips and one bottle of squeeze cheese.
4. You wash all your clothes while you shower.
5. You put all your hygiene products in an empty tortilla bag.
6. Your family discovers a brick size green bar of soap in the shower.
7. When 10 p.m. rolls around you ask, “Is the shower still open?”
8. While watching television, you ask for a channel-check.
9. You clap at the end of every movie at home or at the cinema.
10. And last but not least: when Christmas comes around, you go to Dollar General and buy everybody: one shampoo, one conditioner and one pink bar of soap. ➔



### Missing Person

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### Krystal Ann Davenport



Krystal Ann Davenport has been missing since June 18, 2010, from Waco. She was 22 years old at the time of her disappearance. A white female, she weighed approximately 140 pounds and was 5 feet 5 inches tall. Davenport has brown hair and brown eyes, nose piercing, lip piercing, red feather tattoo on the inside of her wrist and a red owl tattoo on her left back shoulder.

If you have any information on the above missing person, or any other missing person or homicide, please contact the TDCJ Crime Stoppers Office at P.O. Box 1855, Huntsville, TX 77340. Crime Stoppers will pay from \$50 to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest, filing of charges or indictment of a person or persons that committed a felony crime (or is a wanted fugitive). Crime Stoppers guarantees your anonymity.

# 'NO MAS'

Victor A. Aguirre  
Lynaugh Unit

**'N**o mas.' A Spanish statement that means no more, enough! These are the infamous words that Roberto "Manos De Piedra" Duran was said to have uttered to the referee during his rematch with Sugar Ray Leonard in 1980. In the second bout, Duran quit. "No mas." Leonard was declared the winner, and the championship belt was returned to him.

A few months ago I watched an ESPN documentary about this fight on an episode of the 30 for 30 series entitled, "No Mas." I am too young to remember this particular fight, but the documentary got me to thinking about how true it is that life imitates art. A lot of the stories told in books, in myths, in art or played out in sports are a reflection, or a mirror image of things that occur in real life.

To me, the first two Duran - Leonard bouts are a reflection of life here in the prison system. There are lessons in those two bouts that we can apply in our daily life to make it more fulfilling, rewarding and meaningful.

The first bout between these two boxing legends can best be described with one word: relentless! That was the most relentless boxing match I have ever seen. From the opening bell, both fighters attacked each other with full abandon and fury. Duran seemed possessed. He threw punch after punch and was unyielding in his pursuit of Leonard's belt. Every single round of that fight was a death match.

Round after round they went, throwing what seemed like hundreds of punches at each other, from the opening bell until the three minute rounds were over. Even then Duran would go to his corner and refuse to sit down. Instead he would lean on his corner, both arms resting on top of the ropes, and glare across the ring at Leonard with a diabolical scowl. Leonard later admitted that Duran's determination and fury during this fight scared him. His determination and force of will affected Leonard to the point where he almost quit.

He finished the fight and lost.

Many people consider this fight to be the greatest boxing match of all time. I do, too. The relentless energy that Duran exhibited during this bout is one of the lessons to be applied to our daily life here in prison or if we are released. We must be relentless in pursuit of our goals. We must be unyielding and uncompromising, using our time wisely, reading books, taking educational courses or educating ourselves and doing everything in our power to better ourselves and our situation as well as those around us. Like Duran, we must attack, and attack and attack these things. No matter how many obstacles are in our way, we must go forward and fight them the way

Duran fought Leonard in the first fight.

Leonard had been extremely disappointed about his loss to Duran. His disappointment was so strong that he "retired" from boxing after the loss despite being one of the best boxers at the time and in the prime of his career. In his retirement, he went on vacation to try and get away from everyone and everything and forget about the loss. But the loss to Duran continued to eat at him. He could not accept it. He thought about it when he was awake. He dreamt of

it when asleep. It was a thorn in his side that would not go away and was robbing him of all his joy.

So he did the only thing he could think to do. He called his agent and told him to set up a rematch with Duran as soon as possible. He had to fight Duran again.

The rematch was quickly arranged and a date was set. It had been only a few months since the first bout and now they were back at it again. This time, Duran was out of shape and mentally unprepared. Leonard wanted this fight, and it showed. He bobbed and weaved and sidestepped Duran's punches with ease. He jabbed and threw razor-sharp combinations. He outhustled Duran and beat him to every angle.

Leonard's failure in the first bout fueled him in the second one.

Although this fight was nowhere close to being as thrilling as the earlier match, it is still ingloriously remembered as the "no mas" fight. During the 9th round, Duran had had enough. Leonard was beating him, and taunting him along the way, and Duran, in frustration, did something that shocked the sports world: he quit.

He had been embarrassed by Leonard throughout the fight, and in this specific round, he just gave up. He dropped his hands in exasperation and walked away from Leonard. Everyone was confused and did not understand

**HIS DETERMINATION AND FORCE OF WILL AFFECTED LEONARD TO THE POINT WHERE HE ALMOST QUIT.**

what was happening. Was Duran quitting in the middle of a championship fight with the whole world watching? Or was he setting a trap for Leonard, luring him to drop his guard and then pounce on him once he did so? Leonard was confused, too, but just to be sure, he ran after Duran and attacked him with another combination as Duran was walking away. Duran did not punch back and kept walking to his corner. The referee ran to Duran and asked him if he was quitting. That's when Duran uttered, "no mas." No more. That's it. Enough. Ever since, this quote has become synonymous with quitting in the midst of pressure. "No mas."

There are two lessons to be learned from this second match. The first lesson is to use failure as a springboard or fuel for a comeback and success. Leonard's loss to Duran in their first bout ate at him and motivated him. It drove him to train harder, to give everything he had in his pursuit of redemption.

In the same way, we should never become disillusioned or give up when faced with failure. We made mistakes and ended up in prison. It's done. We can dust ourselves off and use that mistake as fuel so it won't happen again.

Even if you have a life sentence or are on death row, you can live your life with purpose. Don't allow yourself to be defined by failure. Do you have a drug problem or other addictions? Attack it! Force your way on it like Leonard beat Duran after losing to him.

And the last lesson to be learned from this second match is to never quit. The only thing you should quit is your bad habits or a defeatist mentality. In that case, "no mas," would be a good thing. ♣





# WYNNE UNIT KAIROS WALK

Von Short  
Contributing Writer

Recently I had the opportunity to add another tool to my tool chest. The Wynne Unit hosted its second Kairos weekend that included 36 offenders and 30 volunteers from the free world. The weekend started Thursday afternoon and wrapped up with the closing ceremony Sunday afternoon. There was plenty food, a lot of singing, new friendships and a boat-load of tears.

This moment couldn't have come at a better time for me, since I will be wrapping up a 25-year sentence in about a year from now. With all the programs, education and job training I've received over the years, this was the icing on the cake. I experienced and learned many things that will aid me in my transition back to society.

The weekend started by dividing us up into families, a foreign concept to many of us. There were six families consisting of six offenders and three volunteers. The weekend means different things to different people, and I have to walk a thin line in this article because they want each man to experience the weekend without any preconceived notions. Every man takes away a different experience.

What I can say is that we heard many talks from freeworld men that I came to find have shared in many of the same struggles and trials that we in white have gone through. They share in the same hurt, grief and pain that all of humanity experience. Some had fallen and picked themselves back up, others were still in the process of overcoming struggles such as addiction, loss and marital trials. We were given many examples by men whose only difference was in the clothes they wore.

One commonality that I saw in all of us was our vulnerability. We go through life wearing masks, hiding who we are and what we feel. We're taught that it's not 'manly' to have compassion for others or to feel regret and sorrow. We carry around baggage such as unforgiveness and anger; we turn to things such as alcohol and drugs to escape a difficult past. This weekend we let many of these things go.

We forgave the people who had wronged us, including ourselves. We learned a term called 'agape' which is a form of unconditional love.

As we looked at our past and some of the heinous things we've done, it's hard to see how others could love and not judge us; but this is what we got during this

weekend. In order for us to move on with our lives, this is a process we must go through. It's important that we never forget the things that caused our downfall; however, once our debt has been paid we must close the door to the past and open another one, taking in all the things we've learned in our experience here in prison.

One of the biggest keys from the weekend is that we pass on what we've learned to others. The sharing process included sharing our experiences and the things that we've been blessed with. It also included sharing with people who have wronged us, learning to forgive them and accept them with all their faults, just as we come to learn that others accept us with ours.

The gym was turned into a chapel, a classroom, and a dining room. We ate together, worshiped in the chapel together, and learned together in the classroom as a family. The first thing we discussed was 'walls' and tearing them down. As the weekend progressed each man came out of his shell and began to share and develop bonds that will hopefully continue long after we go our separate ways.

Toward the end of the weekend we were shown the importance of continued service with follow-up meetings every week where we share and pray for each other. From there we have monthly reunions. We are basically building new healthy habits to replace our warped ones.

At the closing ceremony we were allowed to speak on what the experience meant for us. We had a speaker from the first Kairos and a free world speaker, who had done time herself and told how she had come to find Kairos and how it impacted her life as well. There were more tears shed and a lot of love in that room.

These are the kinds of positive programs that have been put in place to help us learn a better way of life. They are voluntary and sometimes take persistence to be able to attend, but I would encourage anyone to be diligent in their attempts to attend these programs. You just may hear the one thing that sets you on a different path that can enhance your life and help you change the negative behavior that sent you to prison in the first place. ➔

## Quick fix schemes of the world

Jennifer Toon  
Contributing Writer

Pop culture, as portrayed by the media, has a way of presenting success as a flash in the pan moment, requiring little preparation. It is no surprise then that many people live with the expectation that fortune will suddenly manifest from nowhere with zero effort on their part. They believe that they have a right to prosperity simply because they desire it. This desire, in their minds, is the same as entitlement.

In the Declaration of Independence, the founding fathers wrote that we are given certain rights by our Creator. One of those rights is our, "pursuit of happiness." To me happiness includes our success as a morally sound, productive human being with a sense of personal meaning. Success in all of life's endeavors is linked to happiness. We do not have a right to this, but only the right to pursue, to strive for, to work towards, and aspire to our happiness. We deserve this opportunity. We are entitled to that pursuit. It's interesting to note that the words "deserve" and "entitlement" also mean to be worthy of and to qualify for. There is an implication that we are required to do more than just want something, but to also act, and such action must have merit.

Who actually likes putting in possibly

years of hard work? The answer is those who understand the value of action. We strive towards our success. It will not magically appear. Some folks win the lottery or "American Idol", but the majority do not. The average citizen must work hard and create his or her own success. Imagine how much more we must do. Booker T. Washington wrote that a people can not prosper until they learn, "that there is as much dignity in tilling a field as in writing a poem. It is at the bottom of life we must begin, not at the top. Nor should we permit our grievances to overshadow our opportunities." The discontentment we feel about our circumstances and the struggles we face should not be allowed to stand as obstacles.

While some people really do expect success to be handed to them, I hope you'll resist the quick fix schemes of the world. It's temporary, but remember there's a tendency to not fully appreciate that which you did not work hard for yourself. The pursuit is part of the happiness itself, and that opportunity is all we are truly entitled to receive. ➔

GRIEVANCE continued from page 1

4. Offenders may submit one grievance every seven days. Grievances submitted in excess of the one every seven days may be screened and returned to the offender unprocessed. Screened grievances do not count when determining the one every seven days.
5. Offenders are to state the incident or issue on the Step 1 form in the space provided. Only official documents to support the issue presented may be attached, such as answered I-60s, sick call requests, property receipts, commissary receipts, etc.
6. Offenders are to state the relief requested. You may not request disciplinary action against an employee or request compensation or punitive damages.
7. Offender grievances that contain malicious use of vulgar, indecent or physically threatening language directed at an employee or another offender may be returned to the offender unprocessed, as well as handled through the offender disciplinary procedures.
8. Offenders are required to attempt informal resolution of their problems with a staff member before submitting a written grievance, except for situations such as disciplinary hearings or use of force. The attempt is to be documented on the grievance form in the space provided. To informally resolve medical issues, you may send an I-60 or sick call request to the medical department staff.
9. Offenders may request assistance from staff or another offender in submitting a grievance.
10. Offenders must submit a grievance within 15 days from the date of the alleged incident or problem, or when the offender became aware or should have become aware of the incident or problem.
11. Offenders may not withdraw a grievance once it has been submitted. The grievance shall be processed according to the grievance procedures.
12. Only one issue will be addressed per grievance. ➔

## IN TIME

Submitted by Scott E. Murray  
Middleton Unit

As I look around me,  
my gaze turns up higher  
to the cold concrete wall and the  
sharp razor wire.

The crime I committed  
and the time I must do  
locked away all alone  
with my pain and solitude.

Hour after hour and day upon day  
left alone with my thoughts,  
"How did I end up this way?"

Far away from my loved ones,  
my family and friends,  
I patiently await my chance  
to make amends.

The choices I made,  
I made all alone.

There's no blame to pass,  
and I'm here on my own.  
To serve out my sentence  
and to atone for my crime;  
and hope that society  
will forgive me in time.

## The ride

Submitted by Frank "Ninety-Nine" Bernard  
Darrington Unit

Met an ol' man on the bus today,  
he was just another one of us.

He asked me, "You going my way?"  
Said he turned 80 years young today.

Been here 60 and a day,  
basically gave my life away,  
going home today  
somebody's pointing my way.

You know day by day  
I learned some things along the way,  
let me say there is a better way.

Had me a mother, wife and son,  
heard from them some  
when this ride first begun.

Seem to drift apart along the way,  
hoping to see them today;  
somebody's pointing the way.

Be my last ride on this ol' bus,  
soon I'll be free so much to see.

Mile after mile I see him smile,  
yeah he went home today  
somebody pointed the way.

You know day by day  
you learn some things along the way  
today there is a better way.

## The Grumble family

By: Anonymous  
Submitted by: Donald Adams  
Stringfellow Unit

There's a family nobody likes to meet.  
They live it is said on Complaining Street.  
In the City of Never-Are Satisfied.  
The river of Discontent beside.

They growl at that and they growl at this.  
Whatever comes, there is something amiss.  
And whether their station be high or humble  
They are all known by the name of Grumble.

The weather is always too hot or cold.  
Summer and winter alike they scold.  
Nothing goes right with the folks you meet  
Down on that gloomy Complaining Street.

They growl at the rain  
and they growl at the sun  
In fact, their growling is never done.  
And if everything pleased them,  
there isn't a doubt.

They'd growl that they'd nothing  
to grumble about!

But the queerest thing is  
that not one of the same  
Can be brought to acknowledge  
his family name.

For never a grumbler will own that he  
is connected with it at all you see.

The worst thing is that if anyone stays  
Among them too long, he will learn their ways.  
And before he dreams of the terrible jumble  
He's adopted into the family of Grumble.

And so it were wisest to keep our feet  
From wandering into Complaining Street.

And never to growl, whatever we do  
Lest we be mistaken for Grumblers, too.

Let us learn to walk with a smile and a song  
No matter if things do sometimes go wrong.

And then be our station high or humble  
We'll never belong to the family of Grumble!

## I am that man

Submitted by Shane Barnett  
Robertson Unit

I know all about heartache  
and frustration that's hard to take.  
It has been 17 long hard years,  
each one ending in bitter tears.

It wasn't always this way,  
there was a time we ruled the day.  
We were a force to be reckoned with,  
like Aikman, Irvin,  
the Moose and Smith.

On draft day we try and get the best,  
hoping for one better  
than all the rest.

Each year I can't wait for fall,  
mind filled with visions  
of winning it all.

I know better,  
but still I let my hopes fly,  
then painfully watch  
as they slowly die.  
Yes it hurts, I will admit,  
but it is what it is and I will not quit.

I am not crazy!  
Our time is near,  
we came up short this time,  
but we got it next year.  
Yeah, that's right,  
I am that man,  
the disillusioned  
Dallas Cowboys fan...

## NO FREEDOM

Submitted by Darlene "Bastion" Pigatano  
Hilltop Unit

I'm laying here staring at the brick wall.  
I can hear many voices out in the hall.

I wonder how long  
I'll have to stay in this place,  
before I see a familiar face.

I don't know how I got in such a mess,  
but I'll be here long enough

to figure it out, I guess.  
There's nowhere to go  
and not much to say

I'm all locked up  
so here's where I'll stay.

I know that what I did was wrong.

I just hope I won't  
have to pay for it too long.

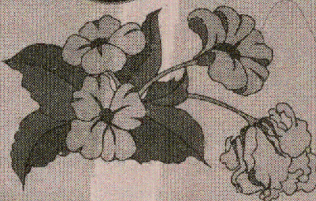
If only I had thought ahead of time,  
maybe then

I wouldn't have committed the crime.

I know when I finally do get out  
I will live my life  
honest without a doubt.

I guess I didn't realize crime doesn't pay  
especially now  
since they've taken my freedom away.

Creative  
Corner



# REGRETS

Ronny Sugg, Estelle Unit

## Bzzz, bzzz, bzzz...

I feel around the head of my bed trying to find my alarm clock. Oh, yeah, I moved it. Otherwise what I would do: I would hit the snooze button and keep hitting it until I was late for work.

I swing my legs around and sit up on the side of my bed. Boom, boom, boom — my head is pounding, and my stomach is in an uproar. I have a hangover from hell. That's the reason I never go out with my co-workers — almost never. I always woke up with the same old regrets. I regret drinking so much. I regret eating so much, and I regret spending so much money to feel this way.

I get up. Find my alarm clock and shut it off. Then I drag myself to the kitchen and get the coffee maker going. That accomplished, I make my way to the bathroom where I start the shower and look in the mirror. Man, I look as bad as I feel.

I get three Tylenol out of the medicine cabinet, go back to the kitchen, get a cup of coffee and take the Tylenol. I head back to the bathroom where I manage to shave, shower, and brush my teeth.

While in the shower I hear tink, tink, tink. I look out the bathroom window and it's sleeting; everything is covered in a layer of ice. If I don't get a move on, I'll be late for work. I put enough clothes on where I can go out and start my car and let it warm and de-ice. I slip and slide back into the house and finish getting dressed.

Before leaving, I fill my travel mug with coffee. I lock up and carefully creep back to my car, a red Ferrari that I can now afford along with my dream house in the country. I work at the Texas Nuclear Research Laboratory.

I pull out of my driveway onto the farm-to-market road, and it is very slick. It is about 15 miles to the interstate and another 20 from there to work. I'm slowly rolling down the road and losing traction often. As I come to the S curve about four miles from my house, I slide and spin in a full circle, sliding backwards into a ditch. I try to pull out, but I only get stuck.

I pull out my cell phone, but no service. I get out of the car. Still no service, I can't call a tow truck and I can't call work. I know there's a house a couple of miles down the road, but I sure didn't dress to hike in an ice storm.

I take off and haven't gone 50 feet when I hear it. I hear it before I see it. It sounds like a car without a muffler. Then I see it, so maybe my luck is improving. The car pulls right next to me and stops. I stare at it a minute. It looks exactly like the '66 Ford Mustang I had my senior year of high school, and it sounds like it, too. The door opens and the driver says, "Hop in Bob. I'm going your way."

I reluctantly get in and ask him, "How do you know my name is Bob? Do you know me?" The interior of the car looks like mine did also, right down to the torn seat covers.

"I know lots of stuff, Bob, the driver says. "I'll get you to work, but we have to make a few stops first."

We take off down the road. I think he is going too fast, but he isn't having any trouble, so I don't say anything. It doesn't seem like but a few minutes and he stops. He asks me "Do you recognize this place?"

I answered "Yeah, this is camp U-Got-2-B-Good where I went to summer camp while I was in elementary school. How did we get here so fast?"

He replies, "You have more to worry about than that, Bob. Do you remember being here with little Tommy Thompson and your best friend Marty Martin? Tommy told you he couldn't swim and was scared of the water, but you pushed him off the pier, anyway. He might have

drowned if Marty hadn't jumped in and rescued him. You didn't save him because you couldn't swim and were afraid of the water, also. Once he was safely out, you laughed and said he needed to learn how to swim. Bob, you are not a nice person."

We take off down the road again. While traveling, the driver says, "One Christmas you and your brother Bill got bicycles for Christmas. Bill loved to pop wheelies. He could ride them forever. You couldn't do it and you were jealous, so you loosened the nuts on his front wheel. When Bill popped his next wheelie, he wrecked and broke his arm. When your Mom brought him home from the emergency room you laughed and told him, 'Bill that was some trick!' Bob, you are not a nice person."

Suddenly we stop. "Where are we now, Bob?" the driver asks.

Halfheartedly I answer, "Jefferson Junior High." I knew I had been a problem child at this place.

The driver says, "You were going to seventh grade first period math class, and you knew what you were going to do even before you got to school. You kept putting more and more gum in your mouth, and by the time you got to school, you could hardly talk. Cindy Simmons sat in front of you, and she had long blond hair. You stuck that big wad of gum in her hair, and every time she moved, it got more stuck. By the time she realized she had gum in her hair, it was hopeless. Your teacher asked you how it got there, so you laughed and said you didn't have a clue. Cindy was so upset that her mother had to come pick her up. When Cindy came to school the next day, her hair was cut very short.

You laughed at her and told her she looked like a boy. You made her cry and had to be picked up again. Bob, you are not a nice person."

Then he says, "One more stop and it's off to work."

I'm wondering if this dude will ever shut up.

Once we are rolling down the road again, the driver says, "At one time you had a family named Lewis as neighbors. They had a big calico tom cat, and it was the Fourth of July. You caught their cat and tied firecrackers to his tail. When you set them off, they blew off the cat's tail. The cat went crazy and ran off. Your neighbors took their cat to the vet and then asked you if you knew what happened. You laughed and said, "No, but it doesn't look like your cat is all there! Bob, you are not a nice person."

We reach the last stop and the driver asks, "What's this place, Bob?"

"This is the field house at the high school where I went my senior year."

He says, "That's right; you played football but you weren't good enough to start. You were second string, and it was homecoming. You devised a plan to play. You volunteered to buy yourself and Danny Daniels (the wide receiver you would replace) a milkshake. While you were gone to purchase the milkshakes, you also bought a box of Ex-Lax. You melted it and put it in his drink, so he got a severe case of diarrhea and had to go home. You got to play. But you fumbled the football, and the other team recovered it. They ran it in for a touchdown. Your team lost the game by a few points. When you saw Danny next, he told you that he had gotten sick. You laughed and told him you knew he hadn't looked well, but you thought the milkshake

would help. Bob, you are not a nice person."

We are off again and before you know it we're at the Texas Nuclear Research Lab. We park in front and he asks me, "Bob, what do you do here?"

"A fellow researcher and I discovered a new nuclear element," I explain. "He wanted to name it Zarinium. I informed him I didn't care as long as I reaped the financial benefits from it. Now we are in the process of constructing a weapon using the new element as its energy source."

He thinks about it a minute and then says, "Bob, does the world need a new weapon of mass destruction?"

Finally I work up the courage to ask him, "Do I know you?"

He turns towards me and says, "Look closely at me, Bob: *I am you.*"

Bzzz, bzzz, bzzz — I wake up with a start. I'm sweating though there is a chill in the air. I can't find my alarm clock. I sit up on the side of my bed. Whoa, I feel miserable! I have a hangover from hell. No wonder I seldom go out with my co-workers. I get up, find my clock and turn the alarm off. I go to the kitchen, start my coffee then head to the bathroom.

Wow, what a dream! I take three Tylenol and go about getting ready for work, realizing all my actions are just like in my dream. It's déjà vu. I look out my window, and I'm still surprised. It's actually sleeting. I hurry so I

can get on my way to work and not be late. I go out and start my car so it can warm and de-ice. I go back in, finish getting ready, fill my travel mug with coffee, lock up, and take off towards work.

I make it out if the driveway and start easing down the farm-to-market road towards the interstate. I'm lost in thought and now paying attention to my driving because the roads are very slick. When I get to the S curve not far from my house, I slide and spin around in a complete circle. I slide backwards towards the ditch, but much to my relief, my car stops on the shoulder of the road. I mash the gas and my tires spin for a few seconds, then my car slowly starts to move forward. I drive in towards work more cautiously, but with my dream still heavy on my mind. Finally, I get to the Texas Nuclear Research Laboratory and park in my designated parking place. I just sit there for a bit thinking about my situation. I know I have many regrets and they wear on my conscience or I would not have had that dream. I decide to go in and the first thing I do is go by each department and tell each department head and all supervisors there will be a meeting in Conference Room A in two hours. I go to my office and take care of some paperwork.

At the appointed time, I head to the conference room. Upon arrival everyone is there. I move to the podium saying, "Attention, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for being here. I want to announce as of today we will no longer be involved in the development of a Zarinium nuclear weapon. From this day forward, all of our efforts will be focused on using Zarinium as an energy source to create electricity as cheaply as possible for the masses."

You could have heard a pin drop; it got so quiet. After about 15 seconds, one by one, each person started clapping and standing up.

I stand there dumbfounded, and finally say, "Thank you, now let's get to work." ➔

**'...does the world need a new weapon of mass destruction?'**

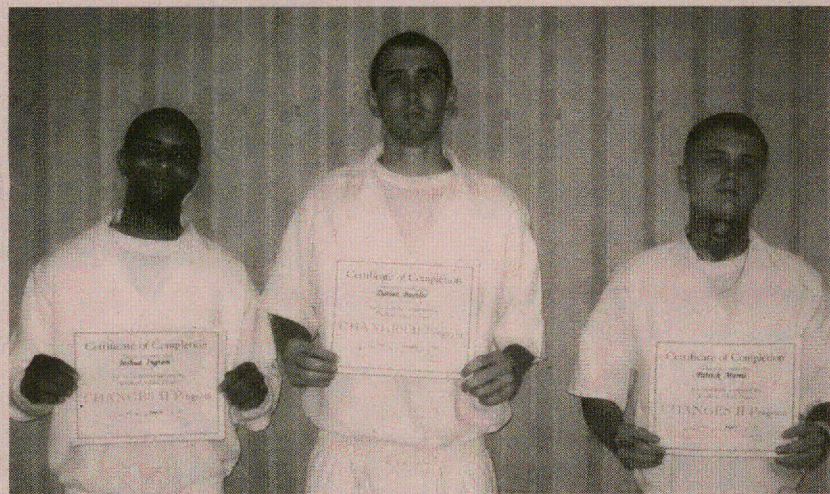
# TDCJ/Windham bulletin board



Murray Unit GED graduates are T. Aguilar, S. Begley, K. Benningfield, J. Befancourt, D. Crocker, D. Gaystardo, A. Godoy, I. Hernandez, A. Hutsen, G. Jones, Q. Kibble, T. Loving, C. Mayo, K. Millam, L. Noble, L. Parker, S. Price, L. Rodriguez, A. Rojas, L. Soloman, D. Sullivan, K. Walker and M. Prentice.



Ferguson Unit indoor soccer tournament champions are R. Montoya, F. Martinez, T. Rodriguez, S. Barrera, D. Sanchez, W. Flores and D. Reyes.



Daniel Unit CHANGES graduates are D. Baehler, P. Morris and J. Ingram.



Ferguson Unit vocational education graduates are J. Beach, M. Valdez, T. Drone, M. Mickey, R. Youngreen, G. Ramsey, V. Johnson, C. Obialor, O. Parnell, C. Hollier, J. Lanier, H. Celestine, K. Johnson, P. Herrera, A. Ramirez, F. Pena, P. Pacheco, D. Black, V. Austin, T. Fields, R. Williams, M. Johnson, Q. Swist, F. Gonzalez, C. Sanchez, R. Villareal, C. Dunsing, T. Galindo, J. Gutierrez and R. Stephens.



Allred Unit automobile air conditioning and vocational graduates are J. Bankston, I. Hill, C. Kelly, R. Gonzales and J. Goins.



Daniel Unit Cognitive Intervention Program graduates are H. Hobgood, A. Brown, R. Lemons, D. Ogles and J. Mendez.

# TDCJ/Windham bulletin board



Dalhart Unit vocational carpentry graduates are J. Pearce, J. Williams, D. Richards, C. Gomez, D. Sanchez, F. Alonzo, J. Henderson, J. Lewis, D. Chandler, C. Rodriguez, R. Beltram, D. Moyer and R. Ramirez.



Murray Unit Parenting and Family Wellness class completers are R. Mathews, B. Ornelas, K. Henderson, C. Maldonado, M. Wilcox, J. Carpenter, P. Cabrera, B. Markowski, B. Lopez, G. Anguiano, A. Carriger, C. Carmichael, D. Luckey, D. Harper, B. Bush, M. Deveraux, S. Urrutia, G. Walters, J. Calloway, D. Vera, J. Martinez, M. Mason, L. Parker and instructor R. Wilkinson.



Cole State Jail GED graduates are E. King, R. Ozment, D. Tate, W. Hale, S. Dines, C. Phillips, R. Strahan, L. Trammel, W. Wojciak, R. Tarter, C. Garza, C. Roberts, C. Randle, A. Gatlin, B. Vickman and M. Armstrong.



Clements Unit volleyball champions are J. Holt, C. Underwood, H. Buckley, T. Long, M. Arzote, F. Saucedo and R. Patz.



Allred Unit vocational bricklaying graduates are S. Sellers, A. Perez Jr., A. Widower, L. Crosby, M. Medina and D. Moreno.



Cole State Jail electrical trades graduates are J. Birge, B. Evans, S. Jackson, J. Brown, R. Freeman and J. Jones.

WYNNE GRAPHICS continued from page 1

"This job has taught me a variety of different skills and also how to be a team player. It has shown me how to bring different ideas together to make the best product available for the customer," said offender A. Newman, a quality assurance technician.

Valuable products are being produced for Texans by offenders in TDCJ. Their contributions give them a sense of self worth, helping them build a strong work ethic and increasing their job skills. Work within prison has a major impact on recidivism by teaching offenders good work habits and providing them with qualities employers look for when hiring skilled laborers.

"I have always worked in production plants for outside companies. In prison, I've learned to work with limited supervision in addition to learning how to work well with others. You have to be able to communicate with others in order to get the job done," said material coordinator offender R. Cepeda.

The Wynne Graphics plant is equipped with Flexo graphic printers, Web press printers, Heidelberg presses, Mark Andy printers, silk screen presses, wide format digital printers, laminators, plotters and cutters. The variety of printers and other essential equipment allows the production of an array of products on various types of stock with different designs in various colors.

Heidelberg presses are used for print orders that require die cutting and photo stamping. The wide format digital printers are more technologically advanced and produce magnetic decals, large signs and banners.

"I relish the opportunity to learn new skills and apply that knowledge to new job responsibilities. The supervisors that I've had the pleasure of working for over the past 10 years have helped me learn to apply myself. They are also open to hearing my suggestions and allowing me a chance to expand my job skill set," said offender R. Cepeda.

"We make stickers, coin operated machine stickers, export shipping stickers, handicap placards, parking permits, boat registration stickers and a variety of custom signage and banners to meet the special needs of our customers," said plant manager K. Gilliland.

They also produce labels, tags, comptroller decals, handicap placards, barcodes, wristbands and business cards. Wynne Graphics can manufacture

150,000 stickers per day, in addition to other products. Mass production of this magnitude requires cooperation from every department in order for the product to be completed.

The Wynne Graphics facility uses its variety of presses to produce over nine million individualized items annually. The major items produced include the following:

Description	Quantities	Percent of Total
Labels	2,295,825	26%
Tags	2,375,450	25%
Comptroller Decals	1,903,500	20%
Stickers	1,297,371	13%
Handicap Placards	903,500	10%
Other Miscellaneous Products	—	6%

According to Gilliland, the most challenging jobs are the special order jobs received from a variety of customers. Some customers require custom work for special stickers, decals and tags. Art work must be created by Wynne Graphics and sent back and forth to the customer several times until an agreed design is reached. Then it must be created, produced and shipped to the customer.

The most well-known product, according to Gilliland, is probably the blue handicap placards dispersed and used statewide by handicapped individuals for their automobiles. Also, millions of labels and decals are produced for agencies such as Texas Parks and Wildlife and other state agencies.

The process begins when an order is placed by a customer via phone, fax or e-mail. A "job ticket" is created and sent to pre-press to assess the order and create proofs.

"The customer sends us a design concept, and we recreate the design with our graphics software. Sometimes the customer doesn't know exactly what they want so we create a design to meet their needs," said offender T. Scoggin, a graphics designer.

Once the customer approves the design, they place a purchase order and the order is sent to the department that has the equipment required for that

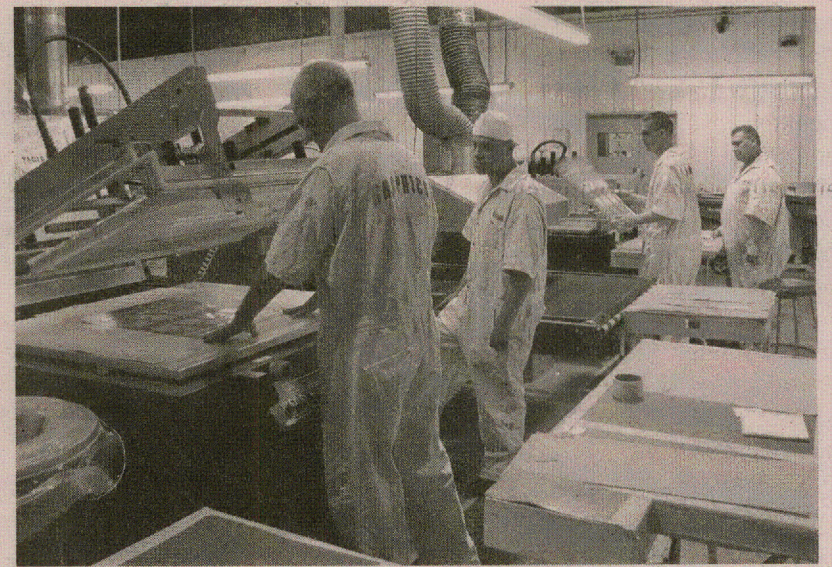
particular type of printing job. The order is not complete until it has been proofed and inspected at every step of the production process. Quality control is essential to assure that every order meets the high standards expected for every product produced in Wynne Graphics.

"The satisfaction of knowing that I've done the best job possible pleases me as well as my supervisors and ultimately the customer," said offender R. Cepeda.

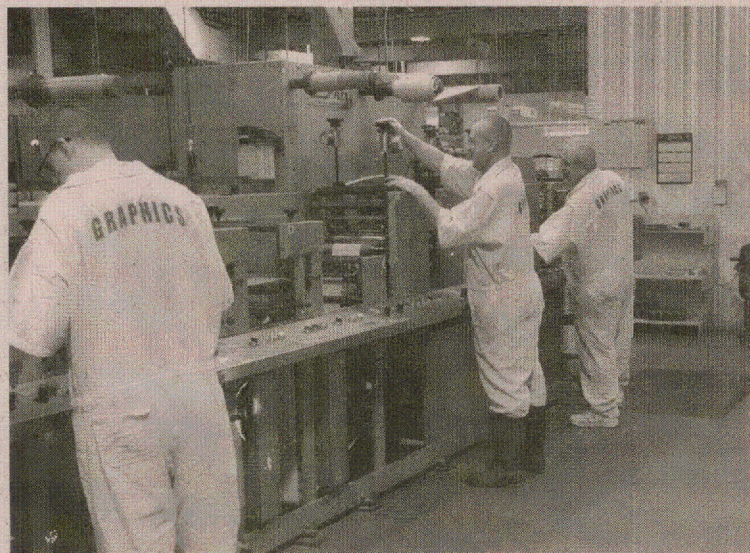
These industries are an integral part to the daily function and operation of the Wynne Unit by providing offenders with skills that are transferable into free world jobs and instilling work ethics necessary to make their reentry successful.

Offenders are presented on-the-job-training (OJT) certificates through TCI and Windham School District (WSD) after successfully completing the requirements set forth in each skill set and working in that job for at least six months. OJTs document every relative skill set that an offender acquires while on the job. This will help offenders prove to prospective employers that they possess the job skills and qualifications required for possible employment.

"Although we work in a prison industrial plant, I enjoy the free world atmosphere and opportunity to learn a variety of new jobs in one place. At the end of the day I feel like I've accomplished a task that is helpful to the people in the free world," said offender A. Newman.



**Silkscreen printing at the Wynne Graphics facility.**



**Offenders preparing the Aquaflex printer for production.**

Every individual effort assists to ensure that the team as a whole is successful. Different jobs require different skills but no single task is more important than the total commitment required by all offender workers.

"This job has taught me better communication skills and motivated me to be a better worker. I feel a sense of accomplishment at the end of each day. I know that I'm a better person today than I was yesterday and take pride in the fact that I can hold down a job. It's all about change," said offender S. Moore.

Wynne Graphics facilitates an environment conducive to learning skills offenders will use when they are released. Commitment, cooperation and creativity are ingredients that build positive character traits that are transferable to free world employment.

"The most gratifying aspect of the job is seeing guys who have never had a real job change their attitudes. The transition from undependable workers into reliable hard working employees gives greater purpose and meaning to what we do at Wynne Graphics," plant manager K. Gilliland said. ♡

## Quality time:

# Stevenson Unit hosts its first 'Day with Dads'

Arthur Sterns  
Stevenson Unit

The Stevenson Unit held its first "Day with Dads" event this past fall. It was a day set aside for 11 children and six dads to take part in a program designed to allow them to spend some quality time together in a private setting. It was a special day for them because it was literally a "Day with Dads".

The event was made possible by wardens, the new chaplain, and the Faith Family church of Victoria, Texas — a large supporter and facilitator of programs on this unit. The fathers had to earn the right to attend through a good disciplinary record and the warden's approval (Yes, it does pay to follow the rules!).

These children — both girls and boys — were escorted into the educational building where a greeting ceremony was held. This was an emotional moment for everyone, but it was just the beginning of an extraordinary "Day with Dads". After the ceremony, they were allowed to spend one-on-one time with their dads. They made cupcakes, drew pictures and even took photographs with their dads while enjoying chili-cheese hotdogs and nachos.

"As I looked around the room, which had been decorated in a family-friendly atmosphere, I saw families engaging — building and repairing relationships," said H. Saenz, whose seven-year-old son, H. Saenz Jr., came to visit him from San Angelo, a seven-hour drive away.

"When I saw my son in that bright yellow shirt [that had "Day with Dads" written on it], I knew this was not a dream. This was real! We're moving forward on the Stevenson Unit and as a result of that, my son and I were able to spend six hours of quality time together as opposed to two hours. The time I spent with my son this day made life just that much more worth living. This event was the most fantastic feeling I've experienced since my incarceration," Saenz said. "It was a blessing to be able to spend some quality time with my son. It allowed me some time to explain my situation and let

him know that I do love him. I kind of took quality time for granted when I was free, but today I spent one-on-one time with my son. That was awesome!"

Studies have shown that children who spend quality time with their families have a significantly higher probability of becoming successful adults.

"I saw fathers and sons talking and fathers and daughters laughing and playing," commented J. Klein, whose 10-year old son S. Klein came from a nearby home. "I saw fathers spending time with their kids. I see my son quite often, but some of these guys haven't seen their kids in a long time. One particular kid

clung to his dad immediately after the introduction, which began a wave of emotional breakdowns. This kid responded like this was the best day of his life.

"The Day with Dads" program helped me to make a better connection and to have more interaction with my son. We drew pictures and I helped him with his handwriting," Klein said. "I bonded with my son, and explained to him that I am not a bad person. I just made a bad choice. Being able to interact with my son gave me an opportunity to see and understand how much my son needs me as a parent to guide him in the right

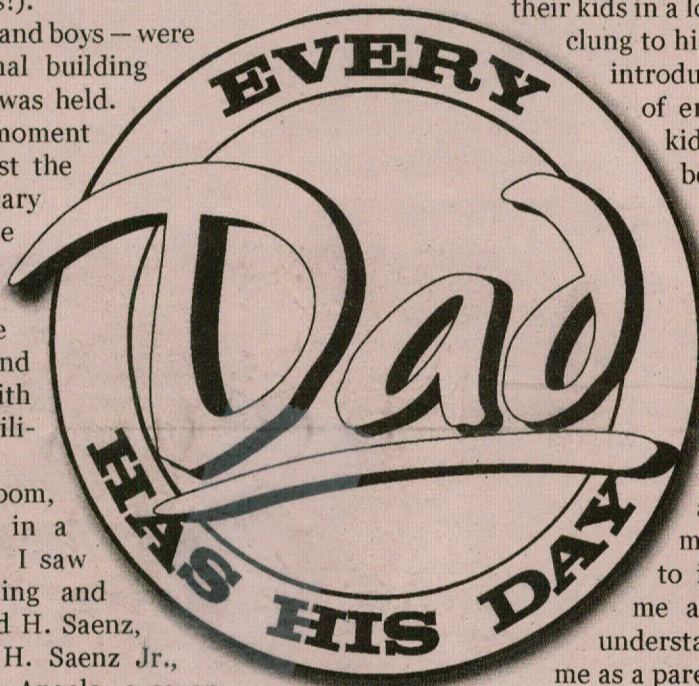
direction. This event was truly a life-changing experience."

Stevenson Unit volunteer B. Stehling, a member of Faith Family Church, summarized the day's success: "This program was essential to the kids as well as the dads, because it allowed one-on-one quality time — six hours goes a long way. This day was about bonding, but it also was about encouraging the kids to do better and live productive lives. My wife and the other volunteers were touched. They were overwhelmed by this experience."

This day these men were still locked up, but they were not locked out. Today these six men were exemplary dads who used themselves as examples of what can happen when wrong choices are made.

"I came to this unit in 1998 and had never seen this event before, but 17 years later, it's here," reflected J. Hawkins, an offender on the unit. "We are moving forward through the Chaplaincy Department. These programs work because they help make transition back into society, and they protect and build family foundations by allowing families to spend some quality time together - which is vital."

"I believe prison is designed to help us become better and productive people, but after experiencing the "Day with Dads" event, I know the system is designed to make us better and productive citizens upon our release," a participant said. ➔



## Recipes

### OSTIN'S CHINESE FOOD

Ostin Shuman  
Hightower Unit

#### Ingredients:

- ½ summer sausage, diced
- 1 bag pork skins, slightly crushed
- 1 jalapeno, thinly sliced
- 1 pouch tuna (or 2 mackerel)
- 4 spoonful strawberry preserves
- 4 spoonful ketchup
- 4 spoonful barbecue sauce
- 1 spoonful mustard
- ½ cup black bag coffee
- 1 sports drink (either lemon or orange)
- 1 bag rice
- habanero hot sauce (to taste)
- corn chips (to taste)

#### Directions:

Pour coffee into pork skins bag. In a bowl mix sliced jalapeno, mustard, ketchup, preserves, barbecue sauce, fish and summer sausage; add to pork skin bag, tie closed and put in a hot pot with water to cook for three or four hours. Later, cook rice with sports drink mix. When rice is ready, pour pork skin bag mixture on top. Add habanero sauce and corn chips to taste.

### MUCHO WANO ENCHILADOS

Paul Van Ostrand  
Clements Unit

#### Ingredients:

- 1 pouch chunk chicken
- 1 pouch chicken chili
- 1 jalapeno pepper (chopped)
- 1 chicken soup seasoning packet
- ½ bag of rice
- 2 packets ranch dressing
- 1 bottle squeeze cheese
- 8 flour tortillas

#### Directions:

Combine chunk chicken, chicken chili, jalapeno pepper and one seasoning packet from chicken soup in a large bowl. Cook rice in separate bowl and while still hot add to the first four ingredients and mix well. Place two large spoonfuls of chicken mixture in a tortilla and roll it up. Place four rolled tortillas in a chip bag. Place each bag in hot pot for 30 minutes. Place four enchiladas in large mixing bowl and top with cheese and ranch dressing. Recipes make enough for two "big boy" servings or four normal servings.

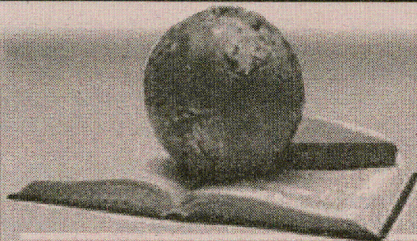
## Sudoku Solutions

Easy

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

Difficult

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



# Library Corner

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

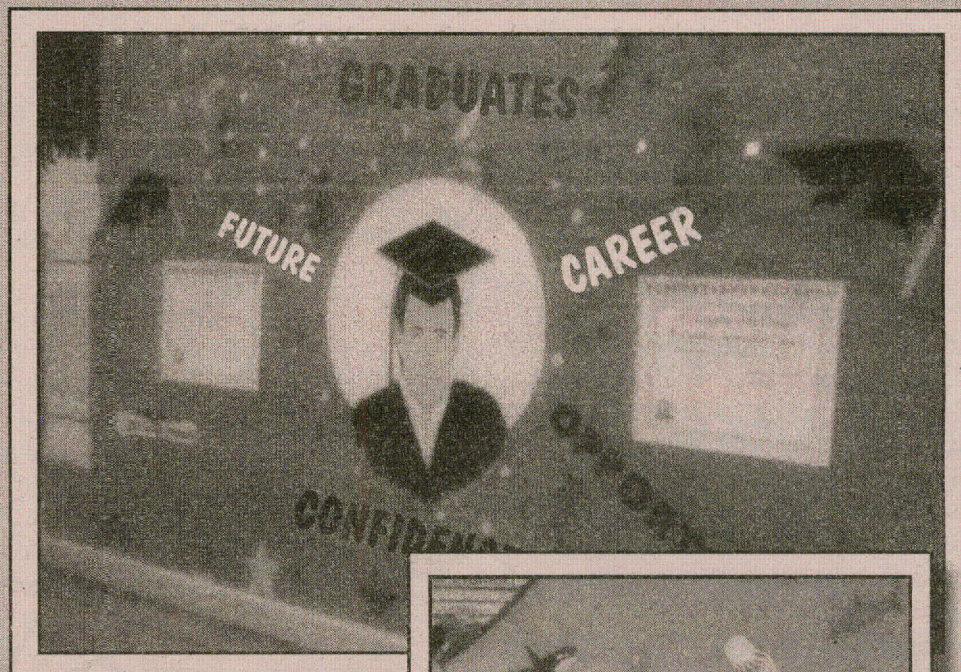
— Samuel Maugham

If you think your unit library is becoming a little more colorful, you are probably right. Windham School District libraries are becoming more and more active through a statewide initiative to encourage everyone to read.

V. Silvis at the Huntsville Unit library showed off some of the artistic talent of the Education Department offender clerks.

The top picture is a bulletin board created by the Huntsville Unit education clerks and highlights the accomplishments of some of the students. This board is entitled, "Celebrate with the Graduates." When a student passes the GED, graduates from a CHANGES class, or graduates from a Cognitive Intervention Program class, his name is added to this bulletin board of honor.

The lower picture is one of the bulletin boards the clerks created entitled, "Dive into a Good Book." Not only is the bulletin board teeming with underwater action, it is also informative. On close inspection, one can find the library schedule, rules, and procedures.



"Celebrate with the Graduates" bulletin board congratulates new graduates of different educational programs.



A bulletin board entitled "Dive into a Good Book" is displayed at the Huntsville Unit.

## 10 Interesting facts about libraries

### Did you know that...

1. The world's oldest library is the oldest continually-running "private" library in the world at the St. Catherine's Monastery in the Sinai, Egypt. It was built in the middle of the sixth century and houses the second largest collection of religious material in the world (after the Vatican). However, it is not accessible to the public, only to monks and invited scholars. The Bibliotheque de Paris (Library of Paris) combined with the National Library of France, is the oldest continually-running "public" library service. It dates back to 1368 when it was housed at the Louvre. It has moved several times over the past 700 years into newer and larger accommodations.
2. The largest library in the world is The Library of Congress, with more than 158 million items on approximately 838 miles of bookshelves. The collections include more than 36 million books and other print materials, 3.5 million recordings, 13.7 million photographs, 5.5 million maps, 6.7 million pieces of sheet music and 69 million manuscripts.
3. The smallest library in the world has appeared on the streets of New York City — and it has space for just one reader at a time. The bright yellow plastic structure houses 40 books and aims to help city-dwellers take a break from the pace of life in the metropolis by chilling out with a good story. The Little Free Library was designed by a pair of innovative architects using recycled materials to protect the books inside from the elements.
4. The highest library, according to Guinness World Records, is the library on the 60th floor of the JW Marriott Hotel at Tomorrow Square in Shanghai, China, and it's situated at 230.9 meters (757 feet 6 inches) above street level. Membership is available to members of the public and the 103 shelves in the library contain an ever-expanding collection of Chinese and English books. The library measures 57 square meters (614 square feet). To walk to the library from the lobby would entail climbing approximately 1,435 steps.
5. The first recorded librarian was Zenodotus of Ephesus, holding that post from the end of Ptolemy I's reign, approximately 289 B.C. He was a Greek grammarian, literary critic and Homeric scholar. A native of Ephesus and a pupil of Philotas of Cos, he was the first librarian of the Library of Alexandria. He lived during the reigns of the first two Ptolemies. Demetrius of Phalerum put together the central collection for the Library of Alexandria while he was in Greece. He might be considered the originator of the library idea, although this honor should also belong to the first and second kings of the Ptolemaic period.
6. The first library classification system was set up during the Han Dynasty. In North America, it is believed that personal collections of books were brought over to the continent by French settlers in the 16th century.
7. The first Bookmobile (mobile library) — The British Workman, a monthly periodical published in London, England, reported in 1857 a perambulating library operating in a circle of eight villages in Cumbria. A Victorian merchant and philanthropist, George Moore, created the project to "diffuse good literature among the rural population." The Warrington Perambulating Library, set up in 1858, was another early British mobile library. This horse-drawn van was operated by the Warrington Mechanics' Institute, which aimed to increase the lending of its books to enthusiastic local patrons.
8. The world's largest fine for an overdue library book is \$345.14, the amount owed at two cents a day for the poetry book "Days and Deeds." It was checked out of Kewanee Public Library, Illinois, in April, 1955, by Emily Canellos-Simms. Although the book was due back April 19, 1955, Emily found it in her mother's house 47 years later and presented the library with a check for overdue fines.
9. The most stolen library book is probably the Bible, followed by the Guinness World Records book.
10. The first floating library service started in 1959 using a range of ships. The first custom-built ship was put into service in 1963. The ship is owned by Vinnes Skyssbatservice, and is used for tourist cruises in the summer. ♣

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