
Earth Day
CLIMATE
TEXAS
JUSTICE
APRIL 26
First Edition



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In loving memory

Keelan Hayes Ozane



Keelan (right), and his mother, Roishetta (left).

Keelan Hayes Ozane, 19, of Westlake, LA, unfortunately passed away on December 16, 2025, peacefully in the arms of the Lord.

Born on March 3, 2006, in Lake Charles, LA, Keelan was the son of Roishetta Sibley and Paul Ozane. From an early age, he showed defining traits of kindness, determination, humor, creativity, and faith—qualities that would remain throughout his life.

Keelan attended Ruleville Headstart, Combre-Fondel Elementary, Westwood Elementary, S.P. Arnett Middle School, and Westlake High School, where he developed a love for football and welding. He later went on to give back to his community working for Vessel Project of Louisiana, taking pride in caring for those in need.

Family meant everything to Keelan. He especially cherished time spent being an amazing father, son, brother, partner, and friend; cooking, fishing, attending church, and making everyone laugh. His presence brought comfort, laughter, and strength to all who knew him. Keelan made sure he left an impact on anyone who came into contact with him and was one of the strongest people everyone knew.

Keelan will be remembered for his unconditional love, faith, resilience, generosity, sense of humor, and devotion to family. Though he may be gone from our sight, his love and memory will remain forever in our hearts

Courtesy of www.mcswla.com/obituary/keelan-ozane

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



On Big Bend's Starry Nights, the Modern False Light Condition, and What We Can Gain from Starting Conversations about our World

by Ariana Akbari

Recently, out in the wild landscape of Big Bend National Park in West Texas, where they have some of the darkest skies left in the United States mainland, I saw the night sky as it is meant to be seen. Overhead was a beautiful blanket of velvety black – immense and stretching in all directions.

The stars – bright and white and manifold – appeared like something curious and wonderful. The moon itself had more of a significance to it amongst its aforementioned friends and cast characters — the stars and the sky.

Billions of people in the world and most Americans will never see the night sky like this. It is an ancient wonder older than the pyramids and an innate privilege given to all of mankind that has been slowly taken away by the "progresses" of modern society and the digital age.
Although I write this at night from a laptop with an LED screen blaring back at me, and I recognize that this false light is a necessity in this world where we have to function every day in fast-paced and increasingly deregulated labor markets –



I also recognize that there is something very important to the dark skies at Big Bend and fundamental to our experience as people on this planet that we have almost entirely lost.

At Climate Justice Texas, these are the important conversations we start. We recognize that so many people feel the way that we do but don't have the spaces, confidence, or literature to back them up. We want to know what fundamental wonders of the natural world we have lost, or what we are at risk of losing, and we want to speak to what those things mean to us while we still have the ability to recall them.

In our first zine issue, you'll find the multifacets of what this conversation looks like in real time: There is incredible nature photography of birds, flowers, and reptiles that most people are not able to encounter everyday or sometimes even ever; poetic musings on the branches of trees; evocations on the importance of emotional communications in advocacy;



remembrances of those who helped shaped our stories (personally, as a community, and as a movement); moments of speaking truth to power in civic engagement (something we hope to ramp up more in the future); and reviews of film classics through a contemporary lens. Perhaps more than anything, however – in this zine, there is a visualization of a community that is real, exists, and is bound together by the mission of speaking to the beautiful felt experiences of the natural world in which we live and which has been at risk of disappearing entirely for some time now.

Without further ado and with many, many thanks to all of those who supported us to get to this point – **we at Climate Justice Texas present to you our first zine, on Earth Day, April 22, 2026.**

KEN GUIDRY



Photography

THROUGHOUT THE ZINE, ALL BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY - EXCEPTING THE SNOWY OWL ON THE Q & A - ARE COURTESY OF KEN GUIDRY.

@TEXASUNTAMED





Q&A WITH VIMAL KONDURI

Ariana Akbari:

So, Vimal, we've known each other since college but reconnected because of your recent presentation with the Golden Triangle Audubon Society. How did you get involved with them?

Vimal Konduri:

I met some members of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society when I went to the Hawk Watch at Smith Point (near Anahuac) back in September. They were very nice and invited me to talk about some of the birds that I have seen during my travels across Africa over the past couple of years. It was a wonderful opportunity and I am glad I made the trip to Beaumont to meet the members of GTAS and learn more about what they do.







A: What were your thoughts about birds and habitat during your recent visit to Beaumont?

V: I think Beaumont and Jefferson County have some fantastic birding habitats and areas. Sabine Woods is a world-class destination for spring migration. While I was in Beaumont, I got a chance to visit Tyrell Park and I was impressed by the habitat restoration at Cattail Marsh in Tyrell Park. Of course, in many ways, Beaumont and Jefferson County also illustrate the complexities of conservation on the Upper Texas Coast – which is both one of the world's most important bird habitats (as a hub for migratory birds) and one of the busiest petrochemical refinery and transportation hubs in the world – realities that often exist side-by-side in sharp contrast. I've noticed this in much of Greater Houston (for example, at the San Jacinto Battleground and Baytown Nature Center) and on the way to Beaumont as well.

A: Part of what we do at Climate Justice Texas is "start the conversation around the changing climate." How have you seen the changing climate affect bird populations?

V: Many birds are at risk from climate change. The National Audubon Society has a list of 389 North American bird species that are "on the brink" due to climate change and estimates that rising temperatures could put two-thirds of North American birds at risk. Looking just at Harris County (where I am) this includes some of the most iconic bird species – such as red-headed woodpeckers and wood thrushes. The American Bird Conservancy maintains a similar list. What is clear from this data is that urgent action is needed to help save these bird species from climate-related extinction at a time when North America's birds are already facing severe challenges. A paper by Rosenberg et al. (2019) in the journal Science estimated the total bird population in North America declined by nearly 3 billion (29%) between 1970 and 2019.

A: Do you have a favorite bird that is at risk due to effects of environmental change?

V: If I had to pick, I would probably say the snowy owl. This iconic owl species is probably the bird that first got me interested in birding. One showed up in Madison, Wisconsin (where I was living at the time) in January 2022 and I walked out onto a frozen lake (at a safe/respectful distance from the owl) to get some photos using my telephoto lens. Snowy owls are listed as a 'Vulnerable" species by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and are particularly threatened by climate change. They breed on the tundras of the High Arctic and hunt lemmings; their breeding grounds are being drastically altered by climate change as are, potentially, the cycles of lemming population growth. Sadly, these majestic owls (one of the world's largest owl species) have lost nearly two-thirds of their population since 1970.

A: How do you recommend others get into bird watching or bird photography?

V: The first thing is to recognize that there are beautiful and cool birds everywhere! Whether it's a cardinal or blue jay at a park or backyard feeder or a bald eagle nest nearby, there are so many interesting birds in virtually every habitat, which is something that is great about birdwatching/birding – you can start locally without having to travel far away. I would encourage people to start by going to local parks and seeing what they can find. The website eBird, maintained by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, is a great resource to find birding "hotspots" and the species map tool is a great way to see where particular bird species have been spotted. A pair of binoculars helps, as does the Merlin App (also by Cornell), which can help identify bird calls. For bird photography, a camera with a good amount of zoom is important since birds should be observed from a safe distance. Always remember to follow proper birding ethics, outlined in the ABA Code of Birding Ethics.

A: Anything else you want our readers to know?

V: One thing that I've learned from my travels is the crucial importance of conservation both on a micro and macro level. That means protecting important habitats from local pressures (such as encroachment) and macro pressures, such as climate change and pollution. So many species, even seemingly common ones – are facing existential threats due to habitat loss and alteration and it's up to us to take action to save them.



Snowy Owl photographed by Vimal Konduri



Vimal Konduri is a resident physician and avid birdwatcher/birder and wildlife photographer. Life and work have given him the opportunity to explore places across the United States and the world, including visiting relatives in India and spending time in Uganda, where he has been able to learn more about the diverse ecosystems of these countries and photograph beautiful birds and other wildlife. He has observed over 900 species of birds across five continents.

@theonlyvimal

“The first thing is to recognize that there are beautiful and cool birds everywhere! Whether it's a cardinal or blue jay at a park or backyard feeder or a bald eagle nest nearby, there are so many interesting birds in virtually every habitat, which is something that is great about birdwatching/birding – you can start locally without having to travel far away. I would encourage people to start by going to local parks and seeing what they can find. The website eBird, maintained by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, is a great resource to find birding "hotspots."”

- Vimal Konduri on Birding Accessibility

Be seen by the trees,
arms wavering, open,
feeding pecans to squirrels and
homing red blue brown and black birds.

Leaves fall and their branches still sway
Standing with you
Swaying to wind and bird music
Some shed on purpose!





Poetry by
Angelle Beggs

For something new
I envy pines. Evergreen
in barren seasons,
their colors know no scarlet winters
These ancient arms of bronze
tangle and love
and last
Through centuries.

Arts





Ken Guidry
@Texasuntamed



A Reflection on Art and Civic Engagement

by Misha Mayeur - Habitat recovery project
https://habitatrecovery.org/
@habitat.recovery.project





People are not moved by facts.

Well, rarely, anyway.
People are moved by art.
People are moved by the emotional evocation that comes only through Witnessing Truth.
They're not otherwise moved.
It would be nice.

But the human spirit loves and chooses to love.
We need people to feel, in order to have people act.
And people don't feel facts.
They don't connect.
People feel from art.

We can have men bleed their hearts out and share their stories on stage.
That three people listen to, because their job requires them to hear it.

I can tell the same story in a puppet show.
And it will run to sold-out theaters every time.
Do you know how much further my message has gone because I put it in a digestible medium?
Because I Told a Story?

My message has reached exponentially more people.
And I touched them in their hearts.

Because I chose art.

Delivery is so important in communications.
And art is the medium that people are open to.

Art.

Art grabs people by the heart and shakes them from their apathy
So that they can hear.
So that they will listen.

Art grabs people by the heart, and they remember.
And they show up.
Because they feel it.
In their hearts.
Art creates community - a relationship between artist and observer.
The engagement and relationship to the piece are compelling.
It's easier to engage civically when you are doing it as a community, within the community.
People love a party.

The people want a purpose, but they mostly want each other.

Party at the polls.
A bus ride to a town hall.
"We'll get food after.
It's been so long since we've seen Miss Lois."

Art is important, but community is paramount.
Community is what will get us there.

Art is what reminds us that we are alive.
Community is the celebration therein.

If you're an activist who's not breaking through, befriend an artist.
If you're an artist who feels uninspired, befriend an activist.

Find yourself in relationship and on that spectrum.
Create community. These things go hand in hand.

Find purpose.
If you have purpose, find passion.

Consider communication.

If you go deep enough, you can find the core truths and purpose that bring so much more meaning to your work, whatever your work may be.



Make your work your art.
And you will be sure to touch hearts.





A look into Dreamwork's CHICKEN RUN

by Valarie Flores

This wondrous children's claymation film came out in the year 2000 by Dreamworks Studios. It did well worldwide - hitting 224.8 million in box office with only a $45 million budget - and making it Dreamworks's highest grossing stop-motion film at the time. It is a movie that introduces complex, yet seemingly simple, conversations to a young audience and their families: Themes of power, oppression, class-consciousness, community, and revolution. Chicken Run follows a bright spirited hen, Ginger, who lives on a yorkshire farm and dreams of leaving for a better life outside of her stale routine. Those dreams come to fruition when an American rooster flings into their pen and works with the ladies to "fly" to freedom. In the process, they uncover the truth behind their home and missing friends, linked to their owner and wretched hag, Mrs. Tweedy, of Mrs. Tweedy's chicken pies.





“The fences aren't just round the farm… they're up here, in your heads.”

-Ginger

I chose this piece since it was not only fitting to our bird theme on this issue, but also to the cloud of oppression, anti-capitalist sentiment, and calls for uprising that heavily hover over our world today. Also, it is refreshing to be immersed in the artform and skilled craft of claymation (clay animation) in our current era of ever-present generative AI slop.

Chicken Run represents the working class through the chickens, under their capitalist state and owner of the egg farm, Mrs. Tweedy. Ginger is the main spark of the revolution, working to gather her community to unionize and stop their means of production (their eggs) and escape to a real life of freedom where they aren't working under anyone but themselves. Tweedy takes notice and begins to remove hens if they continue to be unable to produce product, and she doesn't expect them to do anything about it.

“They don't plot, they don't scheme, and they are not organised” - A line from Mrs. Tweedy regarding her husband's concern of the chickens planning to strike. Quite literally, she views them as inferior to her because they are animals, which she sees as possessions for her use and profit. This seems to be a common power play done by oppressors in many forms. the film mostly points to examples like capitalism and the meat industry, but during atrocities like the holocaust, slavery in America, and human-trafficking - there was (or is) profit being made by oppressive individuals.



[Mrs. Tweedy] views [the chickens] as inferior to her because they are animals, which she sees as possessions for her use and profit. This seems to be a common power play done by oppressors in many forms. The film mostly points to examples like capitalism and the meat industry, but during atrocities like the holocaust, slavery in America, and human-trafficking - there was (or is) profit being made by oppressive individuals.

- Valarie Flores on Chicken Run (2000) and its implications for contemporary society

The American rooster, Rocky, represents the USA notably in the regard of false freedom and liberation to foreign states. This displays the distinction of the idea of revolution versus the act of it. His quick-fix solution to teach the hens to fly out of the coop puts the lot in danger and hits a dead end. The multiple failures and punishments break down morale and Rocky runs away in shame. Hens begin to expose their hidden feelings of giving in to the power over them. "The fences aren't just round the farm...they're up here, in your heads." Ginger says this line as she notices the power of her people diminishing which ultimately takes her power away too. It is only after Rocky the rooster gains class-consciousness by letting go of his ego and returning to become part of his community instead of trying to lead one, that his actions become impactful. Only then do they all become aware of the hidden knowledge that Tweedy is turning their missing friends into chicken pies to get one final opportunity for a means of production. This catapults the "working class" into full revolution and accomplishes their ultimate utopia of freedom.





Of course, all of these ideas are enveloped and tucked into a whimsical, cottage-core claymation. One might agree while it is easier seeing the bigger picture as an adult, the message was undoubtedly received in youth. So, if we hold the capability to care for these clay chickens at any age, we should carry that into our adulthood and extend it to the reality that it portrays - our neighbors, our animals, and our land.

"They don't plot, they don't scheme, and they are not organised!"

Mrs. Tweedy

ADVOCACY







Ken Guidry
@Texasuntamed

GENE L. PERKINS

by his granddaughter, Paige Prevost

Gene Louis Perkins passed away on July 2nd, 2006 and was born on October 1st, 1932.

In those 73 years, he was dedicated to his friends, family, church, and as a lifetime member of the NAACP, worked for Southeast Texas to be a place for opportunity and equal rights.

Through being in and of the community, he became an irreplaceable force in the lives of those who were blessed to know him.

Although he's been physically gone for almost twenty years now, there are still others here in SETX who pass along stories about him. I've gotten to hear his nickname "Genie P" from former Mobiloil/ExxonMobil coworkers, been relayed that he was a mentor and a role model, heard stories about his devastation at the loss of dear friends, learned about his run for political office, and heard about what a mean lemon pie he could make.

For me, he was my PawPaw. And from him, I take away the lesson of "being tough", which is not in a stoicism sense, or in a not-feeling-things sense. This lesson would come through in the form of a tender question as he sat in his La-Z-Boy, "you know you tough?"

IE - "YOU KNOW YOU GOT THIS? YOU KNOW YOU CAN DO IT? YOU KNOW YOU DID DO IT?"

As we look ahead to the work we need to do for the societies we want to create, toughness is what we need. We need a deep care for our community, a unending well of belief in the better day that we can collectively create, and the resiliency + adaptability to keep working for it and to change paths when needed - until we, or successive generations, see it through.



And when the day comes when we're gone, what a gift to have people who can refer to us by [nick]name and remember both who we were *and* what we did for and *with* others, while we were here.

"AS WE LOOK AHEAD TO THE WORK WE NEED TO DO FOR THE SOCIETIES WE WANT TO CREATE, TOUGHNESS IS WHAT WE NEED. WE NEED A DEEP CARE FOR OUR COMMUNITY, A UNENDING WELL OF BELIEF IN THE BETTER DAY THAT WE CAN COLLECTIVELY CREATE, AND THE RESILIENCY + ADAPTABILITY TO KEEP WORKING FOR IT AND TO CHANGE PATHS WHEN NEEDED - UNTIL WE, OR SUCCESSIVE GENERATIONS, SEE IT THROUGH. "

- PAIGE PREVOST, ON INSPIRATION FROM HER GRANDFATHER GENE L. PERKINS

PLANTS, PARKS,

and pollution

PROTECTING RURAL TEXAS WATER

FROM BATTERY CENTERS TO MILLIONAIRE COMPANIES

RURAL EAST TEXAS

WILL NOT GO DOWN WITHOUT A FIGHT

TO PROTECT THEIR WATERS, TREES, AND AIR QUALITY.

BY ESTE PODER

AN INFORMATIONAL ZINE



EAST TEXAS
ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES IN THE NEWS

Source: KETK News

TOP STORIES

Hundreds gather in opposition to well permits at board meeting in Jacksonville

Source: grist.org

How a billionaire's plan to export East Texas groundwater sparked a rural uprising

Hundreds of people across East Texas packed into Jacksonville's City Hall for the groundwater board's public hearing on the 21 high capacity well drilling permit.

Source: The Texas Tribune

RUNNING OUT: TEXAS' WATER CRISIS

Lawmakers fail to pass a bill to end massive water exports from East Texas

The House refused Senate changes allowing exports to continue while the state studies its underground water supply. Lawmakers left the Capitol without reaching a compromise.

REPUBLISH SHARE

SEPT. 5, 2025, 1:57 P.M. CENTRAL UPDATED SEPT. 4, 2025, 10:06 A.M. CENTRAL

A bill meant to stop large-scale exports of water from East Texas died after the Texas House rejected changes made by the Senate that stripped a key provision.

Source: The Lufkin Daily News

FEATURED TOP STORY EXCLUSIVE

AI data center planned on 1,000+ acres at former Southland Paper Mill site

By Bubba LaMARA JR./The Lufkin Daily News Feb 6, 2026 Updated Feb 6, 2026

LOCAL NEWS

Peregrine Energy plans $400M battery storage in East Texas

Emerging data centers and battery storages across East Texas

Source: KETK News

Source: CBS19

Neches and Trinity Valleys Groundwater Conservation District tables aquifer project decision for 90 days

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JOIN AN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE OR BOARD IN YOUR CITY

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TO CHECK IF YOU'RE REGISTERED!



*remember to update your info if you recently moved or changed your name

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*FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS

LAST DAY TO REGISTER	APRIL 02ND
EARLY VOTING PERIOD	APRIL 20TH – 28TH
MAIL-IN-BALLOT DEADLINE	APRIL 20TH
ELECTION DAY	MAY 02ND

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PAVING THE WAY FOR RURAL ORGANIZING IN ETX





Spring Zine ‘26 Contributors

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Merch / donation link
(click here)

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