



# Bridge City



Publish your Stuff  
Log in | Become a Member



Need Help? Click Here

powered by



You Can Count On Us



Site Web Search

- HOME
- NEWS
- WEATHER
- SPORTS
- 6 ON HEALTH
- PROGRAMMING
- COMMUNITY
- ABOUT KFDm
- CLASSIFIEDS

- Weather
- Skyview
- Video Forecast

Home > [Local News](#)

ShareThis | Print Story | E-Mail Story | Font Size

## BISD Teacher, Region V Educator Die on Trip to Mexico

Comments 0 | Recommend 0

May 22, 2008 5:14 PM

Scott Lawrence

A Marshall Middle School teacher and a program coordinator with the Region V Education Service Center have been killed and several other educators were injured after their van went over a cliff during an educational trip to Mexico.

BISD Superintendent Dr. Carrol Thomas says Denise Wenzel, a history teacher at Marshall, and Dr. Dorothy Gray, of the Region V Education Service Center, died in the accident Thursday.

Dr. Gray was the wife of Gary Gray, supervisor of the bilingual English as a Second Language program in BISD.

Gary Gray received injuries described as non-life-threatening. He's among several people from the Beaumont area being transferred to a hospital in Mexico City. The Gray's two children, Chris and Paul, were also on the trip and received injuries that reportedly aren't life threatening.

Another BISD educator sustained serious injuries but is expected to recover.

Three other BISD educators are on the trip and weren't hurt.

Jim Baxter, Public Relations Coordinator for the Region V ESC, says two educators from LC-M and one from Jasper also are on the trip and weren't hurt.

Baxter says the Region V ESC Silsbee office received a phone call from the American Embassy in Mexico at about 4 p.m Thursday, stating there had been an accident during an excursion through a mountainous region in Hidalgo state and the driver of a van carrying eight people lost control and went off a cliff.

The trip was scheduled from May 15 through May 25. Baxter says Dorothy and Gary Gray organized the trips to Mexico for the last five years, and each year, they include teachers, school counselors and administrators. The objective of the program, called the Title 3 Mexico Teacher Immersion Program, is to take educators to Mexico to develop a deeper understanding of the culture of the largest immigrant student population in American schools.



Denise Wenzel

[enlarge](#)

### Related Multimedia



#### More Reaction To Tragic Deaths

KFDm will have student and faculty reaction to the tragic deaths of Denise Wenzel and Dr.

Dorothy Gray tonight.

[Full version](#)



#### Reaction to Educators' Deaths

Community Reacts to Educators' Tragic Deaths

[Full version](#)

### Other Articles in this Category

- Benefit Account Number for Todd Scott
- Early voting begins Monday for May 8 elections
- 3 hours & 58 minutes ago
- Name released of Fatality Victim from Cardinal Drive Wreck
- Fatality Wreck at Phelan and Peyton
- Arrest in McNamara homicide

### Most Viewed Stories

- Name released of Fatality Victim from Cardinal Drive Wreck
- Fatality Wreck at Phelan and Peyton
- Benefit Account Number for Todd Scott
- Prescription pill abuse at middle school
- Arrest in McNamara homicide

### Most Commented Stories

### Most Recommended Stories

### 5 Day Forecast



You Can Count On Us

### Live Doppler Radar



CURRENT CONDITIONS: SE Texas Airport

Fair and 70.0 F (21.1 C)

Wind: 1007.1 mb

Dewpoint: nskc.jpg

Pressure: Fair

Last Updated: 2010-04-25 19:20:06

[CLICK HERE](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

[www.TruckvilleTexas.com](http://www.TruckvilleTexas.com)

SOUR LAKE, TX  
**TRUCKVILLE**

CHRYSLER

Jeep

Ford

[Sign up here for Emails/Alerts](#)

Poll

### Safety Poll

Do you think petrochemical plants have installed maximum safety efforts in this area?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know enough about them to vote

Enter The Code To Vote

fb9d3

[Vote!](#)

Event Calendar

Events Dining Venues

### Featured Events



Loading events...

[Click for More Events](#)

[Add Your Events](#)

### Find an Event

what when where [Go](#)

Baxter says Dorothy Gray served as an educator for about 25 years and was employed by Region 5 for about the last 15 years. She was the Region V ESC program coordinator for the ESL/Bilingual/Migrant Support Program, the Master Reading Teacher Program and the TEA Limited English Proficiency Student Success Initiative.

Dorothy Gray received a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership from Lamar University on May 10.

"She had such a passion for helping children in ESL and in all of the programs that she served," said Brenda McDaniel, Dorothy Gray's supervisor at the Region V ESC. "She worked individually with teachers and administrators and will be terribly missed."

BISD staff and students say Denise Wenzel was a wonderful and outstanding teacher. She'd taught at Vincent Middle School for a number of years before moving to Marshall this year.

"This is a very sad time for the BISD family," said Superintendent Dr. Carrol Thomas. "The employees were on a volunteer mission, extending their skills to impoverished children of a small, rural community. I ask that you pray for the team of BISD employees and their colleagues in this dire time."

#### COMMENTS FROM KFDM BULLETIN BOARD

[dwright](#) wrote: Dorothy was a good friend of mine...my heart aches for Gary, Chris and Paul...and for all of the family. We pray for you all and ask that God will comfort you as only He can. Dorothy was always a lovely lady, a loving wife and a loving mommy. She was so proud of her boys, Paul and Chris. One thing I will always remember Dorothy saying is so true of her view of life and her attitude toward others...."There is plenty...(of life success, happiness), for everyone! There's no need for us to be stingy with anything." Dorothy certainly had a heart for education and reaching those less fortunate.

[YifanLu](#) wrote: I was so shocked when I saw this. I known Chris for a long time, and you never think something as terrible as this would happen to someone you know. May God be with them.

[cenafreak123](#) wrote: my heart goes out to ms. wenzel's family as well as the grays. although i am no longer in ms. wenzel's 2nd period class, i think about her often and will miss her deeply, as well as the gray boy. i love them and pary for the best.

[momofatoddler](#) wrote: What a terrible tragedy. My thoughts and prayers are with the families and with the entire faculty and students of BISD who have been impacted by this terrible loss. God bless everyone.

[CAmmieMcDaniel](#) wrote: Mrs.Wenzel was the greatest teacher ever. Gary Gray you and your son have my biggest mourning, your son is my best friend and he is so close to me, when i heard about this tragedy I instantly thought of him and borke down in tears worrying about his being, im sorry for your loss and know that my heart is here for yall. To the family of D. Wenzel, she was my favorite teacher in 7th grade, when i first heard about this i thought it was a rumor then more and more text came in about her and i realized it was true, i too am sorry for your loss.

[anupama21](#) wrote: I am a mother of a student who had Ms. Wenzel this year and everyone realizes that she is irreplaceable as a teacher and as a mother. My daughter was very attached to her and we hope her soul rests in peace. My condolences go out to her family.

[sly007](#) wrote: mamaof5, thank you so much. You don't know how much you have helped us, knowing about the boys. We are just so upset. I can't stop praying over and over.

[mamaof5](#) wrote: My husband works for Marshall and has been told that the boys are fine. Denise was a wonderful teacher and will be missed more than words can say. My son (her student) husband - our entire family is devastated. The Gray family is in our prayers as well. My heart hurts tremendously!

[melondaisy](#) wrote: Dr. Dorothy Gray was a beautiful individual who had a deep passion for educating all that were around her, including herself. She graduated from Lamar University on 5-10-08 with a doctorate degree in



Click here to read or watch all of the health stories we report on 6 News Tonight



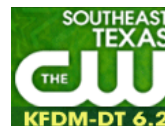
Track storms as they approach your neighborhood on our interactive radar map.



Leger's Restaurant Report Card



At Six Productions, our goal is to achieve results for your business with effective advertising and marketing solutions! Click Icon!



Click here to check out what's on the Southeast Texas CW

#### Yellow Pages

Search Yellow Pages:

Popular Searches  
Powered by PremierGuide

#### KFDM FaceTime

Log In

Join Now

Explore



ADVERTISEMENT

Educational Leadership. Dr. Gray worked very hard to complete this degree...and...she did it! I will miss her caring smile and tender heart...Love Always

[2009baby](#) wrote: Ms. Wenzel was amazing!!!! I loved her so much. I feel so sorry for her family and especially for her daughter. She will always be in my heart!!!

[itsalexis](#) wrote: Mrs.Wenzel was my favorite teacher in 7th grade.  
A couple days before she left for Mexico I was talking to her about how she was the best, and about how she was my password for my email adress.  
:/  
R.I.P mrs.Wenzel, We love you. Always in our hearts. <3

[hasadog](#) wrote: All I have to say is that Mrs. Wenzel was one of the best teachers I have ever had.I am sad this happened:[]


[See archived 'Local News' stories »](#)

Ads by Google

1 Trick of a tiny belly :



Cut down a bit  
of your belly  
every day by  
using this

1 weird old tip.  Tip

#### Reader Comments

From the editor: Many of you have expressed concerns about some of the harsh anonymous comments from readers. To remedy that, we are introducing new features. You can create your own blog, publish your news and share your photos with the community. Once you fill out a simple form and leave a verifiable e-mail address, you can set up your profile page. It will display all of your contributions and allow you to track issues and easily connect with others.

We want our site to be a place where people discuss and debate ideas that foster stronger communities. We built this for you. Please take care of it. Tolerate broad thinking, but take action against obscene or hateful material. Make it a credible and safe place worth preserving and sharing.

[Oldest First](#) | [Newest First](#)

POWERED BY  Pluck



[mamaof5](#) wrote:

Also - Mrs. Wenzel taught her students that the Texas Flag & the American Flag both had blue in them to symbolize loyalty. In remembrance, wear blue this evening. Thank you.

5/23/2008 12:42 PM CDT

[Recommend \(2\)](#) [Report Abuse](#) [Permalink](#)



[mamaof5](#) wrote:

Please join us tonight (Friday night) at 8pm in front of Marshall Middle School where we will be holding a candlelight vigil. Bring a candle, safe container to hold it in, friends and loved ones while we gather for prayer and support. Thank you.

5/23/2008 12:32 PM CDT

[Recommend \(2\)](#) [Report Abuse](#) [Permalink](#)



[gabout421](#) wrote:

I had Mrs. Wenzel last year before I moved away. She was an amazing teacher. I had never met Chris's mom, but he was a friend of mine and my heart goes out to both the families. RIP Mrs. Wenzel and Mrs. Gray.

5/23/2008 12:10 PM CDT

[Recommend](#) [Report Abuse](#) [Permalink](#)



[shkysabrunc](#) wrote:

I had just talked to Ms. Wenzel last week. Our conversation went like this:

Me:hey Ms.Wenzel. Her:hey girl. Me:i goin to high school next year and im gonig to miss you. Her:im going to miss you too,but you can come back to visit me. Me:i am.....then i said bye and went back to class....Ms.Wenzel IS my favorite teacher and i will never forget her.....Chris is in my 3rd period and i will be praying for all of them...

5/23/2008 11:06 AM CDT

[Recommend](#) [Report Abuse](#) [Permalink](#)




[sarah](#) wrote:

I was so shocked when i heard what happened. Mrs. Wenzel was an amazing person and always had a smile on her face. She would always brighten your day even if you were in the worst mood. Even though i never had her as a teacher, she

would always talk to me in the hallway and put a smile on my face. I know she is in heaven now looking down on us. her family is in my prayers along with the grays. I go to school with chris gray and i cant imagine what he is going through right now after losing his mother. please pray for these families.

5/23/2008 10:10 AM CDT

 [Recommend](#)  [Report Abuse](#)  [Permalink](#)



**mnk810** wrote:

Mrs. Wenzel was an amazing teacher. She always had a smile on her face and loved to brighten people's days. It just hit me today when i was walking down the hall and saw her classroom. She's never walking it out again. I never saw her in a bad mood, she was always happy and usually could make other people happy. Fortunately she is in a better place now along with Chris Gray's mom. I can't imagine what he is going through.

Chris and his family are in our prayers

R.I.P. Mrs. Wenzel and Mrs. Gray

5/23/2008 10:10 AM CDT

 [Recommend](#)  [Report Abuse](#)  [Permalink](#)



**alyssak** wrote:

When I first found this out, I couldn't beleive it. Mrs. Wenzel, a teacher I talk to EVERYDAY. Mrs. Wenzel was an amazing teacher and person. She always knew how to make someone laugh when they were in the worst mood. She never stopped smiling. Mrs. Wenzel was just so fun to be around. Mrs. Wenzel is in my prayers along with her family. I know that she is in heaven watching over all of us. She is in a better place. & I bet you anything she is in heaven Walking It Out!!! We will love and miss her so much.

I'm also praying for Mrs. Gray. Her son has been in school with me from kindergarten. Everyone at Marshall is here & waiting for him to come back. He, & his family are in our prayers. Chris, We all have your back.

R.I.P.

Mrs. Wenzel & Mrs. Gray.

- Alyssa Keller  
Marshall Middle School  
Mrs. Wenzel's 3rd period class of 07'

5/23/2008 9:30 AM CDT

 [Recommend](#)  [Report Abuse](#)  [Permalink](#)



**pinklover** wrote:

How sad. My thoughts and prayers go out to the families, students and friends of these people.

5/23/2008 8:31 AM CDT

 [Recommend](#)  [Report Abuse](#)  [Permalink](#)



**cvndi143** wrote:

Our thoughts and prayers are with Kristen and her family. Amanda will be there as fast as we can get her there...we love you!

5/23/2008 8:22 AM CDT

 [Recommend](#)  [Report Abuse](#)  [Permalink](#)



**dwright** wrote:

Dorothy was a good friend of mine...my heart aches for Gary, Chris and Paul...and for all of the family. We pray for you all and ask that God will comfort you as only He can. Dorothy was always a lovely lady, a loving wife and a loving mommy. She was so proud of her boys,Paul and Chris. One thing I will always remember Dorothy saying is so true of her view of life and her attitude toward others..."There is plenty...(of life success, happiness), for everyone! There's no need for us to be stingy with anything." Dorothy certainly had a heart for education and reaching those less fortunate.

5/22/2008 11:05 PM CDT

 [Recommend](#)  [Report Abuse](#)  [Permalink](#)

1 [2](#) [3](#) >> [Last](#)

You must be logged in to leave a comment. [Login](#) | [Register](#)