Halloween 2020 special edition!

Gunter for the past 3 years. manager at the Sonic in from Shawn Deckers, general The idea for this event came hatching a spooky idea company of others.

Everyone has a good time. and many more activities will be offered to ensure perfect photo opportunity, especially those without a costume.

The idea for this event came from Shawn Deckers, general manager at the Sonic in Gunter for the past 3 years. "Looking at everyone laughing and having them high-five me when I [finally] closed the can made me feel like part of the team." This solution to the paint-can problem showcases the mentality and determination of the robotics team. The VEX senior robotics team is accustomed to facing unusual challenges and emerging with unique solutions. Each year, from October to March, the team competes in a variety of competitions. A new robot is typically built for every competition, and the team solely designs and creates each bot from start to finish. This October, they are entering an online autonomous competition: VEX Online VRC Autonomous Programming Skills. Team sponsor Terry Phifer, an engineering teacher at LHS, described the contest as "developing a one-minute autonomous program, where the judging is based upon building a program [including the robot, the set—in their case, a Halloween obstacle course—and coding]." Phifer said the main objective was the ability to make the programming code as succinct as possible while still completing the task. In their newest challenge, the parameters required the team to design their own goal that must be accomplished without anyone controlling the robot.

Mail Art allows local artists to stay active - Kristo Erickson, Art Professor

The art professors eagerly anticipate the arrival of Mail Art submissions. With the onset of the pandemic, these works of Mail Art have become a way to tangibly connect with students while teaching remotely. Art Appreciation and Painting Professor Jessica Reinhard said that, "The tradition of hosting Mail Art exhibitions has been around for a while, but has taken on a new kind of relevancy with the current pandemic and the need for social distancing. This is one of my favorite assignments for the Mail Art courses at Grayson College because it encourages the students to be creative, and it also allows the beautiful artwork that they are able to create."
Holden has approached her final careers, Trenton senior Gracie up until August, coaches have had Coach Emma Smith wasn't as At neighboring Whitewright High did, what would it possibly look we even have a season, and if we school year and the volleyball teams. Some were ecstatic to be out of school, while others were year. Some were excited to be in 2020, Trenton High; Whitewright volleyball thrives despite COVID restrictions Verde explains. "We held our ground to the end of the team," Verde explains. "We held our history. His team made the of three years, Christian Verde, is determined to make his senior of three years. Christian Verde, "It's an honor to be a part the athletes and coaches. "It's a that point of mediocrity." After the "20-21" football season begins and coaches have had to change their mindset going into it due to the rules. According to Trenton High Football coach Aaron Weger, this season is going to be harder than ever as everyone is learning how to adapt to the new safety restrictions, including the requirement for the fieldhouse and having to stay apart while training. The players and coaches have had to change the new protocol while still trying to work hard to get ready every Testing realities Main thing is, there will be required testing for the virus. For Trenton's "It would be a great idea to test all football players, but the costs and logistics are unreal at the high school level." At the end, 2A school, Trenton simply cannot afford testing for their entire team. "The best cost around $50-200, and with the 25-30 players on the team, that would cost us almost $5,000-10,000 per week." Without available testing for players, all high school athletes are at risk to decrease the risks of the players, coaches, and fans catching the virus. Fewer fans allowed Another concern is a potential limit on fans allowed in the stands for the games. Bailey, a football coach for neighborhoods, explains that "You explain the number of exposure amongst the players and the coaching staff." It is difficult to slow down the spread of the pandemic. Burks, along with the rest of the football staff, wanted to be sure to keep the amount of fans entering the football stadium to a minimum. According to Burks, the school board informed that Bell's High School, along with other football schools in Texas, were only allowed to "allow up to 50 percent of total stadium seating capacity." If the infection conditions worsen, they will decrease to 25% capacity. Obviously, the capacity rule hurts many football fans to hear, as "the rule will limit the support that games will have. Burks states about the situation, the Bands school board knows that these rules have to be followed and allow us to still continue with our lives and extracurricular things." "We want to until the final moment." Parents adjust to safety protocols Coaches were not the only ones having to change for the 2020-21 season. The athletes and parents have had to stay on top of the changing situation. Johnson, a mother of five-two on the Trenton volleyball team, a little concerned that "We were all been tough adjusting to the many restrictions for sitting in the stands." Unfortunately, with restrictions, they've put on the "We would love to be able to have our children to children to remain seated during the games, I've only been able to be there to watch the second half of the year," the related regretfully. "I've tried my best to not let things look like they normally do. For them, sitting in the stands is like making a basket in the game but is unable to attend in the stands. "It's been tough trying to jump on and watch when my son's playing, it's almost like watching something from [her]." "Perhaps, if the school went live from a tripod, providing a more steady signal. "It's been a little difficult to make the experience a bit better." Facing potential quarantine An ongoing issue that many high school athletes and coaches have been facing is having to quarantine.
Leonard Football recoveries from early safety setbacks

COVID-19 had already affected schools around the nation in 2019-2020, and now it has trickled into the 2020-2021 school year. Leonard ISD School. When in-person classes started, it seemed as if the virus would go away, and that people could continue their normal lives. However, the threat of the virus has been a constant worry throughout and taken every precaution to ensure safety. That includes requiring everyone to wear masks and adhere to social distancing. To prevent contact, dividers were set up between all tables and desks to ensure the students stay safe.

UIL Guidelines set strict standards

Leonard School District, with the help of the University Interscholastic League guidelines, has been able to let the football program play this year, so the students can participate in their regular activities. Some complications have arisen, though, as some families are not comfortable allowing their child to play in a contact sport like football.

Guideline set by the UIL include making hand sanitizer, soap, and water, or similar disinfectant readily available. Students should be wearing masks and adhere to social distancing. As the school year has progressed, these guidelines have made football practice more difficult, but has made the players Challenge of playing with precautions

Tyon Burgess, a defensive back for the Leonard football team, states, “The biggest challenge was not being able to have contact with our teammates during practice.” Without such contact, the players would not be allowed to block an actual player, and the defense would not be comfortable tackling. Full contact in football is essential in the progression of a player Burgess. Now, in the fall, the football players come to the locker room at certain times, depending on whether they are going to school in person or take classes online. Once in the building, they must remain inside, while they change, during rest periods, during scheduled rest times, and during drills. Since the offensive team is so close to each other, they must wear a mask at all times.

Coach Rae Holden, an athletic trainer and Defensive Back coach at Leonard, says, “It has made the entire locker-room atmosphere different. Not knowing if you will have contact makes it very difficult for each player to adapt to, but the one thing that has been challenging as a coach is the unknown. If that happens, it makes it very difficult for the players to play safely.”

Leonard was forced to forfeit two games during this time. “Not knowing if you will have someone test positive is the biggest mystery. If that happens, it changes the future for all the players and coaches.”

Sacrifices

Everyone in the Leonard program knew the sacrifices needed to be made and have a healthy season. Renee Allison, a registered nurse in a surgical intensive care unit in St. Louis, Missouri, states, “I’ve talked to the infectious Disease doctors a million times over this. We cannot keep living in fear and can’t keep the world shutdown. The risk-reduction strategies that the CDC [Center for Disease Control] has recommended is what’s best for preventing COVID.”

Local - Bryce Baker, Student
The team’s main engineers—the members who designed the bot’s hardware and constructed it—were LHS junior Bella Mott, LHS senior Lora Wargo, and McGinley. However, Ferdinand Phillips, a LHS senior who drives the robot during remote-controlled competitions and occasionally assists the engineers, stepped in to offer advice.

Meanwhile, juniors Kaleigh Winn and Ken Contreras chose to incorporate a Halloween theme into their set. Winn described her work as “not necessarily building the robot, but building the set the robots go on.” The set contains a pumpkin patch, a haunted house, and a haunted house. The robot’s objective is to choose a pumpkin from the pumpkin patch, drive through the cobweb tunnel, avoid the pillars, and place the pumpkin in front of the haunted house.

The team's main engineers, Contreras and Mott, spent one school morning in September creating “hell’s stalagmites,” as the team calls their red pillars, meant to represent the landscape of hell and flaunt the robot’s red sensor capabilities. Yet, they ran into a slight issue. The pillars were being built from 6" by 6" plastic cubes. Contreras would take two blocks and saran wrap them into a pumpkin. But when [Mott] attempted to spray paint the blocks, the paint wouldn’t stick. [Moving forward,] we had to wrap the blocks in paper, in addition to the saran wrap.” Contreras explained. Minor issues such as the slippery spray paint are addressed on a daily basis by the team, yet they must find a solution that is effective and efficient, often using their creativity to do so.

Coding teamwork
Rachael Wheeler, Leonard High School senior and team programmer, coded the bot for her team—meaning she connected the different parts of the software to make the robot do what the team had in mind. However, Wheeler’s robot was incompatible with the coding program, so she scrambled to find another. Wargo had a laptop with the coding programming, which she downloaded. Despite her initial setback, Wheeler eventually managed to upload the code. But then she discovered that the code had several bugs. Frustrated, Wheeler asked a teammate to skim the code in order to spot the errors. Wargo offered to assist her and resolve many of the bugs by changing the rotation or the velocity of the motors. After Wheeler’s and Wargo's collective efforts, the bot was functioning.

Collaboration key
The VEX robotics team has learned to work efficiently, either alone or together, to solve problems. Winn often enjoys painting the sets for the competitions while Phillips, McGinley, and Mott watch. “It is our Dungeons and Dragon podcast,” whereas Mott, Phillips, McGinley, and Winn prefer to work with a teammate. Other members, such as Wheeler and Contreras, favor working alone while another teammate supervises. Contreras explained how, “one [member] is input, while the other is观望.”

Many members of the team initially struggled to find out what the team was doing and have since developed in this area as young engineers, programmers, drivers, and set-builders. Phifer stated that “more decisions are reached as a team and completed with all involved doing their job.”

Solving fun-facing challenges
Above: LHS Junior Karla Hernandez works on her painting skills as part of the robotics club.

Below: Picasso’s The Red Armchair by student Karla Hernandez.

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NEXT DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 6TH

Above: LHS VEX Robotics Team's Robot carries blocks while balancing on its hind wheels the 2019 Tower Takeover Challenge. (Photo provided by author.)

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