President-Elect Joe Biden shifts focus to pandemic

Joe Biden will become the 46th President of the United States. The win comes after multiple Democratic candidates successfully won back the states of Wisconsin, Michigan, and Pennsylvania, all of which went for Donald Trump in 2016. For states--Arizona, Georgia, North Carolina and Alaska--have not officially been called as of writing. However, with 279 electoral votes, Biden has surpassed the 270 needed to claim the presidency.

Following this win, the Biden team is now pivoting away from campaigning into transition. On Sunday, November 8, the Biden-Harris transition team released the statement, “We are preparing to lead on Day One, ensuring the Biden-Harris administration is able to take on the most urgent challenges we face: protecting and preserving our nation’s health, renewing our opportunity to succeed, advancing racial equity, and building back better for working families across the country.”

On Monday, Biden announced the creation of a coronavirus task force as the first step of his transition. This task force will be led by former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek H. Murthy and Drug Administration Commissioner Dr. David Kessler and Yale University’s Dr. Marcela Nunez-Smith. Other board members include Dr. Luciana Borio, Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel, Dr. Atul Gawande, Dr. Celine Gounder, Dr. Julie Marcella Nunez-Smith. Other board members include Dr. Luciana Borio, Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel, Dr. Atul Gawande, Dr. Celine Gounder, Dr. Julie Marcella Nunez-Smith. Other board members include Dr. Luciana Borio, Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel, Dr. Atul Gawande, Dr. Celine Gounder, Dr. Julie Marcella Nunez-Smith. Other board members include Dr. Luciana Borio, Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel, Dr. Atul Gawande, Dr. Celine Gounder, and Dr. Julie Marcella Nunez-Smith.

According to Feeding America’s 2018 “Map the Meal Gap” studies, 14.9% of Fannin County’s total population struggles with food insecurity. This need greatly affects the children of Fannin County, too: Feeding America’s studies show that more than one fifth of the children who live in Fannin County do not always have access to enough food, especially foods that are high in nutrients.

Over two-thirds of students in Fannin County qualify for free or reduced-price lunch at schools. “This amount is at least 70% everywhere in Fannin County, and that—that tells you a lot,” said Terri Curtes, the director of the feeding Fannin, a local hunger relief organization that serves all of Fannin County.

Proper nutrition is important for success in school and beyond. Without enough food, a child’s ability to think, learn and grow is hampered. During the pandemic, families are struggling to make ends meet and depend on food banks and food pantries in their communities.

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The Grayson College RN program takes pandemic precautions in stride

Robert Hedden, Student

The Grayson College RN program relies heavily upon local hospitals to provide RN students the opportunity to practice nursing skills in a clinical setting. This training is a critical part of the RN students' education as it allows them to care for patients under the supervision of teachers and nurses.

When the COVID pandemic began, however, clinicals ended. “Spring semester I was at TMC but other half had to be made up virtually simulated clinicals for students’ education as it allows them to care for patients under the supervision of teachers and nurses. This program admits new students each Fall and Spring semester. The application will be available in the Spring 2021 semester. Please email ems@grayson.edu for more program information.
Many students in high school or college often feel stressed out and overwhelmed with the pressures of completing their school work or have a hard time learning the material. For some students, this can be incredibly challenging for anyone. However, for students with conditions such as ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) and dyslexia, these learning differences make it more challenging.

While some students have it harder than others, ADHD often challenges the students' attention and ability to sit still. Colin Long, a 4th-grade student at Princeton Elementary, says the hardest part about sitting at his desk all day is “having to write, especially in cursive because there are like a thousand papers in my class.” However, his doctor provided a tool to aid his struggles. “When I take my pill [Focalin] in the morning, it helps me concentrate,” Long shares. This medication helps many students with ADHD. However, they still need teachers and parents to provide routines that support them with their essential life skills, according to the website ADDitude.

Many students may even have, which include unorganized desks, forget homework, and missed deadlines, states ADDitude. “The ultimate consequence of these symptoms is that students may begin to feel inadequate because when I start working with my toys, they fall on the floor, and I have to pick them up,” Long says. Students with ADHD also often have trouble remembering information taught in class. They may have difficulty organizing their thoughts and distinguishing between important and unimportant information, relates Keith Low of Very Mind. Long often forgets “homework or spelling words for a test,” for him, though, having a hard time is not an issue “unless it’s about something I don’t know.”

ADHD/dyslexia link
ADHD and dyslexia often go hand-in-hand. It is proven that about 30 to 60% of people who have ADHD are also diagnosed with another learning disability, with dyslexia being the most common, reports Roberto Olivardia of ADDitude. However, these conditions affect differently in each individual, but it’s most apparent in areas that require quick thinking of words or numbers and trying to read. About 8 to 12% of the population is affected by this condition, Olivardia notes. Dyslexia affects areas of the brain that control language, according to Roxanne Hudson, author of “Dyslexia and the Brain.” What Does Current Research Tell Us?

“Reading with dyslexia is difficult,” 11th-grade student at Leonard High School Ricky Rackler explains, “I have to go slow and make sure everything I am reading is right. I double-check and make sure I don’t lose focus.” Scientists have proven that the brain processes the written words differently. Brains of students with dyslexia are less likely to see the front of the brain, whereas strong readers rely more towards the back, observes Hudson.

Reading aloud is another common struggle for those with dyslexia. These students find it difficult to differentiate between certain letters. “I have to keep in mind at all times, what a word means and getting off-topic no matter what you are doing,” Rackler explains. According to ADDitude, dyslexia affects memory, time-keeping, concentration, multi-tasking, and communication, which all impact school performance. “Dyslexia affects people,” Burgess says, “it affects me through my daily life such as stumbling over my words when I talk.” In high school, sports play a large role, especially for the students directly involved. Even though sports can be hard for everyone, when speaking to each person, they don’t have these learning conditions may have a better understanding of the game and can learn the plays more easily. “[With dyslexia,] remembering some of the signs and plays for football can be challenging,” Burgess says. “Other than that, everything else seems normal.” Students with dyslexia often thrive more on the court or field than they do in the classroom. When it comes to falling behind in the classroom, sports can equal out the playing field, claims Tyrone Feeney of Lewes.

However, students who have these learning conditions can succeed just as often as students who don’t have. Having ADHD and dyslexia may be a challenge, believes Feeney, but with this struggle comes a lot of personal growth. “A lot of families, the workplace, the town, and most importantly, themselves.”

For survivors, sexual assault can have lasting impact

It’s like I can’t trust anyone ever anymore. It’s gotten so bad that I don’t even feel comfortable when my closest friends put their hands on my shoulders.” Julia Melville*, a senior at Leonard High School, confessed. Melville’s assault continues to affect her day-to-day life, even 10 years later. Melville tried to ask for help when she was sexually assaulted, but everyone she talked to about it didn’t believe her. “I can’t even say it was me because I didn’t really believe myself. Her own aunt turned a deaf ear to her pleas and told her she was just making it up.” She felt ashamed and embarrassed to try to get help. “So, I didn’t have the courage to leave him,” Melville says. “I have to check if it’s really him, and I’m not sure.”

Leonard High School senior Tyson Burgess agrees with her on that point. “When you’re reading aloud is a challenge. have to take my time and read slowly, I make sure I know exactly what I am reading.”

Effects on social and emotional life
Like ADHD, dyslexia affects more than just the students suffering from them socially. “It can go from forgetting what a word means and.I forget the meaning of the word a lot when I am speaking. I feel like I am reading is right. I double-check and make sure I don’t lose focus.”

Melville’s “flying out of control” anger is a common reaction to sexual assault. “I feel like he [the abuser] is remembering those times. I feel like he [the abuser] is remembering those times.” Melville explained.

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Sexual assault isn’t always taken seriously by those who haven’t been directly affected by it. However, students and staff at Leonard High School believe that there are a few ways that high schools can work on making sexual assault a more widespread topic. “I think that awareness is key. Teaching students about warning signs, where to go to report abuse, and how to handle situations could help students that are faced with these horrible situations,” Littrell said. Being aware of how common sexual assault is and understanding that sexual assault is a real problem will help students treat the topic in a more mature manner, she added.

“Sexual assault is something that everyone… should take seriously,” Melville claimed, because this attitude will not only help students who have been personally affected by sexual assault and have come forward about the abuse, but also help those who are too afraid to inform someone who could help. (At some names in this article have been changed.)
In January, we could walk into a hospital with our loved-one who had important doctors' appointments and sit in the waiting room with them or visit a friend who had had a baby. Circumstances have changed, though, in the past 24 months. While medical workers continue to do what they can to combat this time of crisis, the uncertainty of the crisis has put additional strain on their profession.

Labor pool

While the pandemic began, we entered lockdown so that the medical field wouldn't be overwhelmed with COVID-19 patients. However, for those heartbreakers who don't work in the Emergency Room or Intensive Care Unit, it was difficult to find jobs to do during their work days.

Chuck A., a radiology tech at a hospital in Allen, Texas explained that when the radiology department stopped doing elective procedures in March, the hospital created a "labor pool." The purpose of the pool was to keep employees on the payroll by giving them odd jobs around the hospital, some of which included disinfecting, receiving medical supplies, or screening patients at the front door. Finley revealed that he and his coworkers felt grateful that they were able to continue to earn money and that not a single worker at the hospital was laid off.

Phone visits and drive-thru testing
Dr. Andrea Lawson,* a physician at a family practice office in Frisco, said that in-person visits stopped at her clinic for about a month when the pandemic began. Much of the office staff were furloughed, and the doctors worked for almost no pay. Lawson's clinic has been offering phone visits and drive-through testing since March, and they currently offer antibody testing as well. Governor Greg Abbott has allowed doctors' offices to be compensated for phone visits in order to keep them open; however, Lawson admitted that the compensation does not make up for the lack of regular business.

Pre-procedure COVID test
Towards the end of June, the governing officials in Texas deemed it safe to resume elective medical procedures with precautionary measures in place. "Every patient that comes in for any procedure-- elective or emergent-- gets a COVID test. It's a schedule procedure and the patient tests positive, or if they're positive," Finley explained. About one third of all emergent cases are patients with the virus.

After completing the pre-procedure COVID test, the patient usually will present to the hospital and proceed to the surgical area as if they're positive," Finley explained. "We also minimize equipment in the procedure room and pretty much get it to the bare minimum; we also utilize extra staff to be the clean person to hand us catheters and wire we need for the procedure," said Samuel's. Masks are worn around coworkers and patients, due to the new CDC rules to be followed when possible.

The hospital while not run out of protective equipment, they have had to ration their equipment to keep them going through the next few months in September.

Nearly eight months into the US COVID pandemic, medical professionals continue to work and treat patients with the best quality of care that they can provide. That includes slowing the spread of the virus, both to protect themselves and others. Samuel's professed, "I make it a personal responsibility to take care of myself and to not be a vector for this virus." In addition, he also said that the hospital is later becoming more eligible to receive vaccines for their patients in the future.

Want to See Your Work in The Viking?

Any work received between publication of this issue and the start of Spring 2021 will be considered for the Volume 12 Issue 4 of The Viking to be released in early February.

(Continued from Beauty Business pg 1)

Many students may think that they will not have the opportunity to work and earn money and instead focus on their book learning and makeup when in reality, these students are not only learning cosmetology, they are also learning to do their own makeup. Students are also learning how to do their own makeup when they are working for their clients and learn how to do Bottox as well as aesthetic work. Terry plans on working in a med spa after earning her degrees. Shaffer and Terry are both confident that when their expected graduation comes around in May of 2021, they will be fully prepared to join the workforce. Both students have bright futures ahead of them with big goals in cosmetology. The passion both students share for the industry, along with the knowledge they’re gaining from the program, will benefit both students and their future careers. Mcclain explained how rewarding it is to see this drive from the students that are graduating this year. "I love [seeing] how excited they are about their new careers."

Welding jobs dry up, farming uncertain

Morrison explained, "[Farming] parts have gotten very expensive due to COVID-19, and instead turned to farming. "We also minimize equipment in the procedure room and pretty much get it to the bare minimum; we also utilize extra staff to be the clean person to hand us catheters and wire we need for the procedure," said Samuel's. Masks are worn around coworkers and patients, due to the new CDC rules to be followed when possible.

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(Continued from Beauty Business pg 1)
The food charities in Fannin County address food needs

The food charities in Fannin County make it their goal to provide Fannin County residents with food and other necessities. “The goal is to help everyone that people that are in need,” says Joseph Johnson, director of the Loaves and Fishes pantry in Fannin County. Similarly, Curtis states that Feeding Fannin’s mission is to “get food into the hands of people” because “[Fannin County is] kind of considered a food desert, where [residents] may not necessarily getting healthy produce…”

The hunger relief organizations across Fannin County vary in the variety of services and use several different methods of food distribution. Feeding Fannin holds food fairs and dinner nights, and also provides a brief menu with a food and resource charities across Fannin County. At resource fairs hosted by Feeding Fannin, volunteers set up tables covered in bags of food in an area that residents can browse through. Those who are in need of food are given a bag of pantry staples and, sometimes, a box of fresh produce. Additionally, there was also someone here from the Ag Extension Office from Texas A&M that did a cooking class for people while they were waiting to go through the line for their bag of food, ” Johnson states.

Local

All the food charities in Fannin County are working to make Trenton ISD safer for all students and staff members.

For example, the Trenton ISD school resource officer (SRO) is a highly trained law enforcement officer, a well-qualified, indigenous person who has received specialized training in early intervention and crisis intervention. The SRO is a law enforcement officer who is trained to provide support to school administration and to respond to situations involving potential harm to individuals. The SRO is also trained to provide support to school staff and students in crisis situations. The SRO is responsible for ensuring the safety of students and staff in the school environment. The SRO is also responsible for providing support to school administration and staff in the event of a crisis situation. The SRO is also responsible for providing support to school administration and staff in the event of a crisis situation.

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The A.L.I.C.E. program is a comprehensive, student-centered, and standards-based curriculum that teaches students how to navigate a crisis situation, such as a school shooting, in order to maximize their chances of survival. The program is designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions and take actions that can increase their chances of survival. The program is designed to be adaptable to different types of crises, including school shootings, and can be implemented in various settings, such as schools, workplaces, and public places.

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In addition to providing students with the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions and take actions that can increase their chances of survival, the program also provides teachers with the tools and resources they need to deliver the program effectively. The program is designed to be delivered in a variety of formats, including in-class instruction, online modules, and hands-on simulations. The program is designed to be adaptable to different types of crises, including school shootings, and can be implemented in various settings, such as schools, workplaces, and public places.

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more effective for students to be in person with the teacher during instruction and to ask questions face to face." She has seen many students online and thinks they struggle to do their work due to communications. Not everyone is struggling, such as high school junior Paeton Sudderth, are struggling, but prefer learning through online learning. "I’m switching back to in-person this year because I am not struggling in one of my classes and I want to see it if it will be different to learn in person," Sudderth explains. Other students are even falling their classes due to their not turning in work or participating in class as long as they would be if they learn in person, Sadler says. Whitesboro ISD is sending all their online students back to in-person schooling, requiring those who want to continue to stay online due to such a higher percentage of students failing.

Whitesboro Superintendent Ryan Harper explains, "We have always had a large number of 74 online learners. Of those 74 learners, 48 of them are falling completely out of their classes. With a 60 to 70% failure rate, the last 5 weeks have unequivocally proven that ‘remote learning’ is not educationally sound for [their] students.

Online students are often unable to communicate with teachers making them, therefore, they often don’t turn their work in on time. Online learning also brings too much room for excuses and mistakes, believes Sadler. Many students, "are not able to learn online seriously because they know that their grades can go up to A or B, but they didn’t know that what were doing or they just didn’t try," Sadler stated. "I’m going through the motions most of the time," claims Sadler.

Friends’ influence

Not all students are staying home for online school because they are scared to be exposed to COVID-19. Some students just stay home because all of their friends have decided to learn online, and it’s being to be at home, which some can be understander, Sadler believes. Students who do attend school are more motivated to the team that had during the previous years has dwindled. "(Paine) told me that the old mix of setbacks include the learning curve on new programs and perfecting grading, creating lesson plans, grading, creating lesson plans, least 75 hours a week on online version." She spends at least 75 hours a week on the piano and my family. I am working on their work consists of cutting the music in order to match the choreography. Currently, the sound crew is developing the soundtrack to the play, and tech at advancing to bi-district." OAP begins 2 weeks prior to auditions when the play Asylum by Jerome Finley, Wargo insisted, “It is very important that everyone shows up to rehearsal every day and have no one to move to. It is a harder job than most people think, as you are not just pushing buttons at random times. [In Asylum], the sound is most important in the waltzing scene because if the sound does not play at the right time, it will leave the actors without any cues or a beat to move to.” No tech booth

Another problem for OAP is practicing the lights and sound. Wargo explained, “Being in charge of a sound is a major job to do because you need to be perfect in order to do the job correctly.” The actors depend on sound to perform their roles. She added that the lighting challenges, "it is a harder job than most people think, as you are not just pushing buttons at random times. [In Asylum], the sound is most important in the waltzing scene because if the sound does not play at the right time, it will leave the actors without any cues or a beat to move to.”

School Sound matches choreography

Along with the lights, sound plays a key role in this play in particular. Currently, the students are working on perfecting with this malaise. The notebook that "it is a harder job than most people think, as you are not just pushing buttons at random times. [In Asylum], the sound is most important in the waltzing scene because if the sound does not play at the right time, it will leave the actors without any cues or a beat to move to.” No tech booth

Another problem for OAP is practicing the lights and sound. Wargo claimed, "Leonard High School is under funded in their theater program and does not even have a professionally functioning tech booth." She would like to take the tech crew and cast to another school in order to use a real tech booth, but this dream has fallen flat every year. She explained, “The tech crew is not used to the extensive system in other high schools and has very limited experience in the performance.”

Committed actors needed

Leonard High School’s theater program is not only under funded but faces lack of time to rehearse. Actors perform up to five different roles in the play because there are not enough students involved in OAP. Furthermore, OAP is often not the only extracurricular activity actors are involved in. Wargo insisted, “it is very important that everyone shows up up to rehearsal as everyone has a crucial part to play.” Everyone involved in OAP has to be committed to the team, the UIL competition in March. “We cannot make our cast run laps or do push-ups for not showing up. It is truly all on the actors to take initiative in the roles,” Wargo explained to the cast after a rehearsal one afternoon.

Leonard High School’s play will take more practice and effort to put on than past years. The play is much longer than prior with its twelve total scenes and more complicated with its many tech details. Often, most of the attention goes to the actors during OAP; however, without the hard work from the tech crew, the actors can be easily be illuminated. The tech crew have a massive amount of work, and a successful play requires every member to know their part thoroughly, as LHS’s cast and crew undoubtedly will.