Winter Storm Uri is over, but impact remains

Grayson students have returned to classes a week after Winter Storm Uri left millions across the state without access to water or electricity. In Grayson County, average highs in the mid-teens left many powerless students cold.

“We were without power, probably close to 30 hours total. Consistent was about 26 hours,” explained business student Collie Keesee. “During the blackout, Keese’s family huddled together in their local church and deciding to section off the rest of the family home. As their kitchen was fully electric, the family took advantage of brief periods of power to heat their food. “We had a couple of hours worth of power Tuesday afternoon and we were able to cook some Cajun-style beans for dinner, and tostadas for lunch.” Keese continued, “That was actually the first time we’d been able to cook anything since Monday morning.”

Education student Amanda Favors luckily kept her power during the storm but lost access to water. “With six people in the home, including our special-needs son, Favors was left with few options. “We had to melt snow to flush toilets,” she explained. “Three gallon buckets melted only equals half a bucket of water”

With deliveries halted by icy roads and with more and more county residents needing supplies, local businesses struggled to keep up with demand. “Trying to find food was hard because people went crazy like at the beginning of COVID,” Favors told our reporter. “Shelves were empty everywhere.”

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“This was difficult working during the storm even though we were open for limited hours,” explained business student and Sam’s Club employee Lavada Burse. “First, I had to get there, and once I was there, we were slammed the entire time.” As the temperature increased, so did the crowds. “The aftermath is the same,” Burse explained. “We sell out fast as we get items in. I’ve been exhausted every day I come home.”

Are you looking for a fun and engaging group to join on campus? Phi Theta Kappa is now accepting new members! Phi Theta Kappa is an International Honor Society for two-year colleges. The chapter Omicron Psi is regionally and nationally known for its strong leadership and research and writing skills on campus. Year after year, the chapter brings home many awards that showcase their hard work from all year long. (If you would like to see the awards, they’re in the LA Building trophy case.).

Even though COVID-19 hit all of us hard, this chapter continued to provide service to the community. Letter writing to the nursing home and Toys for Tots were just two of the service projects completed this year. The chapter helped the community as well as provided community service opportunities for its members.

Phi Theta Kappa has benefits for everyone including: travel opportunities with the chapter and get to know more about Phi Theta Kappa, join one of the weekly chapter meetings on Wednesdays @ 12:30 PM via Zoom. The Zoom link is provided each week on the Chapter’s Facebook and Instagram page.

Phi Theta Kappa opens spring recruitment period

Grayson College's Center for Workplace Learning is now an in-facility test center for the Nurse Aide Certification Exam administered by Prometric. In-facility test center approval from Prometric means that Grayson College's Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) students can receive testing and test for certification in the same location on Grayson’s main campus in Denison.

“Grayson College has a great need in service to its students and the Texoma community,” said Workplace Solutions Executive Director Janie Bates. “When the administration of CNA certification exams changed to Prometric in September 2020, the number of testing centers fell dramatically.” Kate Corder, Director of Continuing Education at Grayson College, explained, “Students were successfully completing our training program and employers wanted to hire them, but there was very limited availability at testing centers to get our students certified. That’s when we decided to do something about it.” added Corder.

Payment will not be due and interest will not accrue on federal student loans. Grayson College Financial Aid. 903 463 8794. financialaid@grayson.edu.

Federal Student Loan EXTENSION

From March 13, 2020 - September 30, 2021, payment will not be due and interest will not accrue on federal student loans.

If you are currently attending school and are enrolled in at least 6 credit hours, you will remain in “in school deferment” status and your loans will not go into repayment.

For more information, visit studentaid.gov.
How to stay safe while staying warm

If you use a thermostat that requires batteries, and the display screen is missing, you may replace the batteries. If you own an electric heat system and you find that nothing is coming on, it could be your circuit breakers or your thermostat batteries. If you have a gas furnace system, make sure it has adequate return air. Your return air should be unobstructed and should flow in a unidirectional pattern from the house toward the outside. Feeding the return air back into the system can cause a blockage, and could even be life-threatening.

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Home Remedies interest COVID researchers

The CDC also recommends hydrating frequently. Drinking a electrolyte-based fluid (like Pedialyte, Gatorade Zero, Powerade Zero) can help, according to Registered Dietitian Judy Erickson of Spencer Hospital. Other hydrating foods, she says Erickson, are "water; clear fruit juices, like apple, grape, cranberry; broths; milk; beans; lentils; Spritz, and 7-Up." Consider drinking water with lemon and honey, peppermint tea, or apple juice to add some natural sweetness.

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If you are sick, wear a mask over your nose and mouth. Cover your coughs and sneezes. Clean your hands often. Avoid sharing personal items. Close windows in your home if the weather permits. The CDC also recommends hydrating frequently. Drinking a electrolyte-based fluid (like Pedialyte, Gatorade Zero, Powerade Zero) can help, according to Registered Dietitian Judy Erickson of Spencer Hospital. Other hydrating foods, she says Erickson, are "water; clear fruit juices, like apple, grape, cranberry; broths; milk; beans; lentils; Spritz, and 7-Up." Consider drinking water with lemon and honey, peppermint tea, or apple juice to add some natural sweetness.

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Phil Theta Kappa plans ambitious service efforts

In their first weeks back from winter break, Grayson College’s own Phi Theta Kappa chapter launched an ambitious initiative to complete one large service project a month for the remainder of the academic year. “Community service has always been a main priority for the chapter,” explained chapter president Storm Anderson. “When life transitioned online last spring, we knew we wanted to continue our legacy of service.”

In 2020, the honor society worked with the College and the United Way to host a virtual resource fair in order to connect students with area resources addressing food and housing insecurity, childcare, healthcare, and utility coverage. “The success of the resource fair really allowed us to think big when planning our Spring service activities,” explained Anderson.

For January, members took inspiration from a previous chapter project in which they sent valentines to residents at the Denison Homestead. “With many nursing homes not allowing visitors due to COVID, we wanted residents to know that there were people outside wishing them well,” Anderson explained.

For late February and March, members are helping to promote “Coughruntime,” an event created by Collin College’s Phi Theta Kappa chapter in order to raise money for the Children’s Miracle Network. Information about the event and how it can be supported on social media can be found at: CougarThonCollin on Facebook and Instagram.

On April 22nd, the chapter is hosting two service events. At 7pm, the chapter will again work with the College to host a virtual conference on sexual assault and prevention. Members are also in early discussions for an Earth Day celebration that afternoon.

During their first week, Dr. McMillen announced leaks on the Denison campus. On February 22nd, Dr. McMillen published an article on the University’s Facebook page under the title “When the heat is on.”

McMillen went on to say in the post, “We will be working hard to repair our campus heating loop, which burst under several of our buildings. After that, we will turn our boiler system on campus heating loop, which burst under several of our buildings. After that, we will turn our boiler system on...”

McMillen thanked community officials access statewide damage and disaster assistance. TDEM.texas.gov/warm.

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brown. "We have The Chair, The Glove, The Helmet, The Rape Stick. We memorize books on Xi Jinping. We give tests. If we fail there are consequences. They are told not to reveal. They are told not to share. They are told not to be human. Every woman who goes into ‘the black room’ for the first time never returns the same. They are not told to reveal. They are not told to share. They are not told to be human.

I think they want us to die. We are barely alive. I think they don’t want us to reproduce. Most of us can’t. I think they want us to die. We are barely alive.

I have seen it before, just more of the same. I have seen it before, just more of the same. They are told not to reveal. They are told not to share. They are told not to be human.

Every woman who goes into ‘the black room’ for the first time never returns the same. They are not told to reveal. They are not told to share. They are not told to be human.

I think they want us to go mad. Most of us have. I think they don’t want us to reproduce. Most of us can’t. I think they want us to die. We are barely alive.

I have seen it before, just more of the same. I have seen it before, just more of the same.