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### November 1, 2021 *Volume XIV Edition III*

### GET INVOLVED

### Viking Deadline November 19th

Send your articles, stories, poems, etc. to the editor, Emily Sileven, at emnsileven@vikings. grayson.edu.

Phi Theta Kappa **Every Wednesday** 12:30 pm - I:00 pm Room LA 101

### Student Veterans of America (SVA) 2nd Tuesday of every month 1:30 pm - 2:00 pm Veterans Hub 2nd Floor Bridge

### Art Club

*ist Wednesday of ev*ery month Design Room AC 105

(Look for the Flags!)

Writers Unlimited Monday, November 8th Writing Center LA 108

**Music Club** TBA

Honors College Club TBA Viking Room

**BSM** Navigate

## "Endgame" Makes its way to Grayson **College Theatre**



Wesley Blurton (on the ladder) as Clov and Fabian Cordova (In the shopping cart) as Hamm

By Patrick Vaughn Technical Director

Coming off the challenging and historic play "Agnes of God" which welcomed Grayson College audiences back into

the Stark Auditorium after a long absence due to Covid, the Grayson College Theatre is now in production on *"Endgame"* by Samuel Beckett, which will play in the Grayson College

Center for Arts and Communications' Black Box Theatre, November 18, 19, and 20 at 7:30 pm and November 19 and 21 at 2:30 pm.

Cont. on pg. 3

## **Coping Strat**egies for College Students

**Mental Health** 



1 in 5 of college students say their mental health has significantly worsened under COVID-19.



80% of college students report that COVID-19 has negatively impacted their mental health

Spring 2020 Student Survey Infographic, Active Minds By Tegan Swinfen Student

Desiree Parker, 20, is a Pre-Med student at the University of Texas at Austin. When the coronavirus started spreading rapidly in her area, her school shut down, and all students had to leave campus. She lost her job working at a restaurant and went home to live with her parents and younger sister. She enjoyed this change, initially: "I really appreciated the extra time I got to spend with my family, but after several months of being isolated in lock-down,

The Hardships of a Veteran

By J. Jordan Utley Dean of Health Sciences

This is a summary of the article "Advances in Nursing and Science Blog", which was published on September 1, 2021.

In their recent journal article published in Advances in Nursing Science, Grayson professors Michael Cox, Vonda Skjolsvik, and Becki Rathfun, along with Ellen Buckner of Samford University, explore the struggles veterans face once they



Michael Cox, one of four professors who helped write "Moral Injury in Veterans"

service members were unable to cope upon returning to civilian life,

conduct." utleyj@grayson.edu the entire article.

one's own moral beliefs,

values, or ethical code of

If you would like to read the full article, email either J. Jordan Uteley at or the Viking Editor, Emily Sileven at emnsileven@ vikings.grayson.edu for

themselves in the locker

The experienced coach-

ing staff at Trenton High

School has had to adapt

to this crushing virus

on multiple occasions

throughout the current

Echoing Wright, Tren-

coach, Josh Shipman,

notes that Covid-19 "af-

fects just about every

aspect of the game, and

football

Head

room.

season.

ton's

12:00 pm - 12:45 pm

Free Lunch Wednesdays 12:00 pm - 12:45 pm

Summit Thursdays 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Psychology Club TBA Room CIS 202

### **Sneak Peek**

Learn how to Manage your time on pg. 2.

Read about the latest sports on pg. 4.

Will your job be replaced by AI? Find out on pg. 3!

the effects Hear of the "Devious Licks" trend on pg. 5.

Are teachers getting paid enough? Read about it on pg. 5!

As Veterans Day draws near, read the story of a GC veteran on pg. 8!

return home in coming to terms with the morality of acts of war.

The genesis of "Moral Injury in Veterans: Application of the Roy Adaptation Model to Improve Coping" was the assessment of Cox and his veteran colleagues that Afghanistan and Iraq

leading many to find peace in suicide.

Cox and his co-authors describe this non-physical injury as "Moral Injury"—"the damage done to one's conscience or moral compass when the person perpetrates, witnesses, or fails to prevent acts that transgress

### **Trenton Football Tackles Adversity**



By Wyatt Stogsdill Student

The Trenton High School football team has encountered many challenges during the 2021 season so far.

Yet, coaches and the community of Trenton have seen firsthand how the program has been able to fight its way through these obstacles.

Tabitha Spindle, a supportive mom of TISD students who have been involved with Trenton football for over 10 years, says, "I have never seen a group of kids face so much adversity and still be successful."

The troubles the Tigers are facing have not been

easy to control by any means.

Last year, trouble started when the team had to adapt to the inconvenient Covid-19 virus that is still impacting the team today.

Most of the players, such as four-year starter Kasun Wright, have had to change the way they play the game ever since the coronavirus struck.

"It is very difficult to play during these tough times because we have all had to adapt to these issues and still be able to give 100% during the season," Wright states.

Players have had to wear masks to school and make sure they are socially distancing with a lack of routine, I grew quite depressed," Parker reveals.

Coping with stress has always been a struggle for many students, but it has been significantly harder through the past year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Cont. on pg. 2

with the virus has come many difficulties that are hard to fight through.

Throughout his 22year career, Shipman explains that "this [practice and play with Covid-19 protocols] is by far the hardest challenge in all of my years of coaching. It is too unpredictable, and the staff here has had to make several tough adjustments on the fly." Cont. on pq. 4



The Viking is published by Writers Unlimited and Sigma Kappa Delta as an ongoing service project to the college. This newspaper is provided as a forum for public opinion.

Participation in the production of The Viking is open to all students, faculty and staff of Grayson College.

The views expressed in The Viking do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, Writers Unlimited, Sigma Kappa Delta, the Board of Trustees, the administration or the faculty and staff of Grayson College.

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# Health

## How to Manage Time: A College Student with a Busy Schedule

By Reagan Whitehouse Student

"It's hard to know how to manage everything when it seems like everything is happening at once," says Jennifer Summers, a CCRN (critical care registered nurse) at Medical City Frisco.

Summers has been a nurse for over 25 years and is also currently pursuing her Master's degree in Nursing.

As a mother of three who is successful with her work, school, and family, she shares insight into how to manage time and priorities effectively. Juggling is necessary in order to reach one's goals.

Time management comes with persistence and prioritizing the dues that have to be paid so that one task can carry to the following one and seemingly create what Megan Hornberger, one of Leonard High School's busy English teachers, calls a "...flow."

"Knowing when to do what and how to do it [in her busy schedule] came with plenty of trial and error, and sometimes I got it wrong, but I made the choice to never make the same mistake twice," says Summers. Many mechanisms are available to define one's responsibilities and in what order they should be done. Pam McCarley, Leonard High School's librarian, sees to an abundant amount of student and staff needs in addition to her library duties.



Jennifer Summers, BSN, CCRN at Medical City Frisco is busy pursuing her master's degree while being a full-time nurse and single mom.

She sponsors student government, sponsors senior prom, researches ways for the seniors to raise money for their prom, helps lead FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes), and takes on just about any other school duty thrown her way.

McCarley uses her phone alarm to notify her of certain duties throughout her day.

"... This way I know that this has to be done right now when the alarm goes off, and I can't just ignore it because I set it for the time that it has to be done.

"Just like when you set an alarm for the time you need to wake up, you have to wake up then or else you're going to be late," she expresses.

By describing her system, McCarley unmasks the face of procrastination in showing that by putting responsibilities off, they will eventually result in late or overdue projects, assignments, etc. According to John Grohol of Psych Central, "The roots of procrastination come from the fear of failure and the pursuit of perfectionism, or one is just too disorganized with their time and resources."

The stress of having something looming over students can be worse than just setting aside the extra time and getting it done.

Even if it cuts into time students would rather spend doing other hobbies, they know that task is now behind them, and it is one more duty they can mark off their list, Grohol explains.

Coylene Moreland describes how she stays on task as Leonard High School Registrar:

"I'd rather take the extra hours to be up here [at school] early in the morning and sometimes late at night to get what I need to get done. I hate dragging things out more than need be because that just creates a snowball effect of things I just should've taken the time to do."

**Mental Health Coping** 

Chen, Patrick J., Pusica, Yanna, Sohaei, July 1, 2021, Diagnosis

Students have greatly changed the way they engage with school and extracurricular activities. Many academic classes switched to online learning, and many sports games were canceled to meet public health guidelines.

Following the changes faced by college students due to the pandemic, finding healthy ways to adapt is essential to mitigate the impact on mental health.

Gunter High School counselor Katy Johnson has observed a significant rise in stress and anxiety amongst her students.

She believes that the sudden transition to an isolated home environment and having to teach themselves from home during online learning had the biggest negative impact on students' mental health.

Especially for students who have a difficult home life, "sometimes school is the place where students feel the safest," explains Johnson. Local psychologist Jamie Hall\* says that she has noticed that the number of people reaching out for mental help has increased. The greatest change she has seen in her patients' mental health is an increase in anxiety, which she believes has been caused by the uncertainty the pandemic has brought. "As a species, we want to make sense of things and have some degree of control. When that is taken or not available, we can often feel increased anxiety and panic," she explains. Another big change Hall has encountered is the transition to online counseling sessions through Telehealth. She found that more individuals prefer this form of counseling now that it is a more readily used platform. Many people find it fits better with their busy schedules to stay home and have counseling sessions over the phone rather than having to drive to a counselor's office regularly. Hall maintains that most people will benefit from having a balanced diet, getting adequate rest, and physical exercise.

Of additional importance is maintaining social contact, whether that be through the use of social media, video calls, or meeting up with a few friends, states Johnson.

One strategy in particular that she has found helpful for most of her students is "to be intentional about doing ONE thing each day that brings them [students] joy...whether it is 5 minutes or 5 hours."

She explains that it is essential to put one's needs at the forefront of importance.

Hall explains that "we tend to follow irrational thinking patterns, so if we disrupt the process, we can get back to the present and think rationally."

She advises practicing grounding and mindfulness to create a calm and present mind. To do this she recommends journaling or getting one's thoughts out each day by talking to a trusted friend. Similarly, Parker found that practicing mindfulness through meditation, journaling, yoga, and walking her dogs was helpful to ground her thoughts as well as keep her active and give her a sense of routine. As for Parker's academics, she explained that "it's helpful to study in a separate area to where you sleep. "Also, it must be somewhere where there aren't too many distractions, which can be difficult to find, so I often worked outside when it wasn't too hot or in my dining room." It is always important to find a trusted adult, whether that is a parent, teacher, or healthcare professional, whom one feels comfortable talking with. Johnson clarifies that "while it is so easy to run to friends and unload, adults are able to help children navigate these thoughts and feelings and/or find the support they might need."

If you or anyone you know is in danger of hurting themselves or others, please reach out to Grayson College counseling immediately.

# Fannin County Walks Out of the Darkness



People who have been impacted by suicide, as well as those who have not been touched by it, can join together there for support.

Many students from area high schools like Trenton, Sam Rayburn, Bells, Savoy, Bonham, and Celeste attend.

The Walk serves as a place to honor and remember those who have lost their battle with depression.

Cindy Bankson, Manager of the Out of the Darkness Walk, and a few others started this event six years ago because they saw a need in the community since many families in Fannin County have lost loved ones due to suicide.

Cont. on pg. 3

Cont. on pg. 4

### **Editor's Notes**



By Emily Sileven Viking Editor

Hey y'all! I hope you are having an awesome day!

Who else is excited for homecomming next week? I know I am! Even if you're not as elated as others, I strongly encourage you to check out at least one event.

Oh! If you are have not voted for homecoming king and queen yet, I encourage you to vote for Courtney for King, (just for the heck of it) and Callie for Queen, because she is talented, smart, and a really interesting person (plus, she's drop-dead gorgeous).

Before I sign off, I would like to mention that if you would like to send any articles such as what you are passionate about, a game review, any pictures like memes, artwork, photos, whatever, don't be shy and email me at emnsileven@vikings.grayson.edu



American Foundation for Suicide Prevention logo and hashtag is showcased for all of the attendees to see at the Out of the Darkness event

#### By Kayla Wommack Student

"Suicide is an epidemic at this point, and we need to do everything in our power to take steps towards lowering the statistics," emphatically states Emory Williams, a junior at Trenton High School who attends the Out of the Darkness Walk each year.

# **Arts and Communication**

## Grayson College Presents: "Endgame"

Cont. from pg. 1

*"Endgame,"* which Samuel Beckett originally wrote in French and later translated into English, is considered by many critics to be his greatest one-act play.

A pinnacle of Beckett's characteristic philosophical distillation. It presents an antagonistic scenario of the devastating and comic repetitiousness of life.

"Samuel Beckett shows us a mystery outside the grasp of any other dramatist. The feeling Beckett expresses on the stage is a note heard nowhere else in contemporary drama...."Endgame," so mournful, so distraught, is a magnificent theatrical experience."



Avery inside a barrel during rehearsal

Willie inside a barrel during rehearsal

according to the *Sunday Times, London* 

This production stars four Grayson College Theatre students: Wesly Blurton as Clov, Fabian Cordova as Hamm, Willie LeFall as Nagg, and Avery Anderson as Nell. Actors pictured in the photos in rehearsal.

"So mournful, so distraught, [Endgame] is a magnificent theatrical experience."

Come and enjoy a unique theatrical experience!



## Page 3 Learn the REAL YOU!

#### Summary of Careers.

ESFJs are best at jobs where their friendly, organized and practical helping skills are used within traditional settings. They want to be personally involved in their service, and they want to be practical and personal. They are realistic caregivers; they don't have much patience with theoretical approaches and detached analysis. ESFJs find careers in teaching, sales, management, care giving and personal services to be rewarding.

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Take the TypeFocus personality test at typefocus7.com

By Corey Leird Career and Pathway Coach

Ever consider taking a personality assessment to help you find out more about your strengths, interests and skills?! Now you can through the Career Center resource, TypeFocus!

Knowing your type is not only FUN it can also be tailored to deciding on something as important as... YOUR CAREER!

Personality assessments are useful for career planning because they allow you to learn more about your likes or dislikes, strengths or barriers, areas of interest or situations to stray from.

Take me for example- as your Career and Pathway Coach, I took the Type-Focus personality assessment and found my career summary fitting to my values, interests, and skill sets.

As an ESFJ type, I enjoy working with others and having a connection serving individuals.

So, SET SAIL VIKINGS



TypeFocus is a great resource for you to utilize to help you make a better, informed decision towards your overall career planning.

I encourage you to schedule an appointment time with the Career Center to share your 4-letter type code and summary report for an informative session on your findings.





*QR* code to schedule an appointment with the Career Center

TypeFocus and appointment scheduling is available through the Career Center webpage.

# Will Your Job Be Replaced by AI?

By Tyler Newby Student

Danny Reichert worked at a Kroger in Michigan, stocking shelves and greeting shoppers, for 13 years until the pandemic hit.

The pandemic put him out of work for a couple of months, but once the store opened back up after masks were shown to help stop Covid, he expected to be stocking shelves, greeting customers at the door, and showing them around the store. Reichert recalls, "I love conversing, and when you work early in the morning as I did, almost every customer had great conversations with me" as he walked customers through the store. However, when the coronavirus was at an all-time high, Reichert was informed that he would not be needed when the pandemic rolls over.

who was replacing him, his supervisor told him that Kroger was upgrading "over 100 stores around the US."

Kroger had teamed up with Microsoft to implement an app to "know your preferences" when customers walk into the store. For example, if the customer prefers almond milk, the app will show them exactly where it is located in the store. The app stops customers from asking employees where items are, preventing Covid spread and just making shopping easier on the shopper.

## **OOK** Fannin County Walks **out of Darkness**

Cont. from pg. 2

After a tragic event in Bankson's family, they decided to turn their sad situation into something that would help others affected. Bankson relates, "In 2015, our family lost my 16-year-old niece, Savanna, to suicide."

Shortly after, Bankson and her family decided that they would dedicate time and funds to help prevent another tragedy from occurring in other families.

"As long as there is a need for such an event, there will continue to be a Walk," she insists.

As attendees look around the event, they see a complimentary breakfast served by the staff of the Walk and hear uplifting speakers and music playing through radios.

Several booths are set up and give away mini prizes, treats, and most importantly, pamphlets with educational facts on suicide.

The booth sponsors include generous local businesses and colleges. Emory observes, "The event is really lively, even with the sensitive subject. It's a place to gather in memory of those we have lost or meet people going through similar situations, so it's nice to see that you're not alone."

Area residents from all backgrounds attend. Trenton High School's counselor Amy Shaw says, "I attend every year because my life and professional life have been impacted by suicide and depression and as a sign of support for my students struggling."

Similarly, Emory attends because suicide has impacted his life, and he feels that there is not enough discussion about the problem today.

This event recognizes people's losses, states Bankson, and it gives them the chance to honor their loved ones whom they have lost due to suicide. Shaw emphasizes that attending these events breaks the stigma around mental health and raises awareness.

Emory feels like he is physically contributing to a cause that he is passionate about, and Shaw feels "hopeful and connected. I really like seeing the sense of community support."

That support is what Bankson sees as the key outcome most participants seek.

"The attendees leave the Walk with the knowledge and comfort of knowing they are not alone in their experience of loss. They realize they are not solitary in their struggle with mental illness or grief. "The Walk encourages them to share their stories, their heartache, their struggle and to reach out for help if they are in need."

Everyone who attends Out of the Darkness is impacted in some way. The event gives the attendants hope. Emory affirms, "... Seeing that I am not alone in my struggle is really inspiring." When Reichert asked

"When Reichert asked who was replacing him, his supervisor told him that Kroger was upgrading 'over 100 stores around the US."

Cont. on pg. 5



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# **Sports**

Could the Tacky Substance Scandal in Major League Baseball Change the Game Forever?



By Cortt Gentry Student

In Major League Baseball today, there is a big scandal with sticky substance use by pitchers that is helping the pitchers control their pitches better and increase the way the ball moves.

Players are hitting the baseball farther, and pitchers are throwing harder.

With the game changing in front of the fans' eyes with players getting bigger, faster, stronger, and now adding substances to help their performance, baseball is going to get a lot more interesting, many fans believe.

"What are sticky substances?"

Professional baseball players have been using multiple sticky substances for hundreds of years and passed them down through generations to pitchers.

The most common of these are sunscreen, rozen, pine tar, and recently the hottest addition is spider tack.

The average non-player wouldn't know that baseballs, when new, are slick like glass, hard to throw with control.

Using tacky substances as a pitcher helps in gripping the baseball better. Also, having a better grip increases their spin rate, which increases the baseball's velocity and movement.

The increase of velocity and spin rate also helps the hitters hit the

## The Take Over of Trenton ISD Girls Athletic Program

baseball with a greater velocity, increasing the distance a baseball can travel.

Cade Maclin, the pitcher at Cisco College, believes pitchers should be able to use tack in Major League Baseball.

"I think they [tacky substances] should be allowed. Not only will it bring more excitement to the game of baseball due to the better pitching statistics, but the pitchers will also have more control of the ball, which will lead to [fewer players] hit by pitches and a safer game in all."

There have been reports that "estimate between 80% to 90%" of pitchers use a tacky substance in some form, according to *Sports Illustrated*.

The pitcher's pitches are looking better and better with the tack. As a result, the game is becoming more evolved, with hitters striking out at an unforeseen pace.

# **Trenton Football Tackles Adversity**

### Cont. from pg. 1

The staff in Trenton had to slow the spread of the virus by sanitizing water bottles, limiting contact with players, and creating a socially distanced practice.

Although Covid-19 has been a major issue this year, Trenton has still managed to find fortune.

The Tigers started the season with two losses (one due to quarantine) but have been able to improve as a team and win their last 4 games.

The attitude of this small-town team has been turned around this season to ensure that they can have a winning season for four years in a row.

The Trenton football team has had to face other challenges this season as well, one of the most substantial of which was the graduation of 15 seniors from last year's team.

The loss of over half the team left the Tigers with lots of problems at the start of this year. With a young and inexperienced team, success has been harder to come by for Trenton.

"The talent difference from this year compared to the last is negligible, but we have so many first-time time varsity players (first-time high school players), whereas last year, there weren't very many of those seniors who hadn't been seen under the Friday night lights," says Shipman. This major contrast has been something that not many teams are able to succeed through, but this well-built program has found a way to prevail.

The Tigers have been able to build a team around young players since last year, and this effort has been noticed by fans and players associated with the team.

"This year's team has done well, but you can tell they miss the bond that last year's team had," states Spindle.

This challenge has also been noticed by veteran players like Wright when it comes to all aspects of the sport.

Wright notes that "with the loss of so many players, we have had to rebuild our chemistry and be able to work together to have a winning season." The team has worked towards their goals by having dinners together every Sunday and bonding during school as a group to ensure that they grow close as a team. This new Trenton team has their minds set on triumph, and they are striving to improve as a program.

The season is not over yet, but the Tigers have still been able to remain focused through these times of uncertainty. With a district championship in sight, the Tigers hope to continue their success and finish the season victoriously.



Volleyball coaches Leslie Partridge and James Garner (back left and right)

By Maci Patridge Student

A dramatic change in a school can affect not just the school but the entire community. The Trenton school district girls' athletic program has experienced just that.

Last year, they were coached by Trenton alumni but are now being coached by new hires from outside the district.

Not only did these girl athletes have to get used to the different coaching styles, but they have also had to get used to the way the new coaches run the athletic program.

As the school of Trenton is dealing with a turnover in girls' athletic coaches at the junior high and high school levels, many employees of Trenton ISD have recognized a positive change in the program.

They agree that the

most noticeable difference in the program is the new coaches, Coach Leslie Partridge and Coach James Garner, who work well together.

Coach Joshua Shipman, Trenton's head football coach, observes, "The commitment to working out is much higher."

Senior varsity volleyball player Misty Spindle comments, "...We are being pushed differently in all aspects, leading us to compete and perform better as a team."

The volleyball team is now competing to go to the playoffs and is 4 and 7 in the district.

Freshman varsity volleyball player Emma Dudley finds that "the atmosphere has completely changed into competitive but still loving... the mindset is completely changing but for the better."

Athletics for the girls at Trenton taught these athletes winning attitudes.

Seventh-grader Avery Aviles has learned "... that it's a privilege to be there. That if you don't wanna be there, then you can sit down and let someone else who wants it more take your spot."

Cont. on pg. 7

Cont. on pg. 5

### Fairness at Stake: The Salary Inequality in Men and Women's Basketball

#### By Damien Brown Student

The demand for equal pay between the National Basketball Association and the Womenś National Basketball Association continues to grow, especially over the last five years.

According to Christiana Gough of Statista. com, the average WNBA player makes \$75,181 a year as of 2019/2020.

While this is above average pay rate for most men and women in the USA, it still doesn't compare to the \$8.32 million average annual salary that the NBA player makes, states Gough.

Although the movement for equal pay has been steady for quite some time, big changes have occurred in the past year.

According to Erin Delmore of Nbcnews.com, WNBA players/Olympic women's basketball players Nneka Ogwumike and Sue Bird have been big reasons for this effort.

Every four years, when Olympic basketball games take place, during the training before the games, WNBA players, in past times, weren't paid as much as one dollar.

As a result of the push that these WNBA players gave, the USA National Team and the players finally came to an agreement that enabled the women to receive up to \$100,000 for a one-year training camp in the United States.

These steps have been huge for the WNBA as a whole, but the women still aren't satisfied and feel as if they deserve more money and recognition, reports Delmore.

Rae Holden, women's varsity basketball coach at Leonard High School, believes that the WNBA doesn't get nearly as much recognition as the NBA. "Ticket sales, jersey sales, shoe deals, none of it is even close. It's sad to see, considering that the work the women put in is the same, if not more, than the men," he says.

Holden, who has been coaching high school women's basketball for 16 years now, would rather have his female players watch the WNBA than the NBA.

He justifies this choice by stating, "The way that the WNBA teams work as a team is beautiful. The men are fun to watch due to the flashy dunks and things of that sort, but if my girls asked me what game I think they should watch in regards to the NBA or WNBA, I'm going with the WNBA every single day."

Holden believes that it's be hard to pay female players the same amount of money, or even close to the same amount of money, as the men are paid. *Cont. on pg.* 6

# **Current Events**

# The Real Debate: Are Smalltown Public School Teachers Paid Enough?

#### By Karli Fife Student

Do area teachers get paid enough for all the time they put into their job to ensure students are successful, growing academically, socially, and emotionally? This has been an ongoing argument for years.

"Since the expectations of the teachers, according to the state standards, are the same [at large and small schools], the pay should be reflective across the board," Becky Fife, third grade language arts teacher, affirms.

Many area residents would agree that the district teachers and coaches are underpaid, but some would say that education salaries should depend on the tax rate in the school district.

Teachers' salaries are based upon taxes in the school district. In Texas, taxes are based on the value of property owned by the citizens living in the community.

So the amount of nonagricultural land in the school district area will determine teachers' pay.

The greater the number and sizes of the businesses and home taxes around the schools, the rect effect on the amount of revenue available to the school.

At small schools, teachers "wear many hats," says Jerry Robinson\*, high school government teacher/head football coach, which means that teachers have many more responsibilities at smaller schools than they would at a bigger school.

For example, many coaches at Trenton ISD have to coach more than one sport because there aren't enough coaches for every individual sport.

Coaches at Trenton are paid around \$2,500 in addition to their regular salary per sport, whereas at larger schools, they can make up to \$8,000 per sport additionally annually.

No matter the size or economic status of a school, the state requires all teachers to teach the same standards, and the state requires the same outcome for all students.

So why shouldn't the pay reflect that expectation across the board?

Kenny Roberts, a high school agriculture teacher, said since "we are professionals, we should get paid as much [as other teachers in larger



Becky Fife, 3rd grade Language Arts teacher at Howe ISD, preparing for grading homework assignments

Also, differentiating lesson plans, meeting the needs of the below-grade-level students and the Gifted and Talented students, profesdevelopment, sional serving on committees. after-school clubs, assessing students, among other duties are also expected of teachers in both small and large schools.

Although some of these teachers receive a stipend for these non-teaching duties, it isn't a lot.

This doesn't even include coaches who may also have those same responsibilities on top of coaching.

This extra required work "makes it tough for small schools to compete with big schools in hiring," said John Willis\*,

# Tacky Substance Scandal

### Cont. from pg. 4

Over the past few months of Major League Baseball, there has been a crackdown on the sticky substances used by pitchers and getting called out in interviews about using the substances.

It's hard for pitchers to explain that almost everyone is using the technique, but tack is helping both sides of baseball today.

Tristan Wittau, the pitcher at Newmen University, acknowledges both the excitement and the safety arguments:

"I can honestly say tack was making baseball really exciting to watch and play. Pitchers were throwing more strikes, hitters were hitting farther home runs and more home runs, not to mention the effects tack could have on saving pitchers from an arm injury and batters from getting hit as often because pitchers have a better grip on the ball."

Page 5

Harrison Caley, the catcher at Baylor University, notes potential downsides to using the substance.

"I think it's all right to a certain extent, but if a pitcher can't throw without it, then it's an issue. It also depends on your catcher, but if you use too much, it can mess the catcher up."

Today, there is still a long journey ahead with the rules on the tacky substances pitchers use in professional baseball. They will have to find a substance that helps pitchers grip the baseball that doesn't give them too much advantage over the hitter. Undeniably, though, baseball is changing, making the game safer for the players while more entertaining.

### How Devious Will "Devious Licks" Get?

By Bryttan Beezley Student

In September of 2021, the Tik Tok trend of "Devious Licks" made its first appearance on the ever-growing app.

Most high school administrators are aware of this trend and everything that comes along with it. This is where students are taking items and supplies from school bathrooms before and after school hours, for example, to post on Tik Tok to try and get more "likes" and followers. Though the trend started as just a silly prank to pull at school to be seen online, it has quickly made its way to Fannin and Grayson County. Trenton High school principal Steven Foster believes that this trend is far out of hand and very far from the rationale of "kids just being kids." Foster feels that destruction of school property is used for the means of entertainment, and it is not acceptable. Like students in many other schools in the surrounding counties, Trenton students are taking items that create a minor



*The app Tik Tok first came out in 2016. There are now I billion users all over the world.* 

inconvenience for the

more revenue to the schoo school. Fit

The demographics of the citizens living in the school district can potentially impact property values, which has a di-

schools]."

Fife's responsibilities were at a small school: "team lead, after-school tutoring, coaching UIL, and crosswalk duty" were just some of them. a high school science teacher/assistant coach.

Out of the teachers interviewed for this article, 80% of teachers would agree that they are underpaid.

My Experience with a Predator: An Essay

By Breeonna Overman Student

I was 13 years old, going online unsupervised, and had made some new "friends" this way. I would use another platform called Skype to message people from other states when I didn't want to give my phone number out.

One time I was messaging a boy named Trent who told me he was the same age as I was.

I had messaged him on Skype for a few months, but every time I asked if he would send me a picture of himself, he would tell me that his camera didn't work.

He consistently asked me for pictures of myself, and eventually, he started asking for nude ones.

In my naïve mind, he was a good friend of mine whom I had grown a crush on without ever seeing what he looked like. night when I had tried to video call him that he wasn't who he had said he was. I was greeted by a man who was at least 30 years old!

Then I found out one

"In my naïve mind, he was a good friend of mine whom I had grown a crush on without ever seeing what he looked like."

It scared me that I had done the exact thing my parents had warned me about, so I blocked him and was thankful that I had been smart enough to not expose myself to him.

After this Trent incident, I thought I had learned how to better protect myself. I wouldn't send pictures of myself without knowing what the other person looked like first.

Cont. on pg. 6

staff and other students at TISD.

At a middle school volleyball game, a soap dispenser was taken from the high school bathroom.

Foster states that "this is nothing too major, but it still needs to be addressed and put to an end."

By pursuing this trend, students are not looking at the bigger picture regarding the consequences that they could receive, such as criminal charges.

The participants are solely looking for their "15 minutes of fame, to appear cool to the students who appreciate that behavior and possibly even to go viral and make money off views and potentially ads on social media," states Resource Officer Chief Kyle Rhodes, who has been a police officer for over 20 years. *Cont. on pg.* 7



Will Your Job Be Replaced by AI?

### Cont. from pg. 3

Another feature Kroger added is Kroger EDGE, meaning Enhanced Display for Grocery Environment, a digital tag on items that can be updated at any time, making it easier during flash sales for the store to change the color and price so the shoppers know the item is on sale.

Other grocery stores have adopted this type of sales tag too.

Reichert was re-hired by Kroger 7 months ago, but his assessment of the artificial intelligence upgrades is mixed.

He reflects, "Since my return, stocking shelves has been easier, and I've received great feedback from customers on finding items...

but the interaction inside the store is rarely there."

# **Current Events**

### Page 6

### **My Experience** with a Predator

#### Cont. from pq. 5

This is when I first started using Omegle to meet was talking to.

new people and video chat because my friends had told me how they were doing it.

The first few times I logged on, I was met with many random men who would ask how old I was, and when told I was 13, they would end the call, forcing me to move on to the next person.

So I started to lie about how old I was so that someone would actually talk to me. This was when the men started to expose themselves to me.

When I was younger, I never fully realized how bad this situation really was. As an adult, though, I know that participating in this behavior has caused many issues with my adult life and that it actually traumatized me.

I had always been told as a teenager by my parents to be careful of what I was

doing online and whom I

Of course, I thought they were just being overprotective until I realized what I was seeing was exactly what they had been trying to protect me from seeing.

I had unlimited access to the internet, no parental controls, and my parents never looked into what I was doing online.

Being able to send a text to a friend has turned into sending someone a Snapchat of what we're doing. But with all of these additional social media platforms, there are more ways for a teenager to add someone they don't know and end up messaging people who are lying about who they are or how old they are.

Parents need to be aware of what their teen is doing online so they don't end up adding a predator.

### Gunter High School's "Helping Hands" Program Will Reach out to Lonely Area Elderly

By Lana Saenz Student

"Living in a small town by myself with not much help can be difficult," declares lonesome Gunter, Texas resident Rick Cohagan, 74.

"There is no grocery store or hospital within ten-twenty miles from my home."

Lonely struggles of senior citizens can be difficult to hear when there are so many who can step in and help those in need of small tasks, just like Cohagan.

Finding out the numbers in the Gunter community of lonely elderly was the first step in making a change.

A program to help area folks like Cohagan became the project of Shel by Bates' leadership class at Gunter High School.

"In my leadership classes, we discussed making a center for the elderly on the weekends. They can interact at the li-

how high you can jump or how fast you can run; it's all about how well you can efficiently get the basketball into the hoop," he declares.



Statistics of those that reside alone in small towns (Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University)

brary, play board games, and read if they would like to. This will enable them to get out of their homes and socialize with like-minded people," Bates explained. Masks will be required.

During the week, the student participants will get a grocery list from the elderly in the program.

They will buy items needed with fundraiser money raised through a bake sale at Gunter High if the elderly do not offer funds.

Sign-up sheets will be mailed to each Gunter residential home to ensure the word about the program is spread, with a projected start date of January 2022.

Bates' leadership class

decided to call the program "Helping Hands." Bates' involvement as a sponsor for Helping Hands will include preparing the student volunteers by giving them lessons on patience, communication, kindness, and going over all the elderly visitation protocols.

Cont. on pq. 8





### *Cont. from pg. 4*

The Salary Inequality





The average salaries of men and women in the NBA compared to the WNBA in 2019, compiled by Christiana Gough at statista.com.

If the statistical revenues from the NBA and WNBA were closer, he believes that the two leagues

school men.

"The reason for this is that girls don't usually grow up wanting to play in the WNBA the way the boys grow up wanting to play in the NBA," Holden explains. Twenty-two-year-old Jessi Bennet, women's collegiate basketball player for Ouachita Baptist University, played for Holden about 4 years ago.

should pay the same.

However, with the income differences between the NBA and WNBA, Holden thinks it'd be unfair to pay the women the same amount of money when the WNBA doesn't generate as much money from TV viewers, sponsors, ticket sales, etc., as the male players.

According to David Berri of Forbes.com, NBA referees actually make more money in a year than the WNBA players make on average.

These NBA refs are paid anywhere from \$150,000-\$550,000 per year, while the average WNBA player's revenue a year is \$75,000.

Ronald Brown believes that it'd be hard for the WNBA to ever reach the NBA's revenue level because of the size and athleticism differences between men and women.

Brown has been a boys and girls basketball referee for 25 years--Division 1 in Tennessee to pee wee games in Leonard, Texas.

"I personally enjoy watching the NBA more than the WNBA. The dunks and alley-oop plays are extremely hard to beat," Brown acknowledges.

Holden also believes that it has been a little harder trying to get high school women to the collegiate level in basketball compared to the high

"It had always been a dream of mine to play college basketball ever since I was little," Bennet fantasizes.

Bennet herself hasn't experienced any "unfairness" in her 13 years of playing basketball, such as a fan talking about how she isn't as good a player as the men are.

She does believe that there is a stigma, though, that comes with being a female in a predominantly male sport.

"Even though women might not be as naturally athletic as men, they still work just as hard to be where they are... The National Collegiate Athletic Association needs to do a better job of giving D1 men's and women's basketball as many equal opportunities as possible," Bennet notes.

Physical differences in play between the men and women are substantial, Brown believes.

"In my 25 years of reffing, I have not once seen a female dunk a basketball. That's the beauty of women's basketball, though. It's not all about

In describing how to reverse the "snowball effect," she highlights the fact that just initiating students' work leaves them with a less-stressful approach to the rest of their duties.

Summers comments on the positive snowball effect of keeping up with responsibilities from a student's perspective in saying, "... and once I get done with my college work, raising my kids, and being successful in my area of work, which yes, is very time consuming and takes many years, . . I will soon be relieved and have it easy due to the time I put into all these responsibilities of mine."

While some use time-management strategies like list-making, setting alarms, or using a calendar, our priorities may change based on urgency and importance.

While we try to take care of responsibilities in the order they are given, in special circumstances, some priorities may take precedence over others due to their urgency.

Hornberger, who takes care of many of the LHS's extra-curricular activities in addition to her teaching duties, communicates this strategy as it relates to her home life:

"Deciding which tasks are important and urgent helps me decide and prioritize my tasks for the day. For example, when deciding to do laundry, if my husband is out of jeans for the week, laundry becomes more urgent and therefore, more important than doing the dishes at that moment."

When urgent duties come in between a student's regular responsibilities, they have to manage to attend to those more pressing matters, along with everything else.

"... It's better to stay on top of what you know you have to get done because when something does pop up that is urgent and has to get done, you know you've got everything else done, so it won't be something you have to stress too much about," suggests Summers.

She mentions taking Sundays off call at the hospital so that she can use that day as a homework day, but when something comes up with her children or significant other, she knows that it's urgent, and she has the rest of the day to be able to do school work so she manages around these areas.

# **Scholarship Opportunities for**

## **GC Students**

#### By Cynthia Perez Scholarship Coorsinator

What could be easier? Apply for a Grayson College Foundation Scholarship or a Grayson College institutional scholarship in Art, Music, Pep Band or Theatre using one scholarship application.

The AwardSpring scholarship application opens November 1, 2021 with a priority deadline of March 30, 2022.

Any current or prospective GC student, who plans to attend Grayson College for the 2022/2023 academic year, can apply. Applicants can apply using the AwardSpring link in their MyViking.

Questions regarding the scholarship application can be directed to scholarships@grayson.edu. Scholarship deadlines are located on the college's website under the Admissions & Aid tab.

# What's Happening Around GC

**"Devious Licks"** 

*Cont. from pq. 5* 

"If the property is taken, it is theft. If the property is damaged, it is criminal mischief," he insists, making this trend something bigger than kids just trying to be "Tik Tok famous." Rhodes' statement emphasizes that this fad is a criminal act.

Trenton Middle School custodian of 3 years Juanita Hernandez has poured her time into the upkeep of the school and making sure that the school looks presentable for school activities such as games and events held at the schools.

Hernandez makes a heartfelt point that it hurts her personally to see students taking or harming school property that she works so hard to make sure is kept up to par for the students' conveniences.

Since her job is "to clean, sanitize and refill dispensers," with this Tik Tok trend, her job is being sabotaged.

Because this trend has reached TISD, the administration has been quick to take precautions to be being taken advantage

sure such vandalization does not continue.

Foster states that THS's most effective precaution is "we have to constantly monitor the restrooms and hallways and try to keep students in the classrooms most of the time."

Still, there is not a lot that the schools can do about the bathroom necessities being taken due to the level of this trend has not been too pervasive yet at TISD.

Yet, if it were to become an out-of-hand situation, there are consequences that the students who were involved would face.

Rhodes said, "All of these actions, the damage or theft, in my opinion, is at least an earned trip to [ In School Suspension].

"A range of punishments could be ISS, school-issued community service, paying for damages, all the way to potential criminal charges.

"These punishments should be considered on a case-by-case basis." Even though the belongings

The Underutilized Benefits of

the FAFSA

of are a minor inconvenience, Officer Rhodes makes it clear that these actions would not just be brushed to the side but that they would be taken care of.

Being teenagers, students have shown they will go to different extremes to be seen as "cool" by their peers.

Principal Foster suspects that this trend will end soon, just like all of the other trends that come up on the app.

Though citizens of Trenton believe that this trend could reflect badly on the school, there is not much more that can be done.

"I don't think anyone would know unless something major happened, and it's also happening at other schools all over [the country]," Foster states.

Just like all other trends that Tik Tok emphasizes, such as the Vogue challenge and Tide Pods challenge, this trend too will dwindle away with time.

### The Take Over of Trenton ISD **Girls Athletic Program**

Cont. from pg. 4

This understanding has led her to push herself past her limits in athletics and the classroom. In high school, athletes have had to get mentally stronger.

Emma believes the team is becoming "...mentally stronger this season and will continue to grow into the program that we strive to be."

Change can be hard to get used to, though, for athletes accustomed to a certain way of practice and play.

Adjusting to a new coaching style can be tricky, especially coming into senior year with all new coaches.

Misty talks about how it was hard trying to grasp the unique coaching style these coaches put in.

"Even though I don't like the fact of change, I feel like this was a great way to make the Lady Tiger program even better," Misty professes.

When the outcome is worthwhile, there's always a reason to keep pushing forward.

Coach Jeremy Strickland, Trenton ISD superintendent and head softball coach, thinks positively about the change happening so far, as he states, "At this point in the school year, I believe the changes have been positive for our prothe problems."

Coach Strickland adds, "The school and community respected and appreciated the previous coaches.

At the same time, the school and community are excited about the future of our girls' programs." Coach Shipman agrees, "In time, it will all work out, especially with success, which the girls have not had."

With high hopes for the new coaching staff, the girls' athletics side staff members believe the current success will carry on to the upcoming years.

Coach Shipman likes how there's a different head coach now for each sport at Trenton.

He thinks this approach will keep play fresh, which will help the success continue to grow.

Coming into a new school, Coach Partridge, head volleyball, assistant basketball, softball, and junior high volleyball coach, likes to stand firm in the expectations she sets for her athletes.

She is "looking forward to turning the girls' program into a comprehensive winning program."

Volleyball play is turning for the better, currently sitting fourth in their district, and took home a plaque from the North Hopkins tournament.



Page 7

The number of students that apply to the FAFSA per year out of approximately 53 million students each year according to SavingForCollege.com

#### **Bu Grant Hall** Student

Every year on the first of October, millions of students submit their tax information, social security numbers, and family demographics for the opportunity to pay for some if not all of their college tuition.

"The FAFSA is a great opportunity for students to pay for a portion of their secondary education.

"Depending on the school and the student's grades, some students may be able to pay for college at no expenses out of pocket," says Mike Adams, of the Texas A&M Financial Aid office.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, is a government-sponsored grant and loan application meant to aid students in continuing their education at a college, university, or trade school.

Depending on many factors, such as family wealth and demographics to the cost of attendance of the school of one's choice, each appli-

cant is weighed on how much financial aid the government is willing to give. Based on how one's circumstances relate to the national average, different levels of financial aid will be distributed.

Every financial aid officer will tell students that the FAFSA is always worth the time to apply for.

"There is no reason not to apply. It is free money available to anyone who applies," says Amy Shaw, counselor for Trenton High School.

However, some students do not apply, thinking that they will not receive any aid because of their financial or family circumstances, or they're not a minority ethnic group.

These misconceptions can cause many students to go into unreasonable amounts of debt and rob them of the chance to pursue their goals to get a degree.

"The FAFSA does consider the amount of money that you and your family has, but financial aid is still available and worthwhile for students [who may not qualify for

the Pell grant]," one of the grants available inapplying to the FAFSA specifically for low-income students, says Shaw. According to Mark Kantrowitz, the author of an article on SavingForCol*lege.com*, on average only two out of three eligible students apply for the FAFSA.

Upon hearing this statistic, Natalia Hertz, a FAFSA student guide who helps high school students on applying to the FAFSA and earning substantial awards, states, "It is very unfortunate that many students don't apply for federal financial aid, and it's my job to inform students about the grants that the government offers."

Another of the primary reasons many students do not fill out the FAFSA is that their parents don't file taxes, or one of their parents isn't around to fill out specific questions on the form.

These concerns are not only wrong, but misleading because they discourage students from getting the aid they need or even worse, not applying to higher education

gram.

In a small town like Trenton, the community holds a vocal and influential opinion on what is going on in the school.

Having had a coach who grew up in Trenton, was the face of Trenton after graduating and playing college basketball, and then who returned to coach, the community had a hard time with this coach leaving.

Steven Foster, Trenton High School principal, acknowledges, "Several of the students and community members were and still are upset, but winning cures many of

Coach Garner is the new head basketball, assistant volleyball, and high basketball junior coach.

Coming in as a new coach, meeting everyone, and getting to know the new school is essential for him. He's "looking forward to watching [his] athletes compete on the court, grow more as a team, and earn the success and recognition that Trenton girls deserve." He holds high hopes for a successful year in the classroom and on the courts.



Many colleges and universities now use the FAFSA to make a student eligible to earn scholarships, including merit-based scholarships.

Many times these requirements are overlooked and oftentimes, depending on the cost of the institution, can cause students to abandon their desire for a college degree.

Regardless of a person's financial circumstances, whether or not one has received aid before, every student should apply for the FAFSA for the opportunity to better themselves and pay an affordable price for college.



Join the BSM in Summit every Thursday from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm!

# **Important Dates**

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# "Helping Hands" Program Cont. from pg. 6

High School National Honors Society President, states about the proposed program, "If ing will let the elders we could all come together and make this work, we could make a change in someone's life.

Think about the times the elderly have fallen by themselves, needed to get groceries for dinner, or even needed help with technology.

The weekly visits from different groups of [students] and weekend events, I believe, would help tremendously."

Voto reports that currently eight GHS students are interested in volunteering for the program, but starting with ten would be ideal.

Cohagan explains his situation that began a couple of years ago. He was walking downstairs in his home and slipped and fell.

It wasn't until a day later that his neighbor came knocking on his door to find him.

Cohagan recommends for the program, therefore, "weekly phone calls from the youth to make sure we are okay. I do not want another person to be in the position I was in."

While Helping Hands volunteers can't prevent

Bella Voto, 18, Gunter falls and injuries, they can show the elderly that they care.

Caring for their well-beknow they are part of a program that gives them purpose, emphasizes Voto.

Covid Centers for Disease Control guidelines will be observed during program interactions. Youth will be wearing masks and gloves to ensure they are not spreading their germs.

Each home visit will not exceed more than three youth visitors. Each month, these visitors will be the same unless the client is okay with more visitors or would prefer different visitors each month.

When arriving at the house, youth visitors will determine from their clients' feedback whether or not the client needs groceries, a stroll out on the town, transportation to an appointment, pet care, house cleaning, technology help, or even transportation to the weekend events.

If you or someone you know is an individual who is 60+ and needs healthcare/ assistance, please reach out to Gunter High School's front office about the Helping Hands program.

**Dinner** and

November 12th

**Student Bonfire** 

### **Heating Prep** for Winter

By James Popplewell GC HVAC Program Director

As you well know by now the HVAC Industry has also been affected by supply and demand shortages and now that we are coming into cooler and colder weather it's a good idea to check for a healthy heating season. Here are a few suggestions

 Change your thermostat batteries

Change your filter

 Clear away debris from return vents and wipe them clean

• If it has been over two years since you had your gas furnace checked by a Professional HVAC company, I would recommend it.

· A smoke/carbon monoxide detector should also me installed near each bedroom, check the batteries if they aren't the electric type.

· Electric home portable heaters shouldn't be used with extension cords. Keeping it clear from debris of at least three feet is strongly recommended.

winter!

## Get Engaged **November Line Up**

Check out everything going on with Student Life and Development, Clubs, and Organizations!

### November 2nd - 7:00 pm Virtual Trivia Smackdown

\$200 in cash prizes! Link to play in the scoop is: tinyurl.com/theGCScoop

### November 16th - 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

### **Resource Fair and Stress Less Event**

Community and On-Campus resources to help you! Life and adulting can be stressful, so focus on your resources and de-stressing. Destress activities, therapy animals, and more in the Life Center, 2nd floor.

### November 18th - 11:00 am - 1:00 pm **Empty Bowls**

The Art Club and Six-Ninety-One brings you the perfect fundraiser to support a local charity helping children with food insecurity. \$10 buys you a handmade bowl and gets you a bowl of fabulous soup from our Culinary Arts program!

### November 30th - 11:00 am It's a Merry Viking Holiday

Come get into the holiday spirit with decorating the Life Center, decorating cookies, and don't forget to wear your ugly holiday sweater!

November 30th - 7:00 pm Stay Safe and warm this | Outdoor Movie under the Bridge

# The Unconventional Veteran Student

### HOMECOMING KICKOFF IS NEXT WEEK!

Homecoming Kickoff November 8th Hall of Fame

Stuff-a-Critter November 9th

Viking Rally November 10th

Viking Puzzles November 11th

More details at: tinyurl.com/GCScoop

> Introducing your **Grayson Student Government** for 2021/2022

Moises Mandujano President

> Sonal Patel Vice President

**Ryan Murrell Public Relations** 

**Blayne** Miller Secretary





By Meagan Hubbard SVA President

I didn't start out as many students did at Grayson College. I am a veteran, wife of a Marine, and the mother of three children. Upon enrollment, my original

plan was Cosmetology. After much thought, that plan was sent to the axe, and I decided to go full out.... Nursing School.

This might not seem like much to a conventional student, but I am anything but conventional.

I dropped out of high school at the age of fifteen. I obtained my G.E.D at the age of sixteen and joined the United States Coast Guard at the age of seventeen. Looking at my fourteenyear-old daughter now, I can't imagine her following in my footsteps.

When life gives you lemons, make lemonade.

The challenge has been just that, a challenge.

Raising three children while carrying a 3.86 GPA has been no cakewalk.

There have been late nights, early mornings, frustration, and a heart monitor involved.

Nothing worth having is easy and there's a reason why. If furthering your education were easy, ev



Join the Student Veterans of America at the Veteran's Hub for our monthly meeting, November 16 at 12:00

eryone would do it.

It takes true grit and perseverance to make it, but the feeling of doing so is something that you will never forget.

As a veteran, I feel I have the advantage over kids straight out of high school.

I've awoken to a loud alarm and a company commander screaming reveille...reveille...reveille!!!

I have lived not only in a man's world but in an adult's world as nothing more than a teenager. This is not something that came easy and I would do it all over again if given the opportunity.

At the end of the day, I am not more special than so many veterans that have come before me.

Many young men lied about their age to join different branches of the military as far back as any conflict can be named.

These young men joined not for an easy job, but

to live and die for their country.

They were prepared for trench warfare, and they knew that they would more than likely never see their hometowns again.

These are the true heroes that paved the path for people like myself.

Thank a veteran this Veterans Day. Reach out and shake that little old man's hand in the electric scooter at the grocery store.

Tell him or her how much you appreciate their sacrifice for your country. Sit down and listen to their stories of strife and struggle, that one day you may be able to repeat their story after they are long gone. Embrace their stories as they are to be remembered dearly.

On this Veteran's Day, I seek no recognition. I seek those to thank for paving the way so that I might serve my country as well.

