

Get Involved

Viking Deadline
November 26th
The Viking needs student content! Please send any articles, art, poems, stories, journalistic writings, etc. to the editor, Katherine Petri, at prkpetri@vikings.grayson.edu

Phi Theta Kappa
Wednesday,
12:30 pm Viking Room

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

Summit
Thursdays
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Baptist Student Ministry building

BSM Navigate
Wednesdays
12:00 pm - 12:45 pm
Baptist Student Ministry building

Can't Stop; Won't Stop



Laquya Rivas family. Rivas earned her GED and four healthcare certifications in one year.

By Marlene H. Phillips, Director of Outreach, Center for workplace learning

Thirty-six-year-old Laquya Rivas had been thinking about coming to Grayson College to complete her high school diploma for a long time. Thinking about getting it done; thinking she wasn't smart enough to be successful; thinking maybe it was too late. Yet her five children, mother and brother nudged her into adult education classes in September 2021, and Laquya hasn't

stopped since. Laquya dropped out of high school at age 15. Pregnant with her oldest daughter, who is now in Grayson College's culinary program, Laquya didn't have the support to continue high school. "My mom told me that I was smart, and in high school I was," Laquya recalled. "I knew I had to get back into the swing of things. My daughter, the one at Grayson, helped

to push me. She told me I would want more, and I did!" So before she could even graduate with her GED, Laquya was enrolled in Grayson College's Patient Care Technician program with a full tuition and testing scholarship to boot. Like she did with her GED, Laquya aced her certification exams on the first try every time. By August 2022, less than

12 months after returning to school, Laquya had earned four healthcare certifications on top of her GED: EKG Technician; Phlebotomy Technician; Nurse Aide and Patient Care Technician.

And she's not stopping! Laquya's loading up on opportunity and accomplishment with grant-funded scholarships for training *cont. pg. 3*

New creative writing course

ENGL2307B01HY

INTRO TO CREATIVE WRITING

WITH DR. JOSHUA JONES

PRODUCE POLISH PUBLISH

SPRING 1 TUES / THURS 9:30-10:45 AM LA 205

- ARE YOU A BIG DEAL ON AO3 OR WATTPAD?
- IS FANTASY YOUR ESCAPE?
- WRITING A NOVEL?
- DO YOU WRITE SONG LYRICS?
- WANT TO TELL YOUR LIFE STORY?

WRITE WITH US!

Let's talk turkey on Thanksgiving, y'all

By Rose Lerma, Librarian assistant

For the sake of Texas pride and bragging rights, one might be interested to learn that the Lone Star State hosted the first Thanksgiving. At least, this is the claim of those who recognize the feast of Juan de Oñate, his ragtag crew, and the regional Pueblo Tribe. This event took place on April 30, 1598 in San Elizario, just outside of modern day El Paso. The Wampanoag Tribe and Pilgrims celebrated their harvest about 23 years later at Plymouth Colony in October of 1621. Oñate's expedition crew began a 50-day journey with 500 people and 7,000 livestock trekking across the

perilous Chihuahuan Desert. Soldiers, colonists, wives, and children faced the first seven days slogging through rainy weather. The rest of the trip was so dry that the travelers suffered continual thirst. Battling hunger, the people scavenged through sparse vegetation and dug up roots to eat. Upon finding water at last, two horses drank until their stomachs burst and others drowned in their haste to drink as much as possible. The Rio Grande Valley provided a respite badly needed by the weary travelers. After recuperating for ten days, *cont. pg. 2*

The Stifling Effects of Inflation on College Students

By Sierra Bentley, Student

Anna Arrington, a graduate of Grayson College who is currently working towards a master's degree in mental health, has supported herself financially throughout her entire college career. However, due to the increasing inflation rate, that has become ever more challenging to do. She feels that the growing cost of essential items is making it near impossible to survive college life. Arrington is forced to work full time at Texoma Community Center as an addiction recovery specialist to afford her living and education expenses, which leaves her little time for schoolwork. "I've had to adjust my hours because I have to leave work early twice a week to attend class. So on days I don't have class, I have to work

later than usual to make up for the time I missed," says Arrington. **Costly education** The "Broke college student" stereotype seems appropriate for current students since between tuition, food, and a multitude of other college essentials, a college education can be extremely expensive. On top of that, the inflation rate has dramatically increased, causing the prices of these items to rise even more. Economist Joseph Kotowski notes that college has never been more costly than it is today. He explains that in the past thirty years, tuition has gone up by more than 400%. "It has far outpaced standard inflation; it's not even close," Kotowski says. Arrington states *cont. pg. 4*



Inflation is a struggle for Grayson College graduate Anna Arrington. She's currently working on a masters degree in mental health and has to budget carefully to meet college and living expenses.

Check it out!

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Local Sports

Pg. 2

Denison, Texas

<https://grayson.edu/the-viking/index.html>

November 4, 2022

Volume XVI, edition III

Is \$1.7 million really worth it? The Gunter Lady Tigers definitely think so

By Madi Thigpen, Student

High school sports, something the local school of Gunter High takes to the maximum level of competitiveness.

Football and volleyball are always the first two sports that come to mind when one thinks of the North Texas community. Yet a certain group is trying to change that perception.

Gunter softball has been on a climb the past few seasons, giving 110%, trying to make it to an elite level just as their school's fall sports are. However, what is one tool that fall sports have that Gunter softball doesn't? Being indoor or having a turf field.

Assistant Softball Coach Casey Frost sees both points of view because he also is

involved

in the football program as a line coach. He understands just how committed the team has to be

for top-tier success, hoping to get these girls there one day.

Gunter softball has been struggling the last two seasons to catch up with the achievements of the fall sports, especially because their current field was inaccessible 75% of last season. "We had been working with what we had [on the field]...", said Senior Co-Captain Lizzie Williams. "But it was taking a tremendous amount of extra work for everyone."

The significant amount of standing water left covering the entire field for weeks on end was demoralizing for the



Lady Tigers enjoying the mud for a while before they get to work. Photo Credit, Leigh Vickery

team. Most of the Lady Tigers' previous season was spent practicing on the turf football field or at the local baseball facility.

As the drainage problem was difficult to deal with, at least the team had backup options other local schools were not as blessed with. Head Softball Coach Leigh

Vickery said, "When I was a coach at Valley View, we had to practice on a gym floor, which you can imagine is not effective...thankfully at Gunter, we have other facilities such as the football field and the indoor to practice when we are in those tough spots."

cont. pg. 4



Be a part of Summit

Thursdays
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
in the Baptist
Student Ministry
building



Let's talk turkey

cont. from pg. 1

Oñate declared a celebration of thanksgiving.

The Franciscan missionaries held a mass and Oñate claimed the land to be in possession of Spain under the rule of King Philip II.

This marked the beginning of colonialism in the American Southwest. People then gathered to rejoice surviving the treacherous journey and success of their mission.

Marcos Farfán de los Godos, a captain of the expedition, performed a theatrical play for those gathered. Fellow captain, Gaspar Pérez de Villagrà, recounted the great bonfire where droves of meat and fish were roasted.

He described the festive mood in his field notes, "We were happy that our trials were over; as happy as were the passengers in the Ark when they saw the dove returning with the olive branch in his beak, bringing tidings that the deluge had subsided."

There is a Presidio Chapel of San Elizario still in the region today.

A nearby historical placard notes the observance of this Texan claim to fame.

Locals have hosted various reenactments of the feast. In 1990, Governor Rick Perry declared a holiday marking April 30th as the official first Thanksgiving.

Sure, you may still want to gather with those near and dear to you this November, but be sure to cook up a little commemorative BBQ with some sweet tea and jalapeño poppers "aka. Texas Twinkies" this spring!

Sources: Library of Congress, NPR, U.S. National Park Service, Texas Almanac About the Author Rose Lerma is an anthropologist specializing in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region and an ALA-certified librarian at Grayson College.

All GC librarians are available to assist with student research.

For questions, or to learn more fun facts, visit your campus library.

https://www.printablee.com/postpic/2015/11/happy-thanksgiving-turkey-clip-art_65683.jpg

Van Alstyne's Men's Panther basketball: can they go all the way this season?

By Riley Dancer, Student

Last year's Men's Panther basketball team was one of the most successful teams Van Alstyne has ever put on the hardwood.

VanAlstyne has become a powerhouse for North Texas basketball over the last several years, from the 2015/16 team that made it all the way to the State Championship to more recently, the team winning the

District Championship 4 years in a row. But last year's team was something special, winning the Whataburger Tournament and being ranked in the top 5 of 4A basketball teams in Texas. The team continued to excel throughout the season, beating some highly ranked teams, the likes of Argyle, Hirichi, (last year's 4A State runner ups), cont. pg. 3

Native American Heritage month in the library, a look at Louise Erdrich; The Birch House

By Michelle Mitchel, Library Administrative Asst.

We have been busy in the last few weeks putting together displays for Halloween and Veteran's Day and most especially for Native American Heritage Month. It has been a fascinating time for me, full of new information, and a greater respect for a culture so different from my own, and a history so removed from how things are done nowadays.

I grew up in Wyoming, and learned about the Plains Indians from an early age. My best friend in grade school was a member of a tribe, and I even remember attending a Pow Wow with my fourth grade class to learn more about the culture.

I especially loved learning about food preparation and storage. Our Teacher was from the Sioux tribe, and I remember her many lessons about Indian culture, her long dark hair and beautiful turquoise jewelry.

I read *Little House in the Big Woods* and *Little House on the Prairie* by Laura Ingalls Wilder and loved the glimpse into day to day life from so long ago. My favorite

part as a kid was learning how they made Maple Syrup Candy, and I will admit it is on my bucket list to experience that process for myself someday.

Those dreams of Maple Syrup Candy have been fed by *The Birch House* by Louise Erdrich. This book is an easy read. It is considered juvenile literature and for me was a quick read.

But, oh the content! The 7 year old female protagonist Omakayas (Little Frog) is much like Laura in *Little House in the Big Woods*.

She is a strong spirited girl that has opinions and makes those opinions clear through the telling of her story. We hear about life on an island on Lake Superior in the middle 1800's. The use of native language, and beautiful serenity and philosophy of Ojibwa Indian home life was an entertaining and informative escape from the struggle of modern society.

The book had a strange parallel to today with the introduction of the Smallpox epidemic into Omakays's village. I had a new respect and

sympathy for the loss of loved ones and changes of life due to a horrible epidemic. I gained new respect for the Ojibwa spirit animals.

The culture teaches that connections can be found to our lost loved ones in nature, if we listen with our hearts. Regardless, we must go on and continue living, it is the same then as it is now.

Moving on to embrace life for Omakaya included the tradition of making Maple Syrup Candy. In Omakaya's case this is a serious activity that was required to provide nutrition and trade goods for the family for the coming year. For me it was like a visit to my youth.

I was at the Pow Wow again for a moment with beautiful cultured figures around me as I finally learned the recipe of my youth. The Maple Sugar Trip has moved up a few slots on my bucket list, and I am sure now that it must be a time when there is snow or the experience will not fit into my dreams.

DON'T MISS OUT! Scholarship Opportunities.

MONEY, Money, money! Don't leave free money on the table!! Grayson College Foundation Scholarship applications are open! To start your application please go to the AwardSpring app on your MyViking page. Complete all questions, sign, and date. The AwardSpring app will tell you that you are 100% complete once all questions are answered.

For a list of FAQ's go to [Grayson.edu](https://grayson.edu), Admissions and Aid, and Scholarships. The awarding process will begin after the priority deadline on March 31, 2023. You will receive an email in your Viking account once you have been awarded—Scholarships must be accepted by the date in the email or they will be forfeited! Applications will continue to be accepted through August for the awarding of any remaining money.

-Shalon Johnson, Grayson College Foundation Scholarship Coordinator/Executive Assistant

From a Hobby to a Career: How Texas Locals are Preserving Memories

By Caroline Dossman, Student

Flying drones through the mountain range and scouting out breathtaking landscapes for time-lapses may seem like a dream career, but to Mark Campbell, being a wedding videographer comes with a deeper meaning.

Campbell's process

For Campbell, his role in the lives of the bride and groom starts early. When Allie and James decided they wanted a wedding videographer, they booked Campbell's services through his website. Soon after, Campbell scheduled a time to meet with the bride and groom to discuss their must-have videos, wedding details, and enjoy coffee and snacks.

This meeting can happen several months to a year in advance of the wedding, and several future meetings can be scheduled to ensure that he can produce the couple's vision.

On the actual day of the wedding, Campbell spends as much time with his two-year-old son and wife as possible before heading out to shoot the footage of the happiest day of each couple's life. Prior to traveling to the venue, he makes sure he has enough microphones, batteries, drones, lights, and memory cards to get through the day to ensure he does not miss a single moment.

The first hour Campbell is on site is dedicated to flying the drone, recording time-lapses, looking for prime locations, and planning lighting, while also shooting the details like the wedding rings and flowers.

To avoid disappointing the couple, Campbell

also takes this time to ensure that he has a plan to get every angle and group photo requested. For instance, if Allie and James asked for a video of their first looks before their ceremony, Campbell would consider the composition of the shot or even set up cameras in advance.

Then, he follows the schedule provided by the bride and groom, making sure to get every memorable event on camera. The rings, first kiss, cutting the cake, and toasts are just a few of the staples filmed for every wedding party. When a key moment is happening, Campbell is on the scene to capture the moment on video. From the second the bride starts her make-up to the final moments of the reception, he is inseparable from the wedding party.

While the bride and groom head off to enjoy their honeymoon, Campbell travels home to work more, importing the clips he took into the cloud and storing the footage, which means that his work day continues for up to three hours after the on-site job.

As Campbell stated, "[Filming a wedding] is absolutely exhausting, usually walking anywhere from 10,000 to 20,000 *steps* for a wedding day."

Much like a movie director, Campbell spends weeks to months after the wedding, editing the perfect short movie for the bride and groom. The difference between him and a movie director is that he has no assistant or production team. Everything from filming, picking song lyrics,

deciding which video clips to use, and composing the shots are all tasks he has to do on his own. He spends his drives listening to music and picking songs that resonate with him and the couple. He combines the music with the different audio clips he gathered on the wedding day.

Once the audio is completed, he lays down the different video clips on the timeline, which is a tedious process involving hundreds of clips, lining up audio segments, and watching the film over and over again. Only when he is certain he has produced his best work does he send the video to the newlyweds for approval.

Campbell recently branched out from Texas weddings and has begun to explore destination weddings.

"It's pretty awesome to get to travel for work. Just in 2022, [I have] gone to Iceland, Ireland, Big Sur, St. Lucia, Colorado, North Carolina, and Michigan. ... Getting paid to travel the world is exciting," said Campbell.

Continuing education is a necessity

Before working full time for his wedding business, Campbell taught audio/video production and yearbook at Van Alstyne High School in Van Alstyne, Texas. Through his journalism classes, he inspired many students to pursue a career in photography or videography.

One of these students was Emma Donald. Reassured by the success and guidance of Campbell,

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Can't Stop; Won't Stop

cont. from pg. 1

programs and recovered her confidence in the classroom! She's currently enrolled in the online Mental Health Technician program and has her sights set on the Medical Billing and Coding program or the LVN program next.

"My kids took on responsibilities at home that weren't theirs so that I could go back to school.

I'm proud of them, and I'm really proud of passing my certifications. I didn't think I could pull it off, and doing so made me realize that I could do whatever I want to

do," beamed Laquya. "I would tell anybody that getting back out there is the hardest part. Once you're there just stick to it, and you'll get that feeling of accomplishment and want even more!"

Grayson College has a path for all learners no matter your age or your ability. Scholarships for fast-track healthcare training programs are available with deadlines to apply as soon as December 11. **Give us a call, 903.463.8765**, or check us out online, grayson.edu/cwl, to learn more.



Laquya Rivas in action



Surrounded by the beautiful greenery and landscape, Mark Campbell (right) lines up the perfect shot for the bride and groom to cherish forever.

Photo credit, Mark Campbell

Van Alstyne's basket ball

cont. from pg. 2

and a strong competitor in San Antonio Cole (the 3A State runner ups). But with the astonishing season the Panthers were able to have last year, can they be as dominant this year?

Younger players' opportunity to shine

One of the main differences fans will see in this year's Panthers team is the roster of the players. The team lost 5 seniors last season, including one of the most dominant basketball players in Panther basketball history, J.J. Boling, district MVP for the past 2 seasons. But Head Basketball Coach Russel Best says that should be no problem.

"Will there be another J.J. Boling? No, but there

will be someone that can take his role as leader and fill in for the other graduates," Best explains.

Former VAHS 2021/22 basketball player Sean Wilson agrees. "I was able to get close with some of the juniors and sophomores over the past 2 seasons and believe that the players should have no problem filling their roles on the team," Wilson says.

"There are many great players that were on the team, and some of the younger players weren't able to have as big of a role in the team's success and didn't have a chance to prove how good of players they were, and now is their opportunity to make plays."

Basketball is a mental

cont. pg. 4

Inflation

cont. from pg. 1

how she's had to put off purchases like buying new shoes and clothes, as well as adjust her monthly budget, in order to have food each day.

"I have to think twice before buying the things I used to buy. My money doesn't go as far as it used to," Arrington explains.

She has even considered providing her own source of food by planting a garden. "I don't have much of a green thumb, though, so I wouldn't have much to eat," she states. Not to mention, there is no place to plant a garden at her apartment complex.

Students who pay for a majority of their living expenses on their own and don't want to go into debt are definitely feeling the effects of inflation. Kotowski claims that

saving income would be beneficial for everyone during these unstable times.

Arrington has been able to save a small portion of her income but often has to pull from those savings as food prices continue to rise.

Local grocers' efforts to help

In an attempt to attract more shoppers such as college students and those with lower incomes, Diamonds Food Market in Van Alstyne, Texas uses an app that contains coupons that can help shoppers save money.

During the last several years, Diamonds has also turned to local sourcing to provide more affordable options and fresher products, especially in the meat department.

Tiffany Allen, a manager at the store, says that some of the most popular items are snacks, drinks, peanut butter, and Ramen—all staples in many college students' diets. Higher-priced items such as poultry are not selling as quickly as in times past. Food prices have increased by \$2 or more.

"The price increase on food is leading to higher grocery bills. Buying just 20 items usually costs over \$100. It's ridiculous!" Allen states.

"As food prices continue to rise, many college students are resorting to cheap and quick-to-make foods that fit into their budget or work with their schedule. Although this may seem practical, it is unfortunate because these foods have very *cont. pg. 6*



More Local Sports

Pg. 4

Denison, Texas

<https://grayson.edu/the-viking/index.html>

November 4, 2022

Volume XVI, edition III

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The night before the senior night game last school year, a rainstorm completely flooded the Gunter Tiger field and even part of the school. Due to the flooding, there was no school, so the Tigers got to work, putting in 8 hours of scooping water off of the field with buckets, vacuums and even red Solo cups. Football players came to help do the heavy lifting, and even a tractor dug a trench behind the fence to push out the water from the outfield. Everyone came together and worked tirelessly just to be able to play a single important game the following day.

This was the push the team felt they needed. Last season, the Lady Tigers worked for an undefeated District Championship and even ended as a Regional Semi-Finalist team. This run proved to the school district that this team is worth the work.

The need to drain the field was brought to the community's attention by a group of softball players who took a stand to ask for something they believed their program deserved.

By writing persuasive essays and even having face-to-face conversations with school board members, they showed just how badly these players want to better their "home." Their statements addressed the district about the right for the players to have a

field as nice as the football and basketball locations, the increase in area population, the need for better outdoor facilities, and the “unfairness” of how money was being budgeted between sports. Field drainage has been a problem for the Gunter softball teams for years. But over the last year, the district has realized it must fix the problem. Gunter Independent School District included restoration of the field in a \$78.8 million bond last year.

In this bond there was \$1.7 million allotted to update both the baseball field and softball drainage issues.

Starting in early September 2022, the process of redoing the field was supposed to begin.

Sadly, this did not end up happening. October 2022 rolled around, and Gunter softball staff were uneasy about the fact that the process had yet to begin. Adding a drainage system to the field could take over a month, and the construction is pressing into valuable time as the 2022-2023 season rapidly approaches. Coaching staff are “antsy” as they patiently wait for the process to begin. “The necessity for a solid foundation of the field is something that is evident to the [softball] careers of so many girls,” says Williams.

GISD believed in the team and fought for the money the facilities deserve. Now they just need to follow through.

cont. from pg. 3

game and every team needs a leader to encourage the team to give it their all and not give up, even if they are about to lose.

“Most of these players have been playing basketball for most of their lives, and they have had to step up and be a leader before,” Wilson says. “This team is made up of hard workers, and they will be able to show leadership through hustling and giving it their all on the court.”

But will this year's team have the strength to match up against some of the best teams in the state?

According to Mary Lake, Panthers fan for the past 6 years, "These young men are some of the hardest workers and some of the most talented basketball players I have ever watched." She adds, "And I have had the privilege of watching a lot of them play since they were in elementary school. I know one thing about these young men: they don't give up!"

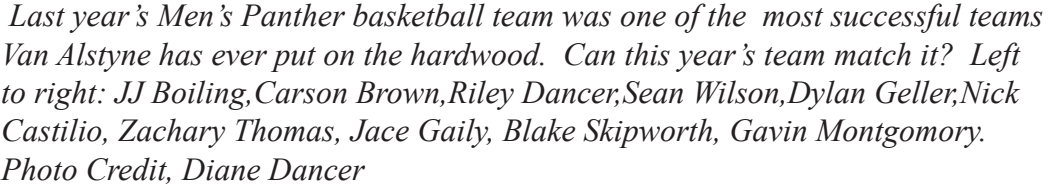
But some opponents predictably have doubts. *Jhon, a senior at Melissa High School who has played the Panthers the past four years, believes that the Panthers will fold under pressure in big-time moments.

“Without those seniors, these players are nothing

and are going to fall apart without a true leader on their team,” he said.

However, Coach Best disagrees. "I schedule for us to play some of the best teams in the state during the pre-season for a reason," Best says. "We are capable of winning every pre-season game this year if we play together as a team and are able to give 100% effort in those match ups." He strategically places these early tough-team matchups for a reason. "One of my favorite Bible verses is Proverbs 27:17, 'Iron sharpens iron,' which in Coach Best's mind means that good teams make good teams better. He adds that win or

cont. pg. 5



cont. from pg. 3

Donald made the decision not to attend college after graduating from high school but instead, directly entered the workforce.

For Donald, it was hard to believe that her high school hobby could become a legitimate career. But having traveled to Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia, Michigan, Oklahoma, and Idaho, Emma Donald, owner of Emma Donald Photography, is making a living off sightseeing and capturing weddings in photos that will be remembered forever.

Since graduating, she has been able to sustain herself independently, travel to photography workshops across the nation, and capture the love that couples have on their wedding day. Throughout the process of becoming an entrepreneur, she noted the difficulty of understanding business legality, having to learn the financials, and the emotional toll that caused her to doubt her ability to be successful.

As Clark Baker, Baylor University Professor of Photography, stated, “To photograph for a living is

a real blessing, although it can be easier to enjoy the craft if you do not have to make a living by it.”

Starting a career in photography or videography is not as easy as it may seem. According to Campbell, "... people need to invest in [prospective photographers'] education." While this may not be in the form of traditional college courses, photographers are known to learn from workshops, YouTube tutorials, and peers in the field to better their abilities and continually improve their products. "Good fundamentals, creativity, and storytelling is what will separate [photographers] from the other [competitors]," stated Campbell.

Above all else, Dr. Baker believes in one aspect of learning to be most important to one's success in this industry: "... a strong photograph is about much more than just making a sharp, well-exposed image. Learning how to frame a picture, for instance, and capturing a subject at just the right moment comes from deliberate and thoughtful practice," said Dr. Baker.

While traditional education is important, Dr. Baker affirmed the most effective way to improve is through repetition, failure, and reflection.

Working with a camera and composing shots is a nuanced process. Van Alstyne High School audio/video and yearbook teacher Holly McRae claimed, "You can never have too many skills. You can never be overqualified. You can never learn too much in this field."

Although the knowledge of how to use a camera and editing software is important, one also needs strong writing skills, the ability to design, marketing knowledge, and business expertise.

According to McRae, understanding all facets of production is paramount to being accomplished. Missing just one of the production skills hinders the success of the business.

While everything required of a wedding photographer may seem daunting, being able to tell a story inspires these men and women to record *cont. pg. 5*



We provide students with access to a vast marketplace of highly qualified tutors, along with a number of resources dedicated to helping you reach your academic goals.

From a Hobby to a Career

cont. from pg. 4

the moments of love for their customers and friends to cherish for the rest of their lives. Weddings are just one of the many memorable occasions in a person’s lifetime that cannot be replicated. As Donald emphasized, this rarity makes each second of the video and each photo a treasure for so many people. According to Campbell, it is his impact on others that made him realize the importance of his work. “I’ll never forget a text from a 2019 bride. I’d mic’d up the officiant who happened to be the bride’s grandfather. Shortly after their wedding, he passed away. At his funeral, they

listened to the audio of him officiating the couple’s wedding. It was truly affirming that what I do for work matters,” Campbell recounted. Filming and photographing weddings are life-changing events, so by capturing these moments in film and photo, artists like Mark Campbell and Emma Donald can preserve the most special moments in time. Despite putting in long hours, sacrificing time with family, and an often-isolated lifestyle, making a difference in their clients’ lives motivates them to pick up their camera and take the shot of a lifetime.



November

Student Life & Development



Dia de los Muertos - Offrenda
Life Center, 2nd Floor
Learn about the cultural significance of the Offrenda, honoring the loved ones who have passed. You are invited to participate by placing a photo on the Offrenda if you'd like!



Homecoming Week!
We've got great activities scheduled throughout the week and athletic events on Saturday. Join us for all the fun! Details in The Scoop: tinyurl.com/theGCScoop



International Student Celebration Week
Life Center, 2nd Floor
Mapping Our Roots and Poster Pride (All Week) - Stick a pin in our giant map to mark where you are from then take a look at the posters crafted by students highlighting their heritage.



It's a Merry Viking Holiday
Life Center, 2nd Floor - Starting at gam
Let's Deck the Halls! Get into the holiday spirit by decking the halls of the Life Center and decorating cookies. Don't forget to wear your ugly holiday sweater!

7pm - Here Comes Santa Clause
Wrap-up the festivities with tree lighting, cookie decorating, ugly holiday sweater contest and a visit from the big guy himself! *First 30 Vikings in line to get a gift!

Van Alstyne’s basket ball team

cont. from pg. 4

lose, the Panthers should come out of those tough pre-season games prepared for district play. **Don’t count them out** What could stop the Panthers from being a successful team this year? “The only thing that can disrupt this team this year is themselves,” Mary Lake says. “They have the physical capabilities to be a great team, but they might lack a little on the mental side of the game of basketball.” Coach Best is similarly hopeful. “The only thing that

can hold us back is team chemistry and leadership this year, but I feel that once the whole team gets together, there should be no shortages of fun memories and a bond that will last.” You definitely don’t want to count out the Panthers as being one of the best basketball teams in their region or even in the State of Texas. Starting their season off November 5, 2022, they are planning to at least make it to the 3rd round of playoffs this year, likely positioning them to face off with the team

that took them out of the playoffs last year--Faith Family Academy, 2022 State Champions. Faith Family has stopped the Panthers’ playoff run the past 2 years with no problem, beating them by 30 and 50, respectively. But the Panthers plan on taking them out and making their first 4A State appearance this year.

Unnoticed moments: The long days (and nights) of teacher-coaches

By Lacey Thorpe, Student

Being a teacher and coach is a sought-after job because of the caliber of students they get to interact with. Yet the difficulties these educators face are often overlooked by their peers. Often times, balancing two jobs leads to teacher-coaches sacrificing personal time. In Van Alstyne, Texas, students and athletes consistently maintain a busy schedule. However, often times forgotten, teacher-coaches spend the majority of their day either in the classroom or on the field. Rather than a typical, eight-hour work day, many teacher-coaches are working from “sun up to sun down in order to ensure success,” says Terry Land, Head Track Coach at Van Alstyne High School, offensive coordinator, and history teacher. Land arrives at the high school for practice at 6:29 a.m rather than 6:30 a.m so practice will seem more intentional, and the extra hours the athletes dedicate to their sport will be highlighted. The busy schedule that these coaches face leaves them continually occupied. Yet, they continue to coach in games and

complete their teaching lesson plans week by week. **Physical stress** On average, Land gets five and a half hours of sleep, whether it’s a week day or weekend. He recalls getting eight hours of sleep only on the Sundays he skips church. He wishes this was not the case, but he explains that he “has no other option.” Likewise, Kelly Hutchinson, Varsity Volleyball coach and VAHS history teacher, has a poor sleep schedule. At most, she gets six hours of rest and longs for more. “I know that sleep is crucial, but I can never turn my mind off at night,” says Hutchinson. Late nights are common and even “home” to many coaches. Whereas students sleep in their personal beds, some coaches have been known to find a home at the school. “I don’t really see my dad after football games since he often sleeps at the ATC [Athletic Training Complex],” says Ryleigh Miller, daughter of the Athletic Director at VAHS.

Game preparation On top of the grueling days, many hours go into preparing student-athletes to be successful. Coaches often prepare their athletes to win by scouting the other team through film. Land watches roughly seven and a half hours of film each week in order to be aware of the opponent’s tendencies. Likewise, Hutchinson is dedicated to setting her team up for victory, typically spending five hours a week watching film. “Although watching film takes away the majority of my free time, I know doing so will pay off in the long run,” she explains. However, coaches’ pushing their athletes to be in top shape may result in their own academic students struggling to retain information in the classroom. **Classroom teaching preparation** With coaches being gone for games, tournaments, and practices a substantial amount (close to once a week during their season and once every other week during their off season) at times, they struggle to teach all the academic criteria in a short *cont. pg.6*



Coach Kelly Hutchinson prioritizes her job even when it means putting her personal life on hold. Photo credit, Griff Servat.

Teacher coaches

Cont. from pg. 5

time span. Learning in a class when a teacher is not present creates burdens for students.

“I prefer a teacher that isn’t a coach because I know they will always be there for me to ask questions and get feedback from,” says Jaidan Servati, senior at VAHS.

Since teachers’ absences are noticed by students, Land finds a way to teach efficiently while being gone frequently. He states that he uses past years’ notes and assignments on days he is not able to teach. Since he is experienced in his subject of United States history, he has learned which worksheets are the most effective, enabling him to prepare his students for the STAAR test when he is not available in person.

VAHS senior Sierra Bentley says she does not mind having a coach as a teacher. Reflecting on her past learning experiences, she can tell that coaches who also teach put an equal amount of

work in the classroom to what they do on the field.

“Some days I can see the physical toll my teachers [who also coach] are facing because of the long days, but they always seem to find a way to continue on with their lesson,” says Bentley.

Sacrificing family time

The teacher-coaches at Van Alstyne prioritize their jobs even when their personal life is being sacrificed. “This past Saturday was the first time in eight weeks [that] I was able to enjoy time to myself,” says Hutchinson. She misses opportunities to spend time with her two children, ages two and three, and often feels as if she does not get to be a “mom.” Miller voices that football season is her least favorite because her dad is not around as much as she would like. Although she wishes to spend more quality time with her father during football season, she is well aware of the

responsibilities he faces. Growing up around the coaching staff reminds her of the pressure they endure. “Many people look to me when the football team loses or a student is failing, but it’s not always in my control,” says Land.

The staff at Van Alstyne High School commit countless hours to improve the education and athleticism of their students, which proves their dedication to their job. These coaches and faculty members continuously set an example of how to manage two jobs while still setting their students up for success. “I knew when I took the job, many sacrifices would be made. However, I am content with my decision, and I love what I do,” affirms Land.

Chicks and goats star in Agricultural Science Program

By Patrice Parsons, Science Professor

Grayson College and the Science Department specifically want to introduce Ellen Melson to the campus and the community.

Melson has been hired to direct the **Agricultural Science** Program for the college. Melson has worked to increase our course offerings and the facilities for teaching Agricultural Science. Thanks to Melson we are now home to 13 baby chicks and 4 female goats.

She is building the

program from the ground up and has been an amazing addition to our campus.

What we need now is to “spread the word” that we have courses to offer, experiences to be had, and a future to build.

Our course offerings in the Agricultural Sciences include Introduction to Animal Sciences, Introduction to Agricultural Economics, Horticulture, Wildlife Conservation and Management, and Principles of Food

Science.

We will be adding Agronomy, Marketing of Agricultural Products, The Agricultural Industry by next fall. All of these courses can be used towards an associate’s of Science Degree in Agricultural Science at Grayson College.

If you see Melson on campus please give her a warm welcome and a big thanks for her efforts to help grow our college and community.



Thanks to Agriculture Science Professor Ellen Melson, Grayson College is now home to 13 baby chicks and 4 female goats.



Inflation

cont. from pg. 3

few vitamins and are heavy in simple carbohydrates, which could lead to obesity or diabetes,” explains Steven Bentley, a physician’s assistant at Texoma Medical Center.

Persistence despite the impacts of inflation

The impact of inflation will soon be the determining factor for many prospective students trying to decide whether to attend college.

“Inflation is pushing tuition to the outer

stratosphere, and it will eventually only be the very wealthy that can go to college,” says Kotowski.

Although the effects of inflation are discouraging, college students like Anna Arrington are working even harder to ensure that they graduate. “A few of my peers have dropped out of college, but I plan to keep pushing through and do whatever it takes until I finish,” says Arrington.

Spooktastic costumes at Hall-O-Fest



Most original, Taylor Swift’s reputation



The scariest and 3rd overall



The nun, 2nd overall

cont. pg. 7

Grayson Events

Pg. 7

Homecoming 2022

All Week: Let's Get Pumping!
Get upstairs to learn about this creative, collegiate tradition. It's fun, we promise! Life Center, 2nd Floor

Monday, November 7
T-Shirt Distribution, The Quad, 10am-3pm

Tuesday, November 8
Stuff-A-Plush, Life Center, 2nd Floor, 10am-2pm
Oh Ship! We got Dip (& Karaoke), Life Center, 2nd Floor, 7-9pm

Wednesday, November 9
Rally in the Alley, Viking Alley, 12:30pm
Mortal Kombat Tournament, Life Center, 2nd Floor, 7-9pm

Thursday, November 10
Spirit Crafting, Life Center, 2nd Floor, 10am-2pm
Axe Throwing, Viking Alley, 11:30am-2:30pm

Friday, November 11
Ship Burning & Bonfire, Jones Field, 8-11pm

Saturday, November 12
Softball Alumni Game, 10am
Baseball Alumni Game, 12pm
Tailgate, Viking Alley, 2-4:30pm
Women's Basketball vs. Panola, 5pm (shirts distributed @ 4:30pm)
Men's Basketball vs. Loyalty Prep, 7pm
The Homecoming Court will be presented during halftime of the women's basketball game. Royalty will be announced during halftime of the men's basketball game.

grayson.edu



Courtney Langfels, Phi Theta Kappa, She/Her, Queen



Aaron Putman, Psychology Club, He/Him, King

cont. pg. 8

Veterans Day

REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

Honoring Gold Star Families
With Guest Speaker
HM3 Brandon Robinson

NOVEMBER 10 @ 11AM
Viking Quad
Outside the Library

Honor our Vets at Annual Veteran's Day Event
By Stephanie L. Martin,
Director of Financial Aid and Veteran Services

Please join us on for our annual Veteran's Day event. The event will begin promptly at 11am in the Viking Quad (outside the Library).

GC Alum and Veteran Brandon Robinson will be our guest speaker and our program is geared towards honoring Gold Star Families.

Any Faculty and

Staff members that are Veterans are welcome to join us for lunch, provided by PTK, in the Veteran's Hub immediately following the event.

You will also be able to view our virtual Wall of Honor outside of the Veteran's Hub (2nd floor of the Life Center) all next week (Nov 7-11).

Hall-O-Fest costumes

cont. from pg. 6



Costume time!



1st place overall, starlight costume



Dressing up with friends



cutest outfit, officer and prisoner



Pumpkin decorating, 1st place

cont. pg. 8

Homecoming court

Pg. 8

Denison, Texas

<https://grayson.edu/the-viking/index.html>

November 4, 2022

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Homecoming photos

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Alicia Dise, Nurses Christian Fellowship, She/Her, Queen



Amarion Thomas, Student Government Association, He/Him, King



Koryon Wilson, Criminal Justice Club, He/Him, King



Kira Schaab, Anime Club, She/Her, Royal



Ryan Webber, Gamer's Guild, He/Him, King



Paizlee Swindell, Cheer, She/Her, Queen



Harrison Brewer, Cheer, He/Him, King



Alex Ramos, Sigma Kappa Delta, She/Her, Queen



Kyndal Barham, Shears, She/Her, Queen



Keyshawn Leffall, Black Print, He/Him, Royal

cont. pg. 9



SCHOLARSHIPS

up to \$2,500!

apply by
Dec. 11

Certified Nurse Aide
Clinical Medical Assistant

Pharmacy Technician
Patient Care Technician

apply by
Jan. 8

apply by
Feb. 12

Certified Nurse Aide
Mental Health Technician
Phlebotomy Technician



Apply
Here



grayson.edu/cwl

Disclaimer

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.

Hall-O-Fest costumes

cont. from pg. 7



Pumpkin Decorating 2nd Place



Employee best overall



The doc with crocs, Queen of Hearts

Homecoming photos

cont. from pg. 8



Marcus Avitia, Gay Straight Alliance, He/Him, King



Sierra Stand, Athletic Training, She/Her, Queen



Shawntavia McQueen, Gay Straight Alliance, She/Her, Royal



Maureen Okoli, Women's Basketball, She/Her, Queen



Carsyn Cox, Softball, She/Her, Queen



Bethany Ward, Black Print, She/Her, Queen



Ethan Hall, Phi Theta Kappa, He/Him, King



Katie Tyson, Student Government Association, She/Her, Queen



Shelby Lewis, Shears, She/Her, Queen



Tuesday Gibson, Gamer's Guild, She/Her, Royal

Live Here Work Here

By Marlene Phillips, Director of Outreach, Center for Workplace Learning

Stay in texoma and earn big!

If you love living in Texoma, have family that you don't want to leave or can't imagine yourself anywhere else but here, you're going to want a job that exists here and offers security, opportunity and a wage you can live on.

While the rise of remote work means that opportunities for those with any education and training can likely be found in Texoma, there are a few industries that almost guarantee a lifetime of employment nearby with opportunities to grow.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor and Statistics, the largest industry in the Sherman-Denison area is, you guessed it, education and health services.

There are approximately 11,500 jobs in education and health services in Texomaland making up 23% of all jobs in the area.

Accordingly, if staying right where you're at is your goal, then exploring careers in education and healthcare is a smart move.

Grayson College offers a total of those 15 are programs leading to employment in healthcare fields. Five of those 15, are short-term, fast-track programs like Clinical Medical Assistant or Pharmacy Technician. Students can be in a healthcare job in as little as 8 weeks with these fast-track programs and can continue their education while working to expand both their experience and their knowledge.

On the education side, Grayson College has two programs, Child Development and Education for aspiring

teachers, teacher's aides, librarians and counselors. Sherman ISD leads the pack in education sector employers with more than 1,000 full-time employees, but ample opportunities for employment in education exist with Denison ISD at 700 full-time employees, Grayson College (the best!), Austin College and numerous surrounding school districts.

Behind education and healthcare is the trade, transportation and utilities sector. There are approximately 9,500 jobs in this sector or 19% of all jobs in the Sherman-Denison area.

Possible careers in trade, transportation and utilities are Retail Manager, Utilities Service Technician, Commercial Truck Driver, Warehouse Manager and Sales Representative.

Among Grayson's five Business and Entrepreneurship programs are Accounting and Office and Computer Technology that provide a knowledge base crucial to employment in this sector.

At Grayson we are committed to your success including helping you live the life you want where you want. The Grayson College Career Center has many resources to help you find the perfect career path. The Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Plus a huge array of career services are available any time via the [Career Center page](#) linked directly to the grayson.edu homepage. You can also email the Career Center at careers@grayson.edu.

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Texomans enjoying the lake

Job Search

Pg. 10

Homecoming photos

cont. from pg. 8



Chayton Krauss, Baseball, He/Him, King



Shakur Smith, Men's Basketball, He/Him, King

Upcoming Events in the Career Center:

cont. from pg. 9

November 8 Stellar Resumes

10:00 am -11:00 am

November 9 Must-Have Job Skills

10:00 am – 11:00 am

November 15 How to Job Search

10:00 am – 11:00 am

November 16 Personal Brand; Networking

10:00 am – 11:00 am

November 22 Coffee and Career Discussion

10:00 am – 11:00 am

November 23 Mental Health and Work

10:00 am – 11:00 am

November 29 Nail a Job Interview

10:00 am – 11:00 am

November 30 How to Negotiate Your Pay

10:00 am – 11:00 am



Student Veterans, join today!



Beautiful monarch butterflies as they migrate this season. Photo credit, Kimberly Witter



South Campus Boo Bash

Letter from the editor

The leaves are changing color, and it seems to be raining constantly . Everyone is pulling out their long-sleeved clothing and grabbing cups of hot chocolate in the evenings. Are you looking forwards to the upcoming holiday season? I know that I am. From Thanksgiving to Black Friday shopping, November encompasses so many things to anticipate

However, the most important thing to me about November is recalling all the wonderful moments this year has brought about that I overlooked and should be more appreciative of.

Of course, everyone will tell you “be thankful throughout the entire year.” Something I like to do to increase my awareness of my surroundings is simply making a list.

By reflecting on events that have happened over the whole year I often make a list of times I wasn’t thankful due to frustrations or things not going according to my plan.

The funny realization that happens-and it never ceases to amaze me...is that I find myself feeling more thankful for understanding those complications or setbacks needed to happen to make me more thankful for even the most minuscule moments that are beautiful.

Perhaps you also are like me and find yourself furrowing your brow, and constantly wondering why you feel like things aren’t coming



My son and I. He is by far the thing I am most thankful for.

together in your life the way you’d like. I’ve found that our lives are similar to a puzzle. The reality is that eventually, all of the pieces to the puzzle of your life will come together and make sense.

Sometimes we get so caught up in figuring out how to fit a specific part of our lives into its proper place then and there. We don’t take a step back and look at the bigger picture as a whole.

There is so much to be thankful for. Even if it can feel like nothing is worth being thankful for this season remember that like that puzzle I mentioned earlier, life has many different pieces.

Some are a bit more jagged and curved than others; their images are perhaps a bit blurred.

When I feel overwhelmed like this I always sit down and reflect on those good and bad moments that

are necessary to balance each other out. It can’t always be daytime, but the night certainly won’t last forever.

Eventually, something good will happen and those tougher times will just make the better times more precious. If you are doing anything special for Thanksgiving this year, or feel like writing a paper for *The Viking* please feel free to send them to me at: prkpetri@vikings.grayson.edu

Thank you for taking the time to read *The Viking*! I appreciate it so much and would love any content you want to share. Don’t hesitate to email me with anything you’d like to contribute.

Happy Thanksgiving!

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