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 Spanish conquistadores arrived on Indian territory in 1598 and began the first great wave of European migration to the Americas.

Ten days later, Oñate’s expedition became 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 slopping 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, the expedition made its way to Grayson College, where they celebrated the first Thanksgiving.

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 it maybe 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 father, the one at Grayson, helped me 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 tuition 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 health-care 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 the first try every time. By August 2022, less than 12 months after returning to school, LaQuya had earned four health-care certifications on top of her GED: EKG Technician, Phlebotomy Technician, Nurse Aide and Patient Care Technician.

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Let's talk turkey.cont. from page 1

This year we celebrated a
time of thanksgiving.
The Franciscan mis-
sionaries held a mass
gathering. Fellow cap-
tain, Gaspar Pérez de
Oñate declared a cele-
bration of thanksgiving.
A nearby historical plac-
ate 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 foot-
ball field and the indoor
to practice when we are
in those tough spots.

We have been busy in
the last few weeks put-
ing together displays for
Halloween and Veteran’s
Day and most especially
for Native American
Heritage Month. It has
been fascinating time
for me, full of new infor-
mation and greater
respect for a culture so
different from my own,
and a history so removed
from how things are done
nowadays. In Wyoming,
and learned about the
Plains Indians from an
early age. My best food
in grade school was a
member of a tribe, and
I read about 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 less-
ons about Indian cul-
ture, her long dark hair
and beautiful turquoise
jewelry.

I read about 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 learn-
ning 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
made possible by Birch
House by Louise Erdrich.
This book is an easy read. It
is considered juvenile lit-
ture 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.
I even asked my 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 infor-
mative escape from the
struggle of modern society.

The book had a strange
parallel to today with
the introduction of the
Smolpox epidemic into
Omakaya’s village. I had a
new respect and
sympathy for the loss of
those children due to
life due to a horrible epidemic. I gained new
respect for the Ojibwa
spirit animals.

The culture teaches that
these animals can be
driven to our lost loved ones
in nature, if we listen with
our hearts. Regardless, we
must go on and con-
quer life. It is the same as it is now then.

Moving on to embrace
love 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 cultural figures
around me as I finally
learned the recipe of my
youth. The Maple Sugar
Trip has moved up a few
skins on my bucket list,
and I am sure now that it
must be a time when there
is snow or the expe-
rience will not fit into
my dreams.

Native American Heritage month in the library, a look at Louise Erdrich; The Birch House
By Michelle Mishkel, Library Administrative Assistant.
From a Hobby to a Career: How Texas Locals Are Preserving Memories

By Carol Dossman, Student

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

Campbell’s process

For Campbell, his role in the wedding industry, is captured 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 all his equipment: microphones, batteries, drones, lights, and memory cards to get through the day to ensure he does not miss a single moment.

Today your Campbell is on site dedicated to flying the drone, recording the camera, tip-pointing for prime locations, and planning lighting, while also working on the computer like the wedding rings and flowers.

To avoid disappointing the couple, Campbell also takes this time to ensure that he has a plan to go every angle and group photo requested. For instance, if Allie and James wanted, for the video of their first looks before their ceremony, Campbell counts the composition of the shot or even set up came from left to right.

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

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 automatically exhausting, usually sleeping 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 assitant or production team. Everything from filming blocking song lyrics, deciding which video clips to use, and composing the final video he has to do on his own.

He spends his drives listening to songs that resonate with he and couple. He combines the different audio clips he gathered on the wedding day.

Once the audio is completed, he lays down the different video clips on a timeline, which is a tedious process involving cutting, lining up audio segments, and watching the film over and over again. Only when he believes in the footage does he send the video to the newlyweds.

Campbell recently branched out from Texas weddings to began to explore destination weddings.

“I’m proud of them, and I’m really proud of pass- ing on my certications. I didn’t think I could pull off, and doing so made me realize that I could do whatever I want to do,” beamed Laquya.

Can I Stop? Won’t Stop!

From his programs and recovered his 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 Editing the LVPN program next.

“Our kids took on responsibilities at home that weren’t theirs so that I could go back to school,” Campbell said.

“I’m proud of them, and I’m really proud of pass- ing on my certications. I didn’t think I could pull off, and doing so made me realize that I could do whatever I want to do,” beamed Laquya.

“I would tell anybody that I’ve got going back out there is the hardest part. Once you’re there just stick it out, and you’ll get that feeling of accomplish- ment and want even more!”

Grayson College has a path for all learners no matter your age or your ability. For fast-track healthcare programs, the college offers. You can stop and start with available with dead lines to apply as soon as you can. As a call, 903.463.8765, or check us out online, est.com> from pg. 2

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

Younger players’ opportunity to shine

With the departure of diffe- rences fans will see in this year’s Panthers team is the opportunity for younger players. The team lost 5 seniors last season, including one of the best players in Pan- ant basketball players in Panther basketball history – former dis- trict MVP for the past 2 seasons. But Head Basketball Coach Russell Best says that should be no problem.

“Well there another J.J. Boling?” No, but there

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 just think twice before buying things the money I used to buy. My money doesn’t go as far as it used to,” Arrington explains.

She had even consid- ered providing her own source of food by planting- ing a garden. “Although I have much of a green thumb, though, so I won’t be able to do it, she states. Not to mention, there is no place to plant a garden in 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 sav- ings as food prices con- tinue to rise. Many students 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 5 or 10 items usually costs over $100. It’s ridicu- lous!” Lewis states.

“As food prices con- tinue to rise, many college students are reporting to cheap and quick-to-make foods that fit into their budget or work with their schedule. Although this may seem practical, it is unfortu- nate because these foods have very

Tiffany Allen, a man- ager 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.

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The Gunter Tigers

for the players to have a single important game water from the outfield. Fence to push out the ing in 8 hours of scoop - tions with school board deserved. believed their program players who took a stand by a group of softball 2022 Gunter ISD Bond run proved to the school year, a rainstorm seniornight game last Photo Credit, Diane Dancer

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 what they believed their program deserved. by writing persuasive essays and even having face-to-face conversa- tions with board members, they showed just how badly these players felt the need of a better their “home.” Their statements addressed the district about the right for the players to have a field as nice as the foot- ball and basketball loca- tions, the increase in area population, the need for better outdoor facilities, and the “fairness” 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 $78.8 million bond last year. In this bond there was $1.7 million allotted to update both the baseball field and softball drain- age issues.

Delayed drainage start

Starting in early September, the pro- cess of redoing the field was supposed to begin. Sadly, this did not end until mid-October 2022 rolled around, and Gunter softball staff were anxious about the fact the process had yet to begin. Adding a drainage system could take over a month, and the construction is press- ing into valuable time as the 2022-2023 sea- son rapidly approaches. coaching staff at “anty” as they patiently wait for the process to begin. “The necessity for a solid foundation of the field is something that was evident at [softball] careers of so many girls,” says Williams.

Gunter ISD Bond

Due to the flooding, there Even part of the school. Completely flooded the school year. A rainstorm -ing into valuable time the construction is press- ing and giving it their all. Money was being spent on new better outdoor facilities, and improvements to the field could make it the best teams in the state. Without these seniors, these players are nothing more than specters of a past era.

Van Alstyne High School

Van Alstyne High School who has played the Tigers for the past four years, believes that the Panthers will fold under pressure in big games. “Without those seniors, these players are nothing more than specters of a past era.”

Van Alstyne's basketball team was one of the most successful teams in the school’s history. Can this year's team match up against some of the best teams in the state? From a Hobby to a Career

A real blessing, although it can be easier to enjoy photographing weddings in photos -ing weddings in photos

While traditional edu- cation is important, Dr. Baker affirmed that an effective way to improve is through repetition, failure, and reflection. "Working with a cam- era and composing shots is a nuanced pro- cess. Van Alstyne High School audio/video and yearbook teacher Holly McRae claimed, "You never know when a skill, you can never be overqualified. You can never learn too much in this field." While the knowledge of how to use a camera and editing software is important, one also needs strong writing skills, the abil- ity to design, marketing knowledge, and business expertise. According to McRae, understanding the needs of a wedding photographer may seem daunting, being able to communicate effectively with these men and women to ensure they get the best out of each session is important. Serious impact on others

While everything that happens in a wedding photographer’s career may seem a blur, being able to communicate effectively with these men and women to record

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Van Alstyne High School board meeting, left to right: JJ Boiling, Carson Brown, Riley Dancer, Sean Wilson, Dylan Geller, Nick Carmona, Mackenzie Thomas, Jace Gully, Blake Skipworth, Gavin Montgomery. Photography, stated, "To photographing for a living is about much more than making a living off of something you love that couples have tradition of becoming an entre- preneur, she noted the importance of becoming an entre- preneur, she noted the importance of". But having passion is not enough; you need to know how to use a camera and editing software because photography is not as easy as it may seem. According to Campbell, “... people need to invest in [pro- fessional education] the most important of all.”

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apes' wedding. It was truly-affirming that what I do for work matters," 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 helpful. “The only thing that

Van Alstine’s basketball ball team

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 helpful. “The only thing that

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 purity makes each second of the video replicated.

“Sure, for so many people, it is his impact on others that happened to be 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," 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 helpful. “The only thing that

According to Campbell, people who happened to be the

mic’d up the officiant

“I’ll never forget a text -

From a Hobby to a Career

Denison, Texas

Unnoticed moments:

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 teachers-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 school at 5:30 a.m. and leaves the school at 6:30 p.m. each week in order to be aware of the opponent’s tendencies.

Lizzie, a high school basketball player on the Van Alstyne Panthers, 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 AFC (Athletic Training Complex),” says Rhylith 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 a day 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 from 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

With coaches being gone for games, tournaments, and practices a substantial amount (close to 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 amount of time.

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**Exciting New Courses!**

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 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.

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

The nun, 2nd overall

The scariest and 3rd overall

Most original, Taylor Swift’s reputation

The man, 2nd overall

cont. pg 7

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**Chicks and goats star in Agricultural Science Program**

By Patrice Parsons, Science Professor

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

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**Teacher coaches**

Cont. from pg. 5.

“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 Sant 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.

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**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.

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All Week: Let’s Get Pomping!
Get up close to learn about this creative, collegiate tradition. It’s fun, we promise! Life Center, 2nd Floor

Monday, November 7
7: Short Distribution, The Quad, 10am-3pm

Tuesday, November 8
2nd A-Float, Life Center, 2nd Floor, 10am-2pm
3rd A-Float, We got Dip (E. Karraker), Life Center, 2nd Floor, 2-9pm

Wednesday, November 9
Mortal Kombat Tournament, Life Center, 2nd Floor, 7-9pm

Thursday, November 10
Spirit Crafting, Life Center, 2nd Floor, 8am-2pm
Ase Thrimong, 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
Tugofwar, Viking Alley, 2-4:30pm
Women’s Basketball vs. Panola, 3pm (Note: eliminated at 4:30pm)
Men’s Basketball vs. Loyalty Prep, 7pm
The homecoming court will be announced during halftime of the men’s basketball game. You can get your tickets at the ticket booth. Tickets will be $5.00 at the door, $4.00 for students and $3.00 for faculty and staff.

Veterans Day

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).

Grayson Events
Homecoming photos
cont. from pg. 7

Alex Ramos, Sigma Kappa Delta, She/Her, Queen
Leslie Dao, Nurses Christian Fellowship, She/Her, Queen
Shamar Thomas, Student Government Association, He/Him, King
Ryan Webber, Gamer’s Guild, He/Him, King
Paizlee Swindell, Cheer, She/Her, Queen
Harrison Brewer, Cheer, He/Him, King
Kyndal Barham, Shears, She/Her, Queen
Keyshawn Leffall, Black Print, He/Him, Royal
Amarion Thomas, Student Government Association, He/Him, King
Koryon Wilson, Criminal Justice Club, He/Him, King
Kira Schacht, Anime Club, She/Her, Royal
Alicia Dise, Nurses Christian Fellowship, She/Her, Queen
Chase Wehler, Gamer’s Club, He/Him, King
Valerie Swindell, Cheer, She/Her, Queen

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Hall-O-Fest costumes
cont. from pg. 7

Employee best overall
Pumpkin Decorating 2nd Place
The doc with crown, Queen of Hearts

Scholarships
up to $2,500!

Apply Here
grayson.edu/cwl

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Hall-O-Fest costumes
cont. from pg. 7

Employee best overall
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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 780 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.

Cont. pg. 10
The funny realization

By reflecting on events that happened over the whole year I often make a list of times I was thankful due 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 appreciation of.

Of course, everyone will tell you “be thankful throughout the entire year.” Something I like to do is turn 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 understating 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 frustrated wondering why you feel like things aren’t coming 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 tough 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@vikingsgrayson.edu

Happy Thanksgiving!