

Keeping it Country; preservation and poaching problematic to the area

From five-story burgers to bucking bulls, Texas's culture keeps residents on their toes. In order to have these Southern luxuries, there are laws in place to keep the hunters and farmers under control in this "Big State of Texas."

Those laws include no trespassing, no interfering with other people's property, and respecting what's around. These things are taught in school early on to build a strong character trait. Unfortunately, these laws have been broken, and people have violated Heard Museum property by poaching on their property.

"I think that those people who trespassed should respect the law and people's property, and they should treat them like they want to be treated," eighth grader Gracie Tillinghast said.

Illegal equipment such as deer feed and shotgun shells have been found on the Heard Wildlife Sanctuary, and it is certain that poaching took place at this location.

"Oh no! That's terrible. What kind of people would hunt on reserve? Those kind of people are terrible people obviously. I do not support them in any way; that's ridiculous. It's not even sport anymore," said eighth-grader Roger Visloskey.

Collin County has experienced much more trespassing and illegal hunting than just on the Heard Museum property. Poaching is a real issue all around because of the large southern hunting population in Texas.

Eighth grade students Gracie and Gabby Tillinghast, whose parents have a large Fairview property with wildlife such as alpacas and long horns, felt that they could relate to how the Heard Museum feels.

"I'll sleep over at other people's houses and realize how different it is. Like, for example, when I get home, I have to feed the alpacas while other girls probably go home and watch Netflix. I like that we have so many animals, and it's fun... I get to go outside and look at peacocks," Gabby said.

The Tillinghasts have devoted much of their time to their animals, and share that they would feel very violated and angry if harm was done to their property.

"We love animals, and we love to kind of share them with others, and I hope people

Gracie said.

From the eyes of animal lovers, poaching will always reach their hearts. Some day they hope that it will not be an issue.

"I think that [poaching on Heard wildlife] is just messed up. They have showings where people can look around... go to those, like, don't trespass. That's just not cool," Gabby said. "I'd be mad and annoyed. I'd try to find out who did it and make them stop. I'd want to know why they did that."



photo by: Kelsey Carrol

One can

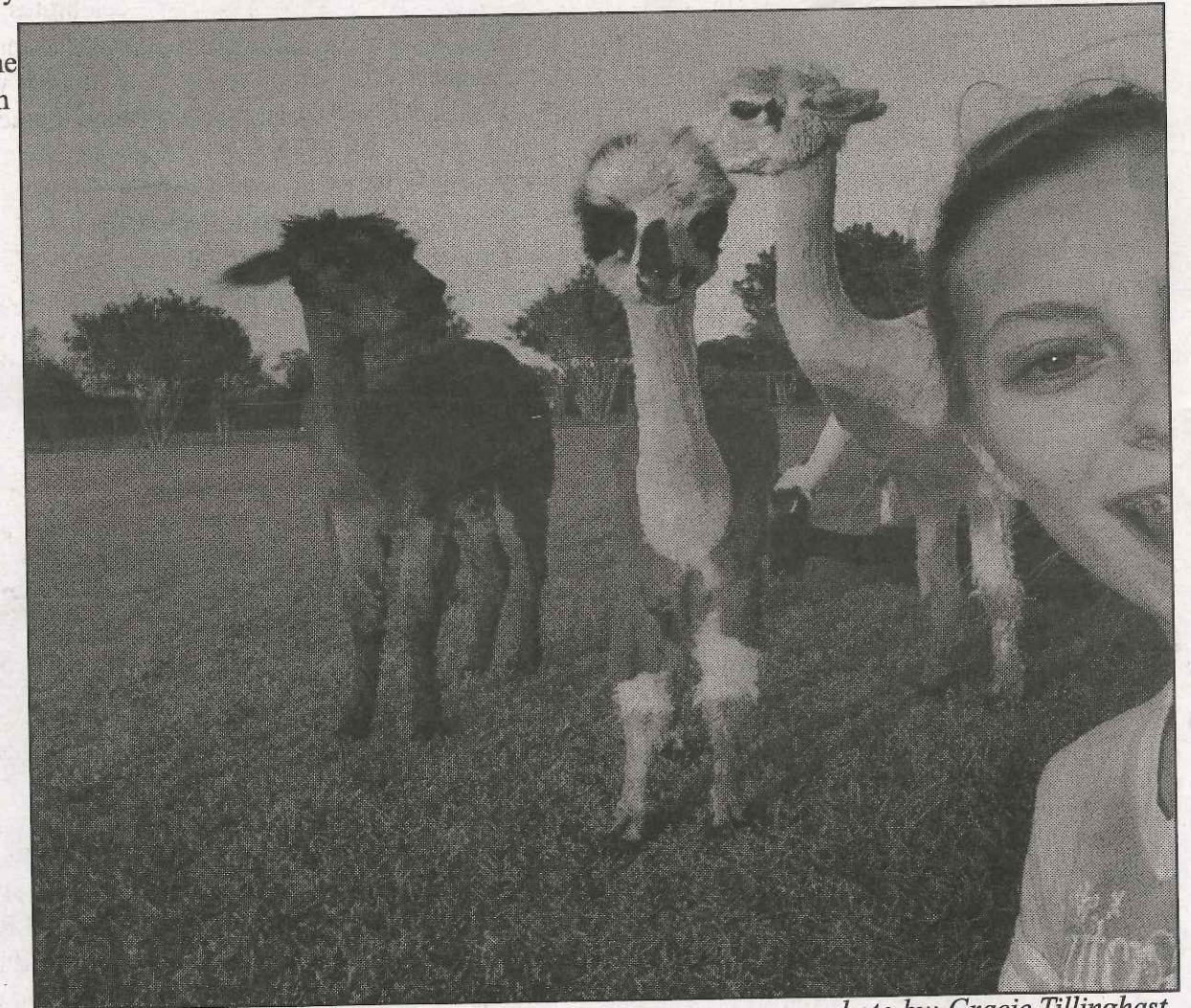


photo by: Gracie Tillinghast

only imagine the hurt that the Heard must be feeling as they are faced with the question of what to do in this situation. One thing that they have decided to act upon is to ask for help. The museum has reached out to their customers to support them in this unfortunate, unexpected time of need, as they have not planned for such a crisis.

The Heard has opened up donations to put towards cameras to patrol the property.

ers from coming and to catch them on tape if they do. Donations can be made on their website Heardmuseum.org by clicking the donate button. They also have options if givers would like to help out for a specific cause such as "in memory of" or "specified for".

-Lily Hager, Editor-In-Chief