

Shattered Dreams

Students experience impact of driving under the influence

The normally quiet town was filled with the sounds of emergency vehicle sirens. Bounds Street was blocked off with cones and littered with beer cans. Students looked on in stunned-silence as they took in the scene before them: the bloody bodies of their classmates strewn across the asphalt and jammed into cars.

"I had to keep telling myself that it wasn't real over and over again," Markell Irvin, 11th, said. "It was scary, just thinking if they were really gone."

On May 20, a group of 12 students acted out the two-car fatality in front of their parents, teachers, and peers, known as Shattered Dreams. Complete with actual wrecked cars,

first responders, and a Starflight helicopter students learned about the serious effects drinking and driving has on peoples' lives.

The 38 students involved in the event were asked to write their own obituary which was read over the loud speaker on Wednesday.

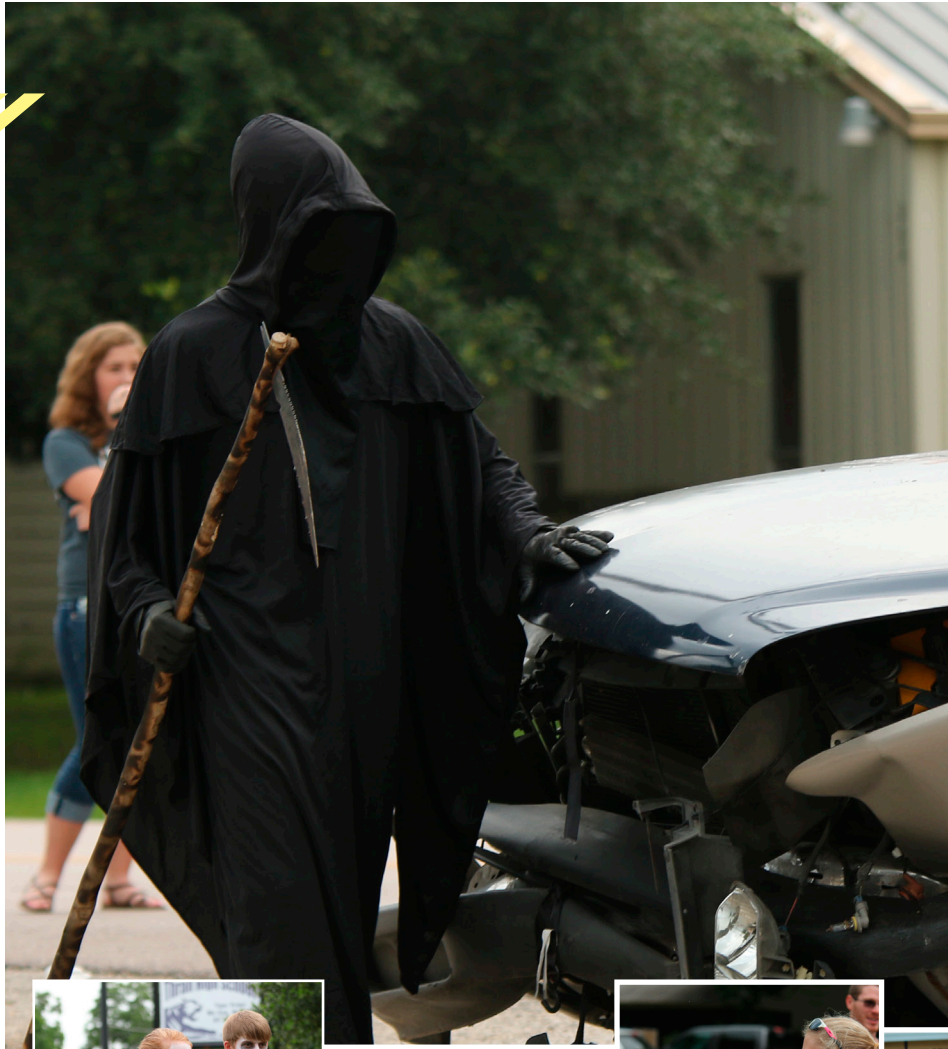
"It was kind of awkward at first – acting like you died and writing your own obituary," Markell said. "I felt kind of empty, like 'Why did my life have to be taken?'"

EMS workers created fake injuries on the students involved to make the scene more realistic and to have a greater impact on the audience.

"It was a little weird putting on the fake bone, but it was interesting too," Shawn Pittman, 12th, said.

After the incident, students were ushered into the gym for a presentation led by Terri Gruca, a reporter from KVUE news.

"You may think you're in control but you're not. . ." Gruca told the students. "Alcohol is in control."



@States



State Golf: Chloe Speer, 11th, Kami Hooker, 12th, Colby Jaeger, 10th, Kami Renfro, 10th, and Brooke Edwards, 12th.
State Robotics: Candace Gautreaux, Rachel Byrd, Hallie Hudson, and Chloe Speer, 11th.
State UIL: Kenneth Kruse, 10th, Bradley Graham, 9th, Riley Richter, 9th, Ryan Rinderknecht, 12th, Kelsey Faykus, 12th, Megan Byrd, 12th, Chloe Speer, 11th, Alyssa Kramer, 11th, Kristen Rinderknecht, 12th.



A GRIM SITUATION

The Grim Reaper, played by Kenneth Kruse, 10th, hovers at the edge of the crash scene, waiting to take lives of the students involved in the incident. "It was just a way to let people know that when things like this happen, people really die," he said. Every 15 minutes a student was pulled out of class to represent the number of teens that are killed in alcohol related accidents. *Photo by Jacob Davis*



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FLY HIGH

Kelsey Faykus, 12th, is prepped by Emergency Medical Services to be air lifted to the hospital as a victim of the Shattered Dreams crash. "Flying in the helicopter was an amazing experience," she said. "I got to see the whole town of Thrall." Kelsey "passed away" on the way to the hospital from her injuries. *Photo by Jacob Davis*



SPEAKING OUT

After the mock crash, Terry Gruca from KVUE News shares the story of four Central Texas teenage girls who survived after being hit by a drunk driver. Other guest speakers included a driver who was under the influence during a fatal car crash that resulted in the death of his son.



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- Hunter Dill, Ashley Stolte, and Wesley Stolte, 10th, were a part of the "walking dead" and were not allowed to talk or to be talked to for the remainder of the day. *Photo by Jacob Davis*
- Acting as frantic teenagers under the influence, Chloe Speer, 11th, Macey Randig, 12th, and Chelsea Seggern, 11th, watch as emergency responders care for their injured friends. *Photo by Jacob Davis*
- Before the scene begins, Brittini Rohde, 11th, is covered in fake blood by a first responder. *Photo by Jacob Davis*
- Tyler Chandler, 12th, is carried on a stretcher to the ambulance. *Photo by Karlie Knapek*
- Shawn Pittman, 12th, was pronounced "dead" on the scene after being pulled from the wrecked car. *Photo by Jacob Davis*



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Brains & Games

UIL participants rewarded with Austin Park and Pizza

- Samantha Grumbles, 9th, plays air hockey with Cyrilla-Lyn Thompson, 9th. At the end of the friendly competition, Samantha hit the puck into her own goal on accident. *Photo by Chelsea Seggern*
- Using wrist techniques she learned in softball, Ashley Porter, 9th, plays skee-ball while waiting for Lilly Chandler and Samantha Grumbles, 9th, to finish their game of air hockey. *Photo by Chelsea Seggern*
- Secure in his protective harness, Colton Carter, 10th, carefully climbs to the top of the rock wall. *Photo by Chelsea Seggern*

What's Up?

"I just try to throw it down the middle, and usually it goes in the right direction. That's how I sport."
-Bailey Thelen, 11th

