



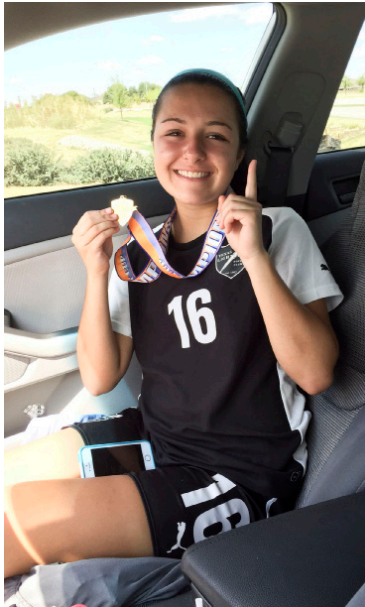
Tayia Anderson



Tayia Anderson

oh, happy day Choir gets to know each other at cookout

While playing the three-legged race, **Nicole Asadu (10)** and **Gloria Ombati (10)** stumble to the finish line. Choir's planned outing on Sept. 12, at Stovall Park included food, music and activities. "We fell like 10 times," Asadu said. "We were laughing so hard." As **Leslie Che (12)** and **Andres Chilton (11)** stand as still as they can, **Stephon Smith (12)** jumps over them. Leapfrog was Smith's favorite game they played. "Before I jumped, I made sure I pushed off of their shoulders," he said. "I was testing my limits there."



Provided by Ariana Taheri

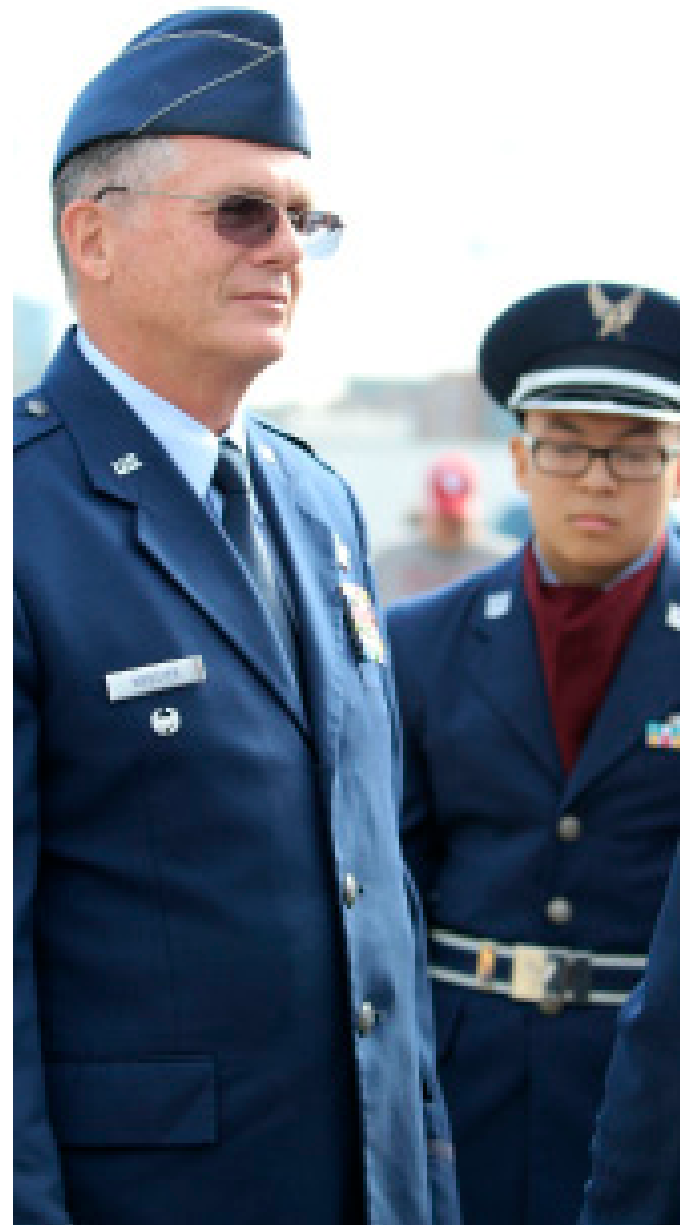


Provided by Ariana Taheri

on the GO...

After a 2-0 win by the Texas Lightening Soccer Team at the Austin Labor Day Tournament, **Ariana Taheri (11)** heads back home. She has played select soccer for 10 years. "I felt accomplished and proud of myself," Taheri said. "I was performing at a great level."

After their game, the team relaxes on the Nile River in Austin. The group kayaked and paddle boarded. Taheri said, "Rowing made me really sore but I had fun bonding with my friends."



runnin' down a dream Cross Country places 5th in 5K Midlothian meet

At Camp Hoblitzelle on Sept. 10, **Charles Onwuka (12)** takes the final sprint. Afterward, he walked back to his team and dropped to the ground in exhaustion. "I eat healthy, rest and prepare mentally for my meets," Onwuka said. "I have high expectations for a race." After they finish running, **Joshua Staggs (10)** and **Isaiah Owens (12)** go to the tent to prepare for their next event. Owens said music plays a big part during meets. "I listen to hippy songs (because) it calms me down." The Varsity B boys practice on the course before starting the competition. So they don't tire out, they usually run for five minutes to warm-up. "It keeps us on our feet and prepares us for the race," **Matthew Garza (12)** said. Sprinting toward the finish, **Ashire Rhodes (10)** ends with a time of 19:32. He said he was proud of his time. "Before every race, I set a goal for myself," Rhodes said. "It feels amazing when I conquer it." **Ricardo Navarro-Medina (12)**, along with his team, runs three miles during the event. Navarro-Medina said, "Running makes me feel happy." Taking a break after her first 5K, **Amanda Huerta (9)** stops to rehydrate. She said, "I cheered on my team (since) it's almost as important as the competition itself."



Jakob Hazen

LOOKING BACK

JROTC Instructor Colonel Terry Webster recalls events at Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001



Mary Trujillo

As the television plays endless clips recalling the deadly events of Sept. 11, 2001, he can't believe it's been 14 years.

So much time since American Airlines Flight 11 and United Airlines Flight 175 collided with the World Trade Center in New York, United Airlines Flight 93 was brought down in the fields of Pennsylvania and the one he remembers most vividly, the American Airlines Flight 77, which hit the Pentagon.

"Some of the things are so emblazoned on my mind that I see them as if it just happened," Colonel Terry Webster, who instructs JROTC, said. "Sometimes it seems like just yesterday because the news stirs emotions and I recall events of what we hear each anniversary so clearly."

Webster was in one of the Pentagon cafeterias with an Air Force Inspection Agency team when the jet liner crashed into the building.

"I just can't imagine," he said. "What I went through is enough. I don't want to go there."

He was on temporary duty to give the general of Air Mobility command a briefing on the Aerospace Expeditionary Force.

"To tell you the truth, I was not supposed to be in the Pentagon on 9/11," Webster said. "I was supposed to brief him two days before but (it) was delayed."

Webster said that he was looking forward to heading home because it was his wedding anniversary.

"We were about 45 minutes away from our briefing, so we were eating breakfast in the cafeteria," he said.

Suddenly, the place was buzzing.

"One of the colonels came by and said that (he'd) just heard (on a TV, by the food line) that an airplane had hit one of the Trade Towers," he said.

His immediate thoughts were that a smaller Cessna or a two-engine airplane had drifted and hit the building.

Colonel Terry Webster instructs **Jordan Hoang (10)** while **Jonathan Rowland (12)** listens in, at the Veteran's Day Parade in Dallas. Webster has taught JROTC for 10 years. He said, "I love working with the younger generation and seeing them become successful."

"But then another colonel on my team came and said 'A second plane had hit the other tower,'" he said.

Then there was the hit. Within a matter of minutes, Flight 77 collided into the Pentagon, 4 and 5.

"We were in the center ring just across from where it hit," Webster said. "If I had gone to the inside then I could have been in a lot more trouble than I was."

Suddenly, the place was in chaos.

"A few minutes later an armed security guard came running in with a M16, saying, 'The Pentagon is under attack,'" he said.

Everyone filed out into the parking lot.

"It seemed so surreal like they were filming a movie," Webster said.

That day 184 people lost their lives in the Pentagon. It was three hours before Terry could get a signal to call home. Because

flights were canceled for three days, it was over a week before he was able to fly home.

"It makes me feel like our lives are more precious," Webster said. "American lives are worth fighting for."

Webster joined Operation Iraqi Freedom launched by President George W. Bush on March 19, 2003. He worked in the Joint Task Force West.

"I just felt that before (9/11), I hadn't done enough in the Air Force to convince myself that I was protecting lives," Webster said.

For the first few years, his wife Sherri said their anniversary wasn't celebrated.

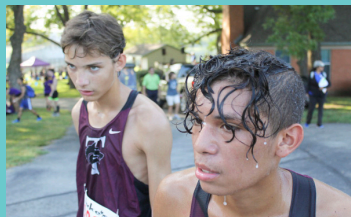
"It was just really hard to get back into the whole happy anniversary part," she said.

Webster never forgets the date.

"My anniversary helps me get away from (memories of that day) and if I do something special with my wife at least I'll still have that," he said. "It's a silver lining. The future's still bright." *By Paulina Zuleta*

need to know

- Webster teaches JROTC
- He wasn't supposed to be at the Pentagon that day
- Over 2,977 were killed



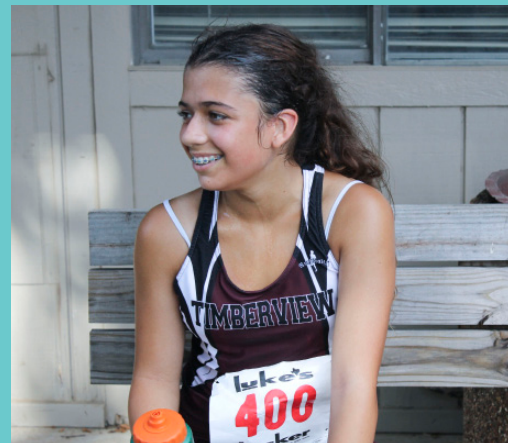
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"Braces and spacers are a pain but it's totally worth it. Everyone made fun of me when I got expanders, which caused me to have a lisp, but they aren't going to be laughing when my beautiful teeth outshine their raggedy ones."

Penelope Nguyen (9)