

Students receive assistance during pandemic

By ELISABETH LIVELY
Editor-in-Chief

After the sudden and unexpected COVID-19 pandemic, many students have found themselves struggling to complete their academic studies, pay for personal items and obtain technology for class assignments. Due to these disadvantages, some students have received financial assistance from the federal government and/or the NTCC Foundation to pay for college and personal expenses.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act will provide select students with a \$300 direct payment to assist them during this unexpected pandemic.

Students eligible for CARES Act funding have been sent a letter to their NTCC email and their personal home

address with information regarding the purpose of the act. Student eligibility for the funding is determined by the qualifications set forth by the Department of Education.

"We are able to identify most students within our system because they filled out FAFSA, but there still is a subset of students that qualify but are not readily identifiable," Jeffery Chambers, NTCC vice president for administrative services, said. "For these students, we will be offering a certification process in the near future to qualify them for the \$300."

For more information regarding eligibility, please see the red box to the right. While not all requirements have been listed, students may contact Chambers at jchambers@ntcc.edu for further information.

In addition to federal assistance,

students can receive financial assistance or scholarships from the NTCC Foundation.

"If they [the students] are struggling with something, whether it is in the classroom or in life, we want to help them get through it," Jon McCullough, NTCC executive vice president for advancement, said. "This is the Eagle way! Our goal is to empower our students to succeed."

The NTCC Foundation is Northeast Texas Community College's association of donors who help advance academics by contributing to the college's students and organizations. Given the current crisis, the Foundation is crucial for financially vulnerable students.

The NTCC Foundation President Dr. Jim Archer said, "Going to school,

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Primary qualifications for CARES Act funding

- Enrolled in at least one face-to-face class in the Spring 2020 semester
- Previously earned a high school diploma or GED
- Maintained satisfactory academic progress
- Submitted a social security number
- Be a citizen of U.S. or eligible non-citizen
- Register with Selective Service, if required to do so



COURTESY PHOTO

Haley Swindler speaks at the December 2019 graduation.

Spring graduation moves to August

By JOELLE WEATHERFORD
Editor-in-Chief

Due to COVID-19 concerns, the Northeast Texas Community College administration has made the decision to postpone the May graduation ceremony to coincide with the August ceremony.

NTCC Vice President for Instruction Dr. Kevin Rose said it was a tough decision to make.

"We know that this is a big day for our faculty, students and their families," Rose said. "Please know that this decision was not taken lightly."

An update on the NTCC website provided students with information on how diplomas would be issued for those scheduled to graduate in May.

"We certainly wanted to provide our graduates with a later opportunity to have the experience and public acknowledgment they so richly deserve in completing this important milestone in their lives," NTCC President Dr. Ron Clinton said.

All degrees and certificates completed at the end of the 2020 spring semester will be awarded and posted to transcripts once all grades

are received. Diplomas will be printed after degrees are posted following finals week.

Diplomas will be mailed to those who request it and have paid the \$10 fee.

Anyone who has not yet paid the fee can email Betsy Gooding, NTCC registrar, at bgooding@ntcc.edu to request their diploma be mailed.

Once the fee is paid, the diploma will be mailed.

In the event that the college is back to normal operations in August, students planning to graduate after the summer semester and participate in the August ceremony will be able to pick up their available diplomas immediately after the ceremony.

While the NTCC administration is still working out the details for the graduation ceremonies, President Clinton made a special video congratulating the NTCC graduates on a job well done.

"The fact that you persevered and crossed the finish line in spite of the many obstacles faced during this historically unprecedented time, a time that will be remembered for many years to come, that fact makes

See *Graduation*, page 2

May, summer classes go online

By ELISABETH LIVELY
Editor-in-Chief

With the COVID-19 pandemic on the rise, extra safety precautions have pushed the Northeast Texas Community College administration to move May intersession and Summer classes online.

"Our decision to move the majority of our face-to-face classes online came out of specific directives we received from the Texas Higher Education

Coordinating Board and the Governor's office related to his latest GA-18 ordinance for the State," NTCC President Dr. Ron Clinton said.

Starting June 8, Clinton said a computer lab will be open to students in need of the Internet for their summer classes.

Clinton said that there are only a few exceptions to the new ruling for online classes.

"Even though we will not be offering any transfer courses on campus this summer, we

are being allowed to offer a limited number of on-campus workforce classes that cannot be offered fully online and are deemed 'essential' by the Texas Department of Emergency Management. These limited face-to-face offerings will be in the areas of 'health sciences, first responder training, transportation, and critical infrastructure technicians,'" Clinton said.

In addition to the closure of the campus, housing will not be available.

For these reasons, the Summer Success and Upward Bound programs will not be held in person this summer, but will be offered in an online format.

The Work4College program, however, will continue to move forward per usual, but with social distancing measures set in place.

In a recent email to the college, Dr. Clinton said that he hopes the administration will be able to reopen the campus for the fall semester.



COURTESY PHOTO

Work4College students and NTCC Director of Sustainable Agriculture Rene McCracken, second from right, work in the greenhouse at the NTCC Eagle Ranch during last year's Work4College program.

Work4College on track for summer

By DAVIN WHATLEY
Staff Writer

The NTCC Work4College program is on schedule to take place this summer. Even though the COVID-19 pandemic altered most of NTCC's spring semester, students who were recently selected for the Work4College program should still be able to participate while obeying social distancing procedures.

Dr. Jon McCullough, NTCC's executive vice president for advancement, said the plan is for the summer program to start June 8. He said the college has already developed ideas for students to work in safe environments such as the farm, campus maintenance and painting.

"These are all jobs that we can isolate students for social distancing purposes," McCullough said. "I hope we don't have to do that, but if we do, we're set up for that. We know a lot of people have lost their jobs right now, especially student workers, so we're hoping to be

able to provide job opportunities for many students this summer and, in addition, allow them to earn money to pay toward their tuition fees and start paying off their college."

McCullough said even though social distancing rules may change some as the summer progresses, there will still be challenges to consider as student workers ease back into normalcy.

"A lot of people will be very timid, or very reserved and scared," McCullough said. "We're hoping to use this as a safety transition program to get them back into the workforce, get them back into college, but do it under a monitored circumstance where we can kind of control it and help ease some of their fears and transition them back into work and to college."

In the past, the Work4College program has helped a number of students develop skills and qualities that can

See *Summer*, page 2

Quote of the Month

"Despite how difficult circumstances may look at the moment, those who have faith and move forward with a happy spirit will find that things always work out."

-Gordon B. Hinckley

UPCOMING EVENTS

Last class day (May Intersession).....	June 5
First class day (Summer I 5-week, 10-week).....	June 8
Work4College program begins.....	June 8
Deadline for summer graduation application.....	June 25
First class day (Summer II 5-week).....	July 13

NEWS



COURTESY PHOTO

On the last day of their program, the summer 2019 Work4College students stand together for a group photo in the SUB.

Summer program continues to inspire

Cont. from pg. 1

assist them in accomplishing their goals.

Lynda Cruzgoo, an NTCC student receiving her associate degree in automotive technology, spent a semester in the Work4College program after serving eight years in the Army.

“Everything that we did through the program was tremendous help for students who are new to living on their own,” Cruzgoo said. “The classes and everything that was taught during the program are very essential for their future, and is very important for them to know.”

Cruzgoo said that one of her favorite parts of the program was meeting the sponsors.

“To meet the sponsors, the people who paid for our classes and basically paid for us to be there was amazing,” Cruzgoo said. “Just to see how helpful people are, how giving they are is just amazing.”

Brent Garret, a former Work4College student, said the program helped him grow as a leader and gave him real world experiences such as working alongside others. He said the program has also given him the motivation to join the Army.

“The program helped me learn how to work,” Garrett said. “It kind of was like my first actual job in a sense. I want to be a leader. I want to make a difference and that’s why I want to join the Army. I feel like everything I’ve done with the Work4College program has given me motivation to want to help others and to work hard.”

For students who are in need of a job and are concerned about paying for classes, both Cruzgoo and Garrett agreed that the Work4College program is an opportunity that should be taken advantage of.

“Anybody who I have heard talk about having issues with their debt, their loans or something like that, I always tell

them to do the Work4College program. It’s awesome,” Cruzgoo said. “It shows them that hard work and dedication with perseverance can get you places.”

Over the past six summers the program has provided students the ability to pay for their education while giving back to the college.

Participants in the program have worked in different areas of the campus including student services, the Eagle Ranch and plant services.

In addition to preventing student debt, students are taught work ethic, leadership skills, community service and time and financial management skills. The privately-funded program has been successful enough that other schools in the state have become interested in trying to replicate it at their own universities.

For more information on the Work4College program, follow their Facebook page or contact McCullough at jmccullough@ntcc.edu.

College adjusts grading policy

By JOELLE WEATHERFORD
Editor-in-Chief

In light of the challenges associated with COVID-19, Northeast Texas Community College has updated its Spring 2020 final grade policy. This new policy will allow students to review the letter grade they have earned in the class, then determine if they wish to retain the grade or change it.

NTCC President Dr. Ron Clinton said the decision was made to help give students options that would benefit their academic progress.

“We know that the very abrupt transition to online course formats, as well as the personal disruptions faced as a result of the COVID-19 situation, has been extremely challenging for many of our students,” Clinton said. “As a result, we wanted to provide the greatest number of options for making grading decisions here at the end of this unprecedented semester that would be fair and ultimately serve the best interest of our students.”

Students will be able to either keep the letter grade submitted by their professor, convert the letter grade to an S-Satisfactory or a U-Unsatisfactory, or withdraw from the course

with a W. This may be done following the posting of final grades. In order to switch to an S grade, students must have received a C or higher grade in the class. Those who received an F can take a U grade or request to withdraw from the class all together.

An S grade will not impact the student’s GPA but will be counted in their Total Attempted Credits. Any Ws the student opts for will not go toward their total career W count, however, a U grade or a W may impact a student’s completion percentage for Financial Aid purposes and choosing a U grade or a W does not guarantee that there will be no repercussions regarding future Financial Aid eligibility.

Once a student makes their decision on the Spring coursework grade, this decision is final and cannot be reversed in the future.

The deadline for students to convert their letter grade will be June 2 at 6 p.m.

This policy will only apply to the Spring 2020 semester.

Students should seek both their faculty member and academic advisors’ guidance in making the decision to change a grade.

For more information check the NTCC website at www.ntcc.edu.

IT offers services during COVID-19

By EMMA YEAGER
Feature Editor

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Northeast Texas Community College made the decision, like many other colleges, to convert to a completely online learning system. After an extended spring break, classes resumed in an online format on March 30 via Zoom meetings and discussion boards.

Sebastian Barron, NTCC director of Computer Services, said that because NTCC had already begun to work on improving online services prior to the coronavirus outbreak, the switch to all online classes went considerably well.

“NTCC has invested heavily in our IT infrastructure over the past few years,” Barron said. “Investment items such as an updated phone system, transitioning to cloud services, cybersecurity and a more robust ticket creation system really helped us make the transition very smooth.”

For more information on Phi Theta Kappa check out www.ptk.org or contact lead advisor Dr. Melissa Fulgham at mfulgham@ntcc.edu.

Alpha Mu Chi is NTCC’s chapter of Phi Theta Kappa and more information about chapter activities can be found at www.facebook.com/alphamuchi.

For more information on Phi Theta Kappa check out www.ptk.org or contact lead advisor Dr. Melissa Fulgham at mfulgham@ntcc.edu.

For Barron, the most challenging aspect was having to change everything to online so quickly and ensuring that the instructors felt familiar with the new format. Barron said the IT department communicated frequently with the professors to make sure their classes were running well and helped them fix any issues that occurred.

“NTCC instructors have done a wonderful job using their creativity to ensure the transition to an online-only environment,” Barron said. “They have been very receptive to the technology

Graduation postponed

Cont. from pg. 1

graduates the recognition and appreciation you so richly deserve.”

For more information regarding the August graduation ceremony, contact the registrar via email at gbooding@ntcc.edu or by phone at 903-434-8139.

NEWS

Eagle newspaper staff wins 52 awards at TIPA

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

The Northeast Texas Community College *Eagle* newspaper staff recently learned that it won a record-setting 52 awards from the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association.

This is the most awards The Eagle has ever received at a single convention and one of the most awards *The Eagle* has received in a single year to date.

In addition to *Eagle* Adviser and Journalism Professor Mandy Smith being named the 2019 Charles “Chuck” Choate Memorial Adviser of the Year, the newspaper staff also brought home the coveted first place General Excellence award for Division 5.

“The TIPA awards this year are so special because we had 14 staff members recognized for their work in writing, design, photography, video production and cartoon/visual illustration,” Smith said. “Our *Eagle* editors, Elisabeth Lively,

Joelle Weatherford, Emma Yeager and Tahj McRae have done an amazing job this year. Not only did they win several personal awards, they helped lead *The Eagle* staff in their first place win for Overall Excellence newspaper in our division. That’s the biggie!”

Typically, the awards are handed out during a special ceremony at the annual TIPA conference in mid-March. However, due to COVID-19 concerns, this year’s event in Corpus Christi was cancelled and awards were emailed. NTCC competed against other community colleges and universities around the state.

“This was definitely a good year for *The Eagle*. I’m just sad our journalism staff wasn’t able to be there to receive their awards in person,” Daniel Sanchez, Assistant Adviser of *The Eagle*, said. “These students put in countless hours into each newspaper – writing, editing, photography and the design. After a long year of hard work it was rewarding to get to share

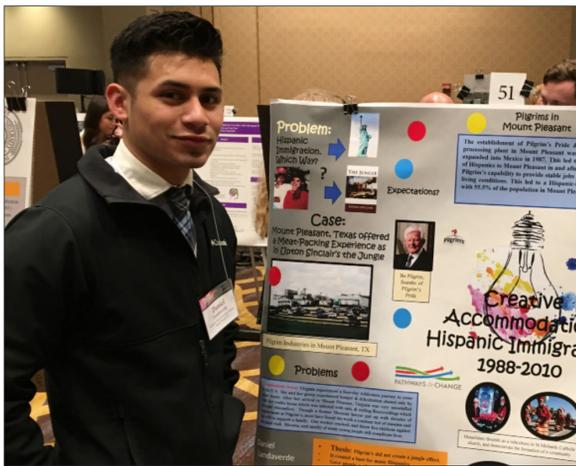
in their excitement. It’s also exciting that these same students are building a legacy for students to come.”

The Eagle won multiple awards in writing, production, design, visual reporting, social media and electronic reporting. The full list of NTCC’s TIPA awards is included below.

“We are really excited about the social media and video awards that we won this year,” Smith said. “Those awards are due to the continued efforts of our assistant adviser, Daniel Sanchez. Daniel is always willing to spend time helping our staff discover new ways to reach our *Eagle* audience.”

NTCC is currently enrolling students for summer and fall 2020. Students interested in enrolling in journalism classes and being part of The Eagle staff should contact Smith at msmith@ntcc.edu.

For updates from The Eagle newspaper, follow their online pages at facebook.com/ntceagle and [@ntceaglenewspaper](https://instagram.com/ntceaglenewspaper) on Instagram.



COURTESY PHOTO

Daniel Landaverde poses with the poster for his project on the Creative Accommodations for Hispanic Immigrants from 1988-2010.

NTCC Honors student wins Jack Kent Cook Scholarship

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Presidential Scholar, Daniel Landaverde, was recently awarded the bellwether scholarship for community college endeavors, the Jack Kent Cooke.

This highly competitive and sought-after award provides up to \$40,000 a year for students to complete their bachelor’s degree.

Landaverde was one of only two students in Texas to win this prestigious accolade. Nearly 1,500 students from 311 community colleges applied for the 2020 Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship.

The Foundation evaluated each submission based on students’ academic ability and achievement, financial need, persistence, leadership, and service to others.

In addition to financial support, new Cooke Transfer Scholars will receive comprehensive educational advising from the Foundation to guide them through the process of transitioning to a four-year college and preparing for their careers.

Scholars will additionally receive opportunities for internships, study abroad, and graduate school funding, as well as connection to a thriving network of over 2,700 fellow Cooke Scholars and alumni.

Presidential Scholars Courtney Baldwin, Landaverde, and Verania Leyva, as well as former Presidential Scholars, Jazmin Garcia, and Honors/Phi Theta Kappa Coordinator, Andrea Reyes qualified as semi-finalists for the award last February, making up 1 percent of the nation’s total.

Surprised by the announcement in a special Zoom video meeting with NTCC faculty and administrators, Landaverde said, “My journey here at NTCC has been an amazing experience. I was provided with an excellent staff and professors who helped me along my way and made this dream possible. I have been given a remarkable opportunity to develop myself, and it’s through the constant help of my peers and family that I was able to reach this milestone.”

In the Zoom meeting with Landaverde, Vice President for Instruction Kevin Rose commented, “Speaking on behalf of the college, Daniel, we could not be more excited. It is with great emotion that we say, ‘congratulations!’”

Some of Landaverde’s professors also participated in the Zoom call. Professor Jim Ward noted, “You represent yourself, and the college very well, Daniel!”

Dr. Melissa Fulgham added with spirit, “Well deserved, well deserved!” Dr. Karyn Skaar held up a sign reading, “Congratulations.”

Associate Vice President Anna Ingram, Dr. Mary Hearron, Dr. Paula Wilhite, Brenda Godoy, and Dr. Andrew Yox were also present to congratulate the winner.

Landaverde is the tenth honors student at NTCC to have received this prestigious award since 2010.

The other nine were Clara Ramirez 2010, Stephani Calderon 2013, Matthew Jordan 2014, Stephen Milburn 2014, Kayleah Cumpian 2015, Angelica Fuentes 2016, Jessica Velazquez 2016, Alicia Cantrell 2018, and Brenda Godoy 2018.

Last spring Landaverde became the seventh winner of the Elizabeth Chitsey Award for the honors student at NTCC who most exceeded expectations.

He participated in two NTCC films, in poetry contests, and honors trips funded by Drs. Jim and Paula Archer, and others. He went on to win Phi Theta Kappa’s Leaders of Promise Award in the fall of 2019, and present at the meeting of the National Collegiate Honors Council at New Orleans in November of 2019.

Finally, Daniel was named to the All-Texas Academic Team, sponsored by the Texas Association of Community Colleges and Phi Theta Kappa, earlier this year.

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation is dedicated to advancing the education of exceptionally promising students who have financial need.

Since 2000, the Foundation has awarded over \$200 million in scholarships to over 2,700 students from 8th grade through graduate school, along with comprehensive educational advising and other support services. The Foundation has also provided \$110 million in grants to organizations that serve such students.

A retrospective of Daniel Landaverde’s accomplishments at NTCC is now available on the landing page of Honors Northeast at www.ntcc.edu/honors.

WATCH FOR OUR
STUDENT INFORMATION
SPECIAL EDITION
COMING THIS AUGUST!

Student earns International Vice President title for PTK

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Jacob Lambie successfully campaigned for and won the position of International Vice-President for Division II for Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Lambie will be the first student from Northeast Texas Community College to hold that highly respected position.

Division II includes 326 chapters in seven regional organizations, comprising Alabama, Florida, British Virgin Islands, Peru, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee and Texas.

“Being elected as an international officer is a culmination of work from our local PTK chapter spanning several years now. All of their past work and experience that has been passed down made this kind of achievement possible for me,” Lambie said. “Hosting an international campaign fully on social media served as a huge learning curve that I feel has given me valuable experience for the future.”

Because PTK Catalyst turned into a live-streaming event, this year’s campaign was unique in that it was conducted online and made extensive use of social media, which included several live events as well as pre-prepared speeches and campaign materials.

Candidate speeches on the assigned topic of “How do inherited understandings of progress guide the future?” were made available for all attendees of the virtual event.

An ardent advocate for mental health, Jacob’s campaign included sharing practical tips for mental wellness and celebrations of those overcoming challenges.

“It seems that Jacob’s focus on inclusivity strongly resonated among the Phi Theta Kappa members around the nation,” said Dr. Melissa Fulgham, PTK adviser. “Victories like these are never won alone. Jacob had strong support from his own chapter and a campaign team that included members from across the nation. In addition, thank you to all the college personnel and members of the community who helped make Jacob’s unprecedented win possible. I’m sure that Jacob will represent NTCC and the east Texas region well and in a way in which we can all take pride!”

Lambie served as a Phi Theta Kappa Texas regional officer, as well as being named a Pearson, Guistwhite, Dr. Mary Hood Texas STAR, and Coca-Cola Gold Scholar.

A Presidential Honors Scholar in Honors Northeast, he has also won multiple Caldwell Awards and presented his academic research in various venues.

Lambie was one of five students elected during PTK Catalyst 2020 to represent more than 250,000 active Phi Theta Kappa members as International Officers for the 2020-2021 academic year.

As a group, the officer team works together to impact the mission, strategic plan and vision of the organization. The team members provide professional development to members at local, regional, and international events.

Individually, each officer is given personal and professional development opportunities to promote success in their next steps in life, whether that is to transfer to a four-year college or university or enter directly into the workforce.

NTCC to offer business training under new TWC Skills initiative

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

In response to COVID-19, the Commissioners of the Texas Workforce Commission approved new Skills initiatives to assist businesses in training and growing their workforce as Texas prepares to reopen for business.

Their recommendation supports up to \$10 million in Skills Development Funds to support training in High Demand occupations at prevailing wage with priority given to training in the healthcare, manufacturing (including food and agriculture), and IT sectors retooling business processes in direct response to needs identified by COVID-19.

In this instance, training may be provided to individuals who are seeking employment and not associated with a participating business partner, initially.

Training to individuals may be in one of the following critical areas listed above. Northeast Texas Community College, along with our local workforce boards and Economic Development Corporation, will be partnering to ensure that the Northeast Texas Region can receive the help and support necessary during this time.

To determine whether or not your business or you as an individual will qualify for training funded by the state, contact Jimmy Smith, Workforce Program Developer at Northeast Texas Community College at jsmith@ntcc.edu.



COURTESY PHOTO

Jacob Lambie is the first Alpha Mu Chi chapter member to win a PTK International position.

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A CALL FOR STUDENT ARTWORK AND WRITING

FOR LAGNIAPPE MAGAZINE, VOL. 8

WE ARE ACCEPTING:

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Email art and writing to lagnippeeditors@gmail.com

Please provide your full name and the title of your works

By CODY FISCHER
Staff Writer

With the summer semester fast approaching, Northeast Texas Community College’s Blackboard application is about to receive a major makeover.

In the wake of recent events with COVID-19 and more classes converting to an online format, there could not be a better time for the college to convert its online teaching application to the newly designed Blackboard Ultra.

The update promises a new visual design to make the experience of navigating the online teaching tool easier for both students and faculty. On top of the cleaner, more appealing design, Blackboard Ultra will now rescale based on window size, with the goal of making the online teaching tool more mobile friendly.

Converting to Blackboard Ultra has been in development at NTCC since last year. The IT team planned on a summer release in order to inconvenience as few users as possible when the new application is deployed.

What can students expect to change, and how will Blackboard Ultra affect them?

After a brief look at the new design, it is definitely cleaner and many of the important paths have been moved to a sidebar for quick and easy access. The application will now scale, so decreasing the size of the window will realign text, images, and modules to fit a device’s screen rather than resize them, or force users to side scroll while navigating. This should mean using Blackboard Ultra from a phone or tablet will produce a streamlined experience regardless of the screen size.

“Everything’s the same, it just looks

prettier,” NTCC Director of Computer Services Sebastian Barron said.

Unlike the recent changes to the NTCC Portal with the addition of one-login, Blackboard Ultra will not require much from users other than a short time to familiarize themselves with the new layout.

Students will log in just like normal and find the application’s visual update applied automatically.

Blackboard Ultra will be available to students at the start of the Summer I semester. Students will have the opportunity to view a video with instructions for navigating Blackboard Ultra on the college website.

Barron said the upgrade to Blackboard Ultra would be an enhancement for faculty and will make for a better experience for students.

“It just moves us light years ahead of where we are now,” Barron said.

OPINION



Eagle Eye

How did self-quarantining affect your school work?



“Math and English sucks trying to teach yourself. Quarantine strips away the one-on-one help people need to fully understand a problem.”

- Riley Perry

“I didn’t want them [classes] online. I was doing good at first but trying to get service to use my hotspot was hard, so that put me behind. I was trying to catch up but the work was still flowing in non-stop, and I honestly just wanted to give up.”

- Shanequa Fleming



“In a bad way, because all classes got switched to online, and I’m not a fan of online. I prefer face-to-face. And then also if I need help or have questions, I like to go ask the professor instead of email. Again, I’m just more of a face-to-face person.”

- Urub Latif

“Self-quarantine gave me lots of time to do my school work. However, I also have more distractions at home and no dedicated hour or more to focus on only one subject. So, it’s quite a change.”

- Gemma Weatherford



Come take a walk with me

By JESSICA EPPERSON
Staff Writer

2017, May. I’m getting a call. It’s my aunt. My mom won’t wake up. She’s sick, and she won’t wake up. She’s days away from her first chemo treatment, how did she get so sick? It was just a cold, wasn’t it? It doesn’t matter. I have to go. I have to get her up.

I blink rapidly down at the package of chicken in my gloved hand. It’s 2020, not 2017. But every time I pick up something from the store to take to her, I wonder what germs I’m bringing into her home and suddenly, it’s May three years ago again.

I wonder if the mask and the gloves and the Lysol will be enough protection against this new beast that wants to invade her home and lungs again.

I’m getting a text. I set the chicken down in my cart and carefully remove one glove so that I’ll be able to put it back on again. I can’t touch my phone with the gloves on.

It’s the elementary teacher. Goodness, that’s a long message. She’s checking in, wants to know how everything is going, blah blah blah.

I know I should be more grateful her teachers care. But, every single day with the texts. At least they’re not calling me.

Oh, mom is calling me. We talk for a minute. She remembered she needs ranch, and do they have any broccoli? I make a mental note to check. We hang up.

I start to put the glove back on. I remember the text. If I don’t answer now, I won’t remember. I sigh and take it off again.

“Everything is going great,” I text her. Everything is definitely not great. Third grade is somehow a lot harder when you’re 26 and

the student is your kid and didn’t you learn this at school?

I know how to do it, but not how to explain it. That doesn’t help either one of us.

Oh, someone wants by the chicken. They’re standing to the side waiting for me to move. Six feet apart. Am I getting the chicken? I guess I am. It’s a small pack but they don’t have much else anyway. I’ll be back at the store sooner rather than later. Quarantining is hard when you’re keeping two households stocked.

As I move to the next aisle, I think about how my little sister came to stay with me last time Mom was in the hospital. Both times.

My apartment was too small. I have a third room now. It would be more comfortable if she has to stay there again. My aunts took in my niece. They might again, but then again they both still have to work.

Oh, that’s right. I need to hurry. I have to help Mom get my niece through some of her packet today too. Wait, what day is it? Don’t I have an essay due? I haven’t even picked my topic. Oh, and the broccoli. I need to check if they have any. I’m getting another call. I don’t have time to answer it right now.

But then it’s 2017 again, and I think about if I had not answered that phone call then. What would have happened? I know what would have happened.

I move off to the side. Carefully take my glove off again. It’s a scam call. I sigh, annoyed. I realize the time. I’m taking too long. I’m going to have to help with my niece’s homework packet tomorrow.

I need to go get the broccoli and go home. But, I feel like I’m forgetting something. I always feel like I’m forgetting something.

I remember it was the ranch when I’m almost to her house. Damn it.

Dear future generations

By ELISABETH LIVELY
Editor-in-Chief

Dear future generations,

This stinks. Today is April 24, 2020. It’s the third month of the COVID-19 pandemic. Coronavirus. The world has shut down and people are in hiding.

I wake up each morning, one minute before my class starts. I don’t have to get dressed and drive to the college, because schools have closed their doors. Lying in my bed, half asleep, all I have to do is pick up my phone and tune into the video call with my classmates and teacher.

This virus has shown me that there’s a lot of things I never thought I’d have to do.

I never thought I would have to tell my little brother to grab his face mask every time we leave the house. I never thought I’d ever have to keep a bottle of hand sanitizer in the cup holder of my car. I never thought my church would close its doors.

I also never thought I would live through a pandemic. That stuff only happens in history, right? Well, everyday is a new page in a history textbook. This is just another page. More like a chapter, actually.

The highlight of my day is sweeping the front and back porch. The other day, I decided to take it up a notch and began vacuuming the rug on the front porch.

Like the virus, creativity is spreading around the world. People are recreating graduation ceremonies, theme parks, restaurants, and



other places at their homes, and they tend to become Internet sensations. Rumor has it that Club Quarantine is the hottest thing right now. A round of water for everyone! It’s on me! I’d offer milk, but that’s getting hard to find.

Groceries are disappearing. And even worse? Toilet paper has become a symbol of wealth. People are practically worshipping it.

No joke, 2020 is seriously turning out to be a giant game of AdLib. I mean, it went from Australia on fire, to potential World War III, to a worldwide pandemic.

The entire planet has been forced to endure a new normal. What is this new life, you may ask?

“Have a nice day” is followed by “and stay safe.”

While it’s not enforced everywhere, the “no, shoes, no shirt, no mask” policy has become fairly common.

If you sit in the Walmart parking lot and watch someone get into their car, you’ll most likely see them lathering their hands in hand sanitizer.

Making a left turn in the heart of town has become easy, given the decrease in traffic.

On the literal bright side, polluted skies and the Venice canals are clearing. Wild animals are taking to the streets across the world. It’s a zoo out there!

So, I guess that no matter how bad things get, you can still go out and smell the roses. Just don’t forget your mask!

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The opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the opinions of the faculty adviser or the administration of the college. Questions? Comments? Email Mandy Smith at msmith@ntcc.edu or visit our website at www.ntcceagleonline.com

SPORTS

Losing season to virus takes toll on Eagle athletes

By EMMA YEAGER
Feature Editor

Bats, gloves, and balls were suddenly set aside in mid March as The Eagle athletes and coaches watched the news with the rest of the world and suddenly realized that their spring 2020 season had ended almost before it started. To prevent the rapid spread of COVID-19, the Northeast Texas Community College baseball and softball teams followed the orders from the National Junior College Athletic Association and suspended all spring baseball and softball games.

“There’s so much uncertainty,” Andrew Morgan, NTCC athletic director and head baseball coach, said. “It’s unfortunate that we didn’t get to play and the guys lost their season, but I think we understand this is way more important than baseball.”

Canceling the season for the two sports meant suspending all of the practices, competitions and hopes for making it to the playoffs. Both the baseball and softball coaches also had to do any recruiting for next year virtually through phone calls, emails and social media. However, with times still uncertain, Morgan said they are just patiently waiting to find out what happens next. “Recruiting never stops,” he said.

According to the NJCAA, “No spring sport student-athlete who was enrolled at a member college in 2020 will be charged a year of participation.” Since the athletes were not charged a year of eligibility, those who had already signed to a four-year university will have the opportunity to stay on for a third year, and those who have not yet signed, will get the choice between a third-year at NTCC or signing to a four-year school for an extra season.

Jett Forrest, NTCC freshman baseball player, said having to move out of the dorms so quickly and unexpectedly was chaotic, and that he missed the everyday routine and motivation of being on the field with his teammates.

“The grind of baseball,” Forrest said, “I’ll miss that for sure.”

While being away from her college family, softball player and freshman Pearl Perry said she realized that NTCC had quickly found a home in her heart.

“Northeast is the perfect place to start,” Perry said. “I was really scared to start college, and this was like an

immediate home for me.” Softball is more than just a sport for Perry. She said softball changed her life and gave her the opportunity for a college education. For Perry, softball is about the relationships she has built along the way. She said she always knew softball would come to an end eventually, but the relationships she has formed would take with her through life.

“Softball is one of those things that you’re going to leave it one day, and of course it’s so important to you because it was your dream, but the relationships that you build is so important, because those relationships come from this sport,” Perry said.

While the season’s abrupt ending was a disappointment, Head Softball Coach Jessica Keith said the team dealt with it as individuals and tried to be there for one another as best they could.

“It is what it is,” Keith said. “We can’t change it. We don’t focus on it being gone or the bad, just kind of how we handle the rest of our stuff. It is what it is, and you deal with it and take it day by day.”

The athletes never imagined their season would start with the world on the brink of a global pandemic, but they persevered, even at home. NTCC freshman and softball player Averie Ayers said she continued to work out and practice on her own, so she and the team could return even stronger next season.

“Everyone has this motto: play this game like it’s your last game,” she said, “We didn’t know that Kilgore was our last game to play as a team, but I feel like we did play to the best of our abilities.”

Despite the fact they were no longer on campus, Morgan said the baseball team continued to hold virtual meetings throughout the spring season via the Microsoft Teams app. He encouraged his players to understand that even though the situation was out of their control, they were still capable of controlling their responses to the circumstances.

Keith said the players had so much going on between navigating online classes and moving back home that there was little time to mourn the loss of their season.

“I think they’re better now,” Keith said. “It was hard at first. I know that a lot of them were just ready to be back on the field and just fill in the void that they’ve had, but I think they’ve got



STAFF PHOTO | MANDY SMITH



STAFF PHOTO | MANDY SMITH

Above, Despite a poster with encouraging words in the NTCC softball dugout, the Eagle athletes suffered heartbreak when their season abruptly ended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The campus shut down in late March, sending all students home and ending any dreams the softball and baseball players had of making it to the championship this season.

Left, The baseball field sits quietly in the spring sunset after the college shut down all areas of its campus following the extended spring break in late March.

a lot going on right now.”

Morgan said the most difficult aspect of all the chaos was the inability for the team to have proper closure on the season. The players became like family during the fall season, and they did not expect to separate so suddenly.

“We’ve spent so much time together as a team, and we had really good guys, good team, good culture and chemistry, and we really didn’t get to say goodbye,” Morgan said. “It was like ‘go home and we’ll figure this out when we can.’ Then all of the sudden, school gets canceled, and so you kind of have these people that you spend 24 hours a day with, all the sudden just gone. That’s the tough

part without being able to say goodbye or have any finality.”

The athletes became best friends with one another and developed strong connections through thick and thin. Perry said her team took it harder than she expected.

“It was actually harder than I expected, because not only was I losing my season, but some of my best friends aren’t coming back, so it kind of hit our team pretty hard,” she said. “Not only are you building a connection with your dream sport that you’ve always wanted to play, but the connection with your teammates is unbelievable.”

Whether it was afternoon practices, studying together,

hanging out in the dorms or eating lunch together in the SUB, Forrest said the teammates formed a brotherly bond with one other.

“You can grow really tight with people you live with every day and that you’re always with on the baseball field,” Forrest said.

Keith said it was also difficult for the coaches to be unable to watch their players’ hard labor come to fruition and see the benefits from their dedication and determination.

“I think the hardest part is knowing that they’ve put everything into it and everybody worked all year and shed a lot of blood, sweat, and tears with this team and not being able

to see the benefits from it on the field,” Keith said. “That’s the hardest part.”

During this period of learning how to be still, Keith said it is now a time for the athletes to channel their energy into their academics. The athletes said they plan to focus on their schoolwork and continue to work out from home during their free time.

Though times are tough and everyone is anxiously sitting on pins and needles for the world to start back up again, the NTCC baseball and softball athletes shelter with their families for now and prepare to come back swinging for the fall season.

“I’m just waiting to put my heart on the field,” Perry said.

Living a life without sports

By SAMUEL SANDATE
Staff Writer

Due to the coronavirus, every sporting event across the world has been suspended until further notice. This has been a very hard adjustment since I have been watching sports ever since I was a little kid.

Never in my life have I seen a situation where every sport was suspended.

Watching a basketball, soccer, football or baseball game is part of my pastime when I’m bored. With no games being played at the moment, it has been hard to adjust to a life without sports. Although I know what we are going through will not last forever, there is a lot of uncertainty just when the virus will be gone and things can return to normal.

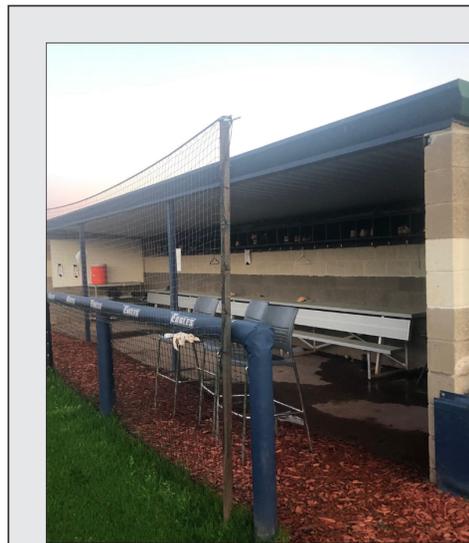
The last couple of months have been different and hard since we’ve never had to experience a moment like the one everyone in the world is experiencing right now. Social distancing has obviously been hard to adjust to, but I know it is

the best for my health and the people around me. This obviously means, however, that no games can be played and no major sporting events that involve athletes competing or fans sitting in the stands watching can take place.

I was looking forward to watching summer events like the Olympics and the Euro soccer tournament. However, both sporting events were cancelled and postponed until next year. Baseball was supposed to start March 26, but now it has been postponed until possibly June or later. Soccer and basketball were still being played before the virus happened, now they’re on hold until further notice.

There’s no clear day or month when the virus will disappear in order for sporting events to return. Therefore, it is a matter of being patient and hoping that the virus disappears soon.

As the days pass, I have more hope for the day that sports will return. The more I think about it, the more optimistic I am. All I can do is wait for the day the virus goes away and everything finally returns to normal.



COURTESY STOCK PHOTO

ENTERTAINMENT

MOVIE MARATHON

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SPORTS AND ATHLETIC MOVIES



Lemonade Mouth

United by detention and lemonade, five rag-tag students start a band to compete against their high school's famed rock group Mudslide Crush. As the students empower their community and build up a revolution on individuality and being heard, they find themselves rising to stardom. But like any band, they have setbacks, leaving them to question why it's so important to be heard and if their voices really matter.



Geek Charming

A diva and a film geek walk into a high school. The idea of speaking to one another is indeed a joke, until Josh decides he wants to win his city's film festival. Being told to choose a challenging subject, Josh works with the rich and pampered Dylan, who only agrees to star in his movie because it will benefit her campaign for Blossom Queen. As Josh follows her everyday routine, he begins to see a side of Dylan that he didn't realize could exist - because popular girls can't be dorky, right?



Cadet Kelley

Kelley Collins is happy, fun and full of life. But that life gets flipped upside down when her mom marries a former military man and she's shipped off to his military school. As she's forced to put up with a lifestyle completely opposed to her own, she finds that the military's strict and formal way of life has its perks, and that everybody has a fun side. Even if its buried way, way down.



Go Figure!

Junior figure skater Kaitelyn has big dreams, and the famed instructor Natasha Goberman offers to help Kaitelyn reach them. But not all dreams are free. In order to participate in Natasha's private boarding school, she has to accept a hockey scholarship and a place on the hockey team. Kaitelyn quickly discovers that the two sports are *very* different. Facing bullies and hard work, Kaitelyn flirts with the idea of giving up.



Motocrossed

She's the Mulan of motocross. After her twin brother Andrew breaks his leg, Andrea Carson impersonates her brother so that 'he' can compete in the motocross championship to win sponsorship. Knowing her father would disapprove of her decision, 'Andi' and her mom secretly attend the races, slowly bumping their way up to the podium. In the midst of all the lies, Andi struggles to hid her crush for a fellow racer that she has befriended.

1

Remember the Titans



In 1971 Virginia, racial discrimination and high school football were the only things people talked about. But when an all-black school and an all-white school integrate, the two football teams are forced to merge, causing racial tensions to rise. When the harsh, but unbiased Coach Herman Boon is brought in to lead the new integrated football team, the players learn about the power of friendship and that race does not define a person.

2

The Game Plan



Star football player Joe Kingman is living a life of fame and riches. But at the peak of his career, the 8-year-old daughter he didn't know he had appears at his doorstep. Joe is tackled with the responsibility of caring for a young girl with a passion for ballet while attempting to maintain his career status and positive media coverage. It doesn't take long for Joe to figure out that he's better at football than parenting.

3

Glory Road



In 1966 El Paso, basketball coach Don Haskins looks to recruit players for his basketball team. In his search, he notices that the African American players show more skill for the sport than their peers. After building a team based on talent, rather than race, the tension between the players and the game's spectators dramatically rises. While the film begins as a comedy, it soon develops into a nightmare, as viewers learn of the horrors that both the black and white players on the team faced as they moved closer to the national championship.

4

The Mighty Macs



In 1971, a girls-only Catholic college run by nuns hires Cathy Rush, the ahead-of-her-time wife of an NBA ref, to coach their basketball team. Having to work in the college's rundown gym, Cathy must take a group of lady-like women and whip them into aggressive basketball players through backbreaking, strenuous work. As Cathy struggles to train the team, she finds out that the nuns know more about basketball than they let on.

5

A League of Their Own



After a surplus of men depart for World War II, a wealthy candy maker works to keep professional baseball operating by recruiting women to step up to the plate. Literally. *A League of Their Own* follows the Rockford Peaches, an all-women's baseball team of rag-tag women with differentiating personalities that must learn to play professional baseball under the leadership of a sloppy, has-been coach.

MORE ENTERTAINING FILMS TO WATCH

MORE ENTERTAINING FILMS TO WATCH

- Top 10:**
- 6. *The Thirteenth Year*
 - 7. *Bad Hair Day*
 - 8. *Princess Protection Program*
 - 9. *Den Brother*
 - 10. *Jump In!*
- Other notable films:**
- Minutemen
 - Avalon High
 - Cow Bells
 - Stuck in the Suburbs
 - Tiger Cruise
 - Double Teamed
 - Zapped
 - Twiches
 - High School Musical
 - Read it and Weep
 - Camp Rock
 - Hatching Pete
 - Starstruck
 - Let it Shine
 - Zombies
 - Wendy Wu:
 - Homecoming Warrior

- Top 10:**
- 6. *Radio*
 - 7. *Ford V Ferrari*
 - 8. *The Blind Side*
 - 9. *Cool Runnings*
 - 10. *Miracle*
- Football:**
- The Longshots
 - The 5th Quarter
- Baseball:**
- The Rookie
 - Million Dollar Arm
- Basketball:**
- 1000 to 1
- Track:**
- Race
- Horse Racing**
- Secretariat
- Rodeo**
- Walk. Ride. Rodeo.
- Rugby:**
- Forever Strong
- Dog sledding:**
- Snow Dogs
 - Iron Will
- Figure skating:**
- Ice Castles
 - Ice Princess
- Surfing:**
- Chasing Mavericks
 - Soul Surfer
- Chess:**
- Queen of Katawe

Films selected and rated by Elisabeth Lively, Editor-in-Chief