

NORTHEAST TEXAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Whatley, drama program close due to COVID-19



STAFF PHOTO | STEFANIE KIRSCHKE

Due to COVID-19 and budget cuts, the NTCC administration has indefinitely closed the Whatley Center for the Performing Arts and the drama department.

By ELISABETH LIVELY
Editor-in-Chief

After its grand opening in 1991, the Whatley Center for Performing Arts has welcomed the public, whether snow, rain or sun. But this fall, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Whatley has closed its doors for the first time in its 29-year history. Northeast Texas Community College President Dr. Ron Clinton said he hopes to open the Whatley with a modified schedule in the spring.

"We're not expecting to go back to a really full-fledged season in the spring, but we hope we can start doing some events that will start to bring people back into the facility," Clinton said.

As a former music instructor for the college who continues to perform in the Whatley on occasion, Clinton said that the closing of the facility and the program hit home for him.

"I love every aspect of the college, but performing arts has been near and dear to my

heart for sure," he said.

The Whatley has been a staple in the community for many years due to performances by Theater Northeast, local elementary, middle and high schools, as well as singers, authors, and other entertainers who tour the country. The Whatley also hosts various college and community ceremonies and events throughout the year.

"The Whatley is such a gem for us at this college," Vice President for Instruction Dr. Kevin Rose said.

Adding onto his view of the Whatley, Rose said, "Decisions like that are not taken lightly, because we know that the Whatley Center has been an important aspect, not only of the college community, but our community as a whole."

Given the closing of the Whatley, all theater and public performances have been cancelled. In addition, the Theater Northeast drama

See *Drama*, pg. 5

Northeast earns top national honor

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Northeast Texas Community College has been named one of the best colleges in the nation to work for by The Great Colleges to Work For® program.

The results come from a survey, recently released in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, based on a nationwide survey of colleges and universities. In all, only 79 institutions of higher education across the country achieved the "Great College to Work For" designation in recognition for specific best practices and policies.

NTCC won honors in two categories this year: Confidence in Senior Leadership and Compensation and Benefits.

"NTCC is a very special place to work," NTCC President Dr. Ron Clinton said. "Our college employees are uniquely committed to the college mission, empowering students to succeed. They strongly believe in what they do and have a passion for their work."

The survey had a two-part process: an institution questionnaire that used employment data and workplace policies, and a survey given to administrators, faculty, and professional support staff, which was a primary factor in the decision.

For more information visit the Great Colleges program website at <http://www.greatcollegesprogram.com>.

Admin updates safety protocols

By ELISABETH LIVELY
Editor-in-Chief

After the COVID-19 pandemic hit northeast Texas mid-spring, colleges and universities in the area, including Northeast Texas Community College, shut down their campuses. While the NTCC administration has decided to reopen the campus for the fall semester, they continue to closely monitor the situation to ensure student and employee safety.

Since the start of the fall semester, NTCC has had two students, who shall remain anonymous, test positive for COVID-19. According to NTCC Vice President for Instruction Dr. Kevin Rose, one of the students had tested positive at the start of the semester and has already gone through quarantine and lacked symptoms for at least three days before he/she returned to campus. Rose said there is another unidentified student currently in quarantine.

"We are very thankful that it has been a very limited exposure rate, especially given

See *Safety*, pg. 2



STAFF PHOTO | JOELLE WEATHERFORD

NTCC student Heather Brady walks through the newly redesigned food service area, which has been adjusted to accommodate for social distancing and minimal contact interaction.

First NTCC president dies

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Dr. Wayland DeWitt, former president of Northeast Texas Community College, passed away at his home in Palm Desert, California on Sep. 8, 2020 at the age of 85.

DeWitt was the first President of NTCC and oversaw the building of the college from the ground up.

Shortly before the college opened in 1985, DeWitt sent a memorandum to the college employees, encouraging them "to pause for a moment to celebrate the achievement of a minor miracle."

He went on to write, "We have a beautiful new campus on which to launch our new college. We have more students to serve than we anticipated in our wildest dreams... It is now time for us to demonstrate our quality throughout the campus, but especially in the classroom."

The following year, DeWitt was named the "Most Effective College Administrator in the United States."

According to the recent book *Miracle on FM 1735* by Dr. Jerry Wesson, which details the history of NTCC, DeWitt's philosophy was to hire great people, not micromanage them, expect results and to treat every individual with respect and dignity.

DeWitt served as NTCC's president until 1988. He made



Wayland DeWitt

his home in Pittsburg during his years in northeast Texas.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Western New Mexico University, a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology from Central Missouri State University, a Doctorate of Education from the University of Wyoming and a post-doctoral degree in Administration from Harvard University.

Prior to coming to NTCC, DeWitt taught Medical School in Bogota, Columbia, worked as a therapist, and became Dean of Students at Walla Walla Community College in Washington, where he supported education and vocational training for the community.

DeWitt went on to become vice president and then president of Walla Walla Community College.

He is survived by his daughter, Liysa Swart, numerous grandchildren, two brothers, a sister and many beloved friends. In lieu of flowers, the family requested contributions to establish the Wayland DeWitt Memorial Reading Room at the Lotus Island Oasis Trauma Recovery Center at www.lotusislandoasis.org. Anecdotes and memories are being compiled into "The Book of Wayland" and submissions can be sent to liysaswart@rocketmail.com.

Fall enrollment down 8 percent

By ELISABETH LIVELY
Editor-in-Chief

After the COVID-19 pandemic hit Texas midway through the spring semester, the Northeast Texas Community College administration decided to shut down the campus and move all classes online.

Following the sudden transition online, a large number of students received an "Incomplete" for their classes. In addition, the 2020 spring semester saw less students dropping their classes than in previous semesters.

The campus reopened its doors to the public for the fall semester, following five months of employee and appointment-only access.

As of the fifth class week at NTCC, student enrollment was down eight percent. NTCC

President Dr. Ron Clinton said most two-year colleges across the state are experiencing a similar decline in enrollment. He also said that some Texas universities are down about 20 percent.

"I never thought that I would ever say that I would be happy with an eight percent decline," Clinton said with a laugh. "But because we based our budget projections this year, for the 20-21 budget, we based that on a 10 percent decline, anticipated that that would happen and if we can come out a little bit better on that, we'll be very pleased, I think for the fall semester."

In addition, the NTCC administration has decided to keep the campus open following Thanksgiving break, unlike many colleges and universities around the country.

Quote of the Month:

"Life's always been a little messy, and there's always a way through. And every now and again, a pandemic will come along. We'll handle it; it'll be okay. We'll be better for it and learn some lessons from it."

- Jeffery R. Holland

UPCOMING EVENTS

Basketball Tournament.....	Oct. 9
Deadline for Fall Graduation.....	Oct. 15
Tennis Tournament.....	Oct. 23
Talent Show.....	Nov. 5
Bonfire.....	Nov. 12
Last Day to Withdrawal with "W" (16-Weeks).....	Nov. 17

NEWS



Scare Affair is an annual community-wide event held on the NTCC campus. This year's Scare Affair has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 frightens annual Scare Affair into cancellation

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Out of an abundance of caution, Northeast Texas Community College has cancelled Scare Affair 2020. The college's annual Halloween carnival is a popular family event that is usually held in late October. However, due to COVID-19 concerns, the difficult decision was made to cancel this year's event.

"Scare Affair is something our students and community look forward to each year – one

of NTCC's longest standing traditions. While we are sad about having to cancel, we feel it is the best decision for everyone's health and safety," Rico Willis, NTCC director of student activities and multicultural affairs, said. "Let's hope Scare Affair will be back and bigger than ever in 2021."

While the annual Scare Affair has been cancelled this year, NTCC plans to continue holding other campus events that will not bring in large

crowds.

"The Scare Affair is one of my kids' favorite events each year," Amanda Wilkerson, local mother of triplets said. "They love the games, costumes and being able to enjoy Halloween fun in a safe environment. They were so sad and disappointed to hear it was cancelled this year. We kept hoping this epidemic would pass and they wouldn't have to miss out."

To learn more about NTCC's response to COVID-19, please visit www.ntcc.edu/covid-19.

Four NTCC students place in Honors poetry, image contest

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

The thirteenth annual Northeast Texas Poetry Reading occurred virtually via Zoom on Sept. 4. The student and adult, upper-division winners were also announced. Katelyn Marie Lester, Northeast Texas Community College's third Dr. Jerry Wesson Scholar, won \$400 and placed first among students with a poem that featured a dialogue between two State-of-Texas symbols, the pecan and the mockingbird.

Nallely Gutierrez, an entering Presidential Scholar from Mount Vernon placed second, winning \$300 with a poem entitled "Las Manos de un Trabajador." Third and fourth places also went to freshmen honors students. Hilda Rodriguez won \$200 for reading her poem, "Creo."

Carolina Alcocer-Salas won \$100 for her poem, "Mood Swings."

In the upper division, Joe Dan Boyd from Winnsboro again appeared in the winner's circle for the third straight year. The former East-Coast journalist won \$100 for his poem, "Pandemic in Northeast Texas: Thanatopsis Revisited 2020."

Jennifer Buckley's "Hope for America," an interrogatory poem, took second place, and also attested to an introspection awakened by recent events.

The contest also featured the third Northeast Texas Image Contest. Whereas the poem rubric challenged authors to reflect the life, culture, or history of Northeast Texas, the photographers had to capture winsome sights in the area of Texas between

the Red and Sabine rivers.

This year, the winners in this category located scenes of special grandeur. In first place in this category, winning \$70, was James Buckley's "Sunrise over a Wood County Lake."

The judges, which for poetry included NTCC Associate Vice President Anna Ingram, Professors Mandy Smith and Jim Swann, and for the images, Art Professor Debbie Strong, dismissed many entries this year as subpar. But the top poems and images achieved some of the best scores of the contest's history. Notable in the student category were two startlingly imaginative poems: the "Texas Symbol Love Affair" by Katelyn Lester, and "Mood Swings" by Carolina Alcocer-Salas.

Lester's work pulsates with a spirit of love awakened as



Katelyn Lester



Nallely Gutierrez



Hilda Rodriguez



Carolina Alcocer-Salas

the mockingbird and pecan tree discover the remarkable qualities of the other. The verbal economy of this poem's expressiveness, and emotional power in the interplay of its words mark it as one of paragon works in the series of these contests. Alcocer-Salas, meanwhile, conflated the feelings of a love affair with attitudes toward local

weather patterns. Rapturous happiness gives way to rage, and a "gentle bright light," becomes a "lustrous sage."

This year, Winnsboro again was overrepresented in the winner's circle. It provided the contest's highest number of top contributors as Joe Dan Boyd, and James and Jennifer Buckley all hail from Wood County. Katelyn

Lester and Nallely Gutierrez both reside in Mount Vernon. Hilda Rodriguez is a graduate of Mount Pleasant High School, and Carolina Alcocer-Salas, and Cade Bennett from Naples. The winning poems of previous years can be viewed at www.ntcc.edu/honorspoems.

Safety continues as top priority

Cont. from page 1

what we hear on the media and other places as well," Rose said.

NTCC President Dr. Ron Clinton said that the administration is prepared in the case of an outbreak on campus. He said that, because the dorms are only at 60 percent capacity, rooms have been made available in the case that a student needs to be quarantined.

"I think we have a good plan in place..." he said. "We planned for that eventuality, and we feel like there's a good chance that that could happen."

The safety protocols for handling the COVID-19 pandemic on campus are listed on NTCC's website at ntcc.edu under the red bar at the top of the page labeled "Important Information Regarding COVID-19."

Anyone who has either tested positive or were potentially exposed are to complete the self-report form on the COVID procedures page and immediately quarantine for at least 14 days.

Following the quarantine, the individual must go at least three consecutive days without displaying any symptoms before returning to campus.

The protocol says in the case that a student has been exposed or tested positive, any classrooms the student has been in will be quarantined and heavily sanitized before allowing students to return to that room.

For any questions pertaining to the virus, students may email covidresponse@ntcc.edu. The email is managed by the college's COVID Response Team, which is composed of members of the administration and employees in the health science departments.

Various signs have been posted around campus to inform students of the safety protocols regarding COVID-19. Rose said that the administration will continue to change the signs to ensure that students do

not become accustomed to passing by without paying attention to them.

In addition to the signage, furniture and seating across campus have been removed or adjusted to accommodate for social distancing. Hand sanitizer dispensers and wipes have also been placed in every classroom and throughout the hallways on campus.

Rose said that NTCC's Safe Campus Task Force meets regularly to evaluate and discuss protocols and the current situation on campus to better keep the students safe.

"I think that one thing we know is that things are always changing," Rose said. "We will continue to evaluate where we are, we will continue to provide, what we believe, as the best possible service for our campus community... While I don't know what might change, the reality of it is, is we are very open to making modifications, providing additional services, changing operations, whatever it takes to keep our campus community safe."

Both Rose and Clinton said that they appreciated that the students and employees have been complying with safety protocols regarding masks, sanitation and social distancing. Clinton said cooperation with these procedures will be the key to safety and protection from the rapidly-spreading virus.

"As difficult as this situation has been, I think there's going to be some good things that come out of it," Clinton said. "I think one of the things that will be good will be the kind of flexible arrangements, different types of course options for students that have been kind of thrust to the forefront. And, I do think that it's going to change the way we do things in the future, in many ways, and I think a lot of those changes are going to be positive. So we're keeping a positive attitude about COVID-19, and we all want it to be over with it, but I think there are some good things that are going to come out of it."

NEWS

Simulation lab introduces virtual learning



BY STEFANIE KIRSCHKE
Staff Writer

On a recent school field trip, medical program students engaged in a tour of the human body, from the inside. The Northeast Texas Community College medical program recently got a major upgrade to the simulation lab back in 2019 through the Jet Grant.

The grant allowed the college to purchase six HTC Vive virtual reality units. The upgrade has offered NTCC medical, EMT and paramedic students the ability to see things that they have never seen.

Connie Lindsay, simulation lab coordinator, said the VR system is one beneficial way that students can receive practice in a virtual setting. While any NTCC students can use the VR system, medical students are given top priority.

"All health science students, that includes medical assistance, EMS, nursing, medical lab technician and physical therapy assistance, all of those can use the lab, but we also extend our VR to the rest of the campus as well," Lindsay said.

Lindsay said she is looking for additional VR simulations that are used for purposes outside of health science. Even art students could virtually view famous paintings like they are strolling through an art gallery. If students are interested in using the system, they should talk with an instructor to see if the virtual training would be valuable for their studies.

If so, the instructor or the student can contact Lindsay for more information.

One simulation that health science students can access allows them to virtually look inside a human heart.

Connie Lindsay, simulation lab coordinator, adjusts the HTC Vive virtual reality headset for a student. The new VR lab allows medical students to see things they might never get to, such as the inside of the human heart.

Eagle Pantry assists students with food insecurity needs

BY ELISABETH LIVELY
Editor-in-Chief

In December 2018, the NTCC Social Work Club started the campus' first food pantry, and its size and significance have only grown since.

The Eagle Pantry is located in the Wesley Fellowship Ministry building on NTCC's main campus and is available to all NTCC students, both dorm and traditional.

Currently, the Eagle Pantry is open every Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for curbside pickup. The pantry will only fill orders for students who send an email to CARE@ntcc.edu from their NTCC student email at least one

day in advance.

Dual credit students are asked to indicate that they are dual credit in their email. Once emailed, the pantry will respond with a time to pick up the care package.

The Eagle Pantry offers an assortment of non-perishable food items and hygiene products. Donations are always accepted, but the items must be non-perishable, non-frozen and cannot be already expired.

NTCC students with their current student ID will be allowed to take home enough food to sustain the number of members in their household.

Last year, the pantry received the Innovation Solutions for Hunger Relief

in Student Success grant. This two-year funding will pave the way for the pantry's growing future.

Carmen Shurtleff, instructor of social work and sociology, said she aspires to have an official care center on campus which will house both perishable and non-perishable foods, hygiene products, baby items and a clothing closet with a small fee.

Shurtleff is also now working with an on-campus, Master's-level case manager intern that will assist students with not only academic, but personal, mental and social issues.

For questions or concerns, students and their families can contact the Eagle Pantry at CARE@ntcc.edu.



NTCC Social Work Club President Tonya Hammons carries a box of donated food into the Eagle Pantry.

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OPINION

Eagle Eye

SHOULD STUDENTS BE ALLOWED TO HAVE PHONES IN CLASS?

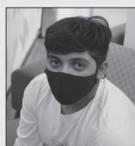


“Yes, because they are necessary for learning. Maybe you have some work on your phone that you need. Maybe something important happens and someone needs to get ahold of you.”

- Fernando Osorio

“I don’t think they should have their phones out if it is disrupting other students. If it is not disrupting other students and it’s not bothering the teacher during the lesson, I think it should be all right.”

- Alejandro Ortiz



“To a certain extent, yes. If they’re going through something, like an emergency is going on, then yeah, they should. Or, if they want to check on somebody they know that missed class, and they text them ‘Are you all right?’ Yeah, they should have their phones in class.”

- Diondrae Williams

“I don’t think you should have phones in class. I feel like you should pay attention to the lecture rather than be on your phone.”

- Lily Worth



The waitress and the pandemic

By GENESIS BARRIENTOS
Guest Writer

There’s almost a formula to waiting tables, a method unique to each waitress or waiter, a way to guarantee a reasonable tip. My method is simple, yet effective.

Greet the table with silverware and disposable coasters in hand, so they know you are attentive. Smile. Ask the table where they are from or how they are doing. Bring back the drinks, take their order.

If they are young, never speak to the men directly, or you risk a paranoid girlfriend being rude. If they are older, never bring the check to the women or risk getting someone upset.

Laugh at every joke, no matter how unfunny or how many times you have heard it. If they hit on you, do not say no, just laugh it off and walk off before they ask the next question or pry into your personal life.

The word pandemic seemed almost foreign, mythical even, not possible in today’s modern world. Yet, from one day to the next, restaurants shut down, and just like that, my coworkers and I had all lost our jobs.

Still, I remained optimistic as the months quietly and quickly passed. There was so much excitement for restaurants to reopen, waves of people roaring online about how

much they longed to eat out again. Whatever world there would be to return to after the pandemic would undoubtedly be a different one, and I knew not what to expect.

The same people who begged for restaurants to reopen, would be the same people who cursed, screamed, threw tantrums, and threatened my fellow servers and me for asking them to follow the state mandates.

The service industry has become only mildly inconvenient for the middle and upper class, with the present annoyance of a mask.

However, for servers, cooks, hosts, cashiers, and other members of the working class it is much more than that.

A pandemic for servers means less tables, less money, a job with little stability, hostile and angry customers.

A pandemic for the working class means working eight to twelve hours a day near the heat lamps and grill while wearing a mask and trying to deal with those who refuse to wear one for even one minute.

The pandemic has shown off the class divide even further, although most continue to ignore it. Dealing with the virus is no one’s fault, not the upper or lower class, but it certainly has changed our current world.

With the return of customers, one can only hope that things will return to its old routine soon.

The evolution of “cool”

By JOELLE WEATHERFORD
Editor-in-Chief

When I was a kid, there was this trend where people who were trying to be cool would call themselves “gangsta.” Some even abbreviated it to simply being “G.”

Being younger than most people who were trying to be cool, I never got to be G. My older siblings, who were also not quite old enough to be G, made up a little joke that goes like so: “I’m so G, I’m almost H.” A simple alphabetical observation that also works as a comment on society.

Over the years, many people who were trying to be cool gave up on the gangsta phase and moved on with their lives. However, a new generation stepped on to the trendsetting being cool.

Being a “hipster” was the next big thing, and even though I was actually old enough to tap into my coolness that time around, I did not join in on the fun. I did, however, notice something interesting. Our joke suddenly became true.

Gangstas, or Gs, eventually did become Hs, or hipsters. The next step in this evolution would be “I” but that begs the question,

what is an “I” and why have we not seen it yet? It could be possible that we actually witnessed this new form of coolness and missed it. My general speculation has been that the “I” stands for indie, which is short for independent, and had a very short run on the trend’s chart.

The indie phase was not nearly as popular as the hipster movement even though they were quite similar.

The main difference between the two being that the indie always tried to avoid the mainstream while the hipster created a new one.

The hipster embraced the newfound interest in its creation while the indie tended to cast aside anything that became too popular with the rest of society. The hipster was still just trying to be cool, while the indie was trying to be anything but.

And, perhaps that is the reason the trend faded so quickly. The indie rejected itself just before attained coolness status and became the next letter in my pop culture alphabet.

But, even though it was short lived, it still happened and will still be known as the “I” that the “H” became.

Now we just wait for the “J” to take over.

No phones? LOL, nah fam

By STEFANIE KIRSCHKE
Staff Writer

As a college student, I know it can be hard to avoid using your phone during class. Our lives are on our phones. Students get distracted and grab their phones. Sitting in a lecture for two hours is pretty hard.

Students get bored or they have a hard time understanding. So, in the students’ minds they are like “Why not be on my phone? I don’t understand half of this anyway.”

I mean we aren’t in high school anymore where our teachers were always on the lookout and would take our phones away from us because we were texting friends instead of listening to the lesson.

One day while I was in one of my college classes, my phone went off, and I didn’t think anything until it rang a second time and it was a family member calling me.

So in my head, I started wondering if something had happened to one of my family members. So, I stepped out

of class to answer my phone.

After class, my professor talked to me and explained the “No phone in class” policy. I was like, “Okay, it won’t happen again.”

So, what if something does happen to a student’s family? They cannot call the front office to have a message delivered to a student. The college does not have available staff to come search for the student to give them a message.

So, if something major happens to a family member, then most likely they are going to call the student’s cell phone. If there was a way to let the instructors know, don’t you think we would. We never know when an emergency is going to happen.

Now, let me also point out that there are some students who don’t have a laptop or a tablet and use their phones to access their online books and their Blackboard classes.

Those students might need to look at their course material right there in class. They cannot do so, however, because the teacher is

adamant about having no cell phones in class. So, basically that teacher is telling the students they can’t use their books.

The only time students without a laptop can access the internet is if they check out a laptop from one of the kiosks or go to one of the campus computer labs. To be honest I think having a laptop in class is worse than having a phone in class. If professors want to enforce cell phone rules in their classrooms, they should establish specific guidelines for students that include allowing some access to cell phones during class.

A few professors on campus are more laid back and even encourage students to use their phones in class to do research. This allows students to feel more at ease knowing that they aren’t being policed for glancing at their phones every once in a while.

Yes, I do believe that we should be allowed to have our phones in class. And, students let’s be mature and remember that we are not in high school any more.



CARTOON BY KACHINA SWAFFORD

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NEWS



STAFF PHOTO | STEFANIE KIRSCHKE

Due to COVID-19, the annual Multicultural Fashion Show became a day-long activity for students to share their cultural attire. From left, students Urub Latif, Pakistan, Tracy Craig, USA, and Carolina Salas, Mexico, show off their cultural fashions.

2020 Multicultural Week creates new forms of fun

By JAIDYN THOMPSON
Staff Writer

Northeast Texas Community College hosted its annual Multicultural Week on campus Sept. 21 through 25. The annual event has been occurring every year for ten years. However, COVID-19 changed this year’s week-long event.

Director of Student Activities and Multicultural Affairs Rico Willis said, “Celebrating Multicultural Awareness week is about celebrating the spectacular ranges of ethnicities, backgrounds and cultures that we have within our campus community.”

Willis said Multicultural Week is a great opportunity for the campus community to showcase their cultures and gain a sense of belonging. He also said that the goal of this annual event is to embrace diversity and let people know that “being different is a good thing.”

Rather than the traditional multicultural fashion show, a popular event during the

week, the show was adjusted to become a “fashion day” where participants wore and represented cultures from all around the world for the opportunity to win a cash prize. The reason for the change was aimed at avoiding large crowd gatherings to watch the fashion show.

“Unfortunately, COVID caused the cancellation of the Multicultural Fashion Show,” NTCC Student Government Association President James Buckley said. “This event has always been a fun event enjoyed by students and staff. Trying to keep a sense of normalcy in these times is a challenge. Scaling back our event was a bit disheartening, but necessary.”

The week long event also showcased a wide range of art displays, games and activities, a career fair and a sports tournament.

New to this year’s line-up was the Multicultural Mask Decorating, where students, faculty and staff were encouraged to decorate their masks in any cultural design of their choice.

NTCC receives \$100,000 anonymous gift



COURTESY PHOTO

The Northeast Texas Community College Foundation recently received a \$100,000 anonymous donation. The gift was designated to establish an endowed scholarship for NTCC’s Work4College Scholarship. Dr. Ron Clinton (left), NTCC President, and Dr. Jonathan McCullough, NTCC Executive Vice President for Advancement, are pictured receiving the gift.

Drama department closes

Cont. from page 1

program as a whole has been indefinitely shut down. “We were essentially making the decision to not have any kind of large-scale theatrical events or performing arts events in the facility,” Clinton said.

Clinton explained that this decision affected the drama program, which also led to “some targeted cuts.”

According to Clinton, the targeted cuts applied to some personnel, of which included Martin Holden, the Theater Northeast instructor.

The music department, which also functions out of

the Whatley, was approved to remain operational throughout the fall semester, however the class locations have been altered. The theater program did not get the same opportunity.

“Some things are a little easier to do at a distance than others...” Clinton said. “[It’s] a little different scenario with theater, because again it does involve so much close interaction with students, both the performers themselves and also the audiences that we bring into the facility to see the show.”

Clinton said that the college is continuing to offer creative outlets while

the drama department is temporarily closed.

“Obviously, we’ve had a little bit of setback this year,” he said. “And so we don’t have as many opportunities available. But we’ve tried to maintain as many as we felt like we could do and safely do.”

Clinton said he hopes to reopen the drama department next year, however, he has no definite plans at the moment because it is a “long-range decision.”

For more information, contact Carolyn Franks, director of the Whatley Center for Performing Arts at cfranks@ntcc.edu.

NTCC TableTop



STAFF PHOTO | ELISABETH LIVELY

Zach Alexander and Lantz LaFon look over their cards during a recent TableTop game session. The group has been able to continue their weekly gatherings by providing face shields to all participants. The clear shields allow the gamers to see one another’s expressions, a critical component for many of the role playing games the group enjoys. The NTCC TableTop club meets Thursdays at 3 p.m. in HUM 102. For more information on TableTop, contact Julie Ratliff at jratliff@ntcc.edu.



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- OCTOBER 19 - 23, 2020
- **Selfie-station challenge:** Take a selfie and tag the A&M at NTCC Facebook page
 - **Transfer Board:** Share your transfer story in the UHS building
 - **Transfer Flag:** Locate and return a transfer flag to the A&M Office on the NTCC campus
 - **T-shirt Transfer:** Trade in a t-shirt from your former institution to receive an A&M shirt
 - **Transfer Presentation:** Join the College of Business, Engineering, & Technology (CBET) for a presentation on Wednesday, October 21 at 12:30 to learn about A&M programs. Located in Business Technology (BT) building BT 111 at NTCC.

Students who participate in National Transfer Week activities can stop by the A&M offices in UHS 113 to collect a transfer prize!

For more information, please contact Jennifer Perez at jennifer.perez@tamut.edu

THE EAGLE

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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.ntccagleonline.com

SPORTS

NTCC receives human performance scholarship



SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

The Northeast Texas Community College Foundation recently received a check for \$1,000 from Randy and Cristy Nolen of Mount Pleasant. The donation will be used to provide a scholarship to a student majoring in Human Performance at NTCC.

Randy Nolen spent his career as a dedicated athletic trainer for various organizations, including Mount Pleasant High School.

In addition to preparing students to transfer to four-year university programs in Human Performance, NTCC also gives select students the opportunity to gain real-world experience as student trainers for Eagle Athletics.

To learn more, contact Hargrove at jhargrove@ntcc.edu or visit www.ntcc.edu/humanperformance.

From left, Dr. Jonathan McCullough, NTCC Executive Vice President for Advancement, Justin Hargrove, Director of NTCC's Human Performance Program and Cristy Nolen and Randy Nolen.



STAFF PHOTO | ELISABETH LIVELY

NTCC Rodeo athlete Gavin Pollard looks for an eight second ride during the saddle bronc event.

NTCC to host NIRA rodeo

By STEFANIE KIRSCHKE
Staff Writer

Northeast Texas Community College will host its annual National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association rodeo on Oct. 16 and 17 at the Mount Pleasant Rodeo Association arena. The event begins at 7 P.M. Friday night and at 2 P.M. on Saturday.

NTCC Rodeo Coach Skyler Hunnicutt said he is looking forward to having the rodeo back at the Mount Pleasant Arena this year.

"We are happy to be partnering with the Mount Pleasant Rodeo Association," Hunnicutt said. "With COVID it is better to have it there because being outside you won't have a whole lot of restrictions and it is a

whole lot safer," Hunnicutt said.

The location of the arena is at 16689 Green Hill Rd, Mt Pleasant.

"I am just proud we get to go to the rodeo with everything going on this year," Hunnicutt said.

NTCC Rodeo men's and women's teams will be competing for points against 11 other colleges and universities in the NIRA Southern Region. The events that will happen are bull riding, bareback & bronc riding, calf roping, team roping, steer wrestling, goat tying, breakaway roping, barrel racing.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids 12 and under. NTCC students get in free with a valid student ID. Follow NTCC's standings this season at www.collegerodeo.com.

NTCC FITNESS CENTER

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SPORTS



STAFF PHOTO | TAHJ MCKRAE

Above, Harry Quigley and Kenshiro Yamaguchi race to the ball in a game against Laredo College last fall. Right, Aaliyah Prince lunges forward after breaking through two players blocking her from Blinn College.



STAFF PHOTO | TAHJ MCKRAE

NJCAA postpones soccer championship season

By DAVIN WHATLEY
Staff Writer

This fall, the men and women's soccer season at Northeast Texas Community College has been postponed to spring 2021 and will not include any official games. The team will instead only play scrimmage games this semester.

NTCC is just one of the hundreds of colleges around the nation that had to alter their fall sports calendar and competitions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The entire NJCAA made the decision to go ahead and postpone all conference play into the spring," NTCC President Dr. Ron Clinton

said. "The only sport that was affected for us was men and women's soccer."

Clinton acknowledged that the postponement of the soccer season will create some unique problems when the spring semester arrives.

"That's going to be a challenge for us because that means that all of our sports and activities are going to take place in the spring semester, at least that's the plan," Clinton said. "So, that will pose some challenges for us in terms of travel and that sort of thing."

However, due to the uncertainty of the situation and the possibility of changes, scheduling and travel will have to be flexible and closely monitored to provide student

athletes as safe a season as possible.

"We're just happy that we're here and that we're practicing and that we're practicing and that we're just able to do all that stuff," NTCC Athletic Director Andy Morgan said. "If that means we have to play soccer in the spring then we're real excited about it."

Due to the unusual circumstances, the NJCAA has changed their rules in order to be more flexible with the way teams will be rated at the end of the season. They will take into consideration that teams may not be able to play the usual amount of conference games. NTCC will have to pick and choose who they put on the schedule as the season draws closer. "Bottom line is that we're still a little bit up

in the air in terms of what the season is going to look like, but we will obviously provide more information about the conference season and that sort of thing as we get closer to the spring semester," Clinton said.

The postponement of the season also means that the men and women's soccer program will have to wait until the spring for their first official game action under new head coach Zane Barnes.

Barnes was most recently the head girls coach at Atascocita High School in Humble, Texas from 2017-2020. During his tenure the team had a 54-8-11 overall record and a trip to the Regional Tournament, the second in program history.

NTCC hires new soccer coaches

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Northeast Texas Community College has announced the new soccer coaching staff for the 2020-2021 year.

New Men's and Women's Head Soccer Coach Zane Barnes will be joined by assistants Heather Brady and JD Perales to lead the Eagle Soccer teams in the upcoming seasons.

Barnes was hired this spring to take over both the Men's and Women's Eagle Soccer teams. Barnes brings experience as an assistant coach and head coach at various levels including collegiate, high school, club and professional levels.

Most recently, Barnes was the Head Girls Coach at Atascocita High School here in Texas.

A native of Lufkin, Texas, Barnes received his Bachelor of Science degree from ETBU in 2010 and his MBA in Sports Management and Administration from University of the Southwest.

He holds a USSF National "B" License and NSCAA Goalkeeper 1, 2, and 3 Licenses.

Brady enters her first-year coaching at NTCC. A

native of Humble, Texas, Brady began her collegiate playing career at NCAA Division III East Texas Baptist University. A four-year letter, she appeared in 69 games while starting in 60. During that time, Brady earned All-ASC honors, and USC NCAA DIII All-West Region Honors.

Perales comes to NTCC after completing a year at Kilgore High School as an assistant and goalkeeper coach for both the JV and the Varsity.

Perales played under Barnes at ETBU from 2015 to 2016 where he earned all-conference honors.

Outside of coaching, Perales is also a referee with the Longview chapter of Soccer Officials.

Perales is a native of Kilgore, Texas and will also be serving as Assistant Dorm Director while fulfilling his coaching duties for the NTCC soccer program.

"We're excited to have Coach Barnes, Coach Perales and Coach Brady," NTCC Athletic Director Andy Morgan said. "They're all doing a really good job and easy to work with. It's been really positive with them."



Zane Barnes
Head Soccer Coach



JD Perales
Assistant Soccer Coach



Heather Brady
Assistant Soccer Coach

NTCC baseball, softball players make NJCAA All Academic Team

By ELISABETH LIVELY
Staff Writer

After the Northeast Texas Community College baseball team had a 3.25 team GPA for spring 2020, seven of the players, and one softball player, were awarded a spot on the 2019-2020 NJCAA All Academic Team. The All Academic Team is composed of student athletes of various sports from two-year schools across the nation.

The All Academic Team is divided into three sections, first, second and third. First Team is reserved for student athletes with a solid 4.00 GPA. Second Team is for students

with a 3.80 to 3.99 GPA, and Third Team for 3.60 to 3.79 GPA.

Baseball players Jett Forrest, a Business major from Lorena, Texas, Noah Miller, a Business major from Chaska, Minnesota and Keaton Russo, a Kinesiology major from Texarkana, Texas all earned a spot on First Team.

Softball player Averie Ayers of Daingerfield placed on Second Team. Baseball players Trevor Gowin, Tyler Jeans, Justin Lambright and Brock Ziegler placed on Third Team, with GPAs ranging from 3.60 to 3.75.

The full roster of student athletes who made the Team can be found at njcaa.org.

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By EMILY SHEARIN
Staff Writer

Northeast Texas Community College rodeo team members Peyton Cooper and Tervyn Armstrong received the Jerald Smith Memorial Scholarship this past month at the Mount Pleasant rodeo. Peyton Cooper is a NTCC sophomore from Telephone, Texas. She participates in breakaway roping, goat tying and barrel racing. Tervyn Armstrong is an NTCC freshman from Brokenbow, Oklahoma and is a bull rider.

The scholarship was presented by members of the Jerald Smith family during the event. Smith, who was inducted into the Cowboy Hall of Fame in 2010, founded the Wing Rodeo Company in 1967 and continued as its owner and operator until his death in 2018.

"I've worked for Wing Rodeo Company for 16 years now and [I am] very honored to be able to present a scholarship in his name to some of our students," Skylar Hunnicutt, NTCC head rodeo coach, said.

ENTERTAINMENT

‘Cobra Kai’ strikes hard in Netflix purchase

By ELISABETH LIVELY
Editor-in-Chief

Every villain has a story. And sometimes, it takes over three decades to have it told. While the story of Daniel LaRusso and his undefeatable skills and heroic courage were spread across three movies, it's now time for his rival, Johnny Lawrence, to tell his story in Netflix's newly purchased series *Cobra Kai*.

Unlike *The Karate Kid* films, which focus on the peace and balance of karate, this series leads viewers into the Cobra Kai dojo, where they better learn of its aggressive (not to mention illegal) training techniques that the students endure to become the best of the best. Cobra Kai students are taught to win, no matter the costs.

While it started out as a YouTube Premium original series in 2018, the *Cobra Kai* franchise was recently bought

by Netflix, which began streaming the two available seasons last month and will create and release the third season in

2021. Though *The Karate Kid* trilogy is a cult classic that deserves to be seen prior to watching this series, one could easily pick up on the storyline without ever having seen the films.

Cobra Kai picks up 34 years after Johnny's defeat by Daniel in the first *Karate Kid* film. Now, in 2018 where the series begins, Johnny is an alcoholic headed to nowhere, while his hatred for Daniel and Kreese's aggressive life lessons linger in his heart and mind.

After witnessing his teenage neighbor getting beat up, Johnny reopens Cobra Kai as the sensei. However, when only "losers" sign up for classes, Johnny is tasked with turning their weak, fearful selves into powerful, merciless karate students using the infamous Cobra Kai approach – "Strike first, strike hard, no mercy." But when Daniel, who is now a successful car salesman, discovers that Cobra Kai is back in business, he decides it's time to dust off the old gi and put the reopened dojo back in a body bag where it belongs.

I found a passion for *Cobra Kai*, and ended up watching it twice just within the first week. However, it wasn't as clean as I had expected it to be, and the heavy language and recurring inappropriate content made the series tough to love. While it does have its comedic moments, I wouldn't say that it's as kid-friendly as the movies were. Season two was significantly cleaner than the first, which I greatly appreciated, but Netflix's passion for TV-MA has me concerned about their take on season three.

In the past, I've heard people discussing "character development," a concept I struggled to understand. But after watching *Cobra Kai*, specifically the second time around, I have a clear idea of what it means.

It's the little things that change a person. An argument here, a life lesson there, among other small things in each episode. Because I already knew who they would become and what they would do, I was stunned at just how different the characters were at the start of season one when I began rewatching the series.

While I'm sure many will disagree, it was the whole *Karate Kid* idea readjusted for the modern generation of teens that had me glued to the screen. This concept captivated me because it overlapped the original characters and their rivalries with multiple new characters and rivalries. This way, it progressed the story without entirely repeating the past. The writers creatively distributed a diverse array of backgrounds to the new characters, and creatively intertwined their lives just enough that Daniel and Johnny end up meeting again and reignite their rivalry.

Now that it's a series, it provides more time for details, characters, and story and character development. Zabka and Macchio, who are also co-executive producers of the series, take the opportunity of more screen time to share deeper backstories for Johnny, as well as the new characters.

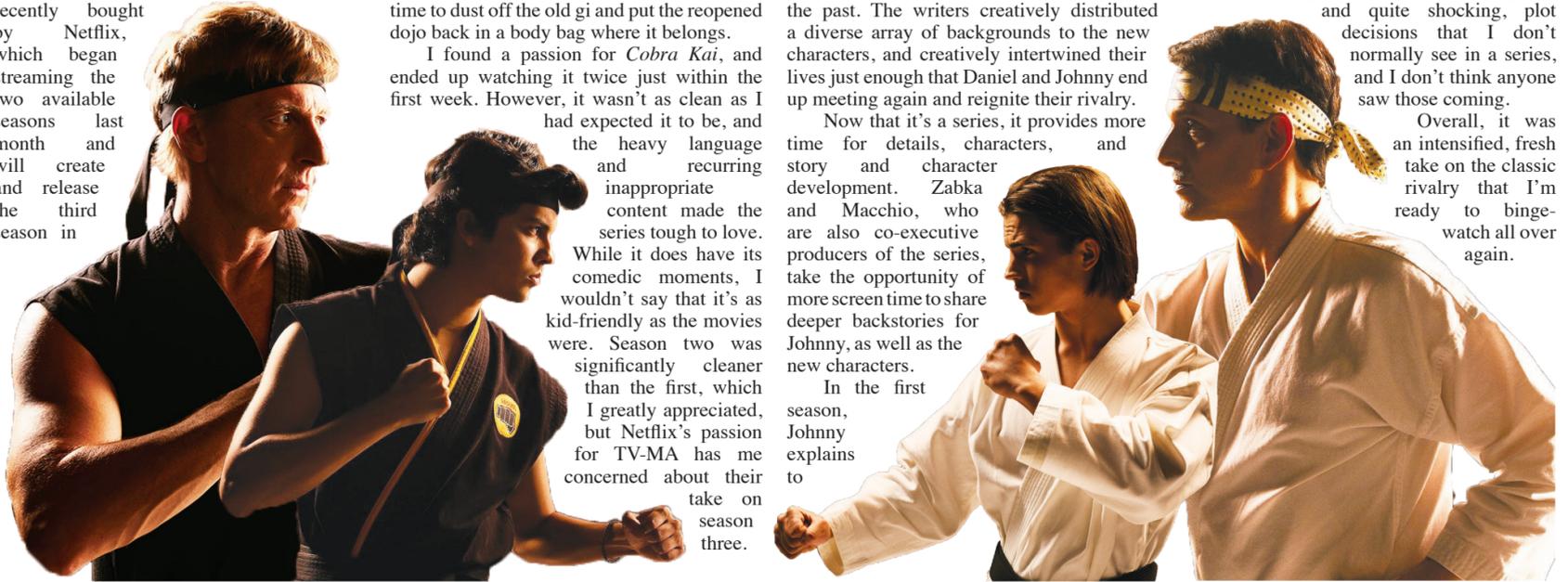
In the first season, Johnny explains to

one of his students how his hatred for Daniel began. At first, it sounded like he was telling a one-sided story to make himself sound like the victim. But then I realized that that was exactly what it was. One-sided. For over thirty years, we only ever knew Daniel's side of the story. But now that we're discovering Johnny's inner thoughts, emotions and upbringing, we begin to see that, in a way, he really was the victim. Crazy, right?

After Johnny and Daniel's rivalry is pushed on to the teenagers, things get out of hand and the art form is driven further than what was ever seen in the films. This leads to some long, intense combat scenes, including an 11-minute fight scene that breaks out in the season two finale.

I'm not going to lie. There were several times when I figured out what would happen next because of obvious story tropes. However, the producers made some gutsy, and quite shocking, plot decisions that I don't normally see in a series, and I don't think anyone saw those coming.

Overall, it was an intensified, fresh take on the classic rivalry that I'm ready to binge-watch all over again.



YouTube, Billboard records explode with new BTS song

By EMILY SHEARIN
Staff Writer

With the rising popularity of bilingual music in the United States such as "Despacito" and "Taki Taki," it is no surprise that South Korea's hottest group, BTS, has taken over the playlists of many western audiences.

BTS has topped the Billboard 200 album chart three times in the last two years. The group's increasing American popularity is credited to some of their popular songs like "Idol" and "Boy With Luv," which also feature well-known American artists. The group recently tried something different than they have ever done with their new single - it is completely in English.

"Dynamite" follows "Idol" and "Boy with Luv" in the line up of songs that broke YouTube's records for the most views in 24 hours. The video recorded a whopping 101.1 million views between Friday, Aug. 21 and Saturday, Aug. 22.

Musically, "Dynamite" is truly a song for the summer with its shimmering, discotheque groove, infectious beat and uplifting chorus that makes you want to sing along with it. The song is undeniably cheerful with a set of lyrics that pay homage to some of the greats like Michael Jackson, The Rolling Stones and Elvis Presley.

While the members of BTS are the only artists featured in the video, they make up for it with the striking imagery. The music video has a retro theme that is supported by a vivid color scheme, disco themed outfits and choreography that pays tribute to Michael Jackson.

A couple of days after the release of the official

music video, BTS released the B-Side video, which takes place on the same set, but is drastically different. In the B-Side video, the members seem to be having way more fun. The video is another version with some outtakes from the official video as well as some behind the scene clips. It shows the members of BTS truly enjoying themselves while they groove to "Dynamite."

On Aug. 31, the song made its debut on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. This was a new milestone for Korean artists because no other artist has debuted in the number one spot. The closest any Korean artist has gotten to the top of the chart was soloist PSY's "Gangnam Style," which peaked at number two for seven weeks in 2012. "Dynamite" is only the 43rd song in Billboard's history to debut at number one.

While listening to the song, I personally, felt pure happiness. BTS has truly been my lifesaver since I discovered them during the pandemic. This song is appreciated by international fans because we now get to have the same experience as Korean-speaking fans, immediately understanding the lyrics.

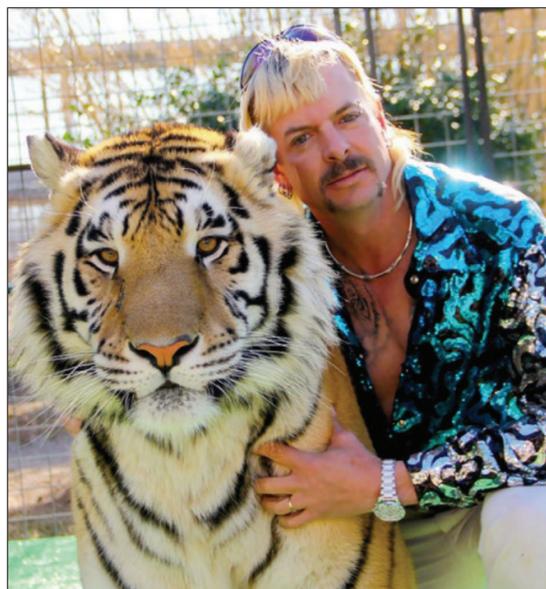
I strongly agree with the ratings that this song has received. BTS has another song that has several lines in English called "Mic Drop." Not only is there no language switching in "Dynamite," but the members' English has greatly increased since "Mic Drop" was released in 2017.

I don't think words can describe how proud I am of the members of BTS for their hard work on "Dynamite." With a number one on the Billboard Hot 100 under their belt, they have cleared the last obstacle to worldwide stardom. The only thing left for them to do is to repeat their success. And, if their ARMY has any say in it, they will not have a problem.



The *Dynamite* music video uses vivid colors and diverse settings, the majority of which are CGI-generated due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I'm a COVID girl, in a COVID world - life's not fantastic



The Tiger King is a documentary series on Netflix about the rivalry between tiger owners, Joe Exotic and Carol Baskin. The series' popularity is fueled by viewers' widely-shared belief that Baskin killed her husband and fed him to the tigers.

By EMILY SHEARIN
Staff Writer

I thought I had principles, then I watched *The Tiger King*. What a crazy year 2020 has been, and Carol Baskin doesn't even cover half of it. The coronavirus pandemic began with, of all things, a toilet paper shortage, and everyone went berserk trying to get their hands on the golden ticket.

Some people even sold rolls out of the back of their minivans in exchange for what seemed like an arm and a leg. And, that was just the beginning.

COVID-19 really put a hold on everyone's plans for 2020. High school seniors had to spend the last few months of the school year away from their classmates. They had to miss prom and many of them didn't even get to walk across the stage and receive their diplomas.

Regular people found out whether their job was "essential" or not, and then they were sent home to help flatten the curve. Fun fact: did you know that fast food restaurants are considered "essential?"

Pre-pandemic, being at home, napping and relaxing was something most people

were excited about, but about a week into the state-wide shutdown, everyone wanted nothing more than to get out of their houses. People suddenly had time to try new things and watch that one TV show they never had time for. During the quarantine, I even took "Grandma 101" and learned how to knit and crochet.

I also watched all of the *Star Wars* movies. Do you know how devoted I became to Obi Wan Kanobi? Spoiler alert, do not get attached to any character in the *Star Wars* universe. They all die or turn evil. My heart shattered when Obi Wan died. Why is your jaw on the floor? I gave you a warning that I was going to spoil it.

Anyway, I also joined forces with some fellow nerds online and learned how to play *Dungeons and Dragons*. D&D, as it is affectionately known by the weebies of the internet, is literally just a group of individuals who do their best to gather in one location and role play as characters in an alternate universe, a world where the coronavirus does not exist.

I have also taken an interest in K-Pop music. Before you rudely ask me "Why do you like it if you can't understand it?" let me just state that music is the

universal language. I like the actual music composition, but the lyrics are great as well. If you have the chance, I highly recommend checking it out.

Not only have I learned new skills and found new hobbies, almost everyone I spoke with over a poll I put on Facebook have as well. Several of my friends started exercising more and trying to become healthy.

And, a couple of my friends have even started creative hobbies such as sewing, painting with watercolors and doing puzzles. Some of my friends have children and they have very quickly and somewhat painfully learned how to home school. All in all, I think 2020 has been a year of new self-discovery for everyone.

With the country slowly reopening, I find myself reconsidering many of the decisions that I make about where I'm going and who I am around in case of another breakout. I know how crazy this year has been, and we haven't even hit the worst part, autumn allergy season.

With all those runny noses and itchy eyes, I'm sure that we will be closing down the country again soon. Or, will we repeat the Salem Witch Trials, only time will tell.