

NTCC hosts testing site

By DOC ANDERSON
Staff Writer

COVID-19 has brought with it a great deal of uncertainty. Northeast Texas Community College partnered with Chapel Hill I.S.D to provide some much-needed assurance.

Free COVID testing was conducted from Jan. 12 to 15 and Jan. 19 to 20 in the North parking lot on a drive-thru basis, but was later moved into the Whatley Center due to inclement weather.

Testing was open to students, faculty and the general public.

Those who chose to be tested were asked to fill out a medical history form. This form was used to screen for any potential contraindications to testing and served as a record for the test results. Upon completion of this form, the person being tested was issued a confirmation

number, then the COVID test was performed as a mouth swab.

NTCC Vice President For Student And Outreach Services Dr. Josh Stewart spearheaded the testing.

"We have roughly 115 students in the dorm this semester, and all of them were tested," Stewart said. "I don't have an exact number of employees or anyone else at this time."

NTCC and Health Track RX are working together to facilitate more testing for the general community. The availability of tests has allowed the community to be proactive in the fight against COVID-19.

Although there is not an exact date for future testing, Stewart said he is working to provide more testing to those interested and hopes to have more tests available later this month.

For additional information on free COVID-19 testing at NTCC, contact Stewart at jstewart@ntcc.edu.



STAFF PHOTO | MANDY SMITH

NTCC baseball player Cade McBride gets tested at the drive-thru COVID testing site on campus.

SNOWPOCALYPSE



COURTESY PHOTO | SCOTT WILHITE

The NTCC campus was covered in roughly eight inches of snow after the weekend winter storm Uri blew through Texas. Classes were canceled or met virtually on Zoom. Dorm students were spotted taking advantage of the rare winter wonderland by sledding down the hill behind the Whatley.

Whatley reopens with Dr. Clinton piano recital

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

The Whatley Center for the Performing Arts at Northeast Texas Community College will be returning on Friday, March 5 for a socially-distanced piano concert featuring NTCC President Dr. Ron Clinton. The event is limited to 100 guests and tickets are \$30 for adults and \$10 for ages 17-and-under. Virtual live-streaming tickets are also available for \$15. All proceeds from the concert will directly benefit the NTCC Eagle Food Pantry, which provides much-needed food and other services to NTCC students.

"It was so disappointing that we were unable to have our regular season this year

due to COVID-19, but we are looking forward to starting back up with a wonderful piano concert by our very own talented college president," Carolyn Franks, director of the Whatley Center, said. "In addition to social distancing and limiting the number of seats, we are implementing other measures to help ensure a safe and comfortable environment for our guests."

Clinton joined the NTCC faculty when the college opened in 1985, teaching music, humanities, and philosophy before joining the administrative team. He was named President of NTCC in 2017. Prior to his time at NTCC, Clinton performed

See *Whatley*, page 2

New ambulance offers new lessons

By STEFANIE KIRSCHKE
Staff Writer

Every semester brings a new wave of students, but this Spring, as the students try to park in their old spots, many noticed a new vehicle sharing the parking lot with them.

An ambulance will now be used to simulate emergency situations for the Northeast Texas Community College emergency medical services and paramedic students. Two years ago, Titus Emergency Medical Services donated a retired ambulance to NTCC. Since then, the students in the Carroll Shelby automotive program had the opportunity to work on the ambulance before it was sent to Digital Effects Signs and Graphics in Texarkana. The ambulance received a vinyl wrap with the NTCC EMS logo to help advertise for the program.

"It's cool-looking and sparks a little interest around campus," Gary Short, NTCC lead EMS instructor, said.

The ambulance will be used in different scenarios for the EMS and paramedic students to work together as a team as if they were in the field.

"It will be used for actual patient care that is going to happen," Short said. "The actual hands-on simulation for caring for the patients in a pre-hospital setting is very important to our EMT and paramedic students."

Mia Barton, EMS student, said being a brand new student going into a brand new field can be nerve-racking.

"It can be scary on your first day of work as an EMT or paramedic because you are so new to the field you have no clue what to expect," Barton said.

The students will be able to train in the mock ambulance, which will help them gain skills for their future careers.

"The simulation of actual patient care will help our students get that confidence and level of comfort in the back of an ambulance," Short said.

Short expressed his appreciation for the partnerships that the college has with the surrounding medical centers, hospitals and EMS companies. He added that the ambulance will help the college provide the proper training for EMT and paramedic students in the long run.



STAFF PHOTO | STEFANIE KIRSCHKE

EMS student Mia Barton practices CPR on a training dummy in the new simulation ambulance that was donated to NTCC by the Titus Emergency Medical Services at Titus Regional Medical Center.

NTCC students win scholarships

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Two NTCC Presidential Scholars are the recent recipients of \$1,250 Gladys Winkle Scholarships. Israel Perez and John Rodriguez, of Mount Pleasant, are the third and fourth recipients of this coveted award in honors. The previous winners were Texas Heritage National Bank Scholar, Mercedes Collins, and Leader of Promise recipient, Courtney Baldwin. The scholarship goes to humanities majors in honors who have a proven record of attainment in a humanities field. It will be applied to their costs this 2021 spring semester.

Both Perez and Rodriguez are double majors. Coming to NTCC last fall with about 40 hours apiece of dual enrollment credit from Mount Pleasant High School, they are leveraging their two-year stay at NTCC to optimize their chances

See *Presidential*, page 2



Israel Perez is majoring in engineering and history.



John Rodriguez is also majoring in engineering, as well as Spanish.

Quote of the Month:

"I believe there is only one race - the human race."

- Rosa Parks

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bonfire.....	Mar. 2
Spring Graduation Deadline.....	Mar. 5
Ping-Pong Tournament.....	Mar. 5
Spring Break.....	Mar. 15-19

NEWS

Cosmetology is ‘hair’ again!

BY JOELLE WEATHERFORD
Editor-in-Chief

The Northeast Texas Community College Cosmetology department recently began taking appointments again. The department first opened up appointments last semester for NTCC faculty and staff. This semester, appointments are being made available for students as well.

NTCC Cosmetology Instructor Debbie Lovelady said that the decision to allow students back into the salon was made based on their knowledge of NTCC’s COVID procedures.

“They already understand our COVID expectations,” Lovelady said. “They know the

protocol for the college, so we’re not having to worry about that.”

Lovelady said that the cosmetology students are enjoying the hands-on work. Some services being offered include hair trims, manicures, pedicures, waxing, and facial treatments.

“They’re loving working on real people,” Lovelady said.

After two semesters without doing full-scale appointments, Lovelady said she is hopeful for the next semester.

“It does feel like there is a light at the end of the tunnel now,” Lovelady said.

To schedule a cosmetology appointment, call (903) 434-8208 or email Lovelady at dlovelady@ntcc.edu.



STAFF PHOTO | JOELLE WEATHERFORD

NTCC Cosmetology student Kristy Wilkerson works on a client’s hair.



COURTESY PHOTO

Students attending the Honors trip include, top row from left, Jalyn English, Israel Perez, Brian Ramirez, Jansen Laney, Cade Bennett and bottom row from left, Hannah Barnes, Jaidyn Thompson, Carolina Alcocer-Salas, John Rodriguez.

Honors program takes 27th biannual field trip to Dallas

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Students of Honors Northeast took their 27th biannual trip to Dallas on Feb. 29. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, it was the first semester-day trip where students had to drive themselves.

Because of recent gifts from John and Jan Bryan of Naples, and Don and Margaret Muse of Pittsburg, in addition to long-range funding and encouragement from Drs. Jim and Paula Archer, the group experienced a traditional, NTCC honors day-trip experience.

The group met up at the Greenville Starbucks, and had Chick-Fil-A for breakfast. Next, the group went to the Heard Wildlife Museum in McKinney to view some of the natural history exhibits, interact with an Asian Forest Tortoise, and hike the Blueberry Lake trail.

The group then headed to Frisco to shop at the Stonebriar Centre, eat dinner and participate in team-building activities at the Andretti Center.

The Andretti “karting experience” conceived by racing ace Mario Andretti, was a highlight of the trip. The group donned helmets, and enjoyed a simulated, slower type of formula-one racing. In a laser-tag confrontation, a group of honors students, including the quartet of Cade Bennett, Israel Perez, Brian Ramirez, and John Rodriguez, took out the honors director, Dr. Andrew Yox.

But the women scholars rallied, and together with Jalyn English, won the tournament. Jansen Laney dominated duck-pin bowling just as he excelled in real bowling during last year’s spring trip. Honors Scholar Hannah Barnes said, “We had heard about all the cool things that had happened in other honors trips, so we wanted to experience a trip ourselves.”

The NTCC administration, though insisting on the group maintaining CDC guidelines, permitted the outing, as they have permitted other honors activities in 2020-2021.

NTCC athletic training student transfers

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Northeast Texas Community College Athletic Training recently announced that Student Athletic Trainer Erica Austin will be joining the Texas A&M University—Commerce Athletic Training program in the Fall of 2021.

Austin came to NTCC from Texarkana Pleasant Grove High School in the Fall of 2019 and has worked with each of the Eagle Athletic Teams in her two years at NTCC.

As a student athletic trainer, she has been able to learn about injury prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of athletic injuries while working in the athletic training room and attending practices and games for NTCC Athletics. Austin has gained athletic training experience with baseball, softball, men’s soccer, women’s soccer and rodeo during her time here.

Austin will graduate in May from



Erica Austin

NTCC with an Associates of Science in Human Performance. During her time in the classroom, she has completed some of the courses she will need to sit for the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation Athletic Training exam upon finishing her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees. Austin will obtain her Bachelor’s degree at Texas A&M University—Commerce and then will attend Graduate school to fulfill the requirements set by the National Athletic Trainers Association Board of Certification to become a Certified Athletic Trainer.

Austin will join fellow Eagle Alumni Shalem Hobbs in the TAMUC Athletic Training Department.

Whatley reopens in March

Cont. from Pg. 1

extensively throughout the United States, Asia and South America as a concert pianist, appearing as guest soloist with symphony orchestras in Houston, Austin, Lubbock, South America, and the Republic of South Korea. He received his Doctor’s Degree from the University of Texas at Austin in Piano Performance where he studied with William Race and performed in master classes with such notable artists as Augustin Anievas, Claude Frank, Anton Kuerti, and Leon Fleisher.

In addition to his work at NTCC, Dr. Clinton has also served as “artist in residence” at Mokwon University in Taejon, South Korea and has been a faculty member at the Conservatory of Music at the University of Southern Chile in Valdivia, Chile where he taught piano, served as guest conductor of the Conservatory Orchestra Austral de Chile, and performed concerts throughout the country, including performances at the prestigious International Frutillar Music Festival in southern Chile. His solo and chamber music performances have been recorded and broadcast over PBS stations throughout the United States.

In-person tickets can only be purchased by

calling the Whatley Center Box Office at 903-434-8181. All tickets are first-come-first-served and only 100 will be sold. Virtual Streaming tickets can be purchased online at www.ntcc.edu/clintonconcert. A link to the high-definition streaming event will be e-mailed to ticket holders 48 hours before the concert. It will also be recorded and available for viewing through midnight on Sunday, May 7. A high speed Internet connection is necessary for an optimal viewing experience.

Tickets are also now on sale for The Orchard Ensemble Chamber Music featuring Mark Miller, violin; Ute Miller, viola and Evan Mitchell, piano. The concert is March 21 at 2:30 p.m. and will also be limited to 100 seats. Tickets for this event can also be purchased by calling the box office at 903-434-8181.

The Whatley had remained closed at the start of the spring 2021 semester, due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases in the area. A decision was recently made to open the facility at the beginning of March.

For more information about the Whatley Center visit www.whatleycenter.com contact Carolyn Franks at 903-434-8182 or cfranks@ntcc.edu.

All events are subject to change in response to evolving pandemic conditions.

Boys Scouts learn at NTCC

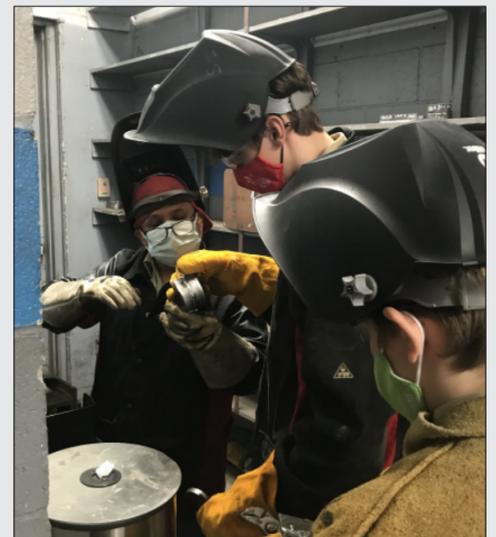
SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

On Jan. 30, the Northeast Texas Community College Continuing Education and Corporate Training group partnered with the Boy Scouts of America-Circle Ten Council to host their annual Merit Badge University on campus.

The objective was to give scouts the opportunity to participate in counselor-led courses to meet requirements listed in the Scouts BSA Requirements book to be eligible for emblems.

Some of the NTCC instructors, Sergio Sanchez, Gary Short, Zachary Strawbridge, and Russell VanBibber, volunteered to teach courses for this year’s university.

Next year’s date of Jan. 22, 2022 has already been locked in. With over 80 scouts this year, Steven Palmer, Eastern Lakes senior district executive, said he has high hopes that the Merit Badge University in 2022 will be even bigger.



COURTESY PHOTO

NTCC Welding Instructor Sergio Sanchez gives guidance on “the perfect weld” while two Boy Scouts look on.

Presidential Scholars receive award

Cont. from Pg. 1

for other awards, as well as to build their skills with writing and research. Both are engineering majors, who have compiled exemplary GPAs in STEM fields. Perez is also majoring in history, while Rodriguez is majoring in Spanish.

Both recipients received academic blankets in their humanities major while at Mount Pleasant High School, Perez in world history, and Rodriguez, three times in Spanish.

Both Perez and Rodriguez were contributors to the Bo Pilgrim film project pursued by NTCC’s Webb Society and Honors. Perez is the key film scholar, who has written a fifteen-page paper on the life of Bo Pilgrim.

Rodriguez both acted in the film and completed his fifteen-page project on Hispanic quietism, an arresting characteristic of Pilgrims’ Hispanic workforce which helped make Pilgrim the

leading chicken producer in the world for a brief moment in 2008. The projects of Perez and Rodriguez will be submitted for numerous award and presentation possibilities this spring.

“We at NTCC are so thankful for the matriculation of students like Perez, and Rodriguez here,” Honors Director, Dr. Andrew Yox said. “Both were highly beloved and regarded, top students at Mount Pleasant. Thanks to conversations I have had with Professors Ward and Wilhite, I know that both have an amazing alacrity with calculus and other sciences. They were also indispensable supporters of our Webb-Honors film project on the life of Bo Pilgrim, and one of the key reasons we can hope for a Caldwell group research award this spring.”

Perez is the son of Madai and Samuel Perez. Rodriguez is the son of Loruama and Juan Rodriguez. Both families reside in Mount Pleasant.

CALL FOR STUDENT ART/LITERARY WORK

EMAIL WORK TO LAGNIAPPEEDITORS@GMAIL.COM

CONTACT DSANCHEZ@NTCC.EDU MSMITH@NTCC.EDU

SHORT STORIES
ACRYLIC DIGITAL ART
POETRY OR

NTCC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DUE MAR. 13!

CAMPUS LIFE



STAFF PHOTO | EMILY SHEARIN

Above, the American and Texas flags endear the snow as heavy flakes continue to fall throughout the Northeast Texas area.



COURTESY PHOTO | MARISSA GARCIA

Right, Rebecca Adams, Marissa Garcia, Fatima Medrano and Siera Cardenas of the NTCC soccer team enjoy the snowfall outside their dorms.

SNOW WHAT?

Record-breaking temperatures make a winter wonderland for NTCC students and employees



COURTESY PHOTO | JENNIFER FERRARI

NTCC employee Jennifer Ferrari is pulled behind a car as she sleds through the icy road.



COURTESY PHOTO | JOHN RUSSO

NTCC Professor John Russo's guide dog, Mr. Poodleman, enjoys the fresh snow.



COURTESY PHOTO | DESTINY COOPER

Above, Corporal Destiny Cooper of the Mount Pleasant Police Department, and an NTCC student, stands in full uniform outside her home as the snow continues to fall.



COURTESY PHOTO | SAWYRE THORNHILL

NTCC baseball player Drew Baggerly gets ready to let loose with a snowball.



COURTESY PHOTO | JIMMY SMITH

Above, NTCC Workforce Developer Jimmy Smith enjoys some fun in the snow with his wife and new baby.



COURTESY PHOTO | ZAKENYA LINWOOD

Right, student Zakenya Linwood and her friends take a selfie in the snow while on campus.

LIFESTYLE

City folk just don't get it

By ETHAN WIMS
Staff Writer

Like most idiotic things in my life, it all started with an idea. I decided, after the last year of basically only going from home to work and back, that it would be in my best interest to have a change of scenery.

I also thought that it might be a good idea to learn a skill that would hopefully be as "pandemic proof" as possible, and having NTCC only 30 minutes away solidified to me that this was meant to be.

My family owns a house in Mount Vernon that belonged to my great-grandparents, then my grandparents, and now my father. Up until around middle school I would spend part of the summer here with my grandparents and loved it because there always seemed to be a little bit of magic out in East Texas.

Summer nights catching lightning bugs, distant animals filling the air with ambient noises I had never heard before, giant trees that looked as if they were holding up the sky and my grandfather blowing his pipe smoke out of his nose like a dragon were some of the things that were so alien to a child who was growing up mostly in New Mexico.

After initially moving to Plano from Las Vegas

almost seven years ago, the DFW area felt a little smaller, which I chalked up to being around southern hospitality again. People acknowledged you if you made eye contact on the street, and I kept hearing familiar phrases and slang terms that I heard growing up in the home of two Texans.

However, the big city life was still "away" in the Dallas city limits. Then, Toyota moved their headquarters from California to Plano. That's when it started to change.

All of a sudden, everything out west that I was moving away from showed up on my doorstep. This was around the same time a lot more tech companies began to pop-up all around the Dallas area too, and I was fine with that. More tech companies meant more money people could spend, so the need for almost everything under the sun became justifiable, which was exciting.

While stationed in California during my time in the Air Force, I developed a terribly wonderful addiction to In N' Out Burger, and magically they started popping up all over the place. Awesome!

The big shopping chains that weren't here one year before now had what felt like 12 locations on one city block. Convenient and hip! And there were



COURTESY PHOTO

"The Rock House" was built in 1939 in Mount Vernon by Eagle writer Ethan Wims' great-grandparents.

plenty of those cool places where everything is grass-fed, gluten-free, ethically-ran, Instagram-worthy, come-vibe-with-your-friends-because-you-aren't-here-for-a-long-time-just-here-for-a-good-time.

Okay, that one didn't really apply to me, but that was the problem. If you think of it in runner's terms, I was beginning to realize that I was feeling out-paced by life. As the years went on though, I found it harder and harder to keep up financially, even before the pandemic hit, but 2020 was the final straw for me.

I knew it would be a bit of a change going from the urban sprawl

that is the DFW area, but I was confident that with some grit, the learned adaptability instilled in me by the military, and a dash of common sense, I could smooth the cultural bumps I knew I'd encounter.

While that's been mostly true, I quickly found out just how comfortable I had become in the city, despite feeling like I wasn't, and that there were things I hadn't thought of lurking in the shadows.

Upon arriving, the first thing I noticed walking into my grandparents' house again was an instant hit of nostalgia filling my nostrils.

I'm afraid, dear reader, that it's hard to describe what that smell actually

smells like, but trust me when I say that it smells like home. Not just the summer home of my youth, but the ancient, feel it in your bones kind of home.

The Rock House, as we call it now, was built in 1939 right off of the Bankhead Highway, which was one of the first highways in America that connected Washington D.C. to San Diego, California. It was built out of various scraps of material from the job sites in the area that were being constructed under Roosevelt's New Deal with mostly iron ore on the outside of the house.

Fun fact - iron ore attracts lightning, so you

can already guess how "fun" big storms in the area can be.

The single story house contains two bedrooms, one bathroom, and a small back porch. By present day, the back porch was filled in and converted into a storage room of sorts by my grandfather. The house has A/C and we even have Wi-Fi now.

So, while it's kept up with the changing times for the most part it's sort of fascinating how most of the items in the house are early 2000s or older, and there's still some treasures to be found.

Keep an eye out for the next issue of The Eagle to discover what treasures Ethan found!

Book series puts modern spin on Biblical events

By JADE WOODS
Staff Writer

Action. An adventure that will have you on the edge of your seat. Chuck Black holds the readers' attention with ease in his trilogy, "Wars of the Realm."

The books "Cloak of the Light," "Rise of the Fallen" and "Light of the Last" are the three books in this Christian and adventure fiction series based on events and prophecies of the Bible, which he expounds on with his own creativity.

Black is a former F-16 fighter pilot and tactical combat communications engineer. This background in the military gives him knowledge of what a real fight situation looks like, as well as the hierarchy of the military. Black uses his military experience to create scenes in his books filled with detailed descriptions.

"Wars of the Realm" is written beautifully. Black sketches elegant pictures with his words that draw the reader in like a fish on a hook. His descriptions allow the readers to feel like they are there in the moment with his main character, Drew Carter.

The story is painted rather than explained and flows elegantly. Drew Carter is realistic, portrayed as the humble hero who strives to gain everyone's respect, but with faults that make him human. The fighting scenes leave readers in awe and with a rush of adrenaline. Black writes descriptively and makes his storyline clear and easy for the reader to follow.

Each of Black's stories are planned and consistent. His characters are believable and do not do anything that would be out of the ordinary, save special situations. Their struggles



throughout the story are believable, pulling on the heartstrings of the reader. The plots of each of the books offer twists and their foreshadowing of action beckon curiosity. The storytelling is authentic but also fantastical. It is extensive enough to fill three books without the quality of the plot decreasing as it often does in sequels. The complexities of life, relationships and faith, more specifically Carter's experiences, are displayed well in the trilogy.

Black skillfully shows the change of heart that can come to a person without faith or religion. While doing so, he keeps the questions, doubt and struggle real. The series is set in modern-day America, a time period to which Black's readers

can more easily relate to and understand.

I was drawn in by his main character Drew, who in his early years, has very few friends, moves multiple times and is without the guidance of a father. And, on top of all this, he becomes involved in a catastrophe.

The closest thing he has to a father is Jake, a military friend of his father, who takes care of Drew and his mother throughout the series. Jake is one of my favorite characters, as his personality reminds me of my own father's. Drew's only consistent friend, Ben, is a fun, though slightly paranoid character. He is, in many situations, rescued by Drew, but creates and invents tools to help Drew with his work. I really enjoyed the creativity of the storyline and the large amount of action.

The series follows the timeline of the Bible, and incorporates its events and prophecies. Drew, while on his adventures, is learning about God. The way Chuck Black sketched Drew's doubt and inability to believe actually helped me better see the side of those who do not believe and how their doubt affects them.

The "Wars of the Realm" trilogy is my favorite book series. Black lays out his story and the descriptions in a beautiful way. The action that lies around every corner will keep readers hungry for more. "Wars of the Realm" is adventurous but is appropriate and enjoyable for all ages. Each of the books incorporate a very realistic element of faith.

If you are looking for a good, clean series to enjoy in your free time, pick up "Wars of the Realm."

You will not regret it.

NTCC Film Club

Spring 2021 Film Series

Featuring: Jimmy Stewart

HUM. 129 @ 6:30

MASKS REQUIRED

Mar. 25

Apr. 1

Apr. 8

Apr. 15

ENTERTAINMENT



COURTESY PHOTO

The misfit crew of Pogues prepare John B. (Chase Stokes) with scuba gear before he dives into the marsh to inspect a recently sunken boat they found after a hurricane passed through.

‘Stupid things have good outcomes all the time’ Teens with nothing to lose search for gold in Netflix series

By ELISABETH LIVELY
Editor-in-Chief

Remember when you were 16, lived on an island with no adult supervision and did whatever you wanted whenever you wanted? Yeah, that’s because it never happened.

Unless, of course, you’re a character in Netflix’s recent treasure-hunting teen drama “Outer Banks.”

This series had me so far on the edge of my seat that I was willing to buy an additional streaming service, VidAngel. This way, I could filter out the foul language, references and brief inappropriate content so that I could continue binging the series in peace.

Littered with silhouette scenes, lines that serve no purpose other than to generate laughs (“Housekeeping!”), and a cast of impressively convincing actors, “Outer Banks” fulfills your childhood dream of living responsibility-free on the edge of society with the wits to follow a 200-year-old treasure hunt.

The series takes place on the string of islands off the North Carolina coast, known as the Outer Banks or OBX. Here, in the fictional Kildare County, residents are either Kooks or, like our protagonists, Pogues. Put simply, you’re either financially stable, or you’re working for those who are.

Driving the story along is John B. (Chase Stokes), who’s been dodging the Child Protection Services since his dad’s disappearance nine months earlier. John B. (Yes, people refer to his middle initial), has since spent his adult-free time doing whatever

he wants.

Assisting in the shenanigans, if not usually leading them, is, JJ (Rudy Pankow), the troublemaking, comedic son of a retired smuggler. Somewhat reluctantly tagging along is the scholarship-committed Pope (Jonathan Daviss). And then there’s Kiara (Madison Bailey), a Kook and a wannabe-Pogue. Enough said.

Like any group of friends, they mess with each other and serve as guardians and protectors to one another. But that sticky bond that glues their friendship together gets tested when they find a connection between John B.’s father and his 20-year search for the Royal Merchant, a 19th century trader that sank off the OBX coast rumored to hold \$400 million of British gold aboard.

“Outer Banks” proves that teenagers should not be allowed to go on treasure hunts because just about every decision they make is guaranteed to be a dumb one, endangering themselves and those around them. But why not? They’re on the edge of society with no hopes and no future. They’ve got nothing to lose.

It was that first clue that kicked off a chain reaction of the dumbest decisions these teenagers could possibly make, and it’s hilariously stressful. It’s all fun and games until bullets start to fly, the body count begins to rise and the number of laws they’re breaking spike.

While the information they had to find and decipher seemed a little too obvious, the effort and struggles they faced while going about the hunt were definitely engrossing.

Unlike many other treasure-hunting films and series, “Outer



COURTESY PHOTO

Season one of “Outer Banks” was released in the spring 2020, and the second season is now in production.

Banks” discusses and spotlights what the after effects of finding the gold would be and all the trouble it would cause.

And yet, this motley crew breaks just about every law in the process, as if having \$400 million will make them impervious to their growing criminal records.

Even though it’s a short season, each episode gives viewers a generous amount of time to watch the story play out in detail. “Outer Banks” essentially begins as one series, filled with adventure and laughter, and concludes as another, one of a higher emotional toll and darker content.

For every two steps forward, the crew is shoved one step back by their individual struggles. This includes everything from John

B.’s growing trust of the Kooks to JJ’s increasingly reckless behavior and careless attitude fueled by his father’s abuse. The emotional and mental toll of keeping their gold chase a secret also begins to grow the closer they get to becoming billionaires.

The pilot episode features a heavy amount of narration that I originally thought was cheesy, and it was at times. However, John B.’s explanations clarified aspects of characters and island life that viewers needed to know.

Historically and geologically speaking, “Outer Banks” has many flaws that I’m sure the directors hoped viewers would overlook, all from the architecture to real-life locations and names.

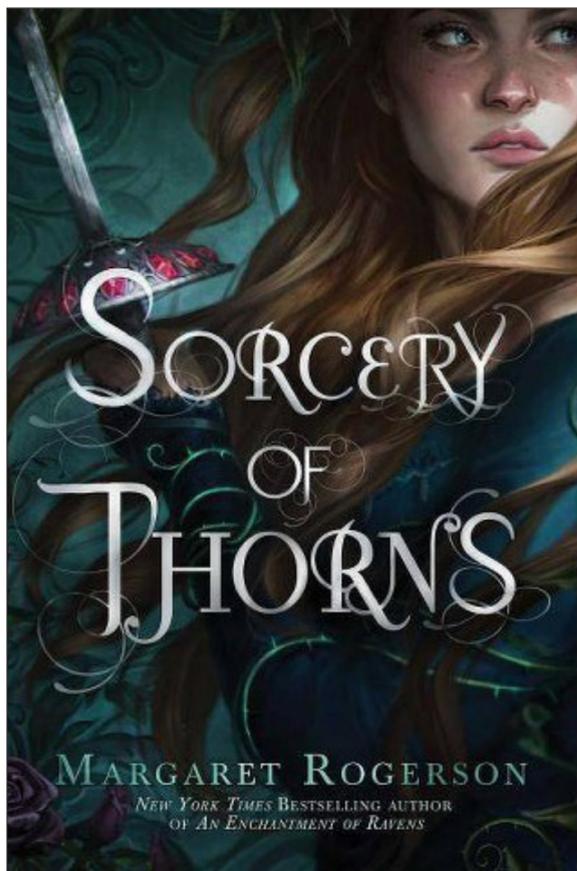
On a similar note, the camerawork

becomes incredibly shaky as the cameraman follows on foot after the Pogues as they’re running off from some form of threat. However, this mobility of the camera makes it similar to what the characters would be seeing in all the chaos. On the flip side, the score and it’s deep cello melody is unforgettably ominous.

No matter what ideas you may have about how this series ends based on what I’ve written in this review, I can guarantee that you’re wrong. Why? Because “Outer Banks” is constantly finding its plot unraveling in unpredictable new directions and connecting dots you didn’t realize were aligned.

Season two is currently in production and is expected to air later this year.

Recent standalone fantasy novel deserves sequel



COURTESY PHOTO

The novel “Sorcery of Thorns” was published in 2019 by Margaret Rogerson. The cover was illustrated by Charlie Bowater.

“Knowledge always had the potential to be dangerous.” Mistress Wick, a character in the novel, said to Elisabeth, the main character. “It is a more powerful weapon than any sword or spell.”

By SKYLAR FONDREN
Staff Writer

They say not to judge a book by its cover, but I must admit, the cover of this book is the only reason I bought it. The jacket cover immediately caught my eye because I recognized the artist who illustrated it. While I did originally buy the book because of its beautiful cover, I was drawn into this story from the first sentence: “Night fell as death rode into the Great Library of Summershall.” Immediately, you are probably wondering what this means, and what happens next, and that is exactly how a book should be. This book did its job by hooking me from the very beginning and continuing to keep me enthralled throughout the course of the story.

As an avid reader, I am always searching for another book to fill the void left behind by the previous heart-wrenching, soul-destroying novel. After finishing the “Six of Crows” Duology by Leigh Bardugo, I was in that exact position. A book called “Sorcery of Thorns” had just been released, and after a great internal debate over whether or not this book was worth the price just because it was “pretty,” the little devil on my shoulder gave in and the book was at last in my possession. I could only hope it would meet my standards upon actually reading the summary.

“Sorcery of Thorns” by Margaret Rogerson follows an orphan librarian named Elisabeth Scrivener on a grand, fantastical adventure in a world unlike our own. This standalone book comes from the author of “An Enchantment of Ravens” and will leave you wishing for a sequel. I have never read anything by this author before, though I have heard great things about “An Enchantment of Ravens” and have added it to my ever-growing list of books to read.

Fantasy books can sometimes follow a similar plotline and have woefully underdeveloped characters, but not this beauty. The characters are full of depth and mystery, and the plot is unlike anything I have read before. Just as the front cover would lead you to believe, Elisabeth is not a maiden in distress. She is determined to help her companions however she can, even if that means wielding a sword to fight off demons.

However, it is not just the main character who has depth and complexities. Even characters who make short appearances seem to be well fleshed out and not one-dimensional.

Descriptions for world building are oftentimes exceedingly boring and the details unnecessary. In “Sorcery

of Thorns,” the world building gives the reader the needed information in an intriguing way and then continues the story. Through this, the reader is acclimated to the environment and shown what the characters are seeing, but not given so much detail that they lose their place in the story. This writing also manages to give the reader little hints at what’s to come simply through describing what the character sees.

Elisabeth was left as a baby on the steps of one of the many libraries in this mystical world. There, she was raised to be a protector of the books that reside within. These books, called grimoires, hold powerful evil beings that must be kept inside their paper prisons to keep the world safe. However, when a grimoire is destroyed and the Malefic inside it is released and begins to wreak havoc on the library, Elisabeth is arrested as a suspect and must be given a trial in the capital city. The man in charge of bringing her to trial is a powerful sorcerer named Nathaniel Thorn. Nathaniel and Elisabeth could not be more different from each other, but they are forced to get along and soon develop what some would call a friendship.

The story follows these two as they attempt to stop evil forces from gathering to release chaos on the world, with a little fun along the way, of course.

Ultimately, the mistakes this book has is one tiny grammar mistake that any casual reader would not even notice. My frustration with this book stems from the ending, which felt wrong and rushed, like it was tied up with a loose knot instead of a pretty bow.

It made me yearn for an explanation that did not come, similar to the end of “Avengers: Infinity War,” except in that case the viewer knew that the story was not finished. This book is a brilliant standalone novel, but it is simply begging for a sequel. Nevertheless, it does its job and comes to a close, as all stories must, and for that, I have no quarrel.

“Sorcery of Thorns” would be the perfect fit for someone who likes lots of sorcery, is okay with some minor gore and violent scenes and enjoys romance as a subplot rather than the main plot. If this book were a TV show, I would give it a TV-14 rating, so it would probably be best if you didn’t give this book to your little sister. With hilarious dialogue, beautiful world-building and a plot that keeps you hooked from the very beginning to the last sentence, this book is an absolute must-read for fantasy lovers.

On a scale of evil world-destroying grimoire to a handsome young sorcerer, I would give this book a nine out of ten.

OPINION

Eagle Eye

SHOULD THE MINIMUM WAGE BE RAISED TO \$15 AN HOUR?



“No, because if you raise the minimum wage, that’s just going to put the companies out of business because they are paying the people that work there more. But say it’s a waiter or waitress - it’s going to make them not get tips. So, those tips are going to go to the restaurant, and they would really make \$20 an hour if it was just regular minimum wage with tips.”

- Cade McBride

“Honestly, yes, because college is expensive. It can help students pay debt or anything else, or even spending money, too. But, I think yes, they should raise it up.”

- Jady Nunez



“Not at all. If you make \$15 an hour then you’re going to have to go buy a gallon of milk for \$10, too. All the prices are going to go up for all the needs that you have. It just causes inflation.”

- Justin McMahan

“No. The whole idea of minimum wage is to help reduce poverty. But the thing is, that will increase debt within the population, which is the exact definition of poverty, because businesses won’t be able to afford \$15 wages. If we want to reduce poverty, you can’t provide something or ensure something that is also going to raise debt.”

- Lance Pena



“Absolutely not. I don’t think it should be raised. Because there are so many businesses out there that can’t pay every person \$15 an hour. Minimum wage should not be \$15, it should be, if anything, \$8 or something.”

- Chase Richter

Junk: an American legacy

BY ELISABETH LIVELY
Editor-in-Chief

Yard sales are a funny thing. It’s like a buffet full of leftovers, and yet it drives people mad with excitement. Because one man’s trash is another man’s treasure, right?

The best yard sales are the ones put on by the hopeless big dreamers. Because Steve may have taken up an interest in drink mixology last spring, went out and bought half a dozen martini glasses and a cocktail shaker, only to use them twice.

And there they sat, in his cupboard, for months and months and months, until he realized that it’s too late to return them to Amazon. So where do they go? The yard sale pile!

I’m telling you, their dead dreams are the icing to my cake. Speaking of icing, you can find brand new icing tips and piping bags at dead dreamers’ yard sales too!

Steve’s wife, Linda, also went through a

phase. Clearly, it didn’t end well, which is why you’ll find her brand new watercolor brushes and palette at their next sale.

The fall is a wonderful time to go yard sale shopping. Yes, the weather is cool, but it’s also Christmas shopping season. Yeah, you know what I’m talking about.

It’s the time of year to find tree ornaments for your coworkers, T-shirts for your siblings and white elephant gifts for everybody else. Their holiday gifts are just as much a surprise to me as they are to them, because I have no plans. Absolutely none. You asked for a tool kit? Too bad, because Linda’s selling a brand new watercolor set for a quarter of the price that you expected me to waste on you.

Estate sales are another thing. They are the buffet made of the leftovers of the leftovers. They almost never have anything interesting worth buying. They’re just bragging that their house is better than yours. And they’re right.

But hey, maybe it’s time for my brother to pickup a cake decorating hobby... for \$1.25.

Censoring our opinions



BY DOC ANDERSON
Staff Writer

“The United States government does not care about its citizens.”

Whether or not you agree with this statement is superfluous. My ability to say this about our government is a fundamental and inalienable right.

The first amendment is one of our nation’s most unique and treasured virtues. Censorship seeks to silence unfavorable or differing opinions. Any idea or belief that goes against the mainstream ideology would be relegated as a conspiracy theory or hoax.

Throughout history, foreign governments have silenced or even murdered any dissident that dared to publicly voice an opposing viewpoint.

In modern times, social media companies, “Big Tech,” have taken up the mantle of Big Brother. They pick and choose the narrative that best suits them and silence any opposing views that utilize their platform.

By declaring themselves platforms and not publications, they are exempt from laws the general news media must follow. This allows them a plausible

deniability plea the news media is not afforded.

The news media is an integral part of any free society. Their ability to question leadership and investigate potential wrongdoings provides an important check and balance for our nation.

When the media fails to properly source information or withholds pertinent facts, they do the American people a great disservice.

In essence, they are censoring themselves to further a political agenda. They become the tool of whomever owns the publication.

Things certainly changed when the big news corporations began requiring ratings. That is when the censoring began, and the news became the launch pad of the two political parties.

Censorship is not a political issue. As a nation, we should not be divided on this topic. Blocking or ostracizing those who challenge our beliefs, with their own beliefs, is a mild form of fascism.

Democracy cannot thrive if it is strangled by the selfish, bloody hand of censorship. Freedom and democracy must be fed by the different opinions and beliefs of those who reside within the nation.

More importantly, a republic such as ours should seek to protect the rights of the minority.

This protection will ensure the minority is able to flourish, even if they are outnumbered. That is what makes this crazy American experiment truly unique and special.

If the majority of a country seeks to silence the needs or

beliefs of the few, they will surely be driven to extinction. We need only look to world history to see this evidence.

The American Civil Liberties Union is an organization that fights for the rights of those who have been treated unfairly. In 1978, they defended the right of a Neo-Nazi group to march through a neighborhood in Chicago.

The residents of this neighborhood were mainly of Jewish faith. In fact, it was home to several holocaust survivors.

As disgusting as this sounds to us, this Nazi group had the constitutional right to peaceably assemble. The ACLU had a number of Jewish lawyers who worked on this very case.

They put their own beliefs aside to serve the constitution. Censorship and the silencing of the minority were tools used by Hitler to turn people against their own neighbors. The ACLU knew that denying any group the chance to voice their belief ultimately leads to fascism.

We the people cannot afford to give Big Tech or our government an inch in this fight. Every time we give in, even when someone hurts our feelings, we lose a little more freedom.

After a while, we will be asking our social media overlords for permission to speak. Everyone has said offensive or juvenile things. We are human.

Do we then deserve to be silenced and forgo any chance of growth? No! We all have the right to be offended. But the right to be offended does not trump my right to free speech.

Is a hot dog a sandwich?



BY GAGE STOCKINGER
Staff Writer

Have you ever thought about what exactly you’re eating when ordering a hot dog at a concession stand during the big game?

Is it a sandwich, a taco, or maybe even a gyro? When looking at the makeup of a hot dog, the similarities become apparent in all of these cuisines, whether it be folded or between two pieces of bread.

Of course, this isn’t the

first time this question has been asked.

It has been highly debated for decades now, even grabbing the attention of the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council.

To crack this mystery, you must first go to where it all began. Back in the 1960s, a German immigrant in New York by the name of Charles Feltman opened the first hot dog stand on Coney Island, coining his creation “dachshund sausages.”

However, the hot dog was also affectionately named the “Coney sandwich,” which is what set the groundwork that this item might really be a sandwich.

Furthermore, if you happen to look up “sandwich” in the Merriam Webster Dictionary, you will find that a sandwich is defined as “two or more slices of bread or a split roll having a filling in between.”

Considering that the bun of

a hot dog is technically a split roll being filled with sausage and various condiments, this should be evidence enough that a hot dog is indeed a sandwich.

Some may argue that this is false, however, as many have noted that since the bread is conjoined at the bottom that it falsifies the hot dog as a sandwich and instead truly makes it a taco.

This theory arose with the fact that the two are both similar in structure, with the hot dog bun and taco shell both being starch based and sharing a similar makeup.

While both arguments are compelling, it is ultimately up to the eye of the hot dog beholder to conclude what America’s favorite concession stand food really is, and maybe even spark new findings to equally controversial questions such as, “Is cereal a soup?” or “Is a Pop-Tart a ravioli?”

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.ntcceagleonline.com

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SPORTS

Eagles split in doubleheader

By JUSTIN HARGROVE
NTCC Assistant Athletic Director

Northeast Texas Community College Softball recently took on Cisco College after starting the season on the road. NTCC downed Cisco 14-5 in game one action before falling 10-1 in game two of the series.

Cisco got on the board first scoring one run in the first inning and adding a second run in the second inning to take 2-0 lead. The lead was short lived as NTCC answered back in the second inning plating four runs to take the lead and never look back.

The Eagle offense used seven well-timed hits to go along with six walks, a few hit batters, and a fielding error to score 14 runs in game one.

Cole was in the circle for game one and was able to keep the Cisco hitters off balance and limit them to five runs on five hits.

Pierce had a good day offensively, reaching base in all 3 plate appearances. She was one for one with a homerun, hit by

pitch and a walk and scored three runs in the game to help the Eagles win game one.

In game two of the series, NTCC could not take advantage of four walks by the Cisco pitcher, having just three hits and scoring one run in the fourth inning.

After a scoreless first inning, Cisco scored five runs in the second inning and never looked back as they went on to defeat NTCC 10-1.

Ayers was in the circle for NTCC and struck out two, while giving up eleven hits and five walks.

After a two-week layoff due to the winter storm that hit Texas, the Eagles returned to the field to face Hill College.

NTCC and Hill each won a game to split the two-game series. Hill won game one 16-13 and the Eagles took game two 5-1.

In game one action, the warm, windy day proved beneficial with both teams hitting the ball out of the park, with Hill College benefiting just a little more for the game one win.

Cole pitched the majority of the game with Halea Wells and Ayers seeing time in relief as well. Cole had five strikeouts on

the day.

Offensively, three Eagles hit homeruns to help pace the thirteen runs on twelve hits NTCC put up in game one.

Ayers went deep in the third inning, followed by Pierce in the fourth and Wilson hit her first of the season in the fifth inning.

Farquhar went three for five with three singles, two RBI's and two runs scored to help the effort in game one.

In game two action, Ayers took the circle and kept Hill off balance limiting them to one run on six hits and three strikeouts.

Farquhar and Wilson remained hot in game two, with back to back home runs in the fifth inning. NTCC went up 1-0 in the first inning and maintained that lead until Hill College tied the game in the fourth.

The tie was short lived thanks to Farquhar's three run homerun followed by Wilson's solo homerun in the next at bat.

The homerun by Farquhar was her first of her collegiate career and Wilson's homerun was her second of the day.

NTCC will travel to Cisco College on Feb. 27 to take on Pratt Junior College and Cisco College at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.



STAFF PHOTO | ELISABETH LIVELY

Haylee Wilson, third base infielder, gets ready to swing the bat during a recent practice session.



STAFF PHOTO | ELISABETH LIVELY

Kailey Handcock throws a catch to the pitcher during practice.



STAFF PHOTO | ELISABETH LIVELY

Eagle softball players recently spent their practice time improving their batting, pitching and fielding skills.

Eagle baseball falls short against TJC Apaches



STAFF PHOTO | GAGE STOCKINGER

NTCC pitcher Mikel Howell went three innings against the Apaches giving up four runs on five hits. The Eagles started off strong, scoring eight runs in the first inning to take the early lead. The Apaches rallied back to eventually take a 16-11 win in the game.

By JUSTIN HARGROVE
NTCC Assistant Athletic Director

Northeast Texas Community College recently took on Tyler Junior College and were unable to hold on for the win in the high scoring affair.

TJC came back from an early Eagles scoring barrage to win 16-11.

Mikel Howell (Huntsville HS) started for NTCC and had a great first inning retiring the side with a fly out to center, strikeout and then getting the third batter to hit a slow roller back to himself to make the easy throw to first for the out.

Howell went three innings giving up four runs on five hits with three strikeouts. Camden Sargent (Brazosport Christian), Chase Richter (Cypress Woods HS), Kolby Parker (Shelbyville HS) and Cameron Coffee (Richland HS) each saw time in relief against the Apaches.

The first inning offensively for the Eagles saw NTCC send twelve hitters to the plate, scoring

eight runs in the first to lead 8-0.

After chasing the Apache starting pitcher in the first inning, the TJC bullpen slowed the Eagle offensive attack allowing just three runs and four hits the remaining eight innings of play.

Khalon Clayton (Kilgore HS) led the NTCC offensive effort going three for five with two singles, a triple, three RBI's and a run scored.

NTCC will take on Navarro College in a three-game series starting with a single game on Thursday, Feb. 25 in Corsicana before completing the series at home Saturday, Feb. 27 with a double-header starting at 1 p.m. on the NTCC campus, weather permitting.

If you cannot make it to the ball park, you can listen to NTCC Baseball on the Texas Sports Radio Network this season. Log on to the TSRN website at tsrnports.com and follow the links to NJCAA Baseball.

For up to date schedules go to the NTCC athletics website at www.ntcceagles.com.

LOVE SPORTS?

THE EAGLE NEWSPAPER IS LOOKING FOR WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

MEETINGS IN HUMANITIES 108 EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 1 P.M.

EAGLE BASEBALL SCHEDULE:

2/27/2020 4:00PM	ANGELINA COLLEGE
2/29/2020 2:00PM	ANGELINA COLLEGE (DH)
3/3/2020 2:00PM	TCS POST GRAD (DH)
3/6/2020 2:00PM	NAVARRO COLLEGE
3/8/2020 1:00PM	NAVARRO COLLEGE (DH)

EAGLE SOFTBALL SCHEDULE:

2/27/2021 1:00 PM	PRATT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
2/27/2021 3:00 PM	CISCO COLLEGE
3/4/2021 1:00 PM	EASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE COLLEGE
3/4/2021 3:00 PM	EASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE COLLEGE
3/6/2021 1:00 PM	EASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE COLLEGE

SPORTS



A cowboy wraps his wrists before climbing in the saddle for one of the rough stock events, where he hopes to achieve an 8-second ride during the recent rodeo hosted by Texas A&M-Commerce in Sulphur Springs.



NTCC calf roper Colton Williams jumps from his horse and races down the line and against the clock during the tie-down roping event.

BOOTS, ROPES AND SPURS

PHOTOS BY JAMES BUCKLEY

By JUSTIN HARGROVE
NTCC Assistant Athletic Director

Northeast Texas Community College Rodeo was back in the saddle to start off the 2021 semester with a rodeo hosted by Texas A&M University-Commerce.

The two-day event was held at the Hopkins County Civic Center in Sulphur Springs, Texas.

Garrett Fields was a bright spot for the Eagles earning a seventh place finish in the steerwrestling event.

Collegiate rodeo athletes compete in the same events that fans across America watch every weekend in the professional rodeo.

NTCC team members compete in

the Southern Region of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association with college athletes from Hill College, Louisiana Tech University, Louisiana State University-Alexandria and McNeese State University. As well as Panola Junior College, Sam Houston State University, Southwest Texas Junior College, Stephen F. Austin University, Texas A&M University, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Trinity Valley Community College and Wharton County Junior College.

The Eagle rodeo team will compete this spring in upcoming rodeo events held in College Station, Hillsboro, Wharton and Athens.



A bareback rider gives it all he's got as he tries to hang on for the eight-second buzzer.



Above, Eagle rodeo team member Savana Panther races her horse as she makes her way around the barrel. The NTCC rodeo team will continue competing in rodeos throughout the spring semester.

Left, a Trinity Valley bareback rider grinds his teeth and grips the saddle as tight as he can while his horse violently bucks out of the gate.