

NORTHEAST TEXAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Carroll Shelby program plans construction

By ELISABETH LIVELY
Editor-in-Chief

Fourteen years ago, legendary race car driver and designer Carroll Shelby and his family began financially investing into the Northeast Texas Community College automotive program.

Shortly after, both the program and the facility housing it were named after Shelby, and now a second facility on the NTCC campus will bear his name.

The idea for the facility was born shortly after Jon McCullough, NTCC executive vice president for advancement, met with Barry Smith, owner of Legendary GT, a vehicle restoration center licensed by Shelby American.

Smith, who is passionate about keeping the Shelby brand alive, agreed to restore and donate two

1968 Mustangs-turned-Shelbys to NTCC.

“One thing the new facility is going to do is house these cars that are nice collector’s items,” McCullough said. “The other thing it’s going to do is we’re going to create an area in there so a car can actually be worked on. So, if we get another nice car like this [1968 Mustang], and we have to complete the restoration, that will be where we will restore it. Hence the name Shelby Restoration Center.”

The hope is that the new facility could help prevent any issues that might arise with so many valuable Mustangs on campus.

McCullough explained that with a growing number of collectible cars sitting in a classroom with students, the smallest human error, such as a scratch or bump, could trim a

car’s value. The appraisal value of the two incoming Mustangs is close to \$200,000 each, while the Last Shelby, the car donated to the program by Shelby just before he died, is valued at a significantly higher price.

After McCullough met with Smith and the two discussed the issue at hand, the idea of a storehouse for Shelby automobiles grew from an idea to a reality. The new facility is expected to hold eight to 10 cars.

In addition to the two soon-to-be donated Mustangs, the Restoration Center will also house three vehicles that are already on campus - a Terlingua Racing Mustang, a student-restored Shelby GT350R and the Last Shelby.

“We have all these cars that

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STAFF PHOTO | ELISABETH LIVELY

NTCC automotive student Beth O’Bryan is currently serving an internship for the program at Smith Transports in Pennsylvania.

Bubble, bubble!



STAFF PHOTO | ELISABETH LIVELY

During a game of volleyball at the recent crawfish boil, Fiona Carrick and Chasity Quinn stop to take in the moment and dance in the green foam shortly after it began shooting out of the cannon behind them.

Masks no longer required at NTCC

By DOC ANDERSON
Staff Writer

Campus life at Northeast Texas Community college has been striving to balance the new normal caused by COVID-19. Students and staff were asked to wear masks, maintain a safe physical distance from each other and class sizes were reduced.

With the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine and as positive cases decline, NTCC’s Safe Campus Committee, formed by NTCC President Dr. Ron Clinton, recently reviewed the safety protocols that have been in place throughout the last year.

Some of the college’s previous guidelines have been adjusted following Texas Governor Greg Abbott’s decision to remove the statewide mask mandate in March and his recent executive order that prohibits government entities from requiring or mandating individuals to wear

face coverings.

“In compliance with that order, effective immediately, NTCC will no longer require the wearing of face coverings on its main campus or any of its outreach centers,” Clinton said.

With the news of the mandate being dropped, students can look forward to a typical semester starting this summer.

“Everything is basically back to normal,” Jon McCullough, NTCC vice president of advancement, said. “We are set up to where we can always move back to social distancing if we need to. We can move back to online, hybrid or in-sync classes if we need to. We will continue to offer online and hybrid classes anyway, but if we need to full scale go back we can. But everything is back to normal.”

Even though the mask requirement is being eliminated, Clinton said that

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Original NTCC professor passes, colleagues mourn

By ELISABETH LIVELY
Editor-in-Chief

An original faculty member of Northeast Texas Community College, Dr. Winston Clay McCowan Sr., 71, passed away on May 30, 2021. McCowan taught biology at NTCC for 33 years and retired in 2018.

“We are so very sad to have lost a great friend and colleague,” NTCC President Dr. Ron Clinton said. “Dr. McCowan was such an inspiring presence on our campus and impacted countless numbers of students’ lives during his long career here. We will certainly miss his steady and assuring voice, his ready sense of humor, and the inspiring way he had of connecting with his students. Above all, we will miss his deep wisdom and faith he so generously shared with all who knew him. He has left a lasting legacy here at NTCC.”

McCowan was a devout Christian and teacher. For the past 36 years, McCowan ministered in five local churches, one of which he attended as a child in his lifelong home of Jefferson, Texas.

In a 2018 interview with *The Eagle*, he said,

“Sometimes callings are not projected to you, but once you find it, don’t be afraid to grow and mature into it.”

McCowan said he enjoyed watching his students succeed in both his classes and in their lives, and looked forward to hearing from them long after they were his students.

One of those students, Amanda Hutchings, later became an NTCC faculty member.

“I have known Dr. McCowan and his family for more than 20 years, first as a student, second as colleague, and always as a friend,” Hutchings, a former instructor, said. “He was always a beacon of hope and light and always greeted everyone with an infectious smile. He will be greatly missed, my love and prayers goes out to Mrs. McCowan and their children.”

McCowan was known by his faith even when he was not preaching, as his positivity and kindness were some of the qualities most admired by his peers.

“It was my distinct honor to be able to call Dr. McCowan my friend and colleague for the past 36 years,” Dr. Mary Hearron, NTCC professor and division chair for biology and chemistry, said. “Though he retired from

teaching in December 2018, he was the epitome of the consummate professor and he perpetuated a level of excellence in all he attempted. He encouraged his students to develop depth of thinking and intellectual curiosity but, maybe even more importantly, he served as a role model to his students and colleagues as a genuinely kind, compassionate and devoted human being.

“His huge, infectious smile was difficult to ignore as you passed him in the hall or sat down for a chat in his office. His advice was always sage and well-thought out. He touched many lives both personally and professionally and he always let you know that he cared. His was a life well lived and a blessing to those around him.”

Shortly after his passing, Hearron established a scholarship in McCowan’s memory through the NTCC Foundation. Anyone wishing to contribute may do so at www.ntcc.edu/news and specify that it is in memory of Dr. McCowan.

A public funeral service was held at the Mount Pleasant Civic Center on June 4 and was attended by many.



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Winston McCowan served as pastor in five local churches during his lifetime.

Quote of the Month:

“I’ve traveled all over the world, but I don’t think there is any place better than Texas.”

- Red Adair

UPCOMING EVENTS

Juneteenth.....	June 19
Happy Birthday USA Festival.....	June 26
Kids Discovery College.....	July 12-22
Summer Graduation.....	Aug. 13

NEWS



STAFF PHOTO | ELISABETH LIVELY

Students in the NTCC auto body program prepare vehicle parts for painting during a class held in the Shelby Automotive building.

Automotive program to build Shelby showroom

Cont. from pg. 1

we're starting to collect, and no place to store them," Tony Whitworth, instructor of Carroll Shelby Automotive Program, said. "We end up having to push them in and out of the shop to work in the shop and actually use the shop as a functioning shop. So, it'll be a good place to store this stuff out here, and keep it kind of out of the way."

The Shelby Restoration Center will be built with large windows and spotlights that will allow students and visitors to view the vehicles from outside at any time.

While many of these collectible cars will be sitting in their new home for years to come, the two 1968 Mustangs being donated by Legendary GT will eventually be auctioned off to fund additional student opportunities.

"These cars are going to make our scholarship and internship programs sustainable," McCullough said.

For the first few years after their donation, the vehicles will be displayed in the Shelby Restoration Center and will travel with the program to events like SEMA, one of the largest car shows in the country held annually in Las Vegas, and various other car shows. In 2023, the cars will be auctioned off at Barrett-Jackson Auction Company in Scottsdale, Ariz. The cars are estimated to value at around \$400,000 each by that time.

"...[It] would be a really good recruiting tool for potential students or potential

investors who come in to see the school," Ron Luellen, NTCC director of Shelby Automotive Program, said. "They will be able to see these projects that we have done all in one area. That will be a big plus."

McCullough said the new facility is "one of the bigger parts of what we envisioned" at the start of the Shelby partnership 14 years ago.

"He didn't want us to become a race car school," McCullough said. "He didn't want us to become a drag car school. He wanted us to take his name, use the coolness of his name, to create automotive mechanics. To provide opportunities for students who don't have those opportunities. So, I think he'd be extremely satisfied."

This year, the Shelby Foundation donated an additional \$30,000, which will benefit the Restoration Center, alongside the \$30,000 donated by Legendary GT.

McCullough said the goal is to have the building constructed this summer on the grassy lawn in front of the automotive building. Construction will be funded solely through donations.

With a wide smile on his face, McCullough explained that he believes Shelby would be proud of the increasingly sustainable automotive program.

"I could almost just picture him leaning back in a chair and just smiling and saying 'I knew we could do this. This is what I envisioned, right here.'"

NTCC administration updates safety measures

Cont. from pg. 1

face coverings are still an option for those who feel more comfortable continuing to wear them and are still being recommended by the Center for Disease Control for individuals who have not yet been vaccinated.

Under Texas law, students under the age of 22 must receive the Bacterial Meningitis vaccination prior to enrollment.

As of now, NTCC has no immediate plans to make the COVID-19 vaccine mandatory for enrollment.

"I don't anticipate that there will be any kind of mandatory requirements for students, faculty or staff," Clinton said. "We haven't formulated all the recommendations at this point."

However, McCullough said that requiring students to get vaccinated may not be an option.

"There's some questions about legally what you can do as far as mandating goes, so we're just waiting to see what other colleges are going to do," McCullough said.

NTCC sent a survey out to the staff in March. The results showed that roughly a quarter of the staff had been vaccinated at that time. A student survey was recently sent out and the results were on par with the staff. Roughly 24% to 27% of the students have been vaccinated.

Clinton said he encourages students, faculty

and staff to look into the vaccine and decide whether it is right for them.

"Vaccines are plentiful," Clinton said. "We encourage and recommend all of our students to get vaccinated, all of our staff to get vaccinated. But we also realize this is a personal decision and we trust that people will make the right decisions for themselves."

Student housing had been affected by the previous safety protocols. Parts of the dorms were closed off to comply with the social distancing standards and provide a quarantine room. The dorms will be under scheduled maintenance this summer to ready them for use in the fall.

"We are taking advantage of this particular time," Clinton said. "We need to do some upgrades and maintenance on the dorms. We are going to use that opportunity, especially in the second summer term, to update the dorms. Painting, furniture and any scheduled maintenance will be done."

Clinton added that NTCC will plan to continue with its current cleaning protocols.

"I want to sincerely thank all of our college family for the cooperation and great team effort over this past year that has helped us keep our campus safe," Clinton said. "At this pivotal point in the national fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, we have so much to be thankful for as we look forward to a welcome return to a more normal campus experience and way of life."



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, instructor Necah Posey and students Elizabeth Isbell, Crystal Carpenter and Alejandro "Dro" Barcenan.

Cosmetology students serve local homeless with haircuts

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Representatives from the Northeast Texas Community College Cosmetology Program recently visited local non-profit, Rhute Haven, to provide haircuts for homeless individuals.

Despite the fact that the event was held the day after spring commencement, the new cosmetology graduates were happy to lend their skills for a good cause. While the turnout wasn't as high as they hoped, students were able to help one client that day.

"The individual we were able to help was so grateful and kind, she loved her new haircut and was excited to talk with the students and

I," Necah Posey, instructor of cosmetology, said. "Overall this experience was really awesome, especially since I was able to have students there helping and working with those less fortunate."

Rhute Haven, located in Mount Pleasant, is a place of rest for people living on the streets. They provide resources like shower facilities, food, daytime shelter, supplies and counseling to help those less fortunate in our community.

To learn more about the cosmetology program at NTCC, visit www.ntcc.edu/cosmetology.

They are currently accepting applications for the Fall 2021 semester.

Ag to offer floral design starting fall semester

By SKYLAR FONDREN
Staff Writer

A new ag class will be offered at Northeast Texas Community College in the fall of 2021 and is currently available for registration. "Advanced Floral Design" will be taught by adjunct instructor Cyruss Ragsdale. The class will teach students about the different types of flowers and the right occasions to use them as well as how to create a floral design them in a visually appealing way.

"It's just gonna be a really fun class, it's gonna be a higher level class but even if you don't have any experience in floral design, you can take it and catch up to speed pretty quick."

The course will be hands-on as students work on what they are learning. Ragsdale said students taking the class will have the opportunity to create between four and six arrangements.

The course can be credited toward a horticulture degree, agriculture degree, or an elective. The goal is that this class will be available to both college students and dual credit students. For this first semester, however, the class will only be available to college students.

Rene McCracken, NTCC director of sustainable agriculture, said her desire

for this class is to bring the community together.

"The course gives students, as well as our instructors, a creative outlet," McCracken said. "It gives them an opportunity to marry science and art like nothing else."

Flowers are used to express feelings that many cannot otherwise express, such as in funeral displays or wedding bouquets, and yet, there is a science to designing those arrangements, from the pots to the base to placing the flowers and making sure they blend with each other.

In preparation for this class, NTCC will be adding a cut flower garden to use not only for floral design, but also as an opportunity to sell the flowers to local florists as well as to those on campus.

McCracken added that there are also plans being made to expand the flower garden once it has had time to make roots in the community. Some of the flowers for the garden have already been planted or will soon be planted.

Anyone interested in helping plant flowers during the summer is welcome. In exchange for their help, volunteers may be able to take some plants home with them.

"It'll just be full of life and full of color over here, and I think the community can enjoy it whether or not they

have class with us."

Ragsdale said they also hope to eventually offer the class as an art credit in addition to an ag credit, but no progress has been made on that just yet.

Ragsdale is a former NTCC student who went on to complete his degree in agriculture at A&M University-Commerce. After teaching at various high schools as an ag teacher, he joined the NTCC staff as an adjunct in 2021.

"He is a phenomenally creative, exciting and thrilling teacher full of energy," McCracken said. "I think we're drawing to him those students who have never taken ag classes before."

Ragsdale said he has been interested in agriculture for many years, and though he grew up planting and propagating flowers, his love for floral design did not blossom until he became a high school teacher.

After teaching high school, Ragsdale started, and continues to run, his own floral business, where he decorates homes for special occasions and makes custom arrangements.

The class, FMKT 2331, will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30 p.m. to 2:50 p.m. Seating is limited, so students are encouraged to sign up early.



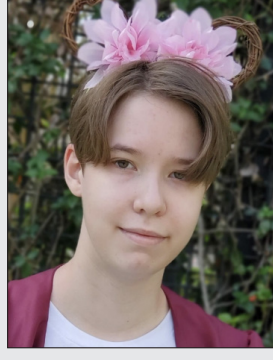
NEWS

Spring 2021 Outstanding Student Awards

Every semester, full-time and associate faculty in NTCC's Division of Humanities and Social Sciences can select an outstanding student who is exceptional in some way.



James Buckley,
Outstanding Student
in Art



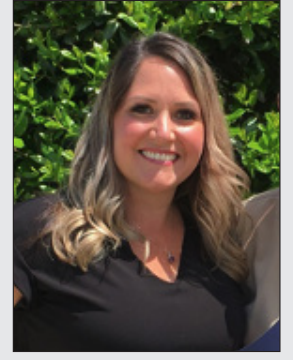
Hannah Molandes,
Outstanding Student in
Sociology



Maria Valdelamar,
Outstanding Student in
History



Crystal Warren,
Outstanding Student in
Psychology



**Sarah Ann Beatriz
Worthen, Outstanding
Student in Government**

PTK, Honors recognizes adviser for administrative excellence

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Andrea Reyes, NTCC's Title V coordinator of Phi Theta Kappa and Honors has recently received national recognition from two separate honors organizations - the National Collegiate Honors Council and Phi Theta Kappa.

This month, the NCHC announced twelve Awards for Administrative Excellence and Reyes was one of three recipients from community colleges across the nation to receive the recognition.

Reyes also recently won a Paragon Award for new advisors in Phi Theta Kappa. In this, she again joined a select circle of twenty, nationally.

A Hughes Springs valedictorian and national merit winner, she was one of a star cast of NTCC's first Presidential Scholars.

Reyes received her Medical Lab Technology certification at NTCC, and worked for a time in this field supporting her family.

Her instructor at that time, Gaylon Barrett, claimed that she had attained the highest score on



Andrea Reyes

the National Certification Exam for Medical Lab Tech, in the college's history obtaining a 760 of 800.

Before being employed by Title V as a Phi Theta Kappa and Honors Coordinator here, Reyes was active as a judge of the McGraw Hill Poster contests.

In 2017, she became the adjudicator of the series, the one who makes the last-minute rulings on scorings. She has since become the adjudicator for NTCC's annual Bonnie Spencer contest and in the selection of

Boe nominees.

"Reyes is one of the most brilliant and hard-working individuals I know," NTCC Honors Director Dr. Andrew Yox said. "She has an amazing acumen. I so admire her artistic talents, her acting, and the gentle, winsome way she interacts with our top students. She has been an abiding presence in honors here since the beginning, and is a true diadem of our culture of student success here in Northeast Texas."

Reyes has handled many facets of NTCC's commitment to high-end education. Reyes also oversees the Honors Facebook and Instagram pages.

She has written three booklets for honors including the first live directory of NTCC alumni, and has designed yearbooks for Alpha Mu Chi, NTCC's Phi Theta Kappa chapter.

Her inspiring work with films has led to appearances in meetings of the State of Texas Webb Society, and the National Collegiate Honors Council.

Reyes resides in Hughes Springs with her family.

Psychology class receives Outstanding Student award

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Every semester, full-time and associate faculty in NTCC's Division of Humanities and Social Sciences can select a student who is exceptional in some way for the Outstanding Student award.

This year Dr. Karyn Skaar made an unprecedented decision, choosing to nominate an entire class - PSYC 2319 Social Psychology, a sophomore level advanced psychology class.

"In Social Psychology, students are responsible for learning, understanding and presenting the learning objectives of each chapter to the rest of the class," Skaar said. "It is unusual for every student to be prepared every presentation. It was evident that all students not only worked hard on their own presentations, but also encouraged and assisted each other by asking pertinent questions, offering thoughtful comments, and providing real world examples for textbook concepts."

These students were comprised of online only, dual-credit, Honors, and traditional face-to face students.

"I want to thank Austin, Katelyn, Jackelyn, James, Luis, Lesly, Jemma, Kinsley, and Corinne for bringing and sharing their positive energy," Skaar said

Some of the students in the course

shared their excitement about the recognition.

"I was surprised to receive an award, but also excited that we all did," student Jemma Weatherford said. "This class has always felt very warm and welcoming, and I'm glad we all get to share in this achievement."

Student Corinne Wood expressed gratefulness for the award.

"It is an absolute honor and privilege to share this award with such brilliant and thoughtful individuals," Wood said. "My classmates and Dr. Skaar have made my last semester at NTCC one of the best."

Another student was appreciative of the class itself.

"I'm glad that Dr. Skaar was just as happy with our class as I was with her teaching," student Austin Allen said. "Thank you for an amazing semester."

Students in this semester's award-winning class are Austin Allen, Katelyn Lester, Jackelyn Ramirez Puente, James Randolph, Luis Verduzco, Lesly Villeda Olmos, Jemma Weatherford, Kinsley Wilson, and Corinne Wood.

NTCC's Social Psychology course is taught every spring semester. For additional information about taking a psychology class at NTCC, contact an adviser at advising@ntcc.edu or visit in-person in Student Services located on the main campus.

Winners of McGraw Hill Poster Contest announced

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

After a year of virtual presentations facilitated by iPhones and YouTube, community poster judges and Northeast Texas Community College students came back together in real life at the Whatley Foyer on May 7 for the 13th Annual McGraw-Hill Poster Contest.

This scholarly contest, sponsored this year by Santa's Sweeties, McGraw-Hill Education Corporation, and Jerald and Mary Lou Mowery of Mount Vernon, featured what some believed was the best visualization of scholarly work in the history of the conference.

For the first time, in 2021, all student posters were professionally printed, thanks to support from the NTCC administration. Though it was not the highest scored NTCC poster contest of all time, the lowest single score in 2021 was higher than the average score in the virtual contest of 2020.

The experienced judges all indicated that the visual component was the best yet, while some indicated that the scholarly performance of the students in 2021 was better than ever before.

Brian Ramirez, the film producer of NTCC's recent film on Bo Pilgrim and an Alpha Mu Chi documentary on sightlessness, ranked first in the contest, and won \$400 in cash, plus a McGraw Hill coupon for \$175.

Ramirez adopted the idea of father Leopold's significance in the Mozart story to explain opportunities for

filming in Northeast Texas.

He showed how heavy collaboration between donors, professionals, the NTCC staff and students worked to attain a level of cultural influence.

In second place for \$300 was Maxime Risner's work on the decline of rural veterinarians.

This Caldwell-Prize winning effort featured scholarship arising first from an interview with NTCC's Dr. Kathy Carter, a former veterinarian.

Risner noted that the human preference for smaller animal pets makes moving into the more dangerous and costly field of large animals a counter-intuitive proposition for veterinarians.

Cade Bennett placed third and won \$200. His work featured the "golden ideas" of capitalism in Texas.

Bennett argued that, though capitalism creates inequalities, it also creates globally significant innovations.

In the case of modern Texas, a state noted for the quality of its free enterprise, these ideas include the development of the integrated circuit which gave rise to the era of digitalization, artificial heart technology which addressed the 20th century's leading cause of death, and fracking, which now accounts for fifty percent of the nation's oil and gas production. Bennett is also NTCC's Cypress Bank Scholar.

John Rodriguez came in fourth with his work on Hispanic Quietism

in Texas. Rodriguez noted how the idiom of accommodation and reluctance to interfere has worked for Hispanics in Texas in a way superior to more confrontative approaches, such as those of Hispanics in California.

In a quieter, but still decisive way, the Mexican element has influenced the core of an emergent Tex-Mex culture. Rodriguez is also an NTCC Winkle Scholar.

The continuing concern with COVID-19 led organizers to suspect that community judges would not be as numerous this year.

However, the total number of judges in the 2021 contest, 14, tied the 2018 conference for the most ever.

The year 2021 marked the tenth year that both Dr. Wayne Renning and Dr. Jerry Wesson have judged these contests, a shared record among all the judges in the history of the contest.

Other judges included Dr. Elaine Beason of Mount Pleasant, Suzanne Boatner of Mount Pleasant, Lisa Ellermann of Region VIII, Edward Florey of Mount Pleasant, Brenda Godoy, former NTCC Presidential Scholar and Jack Kent Cooke winner and now Community Health Worker, Jerry Hearron of Mount Pleasant, Chuck Johns, NTCC Board of Trustees chairman from Pittsburg, Jerald and Mary Lou Mowery of Mount Vernon, Maryna Otero, Languages Other Than English Department chair at Mount Pleasant High School, Andrea Reyes, Honors and PTK coordinator



COURTESY PHOTO

Starting from left, first to fourth place contest winners, Brian Ramirez, Maxime Risner, Cade Bennett and John Rodriguez.

who also adjudicated the contest, and John Wilhite of Mount Pleasant.

Otero said that she "was impressed by the beautiful posters that clearly showed the significant investment the students have made into scholarly activity. I felt like I have read at least eleven empirical articles and learned more in 60 minutes than I have in the last couple of weeks."

Dr. Jerry Wesson, former NTCC Vice President and Mount Pleasant municipal judge, said, "This year was the best ever. I am so excited to hear these students, and even though it was more difficult for me to get around this year, and I had to rest a time or two, I thoroughly

enjoyed the experience."

This year, though the contest is open to all high school and collegiate students in the region, every contestant was a member of Honors Northeast, the NTCC honors program.

Other contestants included Carolina Alcocer-Salas, Aaliyah Avellaneda, James Dickson, Jalyn English, Nallely Gutierrez, Dorali Hernandez, Jansen Laney, Katelyn Lester, Israel Perez, Maritza Quinones, and Hilda Rodriguez.

Casey Slaght, who works in the corporate office of McGraw Hill in Iowa, facilitated yet another contribution of this premier education corporation to the contest.

NEWS

NTCC Eagle pantry grows virtually, physically

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

The Eagle Pantry at Northeast Texas Community College is offering a new program through its EatBetter4Less website.

The online courses available on the website expanded to provided digital educational opportunities for individuals to learn about food resources, budgeting and eating healthy. Individuals can create at free account on EatBetter4Less.com to participate.

The EatBetter4Less program teaches healthy life hacks that anyone can use daily. Individuals can engage in educational videos, test their knowledge and earn a free certificate once a course has been completed.

There are three current courses that educate students on how to cook healthy food, teach what foods can increase mood and how

to budget money.

To encourage students to participate in the EatBetter4Less online courses, Carmen Shurtleff, adviser to the Eagle Pantry, and Rico Willis, director of student activities and multicultural affairs, recently hosted a crawfish boil and foam volleyball party at the NTCC Sports Complex.

Admission was free to those with an EatBetter4Less certificate. NTCC EatBetter4Less Ambassadors also recently planted an apricot tree in front of the Instructional Annex building.

The tree is in honor of Dr. Ron Clinton, NTCC President, in appreciation for the recent piano concert he performed to raise money for the Eagle Pantry.

The ambassadors chose to plant an apricot tree because it is self-pollinating and will provide fruit to help support the food pantry for

many years to come.

In addition, the NTCC Business Club worked through the fall and spring semesters to raise funds to support the needs of college students and others in the surrounding community. As a result of those efforts, the club recently made donations to three causes.

The Business Club gave their annual \$500 scholarship to the NTCC Foundation, purchased personal hygiene items for the NTCC Food Pantry and donated pillows, blankets, diapers and school supplies to CASA.

Students who are interested in taking business classes or participating in future Business Club activities can e-mail Advisers Karen Andrews and Linsey Harwell at kandrews@ntcc.edu or lharwell@ntcc.edu for more information.



COURTESY PHOTO

Business Club members donate hygiene products to the Eagle Pantry.

To learn more about the EatBetter4Less program, visit www.eatbetter4less.com. For more information on the Eagle Pantry, which provides food and other services to NTCC students and their families, visit www.facebook.com/ntccescw.

Two NTCC summer programs for children planned

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

The Northeast Texas Community College Continuing Education Department will host its Kids Discovery College July 12-22 (Monday-Thursday).

They are pleased to announce that classes will be offered face-to-face on the NTCC campus with extra COVID-19 safety measures in place. Classes are open to kids ages 8-16.

"We know this last year has been hard on kids and parents alike. We are so happy that we are going to be able to have in-person classes for this year's kids camp. We have put together a great schedule of fun, interactive learning experiences for all ages," Lisa York, NTCC Director of Continuing Education and Corporate Training, said.

Course options include Baking with Chef Hannah, Cooking with Chef Reeves (at the NTCC Culinary Arts School in Pittsburg), Drones 101, "Alice In Wonderland" – The Mini Musical, Meaningful Mindset, Clay Animation, 3D Printing, Mad

Scientist, Challenge Accepted, KDCC Channel 1 News, Robotics 1, Picture This! Photography & Photoshop 101, Video Game Design and First Responder Academy.

Early registration is currently underway through May 21. Late registration is June 1 through 30 and the last day to add or drop classes is June 30. To learn more, visit www.ntcc.edu/kidscollege, e-mail continuinged@ntcc.edu or call 903-434-8134.

The Ag department recently hosted the Kids Homesteading Camp on the NTCC Farm. The Kids Homesteading College took place June 14 through June 24, Monday through Thursday of each week from 8 a.m. to noon.

The twist to this camp is that each camper was buddied up with a "big brother" or "big sister" from the Work4College students to experience the farm and gardens each day.

Kid's Farm College was offered to students 8 to 16 years of age with an interest in gardening/farming or love of animals.

NTCC's Sustainable Market Farm was designed to be a living example of what a sustainable small farm in East Texas could be.

From the extensive gardens to farmscaping to free ranging layer flock and NTCC's market goats – participants will live out their "life on the farm" dreams each week. The camp is designed for ages 8-16

Kids Homesteading College is sponsored by the continued partnership of Agriculture and Continuing Education programs, which has resulted in a whole framework of Agriculture Community Education or ACE course options for the community with the added talents and skills of adjunct and Agriculture CE coordinator, Cyruss Ragsdale.

Courses such as A Farmhouse Thanksgiving, Farmhouse Christmas Décor and Gardening CE courses have been popular workshops that have done well.

"The request for a farm kids' college has been made for several years now and until we had added staff, it was just not possible to host



COURTESY PHOTO

NTCC is hosting Kids Discovery College and Kids Homesteading College this summer for children.

this type of course," Agriculture Director Rene' McCracken said.

"The past two spring break camps that were offered in 2020 and 2021. The success and popularity of these one-week camps pushed us to consider offering similar courses in the summer when more kids and parents could participate."

These students will also have more gardening opportunities as

the summer crops will be growing and harvested some during this time period.

More time in the kitchen is also planned.

For those interested in Kid's Homesteading College, contact Continuing Education for more information or to register today at 903-434-8134. Limited spots are available.

NTCC receives funds for new endowed memorial scholarship



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, Suzanne and Brantley Foster present their donation toward the Brandon Foster Memorial Endowed Scholarship to NTCC Director of Development Nita May.

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

The Northeast Texas Community College Foundation recently received a \$15,000 gift from Brantley and Suzanne Foster of Mount Pleasant.

Additionally, NTCC received a \$10,000 gift from Kappa Pi. Combined, the funds will create the Brandon Foster Memorial Endowed Scholarship at NTCC.

Kappa Pi originally established the scholarship in 1985 in memory of Brandon Foster, son of Brantley and Suzanne. It was awarded annually by the members of Kappa Pi.

The endowed fund will now reside with NTCC and will be awarded each year to a current year

Mount Pleasant High School Graduate attending NTCC.

"It is our privilege to partner with the Fosters and Kappa Pi to carry on this meaningful award. The Brandon Foster Memorial Endowed Scholarship will continue to help students for many, many years to come," Nita May, NTCC Director of Development, said.

An additional grant opportunity procured by the NTCC Foundation will result in the endowed scholarship money being matched dollar-for-dollar for a total scholarship impact of \$50,000.

To learn more about this and other scholarships at NTCC, contact May at 903-434-8113 or nmay@ntcc.edu.

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NEWS

Work4College returns with new program director

By Doc Anderson
Staff Writer

Across the country, many modern college students often graduate with some form of debt attached to their name.

But at Northeast Texas Community College, students have the opportunity to participate in the summer Work4College program to pay for their tuition and fees without increasing their debt.

The 10-week program was first piloted in 2014 as Work Scholarship and has now entered into its eighth summer on the NTCC campus.

Students selected to take part in the Work4College program are assigned jobs around the campus, though their preferences are first taken into consideration.

The type of job varies from working outdoors on the fully functioning college farm to giving campus tours and working inside the student services building. Students learn time management as well as task completion.

First year Work4College students are required to take a three-hour leadership course that offers instructions on resume and letter writing as well as information on taking out student loans and encourages students to avoid debt.

Students must also complete 20 community service hours by the end of the summer. Last year, the Work4College students



Mason May

provided approximately 2000 hours of community service.

Students can earn up to \$15 an hour for their services, though only half of their weekly wage goes into their pockets. The other half is automatically paid toward their future tuition and fees.

The students are literally working for a college degree, hence the name of the program.

This year, the program has a new director, Mason May, who said he is looking forward to leading this program into the future.

“Reading the essays, some of the students have really good stories, and they tell that story really well,” May said. “They are going through their struggles at 16 or 17 years old and are willing to work for what they want.”

NTCC is currently working to form relationships with other local high schools to further the reach of



STAFF PHOTO | JOELLE WEATHERFORD

this unusual scholarship program.

“Mason and I have already met with Harts Bluff about how we are going to grow the program and work with them to put the program in their early college high school,” Dr. Jonathon McCullough, NTCC executive vice president for advancement, said. “In addition, we will have it in Winnsboro and Chapel Hill again this year and we are looking at a couple of other schools.”

For more information on the Work4College program contact May at mmay@ntcc.edu or McCullough at jmcullough@ntcc.edu.



STAFF PHOTO | JOELLE WEATHERFORD

Above, a group of first year Work4College students take a selfie with a mannequin head in the NTCC cosmetology department during a scavenger hunt organized to help them get to know the NTCC campus.

Left, Work4College student Dalton Fields helps move young tomato plants out of the greenhouse at the NTCC farm.

Work4College receives funds

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

The Northeast Texas Community College Foundation recently received \$40,000 from the Greater Texas Foundation to support the Work4College Program.

The 2021 Work4College program kicked off June 7 with more than 80 student participating.

The Greater Texas Foundation, headquartered in Bryan, supports initiatives that increase rates of postsecondary enrollment and completion for all Texas students, with a particular focus on students who may encounter barriers to postsecondary success.



COURTESY PHOTO

NTCC President Dr. Ron Clinton and NTCC Executive Vice President for Advancement Dr. Jonathan McCullough received the gift on behalf of the college.

Work4College kicks off summer with 85 students

By Elisabeth Lively
Editor-in-Chief

For the eighth consecutive year, Northeast Texas Community College is hosting the summer Work4College program. During this 10-week event, students in the program have the opportunity to work across the campus, all from the farm to the library, to earn income for their future NTCC education.

This year, the college hired Mason May to act as the program director. Dr. Jon McCullough, NTCC executive vice president for advancement, previously led the program.

This year, 85 students are participating in the program, four of which have unique roles. After a small test run last year, this year's Work4College program is hosting four

student “mentors.” These third-year students oversee the first and second year students in other departments. Emma McCullough and Elisabeth Lively are mentors working alongside May as he leads the program. Dakota Elswick is a mentor in the I.T. department and Tyler Edwards is mentoring on the farm. Previously, Work4College only enrolled students for up to two years in the program.

The TikTok account @ntcc_work4college was recently created to encourage current and future Work4College students to interact and apply for the program. The program also has a Facebook page.

To be featured on the Work4College's social media, or for additional information, contact May at mmay@ntcc.edu.

Follow Work4College on TikTok

to keep up with the program's trends, activities and news

@ntcc_work4college

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thought becoming my... was improving each part piece by piece

But it was finding a hidden wholeness seeing the fractures as the design

-BRIANNA

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OPINION

“Papers, please!”

BY DOC ANDERSON
Staff Writer

The United States of America has been effectively closed for over a year.

In that time, lives have been lost, businesses have closed, and fear has been used as a weapon to keep the general public at bay. The tone and spirit of our country was broken.

Our country, essentially, became a totalitarian government. Government officials and local police carried out unconstitutional orders. Some government officials even suspended the Bill of Rights. We need only look at the Angela Marsden story for examples of this tyranny.

While this behavior never made its way to our neck of the woods here in northeast Texas, it was frightening to watch. I caught myself saying out loud, “Thank God I live in Texas” several times a day.

As the vaccines continue to roll out, the nation appears to be heading in the right direction. Well, some of the nation.

President Biden assured the American people that, by June, anyone who wants to get the vaccine can do so. This is the perfect opportunity or stamp date for the government to completely open up the country.

If the vaccine is available to everyone who wants it, then the nation should be completely open and back to normal in July. Right?

Wrong! Now, in some cities, like New York City, you will have to obtain a “vaccination passport” in order to freely move through the city. For now, vaccination

passports are not federally required. But for how long?

The vaccination passport is an app that contains the entirety of your medical history. If you want to catch a show on the filthy streets of Broadway or eat an overpriced meal in a restaurant swarming with rats, you better be current on your rabies shot.

I am being hyperbolic, but seriously, the app is the only way to legally gain entrance into a restaurant or event.

Let’s for a second dismiss the obvious problems with having your entire medical history in an app on your phone and talk about the implications.

As with anything the government does, we have to look at the endgame, not the immediate battle.

Requiring the public to carry around proof of vaccination is what the Chinese Communist Party practices. It is an excuse to silence or imprison voices of dissent.

If we give our government an inch, they will take our milk money and celebrate the way in which they stole it.

I know what you are thinking, “But Doc, the government protects us and would never do anything to hurt American citizens.” Well, I encourage you to look into the Patriot Act. Read the whole policy then get back to me.

What is next? Giving in, even a little bit, to the government just entices them to see what else they can take away. Our constitutional rights are unalienable.

This means our rights cannot be taken or given away. They do not come from the government. As

American citizens, we are born with our rights.

The Constitution is in place to keep the government from infringing on those God-given rights. Our Founding Fathers organized and fought a war to escape this type of government interference.

I am not an anti-vaxxer. Vaccinations have saved, and continue to save, the lives of millions. As a veteran, I have received every vaccination known to man.

Although, some of the vaccinations I was given were later pulled from the shelves. They were deemed too dangerous. So, this basically means I am a super-human and will live forever.

But seriously, anything that is forced or rushed through production will have negative consequences. This passport forces people to gamble with their lives in order to leave their houses. Leaving the house is already gambling enough. Why up the stakes?

As a nation by the people, for the people, we cannot allow our government officials to divide us. This republic we all share is truly rare, and it works. Allowing for our rights to be infringed for some sense of safety is asinine.

Essentially, the local governments are taking the unalienable rights of their citizens away and using them as a carrot on a stick, saying “If you get the vaccine, you can have these rights back that I stole from you.”

Former President Ronald Reagan once said, “The nine most terrifying words in the English language are: ‘I’m from the government, and I’m here to help.’”

Well, they are here.



COURTESY PHOTO | DEBBIE STRONG

From left, Daniel Sanchez, Elisabeth Lively wearing her famous cowboy boots, Joelle Weatherford, Emma Yeager, Tahj McRae and Mandy Smith.

Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

In my first issue of The Eagle three years ago, I published a column ranting about Texas stereotypes and how I most certainly did not fit in with them. The tirade followed after I was repeatedly accused of being on the rodeo team because of my choice of footwear - cowboy boots.

But after working under the guidance of The Eagle’s adviser, Mandy Smith, who has an unhealthy obsession with the state she was born in, I now feel more like a Texan than ever. And my Texas pride has gotten a little too big for my ego.

I’ve developed a passion for rodeo as Mandy, who is a member of the Mount Pleasant Rodeo Association, taught me the ins and outs of the sport. I’ve learned to love the sound of hooves beating against the bucking chute during the National Anthem and the rush of air whipping past you as the horses race by.

I recall a day earlier this spring when I showed up to the college in steel-toed boots and a Carhartt jacket, in which I proceeded to walk to the goat pen on the campus farm and cuddle baby goats. I’ve started listening to country music, (crazy, I know!) and I’ve literally worn my boots down to the nails in the heel.

Not only has The Eagle made me a Texan, but it also made me a better writer, designer, photographer, leader and friend. It also made me a semi-expert in Mexican free-tailed bats, Carroll Shelby, the Whataburger and Taco Bell menus, local street names and cultures in other countries.

I did not realize that only two and a half years later, I would earn a horribly designed glass plaque naming me Reporter of the Year for two-year schools in Texas. It was a surreal moment, but I guess a part of me knows that I earned it. After all, it does always warm my heart to walk into a room with my phone recorder or a sticky note and pen and hear the beautiful words “Oh no” uttered from someone’s lips as I walk straight towards them. Gotta love those unscheduled interviews.

However, I don’t want to be a journalist, full-time. But I do know that in my time as a student journalist, I made friendships and connections that will never fade away.

When I joined The Eagle, it started with a few compliments, a joint interest and some friendly banter. But it soon became homemade memes, 11 a.m. Whataburger runs, SNL-worthy arguments, and spontaneous road trips with BTS, Queen, Drake and Josh and Big Time Rush.

Now for the “thank you” part. I did my best to embarrass y’all when I wrote this.

Joelle - you helped me see reality over anxiety, and laughed at all my horrible jokes because they were that bad. Thanks for encouraging me to eat

my vegetables and for scoring those free snow cone tickets that were meant for the harder-working medical students.

Emma - thanks for pretending you knew what I was talking about when you usually didn’t, and for always giving me a chance to remind you about the one and only Jake. I still have the videos.

Thanks Tahj, for always giving me a reason to make a “thief seen” meme. Next time my ice cream goes missing, you’ll be the first person I call. Remember when I set you up for the crime of the disappearing Google Mini? On you “birthday?”

Tonya and Halley, thanks for throwing me a surprise birthday party and always bringing me food. Thanks again for buying oil for my Mini when I ran out and broke down on the side of the road. Because apparently cars need this thing called “oil,” which isn’t the same as gas.

Thank you Tristan for being my favorite secretary and cleaning my desk, and Erica for being our “mom” and holding my hand in the haunted house.

Thanks Daniel for all the fun memories of our “disagreements,” (which I totally won,) and for keeping our snack closet stocked with forks and napkins. (By the way, we’re out of water bottles.)

Mandy, thank you. You practically forced me to stay on The Eagle and change my major to communications, and I’ve learned so much because of it. You taught me things like what a piggin’ string is, how to order at Whataburger by clapping my hands between every word, and how to manipulate the information out of people. That’s a true friend.

And I can’t forget Debbie, Anna, Mr. Swann (even though I failed Spanish and was 97 assignments behind,) Mr. Allen, Carmen, Miles, Mrs. Forest, and Susie and Erika for helping me succeed and for giving me great memories.

After my graduation ceremony, one of the college’s vice presidents and The Eagle’s best friends, Anna Ingram, raced up to me and wrapped me in a big hug, squealing, “I’m so proud of you, Elisabeth!” I will never forget that moment, because that moment explained just how important other people saw me once I made connections through The Eagle.

It started out as a volunteer job, interviewing students and employees, but it ended as an activity with friends. I love The Eagle and I love NTCC. But if you think I’m staying her any longer, you’ve got another THING coming. It’s time I move on toward greater things.

Oh, and one last thing! Future Eagle staff writers, just remember - In an interview, you’re not the one in the hot seat. They are. As the interviewer, you have all the control. They have no idea what you’re going to ask, but they agreed to come and answer your questions anyway. You got this!

Your funniest editor,
Elisabeth Lively

Living in a plus size world

BY EMILY SHEARIN
Staff Writer

I’m sure we all have heard the phrase, “Dress for the job you want, not the job you have.”

The thought process behind this phrase is as follows: If you want your bosses to see you as someone who can take on more authority, then you need to act that way. Part of that demonstration is in how you present yourself.

Plus-size women represent 68% of shoppers, but most of the clothes that are on the market do not cater to them.

I have been a larger size for most of my life and just the thought of going shopping for clothes is enough to make me have a panic attack. I have been shamed in several stores in my lifetime because of the inconsistency of clothing sizes.

I can wear size 18 jeans in one store and walk next door to another clothing store and not be able to get a leg into a size 18. I know many women who refuse to buy certain clothing items that are bigger than their “designated size,” even though it fits, thinking that they are the problem.

I have always hated my body as it is, but the shame I feel when I have to ask the salesperson for a larger size is enormous.

I have had several occasions where they have said, “That is the biggest we have,” and I would have to deal with the self-deprecating thoughts about my body when it isn’t my fault. But we know - it’s the clothes. It’s capitalism; hate it or love it.

For women above a size 12, there is an invisible labor that goes into putting together outfits that the fashion world considers stylish. While

some stores offer sizes up to size 16, many times a store doesn’t offer but one or two items in that size, and they sell quickly.

We, the larger population, cannot just go into a department store and buy something off the rack. We have to hunt down pieces online, spend extra money for shipping and carefully study the measurements to find the same items our colleagues can buy off the rack.

The worst question to be asked in these situations is “What is your size?” This question is loaded for many women, but it has become virtually impossible to answer in recent years.

Americans have grown physically larger and brands have shifted to metric sizing to make the shoppers feel skinnier, so much so that a women’s size 12 in 1958 is now an American size 6.

These new numbers are even more confusing because a size 6 can vary in the waistband by about six inches according to one estimate.

The debate over sizing is an emotional one, especially right now, when so many shoppers are rejecting labels of all kinds, from sexual orientation to gender to, yes, size.

For decades, retailers have generally catered to one demographic, slim, even as America has gotten more diverse. Shoppers are now pushing back. Consumers are turning away from stores like Victoria’s Secret that market a single way to be sexy.

Consumers are demanding that mass-market chains like Old Navy and Forever 21 carry a wider range of sizes in their stores as opposed to only being available online.

While there are a number of high-end designers that have gone into plus sizing, it isn’t done the right way.

I am a solid size 18, but I am trying on things in size 22 or even larger that still don’t fit. I think it is because they haven’t taken the time to make the little tweaks - either because the designers themselves aren’t plus-sized or because they haven’t asked enough plus-sized people.

Honestly, they are doing a disservice to this demographic of consumers because we get excited about the brand expanding into our size range, but then their “plus” section still doesn’t fit and it makes us feel even worse.

In my opinion, if a designer or brand is going to size something above a size 12, they should fit it on more than one type of person.

They should try it on someone who is that size with an hourglass figure, as well as someone who has a fuller stomach, or someone who is fuller in the hips, just so they know that it will truly fit that size.

Even if all of the brands and designer sizing becomes radically inclusive and transparent, there is no guarantee that we, the shoppers, will like what we see in the mirror.

Vanity sizing works because, deep down, we are all a little vain. And no matter how many strides it makes, the fashion industry can’t change to make us feel like better versions of ourselves, one outfit at a time. Sometimes, that requires deception. Often, it drives us crazy.

That’s why I hate fitting rooms - until I find something I love.

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

ENTERTAINMENT

City folk might get it... Eventually

This is the third and final installment of the "City folk just don't get it" trilogy. To begin Ethan's journey, read the first two articles in The Eagle's prior issues published at ntceagleonline.com.

By ETHAN WIMS
Staff Writer

Have you ever had one of those nights where you could just feel that something was off?

As if the wind carried whispers of doom upon it, while it slowly slipped in through the open window? One night a few months ago was like that for me.

It was day three of living in my grandparents' house and that day had a hint of delight since I had reached a small but significant milestone: surviving three whole days.

Granted, it's not that surprising to still be alive after day three, but I was finally feeling like I was on my own path in life again. A king who had lost his kingdom, only to find a new one at long last. I was on my own, living in the land of those who had come before me.

I felt a sense of time and place in a way that I hadn't felt in a long time. That rare wonderful moment where you feel like the cosmos has, in fact, aligned for you finally.

So naturally this would also bring about a terrible night because, as being out here surrounded by raw nature, I have come to respect life's sense of balance.

I was folding laundry and listening to a podcast. One of my favorite ones in fact, so life was feeling pretty good.

The night was still cool but not too cold, so I had the windows open. The sun had just dipped below the horizon, and I was ready to slip inside my bed to fall asleep. In this blissfully ignorant moment, I was happy.

A sock slid off the bed and onto the floor. Having been rolled into a ball



COURTESY PHOTO



STAFF PHOTO | ELISABETH LIVELY

Left, Ethan and his cousin, Kristen, sit on the fence outside of his grandparents' home in Mount Vernon.

Above, Ethan Wims became a staff writer for The Eagle in the spring 2021 semester.

along with its counterpart, the sock rolled under the bed in a gentle little hop.

This caused me to get onto my hands and knees to reach under the bed to grab them.

Since they were black socks and the sun had just gone down I needed my flashlight to get them. Shining the light under the bed, I suddenly saw it.

Tucked away near the corner of the wall, the slender shape was instantly recognizable. The slight sheen of its skin glistened as the light crossed over it. There was a snake under my bed.

It's fascinating what fear and adrenaline can do to you in moments of panic. Your fight or flight instincts instantly kick in, and you go into autopilot.

Interestingly, I stayed put once I saw the snake. Right away in the quiet of my mind I knew it was dead, but my instinct was to still watch it like a hawk.

I waited for any sign of movement, mentally ticking down how long the creature had not moved.

Ready to fight for my newfound kingdom, I watched the dragon laying as still as a stone.

The reason I kept staring at it, I found myself realizing, was because I was rooted in the spot by the lesson being taught to me.

Sometimes in life we do in fact get a chance to encounter our enemies. Not the enemies we have at work who eat with their mouths open. I'm talking about a true nemesis.

My whole life I have always been terrified of snakes. They have been the one thing that I cannot handle I've come to find out. But with this snake already being dead it gave me a chance to study my foe from a distance.

I made myself become comfortable

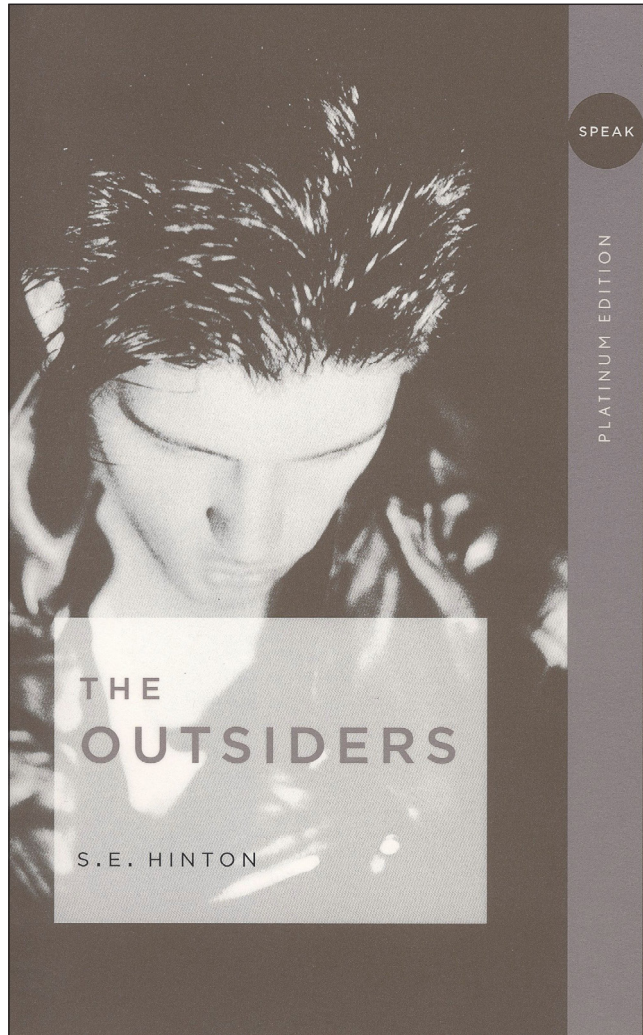
sharing the same space with it. I took this as a lesson to stare down your fear and get a glimpse at who you really are. What is really inside of your soul, what is the essence of the person you are. I caught a glimpse, and I was proud.

Pride quickly turned to sheer panic again as I then had to figure out a way to get this thing out from under the bed. Grabbing a broom, I was able to slide the carcass of dread from underneath the mattress and into the light finally.

The snake had slithered onto a giant glue pad, couldn't escape, and died of starvation. Did I have pity for my enemy in that moment? Yes. Did I also make a sign of the cross after I ran to throw it out into the dumpster? You betcha!

More importantly though, I proved to myself that I was capable of being away from the city and a man of my own making.

'The Outsiders' is a memorable, yet forgotten novel



COURTESY PHOTO

By ELISABETH LIVELY
Editor-in-Chief

You know, for a gang of greasers, these boys sure are a bunch of crybabies.

Fifty-four years after its publication, "The Outsiders" continues to serve as a timeless novel about finding unity through social divisions. It sounds lame, but within two days of first hearing about "The Outsiders," I had scored a copy from a friend and read it in a heartbeat. I then watched the movie, reread the book, and rewatched the movie all in two weeks. Then I refused to give the book back to my friend, so it now sits on my bookshelf, where I stare at it adoringly.

Pulling the story along through his recollections, Ponyboy Curtis, just as it is written on his birth certificate, is a greaser of his own. Ponyboy is the "good kid" in his gang of greasers. He's a star on the track team, he excels in his schoolwork (and enjoys it), and he doesn't dare take a sip of alcohol.

The novel follows the story of Ponyboy and his bud Johnny, who find themselves at the center of a murder case after a gang fight went sour. After going incognito, a string of events prompt them to consider if jail time is worth making the right decisions in the end.

The entire book is essentially just one giant cause-and-effect story. Action A caused action B, so then they did action C, which ended in action D. The end.

Plot-wise, it's a basic shark fin novel, and yet it has remained a subject of interest for decades.

When I asked myself "why?" I came to the conclusion that it is because S.E.

Hinton takes readers behind the scenes of life as a true greaser, where we find that it's uncomfortable, painful and sad. Yes, they live off freedom and friendships, but many of them felt like their lives ended long ago, and now they're just coasting by.

But Ponyboy doesn't want to be like that, and his brothers warn him that it's not too late to get out and make a name for himself. And he did. But now he's on the run because of it.

Hinton expresses through "The Outsiders" that not every story has a happy ending.

While greasers are typically portrayed as the bad guys, Hinton redefines what it means to be a villain, no matter what side of the tracks you're on, by showing the good in the "bad guys" and the bad in the "good guys."

Like I mentioned earlier, these boys, while they act as tough as nails, are almost always blubbing their eyes out to one another. They're raised to look and act tough and show no fear, because they're not given the opportunities and resources their East side peers are. They are left to fend for themselves.

But they can only act tough for so long, because everybody has a breaking point, and at some time or another, their whole charade will shatter and reveal all their pains and anxieties. And the more these boys go through, the closer they are to that breaking point.

It didn't take long before I began noticing through the dialog and writing that "The Outsiders" sounded an awful lot like the way my grandpa speaks.

It's not the most grammatically correct,

the sentences are brief and straight to the point, the characters speak their mind exactly as it is, and they refer to each other with unusual nicknames.

But her writing speaks louder than the 60s verbiage.

"The stars had moved."

This poetic line struck me as I read it, so I had to go back and reread it several times. S.E. Hinton could have merely explained that Ponyboy had opened his eyes and realized that he had fallen asleep outside. But rather, she uses the night sky to tell the story.

As for the 1983 movie adaptation, it was rushed and didn't provide enough of the details. It only focused on the major plot moments, leaving out other bits and details that, while not as big, were just as important. The director also altered some scenes differently as portrayed in the book, and it didn't come out too well.

The acting, emotions, cinematography, special effects, and stunts were all pretty bad, honestly. But, hey, it was the '80s.

And don't even get me started on those phony southern accents. The film was riddled with A-list stars, but they all had me laughing from their very first lines.

But despite all the negatives, I must say that I noticed a good deal of lines directly from the book, word for word, which I appreciated. Though the added-in cuss words were not necessary.

This book, while it does involve lots of smoking, a murder and several other illegal offenses, is a great junior high and high school novel with clean language and valuable life lessons on making the right choices in the end and keeping an eye on the future.

Despite the fact that "The Outsiders" hit book stands over 50 years ago, the novel still resonates with readers by sharing the vulnerable side of adolescent greasers.

BTS breaks records with new single 'Butter'

By JOELLE WEATHERFORD
Editor-in-Chief

If you haven't heard about BTS yet, you have either been living under a rock or you only listen to country music.

While the seven-member group has been in the South Korean music industry for eight years now, they have only recently broken onto the American stage.

Last year, during the height of the COVID pandemic, BTS released their first all-English single, "Dynamite," and took the number one spot on the Billboard Hot 100.

Now, the group has done it again with their

most recent all-English release, "Butter."

Not only is this new single in the process of breaking every record previously set by "Dynamite," but I also actually enjoy it.

Now, believe me, I love BTS and support everything that they do, but "Dynamite" is definitely not my favorite song.

It felt like every other pop song on the radio. There was no "BTS flair" where you could tell each member had a hand in creating it like most of their other songs. It was bland, to be honest.

However, "Butter" is the exact opposite. It has character and the personalities of all the members. It's catchy without trying too hard,

which is where "Dynamite" went wrong.

While it does still sound like a lot of other pop songs, it sounds like the really good ones, if you know what I mean. The ones you don't realize you're jamming out to until it's too late. The ones that you like, but don't know exactly why. Oh, and did I mention that the lyrics actually make sense?

When "Dynamite" came out, I said that I don't like it when BTS makes English songs. Now, I have no doubt in my mind that they can do literally anything, in any language, and it will be good.

Here's to another record-breaking single for the K-pop superstars, BTS!



COURTESY PHOTO

BTS' new single broke the record for the most views in the first 24 hours on YouTube.

SPORTS



STAFF PHOTO | ELISABETH LIVELY



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Sean Garner prepares for an eight second ride at a fall rodeo. Sean Garner holds tight as the bull gives him a rough ride at the recent Kids Rodeo put on for local school children.

Injury knocks qualifier out of rodeo finals

BY JUSTIN HARGROVE
NTCC Assistant Athletic Director

The Northeast Texas Community College rodeo team recently traveled to Athens for the final rodeo of the 2021 season. Trinity Valley Community College Served as the host of the event held at the Henderson County Rodeo Complex.

Jessee Young placed fifth in the Breakaway Roping event to finish out the season in the top 25 in the Southern Region.

Sean Garner followed up his win at McNeese State with a second-place finish

at the TVCC Rodeo. This ride secured the second-place spot in the Region for the year and qualified Garner for the College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyoming June 13-19. However, due to a recent injury, he is unable to compete.

The College National Finals Rodeo is held in Casper, Wyoming each summer and is where the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association crowns individual event champions in saddle bronc riding, bare back riding, bull riding, tie-down roping, steer wrestling, team roping, barrel racing, breakaway roping and goat tying.

National team championships are also awarded to both men's and women's teams.

Over 400 cowboys and cowgirls from over 100 universities and colleges compete in Casper each year. Contestants compete all year in one of the NIRA's 11 regions for a chance to rope or ride at the CNFR.

The top three students in each event, and top two men's and women's teams from the NIRA's 11 regions will qualify for the CNFR.

The Eagles will host a Rodeo in Mid-October, be on the lookout for the exact date, times, and location. For anyone wishing to become a sponsor for the rodeo, contact

Coach Skylar Hunnicutt at shunnicc@ntcc.edu.

NTCC competes in the Southern region of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association with Hill College, Louisiana Tech University, Louisiana State University-Alexandria, McNeese State University, 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.



STAFF PHOTO | ELISABETH LIVELY

Eagles fullback Joseph Gongora races to get control of the ball against a Jacksonville Jaguars player.



STAFF PHOTO | ELISABETH LIVELY

Megan Hammond, Eagles fullback, carries the ball toward the goal in a recent game against Jacksonville College.

Men's and women's soccer ends with postseason loses

BY JOELLE WEATHERFORD
Editor-in-Chief

Northeast Texas Community College Men's Soccer traveled to Tyler, Texas to take on the Tyler Junior College Apaches in the Region XIV tournament on Thursday, May 20. This being the third time the Eagles have faced the Apaches during the season.

The Eagles went into the postseason as the number 6 seed with an overall record of 5-7-1. NTCC had been defeated by TJC with a devastating 8-0 loss less than two weeks prior.

However, the Eagles were able to prevent TJC's attacking threat and the match remained scoreless for the majority of the first half. The Apaches scored with 15 minutes to go in the half, and the Eagles were down 0-1.

Just a couple of minutes later, TJC was able to put another one in the back of the net putting Apaches up 2-0 at halftime.

Rain began to fall in the second half, but the Eagles kept the pressure going. Both teams were successful in possession and there were opportunities for both the Eagles and Apaches, but the second half still remained scoreless.

NTCC gained momentum in the last few minutes, and had TJC on their heels. Anthony Freer had two promising goal scoring opportunities in the last 10 minutes, but fell short.

The final score for the game was 2-0, finishing

the season for the Eagles with an overall record of 5-8-1 and 6th place in conference.

Earlier in the week, weather forced changes for the NTCC Women's Soccer team in the postseason. The Eagles were scheduled to compete against Blinn College in Brenham, Texas in the Regional Tournament on Monday, May 17.

Storms in Southeast Texas forced the game to be moved to College Station, Texas on Tuesday, May 18.

The Eagles went into the postseason as the number 6 seed with an overall record of 1-10-0. Despite falling to the Buccaneers in regular season play, NTCC held the score to 0-0 going into the second half. Siera Cardenas had a dangerous shot and close opportunity, closing out the first half in the 42nd minute.

With only one substitute and the heat wearing on the Eagles, Blinn was able to score quickly at the start of the second half. The Buccaneers second goal soon followed. Although NTCC was down, they kept fighting and were able to create multiple scoring opportunities for themselves.

In the 77th minute, Marissa Garcia took on two defenders and managed to get around them both. Unfortunately, her shot was saved by Blinn's goalkeeper. The Eagles kept knocking on Blinn's door, but after 90 minutes the Buccaneers came out victorious with a 2-0 win. NTCC finished the season with an overall record of 1-11-0 and finished 6th place in the conference.



STAFF PHOTO | ELISABETH LIVELY

Eden Antonisse, Eagles center midfielder, battles a Jaguars player for control of the ball during the team's recent game.

SPORTS

Eagles suffer season-ending loss against Panola

BY JOELLE WEATHERFORD
Editor-in-Chief

The Northeast Texas Community College Eagles' season ended in a recent showdown against Panola College.

Both Panola and NTCC had their offenses going, but NTCC eventually succumbed 16-7 in the high-scoring affair.

NTCC struggled to put runs on the board and had a tough time defensively containing Panola, giving up 16 runs.

The Ponies got things moving in the first inning, with a single on a 2-2 count, scoring one run.

NTCC knotted the game up at two in the bottom of the third inning, when Panola induced Jake Chapman to hit into a fielder's choice that scored one run.

Panola pulled away for good with five runs in the fourth inning. A home run in the fourth on a 0-1 count that scored two runs, a single on a 2-2 count that scored one run, a single off the first pitch of the at bat that scored one run and a sac fly that scored another run for Panola.

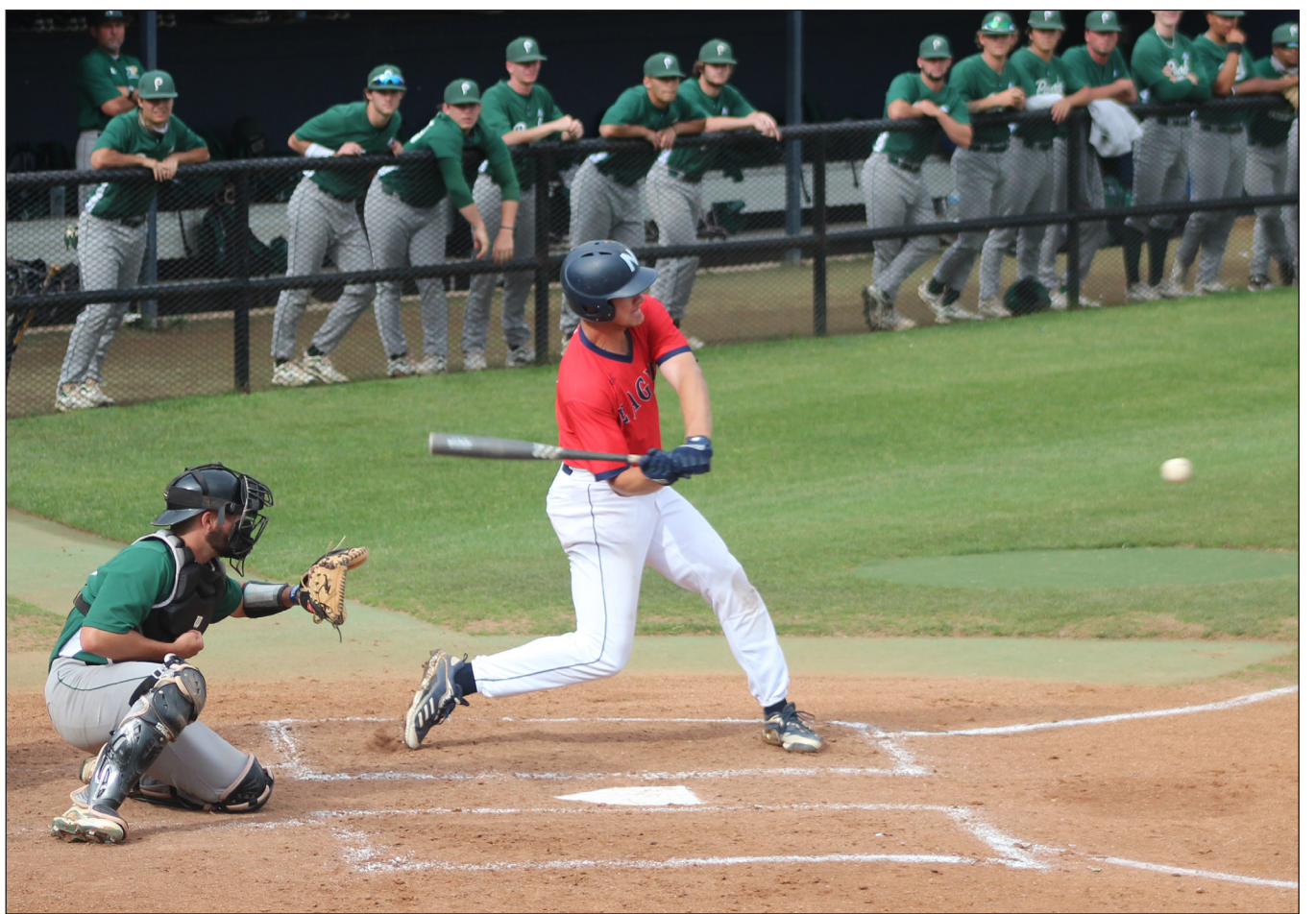
NTCC put up four runs in the sixth inning. Cameron Loy, Caleb Munton, and Luke McBride each had RBIs in the frame. Panola scored five more runs in the seventh inning that sealed the game for the Ponies.

Mikel Howell started the game for NTCC. The righthander went three and a third innings, allowing seven runs on seven hits and striking out seven. Chance Bolter and Camden Sargent entered the game from the bullpen, throwing three and a third innings and two and a third innings respectively.

NTCC had three home runs on the day. Munton went yard in the sixth inning, Cole Modgling had a dinger in the first inning and Loy had a long ball in the sixth inning.

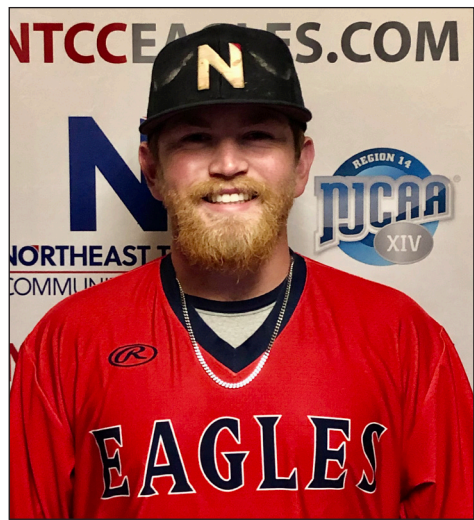
NTCC racked up 13 hits in the game. Loy, Sawyre Thornhill, Khalon Clayton and Chapman all managed multiple hits for NTCC.

Loy led the Eagles with three hits in four at bats. Despite the loss, NTCC was sure-handed and did not commit a single error with Loy making the most plays on the day with 12.

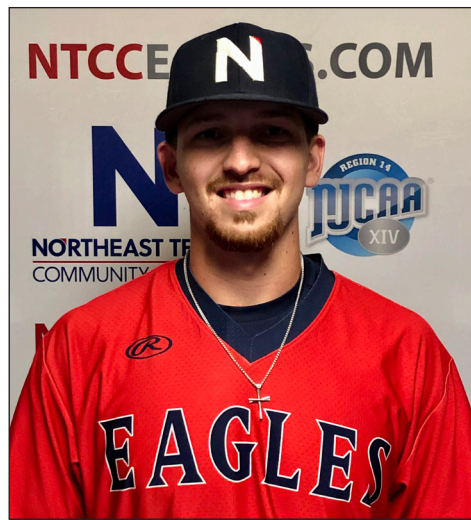


STAFF PHOTO | JOELLE WEATHERFORD

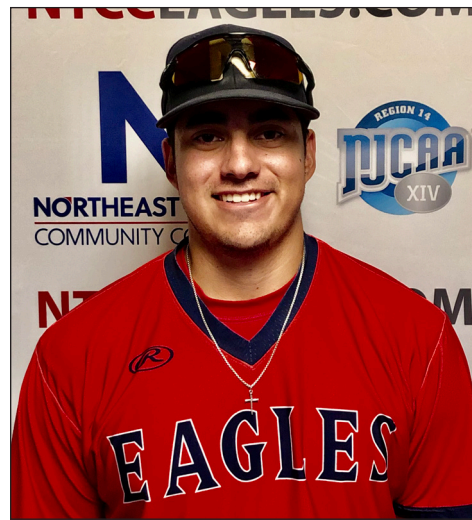
Eagles outfielder Jake Chapman gets ready to put the bat on the ball during the team's recent playoff game against the Panola Ponies. The Eagle's loss to the Ponies brought their season to an end.



Cameron Loy



Sawyre Thornhill



Nico Baumbach



Cole Modgling

Six NTCC baseball players make All Conference team

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Northeast Texas Community College Baseball was well represented on the 2021 NJCAA Region 14 Eastern Conference All Conference Selections. The NTCC athletes who were recognized included both freshmen and sophomores from this year's Eagles baseball team.

Cameron Loy, freshman from Mansfield, Texas was selected as 2nd team Catcher.

Loy had a .396 batting average with seven doubles for the Eagles this year.

Sophomore Sawyre Thornhill from Huntington, Texas was 2nd team second baseman.

Thornhill batted .374 with seven home runs on the year for NTCC.

Nico Baumbach, sophomore from Euless,

Texas was 1st team third baseman.

Baumbach batted .329 with 11 doubles, six home runs, and 52 Runs Batted In (RBI's).

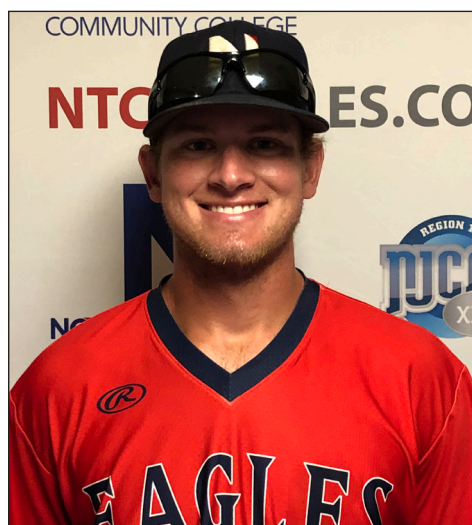
Sophomores Cole Modgling and Jake Chapman represent the Eagles in the outfield with Modgling bringing home 2nd team honors and Chapman honorable mention.

Modgling, from Castroville, Texas, had a season average of .355 with 10 doubles, a triple, six home runs, and twenty-four RBI's.

Chapman, the Boerne, Texas native, brought a .321 average with ten doubles, six home runs, and 32 RBI's to help pace the Eagles this season.

Chance Bolter, a Plano, Texas sophomore, received 2nd team honors as a pitcher.

Bolter struck out 36 batters and walked just 13 on the season with one complete game outing for NTCC.



Jake Chapman



Chance Bolter

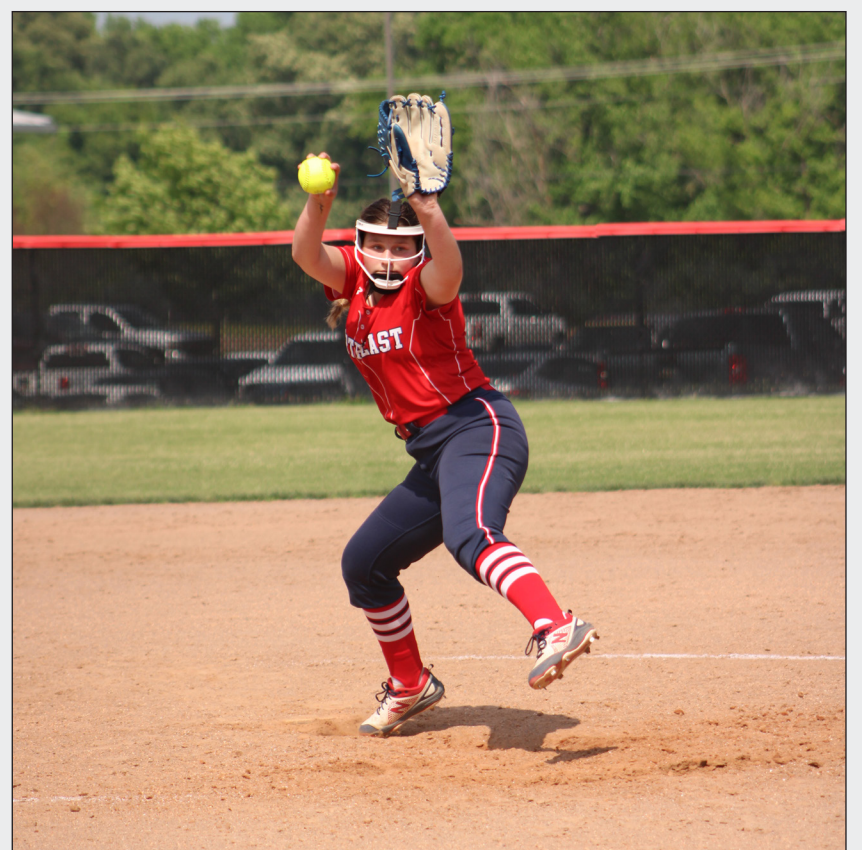
Eagles softball season ends against Kilgore



STAFF PHOTO | JOELLE WEATHERFORD

Above, Eagle catcher Kailey Hancock, #14, hits the ball and watches it soar out across the field.

Right, Halea Wells, #11, puts on her game face as she lets loose with a hard pitch in a recent Eagles game.



STAFF PHOTO | JOELLE WEATHERFORD

CAMPUS LIFE



Bubbles fill the volleyball court as students frolic through the glow-in-the-dark foam playing hide & seek and tag. The event helped raise awareness for the EatBetter4Less program.

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

FUN FOR ALL

Photos by Elisabeth Lively

The Eagle Pantry recently paired with the student activities department to host a crawfish boil, glow-in-the-dark volleyball match, and foam party at the Sports Complex with many dorm students attending.

“People are enjoying themselves, and that’s a success to me,” Eagle Pantry Adviser Carmen Shurtleff said on the crowd turnout at the crawfish boil.

The event was free to anyone with a completed course certificate from the Eagle Pantry’s new website, EatBetter4Less.com.

The website was created last year after the social work program received a \$140,000 grant. The grant was provided by League of Innovation for the Community College.



Student Fiona Carrick gives Eagle Pantry Adviser Carmen Shurtleff a glow-in-the-dark makeover.



NTCC soccer player Thomas Brulay enjoys a game of foam tag.



Above, NTCC baseball player Camron Loy receives his fill of crawfish during the EatBetter4Less event.

Left, the foam party gave students the chance to have a little fun before taking on finals week.