



Youth of Today
Hope of Tomorrow



Canceled



Quinn Langford
Cedar Ridge H. S.

Like everyone else, in the past week I have found out that so many of my plans have been canceled due to the spread of the COVID-19 disease. The FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics competition season was supposed to run for another month, but on March 12th, FIRST announced that all competitions were canceled. Just like that, my senior year of robotics was over, without time to emotionally prepare myself. My team still planned to meet and perfect our robot for fun, but then the Girl Scout Center where we

build the robot closed. Now we are working on some remote projects to improve the organization of our team for next year.

Colleges have also canceled their preview weekends and recruitment events, which was another part of senior year I was really looking forward to. The class of 2020 has already lost our final year of sports and school clubs, so I hope prom and graduation don't end up getting canceled as well. Those events would be our last chance to celebrate all of our accomplishments and hard work.

This whole situation has felt so surreal. Thinking about how interconnected the world is, something like this was bound to happen, but I wasn't mentally prepared for a pandemic, and it seems like no one else was, either. I hope that governments around the world are able to learn from this and prevent future pandemics.

Spring Break



Rebekah McNeal
Round Rock H. S.

I'm finally off from school and onto 'extended' Spring Break. I didn't have any plans, not that I can do very much for obvious reasons.

In the meantime, I

have a few assignments to finish up from school. I think I'll portion out my work, day by day, instead of trying to finish it all in one sitting. Plus I have all the time in the world to work on my hobbies.

Maybe I'll text my french friends to see how they're doing? Or start learning some different languages? I could start drawing more often, learn a couple of solo songs for fun, or even start some new sewing projects?

I don't know. For now, I'll just take precautions and ride whatever wave that time takes us.

Austin ISD to Distribute Meals During School Cancellations

Curbside lunch meals will be provided for each child in the car. The meals will be packaged together and provided today March 13 as well as Monday-Friday starting March 23 if schools continue to be closed. Children must be present to receive a meal package. Meals are not available for adults.

Curbside meal sites, open from 12 to 1:30 p.m., are listed below. Sites were chosen based on 50 percent or more students receiving meal benefits.

- Dobie Middle School
- Cook Elementary School
- Burnet Middle School
- LBJ Early College High School
- Govalle Elementary School
- T.A. Brown Elementary School
- Eastside Memorial Early College High School
- Dawson Elementary School
- Linder Elementary School
- Crockett Early College High School
- Pleasant Hill Elementary School
- Houston Elementary School
- Akins Early College High School
- Perez Elementary School

It's Corna Time



Kevin Parish
Hendrickson H. S.

Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV). Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a new strain that was discovered in 2019 and has not been previously identified in humans. Common signs of infection include respiratory

symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death. Standard recommendations to prevent infection spread include regular hand washing, covering mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing, thoroughly cooking meat and eggs. Avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness such as coughing and sneezing. In the Austin-Travis county area there have been a total of 5 cases and of those five cases they all have been travel related, so therefore try to reduce the amount of traveling you do and the most important thing. Stay Clean!

Spring Break and Coronavirus Outbreak



Kaitlyn Cannon
Bluebonnet Trail Elem.

The World Health Organization and John Hopkins Medicine define Coronavirus as a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. It is known to spread by upper respiratory secretions. Experts believe that an infected animal may have been the origin of this virus, such as live fish, animals and birds in Wuhan, China. Bats are also a possible source, since they have evolved to co-exist with many viruses. This virus has spread to over one-hundred (100) countries in Asia, Europe, North America and the Middle East. More than 100,000 people have been infected, leading to a pandemic.

Most of those infected with the virus have been in China, where most of the deaths have occurred, as well. Now South Korea, Iran and Italy are coping with serious out-

breaks. Italy has imposed restrictions throughout the country. The United States has seen more than over 4000 cases and eighty-seven (87) deaths currently. Almost all of the states in the United States have become infected by this spreading virus. The number of infections may be doubling every six (6) days, according to the Centers of Disease Control. The virus can infect both animal and people. All people are strongly advised to wash hands and sanitize hands. Children seem to be less likely to be infected.

Due to rapid spread of this virus in many countries, communities, hospitals are in need of sufficient medical equipment and vaccines. To prevent continuous spreading of the virus, there are major closures of national and local events, seventy-two (72) thousand schools across the nation are closing, libraries, jobs, many events, movies postponed. This is a viral pandemic disease. No more than fifty (50) people gathering, for as long as eight (8) weeks.

My Spring Break has started. It appears I will stay inside, read, work on art, hang out on the porch, practice my praise dance, and hopefully visit with family and friends by phone mainly.

One Act Play UIL



Sarah Robertson
Connally H. S.

On this past Thursday March 12th the Connally high school hosted the District 17 5A One Act Play Contest. One act play is where high schoolers perform in front of three judges to showcase the play that they have chosen. The play that my school chose was *On The Verge* a play about three women that travel through time learning about the future and what it brings. This is my second OAP experience and I'm glad that I got to

do this again. This time around I had a lot of long hours in the theatre and memories that will last me a lifetime.

On contest day every school that we go against is anxious and has the drive to come out on top. Throughout the process of the OAP I've learned what it takes to become an even better actress and learned the behind the scenes of one act plays, plus the hard work that comes with them. On the day of competition my whole cast was nervous and anxious of what the results of our performance was going to be. We performed really well but unfortunately, we fell short and didn't advance to regionals which we hoped we would. Even though we fell short I can't wait to do better next year and show people what the Connally cougar theatre department is all about. Go Cougars!

Coronavirus and COVID-19



SaNaya White
Ann Richards

Although many of you may be weary of hearing about the coronavirus, it is important to hear it once more. Coronaviruses are a type of virus. There are various types of coronaviruses, and some can cause disease. A new coronavirus was first identified in China, December 2019. It has resulted in a respiratory illness that the World Health Organization refers to as COVID-19, as of February 2020. COVID-19 has been detected in people from China as well as from over 100 other countries, including the United States. The spread of the new virus is being monitored by multiple organizations, and as of January 30, the World Health Organization proclaimed the COVID-19 outbreak a public health emergency. When determining how the virus first spread, it is difficult as health officials still do not know the exact source. There are early hypotheses that

link the source to a seafood market in Wuhan, China. Later, a study developed about an individual with the first reported case, portrayed no linkage the the seafood market. Health officials are still studying and searching for the source. As we allow the health officials to do their job, we must do ours as well. Symptoms for COVID-19 include coughing, fever, and shortness of breath. If any of the flu-like symptoms appear you should reach out to your doctor and update them on any travel, contact, or possible exposure.

Symptoms tend to appear in people within 14 days of exposure. There is no current vaccine, but caution and prevention techniques can be used. Prevention involves, frequent hand washing, coughing and sneezing into the elbow, wiping and disinfecting the home, and staying home when feeling sick. Sometimes it is easy to joke about things that we do not have, but it is important to take into consideration the people who have been effected and their families. It is important to not take advantage of days off, or no contact measures in the wrong way, but rather be grateful that the your safety is of concern and placed under consideration. Continue to be safe, cautious, and clean.