



Social distancing

Everything you need to know about it

By Lande Simpson
Staff Writer

The world has come to an agreement that the pandemic of COVID-19 is quite frightening and is very real. Most colleges, universities and schools are closing either permanently or temporarily for the remainder of the semester so they don't risk or increase the spread of the virus.

Many health officials are advising social distancing. Yes, it sounds pretty self explanatory but what does it actually mean?

Social distancing means staying home if you feel under the weather, not shaking hands, avoiding crowds and staying six feet away from other people. It means staying away from people in public as best as you possibly can.

Many people are opting to stay home and are self-quarantining as best they can. This means they are hunkering down at their house and are not having any physical interactions with

the outside world or anyone that is not directly with them in their living spaces. This is hard for many individuals because no one knows how long this is going to last and there are so many unanswered questions.

But, many people are having fun with it online. Musicians are having mini-concerts on their social media or teaching fans how to play their songs on social media as well. Many yoga studios are also opting to teach their daily classes either on Zoom or Instagram live for free to keep their regulars (or newbies) in shape and occupied during this hard time.

As humans, we owe it to each other to look out for others and be selfless. Think about the elderly and others in society with auto-immune disorders that are at a much higher risk of contracting the virus. If you stay home and social-distance/self-quarantine, you help flatten the curve and help slow the spread of Covid-19. You are one less person to get the virus and spread it to others in your community. Please stay home.

16 temporary coronavirus hospitals closed in Wuhan

By Aia Andonovska
Arts & Life Editor

These days it is hard to find anything positive in the news, especially in regards to the coronavirus. It is of the utmost importance that the good news continue to be shared and made known to the public so there is not constant negativity floating around. Constant negativity leads to feelings of despair, but good news can lead to more hopeful attitudes.

In Wuhan, where the coronavirus originated, 16 temporary hospitals sprung up in an effort to contain and control the illness from spreading like wildfire. In a wonderful turn of events, the last two of these emergency hospitals have been closed down, due to the lack of need. It is said that the patients are now in the single digits.

A hospital in the capital of the Hubei province, that was constructed from a stadium, saw its final 49 recovered patients out and they were met with cheers and clapping. This hospital was erected quickly to house 784 and opened on February 5. By the time this hospital closed, it had seen a total of 1,124 patients. 833 of these patients were discharged, with 291 being transferred to other hospitals.

Another hospital in Wuhan, in the Jiangxia district, shut its doors as well, after 26 days of operation. It received a total of 564 patients, 392 of which were discharged. In total, Wuhan treated 13 thousand patients in the 16 hospitals that were erected. Despite these closures, Wuhan still remains on lockdown, as they have for 50 days. It is, however, a ray of hope that maybe this epidemic needs, and may be a sign that it will be slowing down soon, since there are less patients to treat.

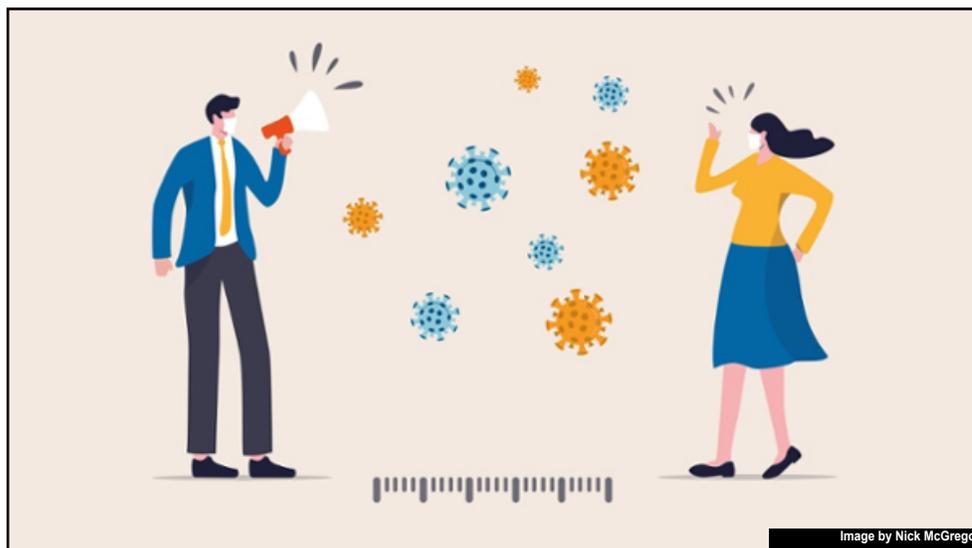


Image by Nick McGregor

We want to hear how you are doing during the COVID-19 pandemic

Because most of us are no longer on the Brevard College campus, The Clarion has created an online feedback form that we hope will enable us to stay in touch despite our physical distance.

Use this form to ask questions, contribute brief "status updates" or photos, or submit something else for possible publication in The Clarion:

<http://bit.ly/clarion-feedback-2020>

Senior Profile

Anthony Zuniga is destined for greatness

By Carmen Boone
Copy Editor

Anthony Zuniga is a senior at Brevard College. He is a double major in music and theatre.

Brevard College is well known for its music program. Zuniga chose BC so he could learn more about music. He also loves the mountains and the kind of community that Brevard is. "I knew I'd grow a lot here," said Zuniga.

Zuniga was born in Anaheim, California, but grew up and now lives in Athens, Georgia. Brevard was a big change. However, Athens is also a college town, so there were lots of things to do when growing up.

When not doing homework or rehearsing for his classes, Zuniga enjoys cooking; he finds it relaxing and rewarding. He also sings in

the choir at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Brevard. Something else he can be found doing is exploring in Pisgah National Forest.

Zuniga is super involved on campus as well.

He has been in many of the plays on campus such as "Into the Woods," "The Life of Galileo" and "Boeing Boeing. Aside from that, he is in Chamber Choir and tours with them singing in places all over the United States.

Zuniga is also a work-study student. He works lights and sound for many events that happen all over campus. He was an RA for two years in Green Hall too. "I've done a lot here and I am proud of the work I've done," said Zuniga.

There have been several people that have been a major help to Zuniga in his college career. A couple of those people are Dr. Kathryn and Dr. David Gresham and Andrea Boccanfuso. They have cared for his mental and physical health and all around kept him sane. Zuniga also said they have challenged him to be his best self all throughout his career at Brevard.

"You know, when we recruit we tell students about the close relationships that professors and students can have at Brevard due to it's small size, but experiencing it firsthand I can say that those people have special hearts and have been

blessing in my life," said Zuniga. "I don't know how I'll ever repay them for all they've done for me, but someday I will."

One thing that has been really challenging for Zuniga, which is also true for most college students, is time management. He loves to stay busy and be involved but sometimes he feels a bit overwhelmed. However, thinking of his end goal and his passion for what he does is what keeps him going.

In his four years here, Zuniga has met some amazing people and built incredible relationships. "The things I've learned through people and the interactions I've had at Brevard are some of the most dear to me," said Zuniga. "I've grown in ways I never knew I would thanks to the people I've met along my journey here. I'll never forget them."

College is a place for growth and change. If there's one thing Zuniga has learned at Brevard it's to "Never. Give. Up." Even when the world is falling apart and you feel lost and broken, "you have to keep pushing forward because once you get through it, you'll be twice as strong, ready for the next challenge," said Zuniga.

His advice is also to have fun. "College is your time to find yourself and use your freedom," said Zuniga.

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Courtesy of Anthony Zuniga

Anthony Zuniga

Hard times for local business owners

By Mickayla Smith
Staff Writer

Right now, the coronavirus has put a halt on leisure activities such as seeing a movie, going to concerts and going out to eat. Because of this sudden pandemic, places that we know and love will be financially hurting. Big chain restaurants like McDonald's have enough financial security to pick themselves up after the quarantine has ended. However, what about small local businesses?

Restaurants operate on profit margins. Sometimes the amount may vary between being more than enough to just barely enough. Having this huge gap in normal sales is going to have a big impact, regardless of how prepared each establishment thought they were before this.

A lot of local businesses have temporarily changed how they sell food to their customers

by switching to take-out and/or delivery. This has decreased social interaction between people gathering and possibly spreading the virus. Along with switching to take-out or delivery, restaurants have kept special tabs of wiping all surfaces and keeping their personal hygiene on par.

It's important to remember that a lot of service workers are facing huge wage cuts or unemployment. It is encouraged that people leave a tip whenever you pick-up food because it helps the workers keep their job and livelihood.

Here are a few ways to help your local business survive in these stressful times:

Go out and pick up food. As long as the government allows us to leave our homes, you can pick up as much food as you want. If traveling is an issue, some restaurants are participating in "Meals on Wheels" or working with their local communities to deliver food to

shut-ins and elderly people who cannot leave their house. You can also order food online and pick it up. Or you can call and order in bulk, and freeze it when you get home. These businesses want to stay open, so they will do their best to satisfy your needs and expectations.

Buy gift cards and merchandise from a local establishment. Restaurants collect revenue as soon as the card is purchased, then they mark it redeemed once a customer applies it to a bill. If you are sitting on some extra cash, buy a gift card. If you are able to save that gift card for the future, you'll be helping your local business.

Again, tip the servers. They are getting hit with a big blow to their bank accounts now. When you go to pick up food, tip the cashier. A lot of people don't feel the need to tip on a to-go order, but now is the time to do so because it could be the deciding factor of them keeping their jobs or losing them.



The Rural Seed Restaurant located in Columbus, NC.

Courtesy of Mickayla Smith

Weekly Horoscopes

By Mickayla Smith
Staff Writer

Aries: Times are stressful right now, and you may feel like you need to distract yourself rather than deal with the stressful situation. In solitary times, it is a good idea to practice self-care in order to lift your spirits.

Taurus: You are a proud person which is a good thing. However, being too proud to admit that you're wrong about something won't do your character any good. Be mindful of your pride.

Gemini: Just because someone may have authority, money, fame or any sort of power does not make them experts. If you feel like they are incorrect, say something. Yes, it may be intimidating, but they may admire your honesty.

Cancer: Spending too much time dwelling on the negative circumstances around you isn't the best thing to do. Things may seem overwhelming right now but try to keep your spirits up. It's time to go back to your happy place.

Leo: If you have noticed that someone has been taking advantage of your kindness, it's time to cut them off. Don't let this become a pattern, and make the tough decision to say "no."

Virgo: Quarantine has been a blessing to your sign. You have been on top of your work and you have been inspired to start old projects you have pushed off for a very long time. This is the perfect time to do some spring cleaning.

Libra: There is a difference between wealth and abundance. Wealth normally refers to economic gain while abundance refers to the love from friends and family. Take this week to notice what you're grateful for.

Scorpio: You may have noticed people have been panicking and taking more than they should because of fear. This week, you will think outside the box. You will have a much easier time adapting to changing circumstances if you know that you will always find a way to overcome obstacles.

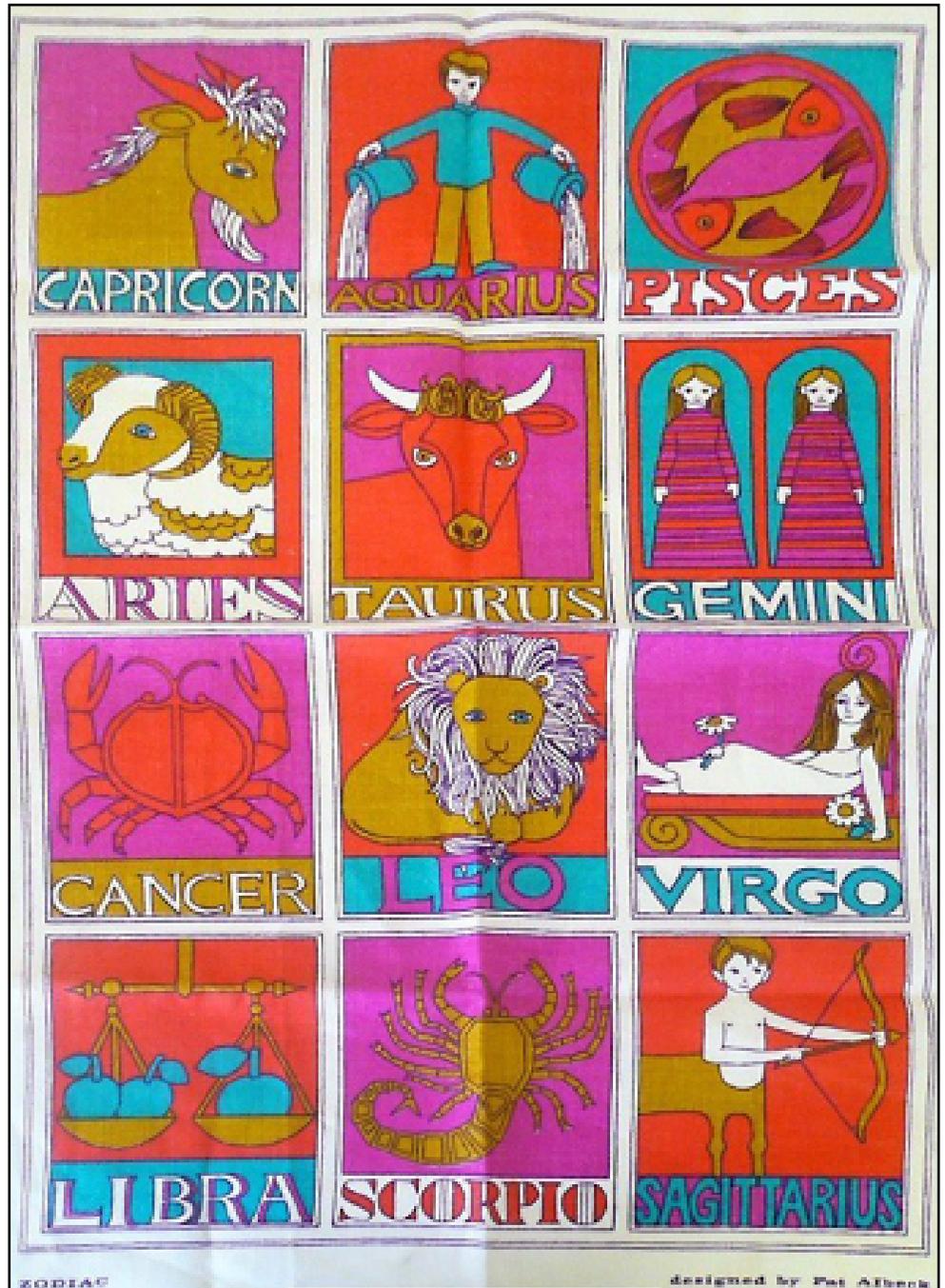
Sagittarius: This is a time to work on your self-confidence. Don't do anything extreme right now. Maybe save an important conversation for another time when you feel ready for it.

Capricorn: At the beginning of the week, you may feel more content and at peace than you have lately. What you're personally feeling may differ from the world around you, but it's because you have a strong will. You're getting

closer to finding your center.

Aquarius: Don't let the things you cannot change, change you. Find more ways to be flexible in dealing with these challenges. Soon, things will pass and you will overcome hurdles.

Pisces: Instead of getting things stirred up this week, take time to examine all that you have done. It's time to slow down and reflect on life. By slowing down, you may find a better way to achieve your goals.



Send us your questions using The Clarion's new Spring 2020 Feedback Form

<https://bit.ly/clarion-feedback-2020>

The Uncensored Library

Bypassing censorship and gaining press freedom

By Solomon Turner
Staff Writer

The Uncensored Library is the collaborative brainchild of Reporters Without Borders, the world's biggest defender of media freedom, which they regard as a basic human right to be informed and to inform others and Blockworks, a Minecraft creation company. It launched March 12, 2020 on World Day Against Cyber Censorship and marks a new age of circumventing censorship.

This virtual library houses a collection of inaccessible articles from all over the world with five distinct sections focused on Egypt, Russia, Mexico, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam. James Delaney, managing director of Blockworks, states in an interview with The Verge that the content of each room is illegal but has been accessed from all five target countries showing that their effort is working.

At the entrance of the library is an official declaration of the library's purpose and once inside a world map is displayed on the ground. This map is based on the Press Freedom Index ranking 180 countries according to their

censorship status. The United States ranks 48 out of 180.

In the main rotunda is a dome with all the represented countries' flags with an associated book reporting the press freedom of each country. According to Delaney, most users look at the map and go straight for their country.

Its construction took three months to complete with the cooperation of 24 builders from 16 different countries. The building comprises 12.5 million blocks and took more than 250 hours to design and create.

Minecraft was chosen as the platform for this endeavor due to its wide popularity with 145 million monthly players, its ability to support creative expression and its international accessibility. Delaney notes that the server has been working smoothly with attempts to dismantle it. This is another reason Minecraft was chosen: unless the platform is banned completely it cannot be censored and because the map itself is downloadable all that needs to be done is for it to be reuploaded again.

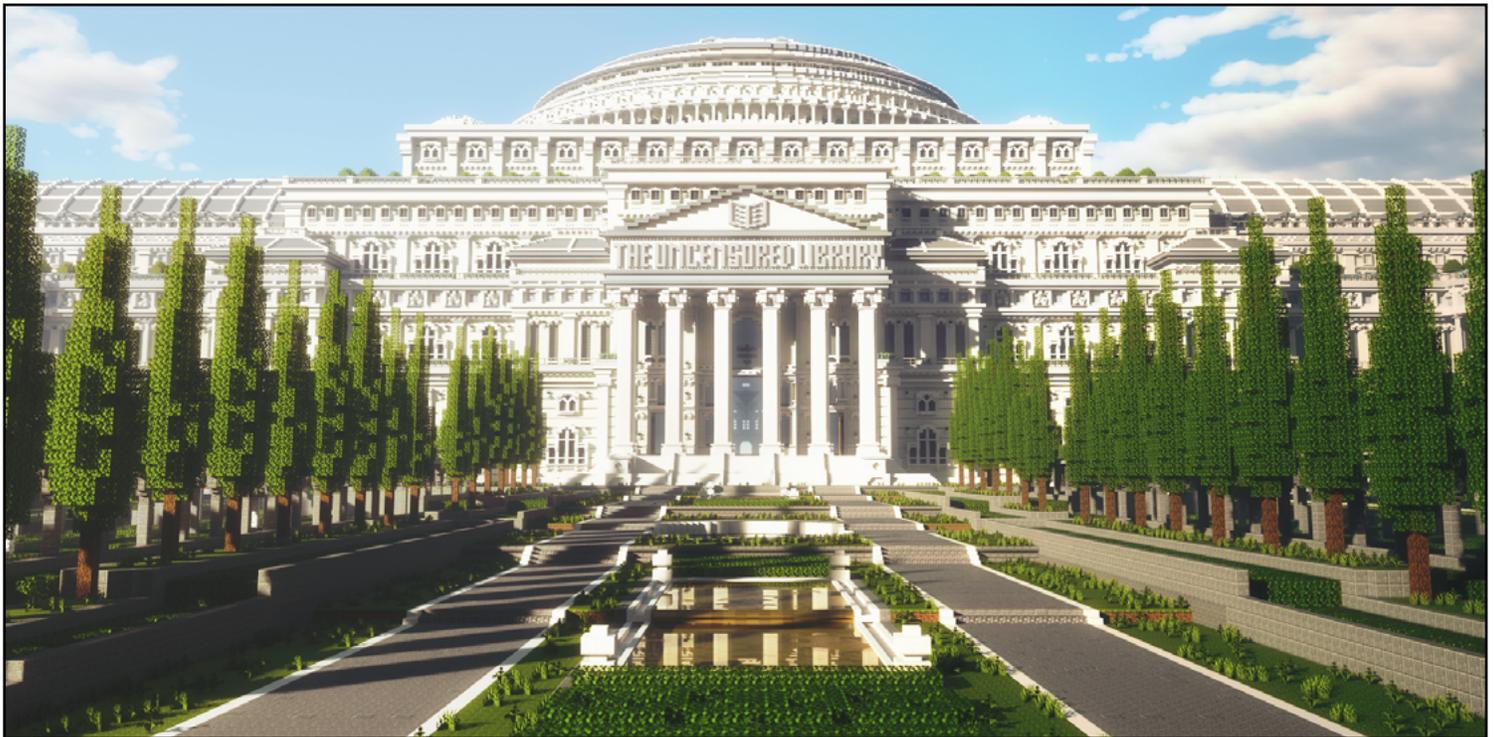
This inability to be completely censored provides a loophole to overcome censorship providing unlimited freedom of speech

and expression in countries that have no or limited freedom. According to The Verge, The Uncensored Library has been a great success with, as of March 15, 175 countries have accessed it including individuals from all five target countries.

According to DDB Senior Creative Tobi Natterer, there have been huge audiences in Russia and Mexico, two of their target regions. So far around 40 percent of players have returned more than once, showing that logins aren't just one-time deals.

According to the official Uncensored Library website "Censored Articles Become Uncensored Books Within Minecraft," the new online resource has allowed journalists from five different countries who have been banned, jailed, exiled or killed to have their voices heard. As The Uncensored Library continues its operation, Reporters Without Borders will continue to contact journalists, add new countries and add new content.

The building itself can be accessed through a downloadable map on uncensoredlibrary.com or through their online multiplayer server, visit uncensoredlibrary.com, on version 1.14.4.



The entrance to The Uncensored Library, located in Minecraft. The library can also be accessed on the Web at uncensoredlibrary.com.

Let us know how you're doing with our new Pandemic Feedback Form

<https://bit.ly/clarion-feedback-2020>

How Americans are handling the coronavirus

By Eleanor Flannery
Sports Editor

The coronavirus outbreak is advancing at an alarming rate, and it feels like a scary time to be alive in the world. The coronavirus pandemic, to me, seemed like nothing to worry about when I first heard of it; it was no different from a typical flu. Boy, was I wrong.

People everywhere are panicking, buying out the aisles of grocery stores, stockpiling toilet paper of all things! Places are closing down, like schools, colleges, community centers, shopping malls, even freaking Disney World closed its doors.

But I don't think most people are overreacting, at least not anymore. I do think people should be more mindful of their neighbors when shopping for Charmin, but staying indoors and avoiding your neighbor seems like an appropriate choice. The rate at which the virus is spreading in the United States alone is rapid, and it is being projected to spread at historic levels if it isn't contained and taken seriously. The CDC and health officials around the globe suggest that focusing on social distancing may help slow the spread of the virus.

According to Vox, "Researchers currently believe one person with COVID-19 generally infects two to more than three others, which would make the new coronavirus more transmittable than seasonal flu, SARS and MERS. That's why social distancing measures are so important."

Of course, the burden of the containment of the coronavirus cannot all be placed upon the people; our leaders need to also be held accountable. The Trump administration seems to be scrambling to reassure Americans of their safety from catching the virus, but often reiterate the guidelines suggested by the CDC and leading health officials. But not everyone in the administration is humming a similar tune.

Our very own commander in chief, when asked by a reporter what he would say to American civilians who are scared, took the time to personally degrade the journalist rather than answer the question. During Friday's White House news briefing on the coronavirus, NBC News correspondent Peter Alexander asked President Trump, "What do you say to Americans watching you right now who are scared?" And I know what you're thinking—what a simple question! Gee, even Trump could answer this one, what with the constant updates

from other news outlets and recommendations from WHO and the CDC, he should knock this one out of the park, piece of cake.

No, no, you see, Trump took this time to verbally attack the reporter. He said, "I'd say that you're a terrible reporter, that's what I'd say. I think it's a very nasty question and I think it's a very bad signal that you're putting out to the American people. The American people are looking for answers and they're looking for hope, and you're doing sensationalism." He also told the correspondent, "you ought to be ashamed of yourself."

I wish I were joking, but no, that was his actual response. When Vice President Mike Pence was later probed with the same question, he urged Americans to "be vigilant." And he didn't even insult the questioner!

It would be reassuring to many Americans to hear a positive, professional and concise message from their president in a time like this, but I know that is asking a lot, since terms like "Trump" and "professionalism" don't exactly go hand-in-hand. But I also know that many Americans aren't surprised by the way Trump is handling the crisis, being that his administration axed the United States pandemic response team, back in 2018, a decision made to "cut costs."

In spite of the lack of reassurance the president may offer, your average Joe knows right from wrong, and isn't inept when it comes to dealing with the spread of the virus. I know I'm preaching to the choir, but seriously, stay safe out there. Practice social distancing, wash your hands, be mindful of those around you and, of course, stay vigilant.

Coronavirus and college sports

How athletes are handling the pandemic

By Margaret Correll
Layout & Design

Brevard College is one of the hundreds of colleges across America that is being affected by coronavirus, or COVID-19. Through these changing times, many student-athletes are affected by the decisions that are being made.

The USA South Athletic Conference unanimously announced on March 13, 2020, that all spring sports' regular seasons, non-conference tournaments and tournament competitions would be cancelled. This put all of the student-athletes within the conference, including the Brevard College Tornados, out for the season with no chance of returning.

On March 13, 2020, the NCAA announced that it would allow eligibility relief to all Division III athletes who participated in spring sports during the 2020 spring season. This will allow for athletes to have extra eligibility for continued participation, if needed.

While this all sounds nice and colleges are doing what they can to try and remedy this

situation, it does not help the fact that many athletes across the country are losing a whole season of their two or four-year time at their school. Students are losing that time to make memories with their teammates, go on trips and finish out a great year of playing.

Taking into account the loss of time for juniors, sophomores and freshmen, it may not be as big of a deal, but for seniors who are also student athletes, this is a hard situation to overcome. Graduating and leaving a sport behind, more than likely forever, is something that every senior has to deal with. The situation at hand is taking away the opportunity to have a great last season for every senior affected by this virus.

Everything that could have been done to help student-athletes during this time was handled properly, but it does not make it hurt any less to those that may not be able to come back after this spring. For the student-athletes who are taking it hard, remember the good times you had with your team and try to see a bright side in all of this, if there is one.