



## Removal process for DA Greg Newman to move forward

By Aia Andonovska  
Copy Editor

District Attorney Greg Newman has recently come under fire and been questioned for claims of abuse of power and impunity. This past Monday, April 12, at 10 a.m., a historic hearing was held to determine whether or not he should be removed from office. One of the witnesses subpoenaed by the independent counsel to testify, is Brevard College alumna Grace Pryor.

A group of families of victims of alleged child rape, murder, and other crimes banded together on a private Facebook page called “Mountain Justice.” These people came together because they assert that Newman mishandled their cases or never even prosecuted them at all.

Brevard College’s alumna, Grace Pryor, had her own dealings with Newman. Pryor, now 26 years old, was the victim of rape on Brevard College’s campus. When Pryor tried to get legal help, Newman scoffed at her experience and

wrote her off. “He told me five different ways it was my fault. The one that resonates the most is he said it was because I was wearing a crop top and leggings. It was pretty horrifying.” She continued, “I think Newman took it like a joke. He acted like it was over before he had even met me. He never gave me a fair chance.”

Despite the fact that Brevard College found Pryor’s rapists guilty and had them expelled, Newman would not take the college’s actions nor detective reports into consideration. “He said it was in my best interest not to prosecute.” Pryor said. Pryor had not met Newman up until this point, and he finally granted her an interview in August of 2015. She went with Brevard College Dean of Students, Deborah D’Anna, to his office in Hendersonville, where Newman told her he would not prosecute, according to Pryor, “because I was wearing a crop top and leggings,

**See ‘Newman’ on page 2**

## Graduation update

Dear BC Community,

Thank you for your patience as we continue to plan for our 2021 Commencement, Saturday, May 8th on the Ives-Lemel Family Field, rain or shine.

Commencement Ceremony #1 will begin at 8 a.m. (Active Thunderstorm Reschedule Time 4 p.m.)

Commencement Ceremony #1 will consist of Education, Wilderness Leadership & Experiential Education, Business & Organizational Leadership, Criminal Justice, Psychology

Commencement Ceremony #2 will begin at 12 p.m. (Active Thunderstorm Reschedule Time 7 p.m.)

**See ‘Graduation’ on Page 2**

## Brevard College Springfest

Brevard College Campus Activity Board will be hosting Spring Fest on campus this Thursday, April 15; please come out and join us!

The event will be located at Myers Plaza, in front of Myers’ Dining Hall from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and will include:

- 2 Food Trucks (Appalachian Smoke BBQ and Cecilia’s Tamales/Empanadas) One ticket per student, first come first serve. The dining hall will also be open following regular hours.
- Airbrush Tees, first come first serve.
- Caricature artist
- Llamas
- The Get Right Band, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

All students and faculty are welcome to attend the event while wearing a mask and practicing social distancing protocols.

— Eleanor Flannery

**Spring Fest**

LLAMAS  
FOOD TRUCKS  
CARICATURES  
AIRBRUSH T-SHIRTS

**BREVARD COLLEGE**

Thurs., April 15 | 4:30pm - 7:30pm | Myers Plaza



# Graduation

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Commencement Ceremony #2 will consist of Art, Music, Theatre, English, History, Integrated Studies, Philosophy & Religion, Biology, Environmental Studies, Exercise Science, Health Science, Mathematics, 2019-2020 Graduates who would like to walk.

— The Brevard College Commencement Team

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✉ **Letters Policy:** The Clarion welcomes letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit letters for length or content. We do not publish letters whose authorship cannot be verified.

# COVID-19 on campus

By Caroline Hoy  
Staff Writer

How many cases of COVID-19 are there on the Brevard College campus? That is the question on so many students' minds and many are questioning how safe the student, faculty and staff are.

This semester, Brevard College, as of April 10, has seen a total of 81 positive cases that continue to increase. That may seem like a lot, but those 81 positive cases are out of a total of 5,641 tests. The college has also seen a whopping 5,560 negative test.

Many people have questioned why there are so many positive cases, recently, especially compared to last semester. Deb D'Anna, Vice President for Student Success and Dean for Students attributed the many cases to the aggressive testing that has been done this semester.

Also, Brevard College is placing more students in quarantine this semester than the last. As of April 10, there are 69 students in quarantine. The school has been placing students in quarantine very often due to trying to minimize the spread of the virus.

Of course, the spread of this virus can be minimized with the help of the vaccine. Brevard College held a clinic on March 31, 2021, for the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. D'Anna said she was very pleased with the turnout and, out of the 237 students that signed up, just a little over 200 ended up getting the vaccine.

A few students ended up fainting, but overall, most students took the vaccine well. Many students ended up having no severe side effects after the shot was administered, but most ended up nauseated and sore afterwards, while a handful of students ended up getting very sick

from the vaccine.

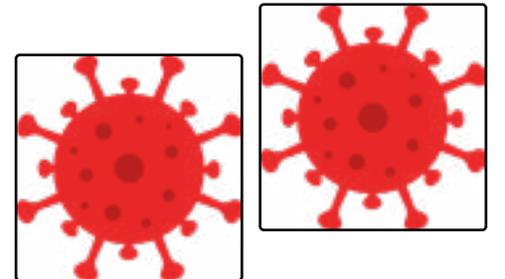
Johnson and Johnson is the vaccine that is known for having the most amount of side effects. So it was a real question as to why that was the vaccine that the school provided to students, well D'Anna said that was the only vaccine available that the time.

As of April 8, 2021 Brevard College will not require students to have the vaccine to return to campus next year. D'Anna said, "My hope is students do their research."

When asked why this semester classes did not go online for two weeks when numbers got much higher than last semester D'Anna said, "We could manage the cases we have without going online."

The numbers of COVID-19 cases have seen their high points this semester with the week of March 22, seeing 20 positive cases, but the college has been taking many steps to keep students safe. At the highest point, the college has seen a positivity rate of 3.4 percent and for the school to consider shutting down the number would have to be closer to 10 percent.

Overall, Brevard College's COVID-19 cases seem high and alarming, but the school is being very precocious this semester. Of course, remember to stay COVID-19 safe and social distance, wear a mask and wash your hands.



## Newman refused several prosecution cases

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and because I wasn't a virgin."

Pryor asked Newman to bring her case to a grand jury, but he refused, saying that her whole life would be put out on the table and she would be torn apart on the stand. Pryor pleaded with Newman, saying she was willing to risk it, but to no avail. He flat out told her no.

Newman's actions with Grace Pryor seem to be consistent with others in which he has refused to prosecute rape, in particular child rape cases. The 2015 case of Valerie Owenby proves this point. She claimed that between the ages of 5 and 12 she was raped by a neighbor named James Sapp in Hendersonville. Newman allowed Sapp to plead down from a felony child rape case to

a misdemeanor assault on a female, which now has become a central part of Newman's removal hearing. In November 2020, a panel found that Newman had lied to a judge about Owenby not wanting to be heard in court. In fact, he did not notify her of the plea deal at all.

Only three district attorneys have been removed from elected office in the history of the state of North Carolina. However, this is the first case in which a group of outraged victims and families have taken on a government official in North Carolina. It is Newman's job to uphold justice, and in failing to do so, he will now be at the mercy of the court system.

# The trial of Derek Chauvin: overview and update

By Anna Ervin  
Staff Writer

Former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin is currently facing charges of manslaughter and second- and third-degree murder, in the case of George Floyd. The trial proceedings began on Monday, March 29, and are expected to last two to four weeks. Here are the current happenings of this trial as of April 10, 2021.

The first week of the trial, each side laid out its strategy within their opening statements. Eric Nelson, Chauvin's lawyer, attempted to convince the judges that the videos of Floyd's arrest and death did not depict the entire story. Prosecutors called their witnesses before the defense fully displayed their case, so this was a week heavily weighted towards the prosecution.

To summarize, the trial began with a range of testimonies from first-hand witnesses to highlight the emotional trauma caused by the arrest; the arrest was replayed from every angle possible. The issue of drug abuse was addressed by his girlfriend, Courney Ross, and Derek Smith, a paramedic at the scene, testified that there were "no signs of life" upon arrival. And Richard Zimmerman, the longest-serving officer in the Minneapolis Police Department, offered condemnation of Chauvin's use of force.

Day six of the trial, witnesses Bradford T. Wankhede Langenfled, who was a senior resident at the Hennepin County Medical Center, and the chief of the Minneapolis Police Department, Medaria Arradondo, were brought forth. Langenfled spent 30 minutes attempting to save Floyd and said that he believed lack of oxygen was the cause of death. Arradondo said that Chauvin violated the department's policies, but Chauvin's defense pushed back on the issue of any possible policy violations.

Day seven, Chauvin's defense argued that the crowd formed on the sidewalk during the arrest made it difficult for him to remove his knee from Floyd's neck. This shifted the proceedings into a phase two: discussing whether Chauvin's actions had aligned with his training or if he had violated police policy.

To support these claims, the Chauvin defense pulled from the testimony of Officer Nicole Mackenzie, the medical support coordinator for the Minneapolis Police Department, and questioned Los Angeles Police Sgt. Jody Stiger,

a use-of-force expert and Sgt. Ker Yang, a crisis intervention coordinator with the Minneapolis Police Department.

Day eight was a continuation of the prosecution's argument that Chauvin used deadly force when it was not appropriate. Expert, Sgt. Jody Stiger, who works with the Los Angeles Police Department Inspector General's Office, was called forth and said that Chauvin put Floyd at risk of positional asphyxia, meaning Floyd was deprived of oxygen. This led the proceeding to then focus on Floyd's drug use.

The ninth day brought key medical witnesses to the stand, two of which said that drugs played no role in the death of Floyd. The defense for Chauvin is trying to tie Floyd's death to the fentanyl and methamphetamine that were found in his system, but Martin J. Tobin, a pulmonologist and critical care physician from



Derek Chauvin in court during his murder trial of George Floyd. Photo from CBS News



Chauvin trial witnesses who have testified, clockwise from top left: Minneapolis Police Chief Medaria Arradondo; HCMC Dr. Bradford Lagenfeld; Courteney Ross, George Floyd's girlfriend; Charles McMillian, a witness. Photo from Star Tribune

the Chicago area, said that any normal person could have died from being pinned under Chauvin's knee for nine and a half minutes.

Tobin's testimony gave an in-depth breakdown of the arrest, identifying the moment he believed the life left Floyd's body. Tobin also said he saw no evidence of an overdose from the footage of the arrest and was breathing normally until unconscious. Bill Smock, the surgeon for the Louisville

Metropolitan Police Department, also testified, saying he saw no evidence of an overdose.

This is a current account of the Chauvin Trial and is a collection of witnesses and moments. It only includes key moments of each day, not everything, so if you would like to know more, these proceedings are being broadcasted on Court TV.

# Georgia voting law causes controversy

By Kellen McGeorge  
Staff Writer

Voting has been an integral part of America and its government ever since the United States was founded. However, there have been many times where voting is threatened due to certain laws throughout history. Following the 2020 election, Georgia passed a new voting law that has Democrats and Republicans arguing over what it could mean for the state.

Democrats have claimed that the new law will restrict voting in future elections, with President Biden stating in an interview, “What I’m worried about is how un-American this whole initiative is. Deciding that you’re going to end voting at five o’clock when working people are just getting off work.” Though that is a bit of an exaggeration, as the law allows for

counties to set voting hours anywhere between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., which was the case for the previous voting laws.

As a part of the pandemic, drop boxes were used in Georgia following an emergency rule. As a part of the new voting law, drop boxes will be reduced, with one county stating it will drop from 38 to 8 drop boxes. Democrats say this will make voting harder for citizens, but that is being said without proper context. Prior to the 2020 election, drop boxes were not used, they were brought in as part of an emergency COVID-19 action. While this law will reduce the number of boxes, it is keeping them as a permanent fixture for future elections.

While Democrats claim that the new voting law is restricting voting for citizens, Republicans claim the opposite, saying that it

will expand access to voting for its citizens. Despite this claim, however, certain parts of the law make it hard for Republicans to make their case. Some laws restrict the use of a mobile voting program that was launched in Fulton County, Georgia, which was used to help voters circumvent the long lines and to service voters with disabilities. However, some parts are beneficial to Republican arguments, with some parts extending in-person early voting by two voting periods on a Saturday for each county.

With the law still causing trouble for both sides, it is hard to say which side is right about the new law. With some luck, the arguments will die down and both sides will be able to agree on a compromise for the new voting law in Georgia.

# Johnson & Johnson vaccine paused in U.S. due to rare cases of blood clots

By Eleanor Flannery  
Opinion Editor

It was reported on Tuesday, April 13 that the United States will temporarily halt administering the Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine due to rare cases of blood clotting. The CDC and Food and Drug Administration will stop the use of the vaccine on federal sites, and recommends states follow suit while health and safety issues are examined.

The pause of the single-dose vaccine comes after six recipients in the U.S. reported development of a rare blood clotting disorder, developed approximately two weeks after the vaccine was administered. All six of the recipients were women, aged between 18 and 48 years old. As of now, one of the women has died, and another is reported to be in the hospital in critical condition.

While these reports are alarming and very serious, the condition is extraordinarily rare, but precautionary protocols are in process to avoid additional cases. According to the CDC, about 7 million Americans have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccination, thus far, while 9 million more doses have been shipped to the U.S.

From the New York Times: “We are recommending a pause in the use of this

vaccine out of an abundance of caution,” Dr. Peter Marks, director of the Food and Drug Administration’s Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, and Dr. Anne Schuchat, principal deputy director of the C.D.C., said in a joint statement. “Right now, these adverse events appear to be extremely rare.”

According to the New York Times, “Scientists with the F.D.A. and C.D.C. will jointly examine possible links between the vaccine and the disorder and determine whether the F.D.A.

should continue to authorize use of the vaccine for all adults or limit the authorization. An emergency meeting of the C.D.C.’s outside advisory committee has been scheduled for Wednesday.”

There is no cause for panic, as the adverse effects and reports of blood clots are incredibly rare, however, it is important to follow developments on this story. The Clarion urges students and faculty to do their own research on COVID-19 vaccines to protect themselves and others around them.



Janssen Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine dose.

Photo from ABC 7 News



## Office of Academic Affairs

# 2021 Honors and Awards Ceremonies Schedule

### ***Campus Honors and Awards Ceremony***

Tuesday, April 20 | 4:30 PM | Porter Center Amphitheater

Inclement weather alternate date is April 27. If both dates are rained out, then the event will be presented via Zoom.

### ***Campus Life Student Leaders***

Tuesday, April 20 | 6:00 PM | Porter Center Amphitheater

Inclement weather alternate date is April 27. If both dates are rained out, then the event will be presented via Zoom.

### ***Fine Arts Honors and Awards Ceremony***

Wednesday, April 21 | 2:00 PM | Porter Center Amphitheater

If inclement weather, ceremony will be presented via Zoom.

### ***Music Honors Recital***

Thursday, April 22 | 5:00 PM | Porter Center Concert Hall or WPA at Brevard Music Center (TBD)

### ***Psychology Awards Ceremony***

Monday, April 26 | 6:00 PM | Porter Center Amphitheater

Rain Date: April 30 | 6:00 PM | Porter Center Amphitheater

### ***Teacher Education***

Thursday, April 29 | 5:00-6:30 PM | Porter Center Amphitheater (If inclement weather: Scott Commons)

### ***Business and Organizational Leadership Awards Ceremony***

Awards will be presented in BORG Classes

### ***Criminal Justice Awards Ceremony***

Awards will be presented in Criminal Justice Classes

### ***Humanities Awards Ceremony***

Awards will be presented in Humanities Classes

### ***Science and Math Awards Ceremony***

Awards will be presented on the division website and in Science and Math classes

### ***Wilderness Leadership Experiential Education Gathering (By invitation only)***

Date: TBD | WLEE Barn

# Minnesota police officer mistakenly shoots an unarmed man at traffic stop

*Protesters hold vigil in Minneapolis for Duante Wright amidst Derek Chauvin trial*

By Eleanor Flannery  
Opinion Editor

A Minneapolis police officer fatally shot an unarmed, 20-year-old black man during a traffic stop on Sunday. The officer, identified as Kim Potter, has been a part of the Brooklyn Center Police Department for 26 years, and mistakenly fired her weapon at Daunte Wright instead of tasing him.

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Criminal Apprehension stated that Potter is currently on administrative leave. Body camera footage released after the incident shows Potter firing at Wright.

A report by the New York Times said the following: "In a brief clip of body camera video, officers from the Brooklyn Center Police Department can be seen trying to handcuff the driver, Daunte Wright, before he suddenly lurches back into his car. One of the officers aims a weapon at Wright and shouts, "Taser! Taser! Taser!" Potter was heard saying, "Holy

shit, I just shot him," after firing a single round at Wright.

Hundreds of protestors gathered outside of the Brooklyn Center Police Station in light of the incident, amidst the stress the state is under during the trial of Derek Chauvin for the murder of George Floyd. Demonstrators came together for a second consecutive night, sparring with police officers after defying a newly placed 7 p.m. curfew.

The New York Times reported that protestors "occasionally lobbed water bottles and rocks over newly erected fencing, chanting "killer cop" and "hands up, don't shoot" while officers clad in riot gear stood guard. Officers responded by sporadically firing projectiles at the crowd and at one point released a chemical agent that caused people to start coughing."

The Washington Post reported: "At 6 p.m. local time, an hour before curfew, hundreds of people joined Wright's family for a vigil held at the site where he was killed. The crowd

remained silent as a trumpeter played "Lift Every Voice and Sing" — often referred to as the "Black national anthem" — and then a minister introduced Wright's mother, Katie Wright.

"My heart is literally broken into a thousand pieces and I don't know what to do or what to say. But I just need everybody to know that he is much more than this," she said, holding back tears. "I just need everyone to know that he was my life, he was my son, and I can never get that back," she added.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz expressed his condolences to Wright's family during a news conference and said it was important to acknowledge "we don't have to continue having these press conferences and having what may be a routine traffic stop and a 20-year-old dead, a family devastated and a community on edge." Gov. Walz has pledged to hold police reform hearings "with the support of both law enforcement and community groups."

The Brooklyn Centre Police chief Tim Gannon said, after release of Potter's body camera footage, that the incident was an "accidental discharge that resulted in the tragic death of Wright." Gannon declined many questions and refused to identify the officer or answer additional details.

When asked "Why is it that police officers in the United States keep killing young Black men and young Black women at a far, far, far higher rate than they do White people?" by one of the questioners, Gannon replied, "I don't have an answer to that question."

As of now, it is up to Washington County Attorney Pete Orput to decide whether he will press charges against the officer after an intensive review of the case. "I'm hoping Wednesday, but I want to have the opportunity to give my condolences to his family and explain to them my decision," Orput told the Star Tribune.



Photo from CBS Minnesota

Protesters gather in Minneapolis, Minnesota for demonstration outside Brooklyn Center Police Dept. for George Floyd and Duante Wright.

# Arkansas first state to ban gender-affirming treatments for transgender youth

By Eleanor Flannery  
Opinion Editor

Last Tuesday, Arkansas became the first state to ban gender-affirming treatment and gender confirmation surgery for transgender youths after lawmakers effectively overrode GOP Gov. Asa Hutchinson's veto.

According to the Washington Post, "Arkansas legislators voted 25 to 8 in the Senate and 71 to 24 in the House to override the veto from Gov. Asa Hutchinson (R) and approve legislation that would prohibit doctors from providing transgender minors with medical care such as puberty blockers, hormone therapies and transition-related surgeries, and from referring them for such treatments."

The ban is one of many similar bills passed throughout 18 states in the U.S., this year, that prohibits the access of transgender minors to seek medical treatment. Conservative lawmakers' agenda to regulate the rights of transgender youth is becoming a growing effort, as young trans people lose their rights at the doctor's office to seek treatment, as well as in high school athletic programs, among other areas of society.

Gov. Hutchinson flipped the narrative a mere day prior, on Monday, by siding with medical professionals and parents' positions to handle "complex and sensitive matters" regarding transgender minors. Hutchinson dubbed the ban a "vast government overreach" and urged conservative legislators to take a different approach. However, state legislators then voted in opposition to Hutchinson's stance, successfully overriding his veto.

From the Washington Post: "Hutchinson also cited opposition from leading national medical associations that said denying access to such care could jeopardize the mental health of an

already vulnerable community."

"The bill is overbroad, extreme and does not grandfather those young people who are currently under hormone treatment," Hutchinson said in a statement. "The young people who are currently under a doctor's care will be without treatment when this law goes into effect. That means they will be looking to the black market or go out of state if they can afford it to find the treatment that they want and need. This is not the right path to put them on."

Hutchinson came to his beliefs after speaking with physicians and hearing from transgender people in his community; he said their conversations educated and informed him. "It strengthens your compassion," Hutchinson said. "It gives you more understanding."

The Executive Director of the ACLU of Arkansas, Holly Dickson, addressed the state legislators who voted in favor of the ban, saying the legislators "disregarded widespread, overwhelming, and bipartisan opposition to this bill and continued their discriminatory crusade against trans youth." Dickson said, "As Governor Hutchinson noted in his veto message, denying care to trans youth can lead to harmful and life-threatening consequences," Dickson said. "This is a sad day for Arkansas, but this fight is not over — and we're in it for the long haul. Attempting to block trans youth from the care they need simply because of who they are is not only wrong, it's also illegal, and we will be filing a lawsuit to challenge this law in court."

Opponents of the ban have decided to sue to block the passage of the ban, before it goes into effect this summer.

# One student dead and one officer injured after shoot-out at Knoxville high school

On Monday, April 13, a shoot-out broke between police officers and a student at Austin-East Magnet High School in Knoxville, Tennessee. Authorities responded after a report was made that someone was armed at the high school. According to NBC News, "Two responding officers found the person, later identified as a student, inside a school bathroom, said David Rausch, director of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation."

At approximately 3:15 p.m., officers entered the bathroom where the armed student was located and began firing at the officers. After hitting one officer, the other officer shot at the student and he was killed from the fire, David Rausch, director of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation said. "I've spent a lot of time here in this community," said Rausch, a former Knoxville police chief. "It's a sad day for Knoxville and it's tough for Austin-East."

Knox News reported the following: "Knoxville police released only basic information after the shooting, saying that an officer was recovering, and a male had been killed. Knox County School Board member Evetty Satterfield was the first public official to confirm a student had been killed. Satterfield walked across the road to a crowd of reporters, protesters and onlookers after the incident."

"We had an officer who was shot. He's in the hospital recovering," she said. "We have a student that is deceased."

Classes in Knoxville have been cancelled for two days after the events that occurred on Monday. Knox County Schools Superintendent Bob Thomas said that counselors for students would be available at Austin-East Magnet High School, on Tuesday. Thomas said a decision about the rest of the week's classes will be made at a later time. "We are all devastated by this tragedy," he said.

— Eleanor Flannery

# Vote in the SGA election

Do not forget to participate in this year's Student Government Association (SGA) election! You can find the link to vote electronically via email from Michel Cohen, Associate Dean of Students. Voting for the election will remain open until Friday, April 16. This year's nominations include:

**President:**

Chloe Proffitt (uncontested)

**Vice President:**

Gabriella Galvan  
Alyssa Hetherington

**Treasurer:**

Anthony Padillo (uncontested)

**Secretary:**

The position will be appointed by the elected SGA Executive Board.

**Speaker of the Clubs:**

The position will be appointed by the elected SGA Executive Board.

Be sure to engage in this year's election and wish good luck to the nominees!

— Kym Caldwell

# WLEE barn's newest edition

By Margaret Correll  
Editor in Chief

Brevard College's Wilderness Leadership & Experiential Education (WLEE) program received a new addition to their newly renovated barn on Thursday, April 8, 2021. Professor of 3-D Art and Sculpture and Coordinator of the Art major, Kyle Lusk added an original silhouette sculpture, depicting a female rock climber, to the silo adjacent to the barn.

This project details were discussed between Lusk, Brevard College Associate Professor and Program Coordinator of the WLEE department, Will Hobbs and Jennifer Kafsky, WLEE professor and Experiential Education Division Chair. The budget for the piece and the depiction of the climber was decided by Lusk, Hobbs and Kafsky before Lusk took on the project along with his sculpture students.

Lusk also needed a model for the sculpture, choosing a Brevard College student to get some

photographs and use those for the basis of the figure. "Ivy Blanton graciously agreed to hop on the wall in the Aux Gym so that I could get some dynamic photos of her climbing," Lusk said. The final image that is depicted on the silo was chosen by Hobbs and Kafsky.

The final step was the installation process, taking a few hands and a cherry picker to get it in place. "My Ind Study student, Lilyan Lund, and I installed the sculpture with the help of Burke Ulrey and BC's cherry picker using multiple concrete anchors," Lusk said. "We installed it on the east side so that the silhouette could be seen easily by students and families as they receive tours by our admissions staff."

A great edition to a great building, this art piece will go along nicely with the WLEE program and will add another unique quality to the newly renovated barn. Lusk is extremely pleased with how the project turned out and is glad that the WLEE department reached out to him for this project.



Photo by Kyle Lusk

A shot of the installation of the new WLEE barn sculpture.

# Remembering Rakeem Sweezy

*Gone, but never forgotten*

By Aia Andonovska  
Copy Editor

If you were at Brevard College four years ago, you probably knew Rakeem Sweezy. If you did not know him personally, you had probably heard of him, anyway. Sweezy was very involved on campus during his time here, helping out with BC Serves, working as a Resident Assistant, and taking part in plays as he was a theatre major. Known for his kindness and joyful spirit, he is a very hard person to forget. His presence, although physically not here anymore, is still felt everywhere on Brevard College's campus.

Sweezy was originally from Shelby, North Carolina and graduated from Shelby High School in 2016. During his time there, he played football. He then came to Brevard College seeking an education. He was determined to be well-known, and had plans for his own talk show one day, which is why he majored in theater. He was also a hard worker, spending his time at Hibbet's Sports and also assisting with tours for the college. In fact, this is how I met my sweet friend. Sweezy was the person who was with my group when I first came to tour Brevard College. We instantly became friends, because with an infectious spirit like he had, it was almost impossible not to. I came to Brevard College knowing that I had already made a good friend to have by my side starting my undergraduate career.

Senior Meiya Mills said of her friendship with Sweezy, "There's so many things that can be said about Sweezy but irreplaceable is the main one. He was that ball of energy that we needed on this campus; he could make anyone's day better just by being himself. He brought so much to Brevard with just his personality alone. When I first got to Brevard, Sweezy was the one who took me under his wing and became a brother to me. Having him as my peer mentor was one of the best things that ever happened. Sweezy cannot and never will be replaced and his energy is lacking on this campus. You could hear his laugh from a mile away and he knew he was about to make

you laugh or smile. He was someone that made everyone feel like they belonged here, a breath of fresh air, and so much more. Missing him is an understatement and his presence is definitely missed here. Sweezy's memory will forever live on! #LONGLIVESWEEZY."

Senior K'unique Eichelberger was one of Sweezy's best friends. "He guided me through my first semester. We used to have a blast in theatre together. I miss him a lot and I know he is with me at all times!" he said.

Another good friend of Sweezy's was Brandon Lewis, another Senior at Brevard College this year. "My brother Rakeem Sweezy. I don't know where to start man. We met freshman year in Beam on the third floor. Sweezy was a very outgoing person. He was always there when I needed him. It took a toll on me when I found out he had passed. Rest up my brother." Lewis said.

Not only did he impact the lives of fellow students and his friends, but he also left a lasting impression on the faculty here at Brevard College. The President's wife, Lynn Joyce, said of him, "Rakeem Sweezy, 'Sweezy' to everyone on this campus, was a true inspiration to each person with whom he came in contact. Always with a smile, always with a positive outlook. I have so many fond memories of times spent with Sweezy. He always attended events at the President's home where he was generally the life of the event. David and I decided to participate in the local "Dancing with Our Stars" event for the Brevard Little Theatre and of course we wanted to involve students. Sweezy was one of the first students we asked to participate. Soon after, we had a dozen or more theatre students involved. I will never forget that night or the many other wonderful memories we shared with our friend."

Vice President of Academic Affairs Scott Sheffield said of Sweezy, "I loved Sweezy's authenticity and genuine affection for everyone he met. He used to visit me in my office regularly and give me a big 'ole bear hug. When I remember those moments, I can still feel his

presence in my life. Gone, but never forgotten."

Alessandra, Tavoloni, more commonly known as Le around campus, worked closely with Sweezy during his time here at BC. "Sweezy made my day brighter with his big smile. He stepped into Brevard College already making a difference in people's lives, in my life. He was the recipient of the Outstanding First Year Student Award and Resident Assistant of the Year to name a few. His leadership, his dedication, his love for student involvement, and his way to make new friendships created a positive environment for those around him and for the entire BC community. Sweezy was always smiling and he loved what he was involved with. He loved CAB, (Campus Activities Board) his residents, and his friends. He loved the faculty and staff and he loved Brevard College. And for all of that, we will always LOVE Sweezy."

Christopher Center, a friend of Sweezy's and at one point his RA, said of him, "Sweezy was without a doubt one of my favorite residents from my time as an RA. He somehow found the time to make every interaction meaningful from 'Real Housewives of Atlanta' reenactments to karaoke on the car, he was a source of energy. My first meaningful interaction with Sweezy was a couple of nights after moving in. I was sitting on duty in the lobby of Beam and heard the loudest boom and crash sounds. After running up the stairs, I found him on the floor with a crowd of people laughing hysterically. After asking what happened, he took a moment, looked me straight in the eyes, and through labored breathing from laughing himself, he apologized because he had been dancing and slipped off the couch. From that moment I knew I had to be his friend. There were countless instances of speechless laughter with that big-hearted guy; each one holding a special place in our hearts at BC."

Dee Dasburg, Associate Dean of Students and Coordinator for Counseling Services, also had a few things to say about Sweezy.

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# Brevard recalls memories with Sweezy

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“When I think of Sweezy, the first image that comes to mind is his beautiful smile and his great, loving presence that would so quickly materialize into a hug. I know a lot of Sweezy fans will be mentioning that same attribute. My personal experience with Sweezy was getting an inside look at just how passionate he was about wanting to keep the peace, especially with other students he worked with. I remember helping with a conflictual situation where emotions were running a bit a high, and there was Sweezy, earnestly asking for resolution and expressing the need for the relationships to be okay, in spite of the recent upset due to conflict. Sweezy truly cared about others, valued his friendships, and took great care to make sure others were doing okay. I know we all miss him.”

Dean of Students Debbie D’Anna said, “I have been doing this work for over 30 years and have met a lot of students. Sweezy was one of a kind. He had energy that was contagious and always made me smile. I miss his hugs and his wonderful smile. He was the first student that I ever had tell me he loved me. Sweezy was never afraid to tell others he loved them. We could all learn a lot from him.”

It is evident that Sweezy impacted Brevard College’s campus, faculty, and students in many ways. He would have graduated last year, in May of 2020. This year, he will be honored by his friends at the 2021 graduation ceremony. His legacy will forever be remembered at Brevard College.



A photo collage of Sweezy and his close friends.

## Herschel Walker running for Georgia Senate

Earlier this year, former United States president Donald Trump urged legendary NFL running back Herschel Walker to run for U.S. Senate.

“Wouldn’t it be great if the legendary Herschel Walker ran for the United States Senate in Georgia?” Donald Trump wrote in an official statement. “He would be unstoppable, just like he was when he played for the Georgia Bulldogs, and in the NFL. He is also a GREAT person. Run, Herschel, Run!”

Walker, 59, is a Georgia native. He is arguably the best player in college football history at the running back position, and his name still carries a lot of weight in his home state, which has become critical political ground.

Sunday morning, Walker admitted he is considering a run against Sen. Raphael Warnock, a Democrat who won his seat this year and will have to defend it in 2022. Walker,

of course, would not be the first celebrity turned politician. Of course, jokes are already being made about a potential run, as some have noted what happened the last time Walker left Texas (when he was traded by the Cowboys for a huge package that set up their dynasty in the 1990s).

Walker, a Wrightsville, Georgia native, was a three-time consensus All-American playing for the Bulldogs. He went on to play in the USFL (where he first became familiar with Donald Trump) and the NFL. Walker was a two-time professional bowler and last played in the NFL in 1997.

It will be interesting to see if Walker fully commits to a run for U.S. Senate.

—Harell Mitchell



## Senior Profile

# Zach Johnson to graduate

By Margaret Correll  
Editor in Chief

Zachary Johnson, a Criminal Justice major, is preparing for his last hurrah at Brevard College and is looking towards graduation. As a native to western North Carolina, specifically Asheville, Johnson did not go far when looking for colleges to attend, settling on the great town of Brevard to continue his studies after high school.

One thing that draws many excited students to the campus of Brevard College is the nature that encompasses the area. This is something that drew in Johnson, “The first thing I did as a freshman was enjoy the campus and go hiking in Pisgah National Forest.” This was the beginning of many great adventures camping, climbing and exploring for Johnson.

Another benefit for new students in college is the freedom that they experience being away from home and the rules made by their parents. “Being in college, I had more freedom than at home and I had to take on way more responsibility for myself as well,” Johnson said. “It was a challenging time adjusting to having freedom on top of having new responsibilities.”

As a senior, taking time to reminisce on all the memorable moments over the last four years seems like tradition, and Johnson has made memories to last a lifetime. “My freshman year, I remember my rock climbing class and being able to explore Pisgah without my family for the first time; my sophomore year, the most memorable thing was being tazed in a criminal justice class for an assignment, it was thrilling but also scary; junior year, the most memorable thing was going into the police academy and even though I didn’t complete it I still feel like I gave my all and when it came time to realize that it wasn’t for me I accepted that; senior year was when I met the love of my life and he helped me through so many assignments and stressful situations,” Johnson said.

The relationships that are formed while attending Brevard College are a large part of what makes the campus a desirable place to be; Johnson has formed many lasting friendships with other students and relationships with his professors. “Former Criminal Justice professor Tim Powers was the most influential professor for me, he was always on my side and helped me through everything,” he said. “For friends, Jesse, Haven, Margaret and everyone else on

campus have made this place feel like home since I moved in and now my boyfriend Rinn is the one making this my home.”

Since the COVID-19 pandemic halted his junior spring semester, Johnson has had to pick back up where he left off since Brevard College went fully online for the remainder of spring 2020. One wish he had for his senior year was to be able to do more campus activities, “I wish I was able to go to more campus activities, but COVID-19 caused a crackdown until my last semester, when things started picking back up,” Johnson said.

After graduation on May 8, 2021, Johnson is looking forward to staying in the area and

working. “After college, I plan on moving into an apartment or house in the area with my boyfriend and working until I can study brewing at AB-Tech, and then I want to work at a local brewery making beer,” he said.

Brevard College will always hold a special place in Johnson’s heart after four years of friendships and memories that were formed on campus. For the rest of the semester, Johnson is looking to finish up his classes and enjoy the time that he has left at BC. “I will miss the friendly and welcoming atmosphere most of all, every time I walk around campus I just get washed over by a wave of warm welcome feelings,” Johnson said.



Zachary Johnson

# Unwritten rules of baseball

By Jake Moore  
Staff Writer

Everyone who watches baseball knows there are rules to the game, some may be more complex and some are common sense rules put in place. On top of those are actually some unwritten rules of the game that shouldn't be broken, or should they? For as long as baseball has been around these unwritten rules have been known by the players and for the most part they wouldn't break them. Now that a new generation of players are taking over the league the question is, are these rules still as important as they used to be or is the culture of the league changing.

Some of these rules are things like a pitcher throwing at a batter or a batter standing and watching the ball they hit, which these hits are usually home runs and you may even see a bat flip. For the veteran players in the league they see things like the bat flip as disrespectful. The younger players in the league are making this more common and it is even becoming more popular to fans. One example of this is Fernando Tatis Jr's bat flip on his second home run of the game against the Cardinals in the wild card series last year. This iconic photo of this bat flip is now on the cover of the upcoming baseball game MLB The Show 21.

The way I see this is completely positive.

I think things like this fire up your team and even the crowd which can carry some major momentum that could potentially win a game. Obviously if I was in the shoes of my opponent I would be mad about someone doing that to my team but it's all a part of the game. Baseball is more of a mental sport than anything else and something like that just shows who the stronger team is mentally. Any way you can get an advantage over a team, take it. I see the unwritten rules staying the same in the future but more lenient. Players are still going to get mad but I think that will be less of a problem than it is now. The culture of baseball is undoubtedly changing and personally I like where it's headed.

# Petroglyphs vandalized in Chattahoochee Forest

By Aia Andonovska  
Copy Editor

On April 6, the U.S. Forest Service announced that thousand year old Native American rock carvings in Georgia had been vandalized. The petroglyphs are located in Chattahoochee National Forest in Track Rock Gap. These carvings were done by Cherokee Native Americans well over a thousand years ago.

The Tribal Heritage Preservation Office said in a statement, "The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians is sad and frustrated to learn that Track Rock has been vandalized. These are special and rare sites. They are special sites for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and for all the people as part of the Heritage of this region. Whether through ignorance or malice, the result is irreparable damage to a unique

site that connects us directly to the people of the past." The petroglyphs were protected by the Archaeological Resources Protection Act.

These soapstone boulders that had petroglyphs are part of a protected area where more than 100 carvings have been found on 800,000 acres of land. Five of the affected boulders had scratches or paint on them, the Forest Service said.

"It's one of the most significant rock art sites in the Southeastern United States and the only such site located on public land in Georgia," the Forest Service said on Facebook.

Archaeological excavations have shown that the ancestors of the Cherokee, as well as the Muscogee tribe have used this area for more than a thousand years and that they told stories through their rock etchings.

"When you are talking about historic sites

and culturally sensitive sites, it really is the most offensive thing," he said. "It is our history, and to have that defaced and to be treated with such disrespect, it is very sad," Richard Sneed, principal chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokee said.

"This demonstrates the need for greater education," Sneed said further of the vandalism.

The Forest Service's law enforcement unit is currently investigating the vandalism with the help of tribal partners. The Forest Service did not say if and how they will be restored, however they did encourage visitors to not touch these sacred sites and to tread lightly.

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# Matsuyama wins The Masters

By Margaret Correll  
Editor in Chief

Hideki Matsuyama successfully secured a green jacket at the 85th Masters Tournament in Augusta, Georgia from April 8 to the 11. After becoming the first Japanese winner of the world-renowned tournament, he has established his place in golf history.

In an article published by Bill Fields on The Masters website, Matsuyama said through his interpreter and friend, Bob Turner, “Hopefully, I will be a pioneer and many more will follow.” “It’s thrilling to think there are a lot of youngsters in Japan watching today. Hopefully in five, 10 years, when they get a little older, some of them will be competing on the world stage,” Matsuyama said.

In the four days of play to win the tournament, Matsuyama experienced some fluctuation in his score up until the final day. He pulled out several shots that gave him the opportunity to close the gap and secure his win. After Matsuyama finished playing on the final day, his caddie Shota Hayafuji collected the yellow flag, replaced the flagstick in the cup, took off his hat and bowed to the audience.

This is a win of historical measures and will be remembered for years to come. Matsuyama has become an extremely important figure in Japan and has set the bar for Japanese athletes, especially in golf, in the future.



Photo by Brianna Rodibaugh

The men’s soccer team lines up for the National Anthem before their championship qualifying home match against Piedmont of April 3, 2021.

# Brevard College men’s soccer claims championships

By Joseph Marvin  
Digital Media Director

After drawing through 110 minutes of play, 4-4, the Brevard College men's soccer team (6-2-1) claimed the deciding penalty-kick shootout, 5-3 over Covenant College (6-2-1) to capture the program's first piece of USA South postseason hardware, as the Tornados captured the Spring 2021 USA South Conference West Division Championship on Saturday afternoon in Lookout Mountain, Georgia.

Brevard's title marks the program's first postseason championship in the NCAA-era. The title comes in BC men's soccer's fifth postseason appearance in its NCAA history.

Successful penalty kicks from Igor da Silva, Vinicius Giannaccini, Ryan Lynch, Sam O'Callaghan, and Inigo Satrustegui – in addition to a crucial save on Covenant's fourth PK attempt by sophomore goalkeeper Pedro Campos – secured the championship for the Tornados.

Estevan Berto, Lynch, O'Callaghan, and Adam Spencer each scored goals in the championship victory, while Giannaccini, Miles Schafer, and Spencer were credited with assists. Campos (4-1-1) tallied four saves in

the draw.

Covenant used a brace of goals by Keegan Weekley and scores from Knox Gibson and Mercer Stout to earn the tie in regulation, while Henry Hooks (5-2-1) also stopped four shots-on-goal.

Regulation and overtime saw Brevard and Covenant in a back-and-forth contest from the beginning, with the Tornados taking the early lead, 1-0, on Lynch's third goal of the season. Spencer whipped in a low cross that took a slight deflection before Lynch squared up a shot that was slotted into the right side of the goal past Hooks.

Just eight minutes later, Weekley would score his first of two scores, ripping a shot past Campos to tie things up in the 16th minute, 1-1.

Both sides traded possession and attacks through the next 20 minutes, with Brevard and Covenant both accumulating three shots and a corner kick through that span. In the 37th minute, Berto took possession over in midfield and dribbled past Covenant defenders to the left side of the box, teeing up a beautiful left-footed shot that hooked into the upper-right corner of

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the goal, giving the Tornados the lead back, 2-1, which they would take into the halftime intermission.

Covenant was able to respond just 27 seconds into the second half of play, as Stout got on the score sheet to tie the contest up at 2-2. The Scots won three corners through the next 33 minutes before taking their first lead of the match on a Gibson goal in the 78th minute that was assisted by Kade Theunissen.

BC struck back quickly in the 80th minute, as Spencer was played through by Giannaccini to set up a right-footed rip that found the back of the net to make the score 3-3 with 10 minutes left to play.

Once again, the Scots answered back in fast-paced fashion, scoring 37 seconds after BC's strike as Weekley found the back of the net for the second time, giving Covenant a 4-3 advantage.

Schafer tallied his first-career assist on an impressive cross in the 84th minute that was placed perfectly to find the head of O'Callaghan, as the Wicklow, Ireland native scored his first career goal to tie the contest back up at 4-4 with six minutes left in regulation.

With five minutes remaining in the match, the Tornados went man-down following a second yellow card, as BC competed with 10 players for the remainder of regulation and the two overtime periods.

In the first overtime period, Covenant tallied a pair of shots to BC's one shot and one corner kick attempt. BC attempted two shots and won a corner kick in the second overtime stanza as the two teams remained deadlocked at 4-4, forcing the deciding PK shootout.

Both sides converted their first three attempts, with Saturstegui converting Brevard's fourth try to put BC on top, 4-3. Campos came up big on Covenant's fourth attempt, saving a shot by Will Kenas that was bound for the left-side of goal. Giannaccini clinched the championship for the Tornados with his penalty kick conversion, as BC secured the USA South West Division title.

BC slightly outshot Covenant, 14-13, as both sides saved four shots in the contest. Covenant won eight corner kicks compared to Brevard's four.

The Tornados are slated to conclude their Spring 2021 season with three more contests scheduled. BC is scheduled to travel to Greenville, South Carolina to take on Bob Jones University on Thursday, April 15 at 7 p.m. before its Senior Day on Sunday, April 18 at 3 p.m. vs. USC-Union at Ives-Lemel Family Field. Brevard's Spring schedule concludes on Wednesday, April 21 at 7 p.m. against Bob Jones at home.



Photo by Victoria Brayman

The BC tennis team goes in for a team huddle before their match against Piedmont on March 19, 2021.

# BC tennis defeats Maryville in night match

By Margaret Correll  
Editor in Chief

Brevard College men's and women's tennis made their way to Knoxville, Tennessee to face-off against Maryville College in a rescheduled match. They arrived at Tyson Park ready to play at 6 p.m. on Sunday, April 11, 2021. After several cases of COVID-19 affected the women's team and their ability to play, they came back stronger than ever and determined to secure a win for the Tornados.

First up for men's doubles, sophomore Ethan McGee and freshman Devin Horton fell to Maryville's Austin Smith and Kyle Shaver with a close score of 6-8. At number two, sophomore Miles Schafer and junior Andrew Ingram secured their first win against Maryville's Jonah Hedges and Seth Cooper with a score of 8-6. The third set of doubles was forfeited by Maryville due to lack of players.

For the women, senior Jen Cox and junior Lily Farr lost at number one to Maryville's Kayla Zimmerman and Anastasia Dunn with a score of 4-8. At number two doubles, sophomore duo Alli Kogoy and Hamrick Perry defeated their Maryville opponents, Melanie Kowalewski and Eliza Cheshire, with a final score of 8-5. The second sophomore duo, Brooke Garland and Sarah Iocovozzi, took down Maryville's Abby Smither and Kelsey Effler with a shut-out score of 8-0.

The men's and women's teams were both up 2-1 going into the singles match-up.

McGee annihilated at number one for the men, taking down Shaver with a comfortable

score of 6-4, 6-3. At two singles, Horton fell to Smith with a score of 6-1, 5-7, and a third set tiebreaker score of 6-10. Three singles saw sophomore JaMarcus Walker pair up against Cooper, taking the win for the Tornados with a score of 6-4, 3-6, and a third set tiebreaker score of 10-8. At four, junior Alex Glaze defeated Hedges 6-3, winning the second set 7-6 after winning the tiebreaker 8-6. The fifth and sixth matches were forfeited by Maryville because of a lack of players.

Women's singles saw Farr and Zimmerman at number one, Farr falling short with a final score of 1-6, 1-6. Kogoy took the win at number two against Dunn with a nice score of 6-1, 6-2. At three, Cox fell to Kowalewski with a score of 0-6, 1-6. Perry defeated Cheshire at four with a final score of 6-1, 6-0. Iocovozzi followed suit with a great final score of 6-1, 6-1 against Smither. Finally, Garland took a big win at number six with a shut-out score of 6-0, 6-0.

The final scores, the men with 7-2 and the women with 6-3, brought home a win for the BC tennis team. This was definitely something to celebrate on the long and late bus ride back to campus.

The teams are scheduled to travel to LaGrange, Georgia to take on LaGrange College on Tuesday, April 13 at 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday, April 14 at 10 a.m. The women's team is also set for a senior day match up against Agnes Scott at the McCoy Tennis Complex in Brevard on Saturday, April 17 at 1 p.m.