

NBA superstar and expected Hall of Famer Kobe Bryant dies at 41

By Aia Andonovska
Sports Editor

The seven people who died in the helicopter crash beside Kobe Bryant, and his daughter, Gianna, were remembered this past Monday. Officials are investigating why the helicopter crashed suddenly in Calabasas, California. The crash occurred about 30 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles.

The Sikorsky S-76B departed from the John Wayne Airport and was headed for the Camarillo Airport. Since 2018, this helicopter had flown between these two airports at least two dozen times. This past Sunday, however, the helicopter took a different route due to low visibility and never made it to its final destination.

Giana Bryant's teammates Alyssa Altobelli and Payton Chester were identified in the crash along with their basketball coach, Christina Mauser. Payton's mother, Sarah Chester, and Alyssa's parents, John and Keri Altobelli were also killed in the fatal helicopter ride. The pilot, who also perished, was named Ara Zobayan.

Kobe had a twenty year legacy with the Lakers, and was only forty-one at the time of his death. His daughter, Gianna, was only thirteen. Fellow player LeBron James finally broke silence on the matter Monday, posting to Instagram a note to Kobe.

"I'm not ready but here I go," the post started. "Man I sitting here trying to write something for this post but every time I try I begin crying again just thinking about you, niece Gigi and the friendship/bond/brotherhood

we had! I literally just heard your voice Sunday morning before I left Philly to head back to LA. Didn't think for one bit in a million years that would be the last conversation we'd have." This heart-wrenching note and the untimely death of Kobe came right after LeBron beat Bryant's all-time scoring record with the NBA.

TMZ has also been criticized during this tragic time, for breaking the news that Kobe had passed along with eight other people. The police reacted harshly towards the news outlet, on account of not even being able to break the news to the families of the victims first.

According to CNN, Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva dissed the news outlet at a press conference while explaining why officials didn't release the identities of the nine people killed in the crash earlier in the day.

"It would be extremely disrespectful to understand that your loved one ... perished and you learn about it from TMZ," he said. "That is just wholly inappropriate."

Los Angeles County Undersheriff Tim Murakami said later on Sunday that he was also "saddened that I was gathering facts as a media outlet reported that Kobe had passed."

"I understand getting the scoop but please allow us time to make personal notifications to their loved ones. It's very cold to hear of the loss via media," he tweeted. "Breaks my heart."

May the families who are dealing with these painful losses be uplifted during this time.



Photo by Ethan Miller/Getty Images

Gianna Bryant and her father, basketball great Kobe Bryant, attend the 2019 WNBA All-Star Game at the Mandalay Bay Events Center in Las Vegas.

Voice of the Rivers 2020

By Zach Dickerson
Editor in Chief

Professor of WLEE and Division Chair Jennifer Kafsky sent out an email to the entire campus community on Friday, Jan. 17, asking for applications for the 2020 Voice of the Rivers. This will take place from May 11 to 30 during which 10 students and the instructors will kayak the Yadkin Pee-Dee River from its source near Blowing Rock, North Carolina to Winyah Bay on the Atlantic Coast.

This year the faculty members who will be taking part in the expedition are Associate Professor of WLEE Clyde Carter, who will be teaching River Expedition (WLE 290K), and Adjunct Instructor of Music and Staff Accompanist Vance Reese, who will be teaching Dreams, Myths and Music of the River (MUS 290K).

Voice of the River started back in 1997, after the college had become a four year school.

It got help getting started by someone in the community who ran a manufacturing company in the city who approached Clyde Carter and the then president of the college. He brought up the idea of the city getting a group of students together and sponsoring a trip for them to follow the watersheds all the way to the ocean.

It was a way to connect all of the communities that depend on the same source of water. The first group of 10 students ventured down the King's Creek watershed which is the French Broad River. That one was 2,000 miles going all the way to the Gulf of Mexico and took three months (the whole semester) to complete.

The next one was also a semester long trip where Robert Dye and another professor took a group of students to Patagonia in Argentina and went down two rivers.

Then, in 2000, the college got a new president who put a stop to the VOR trips. It wasn't until 2008 when the administration changed again that the program had a chance of being started up again.

Carter then wanted to set up a shorter expedition so he could experience it while still being able to spend time with his family without having to be away for a long period of time. That one turned into a trip down the Green River which is on the other side of the continental divide and leads to the Atlantic Ocean, lasting only three weeks.

This set up a pattern for something that was completely sustainable for the college to be able to do every year that was also more affordable for the students. Most of the rivers that take this amount of time to kayak down flow into the Atlantic Ocean from the Appalachian mountains. The WLEE faculty also set up a rotation between all of their full time faculty members so it would be a different one going on the trip each year along with another faculty member from a different division. The idea was for VOR to become a LINC for students by combining interdisciplinary studies and encouraging all Brevard College students to take the course whether they had background in kayaking and camping or not.

"My course is on river expedition," Carter said, "which will deal with all the hard skills that you think of with river expedition like how to paddle a boat, how to get out in an emergency and rescue another, all the camping skills, 'Leave No Trace' ethics. But my class also goes into what we call soft skills, which would be the group dynamics, leadership, conflict resolution."

This will be Carter's fifth time participating in VOR, but it will also be his final as a faculty member as he will be retiring at the end of this academic year. "I feel like it was one of the early programs that I was heavily involved in creating," Carter said, "so it's fun to kind of go out on that boat and experience it with everyone and I'll definitely savor it more."

This will be Vance Reese's first time participating in VOR. "I was interested in it last year," Reese said, "and I asked a few questions to John Buford, who helped lead it last year. I knew my May was taken up so I couldn't do it, but I thought that I'd like to do it sometime and I think Clyde mentioned that he was going to be asking faculty members and I shot my name out before he did the official ask, so he kept my name in mind and eventually said that I was on it."

Reese will be teaching a class similar to the Music, Myths and Dreams course that he taught as an Honors Seminar last Spring semester, but with more focus on the rivers aspect.

"I've learned some things from that course," Reese said, "so it will be a little different in terms that there won't be as much content. It'll be three intense weeks on the water and I've found out that not everyone's into Baroque opera like I am for some strange reason."

"It'll help to focus the theme," Reese said, "so it won't be lots and lots of myths, fairy tales and dreams, it will be those that deal specifically with rivers as a metaphor. I'll definitely have instrumental pieces because I think that helps open up the psychic world a little bit."

"We'll definitely do dream work," Reese said, "and part of doing that is how to provide a safe way to handle dreams in a group. We project onto the dream, so if you had a dream of a river, for instance, I might also have one and say that I'm crossing the river to get to the other side, another person might say they're swimming in the river and maybe even drowning and another person might say they are having fun on the river or there might be some other connection."

"It's sort of deep work," Reese said, "but it's that deep work that can be related to myths and fairy tales that gets expressed in music in a vibrant way."

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Greece elects first female president

By Eli Goodhew
Staff Writer

Katerina Sakellaropoulou, age 63, has been a part of Greece's administrative court for many months and has now decided to take steps to become the first female president in their history.

If you dig into past, Greece has a significantly lower rate of females holding political positions than other places, which makes this a win for a lot of women.

Sakellaropoulou's election This gives a lot of young ladies in the area somebody to look up to and know that they can do it too. Also, her strong progressive views will open up copious windows for changes to be made. Changes that Greece needs.

The Greek government in the past has had an exceptionally difficult time accepting women into the "boys only" club of politics, but this is one step forward in the right direction of progress in the most beneficial way. BC student

Sidney Robinson stated, "I'm excited to see a respected women take charge and set a good example for women in the world of politics."

When submitting Sakellaropoulou's name for the parliamentary vote for president earlier this month, Greek prime minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said, Katerina Sakellaropoulou, states, "The time has come for Greece to open up to the future." Although there are many people who do not support her opinions and believes she has people in her corner, lifting her up with high praise.

She is also known for her environmental consciousness about what is going on in the world around us and the changes that need to be made better detrimental to society's growth in the future.

She discusses deep in several interviews about what she calls the "retreat of justice." Meaning, in short, all types of discrimination and financial uproar that Greece is facing along with climate change as the cherry on top.

In her first meeting with a parliamentary

delegation who informed her of her winning the presidency, according to an article in Greek Reporter, she acknowledged some of the most crucial global challenges Greece faces, including inequalities and social exclusions, financial crises, climate change, and the humanitarian crises that result from mass movements of people, which she terms the "retreat of justice."

Priorities now should be security, growing the Greek economy, and tackling social inequalities, she told lawmakers.

With high hopes from many onlookers, including a consistent political spectator and commenter, Pavlos Tzimas, Sakellaropoulou will hopefully take the political world by storm and make the changes that their society needs.

With her extensive background in politics and getting things done, she will face challenges, especially being the first female president, but it does not look like it is anything she can not handle.

The Skeleton Flower

By Solomon Turner
Contributor

According to Our Breathing Planet, this nondescript flower only reveals its hidden nature when the sky releases the rain. *Diphylleia grayi* is one of only three species, two of which are found in Asia and the other one, *Diphylleia cymosa*, being found in remote locations in the Appalachian mountain range. A situation that science has yet to explain, for this specific organism.

This small, white flower can easily be overlooked in the undergrowth of mountain forests. They have large, umbrella like leaves with a cyme inflorescence, or arrangement of flowers, that extend up to 16 inches above the plant. In the fall months this plant drops its flowers in favor of its velvety blue berries.

The petals, five arranged around a center disk, are chalky white in color but only when they're dry. When these flowers get wet, either by dew or rain, the color completely changes.

Seemingly by magic the white petals disappear to be replaced by spindly clear petals. These wet petals look like glass or an icy sculpture showing only the inner veins of the flower.

The reason for this coloration is not due to its pigmentation as one might think but is instead, according to Chemistry World, due to the loose arrangement of cells in its petals. Water enters the petals causing the refractive index of light to be identical inside and outside the cell as opposed to when the flower is dry.

Diphylleia grayi is a perennial and blooms every year from May to the end of summer. They prefer growing in humus (organic matter)

rich soils, such as under large deciduous trees where there is ample amounts of shade, and each year new leaf litter is added to the soil.

Since this species of flower is Asian in origin, being found in China and Japan, they will not be found on your regular hikes through the Southern Appalachians. Sadly the one species, *Diphylleia cymosa*, that is found in the Appalachians does not have this unique color changing ability.



Courtesy of Chemistry World

The Skeleton Flower

Voice of the Rivers 2020

Continued from pg. 2

This will also be Carter's wife and current backpacking instructor at the college Jayne Fought's first time participating in VOR. "Part of what I've been looking forward to is the research we are doing ahead of time," Fought said. "We have found accounts of a couple of young men who paddled the river in the 20s and reading their journals."

"Also reading and learning about the Native Americans who used to live on the river," Fought said, "and there's still evidence of them today with their methods of fishing by using the river itself that we have marked on our map to look for." They have also been in contact with people on the Pee Dee reservation and it is planned to meet and talk with people who live in it.

"But we'll also look at the core of what Voice of the Rivers is," Carter said, "which at its very core we want to meet as many people who live on the river, work on it, recreate on it, appreciate it, we want to hear their stories. So it's not our typical wilderness class where we try to go out to remote areas and travel by ourselves. We want to connect with people

who depend on that river and appreciate it and hear their stories."

"So if somebody meets us on the river," Carter said, "and says 'Hey, why don't you stop by our house, it's just down the river and we'll cook dinner for you' we jump on that opportunity because we want to connect and get to know them. They hear about what we're doing and they talk about how they've always dreamed of doing it and would love to do it."

"We want to talk to the person who operates the dam for hydroelectric power, talk to the businesses and how they depend on it, talk to the fishermen sitting on the side fishing for dinner that night," Carter said. "And with that we try to become the voice of the rivers by documenting our story of meeting these people and sharing it to the public."

To do this, the group will try to keep active social media pages so people who want to follow them can hear their stories. They also work to schedule opportunities when they get back for the students to give formal presentations of the trip, what they experienced and what they learned.

"What I enjoy about it," Carter said, "is that it gives that student who had never camped out, never paddled the opportunity to do something that is really impactful on their lives. I feel like that student is going to get the most out of this experience."

"We get students who are WLEE majors or minors," Carter said, "and they've got some experience, and they have a good time too, but I feel like the one that gets the most out of it is someone who will never ever get to do this again in their lives or have an opportunity to. It's kind of like a chance of a lifetime."

"And then whenever they drive a car," Carter said, "whether it's on an interstate or road that crosses that river, they'll look down and know that they've paddled it from the source to the sea."

The information that will be covered in VOR this year is vast and very interesting. If any students have questions, please contact Clyde Carter, Vance Reese and/or Jennifer Kafsky for more information. Applications for VOR are due on Feb. 1 and selections of participants will be notified on Feb. 15.



Courtesy of John Padgett

Clyde Carter at one of numerous portages on the upper Broad River during the 2016 Voice of the Rivers trip.

Annual Women's March

The fourth annual Women's March descended upon the streets of Washington, D.C. around 9:30 a.m., on Jan. 18. This was the main march, but sister marches were held all around the world, including places such as Chicago, Los Angeles and even Brussels.

Snowflakes fell as people gathered in Freedom Plaza. Several members of the board spoke before marching on their route past the White House. In New York, marchers assembled in Columbus Circle and listened to speeches and performers who embodied the principles behind the march.

This year, the march focused on three main issues as part of their campaign. These issues were climate change, reproductive rights and immigration.

These women gathered across the country to send a final message to Trump before the 2020 election. According to the Washington Post, protesters this year said that instead of being angry and fearful, they felt hopeful about the future.

"I remember being at the first Women's March and I started crying while we were chanting,"n Emily Anderson, a D.C. resident, said. "But today feels really different. It's more hopeful. I think that tells you a lot about how far we've come."

The Women's March came to be in 2017, when Trump was just coming into office. In

result, it sparked millions to take to the streets of Washington and across the globe. More than 70 buses brought activists rallying, with many saying the upcoming election rallied them to make a trip to the nation's capital.

— Aia Andonovska



The Coronavirus outbreak

Rundown of what you need to know

By Eleanor Flannery
Staff Writer

On Jan. 8, it was reported by Chinese researchers that an identified coronavirus was the cause of an illness that plagued over 59 people in Wuhan. The outbreak was traced back to a meat and fish market, that was later shut down and decontaminated. Since the initial report, approximately 4,500 people are known to be infected, and 106 were confirmed deceased, most cases stemming from Wuhan.

A coronavirus is named for its unique spikes that stem from its membranes, that resembles the sun's corona. It is extremely contagious, infecting both animals and humans, and typically spreads via coughing and sneezing. The symptoms resemble that of a common cold or flu, but most cases also involve reports of respiratory issues, and difficulty breathing.

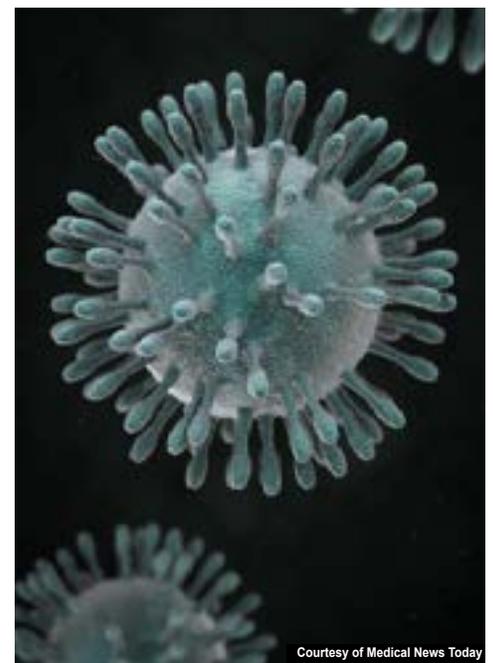
Though the likely source for the spread of the virus is animals, researchers are still not certain what animals have caused the sickness.

Similar outbreaks in the past, including SARS, was believed to have started from live animal markets. And the virus that causes MERS was spread via camel to humans.

As of now, the virus is known to be spreading throughout Wuhan and other parts of central China, as well as in other countries, including Japan, South Korea, France, Australia and the United States.

In the United States, there are five confirmed cases of the coronavirus: one in Washington state, one in Illinois, one in Arizona and two in California. All cases in the United States have confirmed that they recently traveled to China.

While there has not been a call for a global emergency by the World Health Organization, it is still recommended to take precautions to prevent against common illnesses. Washing one's hands often, and covering the mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing is highly suggested. The chances of catching the coronavirus in the United States is extremely low, but it would not hurt to follow some of these preventative guidelines to stay ahead of the flu season as it is.



Courtesy of Medical News Today

Microscopic view of a coronavirus.

Chiaroscuro updates

By Carmen Boone
Copy Editor

Submissions have been open since the Fall of 2019. The deadline to get submission in is Feb. 19 at 11:59 p.m. All works must be emailed to henleyak@brevard.edu.

Right now, the staff is in the process of making edits on submissions already accepted for publication. Poetry, fiction, theatre, photography and nonfiction are all having finishing touches put on and being prepared to appear in the magazine.

With the help of Professor John Padgett, the faculty advisor, this semester's staff under the direction of Alexis Henley, is working hard to put this whole literary magazine into print form by the end of April.

Henley, head editor, mentioned that her favorite thing about this experience has been the challenge of leading class and making decisions on how to put this journal together. She also loves the help she has had from the

other staffers. "I've liked the dedication of the people on the staff this year because there are a lot of people invested in making this the best it can be," Henley said.

Chiaroscuro will have had three special contests by the end of the semester. The first was Halloween, the second was Christmas and the third will be a Valentine's Day contest. First, second and third place submissions are chosen for each contest and published, with those bragging rights, in the journal.

The release party, as of right now, will be in late April. It will include some people reading their work, snacks (maybe pizza) and the chance to pick up a free copy of the 2019-2020 Chiaroscuro.

The goal of this whole journal is to show off the talented Brevard College students and faculty. "I'd love to feature just a variety of different people," Henley said.

Please submit. Chiaroscuro accepts poetry, nonfiction, theatre writing, photography and fiction. Submissions close February 19 at 11:59 p.m. Email henleyak@brevard.edu.



NS

'The Witcher' now on Netflix

By Sam Hipp
Staff Writer



Netflix has done it again by giving us a wonderful fantasy story to satisfy our inner nerds. Many have been craving a new fantasy adventure series after the final season of "Game of Thrones" ended last summer and this new series is it. This new series is "The Witcher", based on the series of the same name by Polish author Andrzej Sapkowski.

The series follows three separate but intertwining stories of the sorceress Yennifer of Vengerberg (Anya Chalotra), Princess Cirilla of Cintra (Freya Allan) and Geralt of Rivia (Henry Cavill), the titular Witcher. This series brings us many fantasy elements from other beloved works in the genre such as elves, dwarves, dragons, magic, monsters, political machinations and gratuitous sword-swinging violence.

As with all fantasy stories, while captivating, the setting of "The Witcher" is confusing to the average viewer, such as myself, who hasn't read the books by Sapkowski. The eight episodes of the first season are also held down by a story told out of chronological order, with time jumps

and events happening within different times during the same episode. I was only able to fully understand the order when I hit the seventh episode.

A lot is certainly made up for in this series in its stellar performances. Every actor delivers a performance that draws you into the world of "The Witcher", especially Henry Cavill in his role as Geralt. The series also has wonderful sets and immaculate costumes to give additional life to the setting.

The main thing that got me hooked was the song at the end of the second episode "Toss a Coin to Your Witcher" performed by Joey Batey, who plays the role of Jaskier, a charming and foppish minstrel who follows Geralt and sings of his great monster-slaying deeds. This infectious earworm has gained much popularity among fans, and I am no exception.

A fun, fantasy adventure with a heap of confusing timelines and a still underdeveloped setting still shows that there is room for improvement. Regardless, I'm still sure this show will come into its own when its second season is released. I give the first season of "The Witcher" three stars out of five for its captivating, albeit confusing, story and characters.



Chloe's Crash Course

The Death of Socrates, c. 1787

By Chloe McGee
Arts & Life Editor

In an age of rapid technological growth, modern luxuries and Postmates, you may be surprised to hear that today's world is not so far removed from civilizations that existed 2,500 years ago. And while the great, classical philosophers Plato, Socrates and Aristotle may seem like the quintessential dead white males, they are in fact very much alive, immortalized in the foundation of Western culture, literature and art.

These fellow Greek contemporaries devoted their lives to asking questions and seeking truth. Today, because of their innovating discoveries, there exist palpable and striking parallels between ancient philosophy and modern thought.

As a matter of fact, Brevard College has Socrates to thank for its experiential curriculum which encompasses a popular academic technique known as the Socratic method.

Rather than lecturing his students, Socrates would ask a series of thought-provoking questions, allowing freedom to think critically and, ultimately, elicit any underlying biases that may influence their perspective. Many of Brevard College's professors engage their students in the same fashion.

However, despite Socrates' unmistakable legacy, his ideas were not always embraced by society. In fact, it was a contempt for Socrates that led to his ultimate demise in 399 B.C. when the Athenian government executed him on charges of impiety and alleged corruption.

French painter Jacques Louis David vividly captures Socrates' final moments in his 1787 masterpiece 'The Death of Socrates' as told famously by Plato in his dialogue on the soul 'The Phaedo.'

In another one of his works, Plato makes clear that Socrates had the choice to escape into exile, but instead accepted his impending death, refusing to denounce his beliefs.

Taking the poison before his pupils, Socrates used the execution as an opportunity to teach his final lesson that death should not be feared, but rather embraced by the philosopher.

'The Death of Socrates' is an exemplar Neoclassical art, a genre that David practically created in response to the pompous Rococo and melodramatic Baroque styles that dominated

18th century, French culture.

As rendered by David, Neoclassism derives from ancient Greek and Roman simplicity, anatomical marvel, and two-dimensional friezes that often memorialized historic events.

The foreground in David's painting is stark in comparison to the flat, muted background, allowing the action to be read linearly, beginning at either side, like a frieze.

When reading the painting from right to left, the viewer observes as devout followers mourn over Socrates whose hand hovers over the cup of poison, which marks exact center of the canvas.

David illustrates an immense calmness in Socrates' expression as he reaches for the chalice of hemlock, gesturing defiantly towards the afterlife and his soul's immortality.

Socrates is seen with strong posture and angular geometry to symbolize his dedication to principle, while everyone else, overcome with emotion, are depicted curvilinear and fragile.

Although Socrates would have been about 70 years old at the time of his execution, David idealizes the philosopher, painting Socrates as though he were an Olympian marble statue—

muscular, chiseled and youthful, nearly divine.

Light pours from the top-left corner, illuminating the center of the painting directly where Socrates is positioned. Draped in white cloth, chest exposed, Socrates radiates light, symbolically reflecting his heroism and David's adoration.

For David, Socrates is an icon of stoicism even in the face of imminent death – A virtue David sought to convey, notably, just two years before the French Revolution.

Although every figure has a role in the paintings narrative, the most striking of the group is Plato who is seated at the foot of the bed.

Again, David disregards historically accuracy and depicts Plato as a much older than what he was at the time of Socrates death.

What is most fascinating about this detail is that if you observe the painting beginning with Plato, from left to right, the narrative changes almost entirely. While Plato faces away, detached, the scene behind him unfolds as if it were a memory projecting from the back of his mind...



Courtesy of The MET Museum

The Death of Socrates, 1787. Jacques Louis David. Oil on canvas. On display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

Weekly Horoscopes

By Mickayla Smith
Staff Writer

Aries

Sometimes it is hard to wait for something to happen when you have worked so hard for it. This week you may notice that you are feeling impatient, but don't start to obsess over it. While waiting for that certain something to happen, distract yourself by getting work done and taking time to hang out with the people who care about you and inspire you. Say yes to adventure even if you're not feeling sociable. This adventure can act as a restart for your mind and spirit.

Taurus

This week, you may notice the reputation of someone you admire may have been tarnished lately. It may be hard for you to wrap your head around the fact that this person has flaws, but remember we are only human. You will feel more emotional and sensitive than usual this week and this can help assist the person whose reputation has been damaged. Instead of being judgemental of that person, be supportive and foster a healthy environment of support. Things will pass.

Gemini

You have noticed that there seem to be hidden messages coming from numerous places that only you can decipher this week. There is nothing random about this. This is a message from the universe. If you don't understand the message at first, keep it at the forefront of your mind and take time to explore the meaning. This week holds deep and interesting conversations between loved ones and this could assist you in deciphering the message.

Cancer

We seem to focus on things that hold little importance in our lives, but if you are mindful of this, you don't have to waste your time putting all of your energy into something that upsets you. You may have been feeling blocked and find that you are taking things too seriously. Once you take the time to notice this block's lack of importance, find something that is worthy of your time and it will fulfill your spirit.

Leo

Someone may collide with your sense of privacy on a particular issue this week. If you feel like you shouldn't react to this person, then don't. However, do think it over before you make any decisions. A close friend will come to you in the week to let you know that you did the right thing and this will take some weight off your shoulders. Don't be afraid to stand up for yourself and speak out when something isn't right to you.

Virgo

You may not be happy with a decision you have made recently. However, things can change, but be sure to know the hidden details so you can make a choice that satisfies you. Take some time to be outside and refresh your mind and your spirit. Doing so can reassemble, all of the worries and doubts in your mind that have been holding you back, into something positive.

Libra

Before agreeing to any projects coming up, remember to look over the details. Always have a plan B if something doesn't go as planned. Make sure this endeavor is useful to your growth and happiness. Don't believe someone before you do the research for yourself. After doing proper research, then decide on your plan of action.

Scorpio

You are normally very selfless, but during this week, it is time for you to focus on only yourself. Sometimes doing favors for other people can set back your progress with work or with a personal goal. Don't be discouraged. Everything can be worked out if there is an effort put into something you care about.

Sagittarius

You may feel like your mind is stuck in a box. Sometimes it can feel like there is no way out of this metaphorical box, but there is. Change up a routine that may be taking up more of your precious time than you originally thought. Give yourself a change of scenery and head into the great unknown. Change is scary, but it is important for your growth.

Capricorn

Right now you are frustrated with the situation you are in right now. Whether it is a financial or personal situation, you are the only person who can change the situation for yourself. You may have limited yourself in some avenues in your life, but think back on some of those decisions and be realistic. Sometimes you have to take unwanted steps to meet a dream. You are smart, confident and have a creative soul. Make sure you use your gifts wisely.

Aquarius

Don't believe everything that you are told. Even if something seems truthful, believing it without consulting with someone can damage an important relationship. You may find out things you didn't know about this individual that alarm you. However, don't turn away from them. They may need some assistance, so foster an attitude of being sensitive and empathetic towards this person. Maybe something was interpreted in the wrong way.

Pisces

You are feeling very energetic and social. You find yourself surrounded by new people this time of year and this is a perfect opportunity to show off your talents. Don't be shy and don't doubt your abilities. You may feel more prone to making the first move this week, and this will make a good first impression on your peers. Don't hold back and remember to be yourself.



Thoughts on tobacco 21 law

By Eli Goodhew
Staff Writer

As we all know, the vaping epidemic we have been facing throughout 2019 unfortunately is following us this year. Sadly, a young life was taken at the age of 15 reported by Dallas County Health and Human Services.

On December 3, a study was done, and the record number of hospitalized cases of lung-related conditions linked to vaping was at 2561 and 55 deaths. This number is only going to get higher, especially now that the laws have

changed.

The age to buy nicotine and tobacco products has been raised to 21. This caused an uproar with a lot of young teens who rely on nicotine as a destresser or even has just become a habit. Some only began when they reached the age of 18. Now they are hooked and being denied.

In a way, it is a good thing considering how many minors who were and still are getting ahold of such products and the obvious fact that yes, it does indeed destroy our bodies in ways we can not even imagine.

BC student Liv Greene states, "If I should be

able to get married and vote I should be able to buy nicotine at my own leisure as at 18 we are expected to become adults and make our own decisions. Why don't they let us?"

The Negatives and positives are quite extensive, and many people's opinions vary. Nicotine addiction at a young age can damage the brain and so many ways considering it is not fully developed at the time when we make decisions or unconsciously become addicted. I have spoken to any students on campus who feel as if the new law has made them crave it even more.

Catholic Church controversy

By Mickayla Smith
Staff Writer

According to NPR, retired Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis are at a standstill concerning the necessity of remaining celibate in the priesthood. Pope Francis is debating between relaxing this strict celibacy requirement for ordination in some South American countries

because of the decreasing number of priests.

Pope Benedict XVI and his co-author Guinean Cardinal Robert Sarah wrote a book that translates to "From the Depths of Our Hearts", to defend the importance of remaining celibate when serving as a priest.

"The priesthood of Jesus Christ causes us to enter into a life that consists of becoming one with him and renouncing all that belongs only

to us," former Pope Benedict XVI writes. "For priests, this is the foundation of the necessity of celibacy but also of liturgical prayer, meditation on the Word of God and the renunciation of material goods."

According to Pope Benedict, serving the Lord requires a certain degree of devotion and that means that a person cannot simultaneously be devoted to his family and the Lord at the same time. This is why retired Pope Benedict XVI writes, "it does not seem possible to carry on the two vocations simultaneously, which is why celibacy became a criterion for priestly ministry." In keeping with priestly celibacy, Benedict claims that it protects the church's mystery.

I think Pope Francis has made a revolutionary statement by deliberating the idea of letting go of the old fashioned and strict celibacy rule. If a person so happens to have a family and is wholeheartedly devoted to God, why would we deny someone to spread the word of Christ? Not being celibate isn't going to defile the church, I think it will make the church more relatable and in return, more people will find meaning within the Roman Catholic Church.

Pope Francis believes that celibacy should be a choice and not a restriction. However, this idea is still in the works and there has to be a lot of discussion regarding this issue before there is a final decision. Priests have been celibate for thousands of years, and changing this will be scary for a lot of people. However, change is good and should be embraced. A change like this can open doors to new ways to live life and a new relationship with God.



Source: Wikimedia Commons

Meeting between Pope Francis and Pope Benedict XVI on the occasion of the inauguration of the statue of St. Michael the Archangel in the Vatican Gardens

Let's be like Meghan

By Julie Carter
Opinion Editor

On Jan. 8, 2020, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, better known as Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, announced their intended departure as senior members of the royal family. The couple emphasized that this shocking move would mean their financial independence from the royal family and splitting their time between the United Kingdom and North America all while “supporting their charities and assisting the Queen in royal duties.”

Their move for independence came as a surprise to many with reports that the pair did not give any warning to other members of the royal family prior to their announcement which came via the popular social media platform, Instagram.

According to multiple sources, the departure came in large measure due to the national media’s coverage of Markle, whom Prince Harry married on May 19, 2018. Since her marriage to Prince Harry, Markle has been the topic of widespread character defamation. To be brief, Markle has been criticized in the press for her racial identity, relationships with family members and general personality. She is often compared to Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, better known as Kate Middleton, where she

is considered the “lesser” of the two women. This is absolutely ridiculous. Are we not better than this yet? Has no one learned anything after the tragedy that befell Diana Spencer?

The people of the royal family, especially those who enter it by marriage, owe absolutely nothing to anyone. They are not playthings to read about when you need a source of entertainment. They are people. The way we treat them has an effect.

It is amazing that Meghan lasted as long as she did. She is a stronger woman than most. The concept of having to endure the abuse she did on a global scale is unimaginable.

We should all strive to be Meghan Markles in our own lives. It should be completely normal for one to recognize the situation in which they have found themselves is toxic and promptly exit, no matter how they came to be in the situation.

It does not matter if she “knew what she was getting into.” The excusatory behavior behind that statement only justifies the horrid treatment in which she battled every day. We should not normalize the treatment, instead opting to normalize the reaction.

If the situation you are in no longer seeks to benefit you, go home. You are worth more than the expectations placed upon you.

Protests in France

By Margaret Correll
Layout & Design Editor

France has a long history of civil unrest, dating back to the thirteenth century, so it doesn’t come as a surprise when you read an article about the latest protest in Paris. More recently, there have been a string of violent protests among the people, leading to the longest transportation and worker strike in French history at almost two months.

Starting as a campaign promise from the current president of France, Emmanuel Macron, the pension proposal would change the already complicated system of benefits and retirement to a more universal way of receiving pension. In the proposal it highlights a few of the major changes, this includes a minimum of €1,000 per month in pension, a mandatory retirement age of 62 and a points system to determine how much money you get for your pension.

The goal of this reform is to make everyone, regardless of job, more equal. When has this become a bad thing?

The response to this reform has not been very kind, the protests started in early December and have become more and more destructive as time moves on. Many worker strikes have also arisen from the announcement of the reform, the biggest being the transportation workers who will be most affected by this change.

Despite the constant and very violent protests, President Macron’s cabinet voted to pass the pension reform on Friday, Jan. 24, 2020. Many unions that have been participating in the ongoing protests have warned Macron that they will not back down. Not backing down means more street blocking and more destruction in Paris and many other cities across the country.

This reform is not something that Macron is doing to make every single person happy. That is clear with any country and their government, they are doing this to try and make everyone that works end on an equal playing field.

It seems most people are mad, especially the transportation workers, because they have to work a bit more. This may be an American bias, but retiring at 62 does not seem like a big deal. Living in the United States, some people are lucky to retire at 70.

The strikes and all of the damage that has been done to Paris seems very unnecessary and disrespectful to those that live there. Granted, there has been violence on both sides but peaceful protest is an option.

There is no end in sight for the protests, especially after the passing of the reform. All anyone can do right now is wait and hope some agreement can be placed so this ordeal will end.



Source: Wikimedia Commons

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle go to church at Sandringham on Christmas Day 2017.

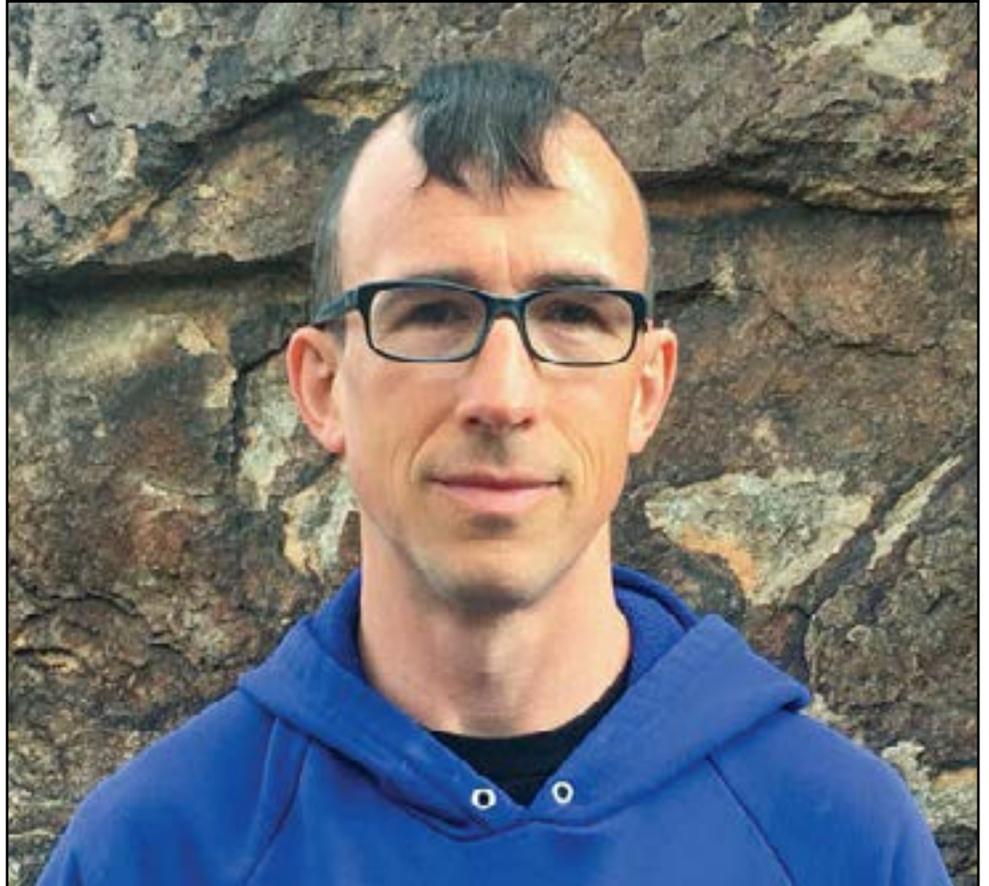
Brevard announces new climbing coaching staff

By Phil de Montmollin
Sports Information Director

Dan Horne has been named Head Climbing Coach with Taylor Simpson and Anna Morgan serving as Assistant Coaches for the Brevard College Climbing team, announced Director of Athletics Myranda Nash. The new coaching staff for the Brevard Climbing program will begin their duties this Spring, concurrent with a continued partnership with Brevard Rock Gym. "As one of a select number of varsity programs in the nation, we are very excited to have this experienced coaching staff in place for our climbing program," said Nash. "Coach Horne, Coach Simpson, and Coach Morgan all bring a wealth of experience which will help our student-athletes tremendously. Moreover, we are excited to have the continued opportunity for our student-athletes to benefit from the outstanding resources at Brevard Rock Gym." Horne has served as the Head Coach of Brevard Rock Gym since 2006. In his 13 years at Brevard Rock Gym, he started a climbing team from scratch where he has coached and mentored countless young people in the sport. He has coached multiple youth divisional and regional champions as well as helped many young athletes qualify for national championship competitions. Horne's philosophy is to "build discipline, healthy habits and values both physically, mentally and emotionally through training programs and through learning tactics to ascend climbs and excel in competition settings." In turn, these habits and disciplines are then transferable to the student-athletes away from the competition setting. "Having been a part of the Brevard climbing community for the past 14 years, I am honored and very excited to be starting as the head coach of the BC climbing team," said Horne. "With me will be assistant coaches Taylor Simpson and Anna Morgan. Taylor has several years of coaching experience and excels in his interpersonal relationships with student-athletes. Anna has been coaching for two years and has a deep knowledge of anatomy and physiology." Simpson has coached at Brevard Rock Gym for five years beginning in 2015 where he has assisted in managing weekly practices that include technique/movement instruction, weight training, and problem-solving thought processes. A proficient indoor and outdoor climber, he has accumulated

eight years of outdoor climbing experience with organizations such as Boy Scouts of America, Camp Carolina and Camp High Rocks. A certified Single Pitch Instructor, Simpson is an aspiring mountain guide in the Western North Carolina region. Morgan has served as a coach at Brevard Rock Gym since 2017. She has experience in both climbing and weightlifting. In addition, Morgan has 14 years of experience in massage therapy with a keen understanding of anatomy, physiology and proper body mechanics which she applies in her climbing instruction. With the new coaching staff in place, the Tornados will utilize Brevard Rock Gym as the team's training headquarters. Brevard Rock Gym, which recently underwent a major expansion to include a world-class training facility, is located at 240-B South Broad Street in Brevard, North Carolina and offers a variety of climbing programs to the public. The Brevard College

Climbing team will begin its 2020 season with the Western Carolina University Competition in Cullowhee, North Carolina on Saturday, February 15. The USA Climbing Appalachian Regional Championships are scheduled for Saturday, March 28 at The Crag in Nashville, Tennessee. To follow the latest news and updates surrounding Brevard College Athletics, follow the Tornados on Twitter and Instagram @bctornados, subscribe to 'Brevard College Tornados' on YouTube and SoundCloud, and like 'Brevard College Athletics' on Facebook as well as follow 'brevardcollege' on Flickr for the latest photos from all Brevard College events. Brevard College is consistently recognized as one of the best liberal arts colleges. The College's focus on experiential learning, small class sizes, and location in the mountains of Western North Carolina near Asheville make Brevard a top choice college for students around the world.



Dan Horne

Late bucket and steal seals BC's triumph over Maryville

By Phil de Montmollin
Sports Information Director

BREVARD, N.C. - The Brevard College men's basketball team (5-14, 4-8 USAS) pulled away late to claim a 67-63 victory over Maryville College (4-13, 3-7 USAS) in a Tuesday evening doubleheader at the Boshamer Gymnasium.

Trailing 63-62 with 1:08 left to play, junior forward Cannon Lamb hit a 3-point jump shot at the top of the key to give the Tornados a 65-63 lead. On Maryville's last possession of the contest, senior guard Demari Hopper broke up a Maryville pass to seal BC's victory.

Tuesday evening's game was part of the "Black Out for Black Mamba" tribute in memory of NBA legend Kobe Bryant at the women's and men's basketball doubleheader at Brevard College. Bryant and the other victims of a tragic accident in California were remembered with a moment of silence before each game and by the BC Basketball community wearing the color black.

Senior guard Qadhafi Turner led the way for four Tornado double-digit scorers on the evening. The Wilmington, N.C. native scored a season-high 16 points on 6-of-9 shooting, including a 4-of-6 mark from long distance. Turner hauled down a team-high seven boards while racking up a game-best four steals.

Senior forward Levi Lamb added 13 points while Hopper scored 10 points, grabbed five rebounds, and swiped three steals. Noah Lea

led all bench players with 10 points in just 11 minutes of action, while Hayden Cassell sparked the defense with three steals.

Maryville was led by Brice Martin who scored a game-best 22 points while coming off the bench. Kevin Chong totaled 17 points while Felix Uadiale rounded out MC's double-digit scorers with 12 points.

Through the game's first six minutes and 30 seconds, the Tornados put together a 17-4 scoring run that was capped off with an emphatic Levi Lamb dunk at the 13:30 mark to build a controlling early lead. However, the Scots were able to battle back, using a 10-0 scoring stretch of their own to tie the contest at 21 apiece with 8:42 left in the first half.

Both sides would tie four more times before the intermission, with the latest being a 33-33 deadlock with 1:06 left in the first stanza. BC used a Levi Lamb free throw followed by back-to-back Hopper field goals to take a five-point lead into the locker room.

Maryville came out determined early in the second half, tying the contest at 39-39 with 18:42 left to play. BC then retook the lead with a 7-0 scoring run to hold a 46-39 advantage.

Both sides battled tightly with the Tornados holding their lead in single-digits through the majority of the second half. BC extended its lead to its largest margin of the second half, a nine-point, 62-53 advantage with 5:49 left to play following a Turner layup. However, the Scots proved resilient, using a 10-0 scoring

run over the next four-plus minutes to take its first lead of the second half, 63-62, with 1:28 left in regulation.

On Brevard's next possession, sophomore forward Joshua Wilson found Cannon Lamb at the top of the arc for the eventual game-winning 3-pointer that gave BC a 65-63 advantage with 1:08 left to play.

Brevard fouled Maryville with 49 seconds left to play, but a missed free throw on the front end of a one-and-one situation gave BC the ball back with control of its own destiny.

The Tornados committed a turnover, setting up the Scots with one final possession to either tie or take the lead. As the clock counted down inside of 10 seconds, Hopper jumped a passing lane to give Brevard the ball back with the lead as the Tornados looked to run out the remainder of the clock. With Maryville pressing to steal, Levi Lamb found Cannon Lamb streaking to the basket uncontested, and the Marion, North Carolina native put an exclamation point on the victory with a last-second layup to wrap up Brevard's 67-63 USA South Conference win.

Brevard shot at a 50.9% clip from the field to Maryville's 40.7% and made nine 3-pointers to the Scots' five. The Tornados held a 17-10 advantage in the assist category and scored a total of 16 fastbreak points.

The Tornados will be back at home this Saturday, February 1 as Head Coach Lee Burgess' team hosts William Peace University, with tip-off scheduled for 2 p.m.

Brevard College Men's Basketball will host its sixth-annual Red Out Game in conjunction with The Jimmy Griffin Foundation and the American Heart Association's Heart Health Awareness Month. The day is in memory and support of Jimmy Griffin's legacy, as Griffin played under current Coach Burgess during his time as the Samford University Assistant Men's Basketball Coach.

Students, fans, faculty, and staff are encouraged to wear the color red to "Red Out" the Boshamer Gymnasium on Saturday afternoon to honor the legacy of Jimmy Griffin.

To follow the latest news and updates surrounding Brevard College Athletics, follow the Tornados on Twitter and Instagram @bctornados, subscribe to 'Brevard College Tornados' on YouTube, follow 'Brevard College Tornados' on SoundCloud, or like 'Brevard College Athletics' on Facebook. In addition, follow "brevardcollege" on Flickr for the latest photos from all Brevard College events.



Photo by Thom Kennedy

Qadhafi Turner scored a season-high 16 points in an all-around effort to help lead Brevard past Maryville at The Bosh.