

BC alum, bookstore employee dies unexpectedly at 46

By Amber Vance
Staff Writer

Bret Stewart, a BC alumnus and Kings Creek Bookstore assistant manager, died on Monday, Feb. 17. He was 46.

Stewart had worked at the campus bookstore for just over two years. "He was very dependable and enthusiastic," said Adam Crane, manager of Kings Creek Bookstore. "He had an uncanny ability to show up when I needed him."

It was because of Stewart's usual punctuality that Crane felt something was wrong. "I tried calling him several times," Crane recalled. When Stewart did not answer, Crane phoned the police to do a welfare check at his home where he was found. Stewart's passing is believed to be connected to diabetic complications.

Stewart was born Thursday, Aug. 30, 1973 in Transylvania County, where he lived for most of his life.

Stewart was a graduate of Brevard High School in the class of 1991. Stewart studied at Blue Ridge Community where he graduated with honors and an Associate of Arts degree in 2005. He enrolled at Brevard College in 2005 and

graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English.

During his time at BC, Stewart received several awards which included the Humanities Division Clara C. Gift Merit Scholarship, the Humanities Division Scholarship and the Humanities Division Award for Excellence in Environmental Literature, Language Studies and American Literature. Stewart was inducted into Alpha Chi National Honors Society and Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society in 2006.

He continued his education earning a Master's of Divinity from Tennessee Temple University Seminary in 2016. Stewart obtained a Master's degree in Theology from Liberty University and he was working on his Master's in Professional Writing.

"Bret was the type of student every teacher loves to have in class," Associate Professor of Teacher Education Betsy Burrows said, who taught him at both Brevard High School and here at the college. "He was one of the most intrinsically motivated students I have taught. He loved language, particularly reading British writers like Shakespeare and Chaucer. He re-read 'The Lord of the Rings' trilogy every year just for the fun of it. He had a keen sense of humor and was an amazing Dungeons and Dragons role player. I will miss him. He was my student and my friend and it was an honor to know him."

Stewart was an avid reader and writer in several genres. He wrote poetry, fiction, plays and non-fiction reviews of trails and books. Stewart even wrote a few books of his own like "The Dragon's Lullaby" and "Tales of Transylvania."

Stewart's smaller works were published in several literary magazines and journals including BC's own, Chiaroscuro in 2006 and 2007. Stewart was also a member of the Chiaroscuro staff in 2007. The pieces published in the Chiaroscuro were "By the Creekside" in 2006 and "Deal Another Hand" in 2007, both of which were beautiful in how he used rhyme and repetition of phrases to create rhythm.

The funeral service for Stewart was Friday, Feb. 21, and was handled by Moody-Connolly Funeral Home. He is survived by his two sons and mother along with several other family members and friends. Those who wish to post memories or condolences should visit the Moody-Connolly website, www.moodyconnollyfuneralhome.com/.

Bret Stewart was a remarkable scholar and writer as well as a dependable friend and loving father. Stewart will be missed in the BC community.

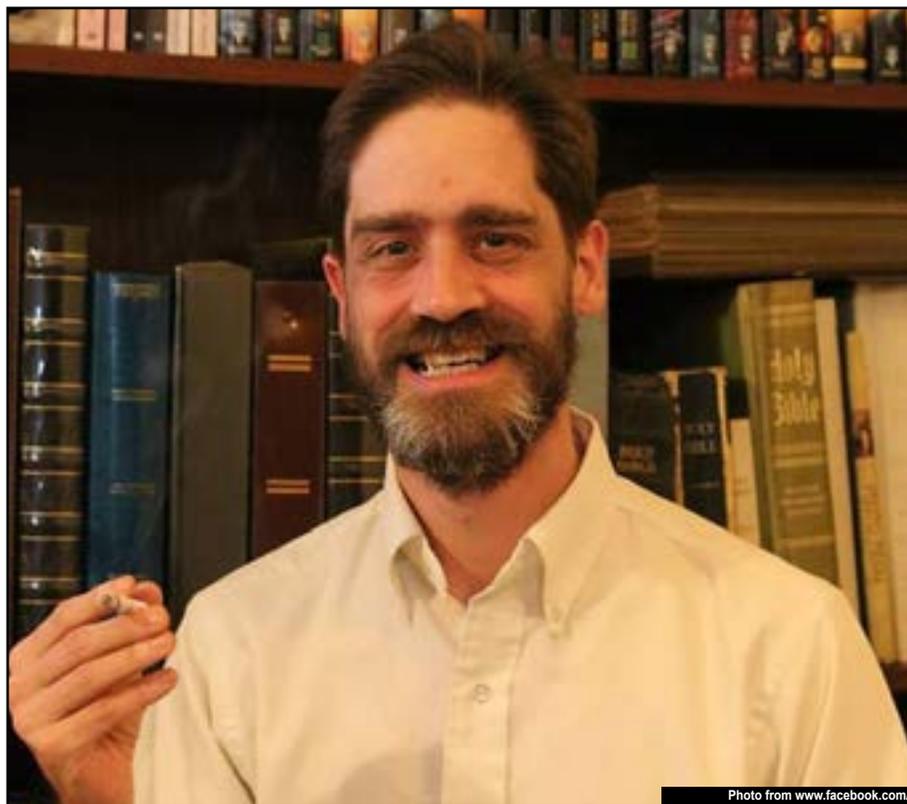


Photo from www.facebook.com

Bret Stewart

Remembering Gil Coan

MLB and Brevard College legend

By Margaret Correll
Layout & Design

Gil Coan was a Major League Baseball player for teams like the Washington Senators, the Baltimore Orioles, the Chicago White Sox and the New York Giants. He died on Feb. 5, 2020 at the age of 97 and was the third oldest living MLB player at the time of his death.

Born in Monroe, NC, he went on to Brevard College in 1940, only staying a year, then leaving and starting work at the Ecusta paper company. This job set him up for success in the next few years, playing for the Ecusta Papermakers in the Western North Carolina Industrial League. Coan signed to the Washington Senators in 1944, and started to play in the minor league.

After working very hard, Coan was granted

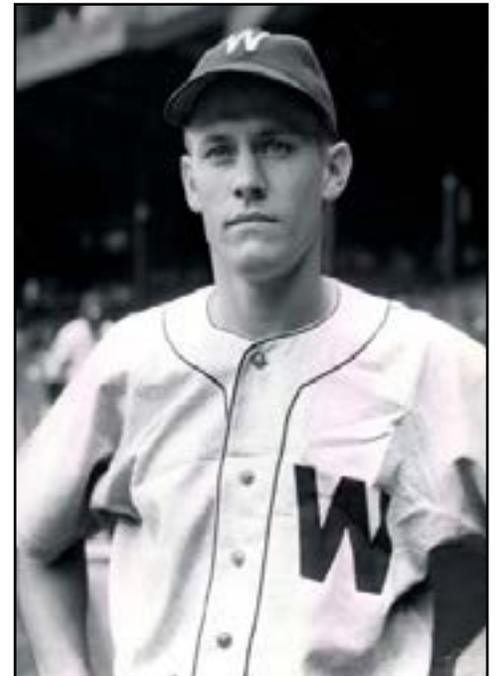
the title of “Minor League Player of the Year” by The Sporting News. After a few low points in his game and moving back and forth between the minors and majors, he was called back to the Senators in 1947. He had some solid playing time and he was recorded to have played over 100 games per year from 1948 to 1951 with the Senators.

Coan was traded to the Baltimore Orioles in 1953, where he spent several successful seasons. After the Orioles he was traded to the Chicago White Sox and then to the New York Giants to end his baseball career in 1956. Coan moved back to the Brevard area to coach the Brevard College baseball team for five years after retiring as an MLB player.

Coan was an active member of the community in Brevard in the years after his baseball career. He opened Brevard Insurance Agency in 1962, which is still active and run by his family. He was named a Trustee Emeritus at Brevard College and helped establish the Transylvania Cattleman’s Association.

Gil Coan was inducted into the inaugural Brevard College Hall of Fame class in 2004. He was also given the honor of having the Brevard College baseball field named after him in 1994. Gil Coan field is home to the current BC baseball team.

Gil Coan will be remembered as a legendary and respected member of the Brevard community. His hard work and legacy will live on through the students and faculty at Brevard College.



Coan in his Washington Senators uniform, c.1948.

THE CLARION

SENIOR STAFF

- Editor in Chief **Zach Dickerson**
- Managing Editor **Julie Carter**
- Copy Editor. **Carmen Boone**
- Campus News **Zach Dickerson**
- Opinion. **Julie Carter**
- Arts & Life **Chloe McGee**
- **Aia Andonovska**
- Sports **Eleanor Flannery**
- Layout & Design **Chloe McGee**
- **Margaret Correll**

STAFF WRITERS

- Eli Goodhew
- Sam Hipp
- Caroline Hoy
- Lande Simpson
- Mickayla Smith
- Solomon Turner
- Amber Vance

The Clarion is a student-run college newspaper produced by student journalists enrolled at Brevard College. Unsigned editorials represent the collective opinion of the staff of *The Clarion*. Other opinions expressed in this newspaper are those of respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the faculty, staff or administration of Brevard College.

All correspondence should be mailed to:
The Clarion, Brevard College, One Brevard College Drive, Brevard, NC 28712, or send
E-mail to clarion@brevard.edu
clarion.brevard.edu

✉ **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.



The 1941 Brevard College baseball team. Coan can be seen third from the right in the front row.

Democratic debate recap

By Eleanor Flannery
Sports Editor

A record 33 million viewers tuned in to watch the ninth Democratic Presidential Debate last Wednesday night, set in Las Vegas, Nevada. Michael Bloomberg, former mayor of New York City, made his first appearance on the debate stage, where he was not met with a warm welcome from his fellow candidates.

Elizabeth Warren addressed the misogynistic things that Bloomberg has said in the past. "I'd like to talk about who we're running against: a billionaire who calls women fat broads and horse-faced lesbians," Warren said. "And no, I'm not talking about Donald Trump. I'm talking about Mayor Bloomberg."

Bloomberg has an infamous history from when he served as mayor of New York City, known for his controversial introduction of the stop-and-frisk policy amongst minority neighborhoods. He once said, from an audio in 2015, "Ninety-five percent of murders, murderers, and murder victims" were "male minorities 16 to 25" and that one could "take the description, Xerox it, and pass it out to all cops."

He also added, "We put all the cops in minority neighborhoods. Yes, that's true. Why do we do it? Because that's where all the crime is. And the way you get guns out of the kids' hands is to throw them up against the wall and frisk them."

Pete Buttigieg had some harsh words to exchange with Amy Klobuchar. He suggested her experience with foreign policy might be lacking, referencing when Klobuchar could not name the President of Mexico. This resulted in a hostile retort from Klobuchar, who asked Buttigieg if he was calling her "dumb." "Are you trying to say I'm dumb — are you mocking me, Pete?"

Bernie Sanders, current frontrunner of the candidates, worked to try and hold his ground during the debate, with it being brought up that he did not release his full medical records. Sanders had a heart attack in October, which sparked worry from his supporters and fellow candidate hopefuls. During the debate, Buttigieg asserted that every candidate should have their medical records fully released to the public.

"I think we should be transparent, especially living in the Trump era," Buttigieg said in an interview with MSNBC. "We've got to do better. I would look to the Obama standard of releasing not just a letter from a doctor, but actual results from a physical. That's what we're planning to do, and I think every

candidate should hold themselves to that same standard."

Joe Biden continued, along with Warren, to bring up the allegations many women have made against Bloomberg.

"We are not going to beat Donald Trump with a man who has who-knows-how-many nondisclosure agreements and the drip, drip, drip of stories of women saying they have been harassed and discriminated against," Warren said. Before Bloomberg could reply, Biden added, "All the mayor has to say is, 'You are released from the N.D.A.,' period," Biden said. "It's not whether he apologized or not, it's the policy."

Buttigieg and Klobuchar continued back and forth, irritated with one another on their policies and questioning each other's legitimacy as a candidate to be president. Klobuchar asserted that Buttigieg's political accomplishments

were minimal.

"You don't have to be in Washington to matter," Buttigieg said, in reference to his work he accomplished as mayor of the once struggling city of South Bend. Klobuchar was consistently defensive, answering Buttigieg with blunt sarcasm, "I wish everyone was as perfect as you, Pete," she said.

Though strife exists among all the candidates, one thing they all have in common is the goal of beating Donald Trump in 2020. With Bernie Sanders recently pulling ahead in the national polls, and winning over the state of Nevada, he will have to bring his platform forward and be as transparent as possible to gain even more support.

The next Democratic Presidential Debate will take place on March 15 at 8 p.m., held in Phoenix, Arizona.

Coronavirus update

By Caroline Hoy
Staff Writer

By now you have probably heard of the coronavirus, but new information on the virus appears every day. The coronavirus is more common than one may think and causes infections in the respiratory system, specifically the sinuses. Most of the time, the coronavirus is not life-threatening, but the coronavirus in today's news is different.

The coronavirus that has been in the news is a new strain of it also known as COVID-19. At the beginning of the 2020, COVID-19 was discovered in China. From China, the virus quickly moved on to the rest of the world.

The death toll from the coronavirus is currently around 2,500, but just because someone has the virus doesn't mean they will die from it. There have been around 80,000 confirmed cases in 32 countries of COVID-19. Those numbers are rising day by day. Around 30 people have had confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the US, but none of those people have died from the virus. The risk of contracting COVID-19 in the US is considered low.

There is no vaccination for the virus. Some of the symptoms include fever, shortness of breath and coughing. Symptoms will appear anywhere from two to 14 days after contact, but this information is from similar viruses.

COVID-19 is like the common cold as it spreads from interpersonal contact. Many people are contagious even before they show symptoms. Scientists still haven't found a cure for the disease either. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention says that if a person contracts the disease to avoid spreading the virus more.

There is currently a stigma caused by COVID-19. This stigma can be seen on social media. Multiple people of Asian descent have posted about remarks from people that they have the coronavirus just because they are of Asian descent. This has happened enough that The Center for Disease Control has put a warning about this happening on their website.

Scientists are working very hard to solve the issue of COVID-19. At this time, the risk of catching the virus is very low in the US, but is still a major concern in China where thousands have died.



One-Stop
Early Voting

MARCH 3
PRIMARY
ELECTION
2020

REGISTER
& VOTE
AT THE
SAME TIME

NORTH
CAROLINA
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 13
TO SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 29

Chloe's Crash Course

Degas' Dancers

By Chloe McGee
Arts & Life Editor

In the same way Monet's name is inseparable with waterlilies or Lautrec with the Moulin Rouge, Degas's dancers have become an emblem of French Impressionism.

Like Degas, many of his contemporaries were avant-garde artists drawn to Parisian cultural aesthetics, but Degas refused to adapt completely to the progressive art movement.

Rejecting the "Impressionist" label, Degas deemed himself an "Independent" artist.

Degas was deeply inspired by the great masters, Raphael and Michelangelo, but was enticed by Impressionism's study of light and color.

Degas's pursuit to revive tradition while also embracing the newfound artistic style is essentially what granted him individuality.

Though his fascination towards human form was shaped by his academic training, Degas took an innovative approach to this classical subject matter.

Degas sought to recreate the ambience of ballet performances as a flâneur, inviting the viewer to imaginatively experience modernity, by recreating a fleeting moment of light and color.

While many Impressionists preferred to paint in plein air, Degas chose to work from sketches and by memory in the traditional manner.

"It is very good to copy what one sees; it is much better to draw what you can't see any more but is in your memory. It is a transformation in which imagination and memory work together. You only reproduce what struck you, that is to say the necessary," Degas wrote.

Degas's eyesight began to fade in his thirties, and he spent the last years of his life almost entirely blind, forcing the artist to rely heavily on his memory.

At a time when oil paint was widely favored among Impressionist artists, Degas was busy revitalizing neglected mediums. He even experimented by mixing and layering an array of different mediums within a single composition.

A piece that exhibits Degas's blended style is "The Star," a pastel drawing that was exhibited at the 1877 Troisième Exposition

Impressioniste in Paris.

From an elevated perspective, a soloist ballerina balances in an arabesque, illuminated by the artificial glow of stage lights.

Degas' captures this scene so vividly that the dancer appears to embody the eternity of movement rather than its duration. She is not frozen in time; she is a symbol of time's continuation.

The dancer's elegant gesture—the relationship between every limb—is in perfect harmony, giving the impression that she was dancing, is dancing and will continue to dance.

"The Star" is the quintessence of Degas's individualism as an artist. It is the marriage between traditional and contemporary style that secured Degas's lasting impression on art.



Edgar Degas, "The Star," 1877, pastel

Senior theatre capstone

By Carmen Boone
Copy Editor

Clara Reichhard is a senior theatre major at Brevard College. Her senior capstone project was putting together and directing “Little Box of Oblivion.”

The premiere was held on Friday, Feb. 21 and a second performance on Saturday, Feb. 22 both at 7 p.m. in the Porter Center’s Morrison Playhouse.

“A Little Box of Oblivion” is a one act play written by Stephen Bean that runs about 45 minutes.

Reichhard chose to direct it because she feels that directing is a very well rounded art.

“Directing encompasses a lot of different fields,” said Reichhard. “You have to work with the actors, you have to work with the technicians, like lighting, sound and all of that.”

The play included just five actors and actresses. Molly Ellis King played Cool (female), Talley Sugg played Woman, Jannie Kurtz played Neuro (female), Gabbi Nicholson played Doom (female) and Scott Douglas played Dick (male). There were many other people behind the scenes that worked to make the production possible.

Reichhard thanks the entire cast and crew.

She also sends a big thanks to Patrice Foster and Andrea Boccanfuso, who have been a great help to her along the way of getting to where she is.

The humorous play starts with Cool on a park bench reading a newspaper. Woman runs by and begs Cool to watch her box. She says not to touch, shake, move, or do anything of that sort with the box. Then, Neuro comes along and suspects that it is a bomb. Following that, Doom shows up, suspecting anthrax. To round it off, a British character named Dick comes in guessing the object in the box is a severed human head.

After there is much speculation, Cool gets fed up. She picks up the box and shakes it violently above her head, distressing the other three characters on the scene who have very dramatic reactions.

Woman then rushes back in and yells at Cool to set the box down gently. She is very worried that Cool has destroyed what is in the box. After a moment, she reveals that her tortoise is hibernating in the box, and the box was not nearly as horrid a thing as what any of the speculators had thought.

The play ends with Neuro, Doom and Dick closing in on Cool, taunting her about how awful it was that she shook the box. She runs out and

just before the characters disperse, Cool is heard screaming. Lights go out, scene.

Reichhard says this play is important to her because it’s something dark but includes the subject of mental illness. Neuro, Doom and Dick are meant to be figments of Cool’s imagination. “That’s what makes it fun to me. It’s a very dark subject matter packaged in humor,” said Reichhard. It has dark themes but is surrounded by comedy.

The process for this play was long. It started with picking the play and researching it. Then, Reichhard read it a couple times and did an analysis. She then held auditions to cast it followed by making a rehearsal schedule.

After that came read throughs, staging, scene work, running it, tech, dress rehearsals and finally, the show itself.

Reichhard began at Brevard College as a theatre major so it is “dear to my heart,” as she would say. It teaches discipline and accountability, which she says has been challenging but rewarding. “There’s ups and downs but it’s such a creative field and such a, you know, fun thing to do,” said Reichhard. “And there’s a lot of really creative and awesome people in the theatre.”

The Blanket Octopi

By Solomon Turner
Staff Writer

The Blanket Octopi, consisting of four species, show the largest difference in sexual size in the entire animal kingdom. According to *Our Breathing Planet*, the females can grow up to two meters (6.6 feet) while the males are only around 2.4 centimeters (0.94 inches). That’s a 10,000 to one weight ratio!

Coloration can vary widely because, like most cephalopods, they have chromatophores (pigment cells) but they generally display impressive mixes of silver, dark blue and purple pigments.

According to *The Tree Of Life*, each of the four species of *Tremoctopus* spp. inhabit all tropical and subtropical waters. *T. violaceus* is found in the Atlantic, *T. gracilis* in the Indo-Pacific, *T. gelatus* in the deep sea of tropical and temperate oceans and *T. robsoni* off the coast of New Zealand.

Their common name is derived from the unique appendages that connect the dorsal and dorsolateral tentacles. These long transparent webs, according to National

Geographic, can be dropped to distract a potential predator as it makes a speedy escape along with the stereotypical ink cloud. The billowing blankets are also used to intimidate predators by making the octopus appear larger.

According to National Geographic, the reasoning for the adaptation for sexual size difference isn’t completely understood but it is assumed that the males put more energy into searching for females instead of growing. The size difference however begs the question, how do they reproduce?

Population occurs in a strange and life ending

way for the male. The tiny male will rip off its hectocotylus, an arm that acts as the penis, and hand it over to the female. The male will bleed out but this effort doesn’t ensure that it will actually pass on its genes.

The female will carry hectocotylus of multiple males and choose the best to fertilize the eggs. When the female fertilizes the eggs, generally over 100,000, she will carry them until they hatch after which she too will die.

The young, being small and palatable to many marine organisms, use a strange defense mechanism, strange even for the animal kingdom. According to an article published in *The Science Magazine* in 1963, the young octopi will rip off tentacles of cnidarians, generally from the Portuguese man o’ war, and use the stinging fragments as a defense mechanism.

While they are listed as least concern on the IUCN Red List this is likely due to the lack of information regarding these organisms as the page has no information beyond the generally taxonomic information. There is much to learn about these unique marine cephalopods!



Courtesy of Australian Geographic

Blanket Octopus reveals unfurled blankets.

Senior Profile

Football star Brandon Crawford

By Aia Andonovska
Sports Editor

Brandon Crawford, of Decatur, Georgia, is all set to graduate in May of 2020. He found Brevard because he knew he wanted to play football in college. At the beginning of his football career, he was an offensive lineman, and when new coaches came in, he changed positions to defensive lineman.

“Since my football career, I’ve seen a lot of ups and downs, but the highlight of my football career was definitely senior year. Finishing the season 8-2 is the best season Brevard College has seen so far. I’m honored to have been a part of that,” Crawford said.

Crawford and the team were granted the opportunity to travel to Pittsburgh for a bowl game with the school. He says that this was the best way to end the season and he couldn’t ask for a better ending to his senior year and his football career.

Post-season, Crawford was invited to a D2 bowl game in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. He accepted the invitation and showcased his talents surrounded by his family.

Since being at Brevard, Crawford has studied business and organizational leadership, and also minored in art. If you’ve noticed the new lights around campus, you can thank Crawford and some other students for that. While taking a business course, he and other students came up with a plan to implement better lighting throughout the campus.

“Part of the project included research, and part of the research process was to go to another school and compare the lighting situation there,” Crawford said. “Before we even went to the other school, we counted all the lights on our campus.”

“All the ones that had no bulbs or that were dim were taken note of. We traveled to Mars Hill University and walked around their campus for about an hour and half, counting lights and also taking note of the dimness and brightness of those,” Crawford said. “When I started to see the new lights appear on our campus, I felt like it was a long time coming. Nevertheless, I was happy to be a part of the transformation of the campus.”

Crawford made long lasting relationships during his time at Brevard College. One such relationship is with his mentor, Ray Henley.

Henley has guided Crawford through school and been a listening ear, something that

Crawford is grateful for. Another thing that Crawford is proud of, considering relationships, is his time spent being an RA in Jones Hall. He enjoyed being in a leadership position, as he feels that he was fit for that role and he could also mentor his residents.

“I have valued the bonds made through everyday encounters. I also loved experiential education and the class size, because I believe it to be the most beneficial for my future. The mountains and the area were also a plus,” said Crawford of the things he has enjoyed most at Brevard.

When asked if he could change anything about his college experience, he said, “I

wouldn’t change a thing!” Concerning freshmen, his advice to them would be to “live their life, and when there is no fun, make fun!”

Upon graduating in May, Crawford plans on taking a trip to Jamaica to celebrate all his hard work and achievements. He has an internship lined up for the fall with Delta Airlines in Atlanta.

“I look forward to learning about the industry and stepping into the workforce,” said Crawford. Overall, Crawford has seen a lot of people come and go and talk about how boring Brevard College is, but he believes that it is what you make of it!



Brandon Crawford speaking at a pep rally with his team.

Courtesy of Aia Andonovska

Mural for the MET

Upscale
Appalachia
Submissions
Wanted

Creative works
including writing,
art, photography,
and videos.

Email
upscale.appalachia@gmail.com
by March 15th **April 1st**



Courtesy of Tom Ruple

Tom Ruple adds finishing touches to his mural in the MET's new lab.

Brevard College graduate Tom Ruple currently works at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC and was recently selected to paint a mural for the museum's newly renovated information systems lab.

Ruple heard of the opportunity through the company-wide newsletter and was encouraged by his supervisor to apply.

The application required Ruple to submit his resume, a concept outline, budget, time table and an artist statement to a board of MET executives for review.

Ruple was selected to from an extensive list of applicants to paint the mural.

The project took him approximately 21 hours over the course of three days to complete.

"This little robot is actually a doodle I used to

draw in my school notebooks," Ruple said. "And although it's a departure of my typical work, I found it fitting to present some of the roots in my artistic journey."

Although the mural is in the building's corporate section and not visible to the public, Ruple can honestly say that his art is in one of the world's greatest museums. That alone is a huge accomplishment and is something Ruple should be very proud of.

"I'm very excited to share my work in a place that I love and have so much respect for," Ruple said. "I look forward to seeing what opportunities come from this honor."

— Chloe McGee

The Democratic debate

— Sam Hipp



Weekly Horoscopes

By Mickayla Smith
Staff Writer

Aries: You may have been feeling unmotivated and tired but at the same time, you're feeling adventurous. What an odd combination of feelings. If adventuring seems too much right now, get some inspiration from travel magazines or social media platforms and plan an adventure when you're feeling ready.

Taurus: Have you been in the company of someone who complains ALL THE TIME? If so, it is time to give yourself some distance between you and this person. You strive when you have positive energy surrounding you, and this person is getting in your way of good things coming to you. Rather than lose your temper at this person, give yourself some space.

Gemini: This is the time to take steps toward your financial security. Even just starting this process to better your financial situation can take a lot of stress off of you. There is a lot to look forward to when you finally set a financial foundation for your wants and needs.

Cancer: A dream of yours may come true soon. Don't worry about when this will happen, or how it will happen, just focus on believing that it will. The universe has been pushing positive energy into your life to help

with achieving your dreams. Don't be too fast to downplay any goals you have in mind.

Leo: This week, there will be a lot of back and forth between exciting and quiet moods. However, don't become distressed by this. In moments of silence, take time to reflect on what you love and enjoy, and when things get exciting, take action as much as possible. You will get a lot done this week, and this is the perfect atmosphere to do so.

Virgo: Focus on your career this week. Lately, you have been scattering your energy in places that are not related to your work. It's time to take the important steps towards your career and to build a plan of action on how you will achieve these steps. Everything may seem overwhelming, but things will get sorted out.

Libra: Something may come out of the blue that jostles your process on something that is important to you. Your outlook on things will make a difference between being upset or motivated by this obstacle. There is always a silver lining when things don't go your way.

Scorpio: It's time to separate money and pleasure. This week, take time to think about your money situation and who you're surrounding yourself with. Are these people lifting you up or down? Realizing what is good for you and what is not, is what this week's energy is helping you out with.

Sagittarius: Big changes are coming this

week in a part of your life that is important to your sense of security and happiness. Since this news is coming, don't draw any conclusions. Don't worry about something that hasn't happened yet. Even though a lot is happening, the universe has your back and your happiness is being protected.

Capricorn: A friendship or romantic relationship could be causing you some stress this week. This could be from some miscommunication between the two of you. Take some time to talk through the issue; patience is key. Don't be afraid of being too honest, sometimes the truth hurts.

Aquarius: Choose how you spend your time wisely. Ask yourself, are you trying to prove a point and at what cost to you? This week is going to be busy for you and it might feel like it's beginning to get overwhelming. Prioritize your time in a way that makes you feel accomplished.

Pisces: A conflict between you and another person can be patched up this week. This conflict could have occurred from a dispute, argument or anxiety. Take time to understand what the other person is going through and then analyze your feelings. Are you acting appropriately or too harsh? When you're ready, sit down with this person and explain why you acted the way you did. Honesty is key.

Remembering Amie Harwick

By Julie Carter
Opinion Editor

For many, Valentine's Day is a wonderful time to celebrate intimate romantic relationships on an utterly happy day. However, this year's Valentine's celebrations turned tragic for numerous people as they faced violence perpetrated by the very people they might have traditionally observed the holiday with.

On Feb. 14, actress Hayden Panettiere, known for her roles in shows such as "Nashville" and "Heroes," was allegedly punched in the face by her boyfriend, Brian Hickerson. Hickerson was arrested on charges of domestic battery after Panettiere called police where she stated "He beat the fuck out of me."

Hickerson was released under the condition that he does not consume alcohol, willingly submit to searches of his vehicle for alcohol if pulled over by the police and not have direct or indirect contact with Panettiere.

This is far from the first time Hickerson was arrested for allegedly causing Panettiere physical harm. In May 2019, he was arrested

for felony domestic violence. Hickerson pled not guilty to the charge.

In the same month, a judge issued a protective order that Hickerson not come within 100 yards of Panettiere.

In September 2019, the case against Hickerson was dismissed under joint decision by the prosecution and judge. The protective order for Panettiere was thereby dismissed as well.

On Feb. 15, Amie Harwick, a former Playboy model and well-known sex therapist, died after she was thrown from her third-floor balcony, allegedly by ex-boyfriend Gareth Pursehouse.

Harwick had filed restraining orders against Pursehouse twice with one expiring just weeks ago. In her statements for the restraining orders, Harwick stated that Pursehouse "choked me, suffocated me, pushed me against walls, kicked me, dropped me to the ground with force, force-restrained me, slammed my head into the ground and punched me with a closed fist."

Harwick also noted in court documents that Pursehouse broke into her apartment multiple

times and told her "things would get worse."

Pursehouse was originally arrested on suspicion of murder, being released on a \$2 million bond. However, Pursehouse was re-arrested on an official murder charge in which he is slated to face the death penalty as he had the special circumstance of lying in wait for Harwick.

Panettiere and Harwick are only 2 devastating cases of violence against women in recent memory. Countless other women go through this every minute of every day, unable to speak up about what is happening to them.

Panettiere and Harwick did speak out. However, it wasn't enough to protect them from those who hurt them.

There must be more we can do to protect women in obvious or unobviously threatening situations. As the world currently stands, the options for women to do anything to get out of these scenarios is slim to none unless it goes too far.

Thankfully, Panettiere didn't face the same fate as Harwick, but she is far from in the clear.

Can married men be priests?

By Mickayla Smith
Staff Writer

Pope Francis will not allow married male deacons to become priests and he will not allow women to become deacons, according to NPR. Currently, there is a shortage of clergy members in the South American Amazon, and the shortage has had a significant impact on the Catholics in the region.

Some people aren't happy with Pope Francis's plans for the Amazon. Some of his conservative critics within the church have accused Francis of heresy because of his views on homosexuality and divorce. "Ultra-conservatives in the church in Europe and the US have warned allowing married priests in the Amazon could trigger total abolition of the clerical celibacy requirement," NPR's Sylvia Poggioli wrote.

Last October, Pope Francis responded to the requests with a three week Synod of Bishops that included countries from the Amazon region, from Brazil to Bolivia, Colombia and Venezuela. Deacons are allowed to oversee weddings and baptisms, but they're not allowed consecrate Communion wafer and wine.

This shortage of priests has made it difficult for Catholics to celebrate sacraments. "They can't have a priest for weeks or months, which, if they can't have a priest, that means they can't have Mass," Rocco Palmo, editor of the website Whispers in the Loggia, told NPR last year. "If they can't have Mass, they can't have the Eucharist, Holy Communion, the thing that Catholics consider to be the bread of life, the thing that keeps us alive spiritually."

Pope Francis's response came in a document called "Querida Amazonia" - or "Dear Amazon." In this document, he talks about the issues he had with ordaining married men as priests and women as deacons.

"Priests are necessary, but this does not mean that permanent deacons (of whom there should be many more in the Amazon region), religious women and laypersons cannot regularly assume important responsibilities for the growth of communities," Francis wrote, "and perform those functions ever more effectively with the aid of a suitable accompaniment."

The role of women in the Amazon has kept the church alive through their devotion and deep faith. Pope Francis stated that women, "should have access to positions, including ecclesial

services, that do not entail Holy Orders and that can better signify the role that is theirs."

Not only did Francis talk about the role of women in the church, but he also addressed the impact of climate change and the struggle to preserve the Amazon's culture and their natural environment.

According to Vatican News, Pope Francis laid out his four "dreams" for the Amazon. He proposed "an Amazon region that 'fights for the rights of the poor,' that preserves its distinctive cultural riches,' that 'jealously preserves its overwhelming natural beauty' and lastly, that the Christian communities might be 'capable of generous commitment', incarnate in the Amazon region."

With everything said and done, I think there are good intentions with this proposal, however, I still believe married men should be ordained as priests.

If the Catholic Church is so worried about people not being able to celebrate sacraments and mass, then why wouldn't the Church make it more accessible for its followers? It seems as though the church is in limbo regarding this issue, and it's about time that there is a permanent decision made.

Nation's first collegiate gravel racing team

By Phillip de Montmollin
Contributor

BREVARD, N.C. – Brevard College has become the first collegiate cycling program in the United States to launch the discipline of Gravel Racing to its offerings for student-athletes. Gravel Racing, widely regarded as the fastest growing cycling niche in the U.S., will be added immediately to 10-time USA Cycling collegiate national champion Brevard College's current disciplines of Mountain Biking, Cyclocross and Road Cycling.

"Brevard College has always been one of the top cycling programs in the country," said Brevard College President David C. Joyce. "By enhancing the student-athlete experience with new opportunities in the fast growing sport of gravel racing, Brevard College once again is leading the way."

Gravel Racing is a relatively new cycling discipline that combines riding on surfaces such as asphalt, gravel, dirt, single-track and maintenance roads. The distances of the races typically range between 50 and 150 miles, yet can be even longer.

The Brevard College Tornados Cycling program, under the direction of Head Coach Brad Perley and Assistant Coach Cypress Gorry, will begin competing in the gravel discipline immediately. The team will train in nearby Pisgah National Forest and DuPont State Forest, two of the premier gravel racing locations in the nation.

"The addition of gravel as an officially recognized discipline here at BC Cycling is an exciting move for us," said Coach Perley. "We have the knowledge, ability and local resources in Brevard to excel in these events while providing team race support. Our primary focus has and always will be our students. This addition provides them with even more unique opportunities to progress in their training, racing careers and student experience."

Sixteen student-athletes will make up the nation's first collegiate gravel team, including several Brevard College cyclists – Hannah Arensman, Carson Beckett, Tyler Clark, Tyler Orschel and Rachel Pageau - that have competed at the UCI World Championships level in other disciplines.

"I believe this new gravel addition is going to be a great resource for the school and for a lot of the classes that are going to be up and coming,"

said Beckett. "It is only a matter of time before the sport of gravel becomes nationally recognized, so this will be unique to be a leader of that movement."

"Gravel racing is going to be a really fun addition," added Arensman. "I think it is going to bring the team even closer together. They are long, hard races but at the end everyone comes back and feels great. It will be great for team building among other benefits."

The Gravel Racing schedule will be spread across the academic calendar with the inaugural race for Brevard College taking place on Saturday, March 7 at the Southern Cross in Dahlonega, Georgia. The Tornados will also race this Spring at the Love Valley Roubaix Gravel Grinder Classic, March 21-22 in Love Valley, North Carolina. The 2020 Fall schedule will include local Western North Carolina events

such as the Pisgah Monster-Cross Challenge in Pisgah National Forest and the Dirt Diggler in DuPont State Forest.

"I applaud Head Coach Brad Perley and Assistant Coach Cypress Gorry for developing this game changing concept of adding the first-ever collegiate gravel racing team," said Brevard College Director of Athletics Myranda Nash. "We are excited to support this new endeavor which will provide exciting new experiences for our student-athletes."

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



Brevard College Cycling team practices together on gravel road.