



BC hits 9 active COVID-19 cases

By Aia Andonovska
Copy Editor

On Oct. 16, 2020, Brevard College's Dean of Students, Deb D'Anna, sent out a campus-wide email update on the COVID-19 status at Brevard College. At the time, the number of cases stated in the email was five. D'Anna also said that all of the cases are contained within one student group. This group is currently in quarantine until Oct. 23. When this email was written, the amount of people in quarantine was 87 and two faculty members had active cases.

In the next part of her email, D'Anna listed the next steps for campus. The group in quarantine will continue to be tested for the remainder of the semester until the health department or Blue Ridge Health sees fit, and then they will test a percentage of the group weekly. D'Anna has also stated that the students that tested positive for the virus are being housed in quarantine/isolation housing. "We have three areas dedicated to quarantine/isolation housing; the guest house, the lower level of East Jones, and the duplex that used to be the athletic offices."

According to D'Anna, there is a difference between isolation and quarantine. "Students are placed in isolation if they test positive. They must remain in isolation for 10 days from the day they started showing symptoms or 10 days from the day they took the test as asymptomatic. They are released from isolation after the 10 day period as long as they have been without a fever and symptoms for 24 hours." She continued, "Anyone that is considered a close contact with a positive person but has not tested positive must remain in quarantine for 14 days after the last day of exposure. If we have an entire suite or students in the situation, we can allow them to quarantine in their rooms. We try to do this when possible."

One fourth of the athletic teams and residential

students will also be tested weekly. This will be random testing. As stated by D'Anna in the email, failure to show up for your allotted time for a test will result in suspension. In a later email D'Anna clarified, "This email is a correction to the first email. The statement about testing should have read students not showing up for testing could be suspended not will be suspended. Suspension is never our first option but is always an option. We want you to understand the seriousness of this situation. If you want to talk to me about the testing requirements, I am more than happy to talk with you. Please email me and we can set up at time to talk next week."

When asked if there is a reason behind doing random testing over required testing, D'Anna said, "Surveillance testing is still not widespread or recommended. Many places will only test if a person has symptoms or have been exposed to a person testing positive. The 25 percent of different student groups will give us a clearer picture of the exposure on our campus. Student athletes will not be included in the overall 25 percent because each team will have 25 percent of their roster tested weekly."

D'Anna was also asked by The Clarion if there is a benchmark in the school's policy for when there are enough cases to switch to fully online courses. She said, "This is a difficult question. The number of cases is not a clear indication of an alarm. There are other factors that are considered. The current situation with cases is contained within one student group. We have been able to contain the positives within this group because of cohort housing. These students live in the same areas and this makes it easier to quarantine the group."

The daily dashboard for COVID-10 on Brevard College's campus was updated on Oct. 20, 2020. The total cases have now risen to nine,

with one more case being a faculty member. The total number of people quarantining is now 80. D'Anna stated in an interview that she will send out the link to the dashboard so the campus community can have access to it. Students should check the dashboard for daily updates.

Despite the rise in cases and going online last week, Brevard College students returned to in-person classes this week. On the CDC's website they list considerations for institutions of higher education. The lowest risk is listed as being virtual only. Under the "some risk" category the advised protocols are as follows:

- Students, faculty, and staff follow all steps to protect themselves and others at all times, including proper use of face masks, social distancing, and hand hygiene.
- Hybrid learning model: Students participate in virtual learning, and in-person learning is limited to courses and laboratory instruction that cannot be delivered remotely.
- Students, faculty, and staff participate in small, in-person classes, activities, and events that allow individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart (e.g., lecture room with individual seating spaced 6 feet apart).
- Students avoid out-of-class social gatherings and events and communications and policies discouraged these activities.
- Apply and support strict adherence to cohorting, alternating schedules, and staggered schedules in residence halls, dining areas, and recreational areas on campus to create small groups of students and minimize their contact with others (e.g., small cohorts of freshmen who live and learn together).
- Students, faculty, and staff do not share

BC takes on precautions to combat spread of COVID-19

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objects (e.g., laboratory, art, or recreational equipment and supplies).

- Regularly scheduled (e.g., at least daily or between uses) cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched areas occur as planned (i.e., on-time and consistently).

This can be found under this link. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/considerations.html>

When Scott Sheffield, the Vice President of Academic Affairs and the Dean of Faculty was asked about these CDC guidelines, he said, "Brevard College is a very small educational community, committed to personal, experiential learning. Our educational mission is best delivered in an in-person modality of instruction. That is why most students choose to attend Brevard College. As we mostly have small classes and small classrooms, compared to most other schools, the College has been able to create socially distanced classroom spaces, in conjunction with implementing classroom and campus wide protocols, so that we can

continue in-person instruction with limited risk. We have worked closely with public health officials in constructing the classroom spaces and in creating our protocols, along with all the other schools in Western North Carolina, so that we may continue in-person instruction and continue to fulfill our educational mission and our promise to students at Brevard College as much as we can. We coordinated what we are doing with Mars Hill, Warren Wilson, Montreat, UNCA, and Western Carolina University. They are following similar protocols and also implementing in-person instruction as they can and as it fits their educational mission, so we are not alone in offering in-person instruction, though the percentage of our in-person classes is higher than those of UNCA and WCU. Mars Hill and Warren Wilson are doing very much the same things as we are."

He continued, "We changed, temporarily, to online modality last week (only once this semester, not two as you say) out of an abundance of caution and because the number of students in quarantine would have made it difficult for some professors to teach in two modalities. It was also intended to give the College the time to assess the positive COVID-19 cases and do further testing on the athletic cohort, so that we could make an informed decision on whether or not to return to in-person classes. After extensive review of the COVID-19 cases and contact tracing, it was determined that in-person classes could safely resume for all those students not in quarantine or isolation. Since it is very difficult for professors to teach in two modalities at one time, professors teaching classes in which 25 percent of their students would be absent because of COVID-19 could choose the modality of their class for this week. Some professors in these classes have chosen to stay online for this week. Others have chosen to go back to in-person classes and accommodate students who are absent due to COVID-19."

When asked, "Is the educational benefit of in-person classes so much worth compared to the one of online classes that you are willing to run the risk and pay the cost of staying with the policy, even when the cost is the emergence of positive cases, twice so far?" Sheffield responded, "There is no connection between the emergence of COVID-19 cases on the Brevard College campus and in-person classroom instruction. You can confirm this by contacting Dr. Debbie D'Anna, Vice President for Student for Student Success and Dean of Students. So this question is nonsensical. As I said above, our educational mission is best delivered in an in-person modality of instruction. That is why most students choose to attend Brevard College. As we mostly have

small classes and small classrooms, compared to most other schools, the College has been able to create socially distanced classroom spaces, in conjunction with implementing classroom and campus wide protocols, so that we can continue in-person instruction with limited risk. We have worked closely with public health officials in constructing the classroom spaces and in creating our protocols, along with all the other schools in Western North Carolina, so that we may continue in-person instruction and continue to fulfill our educational mission and our promise to students at Brevard College as much as we can. We coordinated what we are doing with Mars Hill, Warren Wilson, Montreat, UNCA, and Western Carolina University. They are following similar protocols and also implementing in-person instruction as they can and as it fits their educational mission, so we are not alone in offering in-person instruction, though the percentage of our in-person classes is higher than those of UNCA and WCU. Mars Hill and Warren Wilson are doing very much the same things as we are."

Extra steps to protect the safety of students that are being taken include the weekly testing mentioned, additional cleaning, stricter enforcement of protocols, and continued suspension of visitation in residence halls. In D'Anna's email from Oct. 16, she said, "Facilities have contracted with a company that is disinfecting and sanitizing indoor spaces of our buildings. This is a misting solution that has been approved to fight COVID. This treatment is being applied today and will last 30 days. Housekeeping will do additional cleaning along with this treatment."

In the last part of her email, D'Anna encouraged students, "This past week has been a test of our campus. We are a campus that cares for each other and wants to do the right thing for our campus community. We can do this together by wearing our masks, staying 6 feet apart at all times, washing our hands, reporting our symptoms, and getting tested. We have forty days till the last day of final exams. This is the final stretch. It is time for all of us to do our part to keep our campus community safe. Our motto is "Learn in Order to Serve". We have learned what to do to prevent COVID. It is time to serve each other by following the protocols and holding each other accountable. Please remember to be kind to each other, show compassion, stay positive, work hard, make it happen, and never stop learning. In the words of the great coach Pat Summitt 'There is an old saying: a champion is someone willing to be uncomfortable.' We are all feeling uncomfortable right now, but we will come out of this as champions."

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Brevard's week of online classes due to COVID-19

By Caroline Hoy
Staff Writer

On Oct. 10, 2020, at 7:02 p.m., Brevard College sent out an email saying that classes were going to be held online for the week. The decision was made due to three positive COVID-19 cases in a short span of time. The school, also, put in place actions to have all meals in the cafeteria to be served as to-go for the week.

Many students were and still are being quarantined in their rooms due to the amount of people who contracted COVID-19 being from the same sports team and with the school's new protocol to have teams in the same housing complex this was possible. Since there are only 60 beds reserved in quarantine it is presumed that is the reason why students were quarantined in their rooms.

When looking at the numbers there was an inconsistency thus the correct number of COVID can not be reported. The numbers as of

Sunday, Oct. 18, look to show 7 positive cases. But again this number is inconsistent when looking at the COVID dashboard.

Jannie Kurtz, a Junior music major, was asked about how going online for a week affected her classes. Kurtz said that overall everything went well, but the choir class was hard due to Zoom lag. She is very happy for classes to go back to normal.

Scott Sheffield, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty, was interviewed about how classes went being online. Sheffield said that at the faculty meeting, there was positive feedback about how the week went, minus a few technical issues that were able to be solved by IT.

Sheffield said that the most positive feedback he received from teachers is that they were happy to see their students faces. One teacher mentioned how he won't recognize his students without a mask.

Sheffield also mentioned how the immersion this semester did not go online due to them currently being on the coast. Immersion is a group of seven to ten students planning and preparing to go on a 21 day expedition. This takes one semester and is a requirement for all WILEE majors. The students will leave for their 21 day trip on Oct. 28.

Starting on Monday, Oct. 19, classes will go back to in person, except for a select few classes with a large number of students. The dining hall will also resume dining inside, but take out will still be an option if students choose.

It is encouraged to keep in mind what Debora D'Anna, Dean of Students, said in her email to the school, "...This is the final stretch. It is time for all of us to do our part to keep our campus community safe. Our motto is 'Learn in Order to Serve.' Brevard has earned what to do to prevent COVID-19. It is time to serve the school by following the protocols and holding each other accountable.

City of Brevard to open dog park

The city of Brevard is currently constructing a new dog park on 2.7 acres of land. This land was donated by the HCA, or Hospital Corporation of America. It will be located at the City of Brevard Sports Complex on Ecusta Road. The dog park will have separate off leash areas for small and large dogs.

Councilwoman Mareen Copelof said, "We have an amazing team that is working on the dog park. We have about 20 people, and it is a combination of just volunteers from the public, some very talented people who have donated their time and expertise to this, and a good number of city staff and council members." She also stated that between June and August, 43 loads of brush were removed from the site.

Funding for the park is through a combination of city funding and public donations. To make the dog park a reality, donations are still needed. For a donation of \$100 or more, a brick can be engraved and placed at the entrance of the park to honor your furry friend.

A donation form can be downloaded from cityofbrevard.com/dog-park-brick

— Aia Andonovska



Plans of the future dog park.

Courtesy of the Transylvania Times

Satirical Piece

Daryl the Dog Dispatcher

Way out in the boondocks of Transylvania County, not far from Brevard College, in the little village that is Balsam Grove, there is a man that grants passage to the rainbow bridge for canines. Nicky Haleigh, a resident of the area, said of the man that “He did what my family couldn’t do, and there’s nothing in the world that would allow us to thank him enough for his kindness and generosity.” Another inhabitant of Balsam Grove, Kile Rottinhouse, said that “While I have the means to send my dog over, even if it’s not the time, I just don’t have the heart enough to do so.”

Nearly all of the residents of this small and antiquated area of backwoods North Carolina have confessed their love and admiration for the local legend, Daryl the Dog Dispatcher. “It’s so hard for me to encourage acts of this nature,” says Galvin Mclenis, a prominent member of the community’s Acceptance and Awareness Group, “But calling upon our hometown hero to release a forgotten,

unworthy, or old spirit is all I can do,” he added.

Many folks in Balsam Grove rely on Daryl the Dog Dispatcher to shoot their beloved pet whenever it’s the animal’s time to venture to another realm or when their owners deem it justified. Several, if not all of the residents, said that they are extraordinarily thankful for the legend’s ability to adequately address their concerns in an efficiently swift manner. Willie Bard, a representative of the region’s interests, said that “Even while we are all strictly following the guidelines in place due to the current pandemic and while many people are shadowed in doubt, Daryl the Dog Dispatcher has continued to provide his services to our community while maintaining social distancing and wearing a CDC recommended N95 respirator.”

—Scott Urquhart

Zombie co-op gets an update

By Kellen McGeorge
Staff Writer

While we are still recovering from our temporary scare, it might be fun for some of us to try and take on a different type of pandemic. If you have a need to take on the undead or just looking for a fun multiplayer experience, then “Left 4 Dead 2” is the game for you to try out.

In “Left 4 Dead 2”, you take control of one of four survivors stuck in a zombie apocalypse, each survivor has their own personality and takes on the apocalypse, some take it as a horrible thing, others take it as a chance to cut loose and go nuts. With each level, your objective is to survive and make it to the next safe room while taking out as many infected as you can with a nice arsenal of weapons. Each level has a gimmick to it and a zombie that is native to that area, meaning some weapons won’t work and you will need to be smart about how you take them out.

“Left 4 Dead 2” has tons of weapons that each have their own strengths and weaknesses. From crowbars to axes and pump shotguns to grenade launchers, there is something for everyone, but remember, every weapon has a weakness to consider, an assault rifle might have a decent rate of fire, but that won’t matter if you can hit anything while moving to another location, and a shotgun might cut through zombies at close range, but they’ll hit like a wet napkin at long range.

You won’t just have to deal with regular zombies, the infected have their own special zombies to bring to the table. Each special infected has a different use for bringing panic to survivors, and it is important to know what you are going up against. Smokers will tie you up and strangle you if they get the chance, and upon death will leave a cloud of thick smoke that will make it hard for you to see where zombies are coming from, and for Boomers, they will cover you in a nasty bile that blinds you and attracts more infected to your location, and like their names say, they explode upon death covering any unfortunate soul near them in their bile.

So join the many people who are taking on the undead in “Left 4 Dead 2”, with a new update just released with a brand new level and campaign. I had a lot of fun playing this game and definitely enjoyed the many different campaigns the game provides, and I hope more people will get involved with the game. Jump into the game and remember to keep an eye out for tanks.



Brevard College prefers blue

BC prefers Democrats in The Clarion's 2020 election poll

Brevard College prefers Democrats in this year's election, whether for governor, senator, or president, where former Vice President Joe Biden is favored over President Donald Trump by a more than two-to-one margin.

Those are the preliminary results in The Clarion's general election poll for the 2020 election, distributed via Google Forms to students, staff and faculty earlier this month. So far, we have received 192 responses to the poll, which would give the survey a margin of error of plus-or-minus 6 percent.

To encourage more responses, and to get a more accurate view of the opinions of the BC community, The Clarion is keeping the survey open for the remainder of this week, and we plan to give updates in next week's issue.

For now, at least, Biden has a commanding lead, the choice of 65 percent of respondents. Trump, by contrast, was the choice for only 27 percent of those responding to the poll. Only 3 percent said they were still undecided.

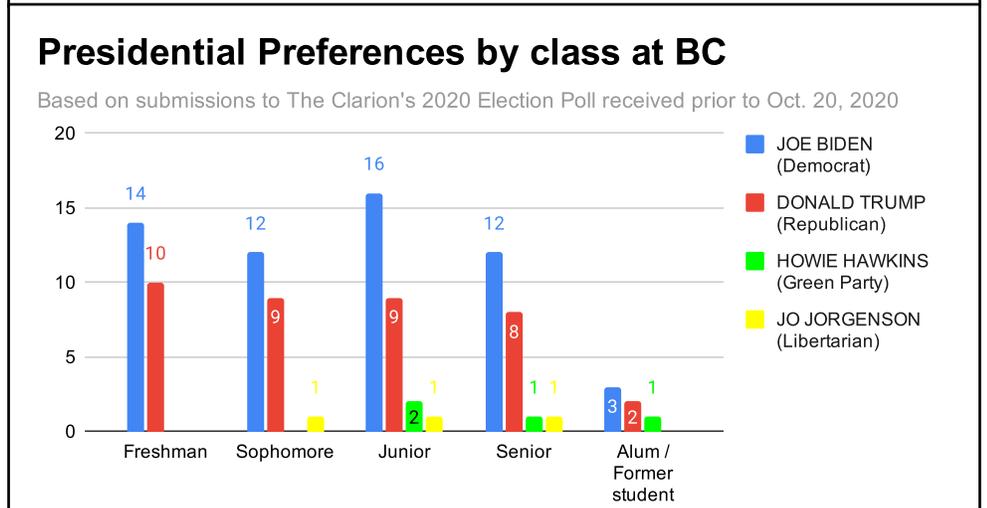
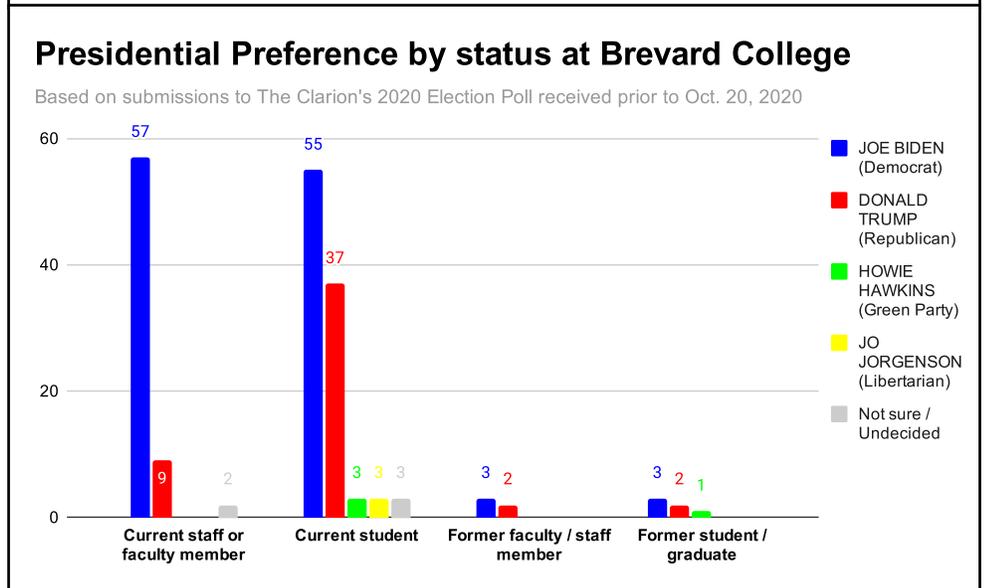
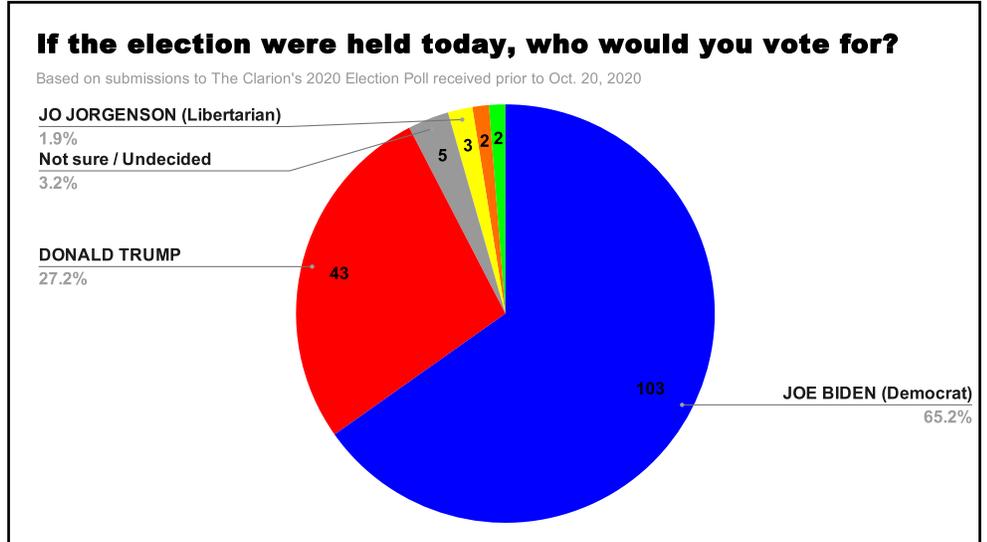
The poll showed strong support for other Democrats as well, including for North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper (65 percent, compared to just 26 percent for the Republican challenger Dan Forest). In the race for U.S. Senate, Cal Cunningham is the choice for 59 percent of responses, while the incumbent, Thom Tillis, is favored by 28 percent.

And in the North Carolina House District 11 race, Moe Davis leads Republican Madison Cawthorn by 30 percentage points, 55 to 25 percent. This is the seat in Congress formerly held by Mark Meadows, who resigned in order to take over as the president's chief of staff.

As more responses come in, these results could change, of course. The data so far show, however, that BC employees are more likely to favor Biden in the presidential race: while the number who favor Biden is roughly the same as the number of students, far fewer employees prefer Trump: just nine, compared to 37 students.

Among current students, the data show a preference for Biden over Trump in all four classes, but the margin for freshmen and sophomores, a difference of seven, is slightly closer than for juniors and seniors, where the difference is 11. More responses from current students are needed, however, to get a clearer picture of who BC students prefer in the presidential race.

To respond to The Clarion 2020 Election Poll if you have not already, visit <http://bit.ly/clarion-2020election>.



Amy Coney Barrett's confirmation hearing

What readers and potential voters need to know

By Margaret Correll
Editor in Chief

President Donald Trump's recent Supreme Court nominee, Amy Coney Barrett was questioned by the Senate Judiciary Committee this past week in a hearing before the Senate votes to confirm. She and the committee sat through almost 20 hours of questioning.

Senator from South Carolina, Lindsay Graham seemed pretty confident on her confirmation by the committee, stating to NPR, "This is probably not about persuading each other unless something really dramatic happens," said Graham, "All Republicans will vote yes and all Democrats will vote no and that will be the way the breakout of the vote." The panel will vote on Oct. 22, 2020 and if confirmed, the full Senate will vote shortly after.

The Senate Judiciary committee grilled Barrett on important issues and topics in the political climate, currently, such as abortion, health care and voting rights. Barrett, according to NPR, revealed herself as an "originalist", meaning she prefers to not make decisions from the bench, but to adhere to the text of statutes.

Many Democrats on the panel attempted to pin her with difficult questions regarding these extremely important issues, but Barrett approached every question with a cool and slightly vague answer. They added that her appointment to the Supreme Court could be detrimental to millions of Americans, based on how she chooses to analyze and interpret specific cases.

An instance during her questioning brought Texas GOP Senator, John Cornyn, to ask about her notes that she was using to prepare her answers to the committee. Barrett held up a blank notepad, indicating that she had not prepared material or had been writing anything down during the hearing. She defended herself by stating that she could speak for hours about legal issues with no notes, a controversial statement to say the least.

While declining to answer several

hypothetical questions brought forth by the committee, Barrett revealed that she was trying to follow a rule set by her possible predecessor, the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg. The rule is known as the "Ginsburg rule", stating that judicial ethics require that judges should not weigh in on issues that come before them and Barrett repeatedly stated during the hearing, "No hints, no previews, no forecasts."

Democrats tried to hone in on questions about health care, reminding the panel, Barrett, and the viewers that Trump has repeatedly tried to use the Supreme Court to overturn Obamacare, placed by former president, Barack Obama. She was also asked about her stance on climate change and its threat to the environment which she also declined to answer.

The final, large issue to be covered was the idea of President Donald Trump and the potential pardon cases. Barrett assured that panel that she would recuse herself if any such cases came up and the court would go through the proper steps to analyze the cases.

It seems that Amy Coney Barrett's confirmation by the Senate Judiciary

Committee is on track since the hearing was less than eventful. This hearing, in contrast to Bret Kavanaugh's hearing in 2018, was civil and uninteresting. Barrett's ability to answer in the most vague and unbiased way possible may have saved her from more scrutiny than she received during the long hours of the hearing.

Graham praised Barrett, in a disturbing way stating, "This is the first time in American history that we've nominated a woman who is unashamedly pro-life and embraces her faith without apology, and she is going to the court," said Graham. This solidifies the Republicans' faith in Barrett and their hope that she would uphold that dogma that they so desperately want to reintegrate back into the government.

While Barrett did not reveal her beliefs to the panel as many would have liked to see, it is clear how GOP lawmakers feel about her nomination and what this could mean for American citizens and their livelihoods being debated on the Supreme Court. If any of these important issues are debated if she is appointed to the court, women should consider investing in red capes and white blinders.



Photo from WCTI

Amy Coney Barrett at her Supreme Court confirmation hearing.

Does Your Vote Matter?

By Isaac Ford
Staff Writer

Election day is Nov. 3, and early voting has already started in many states. According to NPR, there has been historic voter turnout for early voting just in the first two days, revealing that the democratic itch is alive and burning for numerous Americans.

Despite our repeated failures and mishaps as a nation, many still believe in our national ideals of liberty and justice for all, safeguarded by our natural, inalienable rights. One of the United States' most admirable qualities lies in its constant commitment to achieving its potential, both as a people, and as a nation. We have set a high standard for ourselves – at least in principle. We often fail to emulate and personify everything we hold dear as a nation; our history is a history of great irony.

One of our most essential rights is the liberty to vote. Since the conception of the United States 244 years ago, the right to vote, and what that right means, has undergone repeated scrutiny and revision as more groups became enfranchised. The right to vote grants us a voice in who is elected to office and how our country governs itself. When tyranny, or a corrupt government or leader, rules, there is only one absolute voice. Democracy grants us a million voices.

We are a nation decidedly of the people, by the people, and for the people. Many Americans are not so certain. Plutocracy, or government by the wealthy, seems to operate in the guise of democracy. The government does not seem to care about human health or prosperity, and fueled by capitalism, it considers only what generates profits and those who will either support or keep them in power.

The criticisms are manifold and diverse. Some will argue that those in power are too radical and partisan; the government is and has been ineffective and inefficient; those in office are not diverse enough and do not represent an increasingly diverse electorate; the two-party system is ineffective and does more harm than good; the two-party system alienates voters and increases voter apathy; the two-party system does not represent alternative views; we should not have to always choose between two dominant presidential candidates; the two major candidates do not always align with voter values; third parties never win the presidency; leaning left or leaning right has become inseparable from certain character traits; politics is in decline; we are too polarized and cannot work together; and my vote does not matter.

Nihilism proposes that nothing matters. Life has no meaning, and therefore living is meaningless. In that sense, it borders on apathy, but apathy is not nihilism. It is the feeling of not feeling – there is no hope or enjoyment, and nothing seems worth it. It is like being in a state of existential limbo. The world wears us down, and we get burnt out. We can become indifferent, unenthusiastic, and uncaring. In the world that we live in, it is so easy to be apathetic when there is so much to care about and so many people telling you to care.

Of all the two-hundred million eligible voters in the last four elections, only about half (between fifty and sixty percent) voted in each one. Where is the voice of the other half? What do they want?

We are living in the Anthropocene, a period in Earth's history where humans have drastically changed and influenced the natural world. We are also living in an era of increasing diversity and tolerance, with major advancements in social and civil rights. We also are still experiencing the wrath of a global coronavirus pandemic, with over eight million confirmed cases in the U.S. alone, and will experience

the healthcare, economic, and personal implications as time goes on. At any point in human history, writers will attribute or imbue a particular moment of the present with immeasurable significance, and the year of 2020 will be no exception.

Your vote matters. Your vote counts. If it will make a difference, then it matters. If a candidate does not match your values on one account, is there anything else in their platform that aligns with your views? What are their views on the economy? The environment and climate change? The coronavirus pandemic? Healthcare? Do you like the president? Do you not like the president? Do you think they will do excellent work, if reelected?

Even if you will not vote for either party candidate, there are local county and state candidates running for office or reelection on the ballot. Your vote determines what happens on a local level, too. Your vote will determine the outcome. Your vote matters. Your vote counts.

You make a difference. You have a voice. Use it.



Photo from NPR

Voting will conclude on Nov. 3.

Amazon workers calling for PTO time to vote

By Kym Caldwell
Arts & Life Editor

It is nearing the presidential election day and American citizens are ready to cast their ballots. While many companies like Facebook, Apple, and Twitter have given their employees time off, some even going as far as to give workers additional paid time off. Others have to work on election day because it is not required.

Recently employees of Amazon have expressed their displeasure with the policy. Amazon currently requires its employees to use vacation time, if they are so lucky to have it, to take time off to vote. A group of corporate employees called Amazon Employees for Climate Justice is known for applying pressure to the company for the injustice it does; they decided to launch an internal petition to receive time off to vote.

The petition has been signed around 4,000 times by the Amazon warehouse employees. The employees have criticized Amazon for being uninterested in the issue and some have even said that they do not see themselves voting because they do not have time before or on Election Day. It is hard for the employees to balance their commutes, their work in the warehouse, and their personal obligations.

They also expressed their concerns about how COVID-19 may affect voting this year. It may be made more difficult and many may not know where to vote and the amount of time they will have to wait in line. Hour-long lines are said to have been prevalent in Texas and Georgia which could detour voters.

Amazon has not stated what they will do about the voting day with the election being less than 20 days away, they have simply released

statements on how to request your days off. Amazon spokesperson Jaci Anderson said "We have supplied all of our employees with information on how to register to vote, details of their local polling locations, and how to request time off to vote. In all 47 states with in-person voting, employees that lack adequate time before or after their scheduled workday to vote, can request and be provided excused time off."

Employees are rightfully upset; they are having to choose between their jobs, the very way they provide for their families and livelihood, and their right to vote. Workers are left hoping that Amazon will follow in the footsteps of other companies and make the right decisions.



Photo from Geekwire

Amazon workers in the Amazon Employees for Climate Justice group protesting for paid time off to vote.

Staff Highlight

Kayla Robles named Brevard College Director of Compliance & Academic Services

By Phil de Montmollin
Sports Information Director

BREVARD, N.C. – Kayla Robles has been named Director of Compliance & Academic Services at Brevard College, announced Director of Athletics Myranda Nash.

"On behalf of the entire Tornado family, we are so excited to welcome Kayla to Brevard College," said Nash. "Her expertise and attention to detail in the areas of compliance as well as academic support will make her an extremely valuable asset to our institution and to all our student-athletes."

Robles will begin her duties at Brevard College on December 1.

"Brevard College is everything I hoped for in an opportunity to impact student-athletes," said Robles. "The institution, coaches and staff are unbelievable and I am excited to work alongside outstanding individuals to enhance the student-athlete experience. Thank you to all the Brevard coaches and staff for welcoming me into the family. Go Tornados!"

Robles will step into the role currently held by Angie Mascaro who has been elevated to a new position in Campus Life for Brevard College at large. Mascaro has worked with Athletics since 2016 in a variety of roles.

"We thank Angie for her incredible work these past four years which has elevated the areas of compliance and academic services

here at Brevard College," said Nash. "In this well-deserved promotion, Angie will now be a tremendous asset to the entire campus in her new position."

Robles arrives at Brevard College after gaining valuable experience at the NCAA and at NCAA Division I institution Ohio University.

Robles served as the NCAA Postgraduate Academic Membership Affairs Intern at the association's headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana from June, 2017 through May, 2018. At the internship, Robles developed compliance education tools, processed interpretations and waivers for Division III institutions and conferences. Robles also prepared and presented legislative education at the NCAA's 2018 Regional Rules Seminar.

For the 2019-20 academic year, Robles held the position of the Graduate Assistant for the College of Business and Professional Programs at Ohio University. In that role, she developed a comprehensive Sport Administration 101 class while also writing research findings on fan engagement, tickets and advocacy. Moreover, Robles co-authored the research article "Determinants of Season Ticket Holder Advocacy in the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision" and co-presented the topic "Leveraging the Power of the Intergenerational Workplace" at the Women Celebrate Conference.

Robles was a standout women's soccer varsity student-athlete at NCAA Division II Valdosta State University where she took on high-level responsibilities with the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). She served as the Gulf South Conference's SAAC representative for the National Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, where she participated in conference and NCAA meetings on behalf of student-athletes. In 2017 at the ceremony held at the College Football Hall of Fame, Robles was named Georgia's Most Positive Collegiate Athlete by Positive Athlete Georgia, an organization started by NFL star Hines Ward.

A native of Flowery Branch, Georgia, Robles is a graduate of Valdosta State University with a Bachelor's of Business Administration degree in Business Management. She also holds a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Sport Administration from Ohio University.

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Staff Highlight

Assistant AD/Senior Woman Administrator/ Co-SAAC Advisor Stephanie Johnson

By Phil de Montmollin
Sports Information Director

BREVARD, N.C. - Throughout the Fall, the Brevard College Department of Athletics will be highlighting its staff members in a tri-weekly Staff Highlight Series, giving members of the Athletic Administration and Coaching Staff the opportunity to introduce themselves to the BC community through a series of questions and biographical elements.

Next up in BC's Staff Highlight Series is Brevard College Assistant AD/Senior Woman Administrator/Co-SAAC Advisor Stephanie Johnson, a former volleyball student-athlete at Coppin State University.

bctornados.com: What has been your favorite professional memory?

Stephanie Johnson: When I had the opportunity to work the 2018 Division III National Field Hockey Championship!

bctornados.com: What makes Brevard College a special place?

Stephanie Johnson: Here at Brevard College, I not only can grow as a professional, but I have the chance to impact students and I am able to do that with some Stephanie flare. Some schools you have to be cookie cutter and stick to their structure, but here I can truly be myself.

bctornados.com: Who has been your biggest influence in your professional career?

Stephanie Johnson: The biggest influence in my career has been Myranda Nash. She went from being my mentor to my boss. She is one of my inspirations when it comes to career goals and she shows me so many great ways to be an Athletic Director.

bctornados.com: What is some advice you would give to young people looking to get into the profession?

Stephanie Johnson: Make sure you NETWORK, NETWORK, NETWORK! You have to build an honest and genuine relationship with people because those are the people that will help you land a job.

Stephanie Johnson began her second full year and third year overall as the Assistant Athletic Director, Senior Women Administrator, and Co-SAAC advisor at Brevard College in the 2020-21 academic year. Johnson was named Assistant Athletic Director and Senior Woman Administrator at Brevard College by Director of Athletics Myranda Nash in February of the 2018-19 academic year.

Johnson arrived at Brevard College from Delaware Valley University (Pa.) where she served as Assistant Director of Athletics since July of 2017. She also has experience as an Assistant Volleyball Coach at Delaware Valley and in Women's Basketball operations for NCAA Division I University of Memphis.

At Delaware Valley University, an NCAA Division III institution in the Middle Atlantic Conference, Johnson has been responsible for a plethora of athletic administrative duties in her role of Assistant Director of Athletics. Her duties have included managing game day staff, game contracts, special events, facility enhancements, and the scheduling of athletic facilities. As an Assistant Volleyball Coach at Delaware Valley, Johnson's responsibilities included fundraising, recruiting and student-athlete development.

Prior to her tenure at Delaware Valley, Johnson served as the Assistant Director of Operations for the University of Memphis Women's Basketball program. At Memphis, Johnson handled the team's travel budget, the supervision of team managers, and summer camp operations for the Lady Tigers.

Johnson began her athletics administration career at Briarcrest Christian High School in Memphis, Tenn., where she coached volleyball and was the Assistant to the Athletic Director. In 2016, Briarcrest Christian won the Tennessee Division II Class AA state championship with Johnson at the helm. Johnson's seven-plus years of volleyball coaching also includes

coaching at the Memphis Juniors Volleyball Association as well as becoming the first head volleyball coach in school history at KIPP Academy Charter School in Memphis.

A native of Memphis, Johnson was an NCAA Division I volleyball student-athlete at Coppin State University in Baltimore, Md. where she also coached high school and club volleyball.

A member of several national organizations, Johnson is active in Women Leaders in College Sports, the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA), the Minority Opportunities Athletic Association (MOAA), the National Association of Division III Athletic Administrators (NADIII), the National Association for Athletics Compliance (NAAC) and the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA).

Johnson received a Bachelor's of Science in Sport Management from Coppin State University in 2012 and a Master's of Science in Sport Commerce from the University of Memphis in 2016.

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