



BC COVID-19 protocols for spring: Keep masking, at least for now

By Caroline Hoy
Managing Editor

COVID-19 has been affecting the students of Brevard College for almost two years now. At this time in 2020, no one guessed that we would be wearing masks, avoiding large gatherings and staying six feet apart. Now, Brevard College continues to place rules for living safely on campus during the pandemic.

Students are required to wear masks and to report the first sign of symptoms to covid19@brevard.edu.

As spoken about before the break, students and faculty have to be vaccinated to return to campus, unless there is a medical or religious exception. Weekly testing is required for those who do not have the vaccination. Overall, the campus has a 96 percent vaccination rate.

This semester, a few changes have been made around campus in consideration of COVID-19. One change is that the food at Myers Dining Hall is now self-serve.

The other new change is quarantine time. Students will now spend five days in the quarantine room. These five days will be just like the quarantine the school has done in the past. The five days after the five strict days in the quarantine room are considered strict mask wearing.

During the strict mask wearing time period, the student will go to classes, pick up takeout in the cafeteria and continue to live in the quarantine room. This new plan is under accordance with the Omicron variant guidelines given by the CDC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Debora D'Anna said, "We will relax the mask mandate as soon as it is safe to do so." Everyone is very excited to return to classes without a mask, but for the time being it is safest to continue on with masks and other COVID-19 procedures. The staff is working very hard to continue with experiential learning in these conditions, but it will take some time.



Photo by Caroline Hoy

Managing editor Caroline Hoy follows BC's COVID-19 protocol to continue wearing a face mask.

Cleaning, ventilation can help control mold in showers

Many students who reside in Green as well as Beam residence halls have been complaining and reporting "black mold" in their showers. Black mold is a variety of microfungus that produces its conidia in slime heads.

In basic terms, it is a variety of mold that can be particularly tough to remove.

Director of Facilities Burke Ulrey says, "The term 'black mold' is often mis-used referencing any mold that is dark in color.... Facilities are

trained to identify its characteristics and call experts to remediate accordingly." The said "black mold" is found primarily in the grooves and grout of the showers in the dorms.

Ulrey stresses the importance of controlling humidity levels, thoroughly cleaning and drying if flooding occurs in bathrooms, and ventilating showers to help improve this mold issue in dorm rooms. Lack of cleanliness and poor ventilation (hot/steamy showers) are the most common

causes for molding in dorm bathrooms.

Campus is highly encouraged to report any mold found in dorms to Facilities immediately. However, it is impossible to completely eliminate all mold and mold spores in the indoor environment, so it is important that we do our part in helping prevent it.

—Cat Keenan

Important update: Classes on Friday, Jan. 28 have been canceled to allow for a campus-wide day of service: "Lending a Hand Day" will be an opportunity to volunteer your time and energy to help Jones Hall residents get moved and settled into their new homes after being displaced by the Jan. 16 roof collapse. Look for the email Vice President for Student Success Debbie D'Anna sent students, staff and faculty on Tuesday evening, which includes a link to a form at which anyone can sign up to take part. "We have something for everyone," she wrote. "We hope you will decide to come out and be part of this special day."

What's on Beam's mind?

By Bailee Harding
Copy Editor

As of last week, there has been a drastic change in housing of Brevard College. The roof of East Jones Hall collapsed, leaving residents, many of them members of the football team, to find a new place to stay. While some were housed temporarily in local hotels, others sought out friends and people they could stay with until something was figured out.

Soon, a solution was found: To move some of those displaced from Jones Hall into Beam Hall. While some Beam residents are okay with the change, others have voiced concerns and disdain for our displaced students.

For starters, some women living in Beam Hall are saying they are a little uncomfortable, as there was a Title IX violation early last semester, that caused all football players to be banned from Beam Hall; having them move in now, some say, would be contradictory to the importance of Title IX and how heavily it was



Photo from Brevard College

Entrance to Beam Residence Hall.

stressed to freshmen during Creek Week. One student who did not wish to be identified said, "The concerns over student safety were assured by how seriously Brevard College takes Title IX violations." So having football players, and not knowing who made the violation last semester, is making some female residents of Beam say they are nervous and on edge.

Some students have been forced to move from their rooms, regardless of if they were willing or not. While some residents made the best of it, others did not take it well. Another student has expressed clear anger in having to move once again to benefit other students. It doesn't help when some students feel uncomfortable with their new suitemates. Like I previously stated, some residents make the best of it and think on the brightside but that is not the case with all. Some students have expressed apprehensive feelings and thoughts to their living situations. While they remain civil with whomever they are placed with, it does not mean they are not unfazed by the new environment.

We hope that our friends and classmates in Jones adjust well; We know, just as much as them, that this change will be new and tough, but we hope for a swift transition for the next semester.

Senior profile

Talley Sugg to graduate

By Caroline Hoy
Managing Editor

Talley Sugg is a Senior Theatre Major from Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Sugg devotes much of her time to theatre.

When asked why Sugg came to Brevard she said, "I chose Brevard College because I really wanted a personal, hands-on experience with my education. Plus, I know that Andrea Boccanfuso works within my field and I really wanted to be her student."

The hands-on experience is definitely something one can get at Brevard. Sugg knows this very well because of experience in her performance of the musical, "Into The Woods".

Sugg said, "Being a part of 'Into the Woods' my freshman year was an amazing experience, and I'm so grateful for that opportunity. Without that, I don't know how I would be doing all of this."

Even though Sugg loves Brevard College, she is excited about graduating. Sugg has some professional auditions lined up after college and in the long run hopes to move to Chicago.

Sugg says that she has always been interested

in her major. She has loved acting from a young age. She can distinctly remember seeing "The Lion King" performed and how amazing it was. Then in high school, she remembers loving seeing "Les Miserable" on Broadway.

Although Sugg is known for having a large personality on and off the stage and for her love and passion for acting, she feels most happy and free when with her partner.

Something that Sugg wishes more people knew is that, "People knew that being organized is not a thing that comes easily for me. Sure, I have a lot on my plate and I get it all done, but sometimes that means scrambling at the last minute or asking for an extension or even just giving up on some things. I am trying to be more organized with my life, but it's not a thing that comes naturally, and I think people just assume that I am because of how much I do."

Sugg works very hard on all that she puts her mind to and there is no doubt that one day Talley Sugg will be a household name.



Photo by Joe Hernandez

A photo of Talley Sugg.

Video Game Review

Team Fortress 2 continues to suffer from Bot crisis

By Kellen McGeorge
Staff Writer

Team Fortress 2 is a game created and released by Valve in 2007. It is an intense multiplayer first person shooter where two teams compete for a selected objective in fast-paced competition to win for their team. Because of the fast-paced gameplay and personality of the nine playable classes, the game has maintained a vibrant player base and continued to remain a popular game series for many players.

However, as the game has continued to grow in popularity it has also become a target for cheaters and hackers, something that has been a problem for many gamers for many years. In the past, players of TF2 were able to cope and adapt to the many cheaters as the game went on.

However, as tech continued to improve and as

TF2 has lost many of its former developers due to leaving or being put on different projects, hackers and cheaters have been able to utilize bots to make the game unplayable for many and cost TF2 much of its player-base.

Bots are a computer program created by programmers and hackers to play a game automatically and perform actions that no human could ever possibly pull off on their own. The most common of bots is the aim bot, a bot that detects a player character, no matter how far away they are, and snaps to aim at them and then performs a killing blow on that character.

While the player-base has managed to fight the many hackers by creating their own servers to keep the game alive, Team Fortress 2 has

been all but abandoned by Valve and has a skeleton crew of developers working on the game. Many players have begged Valve to work on a system to remove bots, and at one time, there seemed to be a light in the darkness. Last year, during a meeting, Gabe Newell, co-founder and president of Valve, said that there are future updates planned for TF2, with many focused on fighting the ongoing bot crisis.

Despite the promise of these updates, Valve has failed to deliver on these promises as the situation continues to grow worse, and if it cannot be addressed soon, this long standing game will eventually die out for good.

Horoscopes

By Anna Ervin
Editor in Chief

Aries, your ambition may be getting in the way of connecting with those around you. Remember that you do not have to feel made up of just one thing.

Taurus, things may be feeling stressful because you don't have anything to work towards. Set small rewards and goals to help yourself continue to want to work.

Gemini, don't resent the people around you because you can't find the power to say no to something. Take time for yourself to regroup and focus on what you need.

Cancer, you can't keep pushing everyone to follow you. People are riddled with individuality, and this is a good thing. You are not like everyone else in the same way everyone else is not like you.

Leo, it's okay to let people know that you don't want to talk about something. You do not owe anyone your time, so don't let people act like you owe them.

Virgo, plan for fun things just as much as you plan for work. Doing things for yourself is just as important as your work and can even help you.

Libra, you may be feeling jealous of someone else because you feel like they are getting the support that you crave and need. You have to understand that getting that help requires you to take steps towards asking for help.

Scorpio, why are you hiding what you want and need? People support you just as much as you support them. You can lean on people for validation too.

Sagittarius, financially speaking, watch out. It's really easy to blow your money on things you don't need. This will come back to bite you eventually if you don't get it together.

Capricorn, you may think you're not afraid of what others think, but in some ways you are. Stop worrying about things and people that don't matter. You know what you are worth, so act like it.

Aquarius, you are working hard for validation from others. Learn to work for yourself. If you can't accept yourself for who you are, the validation you receive will only feel momentary.

Pisces, focus on what you are ready for. You might be ready to take intensity up an octave

relationship wise, and you may not be. You know what you want, so be open to the experience.



Slippery falls appear from snow

By Caroline Hoy
Managing Editor

I was 17 or 18 the first time I saw snow. It wasn't a lot of snow, maybe an inch or two. Definitely not even close to what Brevard College experienced here recently.

I never knew that snow could pile up that high in the South. To say I was shocked would be an understatement. The day before the storm I went to Ingles to grab rolls and peanut butter in case of the worst.

Soon the snow started to fall. It didn't seem like much at first, but that mind state was changed when I got up the next morning when I went to walk to Myers Dining Hall from the south villages. I'm so happy I had snow boots. My five foot one self was over knee deep in snow.

I didn't dare drive anywhere. I spent the next week walking around everywhere. It was taking

a long while for the snow to melt and I tried my best to barely leave my room.

Did you know that ice can be very slippery? Turns out many students, including myself, slipped on ice when traveling around campus during this time period. One student told me about how she completely bruised up her legs from the snow.

Understandably the school could not immediately take action and salt the paths for schools, but the part that was frustrating was that only one side of campus ended up getting

salted. Never did I see any path to the villages get salted.

In fact, some of the paths by the villages are still covered in ice. They are very unlikely to get salted and will remain as a way to slip and fall. But, at least the bruise left behind by the ice can be a great thing to show off after the ice and snow are gone.

The piles of snow will probably last well into Feb., and will be a great reminder of the snow blindness, difficult snow walking, and of course the slippery falls.



Path to Porter Center days after the snow fell



The villages covered in snow during the storm

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The Brevard College WIFI

By Caroline Hoy
Managing Editor

I've been having some frustrations lately. These frustrations have been happening for a while to be honest. It's something that a lot of students are frustrated about. The Brevard College wifi.

Now I'm not picking about my wifi. I actually grew up on limited wifi and am no stranger to a bad connection, but the Brevard College wifi has been able to get under my skin.

My main problem is it never wants to even work at all quite a bit of the time. You see, the wifi tends to cut out a lot of the time in my dorm room. This problem has seemed to decrease since last August when I had an IT report in.

The good news is if a problem is reported to IT they always seem to be able to come and take a look. But even though the wifi was "fixed" in our room the wifi has never really been "fixed." The problem is the wifi goes in and out without warning.

It's not just my room where I have problems with wifi. My wifi will go out whether I'm over in my room in south village, Myers Dining Hall, Jones Library, or just about anywhere on campus.

Even in the classrooms the wifi won't work. At least twice this week I can remember my professors struggling to bring up things on the computer for class.

The wifi has been a problem all long as I can remember. It makes doing homework quite hard. I'm very happy I have unlimited data and can use my data when the wifi is acting up again. But I always feel bad for people who don't have unlimited wifi like me because their only option is the wifi.

I try not to complain about things, but the wifi going in and out so often really pushes my buttons and adds to my list of "ahh" moments every single moment.