

# A Martin Luther King Jr. celebration in Brevard

## Keep marching forward

Abigail Callahan  
Staff Writer

On Monday, Jan. 20 the Transylvania County NAACP and Bethel “A” Baptist Church hosted a celebration honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The event began at 4 p.m. with a unity march through downtown Brevard as members of the NAACP, Institute of Women in Leadership (IWIL), and community members joined together in solidarity. The march started at the courthouse and concluded at the Bethel “A” Baptist Church.

Despite the 20-degree weather, participants warmed up with hot chocolate and coffee served by IWIL members. The refreshments encouraged fellowship and conversation among the marchers.

The event concluded at 6 p.m. with a community service including guest speakers and musicians. When asked about how the march in Brevard originally started, Tommy Kilgore, the NAACP chapter President of Brevard said, “This march is in recognition of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King’s birthday and has been ongoing since 2008.”

Dr. Reverend Pamela Holder and community members shared meaningful scripture readings. Rather than reading Martin Luther King Jr’s famous I Have a Dream speech, community leader Randy Lytle and IWIL member Leah Monk read excerpts from his Letter from a Birmingham Jail which offered a powerful reminder of Dr. King’s lasting message of justice and resilience.

The celebration was an inspirational tribute to the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whose tireless fight for racial justice and equal rights still inspires people today. Events like this serve to remind us all of the importance of unity, community, and the pursuit of justice for all.



Banner carriers and community members outside of Bethel “A” Baptist Church (Photo by Abigail Callahan).



IWIL Members Gracie Spangler, Madeleine Pollock and community members marching together (Photo by Abigail Callahan).



IWIL students serving hot drinks (Left) Becca Webb and (Right) Madeleine Pollock (Photo by Abigail Callahan).



Community members marching together in unity (Photo by Abigail Callahan).

# BC cheer makes their debut on the national stage

**Madeleine Pollock**  
Staff Writer

On Jan. 17 Brevard College Cheerleading team competed for the first time in the program's history at the UCA College National Cheer Championships in the open all-girl division at the ESPN Wide World of Sports complex in Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

The team fought hard in the semi-finals to 16th place in the open all-girl division but did not advance to the finals. Despite this, Senior cheerleader Rachel Piazzola said "For our first time we did pretty good and I was really happy with it."

The team was led by Coach Chandler Ryan and consisted of eleven athletes: freshman Delaney Cleveland, juniors Calista Henry, Tiffin Jacobs, Christine Keever, Blair Nance, and Abby Waldrop, and seniors Ashley Hoxit, Paige Kneubuhler, Sophia Ogawa, Rachel Piazzola, and Emma Reese.

The team presented a 'game day' cheer rou-

time; game day competitions focus on school spirit and crowd engagement. This type of routine often includes a fight song, stunts and tumbling, a defense cheer, and a crowd-leading component.

Cheer is governed by Varsity, not by the NCAA, so the event featured D1A, D1, open, and coed categories and saw fierce competitors from colleges all across the United States.

Piazzola has a history in gymnastics but only started cheerleading in December of 2023. She said "Just seeing all of the best of the best in this sport that I've only gotten to experience for just a year and a half was just so surreal to me. And I know everybody felt the same, we were really fangirling."

Due to the competition being held at Walt Disney World, the athletes were able to split their time between competing and exploring the resort. Piazzola said, "it really brought the team so much closer that we all got to experience that together and I am just so thankful for the opportunity."



BC cheer pose in front of the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando, Florida.

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# Donald Trump's second term: bold and unpredictable

**Ace Evett**  
Contributor

At noon on Monday, Jan. 20, Donald Trump officially became the 47th president of the United States. Serving his second term, he is now one of only two presidents in U.S. history to be inaugurated for two non-consecutive terms. What has Donald Trump done in just a few days?

- Declared a national emergency on the Mexican border. His goal is to increase efforts against illegal immigration.
- Declared another national emergency, this time for energy, to significantly boost oil and gas production and lower domestic energy costs for all 50 states.
- Announced his intentions to end birth-right citizenship, conflicting with the 14th Amendment.
- He ended the Title IX protection for LG-BTQ+ students, while also reinstating the ban on transgender persons in the military.
- Issued over 1500 pardons for criminals. The most notable was for those involved

in the Jan. 6, 2021 riots at the U.S. Capitol in Washington.

Not much is certain about President Trump's plans, but there are some things to speculate.

Trump plans to impose substantial tariffs on Mexico and Canada. His idea here is to fight concerns of trade imbalances and subsidies, however, U.S. consumers will instead be paying these tariffs as they oftentimes "pay the tariffs in the form of customs duties, which are collected at ports of entry by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection."

Talks of America taking control of the Panama Canal have also been mentioned. The goal is to have less tax on American goods. This was also implied as something President Trump might take by force.

He proposed completely abolishing the Department of Education. This would instead change from a federal government-controlled education system to a state-controlled one that would vary from state to state.

Given the flurry of activity in just the first

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# Senior spotlight: Haylea-Layne Miller

**Autumn Jones**  
Editor in Chief

As the spring semester begins, seniors at Brevard College are anxious to get the graduation ball rolling. Amongst them is Haylea-Layne Miller.

Miller is a senior majoring in Chemistry. She is the president of SGA, a member of the Track and Cross Country teams, a peer leader for FYE, a member of both the Institute for Women in Leadership (IWIL) and the Honors College, a member of Alpha Chi, and the president of Omicron Delta Kappa.

The first question asked was, “What is one of your favorite memories from Brevard?” She said, “During my freshman year, a big snow hit campus. Everyone was outside and sledding on the hill by the baseball fields, where Ross Hall used to be. Seeing everyone on campus hanging out with one another was a lot of fun.”

Although Miller is graduating with a degree in chemistry, she did not come to Brevard as a chemistry major- she originally wanted to major in exercise science and had no idea what she wanted to do in the future. “I took a chem class and was so interested in it that I wanted to learn more. Dr. Biava helped me look at chemistry and forensics – which is what I wanted to look into further – combined and it was interesting to see the possibilities.”

As for her plans after graduation, Miller hopes to attend one of the graduate programs she applied to: Florida International University, Duke University, and West Virginia University.

Miller also has some advice that some new students may find helpful for the spring semester. “It may sound cheesy, but stay on top of your assignments and projects. It can be easy to fall behind. Also, use Brevard’s resources, whether it’s tutoring, the counseling center, or even talking to a professor. Brevard College wants to see you succeed.”

As for the most important life lesson she has learned so far, Miller says its, “Going outside of your comfort zone and trying new things helps you grow- not only as a person but also as a leader.”

Haylea-Layne will leave Brevard College with a long-lasting impact. We hope to see you go far!



Haylea-Layne Miller

## Trump’s second term

Continued from page 2

few days of his presidency, many questions remain about what else the new administration will do. Here are a few questions posed by Brevard College students:

Chaston Thompson, a freshman in his second semester at Brevard College, asks, “What new policies will Trump try to implement throughout his presidency?”

Christian Robertson, a sophomore in his second semester at Brevard College: “How will Trump help improve the lives of me and other middle-class Americans?”

Antonio King, a sophomore in his third semester at Brevard College: “How will Trump deal with terrorism and war.”



Donald Trump takes the oath of office in the Capitol rotunda on Jan. 20.

# Banff Mountain Film Festival tickets are now available

Tickets for the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour are now available. The WLEE department and the Brevard College Outing Club have been hosting the Banff film festival on campus for well over 20 years and we are excited to host again on the evenings of March 14 & 15 and a matinee on March 16. Each night will offer a different set of films.

most prestigious mountain festivals in the world! The Banff World Tour celebrates amazing achievements in outdoor storytelling and filmmaking worldwide. From the over 400 entries submitted to the Festival each year, award-winners and audience favorites are among the films that are carefully selected to play in theatres around the world.

If you are interested in volunteering or a student discount, contact Ryan DeGarmo, at [degarmrd@brevard.edu](mailto:degarmrd@brevard.edu).

Banff Centre Mountain Film and Book Festival is one of the largest and



# Brevard College counseling services are now open!

Counseling services offered by the college now have open availability! They offer a variety of services like individual counseling and psychotherapy, which are by appointment Monday-Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., group counseling, meditation, consultation, and confidential conversations.

All services are free and located on the top floor of Tornado Alley. For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact [Counseling@brevard.edu](mailto:Counseling@brevard.edu).



# Local author spotlight: David Joy's 'Those We Thought We Knew'

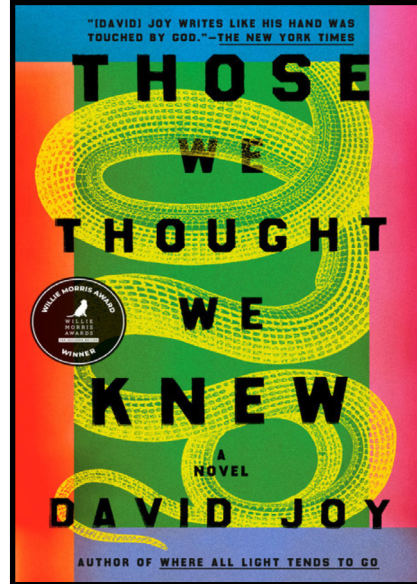
Madeleine Pollock  
Staff Writer

★★★★★

"Those We Thought We Knew," published in 2023, is David Joy's latest novel. Joy is a twelfth-generation North Carolinian and currently resides in Tuckasegee, North Carolina. This book was quite literally a "joy" to read; Joy is a master storyteller who is able to weave compelling characters, a distinct sense of place, and activism into a thrilling and suspenseful piece. This novel unpacks a wide variety of topics; Joy expertly touches on ideas like white supremacy, racism, Appalachian history, policing, art as a form of protest, and what it means to be part of a community.

The story follows Toya Gardner, a graduate art student and activist from Atlanta who returns to her ancestral home to finish her thesis. Not long after her arrival, a man with ties to the Klan is found causing trouble around town. When two horrific crimes occur, the town is forced to wrestle with generations-old secrets and confront the fact that not everyone is who they claim to be.

Although a work of fiction, Joy draws inspiration from real events, like the movement to remove confederate monuments in North Carolina. The story takes place mainly in Mt. Zion, a fictional town in Jackson County. Despite the town being imaginary, Joy makes frequent references to real places in neighboring counties, along the parkway, and even mentions Dugan's Pub in Brevard.



David Joy (right) is the author of "Those We Thought We Knew."

This book won the 2023 Willie Morris Award for Southern Fiction, the 2023 Thomas Wolfe Memorial Literary Award, and the 2024 Sir Walter Raleigh Award. I rate it 5/5 stars and would definitely recommend putting it in your "must-read" list for 2025!

## Corporate America delivers tiny homes to western North Carolina Helene victims

Kyle Stefanick  
Contributor

Hurricane Helene continues to displace families in Buncombe County, NC, long after the storm ended. Nearly 1,000 residential structures alone are reported to have suffered, with 670 damaged, and 294 being completely destroyed.

Displaced families from the area have resided in shelters, and others have made temporary camps from materials left over from the storm. An improvised shelter is an option for many left tackling the cold during these winter months.

Christmas was quickly approaching, and many families were without a vital component of a holiday spent with loved ones—a home to spend it in. For 100 families, a Christmas present came as an endearing, physical message of love that will transcend time for years to come.

The home improvement mogul of North Carolina, Lowe's Home Improvement, and NASCAR came together to provide an astonishing \$12 Million to assist those in need after Helene. Starting Dec. 12, 2024, volunteers, paid workers, and many others came together to bring Christmas joy to Western North Carolina.

Lowe's Home Improvement and NASCAR have delivered 100 tiny

homes, with NASCAR hauling trucks carrying the homes to their final destination in decimated WNC. This point was just the beginning of the project for most.

After the tiny homes arrived in WNC, the to-do list only grew. Finishing the job, numerous locals and other volunteers banded together to identify the victims, assemble the homes, apply the electrical and plumbing, roofing, carpentry, and much more required to ensure a sustainable living environment for the victims.

A verbal report from local first responders reports that the addition of the tiny homes to the area will cut down a significant portion of the cold exposure calls run by the agency. With the gracious donation of homes to the area, many families will be able to sleep comfortably for a few more months until all appropriate resources are distributed and homes rebuilt.

Local paramedic Tipton Gentry of Buncombe County EMS estimates that the rebuilding process will take upwards of 10+ years based on his first-hand experience in witnessing the destruction.

The devastation caused by Helene will echo in the mountains of WNC for years to come. Neighbors, friends, and strangers alike have come together, not just to rebuild homes but to rekindle the essence of community. Each tiny home erected embodies a story of strength and compassion which will remind us of these events forever.

# BC's defense dominates in 30-point win over Greensboro

The Brevard College women's basketball team (12-4, 7-2 USA South) held the Greensboro Pride (4-11, 2-6 USAS) to a BC program-low eight points in the first half en route to a dominant 62-32 win to cap off a four-game homestand on Tuesday evening at the Boshamer Gymnasium.

Greensboro's eight first-half points were the least that the Tornados have allowed in a single half in NCAA-era history. Also, the 32 points scored by GC are the lowest single-game total BC has allowed since holding Wesleyan College to 25 points on January 5, 2019.

BC's offense was highlighted by a three-headed attack from Jada Petty-Wilkins (15

points), Josie Hester (13 points) and Makenna Parkins (10 points).

Hester led BC's dominant defensive effort by recording five of Brevard's 15 steals, while Parkins nearly notched a double-double with nine boards. Hester hit three 3-pointers while Petty-Wilkins added two makes from beyond the arc. Kennedie Noble led the second unit with nine points scored, while all 17 Tornados saw action in the contest. Kayden Johnson blocked two shots to lead all Tornado defenders. All told, 10 BC players got in the scoring column in the win.

For the first time in program NCAA era history, Brevard made all of its free throws in a single game (minimum of 10 attempts), as BC

was a flawless 13-for-13 at the charity stripe in Tuesday night's victory. The effort supplants the previous single-game mark of 96% FTM vs. Anderson on December 3, 2014.

BC drained seven 3-pointers to GC's one, and Brevard took advantage of Greensboro's 25 turnovers and turned them into 20 points. BC's bench also outpaced GC's 22-13.

The Pride were led by Nakiyah Kelly, who scored 11 points off the bench. Azuria Barrino paced the starting rotation with 10 points.

Brevard hits the road for a test against William Peace on Saturday at 4 p.m. in Raleigh, North Carolina.

# Tornados drop home conference matchup against Pfeiffer

The Brevard College men's basketball team (8-7, 3-3 USAS) dropped a home USA South Conference matchup 82-74 to Pfeiffer (8-6, 4-2 USAS) on Tuesday evening at the Boshamer Gymnasium. The defeat snapped a three-game win streak for the Tornados as well as a three-game winning streak in the all-time series between the two rivals.

Freshman Twain Wilson led the Tornados with 18 points with three made 3-pointers to go along with a career-high six assists. It marked the eighth time this season and fourth time in the last five outings that Wilson has scored in double figures. The native of Columbia, South Carolina also pulled down four rebounds while playing a career-high 30 minutes.

Senior KK Horton led BC on the glass with seven rebounds, while also dishing out four assists. Jadon Carnes, Charlie Hester, Carson Evans and Justin Goudelock each scored nine points to further aid the Brevard effort.

Pfeiffer was led by Justin Gaten who scored 17 points, going 6-for-6 from the free throw line. Also scoring in double figures for the Falcons were Alex Cunningham (15 pts) and Doug Smith (14 pts).

The Tornados started strong, going on a 17-4 run that gave BC a 12-point lead with 13 minutes to play in the first half. Moreover, Brevard went the first 9:45 of the first half without committing a turnover.

The Falcons responded with a 17-4 run of its own to take a 25-24 lead with 8:16 to play in the half. The two teams then traded baskets throughout the remainder of the stanza with Pfeiffer taking a 45-41 lead to the intermission.

Coming out of halftime, Pfeiffer stretched its lead to 52-43 on a 3-pointer by Cunningham. Brevard battled back to take a 59-58 lead on a 3-pointer by Goudelock. After a dunk by Pfeiffer's Doug Smith, BC retook the lead on a 3-pointer by Evans just inside the nine-minute mark.

The Falcons reeled off a 9-2 run to retake control and went on to never trail the rest of the way en route to the eight-point victory.

Brevard shot 59% from the field and made eight 3-pointers in the



Sophomore men's basketball player Brock Mcknight pictured against Pfeiffer (Photo by Lex MacLauchlin.)

contest, compared to a 52% shooting percentage and just five 3-pointers for the Falcons. Pfeiffer went 21-of-24 from the free throw line, while BC made all six free throws in a mere six attempts from the stripe. Pfeiffer outrebounded the Tornados 34 to 22 with a 10-6 advantage on the offensive glass. The 10 offensive rebounds for the Falcons led to 17 second-chance points.

Next up for Brevard is another USA South road trip to Southern Virginia on Saturday. Tip-off is set for 2 p.m. in Buena Vista, Virginia. The Tornados will return home on Wednesday, January 29 with a matchup vs. Greensboro.