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Web Edition

SERVING BREVARD COLLEGE SINCE 1935

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Turning trash into teachings:

Brevard College students explore sustainability at Transylvania County Landfill

Autumn Jones
Editor in Chief

On Monday, March 3, Dr. Destini Petitt, Program Coordinator and Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies took her Sustainable Natural Resource class to the Transylvania County Landfill to see how waste from our county is managed, and to "gain a better perspective on the types of resources that are thrown away without the potential for a future use."

"Visiting the landfill helped students visualize the amount of waste disposed in the county," Petitt said. "It also helped them understand that our current methods of extraction, processing, item creation, and item disposal are unsustainable."

One of the main motivations for this trip is Brevard College's experiential learning aspect. "Experiential learning is taking what you have learned in class and applying it to real-world situations. Here, students were able to do just that, and as a result, they were able to make tangible connections to consumption habits and sustainability," said Petitt. "I wanted my students to visualize waste management issues in a way that textbooks alone can't convey and to demonstrate the real-world consequences of everyday disposal decisions."

Zoe Herber, a sophomore majoring in chemistry, was one of the students who went on the trip. "Going to the landfill was an insightful learning experience," Herber said. "I was expecting the landfill to be similar to how it's depicted in Toy Story 2 but it was quite the opposite. It only smelled bad in one area and the trash was buried. I enjoyed learning how the waste was stored and how they contained the hazardous chemicals

from running into our waterways."

By stepping out of the classroom and visiting the landfill, Dr. Petitt provided a memorable hands-on learning experience for students; the true meaning of Brevard's academic mission.



ENV students pose for a photo at the site. Mackenzie Tonks and Jake Lauer stand to the left of Dr. Pettit, Zoe Herber standing to her right. Landfill guides stand on the ends. (All photos by Alecia Janerio).





Brevard students selected for National Collegiate Honor Band

Kyle Stefanick Staff Writer

From March 26-30, Brevard students Olivia Ervin, Sevasti Smith, and Hannah Sonnenberg will take the stage at the renowned College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA) Intercollegiate Honor Band in Fort Worth, Texas. This event brings together talented musicians from around the country, and these three students have been handpicked to showcase their skills in front of numerous prominent college band directors.

Olivia Ervin, a sophomore percussionist, earned the impressive distinction of fifth chair in the percussion section. She is eager to immerse herself in Texas culture and is particularly excited about trying authentic Texas barbecue. "I can't wait to experience the local food and meet other musicians," Ervin said.

Sevasti Smith, a junior flutist, secured the seventh chair in her section, which consists of only 12 members. "I'm thrilled to be going to a new state and performing with such talented musicians," she expressed. The competition was fierce, as the audition material was noted as the hardest these students had ever encountered in their musical journey.

Leading the trio is Hannah Sonnenberg, also a junior, who not only claimed the first chair in the flute section but will also serve as the concert-master. This marks her second consecutive year attending the CBDNA conference. "I'm excited about playing intricate music and exploring an elevated repertoire," Sonnenberg said.

Making the CBDNA Intercollegiate Band is a standout achievement for Olivia, Sevasti, and Hannah, reflecting their talent and commitment to their craft. Competing against some of the finest collegiate musicians from across the country, these students excelled in a rigorous audition process, showcasing the high standards of the Brevard music program. Their selection for this ensemble not only highlights their accomplishments but also provides them with invaluable opportunities.

The impact of this opportunity extends beyond the individual achievements of these students. Dr. Hairston, Director of Bands, emphasized the significance of their participation: "This conference brings exposure to the hard work we are doing. It's an opportunity for our students to be heard by college band directors from across the country. They will also have the chance to meet potential future colleagues."

Additionally, the conference offers Dr. Hairston a platform to network with other directors, guest conductors, and performers, fostering connections that could greatly benefit the Brevard band program. As these talented students prepare for a remarkable experience, they not only represent themselves but also the dedication and excellence of the Brevard music program. With their hard work and passion, they are certain to leave a lasting impression at the CBDNA Intercollegiate Band.

THE CLARION

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COVID five years later

Abigail Callahan Staff Writer

Five years ago, life was very different as the Coronavirus pandemic was spreading world-wide and affecting daily life. People were told to stay inside and social distance themselves. A mask mandate was implemented in North Carolina in June of 2020.

My high school sent us home in mid-March 2020, with a return date set for two weeks. We did not return to in-person learning until the fall. The country and the world learned how to conduct school online.

According to the CDC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, by the end of 2020, the United States had 385,676 COVID-related deaths. The country was effectively shut down and the world had changed. As of March 2025, there has been a total of 1,225,987 deaths related to COVID-19 in this country.

I was lucky that my family and friends remained relatively healthy. I recall that some people close to me had the virus but their symptoms were minimal. A typical day during this time would be my mom in a room teach-

ing class on Zoom, my sister and I in our rooms on Zoom taking class, and my dad in his office remote working. Most evenings I was able to go to my high school with one of my parents to take care of the sheep at the FFA barn.

Just like many others, we took up hobbies. My family started raising chickens in our backyard and spent time in nature. We binged on shows like "Tiger King" and "Community."

Leaving the house was for grocery shopping and was stressful. Toilet paper and paper towels were impossible to find.

When I look back at this incredible time in our history, I feel blessed and perhaps a little guilty. My memories include some of the inconvenience and worry of the time. But I also remember some moments with fondness. It gave me and my family time to slow down and spend time together.

The pandemic taught me how fragile life is and how quickly something like this virus can spread. It made the world a scary place, but it also gave me the gift of understanding that taking care of myself and slowing down is important.

Why wear green? A brief history of the tradition of wearing green for St. Patrick's Day

Zoe Hughes Managing Editor

For what feels like a lengthy period, the color green has been associated with and worn on St. Patrick's Day, lest one risks getting pinched. Why do we wear green on that day, and where did it originate from?

St. Patrick's Day began as a religious holiday, celebrating Ireland's patron saint, Saint Patrick, on the day that he supposedly died. The saint originally hailed from Roman Britain, born in the late 4th century. When Patrick was 16 years old, he was captured and brought to Ireland by raiders. Patrick spent six years in captivity before escaping and returning to Britain. After his ordination as a priest, Patrick returned to Ireland to spread Christianity to the people on the island.

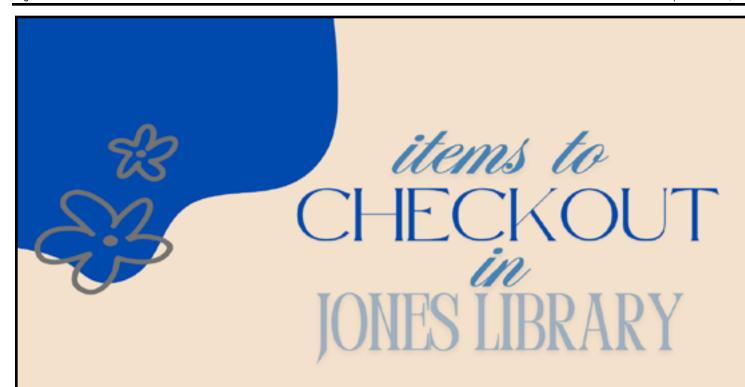
The color green was first associated with Ireland because of its nickname, "The Emerald Isle," which refers to its leafy green trees and grassy hills. The first color used to celebrate St. Patrick's Day was actually blue, but it eventually changed to green in the 18th century when the shamrock became a national symbol.

So why do we wear green for St Patrick's Day? According to National Geographic, the tradition can be traced back to Irish folklore. It was believed that wearing green made you invisible to leprechauns, who were known for pinching anyone they saw. Others believe that wearing the color on St. Patrick's Day would bring good luck, while some wear it to honor their Irish heritage.

The tradition of wearing green on St. Patrick's Day has evolved over the centuries, emerging from Ireland's natural landscape, cultural symbols, and folklore. Whether it is to honor Irish heritage, invoke good luck, or simply avoid a playful pinch from a leprechaun, wearing green on St. Patrick's Day remains a beloved custom that continues to unite people around the world in celebration of the holiday.







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Why you should take more LINC classes

Madeleine Pollock

Staff Writer

At Brevard, all students are required to take six hours of LINC courses to fulfill an interdisciplinary thinking and collaborative learning requirement. Due to them being necessary for graduation, everyone will end up taking at least one, but I think there is a strong argument to take as many LINC courses as possible.

But first, what is a LINC? LINC courses usually consist of two classes with different professors and subjects that have overlapping content. They come in a variety of "flavors;" some are worth three credits hours and others worth six, and there are often both humanities and sciences offerings.

I'm a sophomore and so far throughout my academic career I've taken the following Dr. Bringle and Dr. Everett's Environmental Literature and Environmental Theology LINC as well as Dr. Ecenbarger and Professor Guest's Conspiracy Theories LINC.

So, why should you consider adding a LINC to your schedule? I believe there is a lot of value in them because they take an intersectional approach to learning by pairing subjects together. In most classes, you focus on just one subject or concept, when in reality you would have a better understanding if you learned about parallel or overlapping subject matter. For instance, I feel like I left my environmental literature and theology link

with a more nuanced opinion of the subject matter, as I had more context. I understood different religious teachings about environmental issues and was thus able to see how this inspires contemporary and traditional environmental literature.

Think of it like a puzzle: if I only took environmental literature I would have had enough pieces to create a concrete image, but I likely would still be missing the border. When I take the course as a LINC with environmental theology, I put the border on my puzzle, resulting in a more complete image— or a more comprehensive understanding— of the subject.

During the upcoming fall semester there will be six LINCs to choose from: American Musical Theatre, Sacred Music in Sacred Spaces, Classical Mythology and Introduction to Philosophy, Talking with Plants, Back to the Future, and Environmental Science, Ethics, and Skills for Outdoor Pursuits. More information about these can be found on page 27 of the Fall 2025 Course Schedule PDF or in the add/drop courses tab on my.brevard.edu.

It is simpler to believe that subjects can exist independently of each other, but in reality, everything overlaps. By taking a LINC next fall, you will end up with a stronger 'real-world' application of the subject matter; the more puzzle pieces you have, the more impressive the puzzle.

Brevard College, Unitarian Universalist Church of Brevard, and Transylvania County NAACP host documentary screening

Brevard College's Teacher Education program, in collaboration with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brevard and the Transylvania County NAACP, is hosting a community screening of the documentary Counted Out on Saturday, March 22 at 3 p.m. The screening will take place at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 24 Varsity Street, Brevard.

Counted Out explores the role of mathematics in everyday life, illustrating how numerical literacy influences education, economic opportunities, politics, and decision-making. The documentary has been featured at several film festivals across the country and aims to spark conversation about the importance of math in modern society.

"Bringing a film like this to Brevard is a great motivator for our community to circle up and talk about things we perhaps don't think about often—ways we're used to operating that we take for granted," said Lauren Agrella-Sevilla, a representative of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brevard. "I'm excited to gather with parents, teachers, students, and community members to discuss the ways math informs how we live and shapes what we value. Director Vicki Abeles is asking some powerful questions to inspire us to think critically and be more informed about crafting the world we want to live in."

"This film highlights how mathematical thinking impacts many aspects of daily life," said Dr. Betsy Burrows, Director of Teacher Education at Brevard College. "At Brevard College, we ensure that every student, regardless of their major or background, engages with mathematics as part of their education. A strong foundation in math empowers individuals to think critically, solve problems, and navigate an increasingly data-driven world. Our teacher education program is committed to preparing future educators who will inspire a love of both math and literacy in their students."

The screening is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Dr. Betsy Burrows at bburrows@brevard.edu.



Brevard lacrosse captured in photos Men's senior night: women's victory

The Brevard College men's lacrosse team's senior night was held on March 15. Of the 17 players, five seniors celebrated their final regular season home game. Brevard lost 16-3. The men's game was captured by Caden O'Brien via Flickr.

On Tuesday, March 18, the Brevard College women's lacrosse team

defeated Warren Wilson 16-6, with Junior Xan Hill being the leading scorer. They won the Ridge Rivalry for the 4th consecutive year, since the rivalry first began in 2021. The women's game was photographed by MG3840 and Caden O'Brien via Flickr.









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March Madness: Upsets, overtime thrills, and one standing champion

Ace Evett Staff Writer

March Madness 2025 is in full swing, exciting basketball fans nationwide as the men's and women's NCAA tournaments commence. Brackets this season are packed with compelling matches, potential upsets, and recordbreaking feats.

Men's Tournament Summary

The men's tournament began on March 18, with the First Four games in Dayton, Ohio. Upset games are No. 16 St. Francis (PA) vs. No. 16 Alabama State, with the winner moving on to play top-seeded Auburn. No. 11 ranked North Carolina plays No. 11 San Diego State against No. 6 Mississippi. The tournament resumes with first-round games on March 20 and 21, with top teams and the most highly touted games across all regions.

Women's Tournament Highlights

The women's tournament also promises thrilling action. The March 16 draw took place, with games underway on March 19. Six teams—George Mason, Arkansas State, William & Mary, Grand Canyon, FDU, and UC San Diego—are appearing for the first time this year and are adding fresh competition to the tournament. Harvard has come back for the first time since 2007, and San Diego State has ended a 13-year tournament drought.

Printable Brackets and Schedules

Supporters wishing to stay current with the action have access to official and printable brackets for both events. The men's bracket is found on the NCAA's official website, showing matchups, schedules, and game times. Similarly, the women's bracket and the full schedule can be accessed on the NCAA women's basketball website.

Expert Predictions and Insights

Kansas City Royals shortstop Bobby Witt Jr. has put out his bracket publicly and is foreseeing a Sweet 16 for the Missouri men's basketball team, their first since 2009. Witt envisions Missouri defeating Drake in the first round and No. 3-seeded Texas Tech to advance to the Sweet 16, where he foresees them playing St. John's.

On the women's side, UConn head coach Geno Auriemma spoke about their No. 2 seed and the challenges ahead. He was optimistic about the team's chances while recognizing the stiff competition. The key players likely to combat the Huskies are Paige Bueckers, Azzi Fudd, and Sarah Strong.

Tournament Schedule and Dates to Remember

The two tournaments have a scheduled calendar: First Four: March 18-19, First Round: March 20-21, Second Round: March 22-23, Sweet 16: March 27-28, Elite Eight: March 29-30, Final Four: April 5, and Championship Game: April 7.

Brevard men's soccer adds new goalkeeper coach to coaching staff

Kyle Bennet has been named Goalkeeping Coach for the Brevard College men's soccer program, announced BC Head Men's Soccer Coach Helio "L" D'Anna.

"Kyle is the much-needed addition that we had been looking for to help us with our goalkeepers," said D'Anna. "Kyle is also passionate about fitness and training. In turn, he will contribute quite a bit in those areas as well."

Hailing from Dundee, Scotland, Bennet has over five years of experience coaching to go along with two years of personal training experience, specializing in athlete development and injury prevention. Most recently at the University of Rio Grande, he designed and led clinics for aspiring goalkeepers. He is also completing an internship as a personal trainer at Rio Grande. His coaching experience also includes a year with South Webster High School in Ohio and an internship with Stevie Campbell's Football Academy in Scotland.

Bennet also competed as a student-athlete at the University of Rio Grande, playing goalkeeper for the Red Storm. At Rio Grande, Bennet served in leadership roles including a presence as a member for the

school's Title IX board.

Bennet is set to graduate from the University of Rio Grande with a Bachelor's degree in Sports and Exercise Science and a minor in Business Administration and Management. Bennet will be pursuing a Master's Degree of Science in Health and Human Performance from Brevard College.

