

Brevard College Women's Soccer heads to the USA South Finals



Photo by Chris Fortman.

Zoe Hughes
Managing Editor

The 2025 Season for Brevard's Women's Soccer team has broken several records and been the best season the program has ever seen. BCWS finished their regular season with a record of 16-0-0, a perfect season. This earned the team the regular-season championship for the second consecutive year.

The women's soccer team brought home their first win of the season against Alice Lloyd College with a staggering score of 20-0, creating new Brevard NCAA-era records with 20 goals, 20 assists, 60 points, 75 shots, and 38 shots on goal. They continued this streak throughout the season, just recently defeating Mary Baldwin University in the semifinal round of the USA South Conference tournament.

Throughout the season, BCWS received various accolades: first place in the USA South Preseason Coached Poll, seventh in the Region VI NCAA NPI ranking, 30th in the National NCAA NPI ranking, United Soccer Coaches Team Pinnacle Award, and, of course, the USA South Regular Season Champions.

Many team members received recognitions and awards. Senior forward Mikayla Zvekan received Player of the Week honors twice, broke four Brevard College NCAA-era records: career assists, career goals, career points, and points earned in a season, and was selected for the All-Con-

ference First Team and won Player of the Year. She was also just awarded National Player of the Week for the week of Oct. 10-16.

Junior Goalkeeper Abby Nuñez received Defender of the Week three times, All-Conference First Team Selection, and Goalkeeper of the Year for the second consecutive season. Sophomore Kinlee Mozley earned Player of the Week and was selected for the All-Conference Second Team.

Senior Goalkeeper Nicole Arroyo also won the Defender of the Week honor. The other players on BCWS who were selected for the All-Conference First Team were Freshman defender Mikaela Edwards and Sophomore Midfielder Mikayla Rubin. Junior Defender MK Smoak was selected for the All-Conference Second Team, and Sophomore Midfielder Julia Needleman was chosen for the All-Sportsmanship Team. Lastly, Sophomore Forward Sienna Fox broke Brevard's NCAA-era Record for goals scored in a game.

Head Coach Juan Mascaro Sr. received a couple of accolades as well; he reached 100 wins with the Brevard College Women's Soccer program, and he won Coach of the Year for the second year in a row.

Brevard women's soccer will play the USA South Conference Final tomorrow, Nov. 8, at noon at Ives-Lemel Family. They will be playing Southern Virginia University, the team they lost to last year in the semifinals in a penalty kick shootout. Be sure to come out and support the ladies as they battle for the title of the USA South Conference Tournament Champions. Nado Nation!

White Squirrel Artisan Market returns to Brevard College

Abigail Callahan
Staff Writer

The White Squirrel Artisan Market (WSAM) returned to Brevard College's Porter Center on Saturday, Nov. 1, highlighting the area's arts scene. The event, directed by Kyzandra Zárate and presented by Billy McCoy of REMAX Land of the Waterfalls, offered a market that provided a platform for local artisans to showcase their work, fostering a deeper connection between the community and its creators.

The Artisan Market had over 65 local vendors who offered a unique chance to purchase handmade goods, art, and local products. The event had a lively atmosphere, with talented regional musicians taking the stage throughout the afternoon.

The musical guests included performances by Devin Gentry Trio, Kris Kolenut, and Matt Faircloth, followed by Gypsy & Me, Alma Russ

Band, and closing with Byrds & Crows. WSAM Audio Engineer Derek Studt ensured that music could be enjoyed from anywhere along the creek and vendor areas.

There was a variety of local food and drink vendors that were on-site, including Little Creek Subs, Delish Food Truck, The Sweet Retreat, Kilwin's Brevard, Aw Shucks Popcorn, and more. Guests could also participate in a raffle and activities benefiting Bread of Life, a local organization supporting food security in the community.

Inside the Porter Center, the White Squirrel Institute hosted educational exhibits and an opportunity to meet some of Brevard's local animals, like white squirrels, a woodchuck, flying squirrels, and chipmunks.

This celebration brought local talent and community connection and was made possible by Lifestyle & Living Photography, Earthshine Lodge, and Brevard, NC Music & Events. Special offers were also given away by RE/MAX Land of the Waterfalls, which were presented throughout the day.

The attendees were drawn in by the music, the art, and the food, offering something for everyone. Students, families, neighbors, and even those from out of town came together for a great day of celebrating the heart and creativity of Brevard. The organizers of the event have announced that the 2026 White Squirrel Artisan Market will return next year, with events scheduled for April, August, and November.

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Photos by Abigail Callahan.



Maureen Copelof re-elected mayor of Brevard while Democrats win big in elections nationwide

Madeleine Pollock
Copy Editor

The Brevard municipal election took place on Nov. 4 and saw the re-election of Mayor Maureen Copelof, a left-leaning candidate whose campaign was centered around improving housing and community development opportunities. Democrats also swept the polls in elections nationwide on that same day.

The Brevard election saw a race between Copelof and conservative Chris Weiner, whose mission statement was “faith, freedom, and prosperity.” Copelof won with 74.73% of the vote, despite a historically low voter turnout with only 2612 ballots cast.

Before she served as the mayor of Brevard, Copelof served on the Brevard City Council. She is also a 30-year Navy veteran, and has a Master's in Business Administration and a Master's in Political Science.

This election marked a decisive decision from those within the city limits of Brevard to vote for a mayoral administration that will stand up for the rights of minorities in the community and fight against a nationwide conservative push for the integration of religious beliefs into politics.

Nov. 4 was a notable day in election centers across the country, with many states electing new governors, and many cities having municipal elections. One thing remained clear across campaigns and states: the cost of living is too high for many Americans, and people want elected officials who will fight for them.

There were two new Democratic governors elected: in New Jersey, Mikie Sherill won against a Trump-backed Republican candidate; and Virginia saw a similar outcome, with the election of the first woman governor, Democrat Abigail Spanberger. Both candidates' campaigns openly criticized the Trump administration.

The New York City mayor's race drew a lot of attention online, with the election of democratic socialist and Muslim immigrant Zohran Mamdani. He beat out known sex offender, independent, and Trump-endorsed Andrew Cuomo, to become the youngest mayor of New York City at 34 years old. Mamdani's campaign was centered around livable wages, rent stabilization, free public transportation, and access to childcare.

There were big wins for other Democrats in municipal elections nationwide as well: in Detroit, Michigan, Democrat Mary Sheffield was elected mayor, making her the first Black woman to hold this position; Boston, Massachusetts re-elected its first Asian-American Mayor, Michelle Wu, for a second term; and in Charlotte, North Carolina, Vi Lyles was re-elected for a fifth term, to name a few.

Polls across the country are trending towards Democrats as many voters appear displeased with the Trump Administration's second term so far, likely due to the recent government shutdown, the fact that the Epstein Files remain unreleased, and the infringements on free speech, among other things.

In a response on Truth Social, President Trump wrote, “TRUMP WASN'T ON THE BALLOT, AND SHUTDOWN, WERE THE TWO REASONS THAT REPUBLICANS LOST ELECTIONS TONIGHT,” according to Pollsters. In response to New York electing Mamdani, Trump also posted “...AND SO IT BEGINS.”

In Mamdani's victory speech, he addressed the Trump administration's response. “They want the people to fight amongst ourselves so that we remain distracted from the work of remaking a long-broken system. We refuse to let them dictate the rules of the game anymore. They can play by the same rules as the rest of us,” Mamdani said. “If we embrace this brave new course, rather than fleeing from it, we can respond to oligarchy and authoritarianism with the strength it fears, not the appeasement it craves.”



Zohran Mamdani's campaign poster for the NYC municipal election, which he won. Photo from Mamdani's Instagram.

TV Review

New Hulu series presents tangled web of 'Murdaugh: Death in the Family'

★★★★☆

John B. Padgett
Contributor

Alex Murdaugh is back, sort of.

The disgraced South Carolina Lowcountry lawyer, who pled guilty to bilking his own clients out of millions of dollars and was found guilty of murdering his wife and son, is the main character in "Murdaugh: Death in the Family," an eight-episode limited series that premiered Oct. 18 on Hulu with three episodes. New episodes are released each Wednesday until the finale on Nov. 19.

If the episodes released so far are indicative of the whole, the series is a sleekly produced docudrama with compelling performances by most of the cast, but if you're looking for an accurate, fact-based account of what actually happened, you may want to look elsewhere.

The first six episodes do strive mightily to create a coherent narrative of the many pieces of the tale and to try answer some of the as-yet unanswered questions in the Murdaugh saga, in particular the why and how: why did Alex do the things he did, and how did he come to fall so low?

Full disclosure: I am originally from Hampton County, South Carolina, and I know many of the real-life people who are the basis for characters in the series. Alex (or "Alec," as we know him) was two years behind me in school, but his older brother, Randy, and I were in the same classes for 12 years. We even rode the same school bus.

I knew other members of the family, too, and even interviewed Randy and Alex's father, Randolph Murdaugh III, for a newspaper feature story on law and justice in the Lowcountry in 1987, when I was home from college for the summer and working as a reporter at the local weekly newspaper. At the time, Murdaugh had just become the 14th circuit solicitor (read: district attorney in most other states), succeeding his father, Randolph "Buster" Murdaugh Jr., who had held the position from 1940 until 1986.

For anyone who needs a refresher on the Murdaugh story, it began in



earnest in February 2019 when Alex and Maggie Murdaugh's 19-year-old son, Paul, was severely intoxicated and caused a boating accident near Beaufort in which Mallory Beach, also 19, was thrown from the boat and killed. Because of the Murdaugh family's influence, some feared Paul would escape prosecution, but he eventually was indicted with felony charges of boating under the influence that resulted in death and injuries.

Other deaths with connections to the Murdaughs started to come into focus, including Stephen Smith, a gay teenager who was the victim in 2015 of what officials at the time said was a hit-and-run accident, and Gloria Satterfield, the Murdaugh family housekeeper, who fell at the Murdaugh residence and died of her injuries some three weeks later.

Then the murders happened.

On June 7, 2021, Alex Murdaugh phoned 911 and asked for an ambulance and police because, as he famously said in that call, "My wife and my child have been shot badly." Maggie had been killed by a rifle, while Paul had been shot at close range by a shotgun near the dog kennels on the family's hunting lodge on Moselle Rd.

An emotionally distraught Alex, pausing to survey the scene before dialing 911, opens the series, effectively capturing the chaos and uncertainty of that moment, in which Murdaugh is either a genuinely grief-stricken husband and father who has just discovered the bodies of two slain family

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BC Theatre: 'Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson - Apt. 2B' by Kate Hamill to open Nov. 13

Elementary, my dear (Ms.) Watson: starting next week, there will be a scarlet thread of chaos on campus when a new game (and BC Theatre production) is afoot, starting Thursday.

A playful detective story, "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson - Apt. 2B" by Kate Hamill is a modern take on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's dynamic duo, celebrating a feminist lens and the thrill of the chase.

The BC Theatre production features Brevard College students Lyric Contarino ('27), Morgan Maynard ('28), Madison Gibson ('28) and Logan Hislop-Boccanfuso ('29). The show will run Thursday, Nov. 13 through Saturday, Nov. 15 at 7 p.m. and on Sunday, Nov. 16, at 2:30 p.m.

in the Morrison Playhouse at the Paul Porter Center for Performing Arts on the Brevard College campus.

Directed by BC faculty member Abbey Toot, this fast-paced romp evokes mystery and enlivens layered characters, playfully investigating how different personal strengths contribute to a well-rounded pairing. This witty, unique and relevant take on time-honored characters encourages us to celebrate community, collaborative contribution, engagement in process and purpose, and a release of the need to prove our worth.

Featuring scenic design from Brevard College Theatre alum Teila Vochatzer, fight direction

from faculty member Dan Toot, and a student senior capstone design in makeup, hair/wigs and blood/gore by Evelyn Higdon ('26), this story showcases the fun of live theatre, play and community.

Due to adult language and themes, this show is not recommended for young children. The show runs approximately two hours and fifteen minutes including intermission.

Ticket prices are \$5 for students, faculty and staff and \$15 for the general public. They can be purchased online at <https://our.show/brevard-college/holmeswatson> or at the door, if available.

More information can be found at <https://brevard.edu/theatre/> or by calling 828.641.0605.

'Murdaugh: Death in the Family'

Continued from page 5

members, or he is a talented actor and sociopath who has just committed cold-blooded murder ... and, in making the call, is girding himself to begin performing the role of his life.

Wisely, the opening episode doesn't dwell long on that moment, literally rolling back the calendar to a happier time in 2019 before the boat crash when Alex's father, Randolph Murdaugh III (play by Gerald McRaney), is about to be awarded the state's highest civilian honor, the Order of the Palmetto, by the governor. However, it is obvious that trouble is brewing, as the episode exposes us to Alex's ruthless pursuit of money, his drug addiction, his womanizing tendencies (and attempts to buy forgiveness with jewelry), his dubious business practices and partners, and his family's libertine lifestyle that involves guns and booze. Lots and lots of booze.

We also get a glimpse into Alex's loose standards on legal and ethical issues when he wins a shooting contest after apparently misaligning his friend's scope. "You cheating bastard," the friend says.

Alex responds: "It's only cheating if you get caught."

The show's creators did a solid job of casting actors to play most of the characters, especially Alex. Australian actor Jason Clarke nails the look and sound of Alex Murdaugh—his voice is a little deeper than the real-life Alex, but the mannerisms and accent are spot on.

Patricia Arquette, the Oscar and Emmy Award-winning star known most recently as Harmony Cobel in the Apple TV series "Severance," plays Maggie Murdaugh. As a character, Maggie is in some ways more enigmatic than the charming, scheming and very outgoing Alex, but Arquette rises to the challenge in the early episodes, in turns submissive and steadfast against the flawed, powerful men in her family.

Also glimpsed briefly in the second episode is Mandy Matney, played by Brittany Snow. Matney is a reporter for the Island Packet newspaper in Beaufort who is assigned to cover the boat crash. In real life, Matney continued to write about the Murdaughs after leaving the Island Packet in December 2019, first for FITSNews, a tabloidy online news site, before leaving that too in 2022 to devote more time to her "Murdaugh Murders Podcast," upon which the series is based.

Matney is an executive producer for the series, and her reporting was

instrumental in the real life uncovering of several facets of the Murdaugh story, so her character will likely factor more prominently in later episodes.

The series does get many of the details of the Murdaugh story right, even explaining, somewhat gratuitously, what "Bo" means in Lowcountry parlance. (On this point, I can attest this actually is a term used in the region; it means roughly the same thing as "dude" or "bro" elsewhere.)

But the series also fudges accuracy at times, distorting the timeline of events and fictionalizing characters and plot points in ways that flatly contradict the real story. Nowhere are these inaccuracies more prevalent than in the character of Gloria Satterfield, played by Kathleen Wilhoite.

In real life, Satterfield had two grown sons, one of whom was a special needs child, and all accounts suggest she was a kind and maternal figure to Paul. These character traits are present in the series, but the series also falsely hints that her fall came as a result of being asked to bring the family's luggage inside after a vacation to the Bahamas, which in the series was intended to heal some of the rift following Paul's 2019 boat crash.

In reality, the Bahamas trip took place in 2017, and Satterfield's fall happened in 2018, a full year before the boat crash.

I've now seen the first six episodes, which brings the story up to the murders of Maggie and Paul. It remains to be seen how the final two episodes will wrap up the remaining elements of the story, which include Alex's attempts to steal settlement money from Satterfield's estate, forestall suspicions from his law partners of embezzlement and misuse of funds, fake a suicide attempt with "Cousin Eddie," and of course stand trial for double murder in 2023, in which Murdaugh chose to take the stand, against the advice of counsel.

When asked on the stand about the multitude of lies he had been telling, the real-life Murdaugh answered by saying, "What a tangled web we weave."

Left unspoken was the rest of the expression, "when first we practice to deceive."

In some ways, that is exactly what "Murdaugh: Death in the Family" does: it is an entertaining, thought-provoking drama that presents the complex, dramatic "web" at the heart of the Murdaugh saga, but it takes excessive dramatic license in fictionalizing the tragic real-life story.

Winners Announced from the Fourth Annual Brevard College Sidewalk Art Contest

The local community gathered for the fourth annual Brevard College Sidewalk Art Festival on Saturday, Oct. 25 at Robbins Plaza on the BC campus.

The event featured BC students, alumni and regional high school students using chalk to create artwork on campus sidewalks while competing for over \$1,000 in cash awards and prizes.

Nicole Bradbury and Wilsen DeGarmo won first place in the Brevard College student category as well as an award for Best Halloween Theme. Scarlett Houser and Phoebe Turner teamed up to take second place, while Kember Phillips won third place amongst BC students. Courtlyn Austin,

Kylie Brown and Autumn Short were named Honorable Mention in the college category.

A pair of Rosman High School students - Mason O'Rourke and Dylan Shawver - won the high school category, while Dorothy Hambright '97 took the win in the Brevard College alumni category.

The event was funded by the Brevard College Fine Arts Division and BC's Friends of Fine Arts (FOFA) and featured over 30 students who created sidewalk art pieces to go along with a festival atmosphere for all ages on the BC campus. Plans are already underway for the fifth annual Brevard College Sidewalk Art Festival to be held in October 2026.

2025 BC Sidewalk Art Contest Winners

BC Students:

1st Place & Best Halloween Theme: Nicole Bradbury & Wilsen DeGarmo

2nd Place: Scarlett Houser & Phoebe Turner

3rd Place: Kember Phillips

Honorable Mention: Courtlyn Austin

Honorable Mention: Autumn Short

Honorable Mention: Kylie Brown

High School Students:

1st Place: Mason O'Rourke & Dylan Shawver, Rosman HS

2nd Place: Rosa Cantrell, Rosman HS

3rd Place: Abi Kime, T.C. Roberson HS

Honorable Mention & Best Halloween Theme: Alivia Hipps, Enka HS

Honorable Mention: Callie Garren & Madison Cochran, Rosman HS

BC Alumni:

Dorothy Hambright, Class of 1997



Photos by Courtlyn Austin.



Parking at Brevard College: a universal headache

Olivia Tiner
Staff Writer

Parking on college campuses is always a difficult endeavor. It is almost universally hated. So, how is parking at Brevard College? The answer is also difficult and mostly hated.

A senior commuter says that she almost always has trouble parking, and when she can, she “can’t open her door” and says the spots need to be “a foot bigger.” This refers to our green outlined commuter spots in the front main parking lot. We have multiple parking lots on campus, and all parking lots operate on a color-coded system: the green outlined spots are designated for commuters, the yellow-lined spots are reserved for faculty and staff, and the white lines are reserved for students.

According to Emily White, Brevard’s Campus Security Director, we have about 600 registered vehicles on campus, but as the number of students is steadily growing, so is the number of cars. Our cafeteria is set to be renovated soon, which will cut off about one of our parking lots. White says that we will “gain one new permanent parking lot and one temporary parking leading us to have more parking than before.”

She also states that students don’t often come to her with issues regarding parking. However, the question remains: will this one new lot really be enough for the record enrollment Brevard College keeps seeing year after year?

I constantly hear people complaining about the amount of parking available on campus, and what gets us tickets and what doesn’t. A junior who lives on campus is constantly struggling to find space for her vehicle. “Homecoming day, I could not find a SINGLE parking spot: the Porter Center parking lot was full, the gym parking lot was full, and the parking spots behind North were all full. I park in the grass near my village, and when I come outside two hours later, I have a ticket on my car. Where else am I supposed to park? I ran into Security when I went to move my car, and he revoked the ticket. What if I hadn’t run into him? I’d have a ticket. When we have big events like Homecoming on campus, Security needs to chill out on the tickets; it’s not fair to make students pay a parking ticket because of a public event that the campus has decided to host. I give the campus enough of my money.”

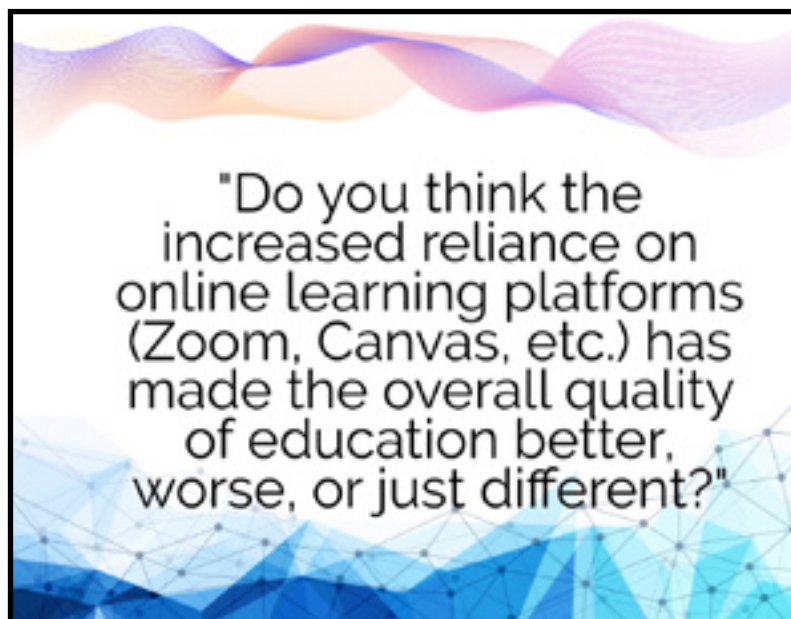
The truth is, we keep getting more students and aren’t getting any more parking. Students are getting tickets for parking in staff spots, which they wouldn’t have to do if there were enough spots for the students who go here. When I bring my car to campus for events and things, I also struggle to find parking just for the few hours it’s here. One of the only places I often find parking is the Porter Center parking lot, which is the one that is mauve 100 yards away from parking at Ingles, which is difficult for people who live on the main campus to swing by.

The bottom line is we need more parking, and we need it soon.

Do online technologies enhance learning? Students weigh in...

Autumn Jones
Editor in Chief

“I think the use of Zoom, Canvas, and the overall internet has been more useful and helpful, but I do think ChatGPT and other AI components have made things a lot worse, and people aren’t actually trying anymore.”
—Mya Dixon



“I do think that Zoom and Canvas are really good tools to utilize, but I do think they’re being relied on too much. Although it does make everything accessible for students and teachers, but I think everyone has to be really careful to not use it too much, because people don’t learn the same.”

—Kelly Lawson

“I think the increased reliance has definitely made the way we learn different, but overall, I think it does make it better in certain ways. Certain platforms, like Canvas, Google Docs, etc., make education more accessible; we’re able to work on any assignment, anywhere, anytime. Other things, like AI, absolutely take away from the individuality and the creativity that come with learning. It takes away from thinking, which is the whole premise of education.”

“I think it has made it worse. It detaches the learner from the actual education and the teacher.”

—Kate Ellison

—Gina Drouse

Tornados battle until very end in home finale

The Brevard College volleyball team (7-22, 4-13 USA South) battled down to the wire in a five-set thriller, coming up just short against Salem (24-6, 13-4 USAS) 3-2 (22-25, 25-17, 25-21, 23-25, 15-6) on Tuesday evening at the Boshamer Gymnasium.

The result marked the third five-set match of the season for the Tornados.

BC opened up with a three-point set one win, 25-22, but fell in the next two frames by finals of 25-17 and 25-21. The Tornados answered back with a thrilling triumph in the fourth set, 25-23, but could not close the door in the fifth as Salem responded with a 15-6 victory to take the match.

Three Tornados had double-digit kills offensively, led by Malahna Hoyle's 13 while Jaxson Tumicki posted 12 and Caroline Moon added 10. Izzy Boulay (22 assists) and Madison Warren (20 assists) ran the offense, while four Tornados contributed double-digit dig efforts on the defensive side. Abigail Kelly recorded a career best 23 digs, followed by Kylie Katcher (18), Moon (15) and Boulay (11). The efforts marked Moon's 10th double-double of 2025, and Boulay's sixth. Emma Fontana served up six service aces and recorded five total blocks.

The Spirits were paced by Aspen Bradley's 21 kills. Three Salem players - Leah Rymer (20), Jolina Bun (17), and Grace Roger (14) distributed double-digit assists, while Madison Bozarth led the defense with 22 digs.

The highly-contested match featured a grand total of 24 tied scores and 14 total lead changes, including very competitive first and fourth frames.

Brevard caps off the regular season on Saturday at 12 p.m. in Raleigh, N.C. against Meredith.



Photos by Joel Gheel via Flickr.