

What’s cookin’ at Brevard?

Zoe Hughes
Managing Editor

Because of the coming renovations to Myer’s Dining Hall, Brevard College has provided several different options for dining, but due to paperwork issues, the construction has been delayed. This means that Myer’s Dining Hall will be reopening Sunday, Jan. 18.

This past week, Brevard has organized local food trucks to serve lunch

and dinner outside the Boshamer Gymnasium, and has additionally converted the auxiliary gym into a dining area. Bill’s Boiler House has also had some updates: an expanded menu and extra appliances for students to warm their food.

Brevard College has been ready for construction to begin for weeks, but they are waiting on the county to complete its paperwork. In the meantime, the caf will be fully operational! The extended Bill’s hours and menu will remain the same.



Brevard Students ordering from the food trucks.



Food trucks parked outside the Boshamer Gymnasium.



The expanded Bill’s menu.



Bill’s new heating toasting station.

City of Brevard gears up to celebrate MLK Day

Madeleine Pollock
Copy Editor

This weekend there will be two celebrations in honor of civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. taking place in Brevard: the first will be from 12:00 p.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 17 at the Mary C. Jenkins Community and Cultural Center, and the second will be from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Bethel A. Baptist Church.

The celebration at Jenkins Community and Cultural Center will consist of a historical presentation, some activities, and lunch. A donation of \$10 is recommended.

The second celebration will begin at 5 p.m. at the courthouse with the annual march from downtown Brevard to Bethel A. Baptist Church. There will be pastries, hot chocolate, and other refreshments served following the march, and then a series of guest speakers beginning at 6:30.

King Jr. was integral to the civil rights movement and is credited with the banning of segregation in the United States. He is remembered for his ability to unite people regardless of background, for organizing nonviolent protests against racial discrimination, and for giving his life to the Civil Rights movement.

In a time where some rights and liberties are being infringed upon, it is especially important that his legacy be remembered. All are welcome and encouraged to attend either or both celebrations!

Right: There will be a second Celebration beginning with a march from The Courthouse and ending with refreshments and guest speakers at Bethel A. Baptist Church.

THE CLARION

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Left: The first MLK Day Celebration will be at the Mary C. Jenkins Community Cultural Center.

A great way to start the New Year

Brevard student spends New Year in Bahamas

Abigail Callahan
Staff Writer

There is something amazing about starting the New Year off on a cruise ship; one moment you're in line at a Florida port, and the next you're watching land disappear while a floating city takes over your sense of time.

Our trip began in Jacksonville, where optimism was high, suitcases were overpacked, and the rules of normal life and normal eating quietly dissolved the second we stepped onboard the Norwegian Gem.

By day two, we arrived in Freeport, though we experienced it from the comfort of the ship. While most passengers rushed ashore, we stayed behind and explored a quieter version of the vessel: empty decks, peaceful but cold pools, and the rare luxury of space. That evening, New Year's Eve took over completely.

After a late dinner, the ship transformed into a

celebration with music, lights, strangers counting down together, and the realization that we were welcoming the New Year in the middle of the ocean. The highlight of the night had to be the ship's captain breaking a large number five in a 2025 ice sculpture and replacing it with a six for 2026.

New Year's Day brought us to Great Stirrup Cay, where the pace slowed to match the gentle rhythm of the waves. The private island was everything the first day of the year should be, with clear water, warm sand, and absolutely no urgency. The beach became a reset button, washing away the noise of the night before and replacing it with sun, cold saltwater, and stillness.

On day four, we docked in Nassau and traded swimsuits for a driving tour and a history lesson. We learned about the Bahamas' history from local tour guide Richard, who spoke about the Lucayan people, British colonization, piracy, slavery, and eventual independence in 1973. The island's past added depth to its beauty.

We also saw the Atlantis Bahama Resort up close, a resort so familiar from commercials that it almost feels imaginary. We had watched DJ Khalid being interviewed at this resort on CNN on New Year's Eve. Now we were standing in front of it, realizing it's even bigger in person.

Day five was a sea day, and perhaps the most perfect of all. We sat outside near the buffet, reading, playing Uno, and watching the horizon stretch endlessly ahead. It was simple, unplanned, and exactly what a vacation should feel like as we prepared for a new year.

Day six returned us to Jacksonville and to reality. The warmth and freedom was replaced by cold air, jackets, and the fact that school, work, and the real world were to come. The contrast was sharp, but it carried something with it: the feeling of having started the year slowly, intentionally, and far from shore. I suggest it to anyone as a great way to start the year.



The Great Stirrup Cay and the Norwegian Gem in the background. Photo by Abigail Callahan.

Book Review: 'The Last Letter' by Rebecca Yarros

Ivelysse Leighton
Staff Writer

Rating: ★★★★★☆

Rebecca Yarros's "The Last Letter" is one of those stories that doesn't just make you emotional; it makes you ache. From the very first pages, I was pulled into Beckett and Ella's world, a world built on words, distance, sacrifice, and a love that feels painfully real.

What makes this book stand out the most is the way their relationship is told through letters. Beckett and Ella do not just fall in love; they write their way into each other's hearts. Their notes are intimate, vulnerable, and beautifully sincere. There is something compelling about written words, especially when they are all two people have to hold onto while separated by war and fear. I loved that the entire story is anchored in these letters because it made every emotion feel more personal and every moment feel more fragile.

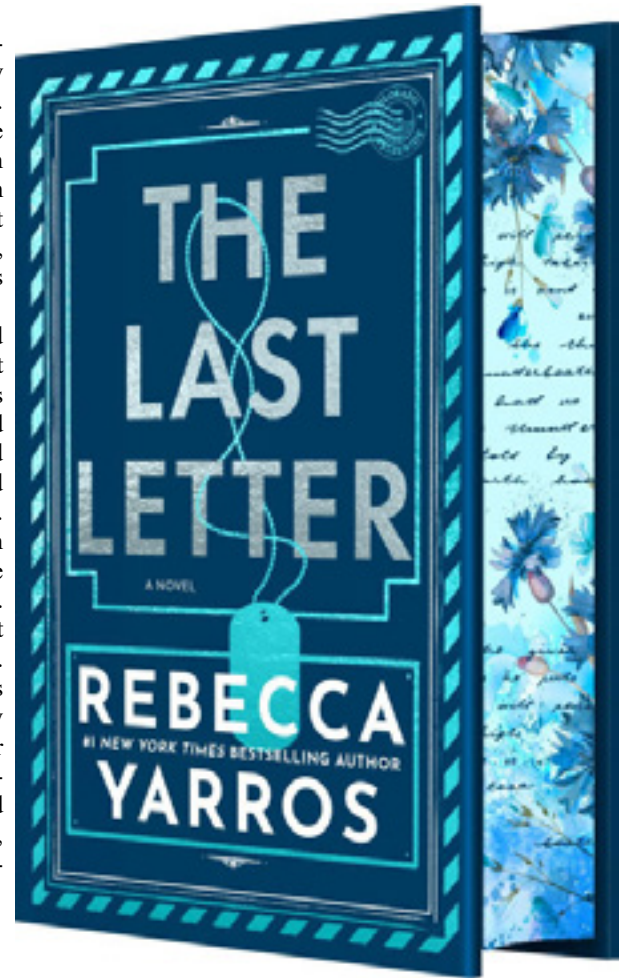
Beckett is impossible not to fall for. He is brave, gentle, broken, and fiercely loving all at once, and I found myself falling for him just as quickly and entirely as Ella does. Ella, too, is powerful in her own quiet, enduring way. Together, they face so many hardships, including grief, trauma, distance, and loss. Yet their love never feels unrealistic. Instead, it feels raw, messy, and hard-won. This is the kind of love that survives because both people choose it, even

when everything is falling apart.

The story is undeniably heart-breaking, but beautiful in the way it handles family, tragedy, and love. Yarros captures how pain and love can exist side by side, how loss can shape people, and how connection can still grow even in the darkest moments. I cried more than once, and honestly, anyone picking up this book should be ready with tissues.

That said, the ending felt rushed and a little too sudden for a story that had taken so much time to build its emotional depth. I was blindsided by how quickly everything wrapped up, and I wished the conclusion had been given more space to breathe. After becoming so deeply invested in Beckett and Ella, I wanted more time to process everything that happened.

Even with that flaw, "The Last Letter" left a lasting impact on me. It is a story about love that refuses to fade, even when tested by tragedy and distance. If you are looking for an emotional, beautifully written romance that will break your heart and then gently piece it back together, this book is absolutely worth reading. Just be prepared to cry.



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Clarion?**

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to add classes!**