



BEVILL STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Carrollton ♦ Fayette ♦ Hamilton ♦ Jasper ♦ Sumiton



News Digest for November 2016 (Click on each link to open)

Coffee Time interview – [TV16HD](#)

Bevill State reveals new volleyball coach – [Times Record](#)

Volleyball returns to BSCC – [Corridor Messenger](#)

Bevill State begins new theater program – [Journal Record](#)

Opening act for theater program – [Journal Record](#)

Bevill State hires coach for women's volleyball – [West Alabama Gazette](#)

Loreanna McKinney is crowned new Miss Hamilton – [Journal Record](#)

Bevill State hosts career fair, reality check – [Journal Record](#)

Fayette Chamber: After Hours – [Times Record](#)

'Messiah' performance set for Monday – [Daily Mountain Eagle](#)

The BSCC News Digest is a sampling of news articles and information regarding Bevill State Community College that appears in local media. If there is an article that you see that is not listed, please send to Andrew Brasfield at andrew.brasfield@bscc.edu

Bevill State reveals new volleyball coach

Bevill State Community College has announced the appointment of Theresa Berry-Franks as the coach for women's volleyball on the Fayette campus.

B e r r y - Franks, an alumna of the BSCC Fayette campus, is a former assistant volleyball coach at Faulkner University in Montgomery.

During her time as a volleyball player at the school,

she was named to the Alabama All-Academic team and was awarded the NJCAA Student Athlete of the Year Award. After graduating from Bevill State, Berry-Franks was recruited to play at Faulkner University.

"I am overjoyed to be returning to my alma mater as head volleyball coach," stated Berry-Franks. "My time at Bevill State was some



**THERESA
BERRY-FRANKS**

See BEVILL on Page A2

BEVILL: Berry-Franks formerly coached at Faulkner

Continued from A1.

of my fondest memories and I look forward to sharing this great school with other students. Having athletics back within Fayette County is an invaluable opportunity for the community and I am thankful to be part of this opportunity to lead more young adults into the early path of their academic career."

In June, Bevill State announced the return of ath-

letics to their campuses. Fayette's campus will have women's volleyball and men's baseball. The Sumiton campus will host women's softball, while the Jasper campus will see the return of men's basketball.

"The college is very excited about Coach Berry-Franks coming home to Bevill State," said Dr. Larry Ferguson, President of BSCC. "Her experiences as both an outstanding

student athlete and coach will be invaluable as we bring back women's volleyball to our Fayette Campus."

Berry-Franks, a Fayette county native, graduated from Faulkner University with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Biology. Following her eligibility at Faulkner University, she remained on campus as a graduate assistant coach under then head coach, Tori Bartels. Af-

ter completing her undergraduate degree, Berry-Franks was hired at Faulkner University as their first full-time assistant coach with responsibilities to both the junior varsity and varsity volleyball programs.

Following her tenure at Faulkner, she attended and graduated from the University of Alabama with a master's degree in Rural and Community Health.



Theresa Berry-Franks

Alumna hired as new head coach

Volleyball returns to BSCC

FAYETTE - Bevill State Community College is pleased to announce the appointment of Theresa Berry-Franks as the coach for women's volleyball on the Fayette campus. She was formerly the assistant volleyball coach at Faulkner University in Montgomery.

Berry-Franks is an alumna of the BSCC Fayette campus. During her time as a volleyball player at the school, she was named to the Alabama All-Academic team and was awarded the NJCAA Student Athlete of the Year Award. After graduating from Bevill State, Berry-Franks was re-

cruited to play at Faulkner University.

"I am overjoyed to be returning to my alma mater as head volleyball coach," stated Berry-Franks. "My time at Bevill State are of my fondest memories and I look forward to sharing this great school with other students. Having athletics back within Fayette County is an invaluable opportunity for the community and I am thankful to be part of this opportunity to lead more young adults into the early path of their academic career."

In June, Bevill State announced the return of athletics

to their campuses. Fayette's campus will have women's volleyball and men's baseball. The Sumiton campus will host women's softball, while the Jasper campus will see the return of men's basketball.

"The college is very excited about Coach Berry-Franks coming home to Bevill State," said Dr. Larry Ferguson, President of BSCC. "Her experiences as both an outstanding student athlete and coach will be invaluable as we bring back women's volleyball to our Fayette Campus."

Berry-Franks, a Fayette county native, graduated from Faulkner University

with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Biology. Following her eligibility at Faulkner University, she remained on campus as a graduate assistant coach under then head coach, Tori Bartels. After completing her undergraduate degree, Berry-Franks was hired at Faulkner University as their first full-time assistant coach with responsibilities to both the junior varsity and varsity volleyball programs. Following her tenure at Faulkner, she attended and graduated from the University of Alabama with a master's degree in Rural and Community Health.

Bevill State begins new theater program

■ Enthusiastic instructor plans to slowly grow, have productions

Directing the actors

ED HOWELL/STAFF

Japonica Brown (far left), Bevill State Community College-Hamilton's new director of theater arts, prepares Lily Hayley of Hoover and Dallas Nichols of Hamilton for a scene during rehearsal at the Bevill Center.

By **HEIDI BALMER**
Staff Writer, and
ED HOWELL
Assistant News Editor

HAMILTON - For a new theater instructor who loves drama, Japonica Brown can generate many laughs in a conversation.

Bevill State Community College-Hamilton's new director of theater arts is full of energy, fun *and* purpose about the theater. It came out almost in an improvisation while talking about how she loves drama

over comedies and musicals.

"I'm so strong in that. I love it. I don't know why. I'm just instinctive. I'm drawn to the dramatic pieces. Light, fluffy pieces are cool, but I would even make that a drama," she said with a laugh. "I would find the three-dimensionality of 'Sesame Street.' What is your motivation, Elmo?"

When a reporter mentions Oscar the Grouch, she pretends to do more analyzing for

See **THEATER** on page 8A.



Theater

continued from front page.

laughs.

"Is this a decomposing of a perspective of society, you living in a trash can?" she kidded.

"It would be so deep, the kids wouldn't have fun. They would be like, 'Mama, I don't know what she's talking about.'"

It is clear with her upbeat personality that Brown, 30, will easily relate to her students. At the same time, when she turns serious, it is clear she has a passion for the theater that she hopes to translate by bringing an assortment of plays to area audiences.

Since coming to the college in August, she has started the slow process of building up a theater program for Bevell students that has been closed for years. The use of outside groups using the Bevell Center for productions such as "The Nutcracker" have only served the remind the community what it missed.

Now, the Bevell Center stage should start seeing more productions as Brown has taken the reins. She spoke recently about her new role in her small office to the right as one enters the Bevell Center.

Bevell leaders happy about new theater program

"I'm very happy and excited for the theater program. Ms. Brown will do a great job, and I am looking for great things from her," said Beth Roberts, the Hamilton Campus director. "She is very energetic, encouraging, and excited about the program."

Dr. Larry



Roberts



Ferguson



ED HOWELL/STAFF

Rehearsing the scene

Japonica Brown, Bevell State Community College-Hamilton's new director of theater arts, follows the script as Dallas Nichols of Hamilton rehearses a scene at the Bevell Center.

Ferguson, the president of the college, said in August that Brown's hiring was part of an effort "to provide those attributes that makes someone want to go (to the Hamilton Campus), not just for the cost savings," but because community-based things are happening at the college.

Brown has been very excited and appreciative to be in Hamilton and pleased how "freakishly nice" everyone has been at Bevell.

"I'm just really excited to teach some specialized courses, courses I'm proficient in and I have certifications in," she said, such as stage combat (techniques to harmlessly simulate physical combat on stage), which she feels the students will enjoy.

Introduction to theater is taught for now

She is currently teaching an introduction to theater course at Bevell State, concentrating on theater appreciation for the moment.

"It is my hope that I will be able to teach introduction to acting classes soon," Brown said. "Looking at all the courses offered through the Alabama Community College System, they have a

number of courses they allow me to teach. You can submit for more classes but these are the classes they already have approved."



Bevell State theater instructor Japonica Brown

Among those state-approved courses are theater for children and dance classes.

"Real fun stuff," she said. "I'm like, 'Yes, let's get into that. I'm ready.' And then (state officials) are like, 'Yes, that's fun, but we have to make sure that the students are filling their fine arts credit first, then we'll get into the fun stuff.'"

Brown starts to tell how she teaches theater appreciation, and then just stops.

"I just love it," she said,

with enthusiastically. "I don't just want to overview it. I want to talk about, to highlight certain things and then I make them get up in class and say, 'Let's do it.'"

She would just as soon move back desks and "do a lot of movement stuff" as opposed to sitting in desks all the time, Brown said.

"I'm also using this program as a marketing tool, publicizing the program. I'm like, 'Yo, do you really like this? Are you into this? By the way, we're doing a show,'" she said.

Brown plans to recruit more students into the theater department with career fairs, fliers, and anything in between--"whatever means necessary to recruit new students is top priority."

She asked the college's electrical instructor who has experience with the lighting at the Bevell Center, to take the class into the ceiling of that facility for an examination of the electrical works there.

"We saw what the lighting capabilities are and the cables and how you program the lighting board," she said. "They had hands-on experience and read a chapter. 'Then I asked, 'Now, who's interested in actually doing this?' because, I'm going to need a lighting crew.'"

Community will help with some aspects of shows

The college has not done theater in a while, which means they have to start from scratch on some areas. For example, costumes are not plentiful, but she hoped a collaborative effort with the whole ensemble will address that need.

While most of the acting and other theatrical duties will be done by the students to give them the experience, she hoped to benefit from some community assistance for many needs still left to be filled, ranging from costumes to sets.

She described wanting to create "a labor of love," a community event where

See THEATER on page 10A.

Risers, LED lights might help Bevell Center



By HEIDI BALMER
Staff Writer,
and
ED HOWELL
Assistant News Editor

HAMILTON - The new theater instructor for Bevell State Community College-Hamilton, Japonica Brown says the Bevell Center presents some challenges for theatrical productions.

Brown was asked to review qualities of the Bevell Center that have posed challenges for productions over the years.

The theater was initially a multi-purpose center, and Brown feels it certainly "does well in a multi-purpose sense," and that past productions even did a good job temporarily extending the stage at times. However, she said the facility does pose some challenges.

For example, she feels the sightline of the audience to the stage is a problem, as the stage is known for being raised high.

"I think the best thing we can do to improve sightline issues is invest in risers, where we can put the chairs on, so they can appear to have more of a sense of seating in a black box, where it kind of goes down in a stadium-like seating," Brown said. "Then we can see more of the action from different angles and it won't be such a strain on the neck."

However, it would involve finding collapsible risers that can be stored, as well as finding where to store them, she said.

She said she would like to change out the lights, which are extremely hot, which was fine for when they were first installed.

"With LED, lights can do so many different things. They are energy conservers. You can change the lighting colorwise from a button. You can program your entire lighting board from a computer. It is so efficient and you can do so many cool things," she said.

LED lights are expensive, however, and she noted these are investments.

She also has looked at adding lights to the railing of the crowd's nest to add more lighting for the floor.

As for acoustics, she has talked with some electrical experts about mics.

"The problem is when you step too far downstage, you are going to get feedback, so we're trying to work around that," she said.

However, she also noted that classic actors from another time were taught to be able to

project their voices long before amplification, going back to Grecian actors --with masks on--speaking on hillsides to 15,000 people at a time.



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESS!

CHRISTMAS
OPEN

Opening act for theater program

It has been a long time since we have seen a theater arts program at Bevill State Community College-Hamilton, but we have been happy to recently see Japonica Brown introduced as the head of that new program.

Brown has a solid theater background, and has even acted on an ABC television series, "Body of Proof," as well as taught theater. She has a wonderful personality and has been working to find a way to create a serious theater program that can enrich and instruct students who are seriously interested in theater work.



Brown

For that matter, in replying to questions from the **Journal Record**, she has brought up issues that concern long-known defects of the Bevill Center, including the high level of the stage, the outdated lighting, lack of costumes, acoustics and so on. Obtaining energy-efficient lighting and finding risers so that audiences do not have to have neck strain to look up at the stage are interesting ideas that should be looked into, even if for long-term solutions. (It may even be possible to put risers on the ground floor to do a theater-in-the-round, as seating is movable in the center anyway.)

We have also seen her put a couple of student actors through the paces in a rehearsal for a one-act scene, and we are confident that she will be able to connect to our students and give them confidence to put on a performance.

Of course, enriching our students is not the only goal. This not only brings prestige to the college, but it also encourages performances that brings people to watch performances, which also encourages the spending of tourism dollars. We got a taste of how that affects an area when "The Nutcracker" was performed, and we think everyone can benefit by encouraging the stage arts to be reintroduced in a major program.

We welcome Brown and the program, and we congratulate Bevill State and its officials in taking this step to enrich the arts and elevate the college another level to become more of a full-fledged campus that addresses the full quality of life for its students and the surrounding community.

Bevill State Hires Coach for Women's Volleyball

Bevill State Community College (BSCC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Theresa Berry-Franks as the coach for women's volleyball on the Fayette campus. She was formerly the assistant volleyball coach at Faulkner University in Montgomery, Alabama. Berry-Franks is an alumna of the BSCC Fayette campus. During her time as a volleyball player at the school, she was named to the Alabama All-Academic team and was awarded the NJCAA Student Athlete of the Year Award. After graduating from Bevill State, Berry-Franks was recruited to play at Faulkner University.



Theresa Berry-Franks

host women's softball, while the Jasper campus will see the return of men's basketball.

"The college is very excited about Coach Berry-Franks coming home to Bevill State," said Dr. Larry Ferguson, President of BSCC. "Her experiences as both an outstanding student athlete and coach will be invaluable as we bring back women's volleyball to our Fayette Campus."

Berry-Franks, a Fayette county native, graduated from

Faulkner University with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Biology. Following her eligibility at Faulkner University, she remained on campus as a graduate assistant coach under then head coach, Tori Bartels. After completing her undergraduate degree, Berry-Franks was hired at Faulkner University as their first full-time assistant coach with responsibilities to both the junior varsity and varsity volleyball programs. Following her tenure at Faulkner, she attended and graduated from the University of Alabama with a master's degree in Rural and Community Health.

For more information contact Tana L. Collins at 800.648.3271 ext. 5742 or by email at tana.collins@bscc.edu. Please visit our website at www.bscc.edu.

"I am overjoyed to be returning to my alma mater as head volleyball coach," stated Berry-Franks. "My time at Bevill State was some of my fondest memories and I look forward to sharing this great school with other students. Having athletics back within Fayette County is an invaluable opportunity for the community and I am thankful to be part of this opportunity to lead more young adults into the early path of their academic career."

In June, Bevill State announced the return of athletics to their campuses. Fayette's campus will have women's volleyball and men's baseball. The Sumiton campus will



COURTESY/ALLIE GILMER-JUST AS I AM PHOTOGRAPHY

Loreanna McKinney is crowned new Miss Hamilton

Loreanna McKinney, 20, Winfield, was crowned as the new Miss Hamilton 2017 during the annual pageant held at the Bevill Center on Sunday, Nov. 13. McKinney, a 2015 graduate of Winfield City High School, is the daughter of David and Michelle McKinney, Winfield. A sophomore at Bevill State Community College-Hamilton, McKinney plans to have a career in education. For her talent in the Miss Hamilton Pageant, McKinney sang "Part of Your World" from Disney's "Little Mermaid." For more coverage, please see page 2.



COURTESY/ALLIE GILMER JUST AS I AM PHOTOGRAPHY

Miss Hamilton finalists



COURTESY/ALLIE GILMER JUST AS I AM PHOTOGRAPHY

Rising young women featured at pageant

The 2017 edition of the Miss Hamilton Pageant was held on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 13, in the Bevill Center's Auditorium on the Hamilton Campus of Bevill State Community College. The winners in the Miss Hamilton portion of the pageant were (from left) first runnerup Kourtney Wells, Miss Hamilton

A number of rising young women in the state and community were a part of the Miss Hamilton Pageant on Sunday, Nov. 13. Shown at the Bevill Center that day are (from left) Loreanna McKinney, Rising Star 2017 Gracie Sanderson, Miss Alabama 2016 Hayley Barber and second runnerup Emma Beth Dorris.



COURTESY/ALLIE GILMER-JUST AS I AM PHOTOGRAPHY

Robertson named

Miss Hamilton's Outstanding Teen

Valarie Robertson (left) was named Miss Hamilton's Outstanding Teen 2017. She is shown with first alternate Olivia Frederick. These winners were announced at the Miss Hamilton Pageant, held at the Bevill Center in Hamilton on Sunday, Nov. 13.

McKinney wins Miss Hamilton title

■ BSCC student picks platform of what to do if active shooter is nearby

Special to the Journal Record

HAMILTON - Loreanna McKinney, 20, Winfield, was crowned as the new Miss Hamilton 2017 during the annual pageant held on Sunday, Nov. 13.

Chandler Mordecai, Miss Hamilton 2016, crowned McKinney during the pageant, held at the Bevill Center on the Hamilton Campus of Bevill State Community College.

Kourtney Wells of Winfield was named the first runnerup, while the second runnerup was Emma Beth

Dorris of Haleyville.

Also, Valarie Robertson was crowned Miss Hamilton's Outstanding Teen, while Olivia Frederick of Hamilton was named first alternate.

McKinney, 20, a 2015 graduate of Winfield City High School, is the daughter of David and Michelle McKinney of Winfield. She has a brother, Luke, a 16-year-old freshman at Winfield High.

A sophomore at Bevill State in Hamilton, McKinney is the president of the Student Government Association and is Phi Theta Kappa vice president of scholarship.

McKinney is majoring in elementary education at Bevill and plans to earn her teaching degree at the University of North Alabama in Florence, after which she will



See **MCKINNEY** on page 5.



COURTESY/ALLIE GILMER-JUST AS I AM PHOTOGRAPHY

Miss Alabama and the Rising Stars

Miss Alabama Hayley Barber poses with the Rising Stars. Shown with Barber are (front row, from left) Ally Tidwell, Hadley Cate Peterson, Anna Claire Tidwell, Bella Timmons, Lillyann Yielding, Blakeney Tibbs, (second row, same order) Emma Dudley, 2017 Rising Star Gracie Sanderson, Barber, 2016 Rising Star Maggie Harbor, Cailey Roberts and Kayla King.



ED HOWELL/STAFF

Bevill State hosts career fair, reality check

Bevill State Community College-Hamilton, partnering with the C3 of Northwest Alabama Economic Development Alliance, hosted its annual C3 Career Fair and Reality Check for high school juniors on Friday, Oct. 28. Students came from most of the local high schools in Marion County, allowing them to speak to business and industry leaders and departments from Bevill State, about real world conditions and what to expect from certain jobs and educational opportunities. They also toured a Reality Check area, where they used average salaries for the jobs they were leaning toward and saw how far those salaries would go in real life, using realistic prices for items ranging from housing to groceries. (Top photo) High school students receive makeovers from Bevill State cosmetology students.



At the Reality Check, one student looks to get a job from Bevill State instructor Ben Franklin (left photo), while another checks for prices of groceries at a retail store.



Journal Record Managing Editor Les Walters (left) and one of his former employees, Shane Herrmann, who is now the associate sports Information director for the University of North Alabama in Florence, talk to students.



Daphne Hendrix, lean operations manager at 3M in Guin, speaks at a display of the plant's pavement markings.

Artist Missy Miles of Organic Vessels Studio in Hamilton shows off some of her works.



Bevill State machine tool and dye instructor Prentice Howell talks about technical studies with students.



These Hamilton students check out a device to measure depth perception.



Fayette Chamber: After Hours

The Fayette Area Chamber of Commerce held its After Hours meeting in the Bear's Den on the Beville State Community College campus on Nov. 17. Refreshments, compliments of Walmart manager Rob McGough, were served. Those in attendance then took a tour of the new welding and technology area of Beville State Community College. In the top photo Everett Reynolds, left, BSCC Division Chair of Career Tech, shows a plasma cutter to, from left, McGough, freelance artist Frances White, Chamber president Daniel B. White, Deacon-in-Charge at St. Michael's Episcopal Church Pam Payne and Bynum GMC owner Andrew Bynum.



Pictured from left are BSCC Dean of Student Success Max Weaver, Reynolds, Secretary to Director of Campus Services Donna Sullivan and Anita Hamlett.





Shown above from left are Donna Sullivan, Frances White and Daniel White.

At left, BSCC Director of Campus Services Anita Hamlett and Laughing Crow Art Studio owner Greg Hill pose for a photo.

'MESSIAH' PERFORMANCE SET FOR MONDAY



Daily Mountain Eagle - Ron Harris

Final rehearsals were held Monday night for this year's presentation of Handel's 'Messiah.' The Walker County Christian Chorus, under the direction of Dr. John Stallsmith, will perform Handel's 'Messiah' Monday beginning at 7 p.m. at Jasper's First Baptist Church. The Chorus will be accompanied by members of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra. Beville State Music Department's Chapel Children will also perform. The concert is free.