

The North Carolina Mountain State Fair



Photo by Sabrina Ortiz

Anna Ervin meanders through the fairgrounds.



Photo by Anna Ervin

A view from on top of the swing ride.



Photo by Anna Ervin

The ferris wheel illuminates the sky as the sun continues to go down.

The North Carolina Mountain State Fair is back again with a whirlwind of fun, food and lots of adventure. This fair is the official state fair of the western part of North Carolina, and more than 180,000 people visit in its 10-day span.

With so much to do, it can be hard to remember to have a little fun. Visiting the fair is a great way to take a break!

For ride lovers, there are many options. The Pirate Ship is back and better than ever; Jekyll and Hyde for the major thrill seekers, and unique to this fair is the Skyline.

The Skyline takes you up and down the entire length of the fairground!

For those who don't love rides, you can explore all of the exhibits and food. There are so many local vendors that offer barbecue, macaroni and cheese, loaded fries, lemonade, the classic funnel cake and candy apples.

The fair closes on Sunday, so you do still have a few days left to enjoy the fair.

—Anna Ervin

All about Constitution Day

Anna Ervin
Editor in Chief

Have you ever heard of Constitution Day? Now you have!

Constitution Day commemorates the Sept. 17, 1787 signing of the United States Constitution.

Early celebration of the Constitution was led by nationalist groups during the World War I era. However, in 1997, Louise Leigh, a retired medical technologist in California decided to start her own campaign for Constitution Day to become recognized as a federal holiday. She was concerned about the lack of knowledge surrounding the Constitution.

For reference, the Constitution is the fundamental law of the U.S. federal system of government and is the oldest remaining constitution currently in use in the world. The Constitution defines the rights of the people it governs, as well as providing jurisdiction for the government. The Constitution also allows for change within the government, although nothing has been changed since 1992.

Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia added language to an omnibus bill passed by Congress in December 2004 that established the event observed today. Constitution Day and Citizen-

ship Day became a combined event that also can be held on a different date if Sept. 17 falls on a weekend. The law also requires that “each educational institution that receives Federal funds for a fiscal year shall hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on September 17 of such year for the students served by the educational institution.”

This means that federally funded schools are required to do something in honor of the Constitution.

This Sept. 17, don’t forget about the Constitution and all of your rights held within it. If you feel that your rights are not being upheld, the first amendment states that you have the right to, “no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

You have a right to free speech, free press, freedom to protest and petition. Know your rights, and use them to advocate for yourself and others.



AT 6:00 P.M.

SENIOR PINNING

SCOTT CONCERT HALL

FOOTBALL NIGHT GAME

09.16.2023

6 P.M. IVES-LEMEL FIELD
FREE ADMISSION FOR STUDENTS
COME SUPPORT THE NADOS

What to do in Brevard

Sabrina Ortiz
Staff Writer

During my four years at Brevard, I have heard multiple people note the lack of things to do around Brevard. We are no Charlotte or other significant city by any means, so if you wanted to go clubbing every other weekend, you should have gone to a different school. However, you are here in the beautiful mountains of North Carolina. Enjoy them.

A funny idea I had recently was to search up Brevard, Asheville, and Hendersonville, North Carolina on TikTok. Very Gen Z of me but in this day and age, many people are posting about different bars, hikes, water holes and other fun activities they go out and do.

The one thing about Brevard is if you do not like the outdoors, you've limited the number of things you can do besides drive to Asheville or Charlotte. Take advantage of the mountains here, and give the outdoors a chance.

You have access to Bold Rock Cidery just 20 minutes away. Even if you are under the age of 21, you can still get food and play cornhole with your friends. There are also Oskar Blues and Ecusta Brewery company for those 21 and up.

There are waterfalls and rivers nearby, some you can go swimming at. For instance, Hooker Falls and Pisgah National Forest. If swimming in cold water isn't for you, try one of the many hiking trails in Dupont, Pisgah or Blue Ridge Parkway. There is John Rock right above the fish hatcheries, then Looking Glass Rock right next door.

If you and your friend are feeling adventurous, go camping over the weekend while the weather is still friendly. Pisgah offers many great camping spots, and some are only 20 minutes away! So while we're all here, go out and enjoy the nature that surrounds us.



Photo by Anna Ervin

A view from hiking on the parkway

Campus Critters

Roxanne (Roxie) Michelle Douglas

Olivia Ervin
Staff Writer

Welcome back to the second official week of Campus Critters! I want to thank everyone for your submissions! We had some great pets this week, but only one can be featured. That being said, our second pet of the week is Roxanne (Roxie) Michelle Douglas!

Roxie is a mixed-breed dog, and her parent is Mackenzie Douglas. Her name is the original name that she had before she was adopted. She is two years old, and was adopted back in Feb.

According to Mack Douglas, "Roxie loves to partake in animals. She does not, however, like to partake in animals." Her favorite treats are milk bones, frozen carrots and blueberries.

Mackenzie claims that Roxie is "a grade-A badass," which after hearing that she obliterated a baby deer, I have to agree. Yet, she also has a soft spot. Roxie likes to cry in her free time, and appears to be exemplary in that area of expertise.

Roxie and Mackenzie are practically attached at the hip. She is an Emotional Support Animal (ESA), and is very good at her job. Really, both of them are emotional support for each other which makes them the perfect pair. Roxie was asked, "If you had one superpower, what would it be?" Roxie did not say anything at first because dogs do not speak English. When we translated it for her, she said that her superpower would be to know where Mackenzie is at all times. How sweet.

Keep a lookout for Roxie and Mackenzie as they roam the campus. As long as you are not a baby deer, you should be safe to tell them hello.

Thank you for reading! Remember that if you have a pet on campus or if you are a commuter that has a pet living with you, you can submit your animal using the QR code and have the chance of being featured in the next week of Campus Critters! All types of animals are welcome, and all previous submissions are considered.



Photo by Mack Douglas

Roxie

WANT TO SEE YOUR
PET IN THE PAPER?
SCAN THE QR
CODE BELOW

Cookies Crumble:

How Creeps Live



Isaiah Collison
Managing Editor

Oreo Ellis
Illustrator

Pulitzer Prize-winning historian visits BC

Annette Gordon-Reed, a Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and law professor at Harvard, visited Brevard College Thursday to give a lecture in the Porter Center.

Earlier in the day, she visited Margaret Brown's History of the New South class to meet with students, staff and faculty to discuss her work and her life as a writer and, somewhat accidentally, as a civil rights pioneer when in 1965, at the age of six, she was the first African American student to integrate an all-white elementary school in her home in Texas.

That incident, she said, helped to foster her interest in both history and in law, and she later wrote about it in her book "On Juneteenth."

She also spoke about her involvement in various committees preparing for 2026, which will be the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Gordon-Reed visited BC as this fall's J. R. McDowell lecturer. This speaker series is sponsored by the Transylvania County Library Foundation in partnership with Brevard College.



Photo by John B. Padgett

Historian Annette Gordon-Reed answers questions by BC students in MG 125 Thursday.

9/11: A cynical opportunity

Isaiah Collison
Managing Editor

I was not alive on 9/11. I am disconnected from the way of life America enjoyed before Sept. 11, 2001. The tallies of senseless deaths due to school shootings are far more relevant to my existence.

Americans have a tendency to ignore statistics, startling statistics, and facts. Remember. According to a 2021 Reuters article about gun violence in America, “At least 2,000 people have been killed or injured in mass shootings since 1999.”

It’s *been* clear that America started wars in the Middle East in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks based on lies cooked up in political labs, all in pursuit of oil. The most basic research can lead you to the truth in less than a few minutes: The Bush administration lied about Iraq having Weapons of Mass Destruction, saying we needed to invade to confiscate them. Iraq didn’t have WMDs. America invaded anyway.

The problem is many U.S. citizens simply do not care about the lasting effect of senseless violence. According to a 2021 Reuters article about gun violence in America, “At least 2,000 people have been killed or injured in mass shootings since 1999.”

The consensus of enough American citizens during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan can be summed up by, “Brown terrorists are dying in a far off land. America is right.” Even as we didn’t find any weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, that attitude did not change. Lies? Are okay. Lies are okay! Lies are okay when other people face our consequences for us, when *other people* die for *our* lies.

However, we face our own consequences now. According to a 2021 Reuters article about gun violence in America, “At least 2,000 people have been killed or injured in mass shootings since 1999.” Americans are being killed by guns in the thousands. The simple thing to do here is to get rid of the things if they kill people isn’t it? But in reality, lies that undersell how serious the gun crisis is in America are everywhere. “The solution to gun violence is more guns.” We added foolishness to the equation with, “Guns don’t kill people. People kill people.” Say huh? According to a 2021 Reuters article about gun violence in America, “At least 2,000 people have been killed or injured in mass shootings since 1999.”

The typical, elusive United States politician is an expert in propaganda. He has a degree in the art of deceit with minors in whitewashing and gaslighting, a PhD in lying, and a smile that makes you believe he has a heart. He is more scandalous than the untrustworthy Judas in the Bible. When

he is put under the fire, he’ll vomit all over the American people and cram tales down our throats until we regurgitate them as facts.

I have become completely desensitized-- According to a 2021 Reuters article about gun violence in America, “At least 2,000 people have been killed or injured in mass shootings since 1999.” -- to the fact that Americans *dream* of killing other Americans. It is acceptable, even encouraged, to buy more guns to solve the mass-murder crisis. Our devotion to keeping our society high on suicide can only be described as demonic idolatry and lunacy.

We are a country of people that will do anything for attention, including mass murder. There is no point in loving or respecting our nation because a nation that is incapable of providing safety and security is a nation not to be taken any more seriously than a bed without sheets and blankets.

Uncle Sam’s death certificate will read: Hypocrisy. He’s too stubborn to save himself, let alone me and you! I don’t find it ironic that bullets are not considered weapons of mass destruction because I am desensitized to mass murders! What is ironic is that child victims of mass murder get tucked in a sheet for the last time by the coroner rather than their parents.

People overdose every day, and measures get taken to a certain extent. America used to be fascinated by guns. America is now addicted to guns. Guns are drugs. When a gunman kills a bunch of people (who deserved to live) and commits suicide, that person has overdosed. According to a 2021 Reuters article about gun violence in America, “At least 2,000 people have been killed or injured in mass shootings since 1999.”

So I guess 9/11 can be looked at the same way. Some guys overdosed and took abuncha people with em. The politicians lied about the solution. Not a tactic I ain’t seen.

And that number is just the mass murders, (three people or more die in a shooting) which continues to climb.

When will America apologize for using the victims of the 9/11 attacks to advance its own agenda? Have the victims not suffered enough? Do the troops who fought on a bully’s behalf not deserve at least to hear the truth broadcasted to the world? How deeply do we support our troops? How many more wars will we be involved in before we formally declare war?

The scariest day in the U.S.

DeVon Taylor
Staff Writer

As we all know, one of the most dangerous anniversaries in the world has passed. I feel it’s only right that we take the time to remember the ones that we lost and the ones who put their lives on the line to rescue others.

Americans watched in horror as the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 left nearly 3,000 people dead in New York City, Washington, D.C. and Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Nearly twenty years later, we watched in sorrow and relief as the nation’s military missions in Afghanistan – which began less than a month after 9/11 – came to a chaotic conclusion.

Sept. 11, 2001

The hijacked Flight 11 crashed into floors 93 to 99 of the North Tower (First World Trade Center building) at 8:46 a.m. The hijacked Flight 175 struck floors 77 to 85 of the South Tower (Second WTC) 17 minutes later at 9:03 a.m. When the towers were struck, between 16,400 and 18,000 people were in the WTC complex. Of those, the vast majority evacuated safely. As they were rushing out, first responders rushed in trying to save those still trapped or injured. The fires from the impacts were intensified by the planes’ burning jet fuel.

The fuel weakened the steel support trusses, which attached each of the floors to the buildings’ exterior walls. Along with the initial damage to the buildings’ structural columns, this ultimately caused both towers to collapse. The five other buildings in the WTC complex were also destroyed because of damage sustained when the Twin Towers fell. The collapse of the buildings left the site devastated. Thousands of volunteers came to Ground Zero to help with the rescue, recovery, and clean-up efforts, and on May 30, 2002, the last piece of WTC steel was ceremonially removed.

The tragedy is now 22 years in the past, and most college students now were not yet born on that terrible day, but many of their parents, grandparents, and even some older siblings have vivid memories of 9/11.

So as readers, let’s remember the first responders and civilians we lost on one of the scariest days in the history of the U.S. We thank all of the first responders that were there to make an impact and save people in that tragic moment.

11 Fingers:

Manufacturing anxiety

Isaiah Collison
Managing Editor

Manufacturing Anxiety

Smoke. Fear. & Comfort. What do they all have in common? They each give you a false sense of security. How I write: raw. How I live: raw. We all live similar lives, each in different environments with different circumstances. But essentially, life has always presented people with the same set of choices. I don't smoke. I fear God. I am comfortably uncomfortable.

I don't rely on THC or nicotine to work in my favor. Can they work better than me? I work for and fear God because He works in my favor. Who or what else is worthy of fear?

Some people who are uncomfortable with the words I write cannot stop their impact; words are hammers. Watching the weight is worth the wait! I have found comfort in being uncomfortable, and, therefore, I do not need to bite on crutches that do not serve my purpose. *I have completely sold out* to love and literature. Nothing else in me can be sold. Even with the Hollywood Writers Strike cutting ties between screenwriters and the industry, I cannot be convinced to worry. How can I worry? When you have an obsessive Type-A drive, you don't shake. You double down on your passion! You've long done that. Do it again.

What I've examined in our society can only be described as the manufacturing of anxiety. To be perfectly honest, I have no idea why when I look in the eyes of my peers, I see fear. There is nothing on this side of life that comes without taking massive risks. Love, trust, work... Gravity weighs

heavier on us when we keep sitting, waiting for the fear to evaporate. Your government is firstly responsible for your crippling fear. You are next.

There are external products that make the internal fear worse. Why do you keep buying them when the answers are internal? Be introspective. After a thorough examination, study the mirror until you find a new sense of purpose and focus.

Life will pass you shook ones by. The regret you'll feel will increase your sense of dread exponentially until you can no longer handle it. You will die an early death, likely being forgotten, evident by the life you lived in fear, the one that meant not much even to you. Avoiding this is possible. The way is to go deeply into your work, leaving all of your fear at the entrance. Go in, and forget about it.

Writers leave their fear to live on lined sheets of white paper. Lined paper is the product of a dead tree. Since my fears live on dead trees, they cannot eat me. What is being offered to you now is a choice to either swallow your poison or spit it out.

What I find miraculous is I have heard people express that they know the positive consequences of the right choice, and still don't make it.

Indecision

Decision anxiety is like being handed fear in a bundle and keeping it. Indecision reduces you to a child who can express little besides your name, all thanks to that someone who chose it for you. I do not understand. Why are some of my peers

hellbent on making bad choices off-hours? Then they come to class only to distract themselves with bad choices. When it comes to working, they are too tired to accumulate wealth. Many of us are not indecisive; we make thoughtless choices we knew were dumb from the jump. Then when something good emerges on our horizons, we complicate it.

I struggle to see why people don't take their lives seriously enough to sit back and wonder, "Why am I so scared to move forward when going backwards feels so bad?" Indecision is the decision to forfeit what little control we have over reality. All roads with this marking lead one to pick from the many paths of self-destruction. Taking pills or toxic liquids, withdrawing into social media, living a meaningless life, or even committing suicide... The sick joke about this form of mental collapse and instability is that the individual is consciously avoiding the many healthy avenues that are open to them. The indecisive person never can fall back on this excuse. **"Life wants me to fail."** In reality, you are not indecisive. You make bad choices.

Becoming completely disconnected from your stressors is only possible when you let go of every string attached. Quit holding on. Once you let go, freedom moves closer to you. Let your stressors motivate you to achieve. The sun and the moon will call to you. Joy will touch you soon after.

Ultimately, you will pick whatever choice you feel is better.

Spider-Man: the best hero

By Jake Thomas
Staff Writer

Spider-Man is one of the most famous and recognizable superheroes in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU). Spider-Man is also my favorite because he undoubtedly is the best superhero.

Peter Parker wasn't your average student. He is said to have a 150 IQ apart from his acrobatic abilities. Peter attended Midtown School of Science and Technology, a magnet school in the heart of Queens, New York City. Peter would begin his transformation into the friendly, neighborhood Spider-Man when he was bitten by a radioactive spider at a science exhibit on a school trip. This radioactive spider gave Peter

super abilities, including superhuman strength, superhuman reflexes, heightened senses, and the ability to adhere to walls by his hands and feet, even through clothes. With the given abilities, the temptation to turn to a life of crime is attractive. Not to Peter Parker. Peter chose to help people in his community and fight crime. His Uncle Ben's motto was "With great power comes great responsibility." Peter started taking being Spider-Man more seriously when Uncle Ben was killed in the street by a burglar.

Spider-Man makes the greatest superhero. First of all, Spider-Man isn't the first person in his

family with important work at hand. His parents used to be spies, before they tragically died in a plane crash. Spider-Man has an honorable goal to follow after them.

Spider-Man's web is so strong, that it could hold the Great Hulk up against a wall for an hour before it dissolves. His web is as fast as a speeding train or bullet, which allows him to get ahead of his opponents. Spider-Man is one of the most fascinating and fun superheroes to watch as he swings his way through New York City.

Finding our purpose

Amy Clyburn
Staff Writer

College is a big step. It's new, exciting and frightening all at the same time. You may be a freshman in college just starting to find your way. Or maybe it's your senior year, and you'll be graduating soon.

It doesn't matter where you are in life; this article is for everyone. I have always wondered one question: What is the purpose of life? I believe it is a question we all wrestle with.

Here at Brevard, the faculty are here to help you discover yourself because they yearn to see students succeed. They are here to help us find our places in this world.

I encourage every student to reach out, and let your professors stand behind you as pillars of support on your journey. Be confident, and take every

assignment as an opportunity to better yourself. In everything you do, focus on the impact it can have on your life. Everyday tasks, like building a work ethic by managing time and a schedule, or working hard on a project or an essay are good starters. Having a good work ethic not only sets you up for success, it leads peers and professors towards respecting you. A great work ethic will help you succeed in college, and get you ahead of the game in the workforce. Promotions await!

If you want to go far in life, work hard, and be a person of character. Employers want someone who means business with no strings attached. Give your all, or give nothing at all.

There is more to life than what we see on land. Life is made up of many beautiful moments that

go beyond what we can identify with our eyes. Purpose is defined by our inner voice, showing us the way like a lantern illuminating darkness.

Purpose speaks to us in moments of deep sorrow and great joy. We are here for something greater than we could ever imagine, so do not lose sight of this extraordinary perspective. I like to think of it this way: when I go outside and listen to the wind around me, feeling the sun shining upon my cheeks, I smile because I have learned that there is purpose in everything, even in each breath I breathe. Your life is not a mistake. If you have a heart that beats, purpose flows through you. Never lose sight of it. Never run from who you are.

The Brevard soccer team robbed of a fair game

Olivia Hyde
Staff Writer

This past Sunday, Sept. 10, I had the opportunity to attend the Brevard men's soccer game. This was my third time watching a soccer game in my life. I didn't know what to expect, and I had to ask many people to explain the rules to me. For example, I didn't know how long each "quarter" was. Which, don't worry, I now know games are two halves.

What I didn't expect was the hostility between the crowd and the referees.

Of course I expected the crowd to heckle the refs because that happens in every sport. I can understand a ref's perspective. They are on the field with the players, and sometimes things can be out of their vision. But the professionalism they displayed this past Sunday was upsetting to say the least.

As I watched the game, I listened and watched our crowd boo and yell at the refs. Which, honestly, I didn't understand because it happened during moments when not much was going on.

The refs called cards and penalties against our team when nothing out of the ordinary happened. I watched Carolina University players fall to the ground when one of our players came close to them playing like their ankles were injured. If the ref hadn't been looking, they would get up seconds later, and run around just fine. I noticed Carolina player Number 25 did this five times in the second half. He wasn't too slick.

The reason I decided to switch this from a serious game report to an article like this was all thanks to the refs. They were rude to our student cheer section. As a ref, you should have thicker skin and be able to ignore insults. But one of the refs turned around, and threatened a girl in the stands. He looked at me and said, "You better not say that again!" And while I didn't say the insult that set him off, I was ready to say it myself. In the end, they ended up carding our team because of our crowd.

The final score was Carolina 2, Brevard 0.



Photo by Jannie Kur

Nados skid continues after lengthy delays

Brady Penn
Staff Writer

Following a Week One loss, the Brevard College Football team headed to Virginia to take on the Hampden-Sydney Tigers from the Old Dominion Athletic Conference.

Heading into last Saturday, Brevard had a record of 0-5 in the first matchups of the year since 2021.

Looking to right the ship with Ethan Beamish and Co., the Nados took the field at 1:00 p.m. just to have to leave it shortly after.

With multiple lightning delays two or three plays in, the Nados had to retreat to the locker room and wait.

Upon exiting the locker room, the team got down early as they had in the last game against Warner.

After a few sloppy possessions on both sides of the football, Brevard found themselves down 17-0, similar to when they were down 23-3 in Week One.

With just over four minutes to play in the first half, Beamish found a wide open Zack Orr for a

Touchdown to inch closer.

A Hugo Taylor Field Goal just as time expired in the first half left the Nados only down by a score.

Out of the shortened, three minute halftime (lightning delay rules), the Tornados took another turn on offense and capitalized.

Chancellor Lee-Parker scampered into the end zone from the twenty-seven yard line to tie the game back up.

With the score even, Hampden-Sydney took a long drive down the field, and ultimately took the lead back on a touchdown run by their main run threat, Melik Frost.

The final blow came on a Jet Sweep Touchdown to Tiger Wide Receiver Mason Cunningham who took it thirty-seven yards to make it a two-touchdown game once more.

The Tornados threw a late interception on fourth and goal, and fell by a score of thirty-one to seventeen.

For the third straight year, the Tornados have

started non-conference play without a victory. They head back to Ives-Lemel Family Field this weekend to take on the Averett Cougars for their final non-conference matchup.

So far through eight quarters, you can look at film of the Nados, and some parts look like a powerhouse on both sides of the ball. The other moments leave plenty to be desired.

The talent is there. Once the Tornados begin to find more consistency, things will look much better. The good news for Coach Khayat and his squad is that in light of an 0-2 record to start each season, the Nados have combined for nine wins and five losses over the remainder of the season in 2021 and 2022.

A night game with a blackout theme is on the menu for Brevard against Averett. Kickoff is at 6:00 p.m., Saturday evening. Nado Nation looks to be out in full force as the team searches for their first victory of the season and avenge last season's loss to the same Averett Cougars.



Photo by Brevard College

Senior Wideout Zack Orr runs with one of his seven catches against the Hampden-Sydney Tigers