



Brevard's got talent!

The Brevard College Talent show is happening Sunday, Sept. 8 in Ingram Auditorium

Amy Clyburn
Copy Editor

Don't miss the Brevard's Got Talent Show, on Sept. 8 at 6 p.m.! This event will be showcased inside the Ingram Auditorium located in the Dunham Music Hall.

The BC Talent Show welcomes all acts and performances. Be ready for a night of endless fun and entertainment! Feel free to invite any of your friends!

It's always a good idea to take a breather from class, so sit back, get some snacks, relax, and enjoy the show!

The BC Talent Show is a fantastic way to connect with other college students.

Don't miss out on such an exciting event!

I assure you it's impossible to leave without cracking a smile, and a good laugh. So come on, and join us!

The talent show is completely free to attend, at no cost to you.

Even if you're not keen on campus events, I will guarantee you will leave the building with a little extra joy in your day.

The talent show is a long-standing tradition at Brevard College, hosting fabulous shows for over 13 years!

The special guests are always amazing, and judges will be announced before the show. There will be many students performing, and some of our wonderful professors too!

Dr. David Chastain, an adjunct professor of psychology, will be performing at the show's grand opening!

First-year athletes on the BC women's soccer team will be presenting an excellent performance as well.

Special prizes will be given at the end! That's all I can tell you, for now!

I guess you'll have to come down to the auditorium and find out more on Sept. 8., and don't be late!



Patrick Yang performs in last year's Brevard Talent show. Yang graduated from BC and is now teaching music in an elementary school. (Photo by Lex MacLauchlin)

Sibling drama, Brevard College Theatre presents Michael Quinn's 'Fishtown'

Abigail Callahan
Staff Writer

On Friday, Aug. 30 through Sunday, Sept. 1, the Brevard College Theatre Department put on their first production of the season, "Fishtown," by Michael Quinn. The production was a powerful story centered around a brother and sister, Bobby and Lena O'Neill.

"Fishtown" featured two of our talented Brevard theater faculty. Dr. Abbey Toot, an associate professor of theater at Brevard College, took the role of Lena. Bobby was played by Scott Douglas, Brevard Alumni and FYE teacher.

This production gave the faculty members at BC a chance in the spotlight and portrayed their talent and passion for the arts. Scott Douglas attributed his inspiration for acting to his upbringing, explaining, "I was influenced by my brother's involvement in various performing arts, including movies, shows, and theater."

Abbey Toot shared, "I always liked to read, I love stories, and I love exploring the world that goes beyond my experiences." "I felt like I never

had words to say what my experience was." "I liked that plays give you words, and I thought that was cool, and I kind of found a new confidence."

The show opened with two siblings who had not seen each other in a year. Lena visited Bobby's apartment in Fishtown Philadelphia, and confronted him about his life choices that led him to abruptly leave the family's Thanksgiving meal.

Fishtown taught valuable lessons vividly depicting family hardships and experiences, such as the conflict between siblings when one chooses a harmful path. Toot added, "I love stories about families because they're so complicated. There are so many different versions of what a family is." She also shared her hopes for the students who attended the play. "I hope it fires them up." "I hope they get swept up in it, and I hope it makes them excited for the work that we do here."

Brevard College Theatre Department is thrilled



BC Theatre posted these photos from their production of "Fishtown" on their Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/BrevardCollegeTheatre>. (Photos by Alecia Janeiro)

to kick off the 2024 season with their production of Fishtown. Make sure to catch their next show, "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)" starting Sept. 26.

THE CLARION

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Start of fall semester sees unexpected spike of COVID-19 cases

Zoe Hughes
Staff Writer

Brevard College has seen a significant increase in COVID-19 cases across campus, even though the 2024-2025 school year has just begun.

The majority of these cases appear to be student-athletes. This is likely due to close contact on the field and in locker rooms.

Students and faculty should be advised to remain vigilant and take appropriate precautions. Various sports teams have canceled upcoming games and practice sessions to prevent further spread.

If you start to show symptoms of COVID-19, it's imperative to get tested quickly. To ensure accurate diagnosis, you may require multiple tests to confirm the presence of the virus. The CDC recommends that each individual retests after 48 hours. Common COVID-19 symptoms include: Fever, shortness of breath, cough, loss of taste or smell, fatigue, muscle or body aches, and a sore throat. If you test positive for COVID-19, email covid19@brevard.edu.

They will inform you on how to proceed, and when you can return to normal activities. Stay safe and healthy Nados!

Mountain State Fair now open

FLETCHER – Organizers with the N.C. Mountain State Fair sponsored by Ingles Markets are busy preparing to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the fair with the new entertainment and an expanded Got to Be NC Pavilion featuring 22 new outdoor vendors.

New entertainment

Two new fair acts have been added to the entertainment lineup – Hillbilly Bob and Magician T.J. Hill. Hillbilly Bob roams the fairgrounds with “Old Ruthie,” a Ford Model A adorned with antique items and decorations to spark conversations and attract a crowd. Through storytelling and humor, Hillbilly Bob offers up an entertaining and inspirational show.

Magician T.J. Hill warns fairgoers to prepare to be “ma-jished” by his interactive and humorous magic show. Hill promises a different and highly entertaining show every time as audience members assist with the magic.

Hillbilly Bob and Hill are joined by such popular returning acts as Chase’s Racing Swimming Pigs, Sea Lion Splash, Cartoon Headquarters with popular kid characters, Brad Matchett’s Comedy Hypnotist Show and piano player Leon Jacobs.

Expanded Got to Be NC Pavilion

The Got to Be NC Pavilion showcases some of the best N.C. made food and beverage products, giving visitors an opportunity to sample and buy a variety of specialty products and support N.C. businesses. This year, the Pavilion expands on its space in the Chevrolet Davis Arena with an additional 22 outdoor vendors outside Davis Arena. Altogether, nearly 40 food and beverage companies will have products available in the Pavilion. Visit the Got to Be NC Pavilion and discover a new favorite foods and drink.

“Agriculture and mountain heritage are at the heart of the Mountain State Fair, and they always will be,” said Fair Manager Sean McKeon. “These traditions mixed with the new are what makes the Fair so unique and why it has continued to be so successful for 30 years.”

Traditional acts and activities

From thrilling rides and mountain music to heritage crafts and livestock shows, Mountain State Fair visitors will find it all.

Midway provider Drew Expositions brings 36 rides to fill the grounds with offerings for the youngest to the most adventurous of riders. Ride-all-day-for-one-price hand stamps are available every day of the Fair. Prices are \$35 for Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays and \$25 for Mondays through Thursdays. Vouchers



View from the swing ride at last year’s N.C. Mountain State Fair. (Photo by Anna Ervin)

for discounted ride stamps can be purchased in advance for \$25.

Sit down and enjoy some great mountain music and high-energy clogging nightly beginning at 6 p.m. on the Ag South Farm Credit Mountain Music stage, with matinee performances on both Sundays beginning at 2 p.m.

Or check out the heritage crafts in the Virginia Boone Center, where more than two dozen craftspeople will exhibit their craft making skills.

Special days and how to buy tickets in advance

Advance tickets are now on sale for \$9 for adults aged 13 to 64. Beginning today, prices at the gate and online are \$12 for adults. The price for seniors, ages 65 and up, and kids 6 to 12 is \$5 regardless of when purchased, and the fair is always free for children aged 5 and under.

An advance unlimited ride ticket that can be used once for any day of the fair are \$25. Unlimited ride stamps during the fair are \$35 for Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, and \$25 all other days.

In addition to buying admission tickets in advance, fairgoers can save money by taking advantage of discounts on the following days:

- Opening day, Friday, Sept. 6, is Student Day with free admission for K-12 students until 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 11, is “We CAN Fight Hunger Day” presented by Sheetz Convenience Stores and the N.C. Mountain State Fair. The donation of five canned goods earns a free admission. Can goods may be purchased at Ingles or any other grocery store. All donations will be collected and distributed by MANNA FoodBank.
- Friday, Sept. 13, is Senior Day and another Student Day. Admission is free until 6 p.m. for anyone 65 and older and K-12 students.

The 2024 N.C. Mountain State Fair runs Sept. 6-15 at the WNC Agricultural Center in Fletcher. This year’s fair will showcase western North Carolina agriculture, including the people and products that make agriculture the state’s top industry. Rides, food and plenty of free entertainment will add to the fun.

More information is available at <https://www.wncagcenter.org/p/mountainstatefair>.

Book Review

'The Vanishing Half' explores themes of racial identity, family

Autumn Jones
Managing Editor

"The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett is a historical fiction novel, published in 2020. The story takes place in the fictional town of Mallard, Louisiana.

The small town had started off as a slave town, in this story a slave owner and a slave had a baby who had been born light-skinned. As generations passed, the town became lighter and lighter, until almost everyone was white-passing.

The story follows a set of twins born in the town and the different paths they choose to follow after running away from home.

I adore this book. It single-handedly got me out of my reading slump. Brit Bennett has an incredible talent to keep a mystery going and to keep you hooked. While at the same time doing it without it taking up the entire story and plot.

As the story progresses, you may find yourself being so engrossed that you start to feel as if you're in the story, thinking, "I would have done that completely differently," or "Why would she do that?!"

Despite reactions that may believe you would

have done differently than the characters do at certain points. Their reactions, dialogue, and even viewpoints are exceedingly realistic.

Bennett has a way of conveying emotion through her intentional word choice. You can feel the longing of the characters, the despair from the past seeping through the cracks, and the immense satisfaction from the character building.

But, like every book, it has its flaws.

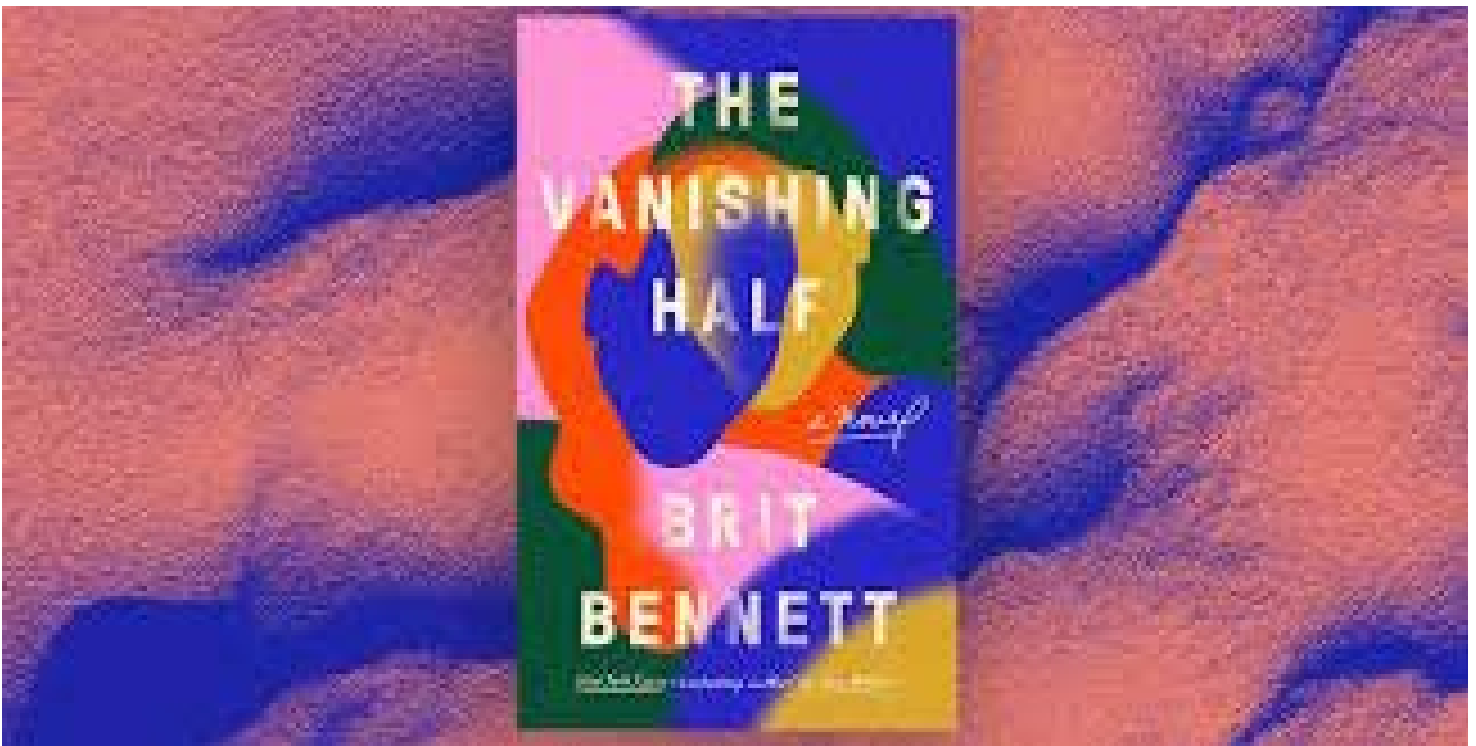
Bennett did such an amazing job keeping the readers engaged and on their toes with curiosity, that when the ending came along, it felt unfulfilled and unresolved. I was very frustrated with it, because it felt as though she did not know where to take the story, so she ended it on less exciting terms.

Another issue for me was the twins' daughters'. I was hoping they would play more importance in the story, but it almost felt as if they were just page fillers.

"The Vanishing Half" explores themes of both racial identity and family. Through the choices we make, we learn the importance of honesty and the value of our loved ones.



Brit Bennett



Movie Review

Finding purpose or finding your grave: 'Immaculate'

Mari Carter
Staff Writer

Editor's note: This review has spoilers about the plot of 'Immaculate.' If you want to avoid knowing what happens, skip to the last two paragraphs for a mini-review of the 2024 film.

The film "Immaculate" begins with lead actress Sydney Sweeney who plays the role of an American nun named Cecilia. Cecilia moves to Italy to join a religious convent. She embarks on a brand new journey feeling that this is a profound calling that God has placed upon her life after being saved from a near death experience.

Motivated by her longing to comprehend the reason behind her survival and divine purpose, she joins the convent, which ultimately leads her to unsatisfactory conclusions.

As Cecilia becomes accustomed to her new environment, she receives a warm welcome from her peers and is given daily tasks. Despite initial challenges with language barriers and adapting to certain responsibilities, she gradually settles into a comfortable routine.

As time passes, she develops a friendship with sister Mary played by actress Simona Tabasco. Mary came to the convent to escape her abusive relationship.

Their bond continued to grow as they both became wary of sinister events taking place. The interactions seemed to revolve around the priors. And then, we realize something more sinister is afoot when our protagonist Cecilia is taken into questioning, revealing she is pregnant without the use of intercourse—hus being a miracle and providing her with special treatment from all the staff, draping and adorning her in special clothing resembling that of Mother Mary.

The treatment as it went on began to weird both Cecilia and Sister Mary as their advisor began eyeing Cecilia strangely. Not seeming to enjoy her getting the treatment and carrying a miracle. This was only passive until Cecilia decided to relax in a bath and was ambushed, attempting to drown her. Screaming that it should have been her when pulled away by other nuns hearing Cecilia's screams of distress.

This started to completely seal the coffin for Cecilia, confused about what she meant and could be referring to she begged for answers from a male leader of the convent and was only met with no answer. Cecilia and Mary feel as if they are on their own in figuring this out, Cecilia is more passive than Mary which results in Mary being punished for her outbursts and suspicions.

Cecilia, now alone and desperate for answers, wanders and attempts to be passive while carrying the miracle in her stomach. Going through her trimesters before nearing her last. Upon the time the headmistress of the convent is observing her belly with the doctor, the doctor steps away to retrieve her medicine and this gives Cecilia her moment to strike.

She bludgeoned the headmistress multiple times with a cross, made her way to the head leader of the convent an old man, and took him out as well. Now she was determined despite feeling nauseous and on edge ready to pop at any moment. Her determination set her to find the lab where she notices many other "miracles," encased in jars seemingly failed experiments. She asks the doctor what is inside her and he only meets her with his excuses.

This causes her to set the lab on fire but not stopping the doctor as he

chases her down forcing her to retreat into the catacombs beneath the convent. Chasing her down she manages to hide and find the exit upon almost leaving he grabs her, forcing her to fight back and finally snuff him out for good. This exhausted her and weakly she crawled out of the hole in the ground and there she made her escape.

The movie was a great thriller and interesting but a lot of it seemed to have a shock factor if anything, which I would expect from a thriller but sometimes there is too much. I did however really enjoy it a lot and was happy to watch it. The concept was interesting and pretty well executed, especially the acting and delivery. Everything felt pretty well paced and nothing lingered too long than it should have.

If you get the chance to watch it, don't let my summary ruin it for you to give it a shot. I promise it's worth it.

"IMMACULATE" — Rated R | Horror | 1h 29m

Director: Michael Mohan

Starring: Sydney Sweeney, Álvaro Morte, Benedetta Porcaroli, Simona Tabasco, Giorgio Colangeli

Now streaming on Hulu/Disney+



Collegiate cycling racing starts this weekend

Olivia Hyde
Editor in Chief

There is a buzz going around the cycling team as they head into their first race of the season. This weekend kicks off the season at Truett McConnell University on Sep. 7 and 8.

For readers who are unfamiliar with how collegiate cycling works, here is brief introduction to bike racing.

Cycling comes in many different disciplines and within these disciplines there are different skill sets. For example, road cyclists may focus on endurance and cardio fitness, while a downhill racer may focus on technical skills and strength.

Collegiate cycling hosts multiple seasons of racing but the most popular is the fall season. The fall season includes Downhill, Dual Slalom, Crosscountry, and short track racing.

Downhill is a race where racers try to be the fastest on a downhill trail or track. This is a much harder sport than it seems. Many underestimate this form of racing because the distance is not the longest and there is usually no climbing. The difficulty, however, comes for the technical trail features like rock gardens, jumps, drops, and fast speeds. On race day racers have to try to make no mistakes or a “perfect run” because they are only allowed one attempt at winning.

Dual slalom is another “gravity” event, in other words a downhill event. In slalom athletes race head to head in a perfectly set up two-person track. Kind of like slalom skiing, where the course is built into a pair. The racers do a qualifying run and then get divided into brackets and race until there is a final winner. Dual slalom is a sprint race, where it doesn’t last long but it is very intense and leaves little room for mistakes.

Finally, fall collegiate cycling has cross

country and short track racing. Cross country is an endurance form of cycling, meaning longer distance. Athletes in this category train hard to improve their heart and lungs, making their “engine” stronger. Cross country is usually done on trails, sometimes including sessions of road. Racers face head to head in a mass start and try to be the first one done with their laps. Laps in college usually range for five to eight miles.

Short track, as the name suggests, is a shorter cross country track. It is like a miniature cross country race, often pulled from a part of the cross country cross. Short track is considered more intense because of the shorter time and distance. Racers in the discipline can go full gas for 30 minutes, unlike cross country racing that usually goes for an hour-and-a-half.



Cameron Mader of Brevard College celebrates a National Championship alongside teammates Matthew Leliveld and Jack Brown on the Men’s Varsity Downhill podium at the 2023 USA Cycling Mountain Bike National Championships at Ride Rock Creek in Colorado.

Get to know the Brevard tennis team!

Brevard tennis team tournaments start this weekend, Sept. 8 & 9 at Methodist

Olivia Hyde
Editor in Chief

The Brevard tennis team had an amazing season last year and hopes to repeat. Last year the Brevard college men's team advanced to the semi-final round of the USA- South athletic conference. This was the first time for Brevard, division three.

Hayden LeBlanc is an integrated studies Major in his Senior year at Brevard. He is one of the Tennis team's leaders and is a very strong player himself. I wanted to ask him about how the team is readying for their upcoming season. He says the entire team has been "Practicing on off time." As well as "Hanging out as a team and building a common want to be better."

With six new incoming freshmen, the Men's

Tennis team is hopeful for a successful season. Caelan Byrd is one of the new six freshmen on the tennis team, and I got the opportunity to ask why he enjoys tennis. Caelan said he enjoys "the team aspect of tennis and has already made great friends on the Brevard team." He also says, "The dynamic that the Brevard team has helps push the entire team to be better players."

Bryce Bernitt is a senior this year and is an exercise science major. I wanted to ask him about his overall experience with the Brevard College tennis team. Bryce said, "While being here I have seen the program grow." Bryce and his teammates have truly found a passion for getting better at their sport together over the years. The seniors are trying to help foster the team environment and keep a healthy mindset so it will last. Bryce also says, "Every day I enjoy

being out there and I enjoy working hard for my coach and my teammates." He says what makes his passion for the team is the sport. The team has helped him with goal setting and reaching life goals.

Peter Bresko is also a senior this year and is a business major. I asked Peter what some of the team goals for the year were. Peter says one "is to do better than last year". A tall order because last year they got fourth in the conference." He also says they want to "Build a stronger community". The team members who could, came out to support the Rosman celebration, making them acting members of the Brevard community.

This is sure to be an exciting year for the tennis team. Not only for team dynamics but to see the results of their hard work and determination as well. We wish you luck!



Last year's Brevard College tennis team. (Photo courtesy of Hayden LaBlanc)

College football Week One!

College football kicks off with a bang as week one is in the books

James Laycock
Staff Writer

College football officially began this week with a full slate of games starting Thursday, Aug. 29 with the FCS North Dakota State Bison taking on the former PAC-12 (now BIG 12) Colorado Buffaloes and ending on Monday, Sept. 2 with the ACC matchup of the Boston College Eagles taking on the number tenth-ranked Florida State Seminoles.

After a back-and-forth game between NDSU and Colorado, star receiver and quarterback, Travis Hunter and Shedeur Sanders put up big numbers to lead the Buffaloes to a 31-26 win. The Western Carolina Catamounts of the FCS kept it close with the ACC North Carolina State Wolfpack for most of the game, but near the end,

the Wolfpack pulled away. Transfer quarterback Grayson McCall and receiver Kevin Concepcion led to a 38-21 win. Ranked teams Kansas, Utah, and Missouri all took care of business against their lesser FCS opponents on Thursday, Aug 29.

On Saturday, Aug 30 number fourteen ranked Clemson and number one Georgia kicked off the day in Atlanta in a dominating showing with Georgia beating the Tigers 34-3. After a low-scoring first half, the Bulldogs completely took off during the second half and didn't look back. In the 3:30 window, the nineteenth-ranked Miami Hurricanes traveled to Gainesville to play their SEC opponent the Florida Gators. Transfer quarterback Cam Ward put up a masterclass performance tearing up the Florida defense with his co-star Xavier Restrepo, resulting in beating the Gators 41-17.

The Saturday game on Aug 30, with number seven Notre Dame taking on number 20 Texas A&M, was a highly anticipated matchup that did not live up to its hype. The Fighting Irish grinded out a 23 -13 win over the Aggies. On an odd Sunday night, Aug 31, a college game between number twenty-third ranked USC and LSU, a game which has been scheduled for years now finally happened. USC won in exciting fashion defeating the LSU Tigers in Las Vegas.

Other big performances around the country saw Jaxon Dart throwing for 418 yards and 5 touchdowns against Furman winning 76-0. For Arizona, quarterback Noah Fifita threw for 422 yards and 4 touchdowns, while receiver Tetiaroa McMillian went for a whopping 10 catches, 304 yards, and 4 touchdowns.



Cam Miller (number 7) North Dakota State quarterback and Shedeur Sanders (number 2) Colorado quarterback.



BC Athletics at home this week
(Sept. 6-12)

Check bctornados.com for more news and sports schedules for Brevard College athletics.

Sep 7 3 PM	Men's Soccer Brevard vs Averett	...
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