

'It's not as bad as it looks, it just looks bad'

Wildfires in region raise concerns about air quality, evacuation plans

Zoe Hughes
Managing Editor

Over the past week, Brevard and other towns near the North Carolina border have been in a state of anxiety regarding the recent wildfires; go-bags have been packed and plans have been made in case of an evacuation order. But how worried does Brevard College need to be? A town hall meeting was held Thursday, March 27 in Tornado Alley addressing these concerns.

According to AirNow on Thursday, March 27, the closest wildfire to Brevard College is the Table Rock fires that are approximately 10 miles away, just across the North and South Carolina border. The fire started Saturday, March 22 and is currently still active. It has since consumed around 4,600 cumulative acres.

Many Brevard residents have had concerns about the smoke that has permeated the air. In a town hall meeting held in Tornado Alley, officials clarified that the smoke coming into Brevard is not particularly harmful. The current haze is from burning trees and vegetation as opposed to buildings and structures. The smoke from man made structures have harsh chemicals in them that can be harmful to inhale. While the air is not as contaminated as it could be, it is still suggested that individuals with respiratory issues avoid prolonged time outdoors. Because of weather changes and the location of the fires, more smoke may be moving into the Brevard area in the next couple of days.

Many calls have been made to the fire department recently. These calls can be considered nuisance calls because of the high number of calls regarding smoke. "If you see flames, that's when you really need to start calling 911," Public Information Officer Adam Hughey said.

The actual fires surrounding Brevard are slow burning and are being contained as much as possible. According to Bryan Stroup, Chief Deputy, in the town hall meeting, "It's a slow burning



Fire glows on the horizon at the Cedar Mountain Outpost. (Photo by Parker Moore)

process. So it sounds close, but in fire weather that's actually a pretty good distance away." The fires have a very low chance of making it to campus.

The fires have been spreading quickly mainly due to the downed trees from Hurricane Helene and recent storms. The terrain also plays a hand in the spread of the fires. Flames will spread quickly up a mountain, but will not spread down unless aided by the wind.

While there may not be only fires in Brevard, the conditions are right for a fire to spread quickly. The largest concern for the area are these bad conditions. Any flame can start something, so Brevard residents and students should keep the burn ban in mind during this time.

There have been many rumors and worries that the Brevard area will have to evacuate. So

far, it is looking like an evacuation will not be necessary. In the event that an evacuation is required, Brevard College has an evacuation plan, and there are still several roads open that can be used to get out of the area. For those that need to travel in the next couple of days, officials recommend using the Waze app to best see which roads are closed. An additional note from the officials said that these roads that are closed are not because they are blocked by flames, it is because of the emergency vehicles that are stationed on those roads.

Being this close to wildfires is anxiety inducing, but precautions are being taken. Local and outside fire departments are doing all that they can to keep people safe and keep the fires contained.

Brevard College Theatre to present student projects on April 4 & 5, 2025

Brevard College Theatre will present two performances of Student Projects on April 4 at 7:00p and April 5 at 2:30p. They will include a One-Act Play in the Morrison Playhouse followed by a Cabaret in the Scott Concert Hall at the Paul Porter Center for Performing Arts.

Act 1 is a one-act play called *Daffodil*. Directed by Roxanne Petryshak (theatre directing major '26) and written by E.M. Lark, *Daffodil* is an adaptation of the short story "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

Act 2 is a musical review called "Starry-Eyed." This project will take place in the Scott Concert Hall after intermission. "Starry-Eyed" is a collection of musical theatre songs organized by Naomi Firebaugh (musical theatre major '25), encompassing roles that the actors have connected with, related to, and admired through their work in musical theatre.

Brevard College Theatre is a company that prioritizes collaboration and the exploration of Theatre Arts as a means of communication and social action. Within the College's mission of experiential learning, faculty and staff strive to present students with authentic and meaningful experiences representative of real-world production and performance in the Theatre

industry. You are welcome to participate in this effort by supporting student work through our Student Projects.

Admission to this event is free!



Rehearsal of "Starry-Eyed," photo by Alecia Janeiro.

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Open Sunday through Thursday from 6PM - 9:30PM



April 26, 11am - 5pm

SIDEWALK ART CONTEST

BREVARD COLLEGE Campus

- Free to Enter
- Includes 1 Box of Chalk
- Open to all BC Students
- Cornhole & Fun Activities
- \$500 of Cash & Prizes
- Live Music
- Llamas!
- Located on BC Campus

Scan QR to Register by April 22



Or register using the link below:
<https://forms.gle/LBXGLWiTfJMCW->

For more info, contact: Sean Parrish, parriss@brevard.edu



Senior spotlight: Ashlyn Baumann

Autumn Jones
Editor in Chief

Ashlyn Baumann is a Brevard College senior majoring in Psychology and minoring in Exercise Science. She is from Lakeland, Florida, and has been very active in our community.

As a member of Psi-Chi, the campus psychology club, the honors program, and IWIL, Baumann has been booked and busy. Not only has she been an RA for two academic years, but she has also been a member of the Brevard Volleyball team. She played her freshman through junior years as a setter, taking her senior year off.

Her activeness in the community has not come without some personal developments; she has gained skills through her involvement in all of these extracurricular activities. "Time management and leadership have been the most prominent in my life," Baumann said. "Balancing everything at once is difficult, and it's important to correctly manage everything you're involved in."

"After graduation, I hope to attend graduate school back home in Florida," Baumann said. She has applied to schools like Florida State University, the University of Florida, Florida Atlantic University, and the University of Central Florida. "I have also applied to many different neuroscience and ABA (applied behavioral analysis) programs, and my end goal is to become a neuropsychologist."

Of all the classes she has taken at Brevard, Baumann said her favorites have been Connect-



Ashlyn Baumann

ing with Nature and Social Psychology with Dr. Rocky Nation. "Connecting with Nature gave me actual knowledge of the outdoors. I still incorporate most of what I've learned in my day-to-day life. I enjoyed Social Psychology because the application of the class is relevant and is critical information to have in my desired field," Baumann said.

"I have two pieces of advice: do not slack off

during your freshman year, and be present. Your freshman year matters more than you think. Enjoy your time here—it's easy to look past and complain, but Brevard truly is a great place to be," Baumann said. "I've found the most genuine people while being here. Who you surround yourself with can make or break your college experience, and I've been lucky enough to be surrounded by such amazing people."

Help the BC Cheerleading team fund their UCA Nationals trip!

Pre-sale closes on April 4th. All funds go directly to the cheerleading team.

Heather Silver



Brevard College Cheerleading T-Shirt Sale
Share responsible link



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2025 Campus Academic Honors and Awards Ceremonies Schedule

Honors Program Dinner Reception - Sunday, April 6
6:00-8:00 PM | Francis Pavilion, Porter Center

Criminal Justice Awards Ceremony - Thursday, April 10
5:30-7:30 PM | Francis Pavilion, Porter Center

BORG Spring Banquet - Monday, April 14
6:00-9:00 PM | Francis Pavilion, Porter Center

Science & Math Awards Ceremony - Monday, April 14
4:30-5:30 PM | Scott Commons, Porter Center

Fine Arts Awards Ceremony - Wednesday, April 16
2:00 PM | Awards | Francis Pavilion, Porter Center
3:00 PM | Honors Recital | Scott Concert Hall, Porter Center
4:00 PM | Reception | Spiers Gallery, Sims Hall

Psychology Awards Ceremony - Wednesday, April 16
6:30-7:30 PM | Outdoor Amphitheater, Porter Center
(Rain Location: Scott Commons)

Physical Education & Recreation Awards Ceremony - Wednesday, April 16
5:00-7:00 PM | MG 118 & MG Lobby, McLarty-Goodson

Project Presentations & Reception - Tuesday, April 22
5:00 PM | Jones Library

Humanities Awards Ceremony - Wednesday, April 23
3:00-5:00 PM | MG 125, McLarty-Goodson

Alpha Chi & O&K Induction Ceremony - Wednesday, April 23
5:30-6:30 PM | Francis Pavilion, Porter Center

Student Leader Awards Ceremony - Monday, April 28
6:30-8:30 PM | Francis Pavilion, Porter Center

BESPYs (Athletic Awards Event) - Tuesday, April 29
7:00-10:00 PM | Boshamer Main Gym

Teacher Education Celebration - Thursday, May 1
4:00 - 5:30 PM | Francis Pavilion, Porter Center

WLEE Celebration - Thursday, May 1
5:00 - 7:00 PM | WLEE Barn

Graduate Programs Celebration - Thursday, May 8
6:00 - 7:30 PM | Scott Commons, Porter Center

Brevard spring 2025 senior exhibition

At 5 p.m. on Friday, April 4, Spiers Gallery will be hosting the opening reception for Thoughtful Pass Times, the senior capstone exhibition for graduating senior Art majors. The exhibition will run through April 25 and is open to the public Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

This exhibition marks the culmination of each student's hard work and creative exploration during their time at Brevard College. This semester's eight senior artists—Alexa Jennings, Mashayla Rose, Eduardo Alvala, Caden O'Brien, Patricia Holmberg, Kailey Ward, Brian Seon, and Christine Scott—engage with themes such as perception, loss, and parenthood. Their work spans a wide range of media, including alternative process photography, ceramics, digital art, painting, and mixed media.

Event details:

Brevard College Spring 25 Senior Exhibition

Friday, April 4, 5-7 p.m.

Spiers Gallery, SIMS Art Building

Free admission

Spiers Gallery is located in Sims Hall at Brevard College, 1 Brevard College Dr, Brevard, North Carolina. More information can be found by visiting <https://brevard.edu/>.





Careless debris burning is the leading cause of wildfires in North Carolina

Check for any **burn bans** or **fire restrictions** in your area.

 Make sure you have a **valid burn permit**.

Don't be careless. Be ready.

Watch the weather. **Never burn on dry, windy days.**



Keep your burn pile **small not tall**. It is illegal to burn anything other than natural vegetation.




Trash must be hauled away to a trash or recycling station.



Never use any flammable liquids to speed up debris burning.



Keep available:

- Water hose
- Bucket
- Steel rake
- Shovel

(Keep a phone nearby.)



Never leave a fire unattended.





www.ncforestservice.gov

The North Carolina Forest Service is a division of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
Steve Trader, Commissioner



Photo via NC Forest Service

Transylvania County evacuation shelter

Brevard - Transylvania County Recreation Center, located at 1078 Ecusta Road

Henderson County evacuation center

Hendersonville - Parks & Recreation Athletics and Activity Center, located at 708 South Grove Street. This location accepts pets.

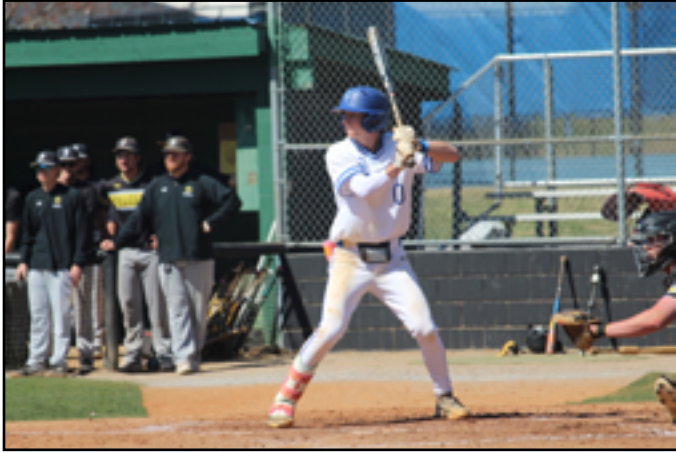
Baseball wins against Pfeiffer

Abigail Callahan

Staff Writer

The Brevard College Baseball team won against Pfeiffer University on Saturday, Mar. 22 in a doubleheader conference game at home on Gil Coan

Field. The Tornados won the first game 13-11 and lost the second game 2-7, then in the last game on Sunday, Brevard won 17-4. The Brevard Baseball team will face North Carolina Wesleyan University on Saturday, Mar. 29 at home on Gil Coan Field.



All photos by Abigail Callahan.

BC cyclists take Fayetteville US Cup by storm

Madeleine Pollock
Staff Writer

Nine BC cyclists competed with their respective teams at the US Pro Cup and Continental Cup in Fayetteville, Arkansas, from March 20 to 22, with standout performances from Senior Owen Clark, Junior Nicole Bradbury, and alumni Tyler Orschel, as well as a top-five finish by Freshman Ayana Gagne.

Other Brevard cyclists showed their grit and determination: Junior Mya Dixon, Sophomores Madeleine Pollock and Cade Pummill, and Freshmen Ned Broersma, Charlie Chastain, and Kevin Vereeke.

"The US Cup in Fayetteville was the season opener for me, so you can never really know what to expect. That's always both super intimidating but super exciting at the same time, knowing that anything can happen," Clark says.

There were three days of racing in total; Thursday was a UCI C1 cross-country olympic (XCO) race, Friday was a UCI C3 short track (XCC), and Saturday was a UCI Continental cross-country olympic race. XCO is a 90-minute effort, and XCC is a 20-minute effort.

The fields were extremely competitive; Olympians, world-cup racers, domestic pros, and hardworking amateurs all took to the start line in search of glory.

The racing was supposed to begin on Wednesday March 19, but due to high winds, the competition was postponed until Thursday, March

20. This meant that everyone was forced to push their body to the limits three days in a row, instead of having the typical recovery day.

"The races being pushed back were a bit of a blessing for me. I definitely prefer racing in good weather, so knowing that we had a nice, calm sunny day to race lowered the stress levels quite a bit," Bradbury says.

BC athletes came out charging in Thursday's XCO, where Clark placed third, and alumni Orschel took fifth place in the elite men's race. For the women, Gagne took fifth in the U23 women's race, and Bradbury placed in the top 10 in the elite women's race.

Friday saw the dusty and tactical short track, where all athletes were pushed to their limits. Clark took fourth in the elite men's field, and Bradbury finished seventh in the elite women's.

The final day of racing was the Continental Series, where the most points and money were on the line. BC cyclists rose to the occasion, with Clark rounding out his weekend with another podium in fourth place and alumni Orschel taking fifth.

Clark says, "I was able to race at the level I hoped for, making it a huge boost of confidence going to the first world cups of the year coming up quick."

On the U23 women's side, Bradbury rode to a strong 2nd. "I was really happy to have three of the best races I've had in years, and be in the mix with some girls who are competitive on the international stage," she says.



Left: Owen Clark and Tyler Orschel on the podium in Saturday's HC event. Right: Ayana Gagne digging deep in Friday's short track. Above: Nicole Bradbury sending it off one of the rock jumps on the XCO course. All photos by Caroline Gautier.

MLB players to look out for in 2025

Ace Evett
Staff Writer

The 2025 MLB season has kicked off, ushering in a new era in which fresh talent looking to leave an unforgettable legacy will be given a chance to shine on the same platform as established stars. The MLB boasts an interesting blend of young and experienced players. From rookies to MVP challengers, each team appears to have a new face capable of causing ripples in the league.

Shohei Ohtani (Los Angeles Dodgers) - The Two-Way Superstar

Subject to recovering from an elbow surgery that has limited him to merely hitting in 2025, Ohtani remains a player that you must not take a break when playing. His bat alone makes him a dangerous player to play against.

Ronald Acuña Jr. (Atlanta Braves) - The 2024 MVP in Search of More

Acuña had a noticeable season in 2024, but he will look to add to his legacy as one of the all-time greats still in the game.

Elly De La Cruz (Cincinnati Reds) - The Human Highlight Reel

Talent, speed, and strength are attributes that make De La Cruz so special. He has the potential to turn a game on its ear at any moment and his continued development at the plate is key to Cincinnati's success.

Yoshinobu Yamamoto (Los Angeles Dodgers) - Japan's Ace in MLB.

Recently signing a large contract, every gaze turns to Yamamoto. The world is waiting to see whether he can tame the MLB batters the way he did in Japan.

Witt Jr. (Kansas City Royals) - Royals Franchise Player

He is the face of the Royals now, fresh off signing a colossal contract extension, and his blend of power and speed could make him a 40-40 threat.

Gunnar Henderson (Baltimore Orioles) - AL MVP Candidate

Coming off a breakout 2024 season, Henderson is a cornerstone of Baltimore's exciting young core. His unique combination of power,

speed, and defense make him the most complete player in the game.

Jackson Holliday (Baltimore Orioles) - The Young Superstar

The 2022 draft's top pick, Holliday is on track to be a star. If he lives up to his potential, by 2025, the Orioles could be unstoppable.

Paul Skenes (Pittsburgh Pirates) - The Rookie Ace

Selected as the No. 1 pick in the 2023 draft, Skenes has the potential to be a Cy Young-quality pitcher early in his career.

Julio Rodriguez (Seattle Mariners) - The Mariners' Superstar

Rodriguez is becoming one of the best in the game among the young players. If he takes another step forward, he can be an MVP candidate.

Corbin Carroll (Arizona Diamondbacks) - The Speed Demon

His speed and hitting ability might make him one of the most exciting young and upcoming players.

Parkins Named CSC WBB Academic All-District

Brevard College women's basketball student-athlete Makenna Parkins has been named a 2024-25 CSC Women's Basketball Academic All-District performer, selected by College Sports Communicators (formerly CoSIDA). It marked the fourth career CSC Academic All-District honor for Parkins who has also been honored twice with the award as a volleyball student-athlete.

TA senior forward from Marion, North Carolina, Parkins will graduate with a degree in Exercise Science from Brevard College. Parkins accumulated a total of 1,081 points in her career to become the fourth player in program history to join the 1,000-point club. Parkins also totaled 606 rebounds, 176 assists, 126 steals and 86 blocked shots in her esteemed career at BC.

The 2024-25 Academic All-District Women's

Basketball teams, selected by College Sports Communicators, recognize the nation's top student-athletes for their combined performances on the field and in the classroom. The CSC Academic All-America program separately recognizes basketball honorees in four divisions — NCAA Division I, NCAA Division II, NCAA Division III and NAIA.

