

The Clarion celebrates its 90th birthday!

A brief historical overview of your favorite student newspaper

Madeleine Pollock
Copy Editor

The first issue of Brevard College's student newspaper, The Clarion, was published on Sept. 25, 1935, marking 90 years of service to the student body. Despite some difficult years and turbulent world events, it has survived and evolved into The Clarion that you now hold in your hands.

The paper had rocky beginnings; a key story from the first iteration was titled "Do you want a college paper?" as the 1935 staff were concerned that they would not be able to generate enough revenue to sustain The Clarion. Brevard was an isolated mountain town, and they issued a warning to the community, saying, "Without The Clarion, you will not be able to keep up with all the things that go on in the college community."

The yearly subscription cost was to be \$1.00,

and they did not initially receive enough money to get the go-ahead. But with help from the college, they were able to find the funds to have a reduced subscription rate of \$0.25. This was a reasonable enough cost, and the paper was then distributed weekly to students.

Since its inception, there have been a confirmed total of 1,238 issues published across a variety of subjects, such as campus news, world news, opinion, arts and life, and sports. However, this number is likely larger as not all issues have been archived, especially surrounding major global events, such as the Second World War. Even if these issues are missing from library records, there are staff and editors listed in the school yearbooks, and some full issues saved that do not appear to be stand-alones.

The Clarion is thought to have published issues throughout World War II, despite decreased enrollment and the adoption of a Civilian Pilot Training Program that 16 students participated in. According to a research project done by Adam Beeson in 2006, "as of October 1, 1943, three Brevard College alumni had lost their lives in World War II, ninety-five were fighting in the war, and four were serving as chaplains in the war."

One of the few articles available from this time period is from Feb. 1, 1943, and shows that the war was at the forefront of students' minds, as it contained an opinion piece titled "Problems of World Peace."

After the war, the campus expanded to 491 students, and The Clarion grew with it. Nine staff members became 27 by 1947, and the paper expanded from four pages to eight. More students meant more news, and print newspapers were more relevant than ever.

By the 1960s, issues of race and segregation were common topics in The Clarion. They even



The front page of the first issue of The Clarion in 1935, asking students if they want a school paper.

interviewed the first African American student of Brevard College enrolled in 1962, who said she "felt both accepted and rejected at the same time" by the Brevard College Community.

The times continued to change, and the Clarion kept publishing throughout the Cold War, Vietnam War, and the lead-up to the turn of the century. The number of staff members ebbed and flowed, and then started to decline in the 90s, leading to fewer and fewer issues.

By the early 2000s, the paper was falling apart. Minimal staff and little guidance for the few involved meant that The Clarion was being published every few months and lacked any



Four staff members—Zoe Hughes, Madeleine Pollock, Autumn Jones and Abigail Callahan—hold the 2024 NCCMA Best of Show plaque for The Clarion.

The Clarion celebrates 90 years

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real substance. One issue from March 1, 2001, caused alarm with an opinion page titled “Are you still a virgin if you have oral sex?” The Clarion needed a revamp, and quick.

In 2004, Dr. John Padgett was hired by Brevard College as an Associate Professor of English and Staff Advisor to The Clarion, and he made it his mission to revive the school paper. “Probably

the biggest thing to happen during my time as advisor was when The Clarion went weekly in 2006,” he said. “I am very proud of the fact that it has remained weekly ever since.”

Today, the Clarion faces the challenge of only having eight staff members to report on a campus of over 800 people. Despite this, we have been publishing anywhere from four to 12 pages weekly, and have won awards in recent years for overall excellence in a statewide competition.

“I like what we’ve been doing with a small staff, but honestly, I would love to see more students involved in The Clarion, whether that means contributing to the print edition, producing multimedia content, or joining the staff outright as a writer or editor,” Padgett said. “I feel as though we’re just scratching the surface of what Brevard College’s student newspaper could be.”

Caroline Hoy was on the Clarion staff from 2019 to 2023, even serving as co-editor in chief her last year. “My freshman year, the first article I covered was about this new virus in China,” she said. “I read a variety of articles online and wrote my article about how this new virus wouldn’t make it to the US—the virus was COVID-19, and I was wrong.”

Adam Beeson graduated from Brevard College in December 2006 with a B.A. in English. He served as editor in chief of The Clarion in his final semester, as managing editor for three semesters, and as a staff writer for one. “It’s hard to put into words what The Clarion meant to me during my time as a student at Brevard,” Beeson said. “More than anything, I think working on The Clarion gave me purpose at a time in my life when I was seeking something meaningful. In The Clarion, I found meaning. No matter what else was happening in my life, I knew that each week I had a job to do. Late nights in The Clarion

office spent editing and laying out the paper so

it could go to print the next morning became a retreat for me—a weekly ritual that gave me the purpose I sought and, quite frankly, made the rest of my life manageable.”

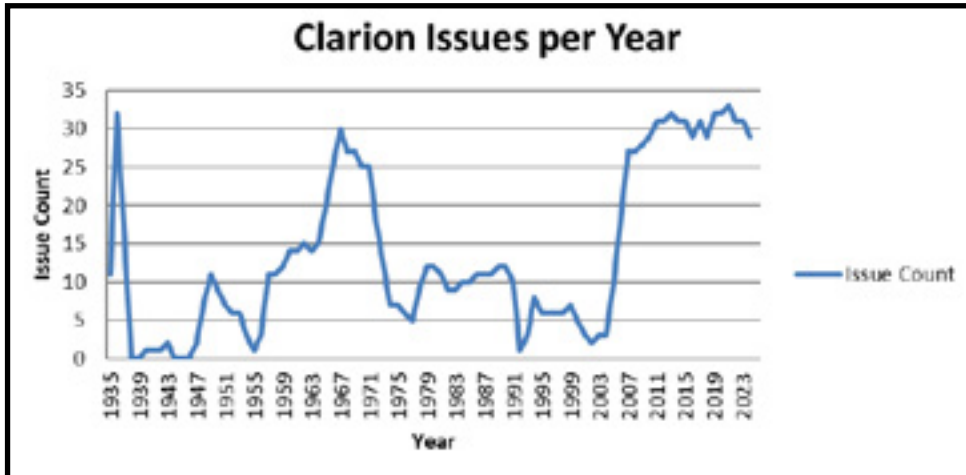
Originally wanting to major in exercise science, Beeson changed his mind after Padgett helped him discover his love for telling stories. “Thanks to Dr. Padgett, I came to realize I’m slightly better at writing words than diagnosing athletic injuries,” he said. “Only slightly, perhaps, but I certainly enjoy writing a lot more than taping ankles. Congratulations to The Clarion on 90 years!”

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, a clarion is a medieval trumpet with clear, shrill tones, and can also be used as an adjective that means “loud and clear.” From the current staff, we hope that we continue to accomplish the paper’s mission of reporting your campus news like a medieval trumpet, loudly and clearly.

We hope that the students and faculty continue to engage with The Clarion, because a campus newspaper is nothing without its readers.

[Share your own Clarion memories](#) on The Clarion’s Facebook page, www.facebook.com/bc-clarion, and watch a [retrospective video](#) on our YouTube channel. More memories are available on the [BC Alumni group](#) on Facebook, and you can read Beeson’s study, “Window to the World: A History of The Clarion, 1935-2006,” on our main website, <http://clarion.brevard.edu>.

If you’d like to get involved, please contact Dr. Padgett or our Editor in Chief, Autumn Jones.



This graph shows the gaps in our records and when the paper may have been through tough times.

THE CLARION

SENIOR STAFF

Editor in Chief **Autumn Jones**
 Managing Editor **Zoe Hughes**
 Copy Editor **Madeleine Pollock**
 Layout & Design **Emma Murray**
 Faculty Advisor **John Padgett**

STAFF WRITERS

Abigail Callahan **Stephon Miller II**
 Danniell Huestis **Olivia Tiner**

The Clarion is a student-run college newspaper produced by student journalists enrolled at Brevard College. Unsigned editorials represent the collective opinion of the staff of The Clarion. Other opinions expressed in this newspaper are those of respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the faculty, staff or administration of Brevard College.

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Interested in The Clarion?

Send submissions to
clarion@brevard.edu



Advance your writing skills

Gain exposure

Clarify career pathways

Get involved on campus with the Environmental Stewards Club

Autumn Jones
Editor in Chief

If you're interested in joining or want to learn more about any events being held, you can email environmentalstewardsclubbc@gmail.com.

Are you looking for ways to get involved on campus? Your search might just be over. Let me introduce you to the Environmental Stewards Club.

"Environmental Stewards Club is a club to bring awareness to campus about sustainability, worldwide and local environmental issues, and also bring a community together through recreational nature activities," Ava Thrift, the club president, said.

Thrift's main goal for the club this year is to bring awareness about sustainability and sustainable habits that are accessible to college students. "We only get one world," Thrift said. "We cannot erase habits of over-consumerism, littering, pollution, or any habits that can destroy our ecosystems and world. We must change habits now to have a future where we can worry about things besides the physical state of our earth."

Since the beginning of September until the end of the month, the club has a reusable cup project at Bill's coffee shop on campus. "The Bill's cup project is to promote sustainability in cup usage," Thrift said. "You are given a punch card, and when you bring in a reusable cup to put your beverage in, a barista will punch a hole into said card. Once you hit ten punches, you get a free decorated tote bag from the club!"

For October, the club will host a clothing swap flea market and a sustainable fishing class taught by Ava Thrift herself, and in November, a Farmer's Market Frenzy will be held.



Ava Thrift (right), the club's president, sits at the Environmental Steward's Club booth for Clubfair. Photo via Flickr.

Pride Club hosts 'Lego Batman' movie night

Madeleine Pollock
Copy Editor

On Friday, Sept. 19, Pride Club hosted its first event of the year, showing "Lego Batman" in the Stanback Conference Room. "The event went well! Everyone enjoyed watching a movie together, and it was a nice moment to unwind in the midst of academic work," said sophomore club secretary Vinnie Munson-Jackson.

About 15 people attended the event, and Pride Club is hoping that their next event will be even bigger. "Everyone is welcome to our events! They are intended to be accessible to everyone, LGBTQ+ or not," Munson-Jackson said.

Lego Batman was chosen for this event as it is a fun movie that is thought to contain some

queer coding. When it was released, it was boycotted by some groups of people for having a "homosexual agenda." This was in reference to Batman and Joker's dialogue with one another, most of which is playful banter.

"We picked Lego Batman because it's a well-loved movie by many people in and outside of the club. For our first movie night, we wanted to show something that people, no matter their orientation, would enjoy."

Pride Club meetings take place in Tornado Alley on Mondays at 6 p.m. for those who may be interested in joining. Munson-Jackson says, "The Pride club's mission is to create a safe space for LGBTQ+ students and allies. We work to support all students in their identities."



One year after Helene

Zoe Hughes
Managing Editor

One year ago, on Sept. 27, 2024, Hurricane Helene swept through western North Carolina, leveling forests and destroying homes. The wounds of the storm are finally healing, and the residents of WNC are putting on events across the region to pay homage to the tumultuous time.



The Brevard College cycling team volunteering. Photo via Madeleine Pollock.

After Helene hit, various sports teams and individuals went off-campus to provide aid to those in need. One example of those who went out to volunteer their time and strength is the the cycling team. They went to the Sharing House and also cleaned out a community member's house from damage Helene caused.

There is still lingering damage from Helene, but most of WNC has been able to get back on its feet. According to visitnc.com, most of the mountainous region of the state is "ready and enthusiastically welcoming visitors." In Brevard, most of our portion of the great outdoors has recovered enough to allow trails and parks to reopen, but some remain impacted.

One of the major effects of Helene was the closures on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The road suffered from erosion, landslides, and blowdowns, leaving much of the route impassable. Today, the Parkway is slowly reopening, with nearly 400 miles of the route accessible to visitors, according to The New York Times. However, approximately 80 miles of road remain closed.

There are numerous events scheduled to commemorate the anniversary of the storm. In Brevard, a free community event will take place on Sept. 27 at the Brevard Music Center. The event is being put on by SparkPoint, an organization that builds community and provides aid after Helene.

The event is titled "Helene: One Year of Healing" and is open to all community members. There will be live music, family activities, workshops, giveaways, free food, and tributes to first responders and local heroes who served the community during Helene. This event will be a great way to memorialize the path to reconstruction and the community growth that came along with it.



Members of the cycling team work together to gather donations. Photo via Madeleine Pollock.

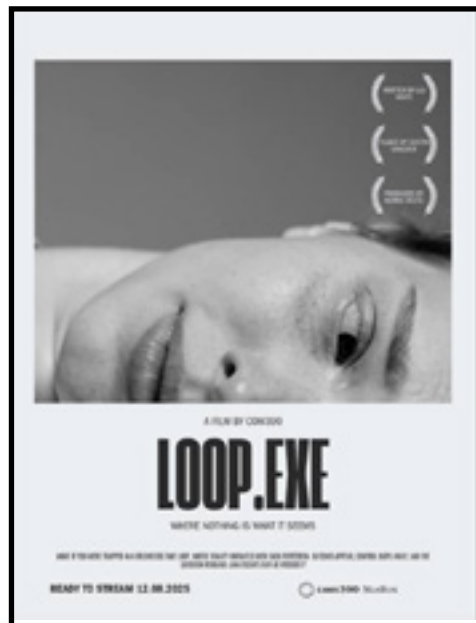
COM 390 looking for actors for web series

Autumn Jones
Editor in Chief

COM 390, Crafted Reality: Producing Serialized Internet Content, is working on a semester-long project where each member of the class has their own role in producing a web series.

The web series is called "loop.exe" and is a psychological horror. "The protagonist is stuck in a time loop, trying to navigate strange events," Kenna Deets, a member of the class, said. "We are looking for individuals who may want to add acting to their resume or who are interested in participating in acting in a web series."

Auditions will be held Sept. 30 and Oct. 3 from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.



Art students take trip to the Tri-State Sculpture Conference

Danniel Huestis
Staff Writer

With the success of the last trip to the Sculpture Celebration in Lenoir, the next art trip is right around the corner. From Oct. 3 to Oct. 5, a group of nine art students, led by Professor Lusk as well as Professor Parrish, will take a trip to see the 47th annual Tri-State Sculpture Conference in Seagrove, NC.

Hosted by the Tri-State Sculptors Educational Association, this conference will be an expo of different areas that will help teach and show upcoming sculptors. Art will also be presented, and will be staged in both an indoor and an outdoor exhibition.

With a 7:30 early in the morning departure from the college, the group has about a 4-hour trip on the I-40. Headed through Winston-Salem, down past Asheboro, and finally entering Seagrove around 10:30 a.m. This is also where the group's Airbnb will be located.

While at the conference, there will be a variety of activities for the students to participate in. These range from hands-on workshops, demonstrations/ presentations, casting techniques, studio hazards, panel discussions, and more! Also, the students will be able to hear two guest speakers. These keynote speakers will be Andrea Keys Connell and Thomas Campbell.

While at the conference, half of the cost of the students' meals will be covered by The

Friends of the Fine Arts. Other than that, it's recommended that students bring some snacks as well as some cash. Some of the students are even bringing some of their artwork for the members' show.

This will be an amazing opportunity for each student who can go to this conference. They will learn a vast amount of knowledge that will help them in their careers as artists and how to work in the art world. They will also have the chance to make connections with current working artists.

Let's wish our fellow BC students and professors a safe and fun trip full of amazing art opportunities and adventure.

BC Theatre to perform new show

Brevard College Theatre is proud to present "No Exit" by Jean-Paul Sartre. This seminal work of both Theatre and Philosophy features Brevard College students Roxxanne Petryshak '25, Amelia Payne '26, Tommy Ives '28 and Calliope Taylor '28. The show will run from Thursday, October 2 through Saturday, October 4 at 7 p.m. as well as a matinee on Sunday, October 5 at 2:30 p.m. in the Morrison Playhouse at the Paul Porter Center for the Performing Arts on the campus of Brevard College.

Directed by BC faculty member Dan Toot, "No Exit" is a one-act play by French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre that debuted in 1944. The play sends the audience to a unique vision of hell, where three people are forced into a bare hotel room with no windows, mirrors or clocks. This earth-shattering work of existentialist drama forces the audience to reckon with the chilling thought "Is Hell really other people?"

With scenic and lighting design by Associate Professor of Theatre Andrea Boccanfuso and intimacy coordination by Assistant Professor of Theatre Abbey Toot, this story showcases the power of live theatre to ask big, existential questions.

Due to adult language and themes, "No Exit" is not recommended for young children. The show runs 90 minutes with no intermission. Ticket prices are \$5 for students, faculty and staff, and \$15 for the general public. Tickets can be purchased online at www.onthestage.tickets/

brevard-college or at the door.

Brevard College is located at One Brevard College Drive in Brevard, North Carolina. More information can be found at www.brevard.edu/theatre or by calling (828) 641-0605.

Event Details:

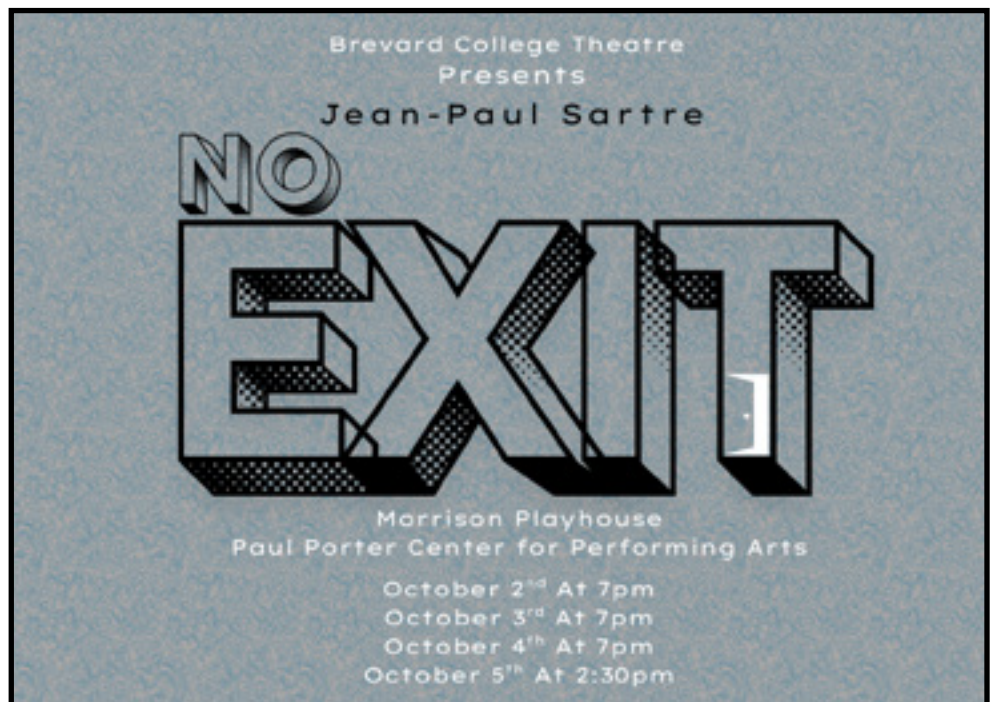
Brevard College Theatre Presents "No Exit",

by Jean-Paul Sartre

Thursday, October 2 – Saturday, October 4, 7 p.m.; Sunday, October 5, 2:30 p.m.

Morrison Playhouse - Porter Center for the Performing Arts

\$15 for general public; \$5 for students, faculty & staff.



Brevard College alumnus wins big

Brevard College alumnus Cory Earp '22 spun the wheel and won big on the legendary game show "Wheel of Fortune" that aired Friday, Sept. 19, igniting a celebration in the mountains of Western North Carolina. Earp, a sixth-grade language arts teacher at Newton-Conover Middle School in Conover, North Carolina, became the first \$100,000 winner of the show's 43rd season.

Earp graduated Summa Cum Laude from Brevard College in May of 2022 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education and a minor in Music. Following Brevard, he began his teaching career, which is now in its fourth year.

A lifelong fan of the show, Earp was selected from a large pool of applicants to be a contestant as part of Wheel of Fortune's annual Teachers Week.

"I was ecstatic when I got the message saying that I had been picked to play," said Earp. "It didn't feel real!"

Earp then traveled to Culver City, California, where he joined co-hosts Ryan Seacrest and Vanna White on the set at the Sony Pictures Studios.

"Being on the set and getting to spin that wheel was truly a dream come true," said Earp. "I went into the game with the mindset that I didn't want to get my hopes up. Many people get on the show but then get unlucky with bankrupts and such, and I just wanted to play my game and be proud of it."

Despite one of his fellow contestants building a commanding lead, Earp rallied to win the show's main round to advance to the bonus round. The BC grad chose "What Are You



Wearing" for the final spin of the bonus round and solved the puzzle with his guess of "Fancy Blazer." Seacrest then revealed the prize card, showing that Earp won \$100,000. In total, Earp won \$126,450, combining his earnings from the main round and the bonus round.

"When I solved that last puzzle (in the main round) and saw my total, my jaw dropped," recalled Earp. "And then, later in the bonus round, everyone got to see how I lost my mind with joy as Ryan turned that prize card around."

Friends and fellow BC alumni gathered for a Watch Party at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd to support and cheer on Earp. Following Earp's win, a celebration ensued in the town where this season's first \$100,000 winner spent

his college years.

The Taylorsville, North Carolina native looks back fondly on his days at Brevard College, where he was honored as one of the Senior Speakers at the College's 2022 Commencement.

"I have many great memories from my time at BC, from the small-sized classes in which I got to work closely with amazing professors and peers, to hanging out with all the great friends I made there," Earp reflected on his years at Brevard College.

"Wheel of Fortune" ranks as the longest-running syndicated game show in the United States, with over 8,000 episodes. View Earp's winning moment on the Wheel of Fortune YouTube page.

Brevard College ranks amongst nation's best

Brevard College has once again been named one of the nation's Best Colleges by U.S. News & World Report. The 2026 edition of the U.S. News Best Colleges rankings evaluated more than 1,700 U.S. colleges and universities, using 17 factors to measure academic quality and graduate success.

Recognitions for Brevard College include:

- Best Colleges – South Region
- Best Colleges – Best Value
- Best Colleges – Social Mobility

"The latest rankings from U.S. News & World Report once again display our faculty and staff's

commitment to working with each individual student, one-on-one, to help them reach their full potential and prepare for success following graduation," said Dr. Bradley J Andrews, President of Brevard College. "I see it every day – Brevard College's dedication to the success of our students."

Brevard College's consistent presence in the U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges rankings underscores the College's commitment to academic excellence and its mission to prepare students for lifelong learning and meaningful careers.

"These rankings continue to reaffirm Brevard's status as a leading institution in the southeastern United States," said Dr. Chad Holt, Vice President of Admissions and Financial Aid. "It's a testament to the College's unwavering commit-

ment to academic quality."

The announcement of the U.S. News Best Colleges continues a trend of unprecedented success at Brevard College. The College set an enrollment record with 821 full-time undergraduate students this fall semester, while also announcing the arrival of a new Student Center on campus. Furthermore, a national teacher of the year award was recently bestowed to Brevard College professor Dr. Mel Bringle.

U.S. News publishes the Best Colleges rankings each year to provide prospective students and their families with the comparative merits of the undergraduate programs at America's colleges and universities. The rankings offer detailed information of the institutions and date on factors such as graduation rates, graduate indebtedness and post-graduate earnings.

Beamish leads Brevard's comeback against Erskine's Flying Fleet

Stephon Miller
Staff Writer

Brevard College football gave its home fans a night to remember as the Tornados pulled off a thrilling 38–34 comeback victory against Erskine College on Saturday, Sept. 20, at Ives-Lemel Family Field.

The game featured a 21-point turnaround, capped by a decisive 19-yard touchdown pass from senior quarterback Ethan Beamish to junior wide receiver Jordan Barnett with just 18 seconds left.

Early struggles for Brevard

The Tornados started slowly as Erskine's offense took control in the first half. The Flying Fleet built a 21–0 lead behind quarterback Ryan Killmer and running back Logan Coldren.

Brevard finally answered before halftime when Beamish connected with Reggie Taylor II for a 12-yard score, cutting the deficit to 21–7 at the break.

Tornados storm back

The second half told a completely different story: Beamish caught fire, spreading the ball across his receiving corps and helping the Tornados outscore Erskine 31–13 after halftime.

The highlight came early in the fourth quarter, when Beamish found Adam Douglas for a 77-yard touchdown strike to give Brevard its first



The Tornados walk out against Erskine. Photo by Abigail Callahan.

lead at 31–27.

Although Erskine briefly regained the advantage with a touchdown pass from Killmer to Siah Mack, the Tornados responded with a gutsy 79-yard drive in the final two minutes.

Beamish's game-winning pass to Barnett sealed the dramatic finish.

Standout performances

Beamish delivered the best game of his career, throwing for 345 yards and four touchdowns. Taylor II and Douglas combined for over 250 receiving yards and three scores.

On the ground, Rayshawn Williams added balance with 54 rushing yards and a touchdown. Defensively, Robert Dorsey recorded a sack and four tackles for loss, while Brandon Broughton and Dre Burton forced key turnovers to halt Erskine drives.

Recognition and next steps

For their efforts, Beamish was named USA South Offensive Player of the Week, and freshman kicker Hayden Vandegriff earned Special Teams Player of the Week honors.

The victory improved Brevard's record to 2–1, while Erskine fell to 0–3 on the season. Tornado's Head Coach Bill Khayat praised his team's fight, calling the win "a testament to the resilience and character of our players."

The Tornados will look to carry their momentum into conference play as they continue their 2025 campaign.



Brevard players compete to keep the ball. Photo by Abigail Callahan.

Brevard's Ethan Beamish named USA South Offensive Player of the Week



Abigail Callahan
Staff Writer

After Brevard College's electrifying 38-34 win at Ives-Lemel Family Field on Sept. 20 over NCAA DII team Erskine College, two Tornados were selected as USA South Conference Athletes of the Week, one of them being senior quarterback Ethan Beamish. Beamish was chosen as the USA South Offensive Player of the Week.

In the last few minutes of the game, he led a focused and quick drive to help the Tornados score the winning touchdown. "We have worked our two-minute drill several times throughout fall camp and each week in practice, so it was good to see all of the work and attention to detail work out for us in the game," Beamish said. "Getting the ball to our playmakers and allowing them to make big plays for us was my main thought on that last drive."

During the game, Beamish threw the ball for a career-high 345 yards. "Our offensive line played a lights-out game and allowed us to have time to throw the ball, especially in the critical moments in the game," he said. "Also, our receivers were able to get open consistently, making it easier for us to get them the ball and have big plays through the air. Without everyone playing at such a high level, 345 wouldn't be possible."

Senior wide receiver Reggie Taylor II caught two touchdowns and has been a key leader for the team, Beamish shared. "Reggie has been here all three years with me since I transferred in. He's grown so much over that time into a great leader and mentor for not only the wide receiver room, but our team as a whole. I have all the faith in the world in Reggie and was so happy he was able to have the day that he did on Saturday."

Beamish threw the winning touchdown pass

to junior wide receiver Jordan Barnett with only seconds left in the game. "I had missed Jordan on a touchdown earlier in the game and told him I was going to come back to him," Beamish said. "Seeing Jordan, standing at six foot six lined up on the final play, I knew I was going to give him a shot at the endzone there. He's done a great job for our team coming in as a transfer and making some big plays for us already this year."

"We have to be focused on what we can control and not allow any outside noise or distractions into our locker room," he continued. "If we can do our job on every play and make a play here and there, we will be just fine. I'm really looking forward to what we have, especially heading into conference play," he said.

The Tornados enjoy a bye week before opening up USA South Conference play on Saturday, Oct. 4 at 12 p.m. in Jackson, Mississippi, at Belhaven University.