



# Uh oh, the federal government has shut down (again!)

Zoe Hughes  
Managing Editor

As of 12:01 a.m., Oct. 1, the United States Federal Government has shut down.

Although a government shutdown sounds scary, the U.S. government has actually shut down ten times before this most recent one.

A government shutdown means that funding legislation—funding that is required to finance the federal government—was not enacted before the next fiscal year, which began on Tuesday night.

During a shutdown, the government will restrict agency services and activities, stop any non-essential operations, furlough (suspension or discharge of a worker or workers on account of economic conditions or shortage of work, especially when temporary, according to Google) non-essential employees, and only retain essential workers in departments that protect human life or property.

The last time the federal government shut



Photo via Politico

down was in 2018–2019, during the previous

Trump administration. The shutdown lasted 35 days, the longest in U.S. history, and financially affected hundreds of thousands of federal employees.

The federal government shutdown occurred this time due to disagreements between Republicans and Democrats, surrounding health-care spending, according to

the BBC.

“The Democrats have refused to back a Republican bill that they say will make it harder for Americans to afford healthcare,” an article by the BBC said.

It seems that nobody really knows when this shutdown will end. Democrats and Republicans have not made progress towards a compromise to end the shutdown. Until it is over, there will be mass layoffs looming overhead within the federal government. Trump has already alluded to the fact that this shutdown may have allowed him to continue to downsize the national government.

As Republicans and Democrats remain in a stalemate, over 100,000 NC residents will not receive their paychecks, and some federally funded programs and services throughout the state will be shut down, according to The News & Observer. This political impasse could spell an economically dark time for the United States.

As of August 2025, there were 2.9 million federal government jobs.

Civilian federal government employees, January 1939 to August 2025

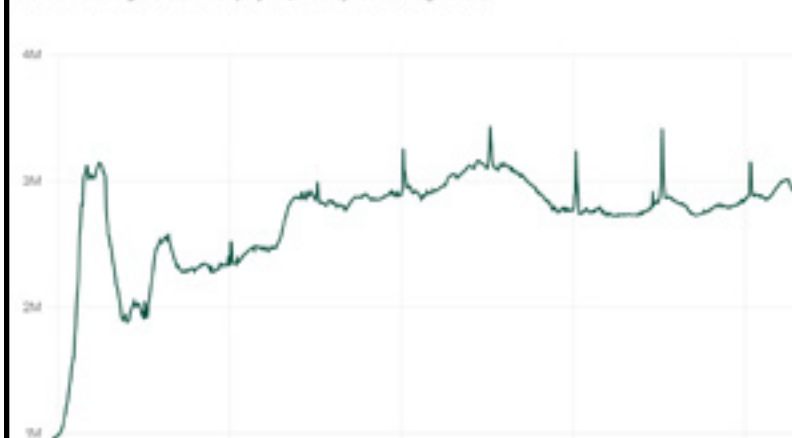


Chart from usafacts.org

# Club Hub: Brevard Climbing Club

**James McKinley**  
Contributor

At Brevard College, students can find more than just a place to learn; they discover a community. The Climbing Club is one of the school's most active student organizations. It has become a hub for connection, growth, and outdoor/indoor adventure.

For indoor rock climbers, the most immediate goal is obvious: make it to the top of the wall.

Of course, there is more to it than just finding the perfect finger and footholds to scale a vertical surface without plummeting back to the bottom. There is community. There is an opportunity for adventure. There is a chance for growth.

Fortunately, Brevard College students can experience all those things, and more, by joining one of the college's most active student organizations: the Climbing Club.

For the club's president, Jake Montroy, the journey began with a leap of faith. "When I first came to the climbing club my first year, I didn't have any friends," he said. "I made a lot of cool friends who taught me about the outdoor program."

That early experience not only introduced Jake to climbing but also inspired him to step into a leadership role to help other students find the same sense of belonging.

The Climbing Club is about more than just scaling walls. "It's a safe space for me, and I have found my community," he said. "Everyone is super friendly and welcoming."

That welcoming spirit has become a defining feature of the club, making it an inviting space for students of all experience levels and backgrounds. From first-time climbers to seasoned outdoor adventurers, the climbing club has something for everyone.

On a typical night, members can expect to see a lively group gathered together. "I'm there all the time, Kaidan, our officer, is usually there, and we typically see around 10–15 students each night," Montroy said.

Looking ahead, the Climbing Club has big plans for the year: they are launching a new competition team for students who want to

take climbing to the next level, complete with a private coach to help train. Competitors will receive jerseys to represent the college, while new crash pads will also be available for club members to rent and use outdoors.

To make climbing more accessible, the club is also focusing on education and inclusivity. "We're having open climb nights that are free," Montroy said. "I want to break down the barriers to learning or feeling comfortable climbing. We'll work on techniques, etiquette, and verbiage to help people understand what is going on."

Climbing Club meets every Monday and Thursday at Brevard Rock Gym from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., with an additional open gym night on Tuesdays at 5 p.m., where students climb alongside community members.

At the core, the Climbing Club is about more than reaching the top of a wall; it's about building confidence, supporting one another, and finding a place to belong.

## THE CLARION

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An average night at the Brevard Rock Gym for Climbing Club.



# More than books: BC's Center for Teaching and Learning adds teaching tools and support to library

**Autumn Jones**  
Editor in Chief

This year, the Jones Library looks a little different. They not only got a makeover with rearranged furniture and bookshelves, but the Center for Teaching and Learning is now available with resources for anyone on campus.

Dr. Jenny Kafsky is the director of Teaching and Learning, and Dr. Allison O'Leary, assistant professor of psychology, was signed as co-director this year, thanks to a Title III grant.

"The primary goal of the Center for Teaching and Learning is to provide support for high-quality teaching across campus, and to support and promote student learning," O'Leary said. "We provide resources and support to faculty on all things related to teaching—course design and assessment, equitable and inclusive teaching, evidence-based teaching practices, etc."

This year, they renovated the library space to create the Center for Teaching and Learning. "This includes the Teaching and Learning Hub, which is an open, communal space where stu-

dents, faculty, and staff can meet, as well as the Teaching and Learning Classroom, which is a space designed to accommodate larger groups, and can be reserved for events and occasions as needed," O'Leary said. "Faculty at Brevard College are already excellent teachers, but we hope the new space, resources, and programming will provide further support for the amazing work they already do."

The Center has a resource cabinet consisting of games, teaching tools, and other materials available for checkout by anyone on campus. Once you find something you're interested in, take it to the front desk, and they will be able to check the item out for you.

"The center is intended to serve faculty, staff, and students," O'Leary said. "We offer one-on-one consultations to faculty and staff to provide support on any teaching topic. In addition, we will offer programming on topics related to teaching and learning (e.g., the science of learning, evidence-based study strategies, etc.) that will be open to faculty, staff, and students."

To further their outreach of resources to fac-

ulty, Kafsky and O'Leary have been collecting input from faculty about topics they're most interested in and might need the most support with. "We are planning programming in a way that will provide faculty, staff, and students with what they need, and also allows Dr. Kafsky and me to showcase the areas of teaching and learning in which we have expertise," O'Leary said.

"Brevard College is regularly recognized for the world-class, experiential education it provides to students," O'Leary continued. "Our faculty and staff do amazing work to uphold the college's mission and help our students achieve their goals. Our hope is that the Center for Teaching and Learning will provide additional resources to support them in the amazing work they do. We also hope to empower students by providing education and support they can use to optimize their learning and thrive in the classroom."

If you are interested in getting involved with the Center for Teaching and Learning, you can email [ctl@brevard.edu](mailto:ctl@brevard.edu) for more information.



The Resource Cabinet in the library offers games, teaching tools, and more.

# Was Jimmy Kimmel censored?

**Abigail Callahan**  
Staff Writer

Jimmy Kimmel's show returned to television last Tuesday due to a renewed deal with the major broadcasting groups Sinclair and Nexstar. ABC pulled Jimmy Kimmel off the air indefinitely due to criticism over his comments related to the killing of the conservative activist Charlie Kirk in September.

Companies suspended the program on Sept. 17 over the remarks made by Kimmel. Disney-owned ABC suspended Kimmel the same day, following threats of potential repercussions from the head of the Federal Communications Commission. Many consumers canceled their Disney+ subscriptions due to Kimmel's suspension.

An article by NBC NEWS said that the "blowback has been swift." Damon Lindelof, creator of ABC's "Lost," said in an Instagram post on Thursday that he would not work with the company if Kimmel's suspension was not lifted. The Emmy-winning show has a long-standing relationship with the studio, having

worked with them on "Lost" for six seasons from 2004 to 2010.

Tatiana Maslany, who starred in Marvel's "She-Hulk: Attorney at Law," which aired its first and only season on Disney+ in 2022, posted a call to her followers on Instagram to "cancel your @disneyplus @hulu @espn subscriptions!"

Why was Kimmel suspended for using the First Amendment's freedom of speech, and what does it say about our society? The First Amendment says the government cannot pass laws that restrict or censor what people say or express, allowing individuals to share their own opinions, ideas, and beliefs openly without the fear of punishment by the government.

"The MAGA Gang (is) desperately trying to characterize this kid who murdered Charlie Kirk as anything other than one of them and doing everything they can to score political points from it," Kimmel said.

This does not cross the line in the use of freedom of speech; it only crosses the line when it incites violence, true defamation like false and damaging facts, or if it falls under other limited

exceptions like threats or obscenity. An article from The AP News said, "On his first show back, the comedian did not apologize, but did say, 'It was never my intention to make light of the murder of a young man,' and acknowledged that to some, his comments felt either ill-timed or unclear or maybe both."

The AP News also stated that, "In its statement Friday, Sinclair pointed to its 'responsibility as local broadcasters to provide programming that serves the interests of our communities, while also honoring our obligations to air national network programming.' The company added that it had received "thoughtful feedback from viewers, advertisers and community leaders," and noticed "troubling acts of violence," referencing the shooting into the lobby of a Sacramento station."

Freedom of speech is important, but companies also have to think about how their words affect people. Jimmy Kimmel is back on the air, but this incident raises the question of where the line should be drawn when speaking freely, the consequences it has, and how seriously this right should be utilized and protected.

# Long-distance relationships can work, with a little effort

**Olivia Tiner**  
Staff Writer

Long-distance relationships never work, right? Wrong.

I have been in one for two and a half years, very successfully. When in college, there are often lots of long-distance relationships occurring. Distance doesn't mean the end of a relationship; it just means that said relationship will change. To help combat this problem, here are some tips and tricks you can use if you're in a long-distance relationship:

The number one thing in most relationships, but especially long-distance, is communication. To make something long-distance work, you have to be able to communicate, and I don't simply mean talk to talk. I mean, communicate your thoughts and feelings clearly and effectively. Long-distance relationships are breeding grounds for doubt, worry, and trust issues. All of those can be quickly dispelled by active communication of how you are feeling and what you are thinking.

Trust is a big part of any good relationship, and if you can't learn to trust your long-distance partner, then your relationship is as good as over. When someone isn't with you every second or even frequently, you have to be able to trust that they love and care for you and wouldn't hurt or betray you. If you are struggling with trust, talk to your partner and take it from there. You can also find some trust-building activities online and have conversations that are open and honest, which increases your trust in one another.

Something that is challenging in long-distance relationships is quality time. It's hard to spend time together when you're so many miles apart. Some things that are helpful are identifying things you both enjoy. I use an app called Teleparty with my boyfriend for movie nights. One person launches the party, the other person joins, and the movie stops and starts for both of you if one of you does the action, so you don't have the battle of trying to start the movie at the same time or coordinate if you need to pause.

Something else that was recommended to me from a student who is married to a woman who

lives in Ecuador is to eat the same food and cook it together. They then enjoy a sit-down dinner over FaceTime afterward. You can also order DoorDash surprise food for each other or pay for your partner's food.

You can do art projects over FaceTime as well. There are lots of ways to connect that people forget about. One really important thing for any relationship is having time to talk, whether through phone calls, FaceTime, or texting.

Long-distance relationships can be especially hard for those who are anxious. One easy way to combat this is to remember that simple reassurance goes a long way. Reminding them that you love them and are there for them is a simple way to get them out of their own head. Another important thing is to make plans. Making plans to see one another gives you both something to look forward to, and can sometimes make it easier to handle being far away.

Long-distance relationships are hard. However, they are ubiquitous in college, and it's important to remember that hard doesn't mean impossible.

# HARVEST FEST



## T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

Submit designs in a jpeg or png  
format with no background to  
Rachael DuVall by 10/08/2025



# Fashion Friday

Zoe Hughes  
Managing Editor



# Explore local creativity: self-guided Artists Studio Tour on Oct. 11

**Danniel Huestis**  
Staff Writer

If you love the fine arts or are simply looking for something fun to do, attend the Artists Open Studio Tour! The tour is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 11, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. This is a great opportunity for students to get out and have fun.

Spanning across Brevard, with various artists' studios serving as stopping points, this tour is self-guided, and maps are available at Brevard's visitor center, located at 175 E. Main Street, Brevard, NC. There is also no cost for this tour; each place you visit is completely free to do so.

Every one of the artists' studio locations will be displayed on the map for this tour. With a majority of them being located close to the college, traveling to each place will not be difficult. With no set course to take, you can choose what studios you want to see and how long to stay at each one.

The Brevard community is very artistic and works with a wide range of mediums. The opportunity to see how each person creates their art and see where they work is amazing, and the chance to walk through and see each artist's studio is fantastic.

While on this tour, you will be able to see art produced in mediums like painting (with different paint types), iron works, pottery, chainsaw



**This is a list of each artist and their studio and location. This is from the event voucher.**

wood sculptures, stained glass/jewelry, and more! Some of the studios will have live demonstrations, one of which will be Mud Dabbers Pottery of Brevard, and plein air artists painting live at the courthouse gazebo, at 7 East Main

St, Brevard.

More information can be found on the Explore Brevard website in the “Event Calendar,” where there is a page for the Artists Open Studio Tour.

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# Cycling Team to represent at Collegiate Mountain Bike National Championships in Colorado



**Madeleine Pollock**  
Copy Editor

The Brevard College Cycling Team is sending 21 student-athletes to Grand Junction, Colorado, where they will be racing at the Collegiate Mountain Bike National Championships from Oct. 9 to 12.

Racing will kick off on Thursday, Oct. 9, at Powderhorn Resort with the team relay and short track, followed on Friday, Oct. 10, by the cross-country race. The races will then transition from endurance to gravity-focused, with the downhill taking place on Saturday, Oct. 11. The week will conclude with dual slalom on Sunday, Oct. 12.

"I think that we have a fantastic team for mountain bike nationals this year," Mountain Bike Head Coach Brad Perley said. "I'm very proud of the effort and focus to this point, and

I expect nothing but their best efforts in Colorado."

Last year, the team brought home seven individual titles and was ranked second in the team omnium, finishing only seven points behind Colorado Mesa University. "Despite the team being very easy going and relaxed, the level of focus and work ethic demonstrated by our students is certainly a point of pride," Perley said.

The team will consist of the following riders: freshmen Leo Chicoine, Walker Cottingham, Eli Houle, and Lily-Rose Marois; sophomores Ned Broersma, Lenci Bogdan, Max Canterbury, Charley Chastain, Ayana Gagne, and Kevin Ver-ecke; juniors Liam Smith, Matthew Mitchko, and Madeleine Pollock; and seniors Nicole Bradbury, Owen Clark, Mya Dixon, Olivia Hyde, Kelly Lawson, Matthew Leliveld, Kiara Lylyk, and Matthew Smith.

"Team preparation throughout the conference race season has been mostly solid," noted Perley. "We unfortunately had a number of injuries taking students out for the season, but overall it's been very good to this point. Now we look for rest, health, and a bit of good luck."

Clark, Leliveld, and Lylyk will be trying to defend their individual titles from last year's event in Bentonville, Arkansas. The team will also be trying to defend the coveted team relay title won by Cole Punchard, Clark, Lylyk, and Bradbury.

"I would like to thank the athletic department for their support of our program as well as the college as a whole," Perley said. "We participate in a very unique sport that isn't mainstream in the US, so we are very fortunate to be able to offer this experience to our students."