

'No Kings 2.0' momentum grows nationally, reflected in Brevard turnout

Abigail Callahan
Staff Writer

On Saturday, Oct. 18, Brevard was one of many towns and cities that took part in the peaceful protest titled "No Kings 2.0." It drew local activists, families, and concerned citizens to the Transylvania County Courthouse, as part of a broader nationwide movement pushing back against what organizers described as "authoritarian tendencies" in American politics.

The event began at 2:00 p.m. and continued for about an hour, featuring handmade signs and chants promoting democratic values, accountability, and civic engagement. The Brevard protest was held and organized by the Brevard NAACP.

As I walked through the crowd, I saw none of the hostility or violence that some predicted. The crowd was diverse in age. The participants had homemade signs, and one person had a drum. There was even a person with their dog outfitted with a sign. Some cars driving by honked their horns in support.

The event was largely positive and seemed to reflect the message of those who participated. I was proud to be a part of a town that can still allow a peaceful protest with citizens utilizing their rights; I hope that our town and country can continue to be open to views that are different, and conversations

can take place instead of hatred and violence.

The first "No Kings" protest took place this year on June 14 in thousands of cities and towns across the country, in large part to protest a military parade in Washington that marked the Army's 250th anniversary and coincided with Trump's birthday. "No Kings organizers at the time called the parade a 'coronation' that was symbolic of what they characterized as Trump's growing authoritarian overreach", the AP News said.

This time, about 2,600 "No Kings" events and protests happened across the country, and it is estimated that more than 5 million attended, making it bigger than the June event. "Protesters showed up to oppose a wide range of issues, including the administration's immigration tactics and its push for federal and military intervention in Democratic-led states as a way to tackle crime. The diversity of concerns was strung together by the broader messaging of democracy, constitutional rights, and the freedom our country was founded on," said NPR.

As the "No Kings" protest continues to gain momentum, it serves as a reminder that social change is driven by collective action and persistent advocacy. Brevard's participation highlights how local communities play a crucial role in shaping the national dialogue on justice and equity.



Photos by Abigail Callahan.

Brevard College named a 2025-26 College of Distinction

For the first time, Brevard College has been named a College of Distinction, a national designation awarded to institutions with a commitment to engaged, experiential education. Recognized as one of the best colleges in the nation for 2025-26, Brevard was also selected as a Private College of Distinction as well as a North Carolina College of Distinction.

As a national College of Distinction, BC joins a list of esteemed institutions, including Carnegie Mellon University, Davidson College, Emory University, Johns Hopkins University, New York University, Rice University, Swarthmore College, Tufts University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Wake Forest University.

The Colleges of Distinction honor follows a ranking as one of the nation's Best Colleges in 2026 by U.S. News & World Report. It continues a trend of unprecedented success at Brevard College. BC 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 upon Brevard College professor Dr. Mel Bringle.

The recognition by Colleges of Distinction is based on the independent guide's unique evaluation criteria known as the Four Distinctions: Engaged Students, Great Teaching, Vibrant Community, and Successful Outcomes. Through extensive research and interviews, Colleges of Distinction identifies institutions that make a meaningful impact on students' lives.

"Brevard College has crafted a campus culture where students are empowered to take ownership of their learning," said Tyson Schritter, Chief Operating Officer at Colleges of Distinction. "Its programs reflect the kind of innovation and intentionality that prepares students for life after graduation."

Unlike rankings that focus on prestige-driven metrics, Colleges of Distinction highlights schools that champion educational impact, including everything from first-year seminars and collaborative projects to undergraduate research, global learning and internships. Brevard College's inclusion is a result of its commitment to these high-impact practices and the personalized support it offers students throughout their college journey.

"Our goal is to celebrate institutions that help students find their place, their purpose and their potential," continued Schritter of Colleges of Distinction. "Brevard College stands out for creating an environment where students thrive not just academically, but as whole people."

Since 2000, Colleges of Distinction has been committed to recognizing schools across the United States for their exceptional contributions to higher education. Member institutions within the Colleges of Distinction consortium distinguish themselves through their unwavering focus on providing an outstanding undergraduate experience. Their website offers dynamic college profiles, customized tools, and valuable resources for students, parents, and high school counselors.

2025 sidewalk art competition

THE CLARION

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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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✉ **Letters Policy:** The Clarion welcomes letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit letters for length or content. We do not publish letters whose authorship cannot be verified.

Danniell Huestis
 Staff Writer

Saturday, Oct. 25, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., this year's Sidewalk Art Festival will be held on Robin Plaza, right outside the Caf.

This is the fourth annual competition/festival held at Brevard. The idea for the festival came from art professor Sean Parrish after experiencing a large-scale sidewalk art festival in Savannah, Georgia. He was inspired by the energy of the event and wanted to bring that to the college.

"There is a lot of talent among the students at BC and our local high schools, and having students create art live in front of spectators is an enriching experience for both the students and community," Parrish said.

Multiple students will be competing for cash prizes as the main focus of the event. First place receives \$250, second place gets \$175, third place gets \$75, and finally, honorable mentions and best Halloween design each get \$50. They will be creating stunning works of art that will then be judged, all of which will be completed in only sidewalk chalk. Both the college students and high school students will have separate rewards of the same amount.

Currently, there is a total of twenty-eight competing artists, but there is the chance of

last-minute entries. All of the students will have from the beginning of the event to the end of it to finish their piece, and they have the choice to work in a pair or go at it solo.

While each student is hard at work creating their masterpiece, students and community members are free to talk with them and ask them questions about their art. Don't forget to see if you can get pictures of the pieces you want! Just remember to be respectful of each work and not to step on any.

As beautiful art is being created, there will be other activities like cornhole, giant Jenga, and Connect Four. Sadly, the stapled llamas of past events will not be present this time. There will be live music performed by guitarist Adam Rose, and snacks will be available at the BC Art Club booth.

So come by and see art being made live by your fellow BC students and some local high school students. Whether you're by yourself or with friends, this is a great chance to get involved with your community, see the amazing talent that is here, and have fun and enjoy a friendly atmosphere.

How scary can you be in just TWO SENTENCES?

(That's right: JUST TWO.)

As is our practice at this time of year, The Clarion once again seeks submissions to our TWO-SENTENCE HORROR STORY collection, which we intend to publish in this year's issue of "The SCARION," our annual Halloween-themed issue (scheduled for Friday, Oct. 31).

You may be asking yourself, "Self, what the heck is a two-sentence horror story?" It is, coincidentally enough, a horror story that consists of TWO SENTENCES — no more, and no less.

Two-sentence horror stories are short, they command your attention, and they are masters of concise description. The best ones are clever, appealing both to your mind (your "brains! BRAINS!") as well as having a palpable effect upon certain other organs like ... well, I'll let you decide which ones.

(And of course, it helps to know what exactly a sentence is: a complete statement which contains, at minimum, a subject, a verb, and ends in a punctuation mark known as a period (which,

for those of you who don't know, looks like a little dot, like RIGHT HERE TO THE RIGHT). For more information, consult a grammar handbook, or, I don't know, ask a local English professor — or better yet, maybe just Google it: leave the poor English professors alone; they've got enough on their plates without having to answer basic grammar questions that were likely covered in "grammar" school.)

Most of all, two-sentence horror stories tend to be CREEPY. They linger with you, like a catchy ad jingle, or a weird rash from showering at a friend's house during recent power outages, or maybe a cursed object — a boomerang, say — that no matter how many times you try to get rid of it or throw it away, it KEEPS COMING BACK.

The DEADline for submissions is 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 29, so that we can publish your contributions in The Clarion and on our website, <http://clarion.brevard.edu>. (And if you'd like

to see what others have submitted in the past, check out the WEB edition of The SCARION for 2024.)

Scan or click the QR code below to submit!



SUBMIT YOUR TWO SENTENCE HORROR STORIES



for next week's issue of the **SCARION**

at least 10 submissions = prizes granted for
first, second, and third place

Student responds to opinion piece on mold, dining, campus security

LETTER to the EDITOR

Hi! I'm writing this as a student and avid Clarion reader attending Brevard College. The opinion article in the Oct. 16 issue of the Clarion, discussing the school's many issues, written by Danniell Huestis, really spoke to me. I actually feel noticed for once, thanks to it; this article was amazing!

My friend has been struggling with mold poisoning in the villages (thankfully, the mold has been sprayed for now, and killed after MUCH dilly-dallying from the school and maintenance), and when we were unsure when it was going to be finally taken care of, I was trying to convince him to go to you guys and do a report on it. You guys beat us to the mark! I hope that with this article, the school starts opening its eyes to how horrible the conditions students are being left in in regards to housing, the Caf, and security.

In regards to issues with the Caf, I just want to talk about how horrible it still is. I had raw chicken the other night and had to spit out my food, and instead went to McDonald's. I'm financially unstable, so having to go out and spend money on unhealthy fast food really is a stresser in my life.

I feel bad for the students who work in the Caf because I know they're trying hard, but also, they have to work under a huge reputation of poor service, and I believe they are also dealing with the fear of messing up. Every time I go to the Caf, I dread it despite having hardly any choice but to eat there. Don't get me wrong, good things are being served, the broccoli has been on point, as well as the chicken tenders and the fries, most of the time. But the lack of variety is really starting to drive me crazy.

I agree with the idea of them sending out regular surveys to see what students actually want to eat in the Caf. It feels like when they see that

suggestion box full of notes, they just throw it out. In reality, they're probably taking their time going through it to see what they can do, but I do genuinely feel disheartened.

I feel disheartened, too, with the state of security on campus. I'm starting to feel nervous at night about walking around now, and I know many women on campus who feel the same way. No one should have to feel scared, but with the rampant catcalling behind Jones and seemingly no ideas or solutions from any campus administration, it feels like everything is just being ignored.

My advice to my fellow students is to report things even if they seem small and no one cares. Report it to your RAs, report it to the people behind Title IV, and make some noise about it. Catcalling is sexual harassment, being followed is grounds to report people, and I believe we all need to lift each other's voices and back people up when they say something happened to them.

I know the people behind Title IV don't want the unreported reports of harassment and assault to be what defines the school, so I think we need to help them out by validating ourselves and others. There needs to be more education on what qualifies as what and how to avoid harassment. I see this school being able to change its ways, but there needs to be more effort from both staff and students, no more action-less listeners, and more support and encouragement all around.

I love this school, I wouldn't be who I am without it and the people I've met here, and I want to see it improve, but currently, I think it's time for students to give it some tough love.

— Anonymous (by request of the writer)

Editors' Note

Anonymous Student,

Thank you for taking the time to write to us about last week's opinion article, "Why is the college's 'crucial hub' its biggest failure?" We always welcome letters to the editors, and we're happy to hear that reading this article was

validating for you and some of your friends due to your personal experiences. We hope that the college will continue to make improvements based on some of the suggestions outlined in the article, and we welcome any new recommendations from students. The point of a student

newspaper is to represent students and give them a voice on campus, so we appreciate you adding your thoughts and experiences to the conversation.

Sincerely,
The Editors of The Clarion



BC to welcome 23rd Poet Laureate of the United States, Joy Harjo

Madeleine Pollock
Copy Editor

Next Wednesday, Oct. 29, Brevard College will be welcoming the 23rd Poet Laureate of the United States, Joy Harjo, in partnership with the Transylvania County Library, as the guest speaker of the J.R. McDowell Speaker Series; there will be a students and faculty only-event taking place in the Jones Library at 2:30 p.m., followed by a community event in the Porter's Center beginning at 7 p.m.

Both events are free, but tickets for the 7 p.m. event must be picked up from Academic Affairs in the Beam Administration Offices or the Transylvania County Library in downtown Brevard.

Harjo is a world-renowned poet who served as the 23rd Poet Laureate of the United States from 2019 to 2022. As a member of the Muscogee Creek Nation—a self-governed Native American tribe seated in Okmulgee, Oklahoma—she is the first Native American to hold this honor.

She has published eleven books of poetry, as well as three children's books. Her newest book, "Girl Warrior", was recently released on Oct. 7. Harjo has received multiple awards and honors for her work, notably the Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Ivan Sandrof Lifetime Achievement Award.

The title of poet laureate is an honorary position that allows the promotion of poetry and the arts nationwide. Poets laureate must use poetry as a form of public service and consult with the Library of Congress on poetry programming.

Harjo is credited with using her three consecutive terms as Poet Laureate to amplify indigenous voices in poetry by launching the "Living Nations, Living Words" project. According to the Library of Congress, "The 'Living Nations, Living Words' project features a sampling of work by 47 Native Nations poets through an interactive ArcGIS Story Map and a newly developed Library of Congress audio collection."

In addition to poetry, Harjo is also a musician, playing saxophone and singing internationally. This background in music blends into her writing, creating melodic work that often deals with themes of resilience, identity, and connection to the natural world.

Students are encouraged to attend both events, but the 2:30 p.m. event is specifically geared towards students and faculty and will provide a more personal space to ask Harjo questions and interact with her work.

The Transylvania County Library Foundation and Brevard College present:
2025 J.R. McDowell speaker

AN EVENING WITH



joy
HARJO

23RD POET LAUREATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Award- Winning American Poet, Musician, Playwright, and Author of *Poet Warrior*, *Crazy Brave*, *Weaving Down in a Scarlett Light* and many more.

**WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 29
7:00 PM
PAUL PORTER
CENTER FOR
PERFORMING ARTS
AT BREVARD
COLLEGE**

Free, general admission tickets are available at the Transylvania County Library.

Doors to the Porter Center will open at 6:30 pm.

transylvania
COUNTY LIBRARY
FOUNDATION



Made possible by the Transylvania County Library Foundation in partnership with Brevard College

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with a true icon of American literature and hear the powerful, melodic poetry that defines her remarkable career!

A conversation with Lauren Wolf

Autumn Jones
Editor in Chief

Lauren Wolf is a new adjunct professor of communication, with this being her second semester teaching at Brevard, and I had the pleasure of asking her some questions to get to know her a bit better.

Q: What does your professional work outside of academia entail, and how does it inform your teaching?

A: I would actually say my experiences within academia are informing what I do outside of it. That's sort of the beauty of teaching communication classes—it's all a two-way street. As much as I'm informing my students from my knowledge and experiences, they are informing my professional pursuits. I'm currently experimenting with a platform, LWolf Creates, on Instagram, TikTok, YouTube and X, where I am sharing content connected to my passions. "Art, Courses, and Investigations" are the major themes. Understanding the different audiences and algorithms certainly informs what I teach.

Q: Can you describe the path you took to start teaching at Brevard?

A: My path to Brevard in short: Comm. Studies college major -> high tech public relations job -> marketing for landscape architecture firm while freelance writing -> Masters in Journalism at UT Austin -> Researcher/Fact-Checker for Lawrence Wright's book *Going Clear: Scientology, Hollywood and the Prison of Belief* -> Associate Producer on HBO documentary *Going Clear* -> Fact-checker for Leah Remini's memoir and researcher on her show -> then many little freelance research/writing gigs while mostly being a stay at home mom -> Artist -> Moved to Brevard and began teaching last year.

Q: Given that communication is a rapidly evolving field (e.g., social media, AI), how do you ensure your course material stays current and relevant for students?

A: I guide students to be aware of how they are engaging with the world around them, and within themselves, as communicators. Through class discussions and the work they produce in class, I tweak my lessons to make sure they're personalized to what they are experiencing, and I insert relevant updates on social media and AI for discussion if and when necessary.

Q: What's one skill or concept you hope every student takes away from your classes, regardless of their major?

A: My goal is for all of my students to better understand who they are as communicators, and to leave my class recognizing the value of their experiences and their stories. It is their currency, their power, their song.

Q: How do you incorporate your real-world professional experience into lectures, assignments, and class discussions?

A: I'm a storyteller, so the real-world professional experience flows naturally in class lectures and discussions. My assignments are geared toward students looking at their own stories and experiences, which stems from my background in research and journalism. Asking questions is the name of the game.

Q: How do you balance your teaching responsibilities with your other professional or personal commitments?

A: Balance is tricky as a mom of 3 young kids. I've come to love waking up really early to prepare for my class that day. My students all keep



Lauren Wolf.

journals and reading those over a cup of coffee helps me stay connected to the direction of the class. I'm taking the spring semester off from teaching so I can dedicate more time to my personal professional pursuits.

Q: In your opinion, where is the field of communication heading in the next five to ten years?

A: All communication is a bridge, and people who can be bridges between fields of study, people, passions and creations- will be the next leaders in all industries. That's my prediction at least. Ego has driven business and leadership for a really long time and communication has been used as a tool to manipulate. Genuine and aware communicators will step up and take the reins and ego-driven pursuits will fall away. Basically, Communication FTW in the next 5-10 years.

Q: What common communication mistake do you see students (or professionals) make, and what advice do you offer to fix it?

A: The common communication mistake I see students and professionals make is projecting their fears and insecurities onto others. But this generation gets it and SEES it in a way that my generation did not at that age. Gen Z's ability to course correct is wicked fast.

Taylor Swift's 'Life of a Showgirl': Worth the hype or a waste of time?

Olivia Tiner
Staff writer

On Oct. 3rd at 12 p.m., Taylor Swift dropped her 12th, and arguably most successful album, "The Life of a Showgirl."

According to Spotify, eleven hours after its release, it became the most-streamed album in a single day this year. This isn't surprising, however, considering it also holds the record for the most pre-saved album in Spotify history, surpassing 6 million saves, breaking the previous record held by Swift's album, "The Tortured Poets Department."

Even though this album is breaking records like crazy, it's not without criticism. On social media, many people are speaking about how they feel that the lyrics of this album lack depth compared to her other recent work. As a long-time Taylor Swift fan, I agree that some of her other work has more lyrical depth; however, this album isn't drastically different from some of her past work. This album reminds me of "1989," and honestly, I think some people are discontent due to preconceptions about her persona and music.

Critics who are finding issues were expecting that the happiness found in her life currently would have no impact on the emotional style of her music, which is simply unlikely. Honestly, god forbid she's happy and

puts out a happy pop album. The expectation that all of her albums will be deep and tortured, like "The Tortured Poets Department," is unrealistic, especially when she uses her own life as inspiration for her songwriting. People can be incredibly critical of artists, especially female ones, and these criticisms can be seen mainly on TikTok and Instagram.

Despite the criticism, her album is well-loved. One misconception is that she is the first artist since Prince in the 1980s to simultaneously hold the number one spot on the U.S. film, song, and album charts; she is actually the first female artist since Prince to hold the achievement, but Eminem was the actual first in 2002, according to timesnownews.com. This achievement was with Swift's album "The Life of a Showgirl," song "The Fate of Ophelia," and the film "Eras Tour" in October 2025.

I think this album deserves all the interaction and love it's getting. I think it spans multiple emotions, from thought-provoking "The Fate of Ophelia" and "Eldest Daughter," to perky "Opalite" and "Wi\$H Li\$t," along with comical "Wood" and bold "CANCELLED!" Personally, this album has no skips for me and is quickly becoming one of my favorites.

You can like Swift or you can hate her, but it is difficult to deny that she is a cultural phenomenon and a powerful, inspirational, and uplifting role model for anyone interested in being self-made and successful.

Fashion

Friday



Deborah Quisenberry

Zoe Hughes

Charlie Bertanzetti

Lillie Teague

Kayla Jean

BC women's lacrosse sets 2026 schedule

Owen Timmerman
Contributor

It's a big week for Brevard College women's lacrosse as their 2026 schedule has been released. The Tornados will compete in 15 total regular-season games before potentially beginning postseason play.

The Nados will open up the season on Saturday, Jan. 31, at home with a scrimmage against Southern Wesleyan University. They will then match up against Montreat College at home before beginning road play at NC Wesleyan University.

Conference play will be the real test for the

Tornados, however. The women's lacrosse team competes in the USA South Conference, including teams like Pfeiffer University, William Peace University, and Southern Virginia University.

Last season, the Tornados finished 7-8 and fifth in the conference. With the incoming freshmen and transfers, the team hopes they have what it takes to make a deep playoff run.

According to bctornados.com, head coach Sarah Perry said she is excited about this upcoming season. "After my first year, I realized so many things we can do to improve ourselves from last year," she said.

Perry, who took control of the program last year, continued, "I am excited to see the fire-

power my returners, transfers, and first years bring to the table."

The Nados will need to perform better in conference play this year if they have hopes of making a historical year. Last year, they were 5-4 in USA South competitions. "Assistant coach Cassidy Hutto and I have been working this fall on improving our game on all levels, and we are excited to come out this spring strong in the USA South again," Perry said.

The Tornados Women's Lacrosse team will officially begin its 2026 campaign on Friday, Feb. 20, at Ives-Lemel Field versus Montreat.

What's next?



Sat. Oct. 25 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. vs.
William Peace (DH/Senior Day)

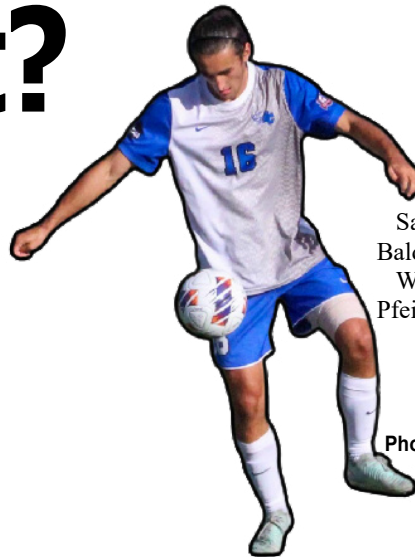


Photo by Alecia Janeiro

Sat. Oct. 25 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at
Southern Virginia
Wed. Oct. 29 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. vs.
Pfeiffer



Photo by Karis King



Sat. Oct. 25 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. vs. Mary
Baldwin (Senior Day)

Wed. Oct. 29 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at
Pfeiffer

Photo by Isabella Zambuto

Sat. Oct. 25 6:00 – 9:00
p.m. at Greensboro



Photo by Karis King