



Brevard brings spooky fun and community spirit to Halloweenfest 2025



Abigail Callahan
Staff Writer

The Heart of Brevard Halloweenfest—a free, family-friendly event that shows the community’s love for Halloween and the local culture—was held downtown on Sat. Oct. 25. The festival is held yearly on the Saturday before Halloween, and it has become one of the most looked-forward-to events.

This year’s Halloweenfest had an amazing lineup of activities for all ages, which included bouncy houses, a costume contest for people and pets that followed with a parade, the Magic Book Bus, a hula-hoop dance party, a witchy flash mob, and vendors that lined the streets with food, crafts, retail, and other items.

The costume contest brought participants who showcased their creativity with both store-bought and homemade designs. One standout was a handcrafted “Where the Wild Things Are,” while another turned heads as Waluigi from the popular franchise, “Mario Bros.”

The pet parade brought a ton of fun to the day and became a cuteness overload with different pets. Dogs, donkeys, and goats dressed up in costumes and walked alongside their owners, earning a lot of laughs from the onlookers. There was a level of creativity for both the costume and the pet contest that reflected the Brevard community, which had spirit and passion for Halloween.

“Halloweenfest in downtown is one of the longest-running events in Transylvania County, and again, it’s in Transylvania County, so Halloweenfest, it’s in our blood, right?” said Nicole Bentley, executive director of the Heart of Brevard, in an interview with ABC13 News.

As night came, the festivities continued with live music on the main stage that featured performances from “Armchair Boogie” and “Shadowgrass.” People enjoyed beverages purchased from local vendors while relaxing on blankets and chairs as they listened to the music underneath the stars.

The organizers are already looking forward to next year’s Halloweenfest, which is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 24, 2026, and will be located in downtown Brevard. It is sure to be filled with more costumes, music, and games to celebrate the Halloween season.



Photos by Abigail Callahan.



Mel Bringle receives National Outstanding Teacher Award

Dr. Mary Louise “Mel” Bringle, Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies and Chief Faculty Marshal at Brevard College, was recently honored by the Association for General and Liberal Studies as the 2025 recipient of the Jerry G. Gaff Faculty Award for Outstanding Teacher. Bringle accepted the award at the 66th annual AGLS Constitute held earlier this month in Louisville, Kentucky.

Bringle, currently in her 26th academic year teaching at Brevard College and 43rd year overall as a college professor, was unanimously selected as the nation’s Outstanding Teacher by the AGLS awards committee. She was chosen from a national pool of nominees for this year’s award that recognizes faculty who have “demonstrated leadership on their campuses, shown evidence of outstanding teaching in general and liberal education courses, and have a record of achievement in curriculum development, innovation, or implementation.”

The awards committee was impressed by Bringle’s “decades-long commitment to general and liberal education, her pedagogical creativity, and her leadership in Brevard College’s Learning in Community (LiNC) program. Her work exemplifies the deep integration of teaching excellence, curricular innovation, and the spirit of liberal learning.”

Over the last two decades at Brevard College, Bringle has made major contributions to the General Education program and core curriculum, as well as pioneering the College’s LiNC program, which creatively pairs

courses and professors from two different disciplines to provide students with a variety of perspectives on a subject. Furthermore,

she served as the Coordinator of the Integrated Studies major for 12 years, where she oversaw 75 different interdisciplinary major projects.

All the while, Bringle has been a stalwart in the classroom, where she primarily teaches freshmen and sophomores, a rarity for a professor of such distinction. In fact, the majority of students will have taken at least one class with Bringle by the time they graduate from BC.

“My passion has always been for first-year and sophomore students who are just at the beginning of their educational journey and willing to be challenged,” said Bringle. “To receive an award for teaching in general education is a very nice seal of approval on what I have been doing for the past four-plus decades.”

Joining Bringle at the annual meeting for the award presentation were her Brevard College colleagues Dr. Jordan Kuck, Associate Professor of History and Chair of the Humanities Division, and Dr. Sarah Maveety, Associate Professor of Biology and Chair of the Science and Mathematics Division.

“The AGLS conference is known for attracting passionate and creative educators,” said Kuck. “Yet, even at such an event, Dr. Bringle was in a class of her own. All of us at Brevard College are lucky to have her as a teacher, colleague and friend.”

Brevard College joins an esteemed group of institutions that have produced past winners of the AGLS Jerry G. Gaff Faculty Awards, including Clemson University, Emory University, Temple University, Virginia Tech, and the University of Memphis. The award represents the latest example of academic excellence at BC, which has been named one of the Best Colleges in 2026 by U.S. News & World Report as well as being recognized as a College of Distinction both nationally and in the state of North Carolina.

THE SCARION

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Dr. Mel Bringle of Brevard College is presented the 2025 Outstanding Teacher Award by AGLS council member Dr. Jodene DeKorte, Academic Dean and Vice President of the School of Multidisciplinary and Professional Studies at Purdue University Global. Photo Credit: Brevard College Communications

23rd Poet Laureate Joy Harjo speaks to students, faculty, and community members

Madeleine Pollock
Copy Editor

On Wednesday, Oct. 29, Brevard College welcomed 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 was a students and faculty only-event that took 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.

Harjo is a world-renowned poet and musician 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.

An intimate chat with students

The students-and-faculty-only portion of Harjo's visit to Brevard began with her explaining some of the things she has been up to recently, notably the publishing of her latest book, "Girl Warrior," and her newest album, "Insomnia and Seven Steps to Grace." She also recently returned from a poetry residency at Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania.

Harjo read poems and stories from her books "Poet Warrior" and "Girl Warrior," noting that the first is more of a memoir and the second is what she says "is really stories to be helpful to you guys," as opposed to only a biography.

Harjo also shared a lot of reflections about the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the community, connections, and education. "You will deal with all your life in some way or other with [the effect of the pandemic], and maybe just thinking about this, it makes you crave and appreciate a sense of community," she said.

She recounted how she taught seminars over Zoom, received an honorary doctorate on Zoom, and how social distancing gave her more time to write; all of these things were both a blessing and difficult as they took place online. "If your communication is only with your devices, it doesn't nourish you," Harjo said. "It is like the difference between talking about a tree and being out there with the tree."

Next, she transitioned to talking about how place and the natural world play into storytelling, sharing that she had heard prophecies as a child from elders in her community that talked of floods, fires, and other natural disasters having an effect on the next generations.

Harjo encouraged the audience to pay attention to these stories as well as to the knowledge plants have to share. "Those relationships are real," she said, referring to humans and their connections to plants and animals.

Harjo furthermore shared details about the influence of music on her life; she spoke about how her stepfather did not like music in their home despite her mother being a talented songwriter in Tulsa, OK. Music was something that had come and gone from her life, and she noted that it is something that she is constantly learning, like how she properly began playing at 40 and recently bought a drumset.

A genuine and approachable storyteller, Harjo shared everything from vulnerable stories of being a teen mother to poetry about nature and

place, to somewhat comedic anecdotes, like being catcalled by Muhammad Ali in the Albuquerque Airport.

The session wrapped up with her reading one of the first poems she ever wrote, called "Remember," and then some questions from students surrounding her creative process. Harjo shared many nuggets of wisdom, like how she tries to direct her attention to other things when her writing doesn't flow.

"What do I do when I feel stifled creatively? I do something else. Sometimes you just need a break. Sometimes there is something you need to know that you don't know yet. But I try not to force it," she said. "When I get stuck, sometimes it's because I think I know where it wants to go and it wants to go somewhere else."

She also highlighted the importance of community within generations. "There is a lot of shifting and changing, but you are going to be part of that shifting and changing," she said. "And it is not easy, but it is important and what you make is necessary. Even as you are making your own path, [your generation] is all together."

The Porter Center opened its doors to the community

Later that evening, Harjo took to the Porter's Center to talk to the community as part of the J.R. McDowell Speaker series. Transylvania County Library Treasurer Larry Sitton introduced Harjo and gave some background for the series, noting that it was named after a former library trustee, Reverend and esteemed community member.

Since 2008, this series has brought astronauts, historians, writers, artists, and other visionaries to Brevard yearly to share free educational experiences with the Transylvania County

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Harjo speaks in the Porter Center for the community. Photo via Flickr.

Movie Review: 'Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere'

★★★★★

"Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere"

Written and directed by Scott Cooper
Starring Jeremy Allen White, Jeremy Strong
20th Century Studios, 2025
Rated PG-13 | Running time 1h 59m
Now playing at the Co-Ed Cinema in Brevard



John Padgett
Contributor

Biopics as a genre tend to go "big," often spanning decades of an artist's career, and consequently they sometimes feel too episodic, in essence cherry-picking key moments in a life to support a particular story, or theme, or both.

"Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere," which opened nationwide Oct. 24 after a successful run at Telluride and other film festivals, takes a different approach: the main narrative spans just a few months in singer-songwriter Bruce Springsteen's life and career. But what a few months they are.

Based on a book of the same title by Warren Zanes, the movie tells how Springsteen came to write and record his ground-breaking 1982 album "Nebraska." (The title "Deliver Me from Nowhere" comes from a lyric repeated in two songs on the album.) Featuring acoustic guitar, harmonica, and Bruce's haunting vocals, the 10 tracks on the album were famously recorded on a four-track TEAC cassette recorder in Bruce's bedroom in Colts Neck, New Jersey.

It wasn't meant to be that way. Springsteen bought the equipment mainly to be efficient: his intent was to create some demos at home to lay the groundwork for when he and the E Street Band would gather together in the studio to record for real. One of the tracks they recorded during those full-band studio sessions was "Born in the U.S.A.," which in 1984 would be the first song on the best-selling album of the same name that would catapult the Jersey native into global superstardom.

But in 1982, Springsteen wasn't ready for that fame.

Granted, he'd already achieved some levels of stardom. In 1975, he made the cover of both Time and Newsweek in advance of his breakthrough "Born to Run" album, and with 1980's double album "The River," he had scored his first top 5 single with "Hungry Heart."

When the movie opens, Springsteen has just concluded his 1981 "River" tour, and in a quiet post-concert moment in his dressing room with his manager and friend Jon Landau (played by Jeremy Strong of "Succession" fame), he is about to take up residence near his hometown in Jersey, and we begin to understand some of the pressures on Springsteen: the expectation that he would build on those successes with his next album.

Interspersed with these early 1980s scenes of Springsteen, played with great aplomb by Jeremy Allen White (fresh off winning a lead actor Emmy for the FX series "The Bear"), are flashbacks to Bruce's youth and his sometimes troubled relationship with his father, Douglas Springsteen (played by Stephen Graham). These black-and-white vignettes are the



Jeremy Allen White as Bruce Springsteen.

most uneven part of this otherwise strong film: sometimes crisp and devastating in their emotional wallop, other times obscure and unclear in what we as the audience should make of them.

What is never in doubt, however, is that Springsteen is looking to his past as inspiration for these songs, alongside numerous other sources that include the collected stories of Flannery O'Connor, Terrence Malick's 1973 movie "Badlands" (loosely based on a 1957-58 killing spree in Nebraska and Wyoming by Charles Starkweather and his 14-year-old girlfriend, Caril Ann Fugate), and another film from the 1950s that a flashback reveals he skipped school to see with his father. (I won't spoil it by revealing the title in this review, but it's a great film, especially around Halloween.)

"Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere" impressively depicts the artistic process of creation: in this case, a collection of songs that, as Landau admits, is "dark." But equally important in this movie is its emphasis on mental illness, in particular depression and paranoia, conditions that Bruce's father—and later Bruce—suffered from. One of the triumphs of the film, and in the lives of both men, is that eventually, they both found the help they needed.

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'Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere'

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The movie is stark and slow at times, as any work about the creation of "Nebraska" ought to be, but the performances throughout are impressive, especially by White, who captures the voice and mannerisms of Springsteen, as well as capably navigating between the Boss's exuberant, hard-rocking on-stage persona and the quiet, humble boy from New Jersey struggling to make sense of things when not on stage. When Springsteen goes to buy a car, for instance—the first new car of his life, he says—the salesman acknowledges his rock stardom by saying, "I do know who you are."

"Well, that makes one of us," Bruce replies.

"Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere" is outstanding for anyone who has followed Springsteen's life and career, and it helps if you are familiar with the "Nebraska" album, which includes such classics as the title track, "Atlantic City," "Mansion on the Hill," and the poignant "My Father's House."

But even if you're only vaguely familiar with Springsteen's music, the film works as a powerful character study of the tortured artist with a story to tell.

Joy Harjo speaks to students, faculty, and community members

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Community.

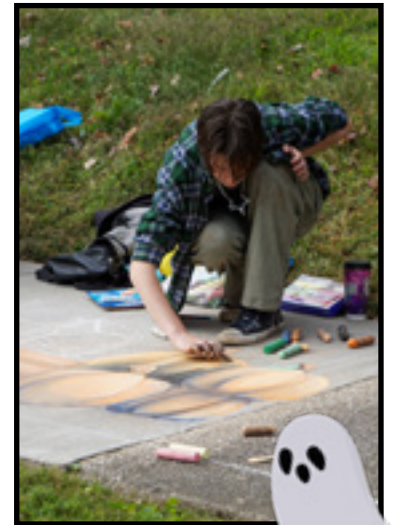
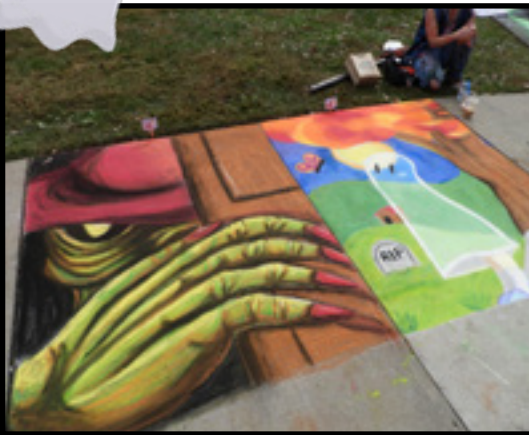
Harjo took to the stage and thanked the audience for attending, saying that she was "happy to be in this beautiful part of the world where trees rule."

The event at the Porter's Center was more of a formal reading than the earlier students and faculty chat; Harjo read poems from multiple books, dealing with themes of grief, colonialism, intergenerational trauma, nature, hope, and healing.

The audience was lively and had many questions for Harjo during the question-and-answer period of the evening. In this portion, she received multiple questions about her creation process: Harjo talked about drafting both on paper and on a laptop, how she got into poetry at the undergraduate level, the importance of mentors, and how her writing process sometimes includes waiting for ideas. "Sometimes I think [the poem] decides me," she said.

Harjo closed out the event by singing a song to the audience, receiving a standing ovation. Community members then lined up at the Highlands Book table so they could chat with Harjo one-on-one and buy signed copies of her books.

Sidewalk Art Contest in photos





The word "cleave" is an example of a contronym, a word that can have opposite meanings: to split apart or to bring together. But "cleaver," as in MEAT cleaver, does not, as I learned the hard way.

—Dr. J

"Oh, it's so good to see you again, it's been way too long," my sister exclaimed, smiling as she crashed into me, fresh off the plane. My smile tensed as she threw her arms around me, while I tried to maintain my composure; I might not have seen my sister in a while, but when she left, her eyes were brown, not green.

—Kara

Man, he does go on and on, doesn't he, talking about this animal, that plant, blah blah blah. But did you happen to catch what he was saying about that one big tree in the middle of the garden—he did say DO eat of its fruit, right?

—Adam Edenson

As I finished my 8 am final exam, I set down my pencil and adjusted my papers, the papers which had questions almost too easy, and to be honest, I didn't remember fully, but all I knew was that I did well on the exam, and the nightmare was over. Then, my alarm clock went off: 8:37 am.

—Chase Bishop

"Why the long face?," said the bartender. I opened my mouth to respond, but realized I could only neigh.

—Vinnie Munson-Jackson

I woke up from my sleep to see my wife standing over me, whispering that there was someone in the house. I felt a chill run up my spine because I killed her 2 years ago.

—Jordan Lowrance

An old college friend is a big fan of Halloween, so this year, I decided to send her a postcard that was completely black on one side, figuring she would get a kick out of it. Besides, she likes to analyze things, so what could be better for such dark times?

—E



He thought they were waving at him, so he waved back. They were waving at the person behind him.

—Dr. Nation's Understudy

TWO SENTENCE Horror Stories

Each year, we invite our readers to submit their own two-sentence horror stories. Here are this year's submissions.

All day, I had rationalized my paranoia despite the brightness trailing me wherever I went. When they found me the next week, their eyes recoiled, as if light had never touched them before.

—Signe

As I was drifting off to sleep, I felt my cat tickle my foot. And then I remembered that I don't have a cat.

—Anon

I thought it was night when I woke up and didn't see anything. I started to rub my eyes, but they were gone.

—Dr C.

I've always loved my true love till the very end. I'm having a meal with her, it reminds me of the time when we first met in the park late fall, it was foggy; I still see her, for she is still with me, staring up at me with sunken eye sockets and cracked open skull, smiling as I eat the memories of each other.

—Wyatt Grimm

"dong, dong, dong." The old clock struck 3, and I was relieved; little did I know it was actually 2:55.

—Becca Webb



I heard a knocking sound coming from the room down the hall. No one was home.

—annabelle jamerson

And then I abruptly awoke, covered in sweat. To my horror, I realized I was a freshman again!

—Danniel Huestis

I jolt awake, relief washing over me—the monster can't chase me here. But the sickening feeling of being watched creeps in, I scan my room in a panic, and I realize in horror it wasn't a dream...the monster is snarling at the foot of my bed!

—Emily Husband

I heard my mom yell my name from downstairs. When I answered, she whispered from behind me, "Don't go down there."

—Twain Wilson

Taking deep breaths with my eyes closed, I guided my friend through a calming technique. When I opened my eyes to check on her, something was in her place, and it had never stopped watching.

—Signe

I need way more than two sentences to write a horror story. Check the headlines tomorrow to see what I mean.

—Carissa

Every night, I hear a faint scratching on the back door, the same rhythm my dog used to make when he wanted to be let in from outside. One night, I went down and reached for the handle before remembering, with a chill down my spine, that he had been buried in the back yard for three years!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

—Mano Kocsis

My friend just mailed me a pitch black postcard that says "Happy Halloween" on the back. I am feeling a little unnerved....

—M



'Tricks' to make Halloween more sustainable



Zoe Hughes
Managing Editor

When stripped down to their fundamental ideas, Halloween costumes are incredibly unsustainable: a person wears a costume for one night and then, presumably, never wears it again, and then repeats this every year. Halloween doesn't have to be wasteful, though; there are plenty of ways to dress up for the holiday sustainably.

According to a 2019 study by Hubbub, an environmental nonprofit based in London, around 83% of Halloween costumes are made with non-recyclable oil-based plastics, meaning they were probably made with the intention of throwing them away soon after.

These materials can take centuries to break down, and discarded Halloween costumes often end up in landfills and ecosystems.

A great way to combat this is through second-hand costumes. Thrift stores have many low-priced items that could create a costume, as well as donated costumes themselves. Another solution could be reusing parts of or a whole costume or borrowing a sibling's, friend's, or neighbor's previous Halloween get-up.

For the more creative-minded, one could make a costume. Using fabric, you can make one from scratch, or many pieces of clothing can be upcycled into something new for a Halloween costume.

Using these methods, Halloween can be spooky, fun, and sustainable. Getting creative in creating your Halloween costume is a great way to celebrate the season. Happy Halloween BC!

The origins of Halloween



Olivia Tiner
Staff writer

Halloween, or All Hallows' Eve, dates back at least hundreds of years, beginning with the Celtic Festival of Samhain, according to the Library of Congress. This was a pagan celebration to welcome the harvest and the end of summer.

During the tradition, bonfires were lit and costumes were worn to ward off ghosts. In the eighth century, Pope Gregory III designated Nov. 1 to be All Saints' Day, a day to honor the saints, and it incorporates some of the Samhain traditions. The evening before All Saints Day came to be known as All Hallows Eve and later, Halloween.

The traditions of carving pumpkins began in Ireland by carving turnips. It was based on a legend about a man named Stingy Jack who captured the devil's soul only to let him go on the condition that he would never go to hell. However, when he died, heaven no longer wanted his soul, so he was forced to wander the world forever. The devil gave Jack a lump of coal in a carved-out turnip to light his way. The carving of scary faces in turnips was meant to frighten away scary and evil spirits.

The festival of Samhain marked the transition to the new year at the end of Harvest and the beginning of winter. During the festival, it was believed that spirits walked on earth. Later on, Christian missionaries announced All Souls Day on Nov. 2, which perpetuated the idea of the dead being with us still during that time of the year.

As for trick or treating, there are three theories: the first is that during Samhain, people would leave offerings of food and drink out for the spirits. The second believes that the candy boom comes from the Scottish practice of guising, in which people would get food and treats in exchange for prayers, which were later forgone for songs, dances, and tricks. The last argues that trick or treating came from the tradition of "belsnickeling," which was a German tradition in which children would dress up and go to neighbors' homes and see if the neighbors could guess what they were. If no one could guess, the children were rewarded with treats.

The traditional colors of black and orange also come from the festival of Samhain, as black represented death and orange the Harvest season.

Today, Halloween is the holiday where people dress up and trick or treat, but the world shouldn't forget All Hallows Eve and the traditions and beliefs that hinge on what the world now calls Halloween.



The year of screen: Google Frightgeist's top trending costumes of 2025



Autumn Jones
Editor in Chief

Every year since 2020, around Halloween, Google Frightgeist lists the most trending costumes based on Google searches—it even breaks it down to the most popular costumes from areas nationwide.

The top three costumes (based on searches) for 2025 are, by no surprise, Rumi (first), Zoey (second), and Mira (third), from the hit Netflix movie “KPOP Demon Hunters,” released in June. Fourth and fifth places also reflect the movie’s popularity, with Jinu and Baby Saja taking their rightful positions.

Spot number six is Chicken Jockey from “A Minecraft Movie,” released in April of this year. The memorable line delivered by Steve, portrayed by Jack Black, has become a favored reference both online and in classrooms.

Spot seven on the list is Labubu, based on the toy that gained popularity earlier this year, despite being around since 2019.

Number eight, circling back to “KPOP Demon Hunters,” is Derpy, the clumsy and lovable tiger, who is based on “a folk painting from the Joseon Dynasty called ‘Kkachi Horangi’ (Magpie and Tiger Painting). The tiger, which should be scary, has a somewhat funny and comical expression. These tigers served as guardian spirits that ward off bad luck and brought good news,” according to seoultechglobal.org.

Spot number nine on the list goes to Elphaba from the Broadway play and movie “Wicked.” The play first premiered on Broadway in 2003, and by March of 2006, it celebrated its 1000th Broadway performance. In Nov. of 2024, the first part of the movie adaptation of “Wicked” hit theaters, starring Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo, with the second part of the well-loved movie set to premiere in Nov. 2025.

Spot 10 belongs to The Lorax. The famous character is from Dr. Seuss’ “The Lorax,” published in 1971, and has since gained enormous popularity with the Illumination movie in 2012, starring Zac Efron, Danny DeVito, Ed Helms, and Taylor Swift.

Number 11 is Hamilton, another beloved musical. The musical had its first performance at the Public Theater in New York City, opening Feb. 2015, and was filmed with the original Broadway cast, recorded in June 2016, and released on Disney+ in July 2020.

Spot number 12 is Nightwing, a superhero from the DC universe. Nightwing, aka Dick Grayson, was a young acrobat with his family,



but during a performance, a sabotage act by mobsters killed his parents. Bruce Wayne, aka Batman (if you didn’t know), was in the audience and adopted Grayson. He was Robin, but over time, he wanted to step out from Batman’s shadow. The search for his costume is at an all-time high this year.

Number 13 on the list takes a bit more of the creepy aspect of Halloween: a nurse from Silent Hill, a set of video games and film adaptations.

Spot 14 is Toothless from DreamWorks’ “How to Train Your Dragon.” The animated movies were first released in 2010, 2014, and 2019, and a live-cast adaptation was released in June 2025.

Number 15 is another character from “Wicked,” Glinda. Glinda is the other female lead alongside Elphaba, and they are frequently portrayed together as a Halloween pair.

Number 16 is a classic, but has not been seen as much since Y2K, hinting at why it’s making a comeback: a ladybug.

Costume number 17 is Gabby from “Gabby’s Dollhouse,” a Netflix series premiering in 2021 with 11 seasons. “Gabby’s Dollhouse the Movie” was just released in September and stars Kristen Wiig, Jason Mantzoukas, Tara Strong, and Laila Lockhart Kraner.

Costume 18 is Supergirl, another DC superhero. She made an appearance at the end of “Superman (2025),” hinting at a movie of her own. Fans guessed correctly, and it was announced that “Supergirl” or “Supergirl: Woman of Tomorrow” is set to release in June 2026.

With number 19 on the list being Superman, it goes to show that 2025 might be the year of DC. “Superman” was released in July and made a total of \$615,784,465 at the worldwide box office, despite having a budget of \$225 million.

Finally, at number 20, Donnie Darko from “Donnie Darko.” Released in 2001, “Donnie Darko” is a sci-fi psychological thriller about a troubled teenager who is manipulated by a man in a bunny suit into committing crimes, and begins to explore the nature of time travel and destiny after a bizarre incident.

Whether you’re planning to hunt demons or fight crime in a cape, one thing is clear: 2025 is the year of the screen. The overwhelming popularity of the “KPOP Demon Hunters” crew, the rise of the DC Universe with Superman and Supergirl, and the enduring magic of “Wicked” show that movie and streaming releases continue to be the biggest drivers of Halloween trends. As you head out to trick-or-treat or hit a party, look around—you’ll be walking through a highlight reel of the year’s most

Halloween candies: which ones are the best?



Scarlett Houser
Contributor

Halloween has become one of America's favorite holidays, from the spooky decorations to the mountains of candy from trick-or-treating. But which candies are the most popular? What are the most disliked candies?

According to a survey from Instacart, the top-selling candy for Halloween so far this year has been Reese's Peanut Butter Cups. This chocolate treat has been recently dominating the Halloween candy market, gaining popularity after the release of Reese's Peanut Butter Pumpkins in the 1990s.

Also, top sellers, according to Instacart, are ...

Candy corn, meanwhile, didn't make the top 10.

"I love candy corn! I also really like Reese's cups and Twix," said Julian Grindall, who grew up trick-or-treating in North Carolina. People who grew up dressing up and collecting candy for Halloween have developed their favorite candies from those childhood experiences, which may even influence their love for candy outside of Halloween.

Some children in more rural areas might not have had the same influence of Halloween growing up, because houses around them are more spread out. But nowadays, trick-or-treating has become easily accessible, even in rural areas, thanks to the invention of trunk-or-treating, a method of trick-or-treating simply out of the back of people's cars!

"Candy corn is the staple Halloween candy," said Justin Garcia, another North Carolina resident. Candy corn, despite some of the negative feelings some people may portray, has been considered a staple of Halloween, inspiring decorations and different recipes. It's popular enough that there are even Thanksgiving and Christmas versions of candy corn being made now.



Infographic from Instacart.com.

Besides Reese's Cups and candy corn, there are plenty of favorite options, such as M&Ms, Snickers, KitKats, Hershey's, Skittles, and a large variety of gummy candies. There has been a large shift in the popularity of some of these candies, as older generations, like Millennials, would have experienced a different set of popular candies in their time. Some of these included candy like Milk Duds, Milky Ways, Smarties, Tootsie Rolls, Laffy Taffy, Butterfingers, and Nerds.

Everyone's Halloween experiences during childhood are different, which affects their favorite candies, especially depending on where they grew up. The Southeast United States has been shown to favor candies like Butterfingers, Milk Duds, and candy corn. Western states have been shown to like Reese's, M&Ms, and KitKats more, while the Northeast likes candies like Snickers, Starbursts, and Sour Patch Kids.

Whatever your favorite candy might be, here's to hoping that your trick-or-treat bag will satisfy your sweet tooth!

'The Viola in My Life - A Concert with Conversation' This Sunday at Brevard College's Porter Center

Professional viola player and teacher Lillian Green and Brevard College Associate Professor of Music and Coordinator of Piano Proficiency Dr. Vance Reese will present a conversation and recital of music titled "The Viola in My Life – A Concert with Conversation" this Sunday, Nov. 2, at 3 p.m., at the Porter Center for the Performing Arts.

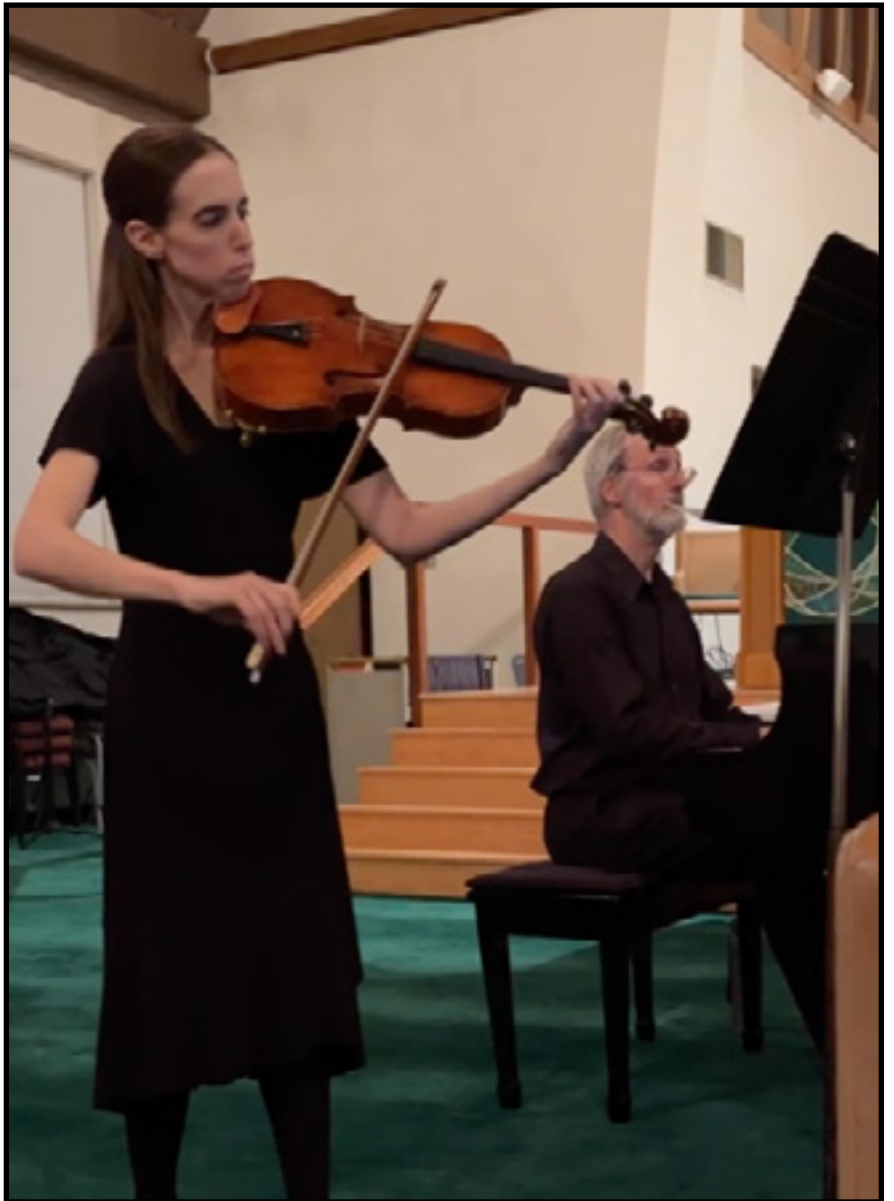
Green and Reese will explore the question, "How does the sound of an instrument affect the trajectory of a life," with the different perspectives of the viola and the piano. Music on the program includes works by Ernest Bloch, Leslie Adams, Scott Green, Johannes Brahms and Darius Milhaud.

Green has performed as a solo, chamber, and orchestral musician across the United States, Europe, and Asia. She is comfortable in a wide variety of genres, from traditional repertoire to classical premieres to alternative styles. Her recent performances have included solo recitals as a faculty member at Friends University, multi-genre concerts and workshops around Kansas with the improvising Switchgrass String Quartet and orchestral work with the Wichita Symphony Orchestra.

As an educator, Green has taught viola, violin, music theory, chamber music, and string methods, as well as directed string and full orchestras. Her former students teach and perform around the United States. Green has served on the faculties of Friends University, Bethany College, Peabody Conservatory, West Virginia University, the Montverde Academy Music Conservatory, the University of Delaware Community Music School and the Bridges Program in Baltimore.

Reese has enjoyed a long performance career as an organist, cantor, bass player and collaborative pianist. He currently serves as the co-principal bassist for the Asheville Symphony, cantor and keyboardist at Congregation Beth HaTephila in Asheville and organist at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Brevard.

The roughly one-hour-long program is free and open to the public. Brevard College is located at One Brevard College Drive, Brevard, North Carolina. More information can be found at brevard.edu/theatre or by calling 828.641.0605.



Lillian Green will be on the viola and Vance Reese on the piano for "The Viola in My Life - A Concert with Conversation" this Sunday at the Porter Center on the Brevard College campus.



Brevard women's soccer caps another invincible regular season with win over Pfeiffer



Photos by Isabella Zambuto via Flickr.

The Brevard College women's soccer team (16-0-0, 9-0-0 USA South) capped off its second-straight unbeaten regular season with a resounding victory over Pfeiffer (2-12-1, 1-7-1 USAS) 4-0 on a rain-soaked Wednesday evening at Ives-Lemel Family Field.

The victory wraps up another unblemished regular season for the Tornados, as BC finished off its first regular season without a loss or a tie since the 1996 and 1997 NJCAA National Championship BC women's soccer teams.

Just after the final whistle on Wednesday evening, the Tornados were presented with their 2025 USA South Conference Women's Soccer Regular Season Championship trophy. Associate Vice President for Athletics Dr. Miranda Nash, Assistant AD/SWA Kristin Rosato, and Faculty Athletics Representative Michael Moreschi presented Head Coach Juan Mascaro and the 2025 Tornados with their championship trophy.

Wednesday's win lengthened Brevard's unbeaten streak to 34 matches — the second-longest active unbeaten streak in NCAA Division III women's soccer and the second-longest active streak across all divisions

of NCAA women's soccer. With the USA South tournament running through Brevard, the Tornados will aim to defend their 29-match home unbeaten streak that began on Oct. 18, 2022.

Through 16 matches this fall, the Tornados have outscored opponents 68-3 and continue to rank among the nation's statistical leaders both individually and as a team. BC's 16 wins to start the 2025 campaign give the Tornados far-and-away the best start to a season in program history during the NCAA era.

BC finished the match with a 20-2 shot advantage, including a 12-0 mark on-goal, and the Tornado defense kept its 13th clean sheet of the season.

The 2025 USA South Conference Women's Soccer Tournament runs through Brevard, as the Tornados host #8 Salem on Saturday at 5 p.m.

