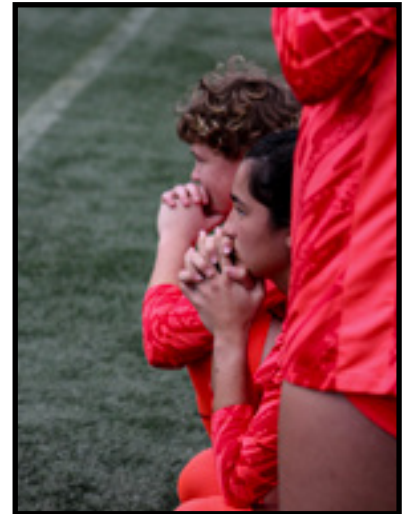


The road to nationals:

See the story on page 2.



The team celebrates their win over SVU, putting them on the road to national's. Photo by Alecia Janerio.



The bench watches intently at the head-to-head game. Photo by Isabella Zambuto



(Above) Lillie Teague celebrates with her teammates after scoring the winning PK shot. Photo by Chris Fortman.



MVP Abby Nunez saves the ball. Photo by Isabella Zambuto.



The team stands in a pre-game huddle. Photo by Isabella Zambuto



Head coach Juan Mascaro Sr. and Assistant coach Juan Mascaro Jr. stands with team captains MK Smoak and Kiara Porcelli. Photo by Isabella Zambuto.

BC women's soccer earns its way to the NCAA DIII tournament after historic win

Abigail Callahan
Staff Writer

On Saturday, Nov. 8, the Brevard College women's soccer team (18-0-1) match was truly historic, resulting in a win in the USA South Tournament and giving the program its first USA South Conference Women's Soccer Tournament Championship. They did it with a dramatic 5-4 penalty kick overtime victory over No. 2 Southern Virginia (12-6-2) on Saturday afternoon at Ives-Lemel Family Field.

The Tornados earned the conference's automatic selection spot in the 2025 NCAA DIII Women's Soccer Championship Tournament, giving Brevard College women's soccer its first-ever national postseason opportunity in the NCAA.

One of the captains of the team, junior MK Smoak, said, "It is an incredible feeling to have finally won the USA South tournament. This team has been developing for years, and to have finally accomplished this goal is amazing. I'm so proud of everyone who has contributed to all of our successes."

Mikayla Zvekan, a senior player for the team, said, "It feels absolutely unbelievable. I'm so proud that we were able to achieve everything we did this season. It's been amazing to watch how much this team has grown from my freshman year to now, and just to be able to be a key part in the environment and atmosphere of the girls and the program."

"Mentally and physically, I felt pretty prepared for this game," junior Abby Nunez, the goalkeeper and MVP of the game, said. "We worked all season to get to that game, so it wasn't a surprise we made it there. I think everything we accomplished and fought through this season is what helped me to already be mentally and physically prepared going into that game."

There are many

qualities that make the team successful on and off the field. "The biggest thing that makes us successful is how close we all are," Zvekan said. "I believe that I could call up any one of these girls at any point and they would be there for me. This team has become my second family while being at Brevard, and I think that's a sentiment that is shared throughout the girls as well."

As for what the team's game plan for the tournament was, Smoak said, "Our team's plan going into the tournament was to put our heads down and work hard, and play with heart for every game. We made sure that our focus was always just winning the next game and not getting ahead of ourselves."

But the work is not over yet. "Winning the championship was a huge accomplishment for us," said Nunez. "Now we're on to the NCAA DIII tournament, so it's time to start preparing for that. Breaking down our next opponent to see how we can advance to another round."

Brevard women's soccer will begin its NCAA DIII tournament play-offs on Saturday, Nov. 15, at Emory College in Atlanta, Georgia. The match is scheduled for 3 p.m. against Rhodes College.

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
Danniel Huestis Olivia Tiner

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All correspondence should be mailed to:
The Clarion, Brevard College, One Brevard
College Drive, Brevard, NC 28712, or send
E-mail to clarion@brevard.edu
clarion.brevard.edu

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Abby Nunez awarded Tournament MVP. Photo by Abigail Callahan.



The team poses with their trophy and champions shirts. Photo by Abigail Callahan.

Guest speaker Tiana Kennell visits Communication students

Zoe Hughes
Managing Editor

On Wednesday, Nov. 12, Tiana Kennell, a food and beverage reporter from the Asheville Citizen Times, came to Brevard and guest-spoke in COM 349: Clarifying Communication Career Pathways.

Kennell spoke about her journey as a journalist—describing how she went from a journalism major in Michigan to a fledgling news writer in Louisiana who dabbled in food and beverage reporting, then finally came to Asheville to be a dedicated food and beverage reporter.

Kennell stressed the importance of networking and building and maintaining good relationships. Most of the experience and jobs she had in the Journalism field were a result of the relationships she had. Whether it was through Kennell reaching out or them finding her, she landed jobs that gave her valuable knowledge.

After her presentation, Kennell spent the rest of the time answering questions from attending students and staff. Many attendees were curious about her role as a journalist during Hurricane Helene.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, USA News, the owners of The Asheville Citizen Times, had all hands on deck for reporting the storm, including Kennell. She wrote articles about where to find food donations in case of need and about restaurant closures that resulted from the storm. She often includes the effects of Helene that restaurant owners still face, even over a year later.

Kennell's presentation was the last class session held this semester for COM 349, sending students off with an insightful look into one of the many Communication career paths that they can take.



Tiana Kennell

LETTERS from the EDITOR

Two sentence horror stories winners

Thank you to our readers for submitting so many high-quality two sentence horror stories! We truly had so much fun reading them over and even formatting them. As promised, though a bit late, we have the winners for first, second, and third place. If you are one of the winners, check for an email from jonesam1@brevard.edu for prize information!

First Place: 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

Second Place: 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

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

—Vinnie Munson-Jackson

Creature Feature: BC's beloved campus pets

Autumn Jones
Editor in Chief

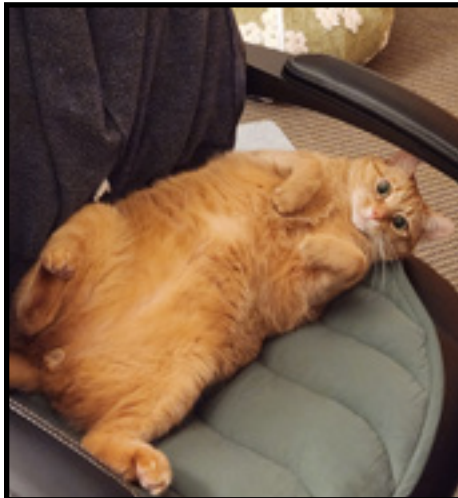
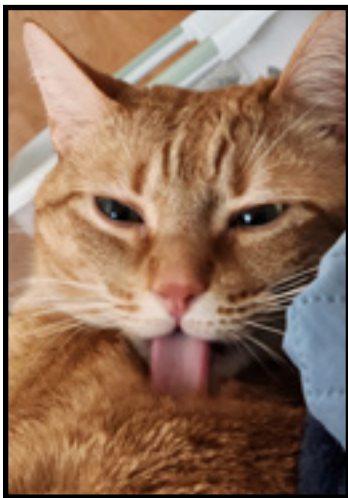
Amidst the constant cycle of deadlines and late-night study sessions, our campus community harbors a quiet, furry secret weapon against stress: the campus pets.

These beloved animals—from the well-known dogs being walked around campus to the official Emotional Support Animals (ESAs)—are the unofficial mascots, providing essential emotional support one gentle

purr or tail wag at a time.

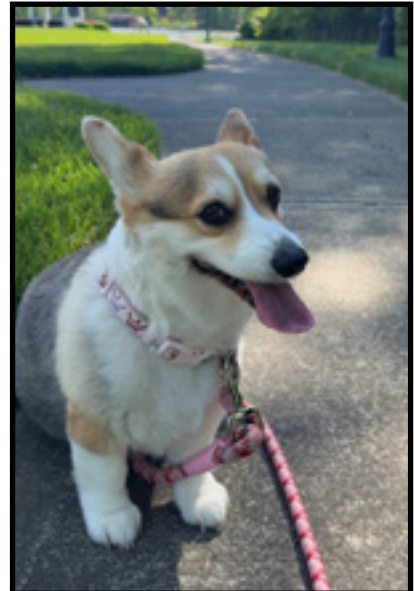
The benefits of these animals extend far beyond simple distraction. For many students, the presence of a pet is crucial for managing the intense pressures of academic life. ESAs, whether they are quiet cats in the dorms or energetic dogs, help students navigate anxiety, depression, and the difficult transition to living away from home. Their presence fosters immediate community, transforming a lonely walk into a quick, friendly exchange about a favorite companion.

Here are some of our campus pets!



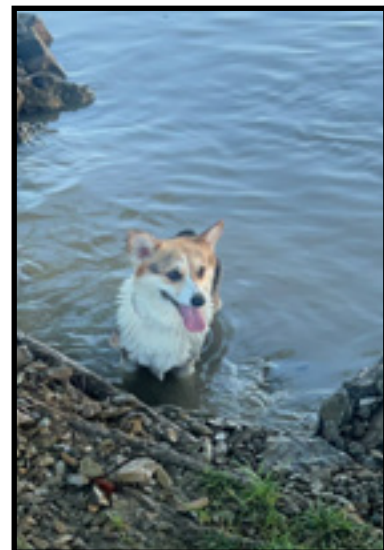
“Here is **Butters**, the handsome, orange, fat man of North 1. He enjoys trying to eat plastic, attacking his pickle, and screaming at me that he is hungry. My poor neighbors hear his zooming every day. The things we do for animals.”

—Natalie Taylor



“This is **Persephone**, and her favorite activities are biting me and pretending she didn't just bite me.”

—Buckley Harris



“**Millie!** She loves swimming, playing, and walking!”

—Avery Mattina

Continued on page 5.

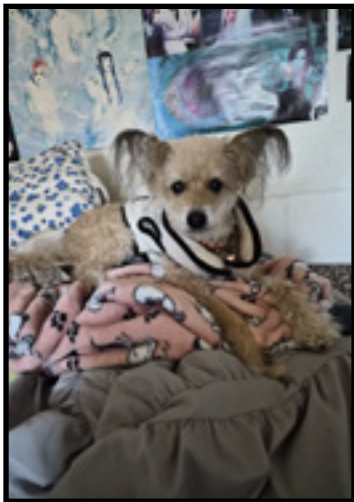
Creature Feature

Continued from page 4.



"This is **Steve**. He loves to eat his tropical fish flakes."

—Angie Martino



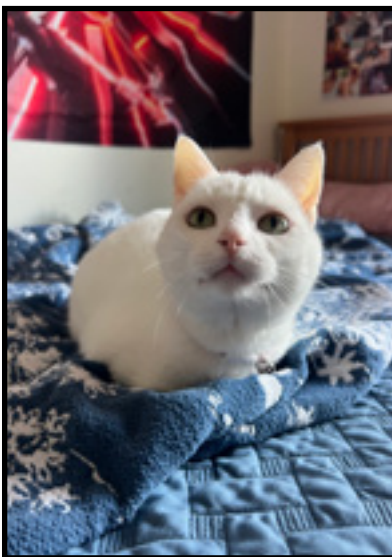
(left) "This is **Hermes**. His favorite activity is dressing up and he has a collection of sweaters and costumes."

—Clara De Montmollin



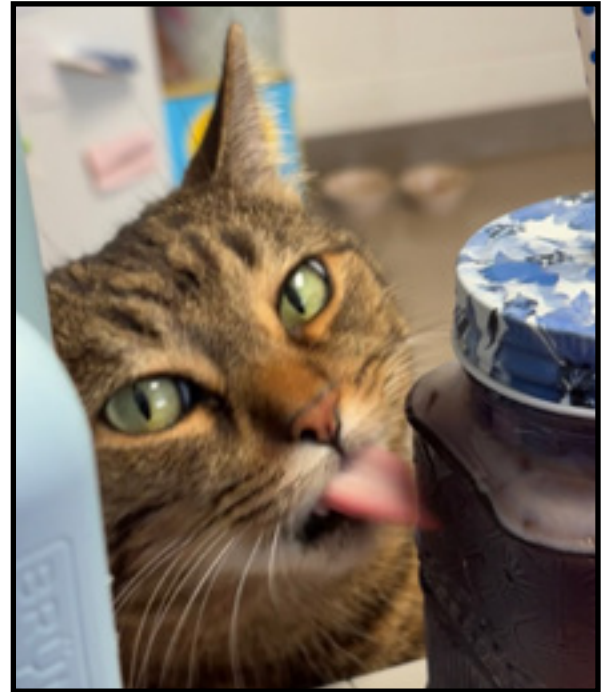
(above) "This is **Lady Bug**, my pet lady-bug. His favorite activity is crawling on my ceiling. Here's a picture of him napping."

—Becca Webb



"This is **Snoball**. She's 11 and her favorite things are cuddles and food."

—Zoe Hughes



"This is **Stella**, also known as StellaBella or Stubs. Her favorite activity is literally watching water. Whether that's the shower running, the sink dripping, my Britta, condensation on cups, the ice machine, my fish bowl, or her own personal water fountain, I got her. She is obsessed with it; the second she hears water, she's there, uncontrollably licking/watching it."

—Savannah Anderson

Book Review

Red Rising: a daring science fiction book rooted in philosophy

★★★★★

Madeleine Pollock
Copy Editor

Pierce Brown's "Red Rising" is a gripping dystopian fantasy novel with a philosophical background about questioning one's reality and the systemic structures that define life as we know it. Brown's writing is witty and engaging, with captivating characters, an enthralling plot, and subtle references to Classical Antiquity.

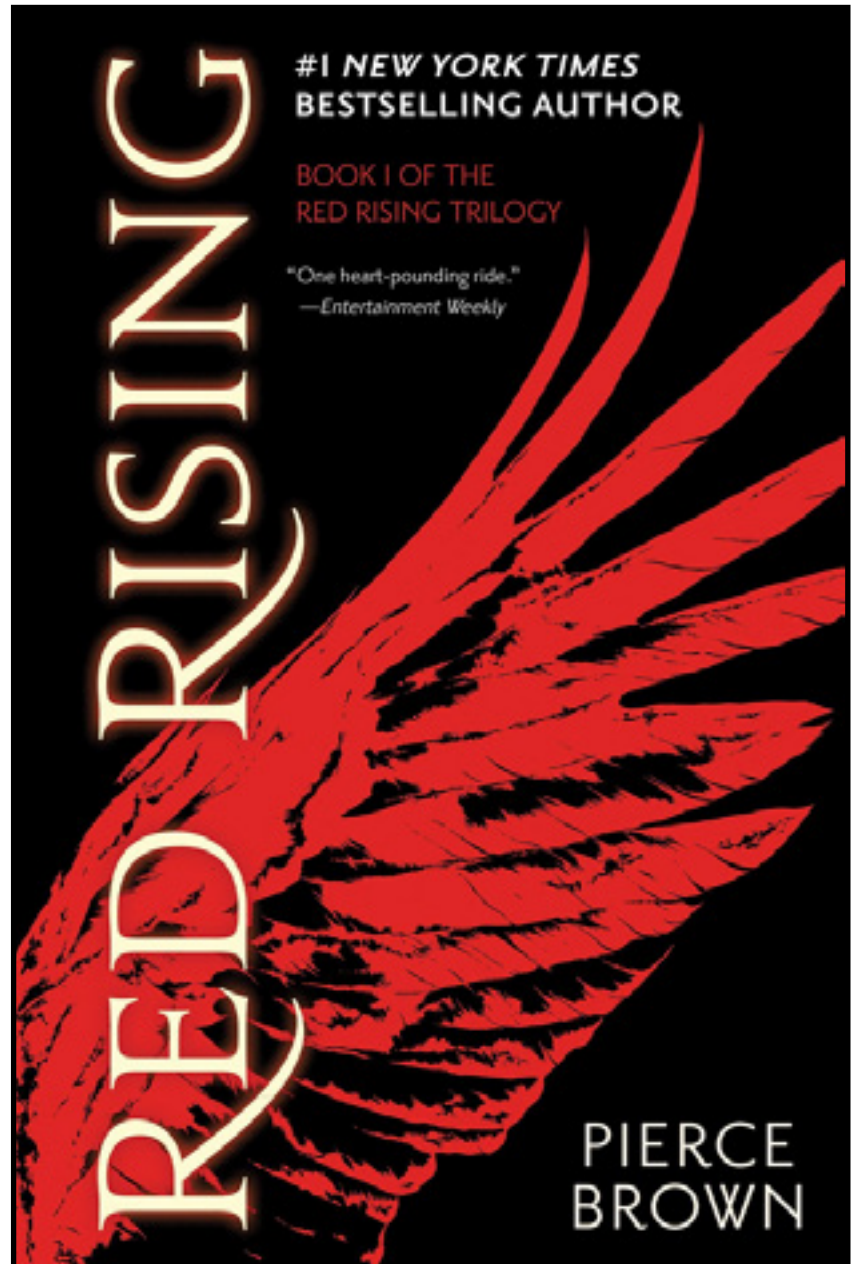
This novel follows Darrow, a young Red who works in the mines. When it is revealed that the Golds in power have been lying to his people for decades, he embarks on a quest to free his people. This looks like undergoing extensive surgery and training to become physically and mentally like a Gold, and joining the academy, where he will try to infiltrate their ranks and fight back from the inside. Darrow will need to become the very people he detests if he wishes to find justice for his people.

As someone who does not have a ton of patience for world building, I initially struggled to get into the book, but once the pace began to pick up, I was unable to put it down. Darrow's struggle speaks to issues that have plagued humans for centuries; making the reader ask themselves questions like is there a natural order to the world of humans, or do we manufacture superiority and oppression?

I loved how this book examined questions like this in a dystopian future while simultaneously drawing from historical literary sources like Plato's "Republic." For instance, in Book III of "The Republic," Plato describes an ideal society with a caste-system; the people with "golden souls"—those who are most intelligent and virtuous—rule over the warriors who have "silver souls," while at the bottom are the producers, or those who have "bronze and iron souls." Brown's writing explores this idea, but in a society where the Golds have abused their power. Darrow is from the lowest caste, Red, which is likely a nod to "bronze and iron souls."

Furthermore, Darrow goes to study at The Academy, which is another nod to philosophy, as Plato's school of philosophy in Ancient Athens was called The Academy. There are also many references to Roman and Greek gods and myths scattered throughout.

Overall, this book is 4.5/5 stars. Brown writes compelling and realistic characters despite an outlandish and fantastical setting, and I enjoy how it mirrors real society issues and draws from classical mythology and philosophy. I



found that Brown's world-building was complicated and at times difficult to follow, but it was not so often that it took away from the story. If you like dystopian fantasy, an interstellar setting, a strong main character, or philosophy, I would recommend giving this book a try!

Stress is high, so take the time to relax

Danniel Huestis
Staff Writer

As the semester winds down, finals are creeping around the corner, and concerns for next semester are arising. Considering this, stress levels are understandably high. With future planning, ongoing assignments, and life in general, it's easy to get caught up, so it is especially important to find the time to relax and recover physically and mentally.

First of all, congratulations! College can be a daunting task to accomplish on any level, and we have all been working extremely hard and deserve to feel relief. Take a brief moment right now to breathe, reflect, and thank yourself for what you are accomplishing.

With everything going on in our lives, it can be hard or seemingly impossible to find time to recover. But in fact, it really is not as impossible as it appears. Make time in your routine for simple mindfulness—it can be as simple as a five-minute enriching task or doing something for thirty-plus minutes. The important thing is that you are at least doing something.

You could take a thirty-minute break from the work you are doing to do a fun activity, make the end of your day be just for you, or even take a “personal day” off. Just remember, taking a break can be accomplished.

When taking time to recover and rest, though you might be unsure of what to do, it's important to take into consideration healthy ways to do it. You want to do something that will truly help, not just mask your exhaustion, so aim for something that will heighten and improve you.

Try to stay away from activities that could cause stress. While your phone is an amazing distraction, it can be overstimulating and stress-inducing. Limiting your phone use when relaxing can prove beneficial. Video games are another great and fun distraction, but like phones, they can also negatively affect your mood. If you find yourself getting frustrated or upset with it, then you should step away to do something that will actually restore you.

Doing light physical activities is a great way to recover both physically and mentally. Doing activities like yoga, walking, and body weight exercises can be great things to do that are low-impact.

Some non-physical activities you can do are things like putting on a show or movie you enjoy watching, or listening to some music. Art is another great way to relax and restore yourself, and you don't need to be an artist to do so. You can just take some paint, markers, or crayons, whatever you have, and just have fun!

Although I am not a professional, I speak from personal experience. As someone who has high-functioning depression, managing my stress levels is a very important thing to me. As a gamer, I love to unwind by playing things like DayZ, Fortnite, and Rocket League, but I can recognize when I need to do something else, so I tend to switch to creating art or watching some YouTubers I enjoy.

At random times, I will do self-care, like grooming my beard/facial hair,

and doing face care. I'll watch animals around my house, like the birds, squirrels, and rabbits, and I will also do things like cooking a favorite or new dish, or I will simply sit and reflect.

Whether you utilize some of my suggestions or have your own ways to rest and restore, you must find or make the time to actually do it. Stress can be a serious thing, so don't ignore it and let it build up.

Brevard College has great resources, from courses like Yoga to extensive counseling services. Some of these services are as follows: group and individual counseling, wellness workshops, meditation, and mental health training and resources. All of these programs can be accessed through the campus's Wellness Center.



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Women's Basketball

Johnson's career-high night lifts Tornados past Bruins

Sophomore forward Kayden Johnson poured in 20 points and seven boards as the Brevard College women's basketball team (1-0) defeated Bob Jones (2-2) in BC's season opener on Tuesday evening at Davis Field House.

Johnson, a second year Tornado from Statesville, North Carolina, went 9-of-13 from the field and grabbed seven boards to lead the Tornado attack off the bench. Senior forward Olivia Miller scored 16 points on 8-of-10 shooting in her first game back with BC, while also controlling a team-best eight rebounds.

Junior guard Aleysha Hill and sophomore guard Analee Morris each

scored 10 points, as four Tornados reached double figures. Morris distributed out a career-high nine assists and added three steals on the defensive end as well.

Both sides were all square after one quarter of action, 11-11, but BC shot 47% from the field in the second period and outpaced BJU 15-6 to take a 26-17 lead at the intermission.

Brevard pulled away for good in the second half, riding hot shooting of 57% (20-of-25) to complete the victory in the season opener, 71-52.

The Tornados are back on the road on Friday at 6 p.m. facing Warren Wilson in Swannanoa, N.C.

Men's Basketball

Panthers sneak past Tornados on Wednesday evening

The Brevard College men's basketball team (1-1) dropped a highly-contested bout against LaGrange (2-0) 92-87 on Wednesday evening inside the Boshamer Gymnasium.

Sophomore guard Tyler Baldwin led the way for BC's four double-digit scorers with a career-high 21 points on 8-of-14 from the field and 5-of-10 from beyond the arc. Jadon Carnes, a senior forward from Concord, N.C., added 20 points with five boards and a team-high six assists. Malachi McLean eclipsed 1,000 points for his collegiate career, as the junior transfer guard from Sanford, N.C. added 13 points with three made 3-pointers. Brock McKnight also scored double digits with 10 points on 4-of-7 shooting. Dre'Shaun Brown grabbed a team-best seven rebounds and swiped a game-high four steals, with Baldwin also adding a couple of crucial second-half steals.

LaGrange was sparked by a 24-point performance by Devin Dowell, who made 11 field goals and a pair of free throws in the contest. The Panthers also had four double-digit scorers, with Kani Rashied-Henry notching the lone double-double of the contest (19 points, 11 rebounds). Micah McAllister scored 15 points with seven boards and three made 3-pointers, and Parker Gonzalez added 10 points.

The Tornados fell in the close contest despite holding a 21-13 assist advantage, a 12-7 edge in 3-pointers, and forcing 12 LaGrange turnovers. The Panthers controlled the glass 33-24 and shot extremely efficiently from the floor, making 38 field goals at a 61.3% clip (38-of-62) including a stunning 17-of-26 performance in the second half of action.

The two sides battled through the first 10 minutes before Brevard used a

quick 7-0 run to go up by a game-high nine points, 32-23, at the 8:09 mark in the first half. LaGrange found an answer however, scoring 22 of the next 25 to open a 10-point lead up over BC, 45-35, with 3:30 remaining in the period. Brevard cut into the deficit ahead of the intermission, pulling to within six points at the break.

Baldwin and Carnes each had nine first-half points, with Baldwin making three 3-pointers in the first period. McLean scored eight of his 13 for the game in the first stanza, as the Tornados shot 51.6% as a team. LaGrange held a 30-16 edge in points in the paint, with Rashied-Henry leading the way with 13 points and five boards at the break.

BC opened up the second half with a 18-9 stretch through the first six-plus minutes to retake the lead by three points, 62-59. LaGrange answered as the two sides went back-and-forth, with the score tied at 67 at the under-12 media timeout at 10:21.

LaGrange went on a 7-0 scoring run, forcing a BC timeout as the Tornados trailed by seven with 8:21 to go. Brevard was able to cut the deficit all the way down to one point, 82-81, following a 3-pointer by Baldwin off a McKnight assist at the 3:23 mark. The Panthers held the Tornados at arm's distance from there, as Brevard was unable to retake the lead down the stretch with LC closing the win out outscoring BC 10-6 for the 92-87 victory.

The Tornados are back in action at 8 p.m. on Friday as both the men's and women's teams compete in a road doubleheader at Warren Wilson in Swannanoa, N.C.