

Brevard College cyclist struck by car, undergoes spinal fusion

'Be careful and aware that cyclists are out there'

Madeleine Pollock
Copy Editor

On Friday, Nov. 14, senior cyclist Owen Clark of Mono, Ontario, was riding on 276 towards Waynesville when he was hit by a car. He suffered two fractured vertebrae in his back and was transported to Mission Hospital in Asheville, where he underwent spinal fusion surgery.

"I was riding my bike, on roads I've ridden plenty of times before, when all of a sudden I was hit from behind," says Clark. "I never saw it coming. I still can't even tell you what kind

of car it was. The best way I can describe the impact itself was as if I was suddenly bucked on a horse."

The driver of the vehicle stayed on the scene and assisted Clark in getting the medical attention he needed, allowing Clark to wait in the backseat of his car until the ambulance arrived.

In addition to racing for the Brevard College Varsity Cycling Team, Clark races for a Canadian professional mountain bike team, Pivot Cycles OTE. This year, he had some stand-out results, like winning the U23 XCO Pan American Championships and a fourth-place result at the UCI U23 XCO Mountain Bike World Cup in Lake Placid, New York.

Clark's recovery timeline is still a bit foggy. "I will be in a back brace for four weeks from the time of the surgery. After that, I can begin physio [Canadian version of physical therapy] and riding the trainer back home," he said. "Hopefully, I will be able to ride outside after four weeks on the trainer and work the fitness back up to race come spring."

As he heads into 2026, Clark will be focusing his energy on recovery in hopes that he can get back to racing on the UCI World Cup scene. He will be turning 23 this year, which means he will have the extra challenge of stepping up into the elite category, on top of his injury.

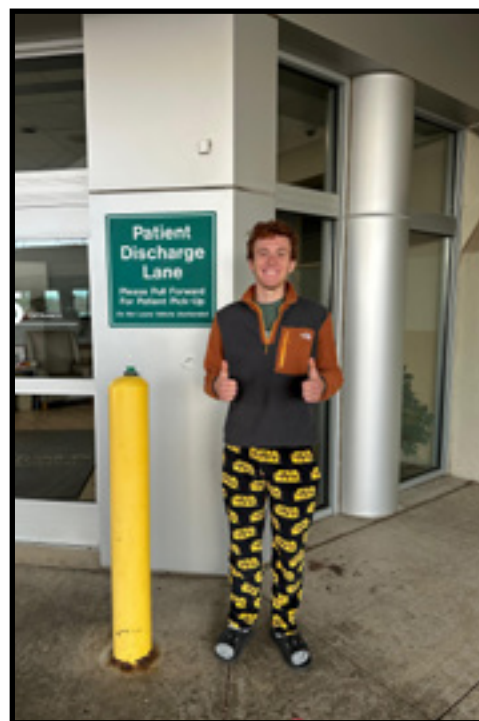
"Even if I'm physically capable, I'll need to wait for the bone to finish fusing," Clark added. "Meaning in all likelihood, I'll be on the bench for the first half of the race season, trying to put training hours in as best I can."

Clark's family and friends have been helping with his recovery so far. "They're making it pretty easy for me," he said. "My family came down immediately once they heard the news. My girlfriend flew across the continent to see me, and my friends bought me Legos. I got tons of messages from people."

North Carolina State Laws say that drivers



Owen Clark wears a back brace at Mission Hospital.



Owen Clark smiles after being discharged from Mission Hospital.

must leave four feet of space when passing cyclists, and may cross a double yellow line to pass safely when there is no oncoming traffic. According to The Charlotte Herald, illegal or unsafe passing can result in a \$1000 fine or even jail time, depending on the severity. It could also result in the injury or death of the road users.

"Please be careful and aware that cyclists are out there on the road too," says Clark. "Don't distract yourself."

The Clarion Staff wish Clark a speedy recovery and hopes that this incident can serve as a reminder to drivers to pass cyclists and other road users with caution and care.

How to properly close down your room before break

Addison Smith
Contributor

With the Christmas break coming up next week, it's time to start getting your dorm ready in order to move out for the month.

The main tasks that need to be done are cleaning the fridge, disposing of the trash, and sorting your clothing. All of these are simple tasks, but they need to be taken care of as soon as possible.

Residents planning to stay over Christmas break must be approved by Housing. If you haven't been approved, please contact Housing via email or visit Tornado Alley.

When it comes to when a student has to leave, they must be out of their room 24 hours after their last exam. For example, if you have your last exam on Monday, December 8th, at 1:30 pm, then you must be out of your room by Tuesday, the 9th, at 1:30. If you need to stay later, then you must speak with your RA and housing.

How you clean up your room depends on

whether you're moving rooms, transferring, or just leaving and coming back.

If someone plans on transferring or becoming a commuter, then they must pack up everything, and it must look just like it did when they moved in.

If someone is moving rooms, then it depends on when they plan on moving. If you have talked to housing and you are moving before you go on break, then you follow the same rules as everyone else, but if you plan on moving when you get back, then you can clean out your whole room and take everything back with you, or just clean up like everyone else and move once you get back.

If you are staying in your room and just leaving for the month, then your RA will give you a checklist that you can go down and check off as you go.

When it comes to dealing with your fridge, it is suggested that you unplug it 3–4 days before you leave. This way, you don't have it melting while

you're away, and you don't come back with a puddle or mold growing. When you unplug it, prop it open with a towel between the door and base in order to soak up some moisture and leaking water, which prevents molding inside.

When dealing with the trash, all must be removed from the room, whether it is in a trash can or not; all of it must be thrown away in the dumpster. There will be extra dumpsters on campus that are available for anyone to use.

When it comes to the room as a whole, it needs to be neat, so no clothes are on the floor, and things are not scattered around.

The last big thing is that anything plugged in the wall must be unplugged; this includes extension cords, chargers, and fans. The only thing that stays plugged in is a wall AC unit if you were provided with one.

If there are questions, you can contact your RAs for more information, but as long as everything on the checklist is marked off, a room is ready to be left.

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BC Psychology Club puts on its biannual self-care night

Zoe Hughes
Managing Editor

The Brevard College Psychology Club put on its infamous self-care night. Self-care night is

to help students de-stress and prepare for finals. The club hosted the event on Thursday night in the Porter Center. They created this evening of relaxation to help students ease some of their stress surrounding finals, and it is held once every semester.

The night was filled with the usual self-care night activities: hot chocolate, stuffed animals, therapy dogs, care packages, and yoga upstairs. One exciting new addition this year was a therapy horse that greeted students outside.



The homemade stress ball making station.



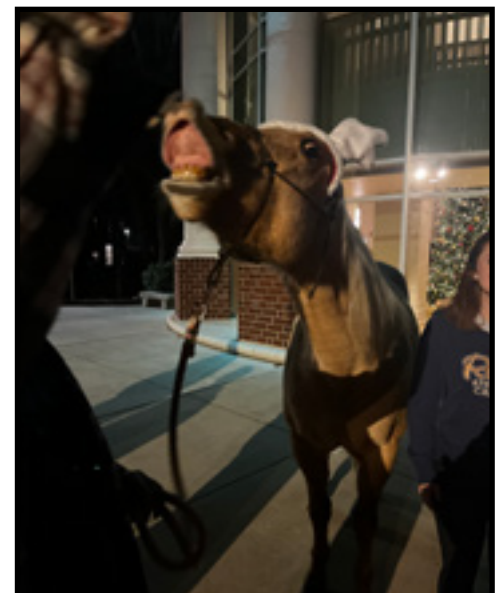
The arts and crafts station.



Brevard College students Kelly Lawson (left) and Emma Murray (right) holding their stuffed animals they made.



Brevard College student Emma Murray (right) and Dixie the therapy horse (left).



Dixie the therapy horse showing off her "smile".

'Wicked: For Good' premieres, delivering a darker, emotional finale

Abigail Callahan
Staff Writer

Runtime: 2 hours and 17 minutes

Genre: Musical Fantasy

Director: Jon M. Chu

Starring: Ariana Grande, Cynthia Erivo, Jonathan Bailey, Ethan Slater, Michelle Yeoh, Jeff Goldblum, Bowen Yang, Marissa Bode, Bowen Yang, Bronwyn James, and Colman Domingo
Now in theaters

The “Wicked” saga continued with “Wicked: For Good,” which premiered Nov. 21, 2025. The movie, directed by Jon M. Chu and starring Ariana Grande as Glinda and Cynthia Erivo as Elphaba, takes the audience on a much darker and emotional journey as the two witches navigate their lives now as important figures.

“Wicked: For Good” picks up after the events of “Wicked” (2024), where Elphaba discovered that the Wizard, who is played by Jeff Goldblum, is a corrupt man who plans to persecute the animals. Madame Morrible, played by Michelle Yeoh, declares Elphaba a fugitive. Elphaba then flees the Emerald City on her broomstick with

the Grimmerie she took from the Wizard, causing a divide between her and Glinda’s friendship.

Part two picks up a few years later with the construction of the yellow brick road and the negative propaganda about the wicked witch with the opening song, “Every Day More Wicked.” Glinda is now a public figure, known as Glinda the Good and engaged to Fiyero, played by Jonathan Bailey, who is now appointed head of the Gale Force. Meanwhile, Elphaba encourages the animals who are leaving to fight alongside her against the Wizard, singing the new song “No Place Like Home.”

As for Nessa Rose, played by Marissa Bode, and Boq, played by Ethan Slater, Nessa Rose has taken the office of Governor of Munchkinland, which she inherited from her father. Boq attempts to abandon Nessa to go confess his love to Glinda before she marries, but Nessa tries to cast a love spell on Boq with Elphaba’s Grimmerie, reads it wrong, and in the process shrinks Boq’s heart. Elphaba saves him by turning him into the Tin Man.

Elphaba returns to the Emerald City to work things out with the Wizard and Glinda and have a partnership, “Wonderful,” but it does not

happen. Chistery, leader of the flying monkeys, reveals animals imprisoned in the Wizard’s lair, and Elphaba sends the animals after the Wizard. Glinda feels isolated in her perfect, privileged life; she sings the new song “Girl in the Bubble,” realizing the truth of Oz and having the decision to “pop her bubble” and take action against it.

Madame Morrible conjures a cyclone, and a house drops on Nessa Rose, which begins the events made familiar in “The Wizard of Oz” with the arrival of Dorothy. “Wicked: For Good” ends with the bittersweet ending of Glinda and Elphaba singing “For Good” as they share an emotional goodbye.

“Wicked: For Good” was received with both positive and negative reviews. The box office gross was \$270 million in the United States, and \$123 million in other territories, for a worldwide total of \$393 million.

The film’s impressive box-office performance and emotional resonance would appear to ensure its place as a memorable finale to the “Wicked” saga and what it truly means to be good. After the success of this movie, Gregory Maguire is now in talks for a Glinda book and perhaps the start of the Wicked Universe.

'Zootopia 2': A zoo full of adventure!

Scarlett Houser
Contributor

“Zootopia 2” has just come out in theaters, following an almost 9-year period of production period after the first film in 2016. But is the sequel film any good, or is it just furry-bait?

I went to see it on Tuesday, and I have a lot to say about the film! It starts very nicely, with a recap from the first movie, where Judy Hopps and Nick Wilde, a cop bunny and a criminal fox, work together to solve a big crime to save the city of Zootopia. The main characters are now justice partners, working for the Zootopia Police Department together.

Judy’s character is portrayed as spastic and determined to get any case to prove herself to the other cops and animals around her, while Nick seems more apathetic and nervous when Judy makes decisions for both of them, rather

than letting him take charge sometimes. This dynamic causes issues with the police chief, and he sends them on a mission for partner therapy to work out their kinks. Meanwhile, Judy is already on the trail of a new case, getting her and Nick into a big party hosted by Zootopia’s biggest and baddest families.

Judy concluded that something bad might happen at said party, regarding a snake, which hasn’t been seen in Zootopia for 100 years. The suspected plan is that a snake will try to steal an important book being showcased at the event, which has the original plans for the city’s “Weather Walls,” which splits the city up into multiple environments for each walk of animal life. Nick and Judy soon track down the snake, but not without being framed for a crime and being marked for a “manhunt” by the police.

From there, we follow Nick and Judy’s crazy adventure, trying to figure out why the book is

important, how the reptiles had disappeared, and why. They pick up a beaver friend who helps them find the snake who tried to steal the book, and are also accompanied by a Lynx, related to the family that owned the book and hosted the party.

I’ll keep the rest of the movie untold, and instead share my overall thoughts on it as a whole: I felt like the movie was a great sequel, and was well-received for sure, as according to Andrew Dalton from AP News, it has “scored a staggering \$556 million globally” since its release. I liked how the story focused on world-building and the character development of Nick and Judy, and didn’t focus on any background knowledge from the show, Zootopia+. It was a great watch, and I recommend it to anyone who likes a well-animated and well-made Disney movie.

Brevard College presents the festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

The Brevard College Concert Choir and Chamber Singers, under the direction of Dr. David Gresham, invite the public to the 28th annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Saturday, December 6, at 7:30 p.m. at the Porter Center for Performing Arts. The concert is free and open to the public.

The annual service follows in the tradition of the longstanding ceremony held at King's Col-

lege in Cambridge, England, where the festival was introduced just over one hundred years ago by a former army chaplain as a response to World War I. The ceremony alternates biblical readings chronicling the prophecy and birth of Christ with carols that illuminate a part of the previous reading.

"As this ceremony began in response to war, a celebration of peace and hope, and a leaning toward the light, I find special meaning in this

year's service of Lessons and Carols with so much of our world in conflict," said Gresham.

As is tradition, the ceremony opens with "Once in Royal David's City," sung first by a soloist, with the choir and congregants joining in later verses. The conclusion of the program is a beautiful arrangement of "Stille Nacht" (Silent Night) sung by candlelight.



Staff Christmas traditions

ZOE HUGHES: MY FAMILY DOES A CHRISTMAS EVE SEVEN-FISH DINNER. IT'S A SOUTHERN ITALIAN TRADITION WHERE WE EAT OVER VARIOUS COURSES THAT INCLUDE SEVEN DIFFERENT FISH. WE DRESS SUPER NICE AND MAKE IT AS FANCY AS POSSIBLE.

AUTUMN JONES: EVERY YEAR, MY MOM GETS MY FAMILY PERSONAL ORNAMENTS FOR THE TREE. WE OPEN THEM ON CHRISTMAS EVE AND HANG THEM UP.

MADELINE POLLOCK: EVERY CHRISTMAS EVE EACH PERSON IN MY FAMILY UNWRAPS A SMALL GIFT. WE ALSO USUALLY EAT HOT CROSS BUNS AND STOLLEN WHILE WE OPEN PRESENTS ON CHRISTMAS MORNING!

OLIVIA TINER: EVERY CHRISTMAS, MY FAMILY ATTENDS A SOLSTICE SERVICE AT OUR LOCAL CHURCH, AND WE GET TO APPRECIATE NATURE AND THE COMING BACK OF THE SUN WITH BEAUTIFUL SONGS AND SPEECHES.

EMMA MURRAY: MY FAMILY ATTENDS MIDNIGHT MASS ON CHRISTMAS EVE. THE DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS, WE WATCH BOXING DAY SOCCER MATCHES ON TV.

Students question the 'turnaround' of Thanksgiving break in the Brevard calendar

Tyson Hinkle
Contributor

At Brevard College, suitcases have hardly been unpacked yet.

Starting this fall, students have a week off for Thanksgiving break, return for a week and a half of classes and finals, and then take off for Winter Break.

Traveling has become expensive, exhausting, and most significantly, useless for students, particularly those who live in other states.

"It's really tough," said Lucas Woodard, a sophomore from Florida who studies exercise science. "I mean it takes me eight or nine hours of driving to get home to settle in for a day—and then I turn around and drive back to campus a few days later."

At Brevard, past fall semesters had a week-long fall break and a three-day Thanksgiving break, followed by further classes and tests in early December. It was good to switch the Thanksgiving and fall break this year to spend more time with family, but the last few days of this semester will probably be among the busiest of the year.

"For students living far from campus, it's more than simply a hassle," Woodard said. "The price of gas is high. The cost of flights is high. We should be studying for finals, but instead we're rushing around."

Some students believe that this calendar arrangement puts pressure on them at the most crucial times of the semester.

Michael Geary, a sophomore business student from New York, described it as "like hopping on a treadmill that's already running at full speed when you're coming back from Thanksgiving."

"There isn't time for a shift from being at home with family and friends to cramming for your finals and turning in important essays," Geary said.

Students have proposed a few solutions to address this problem.

One strategy would be to schedule exams early in November and end the semester before Thanksgiving, thereby marking the end of the fall semester.

"We finish classes and finals before Thanksgiving, allowing everyone to simply return home without worry of going back," Woodard said. "This way you'd experience a mental rest rather than that odd combination of a partial break and finals."

Starting school one week earlier in August could allow exams to conclude before Thanksgiving.

"I would be happy if we began a week earlier so I can complete my finals and go back home," Geary said.

A few students have also suggested more flexibility with respect to classes after Thanksgiving,

such as providing certain finals, presentations, or essays to be completed from home.

"For individuals living far from school, this might be a major game-changer," Woodard said. "If I were able to complete one or two final exams from home, that would save at least one car trip or save a day in class that would otherwise be spent driving."

Staff at the college have emphasized time and time again that changes to the schedule are to benefit students. Students claim to be aware of this, and they hope that future planning will consider their opinions.

"I understand they have rules they have to follow," Geary said. "However, hearing from my friends and classmates who are genuinely doing these extended drives during finals stress needs to be included in the discussion," Woodard said.

"We're not expressing issues without reason," Woodard said. Simple calendar adjustments might significantly lower stress levels and make it possible for us to do better in school. The school should evaluate the effects of this schedule on us and whether it values our success.

Out-of-state students, however, want to voice their concerns as each year goes by and Brevard reviews the academic calendar in the hopes that future Thanksgiving holidays would include less travel and more time to just relax.

November 22- 30, 2025 Thanksgiving Break (No Classes)

Saturday-Sunday

December 5, 2025

Last Day of Regular Class Schedule; Finals Next Week

Friday

December 7-10, 2025

Final Reflections and Assessments

Sunday-Wednesday

The dates of Thanksgiving Break, last day of classes, and finals week on the Brevard College academic calendar.

BC Cycling heads to Fayetteville, Arkansas for the Cyclocross National Championship

Madeleine Pollock
Copy Editor

Next week, the Brevard Cycling Team will travel to Fayetteville, Arkansas, where they will be competing in the USA Cycling Collegiate Cyclocross National Championship, with the individual event taking place on Thursday, Dec. 11, and the relay taking place on Friday, Dec. 12.

“Our primary focus is the team omnium overall at nationals,” says Head Coach Bradford Perley. “We are also looking for some standout individual performances and a strong team relay event.”

The team will consist of 10 student athletes: freshmen Elli Clark, Leo Chicoine, and Lily-Rose Marois; sophomores Ned Broersma, Ayana Gagne, and Kevin Vereecke; junior Madeleine Pollock; and seniors Nicole Bradbury, Matthew Leliveld, and Cole Punchard.

Notably missing from the list of people attending is former mountain bike National Champion and senior, Owen Clark, who is recovering from being hit by a car in training on Nov. 14.

Cyclocross is a hybrid between mountain biking and road cycling, where racers race drop-bar bikes with knobby tires and take on a course that is a mix of pavement, dirt, as well as obstacles that force riders to run or carry their bikes. This cycling format sees racers compete for roughly 45 minutes to one hour and complete multiple laps of an eight to 10-minute course.

“My favorite part about cross is the absolute chaos it brings with the mud and ruts and spectators. It's an insane event, and it's always a good time,” said Leliveld. “I'm hoping this year's cross nats will bring the same kind of atmosphere.”

In preparation for Nationals, the team raced some local North Carolina Cyclocross races, UCI races, and collegiate races. On Nov. 22

and 23, the team raced at the North Carolina Grand Prix at Jackson Park in Hendersonville. NCGP is one of the biggest cross races in the South East, and BC claimed 11 podium spots and numerous other top 10s across collegiate and UCI categories.

Fayetteville hosted the UCI Cyclocross World Championships in 2022, and seniors Leliveld and Kelly Lawson represented Team Canada at the race. Time will tell what the conditions will be like, but Leliveld said that riders were forced to draft off of one another. “It was a super dry and fast race with wind exposure playing a major role.”

“We've got a pretty solid crew this year, and I'm stoked to see what we can do. It would be great to get a podium as a team,” Leliveld added.

Photos by Karis King.

