

Brevard College's Grad Fair: the highlights

Zoe Hughes

Managing Editor

On Thursday, Jan. 29, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Tornado Alley, Brevard College held its annual Graduation fair.

The event included a few tables for soon-to-be graduates to visit. There was a station provid-

ing registrar information so that students could double-check that they had the requirements to graduate. There were also many places to find help with finances: making sure tuition was paid, loan information, and more.

There was a spot for BC Outfitters with handouts with cap and gown purchasing information. GradImages, a commencement photography

organization that provides services to universities and high schools throughout the U.S. and Canada, was there to photograph graduating Brevard students in their regalia.

BC alumna Lex Maclauchlin also gave some sound advice to graduating students at the event, if you have more than one major: "Make sure to pick the cutest hood of your majors!"



BC alumnus Lex Maclauchlin and Scott Douglas pose for a photo. Photo by Zoe Hughes.



The financial aid, Tornado Club and BC Outfitters stations at the Grad Fair. Photo by Zoe Hughes.



The student accounts and registrar stations at the Grad Fair. Photo by Zoe Hughes.



GradImages set up at the Grad Fair. Photo by Zoe Hughes.

Club Spotlight: Dimensions Club

Madeleine Pollock
Copy Editor

Dimensions Club is the main club for Science and Math majors on the Brevard College Campus, but it is open to anyone. The club meets a few Wednesdays each month and hosts a wide range of events, like game nights, chess, VR, day trips, and disc golf.

"I originally intended events to be more Math and science-based," says club President David Hoyle. "But I quickly realized that members of the club wanted events that were more fun and less nerdy."

Hoyle revived the club in 2024 under the leadership of Dr. Ramussen, and it has been thriving ever since. "Our most popular events are trivia and board games, which typically have 15 to 20 people," Hoyle said.

Most meetings include assorted snacks and refreshments, such as chip bags and soda cans, to fuel the club members.

Hoyle said he chose Wednesday nights because they seem to have the fewest conflicts for the student-athletes and are traditionally a lighter class day. "Despite my awesome scheduling, my members still love to show up late."

"At the specified start time, there are almost always fewer than five people, which causes me to freak out and want to disband the club," says Hoyle. "But then we start having good numbers about 15 minutes after the scheduled start time."

"You would expect the members to be math and science majors," says Hoyle, "but they are mainly tennis players and cyclists." Math and science faculty also often participate in and help to facilitate.

Dimensions Club's spring semester is packed with events (see schedule below), but Hoyle says that the highlight of the semester is March Madness. "We will have four separate tournaments, all with gift card prizes for the winners. Players are allowed to compete in as many tournaments as they want."

The March Madness event will consist of a Trivia tournament in the style of Jeopardy, a single elimination Chess tournament, a math tournament, and a Disc Golf tournament.

Those interested in joining Dimensions Club or the March Madness tournament can talk to David Hoyle, Kelly Lawson, Wyatt Grim, or Professor Sam Eastridge to be added to the email list. Interested students or faculty are also welcome to show up to any event, and then can

be added to the club at that point.

"If anyone has any cool event ideas, please let me know. I am also willing to collaborate with other clubs on events," says Hoyle.

Here is the tentative Spring Semester Dimensions Club calendar:

*All events will be held on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise specified. Dimensions March Madness will be held in MS Commons and the surrounding classrooms.

Feb. 4: Board Game Night (Coltrane)

Feb. 18: Trivia Night (Tornado Alley)

March 4: Dimensions March Madness Round 1

March 18: Dimensions March Madness Round 2

March 24, 12:30 p.m. (Advising Day): Dimensions Disc Golf Tournament

March 25: Dimensions March Madness Final Round

April 8: Board Game Night (Coltrane)

April 29: Final Semester Event with pizza (TBD)

Day Trip TBD

THE CLARION

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Winter storm warning for this weekend

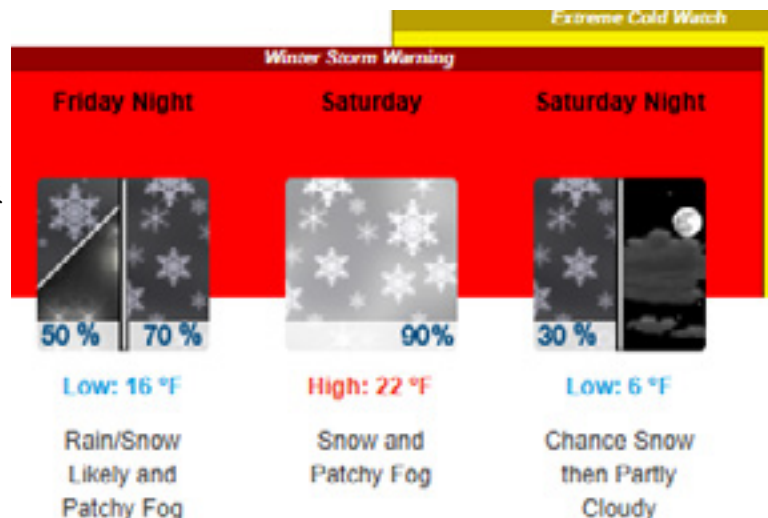
The National Weather Service has issued a winter storm warning for this area from 4 p.m. today until 7 a.m. Sunday.

Heavy snow is expected with accumulations from 4 to 7 inches and winds gusting as high as 55 mph. In addition, bitterly cold temperatures are forecast for Saturday night, as low as 6 degrees.

"The heavy snow will make many roads impassable and may produce isolated power outages due to the weight of the snow on tree limbs and power lines," the warning states. Because of low temperatures, snow is expected to rapidly stick to roads and other surfaces, which could impact Friday evening commutes, and strong winds could cause damage to trees and power lines.

Very gusty winds on Saturday could result in areas of blowing snow, causing very poor visibility.

If you must travel, slow down and use caution, and keep an extra flashlight, food, and water in your vehicle in case of an emergency.



Fully healed: one year later

Jordan Ramey
Staff Writer

It has been a little over a year since that fateful early morning of New Year's Day 2025. Since then, there has been a long road of recovery.

After a night out in Hickory, NC, with a couple of friends from Brevard, we were heading to our Uber when shots rang out. Right then, my life changed drastically. I was struck on my side and hit in my arm. After the initial incident, I suffered from two infections that put me back in the hospital, which amounted to a total of 29 days in the hospital.

After being released from the hospital, my family and I had to learn more than simple first aid. We had to treat my open wounds with wet-to-dry dressings, as instructed by the hospital. The medical staff had to put in two drains for my infections from the original injuries. My family and I had to additionally learn how to maintain and keep up with the updates on my progress.

After I was cleared by doctors and the drains were taken out, I immediately returned to campus because I felt that my place was here. I finished the semester and worked desperately to be able to play football last fall. However, that was not in my cards, and doctors advised that it might not be the best choice, since I wasn't fully recovered and at my full strength. So, I helped



A news headline of the incident.

the team out as a manager.

Being at the point I am at now, I would say I am fully recovered and on the road to competing in the sport I love again. I thank all my family,

friends, and the staff here at Brevard College for being in my corner and helping out whenever it was needed.

Gamma Upsilon Chapter opens scholarship applications for future educators

Autumn Jones
Editor in Chief

The Gamma Upsilon Chapter of NC DKG and Delta Kappa Gamma Society International has recently opened up its scholarship for students' expenses related to pursuing a degree in professional licensure or certification.

"We do look for responses that give a personal story of how going into the education field is important to the applicant," Gamma Upsilon/DKG President Peggy Bayne said. "We are interested in any experience the applicant has already had, but it is not necessary. We do consider outside activities and personal pursuits. Essays need to be personalized, and we discourage any use of AI when responding to these questions. We also expect that student applicants complete the

entire application."

The length of the essay needs to be between 250 and 500 words, specifically about your plans to teach and why you chose your field of education.

"We hope our applicants understand our chapter is a network of educators who are willing to reach out to help," Bayne said. "We know how hard it is to manage finances during the course of a semester. The Grants-In-Aid program is one way to provide support to students planning to become educators."

"We are always looking to support new talent, whether it be music education, physical education, or special education pathways," Bayne continued. "Our Grants-in-Aid Committee has a very caring attitude toward all who complete the application."

To apply, you can follow the link <https://gammaupsiloninc.weebly.com/gamma-upsilon-grants-in-aid.html> or scan the QR code below. All applications are due by April 1, 2026.



Coming up @ BC

Mon. Feb. 2nd
Movie Night Trivia
@ Bills – 6 p.m.

Wed. Feb. 4th
Powder Puff League
@ Turf – 8–9 p.m.

Thurs. Feb 5th
campfire and s'mores
@ res quad – 8 p.m.



VOICE OF THE RIVERS MAY 2026 - CAPE FEAR RIVER

"An expedition-based interdisciplinary study of America's rivers since 1997."

Voice of the Rivers (VOR) is an interdisciplinary program that bridges two academic subjects through an immersive, 18-day expedition. Journeying from source to sea, students explore the river basin firsthand by paddling its waters and camping along its banks. Throughout the expedition, participants engage with diverse stakeholders—including residents, community leaders, schools, and conservation groups—to exchange perspectives and learn about the watershed. VOR fosters a deep appreciation for rivers and inspires lifelong commitment to environmental outreach and advocacy.

Expedition River: The Cape Fear River is a 200 mile long blackwater river in eastern North Carolina, making it the longest river to run entirely within the state's boundaries. The river basin is the largest entirely contained within North Carolina, covering over 9,000 square miles. Beginning at the headwaters north of Greensboro and concluding in the Atlantic Ocean at Wilmington's Cape Fear, the river supports a variety of diverse ecosystems from Piedmont streams to blackwater swamps and rich estuaries. (For info: American Rivers [Cape Fear](#); NC Environmental Education River Basin - [Cape Fear](#))

Photos: CapeFearRiver, Fayetteville, NC www.hightidehelicopters.com/helicopter-tours-cape-fear/

Expedition Team:

10-12 Brevard College students (This could include you!)

Faculty: **Dr. Jennifer Kafsky**, OLEE & **Dr. Sam Taylor**, COM

Expedition Dates:

Expedition: **May 11–28, 2026**

Training Weekend: **April 17-19, 2026**

A weekend in April teaches foundational skills and establishes the framework for the interdisciplinary courses.

Courses: Students earn **six hours** of credit with a LNK course combination that meets multiple General Education requirements.

WLEE 290K: River Recreation, Education, and Conservation: Students will develop awareness of and appreciation for river environments and associated recreation opportunities as they explore the major ecosystems within the Cape Fear River Basin (rivers, lakes, wetlands, estuary and coastal). Students can expect to develop understanding of and skills to help promote river recreation (enjoyment), education (understanding) and conservation (protection).

COM 290K: Environmental Communication and Advocacy: Students will engage directly in environmental communication fieldwork skills such as the practice of critical fieldnotes and memo writing, as well as the development of interview questions for community members based on observations made in the field. Students will develop strategic messages to engage various audiences, seek to empower, build trust, and engage in dialogue with various publics along the way.

Cost: The total cost of \$1,000 includes tuition divided into a deposit and final payment. Brevard College provides equipment, food, accommodations, and transportation for the expedition.

Prerequisites:

- Be ready to learn! No outdoor experience is required. We'll help you develop your outdoor living/ paddling skills.
- Be in good academic and campus life standing, planning to return in 2026-27.
- Attend Team meetings, weekend training, and full expedition.
- Be committed to the team and willing to do your share of helping make the expedition happen!

Application Process/Timeline:

February 10th: Applications Due, Interviews Follow

February 18th: Participants selected

March 4th: Down payment of \$500.00 due

April 15th: Final payment, \$500.00 due

APPLY HERE!

Or email Dr. Kafsky/Dr. Taylor to indicate your interest.

Photos: CapeFearRiver, Wilmington, NC: <https://www.americanrivers.org/river/cape-fear-river/>



Book Review

'The Sword of Shannara' by Terry Brooks

Ivelysse Leighton
Staff Writer

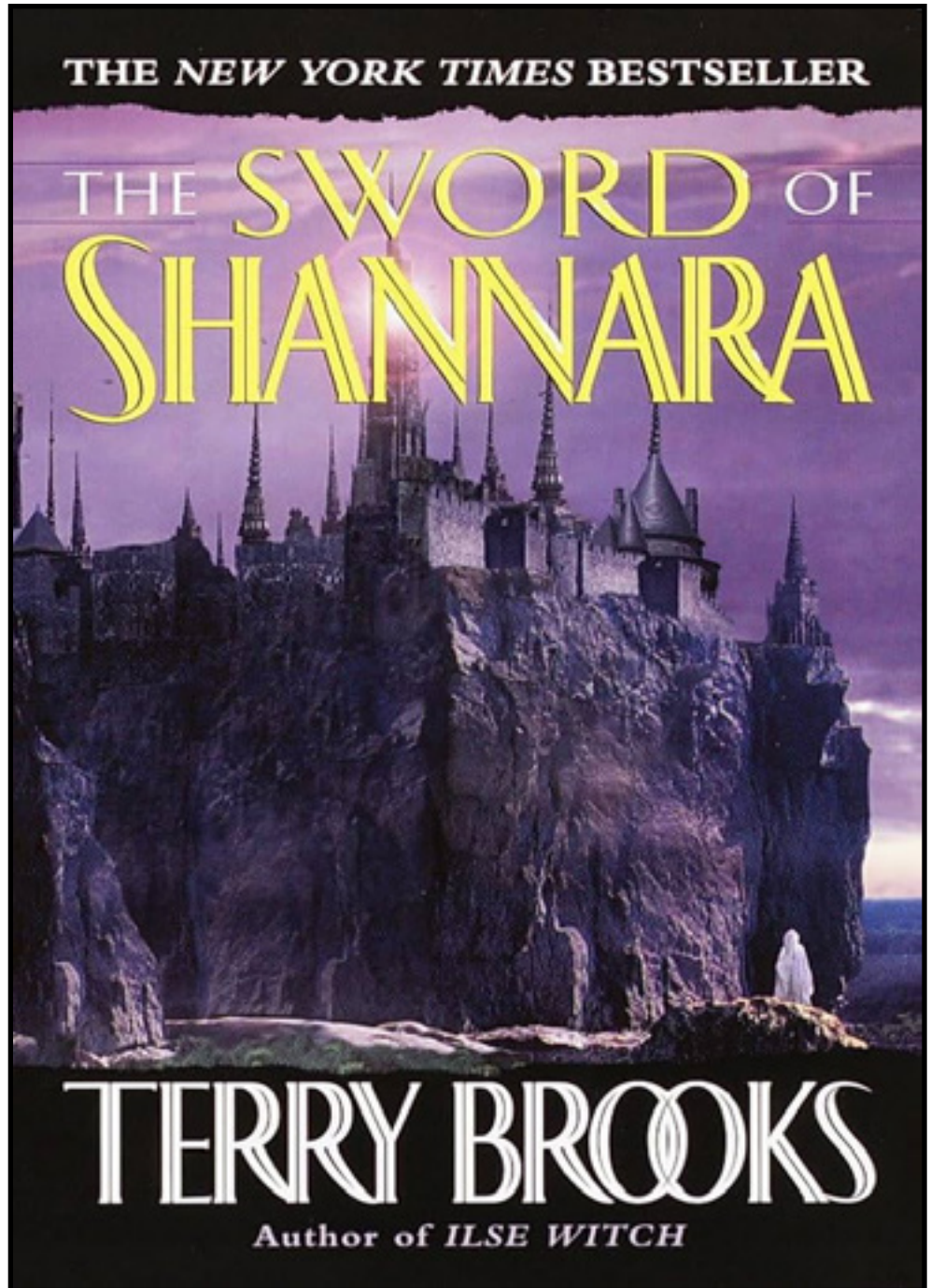
I rated Terry Brooks's "The Sword of Shannara" 4 out of 5 stars. As the opening novel in a three-book fantasy trilogy, it lays a strong foundation for a sprawling, high-fantasy world filled with magic, prophecy, and an unmistakable battle between good and evil. While the story follows a familiar heroic structure, Brooks brings enough emotional weight and immersive world-building to make the journey engaging and worthwhile.

The novel centers on Shea Ohnsford, a quiet, reluctant hero living an ordinary life until he learns he is the last descendant of a powerful bloodline. Shea is soon joined by his brother Flick and a growing group of companions, including the wise and secretive druid Allanon, the fierce elf warrior Amberle, and the loyal dwarf Hendel. Each character brings a distinct presence to the story, and their relationships feel earned as they are forged through danger, sacrifice, and shared purpose. Shea's internal struggle—his fear of responsibility and uncertainty about his role—grounds the epic narrative in something deeply human.

The plot unfolds as a classic quest narrative, with the group racing against dark forces seeking the Sword of Shannara, the only weapon capable of defeating the Warlock Lord. Brooks excels at building tension through his landscapes and settings, which feel vast, ancient, and alive. Forests, ruins, and strongholds are described with enough detail to pull the reader fully into the Four Lands without becoming overwhelming.

It is nearly impossible to read "The Sword of Shannara" without drawing comparisons to "The Lord of the Rings," and the influence is clear in both structure and tone. However, while the similarities are noticeable, Brooks still manages to carve out his own identity by focusing more on emotional conflict and the psychological cost of heroism. Rather than simply inheriting destiny, Shea actively resists it, which adds depth to his character and makes his journey feel more personal.

As the first book in a trilogy, some moments feel slower as the world and mythology are being established, but the payoff comes in the novel's later chapters, where stakes rise, and choices carry real consequences. The ending leaves



enough resolution to feel satisfying while clearly setting up the larger story to come.

Overall, "The Sword of Shannara" is a solid and compelling start to a fantasy trilogy. Despite its familiar framework, the novel succeeds through strong character introductions, immer-

sive world-building, and emotional stakes that linger beyond the final page. I would absolutely recommend this book to readers who enjoy classic fantasy adventures and are looking for a series that grows richer with each installment.

Music Review

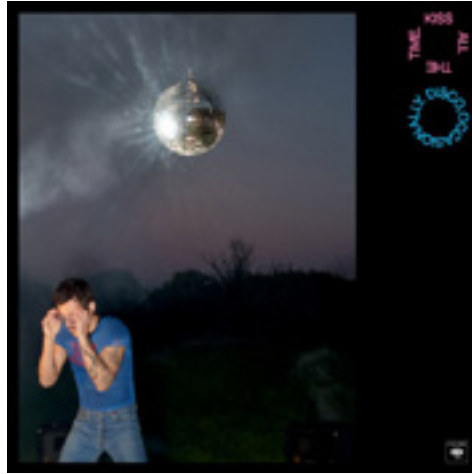
Harry Styles is back

Abigail Callahan
Staff Writer

Harry Styles is officially returning to the music spotlight, announcing his new album “Kiss All the Time. Disco Occasionally,” which will be released on May 16, and will be followed by a year-long global tour titled “Together, Together.”

His albums are typically known for blending classic pop, rock, and soul, but the new project leans into more disco, electro, and EDM-influenced sound. An article from Forbes said, “The track, the first official single from his upcoming fourth solo album Kiss All the Time. Disco, occasionally, stands a great shot at launching at No. 1 on various tallies, especially in his home country of the United Kingdom.”

Following the album, Styles announced and confirmed the plans for a global tour unlike any he has done before. It is not set up like a normal city-to-city run; the ‘Together, Together’ tour will feature extended residencies in select major cities



across Europe, the Americas, and Australia.

The most exciting part of the tour will be multiple nights in each country and a residency in New York City, where Harry Styles is set to perform a historic run of shows at Madison Square Garden for at least 30 days. In addition to this residency, he plans to

go to the following cities: London, Amsterdam, Mexico City, São Paulo, Melbourne, and Sydney.

The announcement has gained excitement across social media, where fans celebrate both the new music and the return to live performances. The ticket demand is expected to be high, following the success of Styles’ previous tours and the global popularity of his last album. Styles released the first song of the album on Jan. 23 called ‘Aperture’.

In the article from Forbes, “The release of ‘Aperture’ helps turn Styles’s two projects into bestsellers as well as powerful streamers. ‘Harry’s House’ loses out to ‘Fine Line’ in this regard, as the former appears in the lower reaches of both the Official Physical Albums and Official Albums Sales tallies. At the same time, ‘Fine Line’ breaks back in nearly 20 spaces further north on the pair of tallies that look only at purchases throughout the U.K.”

With the new direction and a tour designed around connection rather than speed, 2026 is looking to be an amazing chapter in Harry Styles’ career.

TV Review

‘Chad Powers’ takes on college football

John B. Padgett
Contributor



Successful movies and TV series have been adapted from real-life events, from video games, even from theme park attractions, so why not one based on a comedy sports skit that appeared originally on ESPN?

That’s the case for “Chad Powers,” a comedy series now streaming on Hulu. It is based on a skit in which Eli Manning, the two-time Super Bowl quarterback for the New York Giants (and before that, at Ole Miss), undergoes a Hollywood makeover to disguise his looks so that he could clandestinely compete for a walk-on position on the Penn State football team.

The 15-minute skit originally aired in 2022 on “Eli’s Places,” a documentary series about college football that has aired for three seasons on the ESPN networks. It is available to view on YouTube.

Now, “Chad Powers” is a six-episode series starring Glen Powell as Russ Holliday, an arrogant, scandal-ridden quarterback for the Oregon Ducks who in the opening episode is poised to redeem his reputation and singlehandedly win the national championship against the Georgia Bulldogs in the Rose Bowl, but who snatches defeat from the jaws of certain victory because of a bone-headed mistake. Moments later, he exacerbates his shame

and humiliation by getting into an altercation on the sideline with a fan and his terminally ill child.

Fast forward eight years, when Holliday seems about, finally, to make his mark as an athlete in the XFL when fate intervenes once again to derail his hopes and dreams. His father, a make-up artist for a Hollywood studio, tells him point blank: it is time to move on.

Then, while making a delivery of some prosthetics and make-up for his dad, he sees a movie poster for “Mrs. Doubtfire” and gets an idea: why not try starting over as someone else?

Goodbye, Russ Holliday. Hello, Chad Powers. “Chad” enters walk-on tryouts at the fictional South Georgia University, whose head coach, Jake Hudson (played by Steve Zahn) is under pressure to turn their losing ways around or risk losing his job.

Powell has already been a star in two “reboots” of existing films, “Top Gun: Maverick” and “Twisters,” both in 2022, so he is a natural for this “reboot” of the character originally created by Eli Manning. Powell essentially plays two roles in the series: the narcissistic, Cybertruck-driving has-been Russ Holliday, and the soft-voiced, naive, home-schooled Chad Powers with no discernible past or record as a student athlete. Powell is also a co-writer and executive producer on the series.

The series is funny right from the start, when we learn of Russ’s troubled season at Oregon (which includes a suspension, a bomb threat, and a “Las

Vegas freeway incident”) and the subsequent eight years, during which he appeared on “The Masked Singer” and posted conspiracy theories about Princess Diana. The series really takes off, however, when Russ assumes the other persona and must constantly improvise when asked difficult questions, such as: What is your name?

One of the comedic pleasures of the series is spotting the real-life people who make cameo appearances. The opening Rose Bowl game, for instance, is being called by actual ESPN sportscasters Kirk Herbstreit and Chris Fowler, who says Georgia’s win is “the most outrageous, improbable, inexplicable, painful way for Holliday and the Ducks to lose a championship.”

Herbstreit weighs in with the obvious question: “What was Holliday thinking?”

The humor is crude at times and makes ample use of profanity, so it may not be for everyone, but it does have emotional depth, especially with the character of Danny, the team mascot for the South Georgia Catfish who helps Russ with his disguise, and Ricky, a female assistant coach who befriends “Chad” while facing her own challenges of being respected by the other coaches.

Ultimately, the major questions throughout the six episodes are to what lengths and for how long can “Chad” keep from being discovered as Russ, and in this regard, the series is at times both absurd and convincing.

Dominant effort leads Brevard to eighth-straight victory

Brevard College women's basketball (14-3, 9-1 USA South) outscored Pfeiffer (9-7, 7-3 USAS) by 24 in the first half, including a 24-10 second-quarter advantage, and capped the contest off by outpacing PFU by 22 in the second half to drill the Falcons 87-41 on Tuesday evening at Merner Gymnasium in Misenheimer, N.C.

With the victory, the Tornados have now won eight games in a row, all against USA South opposition.

Sophomore guard Analee Morris paced four double-digit scorers with 20 points in 21 minutes, going 8-of-9 from the charity stripe. Fellow sophomore forward Kayden Johnson added 16 points with nine boards, four assists, and three blocked shots. Christena Rhone drained three 3-pointers in a 15-point performance to lead bench scoring for Brevard, while Olivia Miller notched her sixth double-double of 2025-26 with 14 points and 10 rebounds. Jada Petty-Wilkins stuffed the stat sheet with eight points alongside seven assists, five rebounds, and four steals.

Brevard opened the game up in the first quarter with a highly-efficient 10-of-16 mark from the field, scoring 21 points to open up a 10-point lead, 21-11. The Tornados proceeded to begin the second quarter on a 15-0 scoring run, outpacing the Falcons 24-10 in the frame to push their lead to 24 points at the intermission, 45-21.

Morris led all Tornados with 13 points at the break, making four field goals with one 3-pointer in addition to a 4-of-5 mark at the free throw line. Miller joined Morris in double figures at the break, scoring 10 points with five boards. Johnson added eight points on four made field goals with five rebounds and two blocked shots, as the Tornados logged seven first-half steals with three blocked shots in the stanza.

BC went 60% from the field in the first half, while the Tornado defense smothered Pfeiffer and forced the hosts into a 6-of-35 (17%) mark from the field and held the lethal Falcon offense to just one 3-pointer made. Pfeiffer trailed despite out rebounding BC on the offensive glass, 12-3, as the Tornados dominated the paint in the

first half outscoring PFU 30-6 down low.

From halftime on, the Tornados had little trouble putting the contest out of reach. BC sprinted past Pfeiffer in the third period, 20-7, hitting three 3-pointers in the stanza. The Tornados then controlled the fourth quarter 22-13 to wrap up the 46-point victory.

Brevard shot 53% in the contest, hit seven 3-pointers, and shot 41% from beyond the arc. The Tornados went 17-of-18 at the free throw line, while Pfeiffer controlled the glass 51-44 including a wide 26-7 margin on the offensive glass. The Tornados have now defeated nine opponents in 2025-26 by 20 or more points.

Brevard now awaits a rematch of the 2025 USA South Conference Tournament Championship, as round one of the season against Southern Virginia is next on the docket. The contest is currently scheduled for Saturday at 2 p.m., but is subject to adjustment due to pending winter weather conditions.



All photos by Chris Fortman via Brevard College on flickr.