



Seattle Seahawks victorious over New England Patriots at Super Bowl LX

Tyler Mabry
Contributor

Super Bowl LX marked the end of the 2025 NFL season on Feb. 8, 2026, at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California.

The Seattle Seahawks were victorious over the New England Patriots 29–13 for the Seahawks' second-ever Super Bowl championship.

Seattle leaned on a well-performing defense to keep control of the game. The Patriots had a difficult time on offense throughout the matchup and only scored twice in the fourth quarter, when it was too late.

While the Seahawks' defense got a lot of the credit, soon-to-be Super Bowl MVP Kenneth Walker III led the way for the Seahawks offense. He tallied 135 rushing yards along with 26 receiving yards to give Seattle many opportunities to put points on the scoreboard.

Seattle kicker Jason Myers was outstanding throughout the contest, going a perfect 5-for-5

on field goals and adding two PATs (point after touchdown), giving his team 17 points just off of his own cleat.

Patriots quarterback Drake Maye, who was the NFL MVP runner-up in just his second season, was pressured all night by Seattle's defensive front. He was sacked six times throughout the game and was pressured on 52.8 percent of his dropbacks.

The pressure from Seattle really got to the young quarterback as he ended up throwing two interceptions. One was returned for a touchdown late in the fourth quarter to basically seal the victory of the Seahawks.

While Drake Maye didn't have the best game, he did all he could to keep his team afloat, firing in two touchdown passes in the fourth quarter alone. By the time he threw those touchdowns, however, it was too late, and the deficit was too large to overcome with so little time remaining.

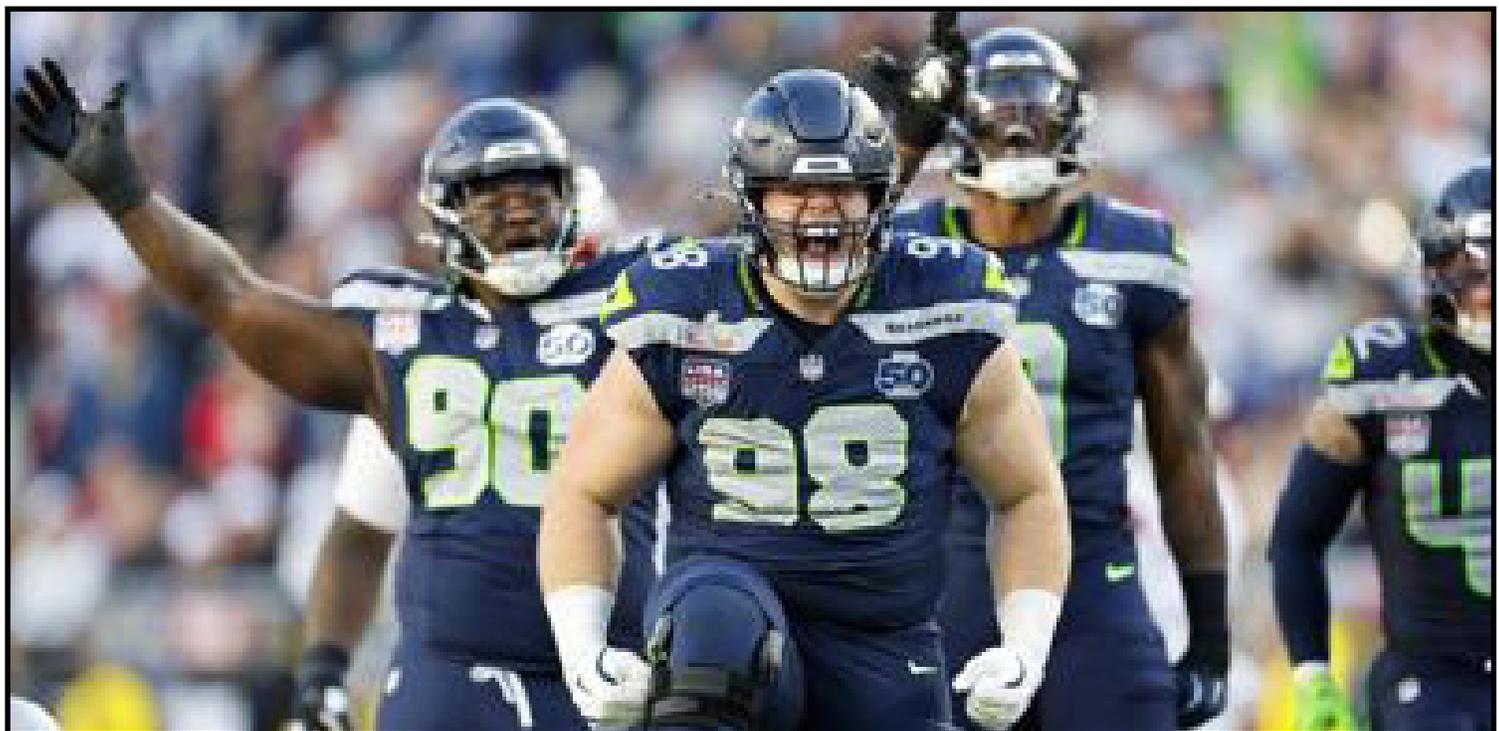
As the game clock hit zero, the Seahawks' players and coaches stormed the field, embrac-

ing each other in the sweet taste of victory after what had been a long and exhausting season.

Once the initial adrenaline rush was over and the confetti was covering the field, the Seahawks gathered on the podium to hoist their reward, the prestigious Lombardi Trophy. They also gathered to learn who would be named Super Bowl LX MVP.

The player receiving that award would be the running back Kenneth Walker III, due to his consistency and his ability to get chunk plays with his legs. Walker III would become the first running back in 28 years to win the award since Hall-of-Fame running back Terrell Davis did so in 1998.

After another NFL season comes to a close with a champion crowned, we football fans will have to wait until mid-August to see the NFL back in action. But that leaves us fans with one question: Who will be next year's Super Bowl champion?



More than just a book club: finding 'Shelf Care' on campus

Autumn Jones
Editor in Chief

In a high-stress college environment, finding a “safe space” to unwind is essential. Enter the Shelf Care Club, a campus organization dedicated to promoting mental well-being through a shared love of reading and writing.

The club’s name isn’t just a clever pun; it’s a mission statement. According to club president Karis King, the humanities provide tangible health benefits.

“Reading increases dopamine in the brain, causing a decrease in overall stress,” King explains, noting that consistent writing has even been linked to a reduced risk of cognitive decline. “I thought this name was a great fit, as the club promotes mental well-being through humanities-oriented activities.”

Unlike a traditional English class, there are no “required” readings here. The Shelf Care Club is designed to be a “fun, nerdy, and whimsical” community where students can geek out about their favorite characters without the pressure of a grade.

What to expect at a meeting:

Book Raving: Members share recommendations and critique writing styles.

Voluntary Sharing: “You never have to share your work with us,” says

King. “If you are more of an admirer instead of a presenter, that is very much welcomed.”

Creative Exercises: Activities like blackout poetry help “cleanse the palette” for student writers.

The club also priori-



The Shelf Care Club’s set up for last year’s book swap— photo via shelf_care_club_bc Instagram.

tizes “human interactions” over digital algorithms. This includes field trips to local spots like Highland Books to discover local authors and breathe fresh air away from social media feeds.

Back on campus, the club hosts popular events like their annual Book Swap. “Most people came to swap a textbook they were required to read, but in return, they received a book that was a mystery to them,” King recalls. This year’s swap is scheduled for April.

This semester, the club is leaning further into its wellness roots. Students can look forward to a yoga and poetry meditation session guided by club advisor Dr. Bensel, designed to help writers reset and get back on track.

Whether you’re a lifelong writer or just someone looking for a little more “whimsy” in your life, the Shelf Care Club offers a place to belong.

THE CLARION

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Members of the club at a meeting in October. Games were played, they made their own Cards Against Humanity, and made blackout poetry— photo via shelf_care_club_bc Instagram.

Fine Arts Gala at Brevard College sets records, dazzles guests

The 16th annual Brevard College Friends of the Fine Arts Love the Arts Gala hosted a capacity crowd of 135 guests on Saturday, Feb. 7, at the Paul Porter Center for Performing Arts. This year's event, titled "An Evening in Paris," raised a record \$130,000 to benefit Brevard College Fine Arts students and programs.

Guests were dazzled as the Porter Center transformed into a Parisian wonderland. Scott Concert Hall became the Louvre, the Morrison Playhouse turned into the Moulin Rouge, and the Francis Pavilion was reimagined as the Jules Verne restaurant in the Eiffel Tower.

Brevard College students showcased their art and performed music throughout the venue, including solo vocalists at the Moulin Rouge. Student actors entertained guests as mimes and other Parisian characters, and BC students also served as wait staff and assisted with overall event production.

"This was our best gala to date in so many ways," said Dr. Kathryn Gresham, Associate Professor of Music and Chair of the Fine Arts Division at Brevard College. "The Evening in Paris theme inspired tremendous creativity from our staff and gave the event a level of cohesion we haven't experienced before. The students truly brought their A-game — decorating, serving, performing, creating art, engaging with guests, bringing excitement to the Fund-A-Dream, and staying late to help with the breakdown."

Fundraising, through ticket sales, sponsorships, and a silent auction, culminated with the Fund-A-Dream live auction-style event to support the College's Fine Arts programs and students.

"The fundraising total far exceeded expectations," stated Gresham. "I'm especially encouraged by the strong sponsorship support secured by our Alumni Affairs and Development team, as well as the number of new and returning guests. It's clear we're cultivating a growing and enthusiastic donor community for the Fine Arts at Brevard College, and that's incredibly exciting."

The event also featured a performance by the Brevard College Chamber singers under the direction of music professor Dr. Vance Reese. The Chamber singers will be traveling to Paris with Professor of Music Dr. David Gresham this June to perform, a trip made possible by an endowment from community members.

Now in its 16th year, the Friends of the Fine Arts has helped shape the journeys of several Brevard College Fine Arts alumni whose stories were told at the Gala.

Logan Taylor '17, a BC graduate with a degree in Technical Theatre with an Emphasis in Lighting Design, shared his story with the guests. Just four days after graduation in 2017, Taylor began his full-time career as Lighting Director for the Steep Canyon Rangers. He later worked with Steve Martin and Martin Short on the Netflix special *An Evening You*



Friends of the Fine Arts founders Jack and Reed Parker receive an award from President Bradley J Andrews in recognition of their ongoing dedication to Brevard College. Photo Credit: Brevard College Communications.

Will Forget for the Rest of Your Life and will work as Lighting Designer for their upcoming comedy tour.

A special presentation was made to Jack and Reed Parker, the founders of the Brevard College Friends of the Fine Arts. The Parkers were honored for their longtime service to the Fine Arts at the College with an award presented by Brevard College President Bradley J Andrews. The award presentation was followed by a performance of the Flower Duet from the opera *Lakmé* by Brevard College music students Wren Crook and Sevi Smith, accompanied by Dr. Vance Reese.

Jack and Reed Parker were the Diamond sponsors for the event with Floressence Flowers serving as the event's Platinum sponsor. Bruce and Sandy Kirkman, Joe and Nancy DePippo, Bob Lawrence and Sue Rossman, Jennifer and Ray Henley, and PLATT Architecture, Construction & Interiors were Gold sponsors. Several additional individuals contributed as Silver and Bronze sponsors.

BC Fine Arts Alumni Benefit from FOFA

Below are examples of Brevard College Fine Arts alumni who have benefited from funds raised by the Friends of the Fine Arts and events such as the FOFA Love the Arts Gala. This includes participation at the Southeastern Theatre Conference and the summer study stipend which allows students to pursue specialized training.

Rachel Byrd '22: teaches middle school art in Spartanburg, South Carolina; spent her summer study devoted to excavation studies at a Minoan palace in Crete.

Grace Dempsey '24: serving in a coveted Juilliard School stage management apprenticeship.

See 'Brevard College Fine Arts Gala recap,' page 4.

How to make the moment: Rama Duwaji's outstanding political fashion sense

Zoe Hughes
Managing Editor

Rama Duwaji is a 28-year-old Syrian-American animator, illustrator, ceramist, and, most recently, the first lady of New York City.

In her art, Duwaji often explores Arab culture and focuses on social injustices in the Middle East, most notably women's rights. Since 2023, Duwaji made many works about the genocide in Gaza. Duwaji knows how to communicate a message through her artistic flair, and her fashion is no exception.

A great example of Duwaji's fashion communication was her outfit at her husband, Mayor Zohran Mamdani's, mayoral inauguration. The standout piece she wore was a chocolate brown funnel-necked princess-lined coat with a fur trim on the cuffs and skirt.

According to Vogue.com, the coat was a custom reworking of a piece from the brand Renaissance Renaissance's Fall 2023 collection. The designer was Cynthia Merhej, the Palestinian-Lebanese founder of the label. Duwaji made sure she stood out amid the puffers and overcoats in

the freezing temperatures.

While Duwaji has not explicitly said anything, she has spun a clear message with her fashion. By working with a Palestinian designer, she's making a statement: she stands with Palestine amidst the political tension in the Middle East.

Her stylish messages do not stop there; almost everything that she wore for the inauguration was rented or vintage. Shannon Hoey, the founder of New York Vintage, summed up her fashion choices that evening perfectly in an article from Vogue.com: "Rama's choice to wear vintage earrings, circa 1980s, was incredibly meaningful, by renting, rather than purchasing, she not only gave new life to an archival piece, but also made a quiet statement about sustainability, circular fashion, and the importance of supporting small, independent businesses."

Duwaji has a genuine understanding of how to talk through one's fashion, and she does not shy away from the scrutiny of the public. She embraces the attention, using it to her advantage to perpetuate certain ideals. As an artist, she is not unfamiliar with this practice, but she combines her eye for detail with her husband's political platform, using both to create healthy social commentary.

Brevard College Fine Arts Gala recap

Continued from page 3

K'unique Eichelburger '21: recently concluded a national tour with the musical PAW Patrol Live and is currently in Thailand performing with Norwegian Cruise Lines while waiting on his call to Broadway as a standby for MJ the Musical.

Tori Franklin '17: After two seasons at the Sarasota Opera and two summers with the Janiec Opera Company of the Brevard Music Center, currently sings with the Knoxville Opera.

Naomie April Gibbs '22: working as a singer/songwriter in New Orleans; used her summer stipend to study songwriting at the Berklee School of Music.

Emma Harris '22: recently signed with East Coast Talent Agency and is working in the film industry.

Eli Hughes '24: currently a professional stage manager in Minneapolis.

Hallie Moore '19: landed the job of Assistant Wig and Makeup Supervisor for 1776 on Broadway.

Megan Murph '09: currently an Assistant Professor of Musicology at the University of Missouri.

Rachel RisCassi '15: after completing a Master's degree in voice, built a nationally acclaimed adventure wedding photography business.

Taylor Sparrow '24: currently serves as



Brevard College Fine Arts students celebrate the finale of the 2026 FOFA Love the Arts Gala. Photo Credit: Brevard College Communications

Technical Director for Brevard College.

Shawnaizja Simmons '23: sells fabric-based wearable art that fosters self-expression.

Riley Sullivan '18: currently the Music Director at Central Carolina Academy in Sanford, North Carolina.

Logan Taylor '17: will work as Lighting Designer for Steve Martin and Martin Short's upcoming comedy tour, previously served as Lighting Director for Steep Canyon Rangers.

Cal Vargas '19: works as a professional spe-

cial effects makeup artist in Los Angeles.

Teila Vochatzer '19: currently the Props Supervisor at Southern Methodist University and Assistant Production Manager at Des Moines (Iowa) Metro Opera.

C. Alex Webster '17: now touring with Missoula Children's Theatre, previously served as Assistant Professor of Theatre at Oklahoma Baptist University.

Anthony Zuniga '20: voice actor in Atlanta who used his stipend to attend the Open Jar

Friday the 13th: Why this date still spooks millions

John B. Padgett
Contributor

Depending on who you ask, Friday the 13th is either a day for extreme bad luck, a trigger of superstitious dread, or a long-running horror film franchise featuring “Jason,” a hockey mask-wearing serial killer.

Oh, and one more thing: Friday the 13th IS TODAY!

Every year has at least one Friday the 13th—last year’s was in June. But this year, we have not one, not two, but THREE Friday the 13ths on the calendar.

The second one is next month and will come toward the end of spring break. (It’s also the day that the Banff Film Festival opens on campus, so plan accordingly.) Because February has 28 days in non-leap years (four weeks exactly), the day and date for the first 28 days of March match those of February.

The third Friday the 13th in 2026 will be in November, the week after this year’s midterm elections (which will conclude on Nov. 3).

Of course, today’s Friday the 13th is a bit unusual because it occurs just before a date famous (or infamous) for another reason, prompting USA Today to publish an article on Monday with the headline “Unlucky in love? Friday the 13th arrives right before Valentine’s Day.”

The article goes on to suggest a few things superstitious types might wish to avoid today, which include breaking a mirror, stepping on cracks, or crossing paths with a black cat. It also points out how some businesses use this day to promote deals on goods and services, such as tattoo shops.

“Many tattoo shops will run special promotions and discounts on the day,” the article says. “In some cases, tattoo parlors may charge a flat rate at or even under shop minimum (the minimum fee a shop will usually charge on a tattoo to cover the cost of the basic supplies and overhead).”

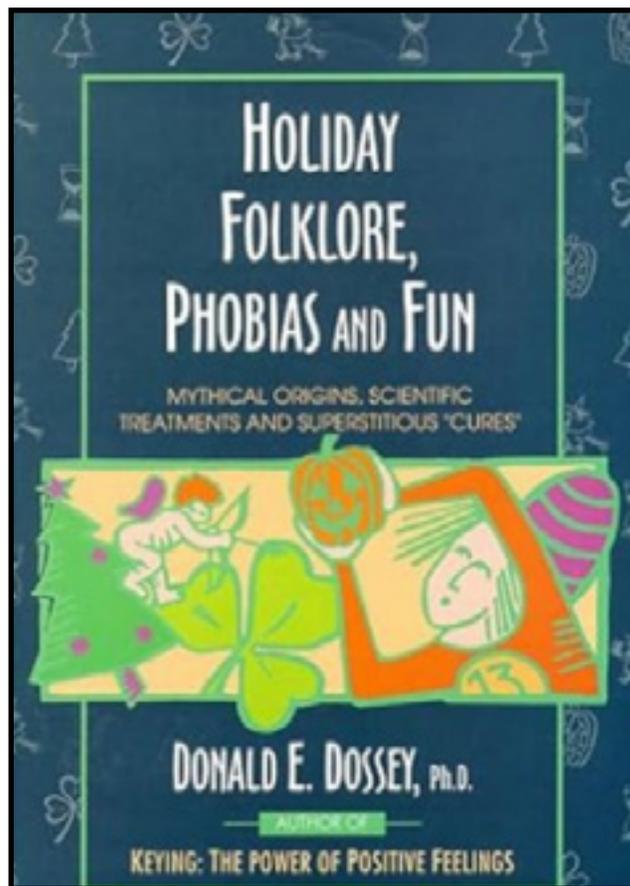
If you’re thinking about a new tattoo today, it might be worth your while to ask if there are any discounts or other deals.

Still, even if you’re not superstitious, the long-standing wariness, if not fear, of the date (and the number 13) has a real-world effect. Many multi-story buildings, for instance, especially hotels, apartment buildings, and hospitals, just skip the 13th floor. Airliners usually avoid the 13th row. And some places find other ways to avoid 13. San Francisco, for instance, has numbered avenues, except for 13th—what would be 13th Avenue (between 12th and 14th) is named “Funston Ave.” in Frisco.

Psychologists have words for this irrational fear of things and dates associated with 13. “Triskaidekaphobia” is the technical term for fear of the number 13. That concept is referred to in “The Fear of 13,” a memoir and 2015 documentary about Nick Yarris, who spent 22 years on death row for a crime he did not commit before being found innocent by DNA evidence and released in 2004. (Yarris’ story, incidentally, has now been adapted into a Broadway drama starring Adrian Brody. The show opens March 19, 2026, and will run for 16 weeks at the James Earl Jones Theatre in New York City.)

Yarris titled his book “The Fear of 13” because while in prison, he read extensively and taught himself new words, including triskaidekaphobia.

The specific reasons for fear and/or loathing of the number 13 are varied and uncertain. Donald Dossey, a behavioral psychologist and folklore historian, traced fear of 13 to a Norse myth in which 12 gods were having a dinner party at Valhalla when an uninvited 13th guest walked in: the



Donald Dossey’s book “Holiday Folklore, Phobias and Fun: Mythical Origins, Scientific Treatments and Superstitious ‘Cures’” was published in 1992. A print copy of it is available in the Transylvania County Library.

mischievous Loki. The story goes, Loki somehow got Hoder, the blind god of darkness, to shoot Balder the Beautiful, the god of joy and gladness, with a mistletoe-tipped arrow.

“Balder died, and the whole Earth got dark,” Dossey said in a 2004 interview. “The whole Earth mourned. It was a bad, unlucky day.”

Other possible sources for fear of 13 are biblical: 13 were present at the Last Supper, for instance, which would lead in a few hours to Jesus’ betrayal by Judas and eventual crucifixion.

Mathematically, 13 comes after what numerologists consider a “perfect” number, 12: the 12 tribes of Israel, 12 months of the year, 12 signs of the Zodiac, and so forth. (Even human anatomy can play into this perception: 10 fingers plus two feet equals 12.)

By exceeding 12 by 1, 13 came to be associated with bad luck for being “a little beyond completeness,” according to Thomas Fernsler, an associate policy scientist in the Mathematics and Science Education Resource Center at the University of Delaware.

See ‘Friday the 13th, page 6

Explore all the activities Brevard has to offer

Daniel Huestis
Staff Writer

With over 110,000 acres of stunning forests, there is plenty to do in and around Brevard without being stuck in a dorm room and spending too much money.

There is something for everyone to enjoy, like the beautiful downtown scene, with a multitude of shops to browse. The Explore Brevard website can help you find some activities to do as well.

While you are exploring the land of the waterfalls, be sure to check out the abundance of pristine trails to bike or hike. They advise walking the trails during the winter on the website. Besides that, there is a variety of fishing that can be done, including fly fishing.

You can rock climb, take it calm paddling down a river, or take on the rapids. Find and see the many gorgeous waterfalls. If you don't feel comfortable going alone and want a guide, you

can go on one of the many tours that are offered by various businesses located in Brevard.

But maybe a walk through the woods is not what you are looking for. Consider taking a stroll through downtown Brevard, bouncing from shop to shop to see what you can find.

With shops like MANtiques (an antique store), Penny Lane Exchange (a boutique), O P Taylor's (a toy store), and the White Squirrel Shoppe (a gift shop), there is something for everyone.

Planning a day exploring downtown Brevard could look like walking through various art galleries, becoming inspired by the beauty you see. Then, traversing through the different antique and boutique shops, searching for that hidden gem.

Before you find your new look at one of the clothing stores, stop to get a treat at a coffee or candy shop. Or changing your style with a new haircut or piercing. Ending with a delicious dinner at one of the restaurants, such as Big Mike's, Papa L.E.W, or The Square Root.

With all to do here in Brevard, what can you actually sign up for and do? The next couple of days are lined up with great events. For one example, Highland Books is hosting a free Date Night scavenger hunt at their store until Valentine's Day.

Another event that will be happening soon in Brevard is The Asian Soundscapes performing at the Transylvania library. This notable and unique concert is free and will be from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. A trio will be performing Saturday, Feb. 14, at the Library. The three artists are Min Xiao-Fen, Mari Ohta, and Amy Xin Yin. More info for this event on the Transylvania library website.

So with all of this and more to explore right here locally, why would you not take advantage of all the wonderful things? Take someone out on a date this weekend, and have some fun. Go out with friends or by yourself, but go out this Valentine's and treat yourself.

Single? Break the norms for Valentine's Day 2026

Zoie Stiller
Contributor

Tomorrow is Feb. 14, or more popularly known as Valentine's Day. Many people either see this day as great or sad, or as having no meaning at all.

So, what to do if you don't have a boo?

This year on Feb. 14, you could spend the time with friends. The holiday has no rules, so there is nothing saying that you can't just make

it a day where you and your friends hang out and have fun.

On campus, there will be many things you could do on Feb. 14. You could go to one of the basketball games, men's or women's. You could also go to a softball game.

Or you can treat yourself—as said, there are no rules to Valentine's Day, so who is stopping you from making your own spa day or a day where you care for yourself? You can go out to almost any store, buy yourself a box of chocolates, and

just watch a movie, or you could take yourself out for dinner and eat like a king or queen—as I said, no one is stopping you.

Overall, I will say Valentine's Day does not have to be a day just for couples; it can also be a day for you where you express love towards yourself or your friends.

Valentine's day has had its norms for many years now—I say we break those norms and do something a little different this year!

Friday the 13th...

Continued from page 5

Then there is confirmation bias, in which anything bad or unlucky that happens to have a connection to 13 is blamed on that connection. The Apollo 13 lunar mission, for instance, suffered a catastrophic explosion that nearly proved fatal for the three astronauts on board; they ended up having to use the lunar module as a "lifeboat" to make it safely back to Earth.

Psychologists also have a word for the specific fear of Friday the 13th: paraskavedekatriphobia, which, according to media reports, was coined by Dossey in the 1990s. In that same 2004 interview with National Geographic News, Dossey said he estimated 17 to 21 million people fear Friday the 13th, many even making plans to avoid normal routines on that day.

Dossey, founder of the Stress Management Center and Phobia Institute in Asheville, North Carolina, went on to estimate in that interview that

around \$800 or \$900 million was lost in business on Friday the 13th because people would not fly or do business they would otherwise do.

So if you're one of those millions who fear today, what are you to do? According to Dossey, one practical cure might be simply to refocus your thoughts from negative feelings to positive. "What you think about, you begin to feel," he said. "What you feel generates what you do. And what you do creates how you will become."

Folklore also has some suggested remedies, Dossey said. One recommendation he mentioned is certainly doable in our region: climb to the top of a mountain and burn all the socks you own that have holes in them.

The center Dossey created in Asheville has since closed, and Dossey himself died in 2016, but his work in both psychology and folklore continues to resonate even now, 10 years after his death.

So buckle up. We have two more Friday the 13ths to go this year.



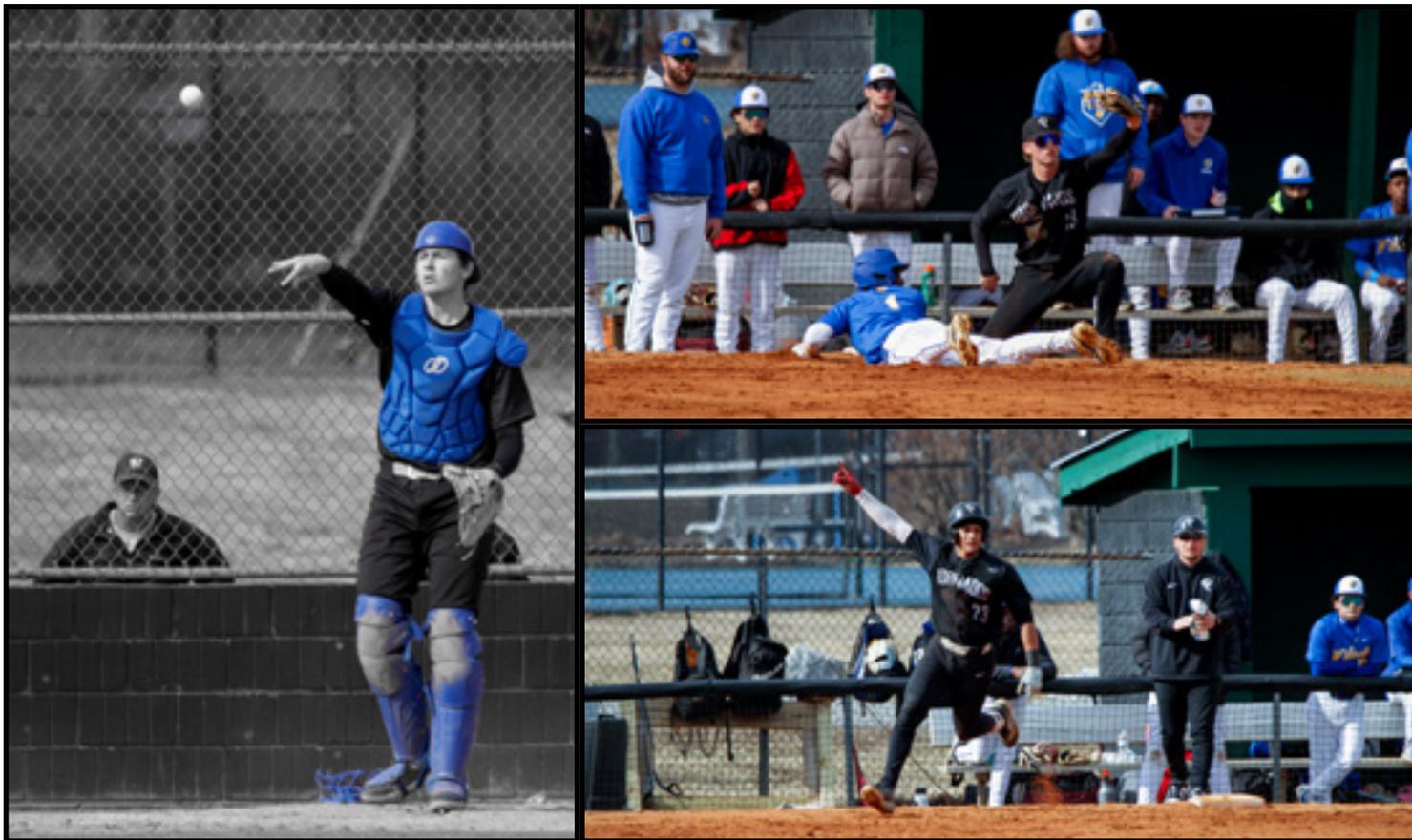
SUMMER CAMP JOB FAIR

Feb. 17th

11:00 AM-2:00 PM

J.A. Jones Library

ALL MAJORS ENCOURAGED



All photos by Chris Fortman via Brevard College on Flickr.

Tornados finish series sweep of Wildcats

The Brevard College baseball team (3-0) used an offensive explosion to surge past JWU Charlotte (0-3), 14-4 in a run-ruled seven-inning contest on Sunday afternoon at Gil Coan Field.

The Tornados scored 14 runs on 16 hits, totaling their most single-game hits since Feb. 17, 2025, at Guilford. BC scored multiple runs in the second, fifth, and sixth innings – including a five-run fifth and a four-run sixth. Brevard drew seven walks, recorded 11 RBI, drilled seven extra-base hits, and stole five bases in the all-around team victory.

The win gives Brevard its third 3-0 start to a season in the last five years. All told, the Tornados outscored JWU 39-12 over the weekend.

Making just his third collegiate start, sophomore first baseman Lucas Woodard broke out with a 4-for-5 performance at the dish, notching two doubles, an inside-the-park home run, four RBI, and two runs scored.

Tyson Hinkle and Moe Love each went 3-for-4 at the plate, with Hinkle scoring twice, registering an RBI, and legging out a triple. Love drilled his first collegiate homer and added three RBI in his first college start. Nico Bartolotti and Gavin Grant also recorded multiple hits in the win-

ning effort.

Kaden Tuten took the mound to start for the Tornados, pitching three innings, allowing just three hits without an earned run and a strikeout. Senior right-handed pitcher Andy Fahringer (1-0) made his season debut with a three-inning performance, striking out a batter with just one earned run allowed. Colin Weathers also made his 2026 debut with a scoreless frame with two strikeouts.

Woodard got the scoring underway for the Tornados, hustling around the bases for his first collegiate home run. JWU took a 2-1 lead in the top of the third with a two-run frame, but a Woodard RBI double and Bartolotti RBI single gave Brevard the lead back.

Two runs in the top of the fourth briefly gave the Wildcats the lead back, but BC responded with 11 unanswered runs over the final four innings to clinch the series sweep.

BC continues its 10-game homestand with a midweek bout against Guilford on Wednesday, Feb. 11, at 2 p.m. at Gil Coan Field.