

## Robert Dye to retire after 27 years in Experiential Education

Madeleine Pollock  
Copy Editor

Robert Dye, Director of First Year Experience and former Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education Professor, is set to retire this spring after 27 years of impactful teaching at Brevard College.

“What I have valued most is the opportunity to really know people, at a level that you can’t get to anywhere else,” Dye said. Dye is well-known around campus for his infectious smile and positive attitude, as well as his ability to connect with others.

Dye explained one memory that really stands out to him from his time teaching at BC—how he did a full-semester version of the Voice of the Rivers paddling trip in Patagonia in 2001. A trip he described as “so experiential it was crazy.”

Eight students and two staff members, including Dye, set out to paddle sea-kayaks for eight and a half weeks in Patagonia, which is a region in South America that is nestled between Argentina and Chile. “It was really remote, I don’t think anyone has any idea,” Dye says.

The students got a full semester’s worth of course credit: they did daily journals to fulfill writing requirements, took 20 rolls of 35mm film for an art credit, did experiential risk management, and many even engaged in independent studies throughout the trip.

The crew even kept a blog that was updated daily to tell family and friends about their travels. Dye explained how one student would be chosen each day to call the college and read their journal so it could be uploaded to the internet.

“We were blogging with a satellite phone, to an answering machine, to a human ear, to a keyboard, to a student who wrote code and put it up on a website that day,” Dye said.

Dye explained that the trip was especially rewarding due to the level of preparation—and problem-solving—required. “When we were challenged, it wasn’t because of our incompetence; it was because we were doing hard things.”

Another part of the trip that really stood out to him was when the team was on the Santa Cruz, a river that runs for 239 miles from Los Glaciares National Park to the Atlantic. There was virtually no information available about the river, other than from the journals of Charles Darwin, so there were many unknowns.

From reading Darwin’s detailed journals, Dye said, “We were 99% sure we camped in the same place as Darwin.”

There were multiple large dams on the trip, and the group was going to have to figure out how to go around them. When they arrived at the first, they found members of the Argentine National Gendarmerie, which is the Argentinian equivalent of the National Guard.

The guards mainly consisted of 18-year-olds who were doing their required military service. “I go up to these guys with my terrible Spanish, and I’m like, can we rent a truck? We need to get these kayaks down to the river,” Dye asked.

The men said there were no trucks, so Dye returned to camp to deliver the bad news. And then, an idea struck. Dye and his group decided to make a cake. Dye returned to the soldiers to invite them to eat with the students. “We’re having cake and tea, would you like to join us?”

So, the students, staff, and guards ate cakes together, laughed, and traded stories. Thirty minutes later, a truck showed up. The guards had reciprocated Dye’s act of kindness with a solution to get them safely around the dam.

At the next dam, new guards were expecting the group and welcomed them with a cookout, a place to shower, and more trucks. This pattern continued all the way to the Atlantic, where even the Argentinian Coast Guard invited the VOR



Robert Dye

crew to a cookout. “They tried to ‘out-cookout’ each other,” says Robert, laughing.

“So that was a good lesson; when things look bad, make a cake,” noted Dye. “You can’t plan for everything, and that is the nature of adventure.”

Twenty-five years later, Dye still keeps in touch with the group from the VOR trip, noting that he had been to many of their weddings and even looked after their children. “They come to Robert camp in the summer. I make them bushwack to waterfalls.”

Dye says he will miss the immersive experiences he had throughout his time teaching in the WLEE program. “The relationship building that can happen on a weekend trip in the rain where you genuinely struggle and solve real problems, where you share meals with somebody under a tarp in the rain—you can’t reproduce that

# Environmental studies students explore sustainable living at Earthaven Ecovillage

Dr. Erasme Uyizeye  
Contributor

On March 17th, 2026, an environmental studies class participated in an immersive field visit to Earthaven Ecovillage in Black Mountain, NC. This is an internationally recognized intentional community dedicated to sustainable living. Ecovillages like Earthaven serve as living laboratories where innovative environmental practices are developed and tested in real-world settings.

During the visit, students had the opportunity to observe firsthand how sustainability concepts discussed in the classroom, such as permaculture, are implemented on the ground. Throughout the visit, students engaged with a community member and explored systems designed to reduce ecological footprints while fostering strong social connections.

Key areas of learning included land stewardship, regenerative agriculture, renewable resource use, and community-based decision-making. This field experience provided students with valuable insights into practical sustainability strategies and reinforced the importance of integrated environmental and social approaches to addressing global challenges. Thanks to the BCP funding that made



Students listen to a community member talk about reducing ecological footprints.

this trip possible.

Some of the trip’s impact on students can be captured through the following quotes from the reflections of students:

“They practice nutrient cycling and compost-

ing, using their own waste matter and food scraps to keep their soil nutrient-dense for better crop growth. .... It reflects on permaculture principles by working with nature and what is provided rather than reaching outside of it....”

—Ned Broersma

“....Another thing I really wanted to talk about is cob. I think it is such a cool building material. Some of the buildings we saw on the tour were absolutely gorgeous, and it is on my bucket list to make a house or some sort of building out of cob and turn it into a whole sculptural

project. ....It is an affordable building material that can be made easily with local materials...”

—Kylie Brown

“...A specific element I learned about was the sustainable use of catching and storing energy. The hydroelectric stations and solar panel fields were very interesting to come across and learn about. It reflects the permaculture principle by steering away from using energy that comes from the grid, which is sourced by fossil fuels...”

—Kyle Camardella



# Chemistry Club's Springfest booth; a hit among students

Mary Vallentine  
Contributor

On Wednesday April 22, Springfest provided a welcome break for students as the semester comes to a close. Food trucks had hot dogs, refreshing drinks, and snacks, and students had booths set up to entertain attendees, but one booth in particular was quite the hit among the student body.

The Chemistry Club's instant ice cream booth provided a smoky spectacle and a refreshing

treat. Co-President Zoe Herber, a junior chemistry major, ran the booth and assisted students in making their own batches of instant ice cream with heavy whipping cream, sugar, and liquid nitrogen.

There were many toppings and flavors available, including but not limited to: chocolate, sprinkles, and cookies and cream. Students were tasked with mixing the concoction while Herber poured the liquid nitrogen on top of the liquid. At the point of contact, the liquid nitrogen evaporates and freezes the mixture, creating instant

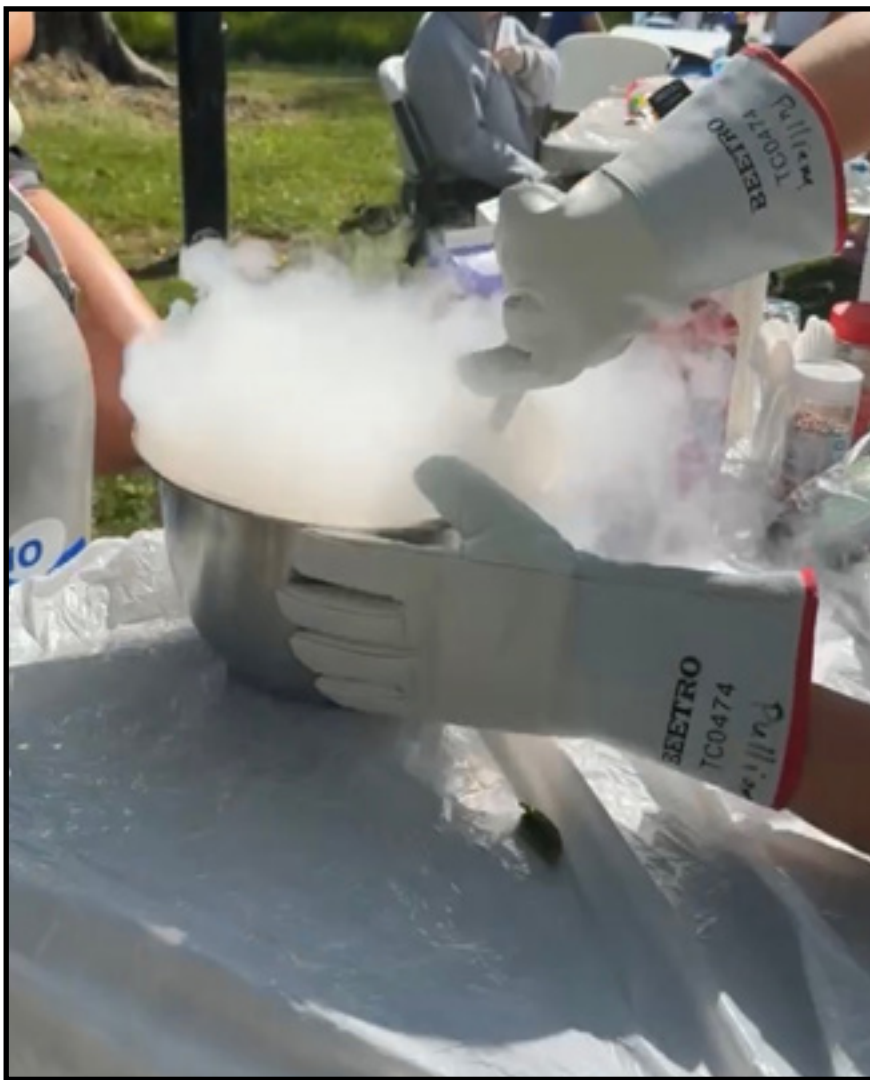
ice cream. A process which Herber explained to those who visited, watching the magic.

"Working the booth was a fun way to connect to people, and I enjoyed seeing the excitement on their faces," Herber said.

The Chemistry Club's goal this semester is to make chemistry accessible and easily understandable. As a humanities and social sciences student, I learned a lot about how science works while visiting their Springfest booth. Keep on the lookout for more Chemistry Club activities to learn about how cool science can be!



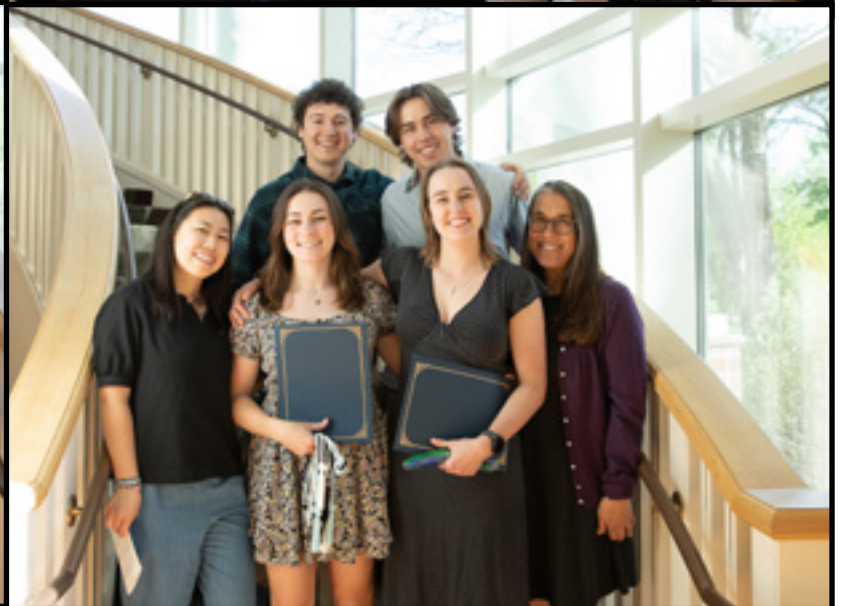
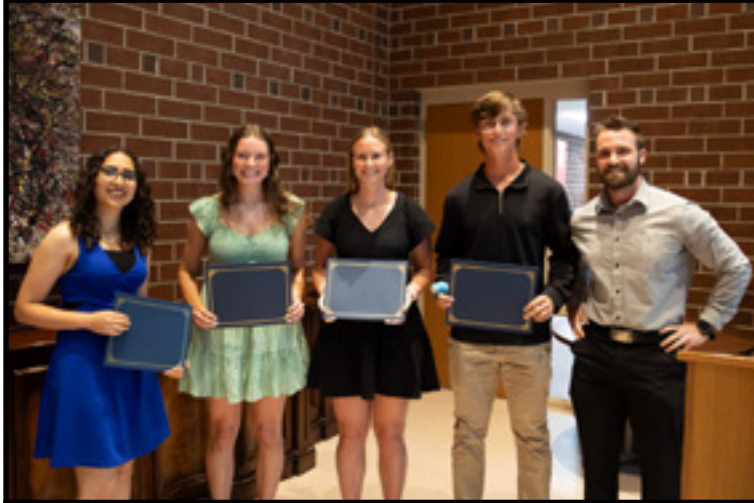
Zoe Herber pours liquid nitrogen to make ice cream at the instant ice cream booth—photo by Mary Grace Vallentine.



Mixing the liquid nitrogen to make ice cream—photo by Mary Grace Vallentine.

# A look into awards season

All photos via Flickr.



# An exploration of sustainable living for BC ENV students

Continued from page 2.

“... Growing up in a suburban area, I have never experienced or seen any community like that before. It was a super cool experience seeing the way these people live completely off the grid. The trip as a whole deepened my perspective on their lives. The way they live, creating their own energy, building using the resources on the land, and eating off the land, all surprised me. The houses looked modern, and everyone seemed fulfilled with how they were living. Overall, it was a really interesting experience...” —Eli

### Houle

“My perspective on the sustainability practices was that they were very efficient. Our tour guide told us that the buildings used significantly less power than traditional American homes do, and that one of the water turbines they have powers two entire neighborhoods for the same amount that would be required to power one average American house....” —Schuyler Pettibone

“The tour influenced my perspective on sustainable and community-based living by

showing me a different side to life, cultures, and their practices and privileges. I loved the message and the principles for why Earthen Ecovillage was started. The entire culture is based on trust and living by the natural way of things...” —Imani Singleton

# ‘When things look bad, make a cake.’

Continued from page 1.

## 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      Ivelysse Leighton  
Danniel Huestis      Jordan Ramey

The Clarion is a student-run college newspaper produced by student journalists enrolled at Brevard College. Unsigned editorials represent the collective opinion of the staff of The Clarion. Other opinions expressed in this newspaper are those of respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the faculty, staff or administration of Brevard College.

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](mailto:clarion@brevard.edu)  
[clarion.brevard.edu](http://clarion.brevard.edu)

✉ Letters Policy: The Clarion welcomes letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit letters for length or content. We do not publish letters whose authorship cannot be verified.

anywhere else.”

Dye spent the last few years at Brevard working on the Brevard Career Advantage, a program he wishes he had when he was in school. “I’m really happy with the BCA,” Dye said, “I think it's important.”

But it is time for Dye to set his sights on new adventures. “There’s no push for me to leave. I love what I’m doing,” Dye continued. “I just have some other stuff I want to do. And I want to be outside more.”

Dye is excited to spend more time with his family and has also planned to take on some new challenges. An avid paddler, Dye is setting his sights on the Great Alabama 650—a 10-day and 650-mile solo paddling race beginning in

Northeast Alabama and finishing in the Gulf of Mexico.

Dye is going to Alabama this weekend to begin preparing for the race and is planning to train hard so he can be as well prepared as possible. “My goal is that whatever happens, I won’t feel like I didn’t give it everything for six months to get ready,” Dye said.

“I will miss the opportunity to really know people and for them to know me,” Dye continued. “I hope that I can reproduce that somewhere, but that is the thing that I have valued most.”

The Clarion staff wishes Dye the best of luck with his next chapter and hopes that we will continue to see him around Brevard!



Robert Sea Kayaking in Nova Scotia —photo via Robert Dye.

# Chapbook Review: Southern Gothic Corpse Machine by Hannah V. Warren

Ivelysse Leighton  
Staff Writer

I rated “Southern Gothic Corpse Machine” 5 out of 5 stars. Hannah V. Warren’s poetry chapbook is deeply unsettling and striking, but leaves you in deep thought. This is not a collection that invites passive reading. Instead, it demands attention, discomfort, and a willingness to sit with images and ideas that are often grotesque but always purposeful. Through dense, visceral language and a commitment to Southern Gothic aesthetics, Warren explores the body as unstable, capable of failing, decaying, and betraying us.

At the center of the chapbook is the idea of the body as a kind of “corpse machine.” The body isn’t whole or dependable; instead, it feels mechanical, fragile, and constantly breaking down. In poems like “Horrid Fruit,” the body becomes something that can be invaded and transformed, especially in lines like “the rice turns to larvae in your soiled belly,” where the body isn’t able to be stable, but it’s falling apart from the inside out. There’s a constant tension in which the speaker is trapped within their own body, forced to witness what it’s slowly becoming while still depending on it to exist. Because of that, identity never feels stable either. The body and identity are so connected that when one starts to fail, the other one does too.

The instability also extends far beyond the body into the environment. In “Saltblood: Contaminated Zone,” the line between land and body begins to blur, making it feel like nothing is separate or safe. Lines like “nothing can save us: not the bees or the baptism” solidify the idea that decay is ultimately unavoidable. This connection reinforces the idea that decay is not just personal but something larger and unavoidable. The Southern Gothic influence strengthens this, with settings that feel real but slightly distorted, as if something is always wrong beneath the surface.

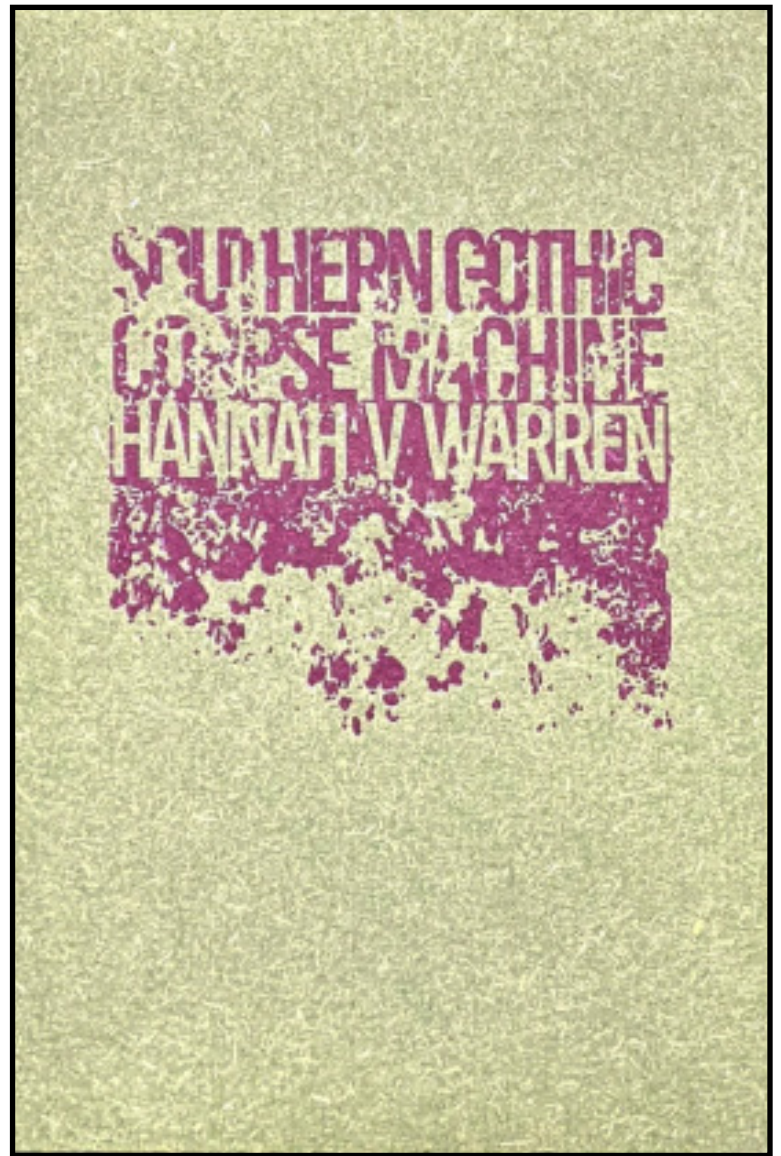
Another important layer of the chapbook is its focus on religion, especially in the later sections. Religion is not presented as comforting. Instead, it’s tied to control, shame, and the body. Lines like “The first time I bled, I knew

it was a sin” from the poem “The Melodious Songs of the Blessed” turn something natural into something punishable, reinforcing the idea that the body is something to be watched and judged.

Warren’s language is what makes these ideas land so forcefully, especially in her repeated imagery—blood, rot, flesh—repeated throughout the collection. The repetition builds intensity rather than feeling redundant, creating an immersive experience that, at times, feels overwhelming in a way that seems intentional.

Two poems that stood out to me were “Saltblood: Contaminated Zone” and “Southern Gothic County Dispatch.” “Saltblood” blurs the lines between environmental destruction and bodily harm, creating a world where everything feels contaminated. “Southern Gothic County Dispatch” reads almost like a report, and that distance makes the imagery feel more real and unsettling.

This is not an easy chapbook to read, but that difficulty feels purposeful. It forces the reader



to slow down and engage with what is happening rather than rush past it. Overall, “Southern Gothic Corpse Machine” is a strong, cohesive collection that stays true to its themes. It challenges the reader to expand their thoughts while maintaining an emotional core, making it a chapbook that stays with you even after you finish.

# The NBA postseason is now underway. Why the Modern NBA Playoffs are so different

**Tyler Mabry**  
Staff Writer

The 2026 NBA playoffs are officially underway, with the Oklahoma City Thunder looking to defend their title against the field of 15 other teams.

In the Western Conference, the Thunder ended up getting the one-seed, finishing the season with a 64-18 record. Whereas in the Eastern Conference, it was a close race for the top seed. The Detroit Pistons claimed that title, with a record of 60-22.

With the bracket finally set, the one-seed team will play the eight-seed team of their respective conference. The higher seed your team gets, the easier your road is to the NBA Finals.

One of the defining themes of these playoffs

is the focus on each team's roster versatility. In the modern era of teams, they are not focusing on just one or two superstars; instead, they are building rosters with all-around skill.

When teams have players who can step up on any given night, it provides a stable scoring output, as well as consistency from an effort standpoint. This also allows teams to manage star players' minutes more effectively, as they don't need to play them all 48 minutes a night.

While each team has the ability to rely on these role players, it has also led to many games being closer and more exciting. This really tests the perseverance of teams, as no lead in a playoff series is "safe."

Another place where the modern era of basketball is different is the impact of the three-point shot. As the game continues to grow and

modernize, teams that can consistently shoot the three can put up points faster and more efficiently. However, defenses have come to expect the barrages of threes, so they are more prepared to contest these shot attempts, and the saying, "defense wins championships," will always be true.

As the playoffs continue, basketball fans around the world can expect fierce competition, breakout performances, and potentially a new champion. We will have to wait and see whether this year's winner will be a seasoned franchise like the Los Angeles Lakers or the Boston Celtics, which have won numerous championships in the past, or a newcomer like the Minnesota Timberwolves, who have never raised a championship banner before.

## Strong Effort Leads Brevard to Win in Series Opener

The Brevard College baseball team (16-18, 5-11 USA South) used a complimentary effort to take the series opener over William Peace (13-21, 5-11 USAS), 6-1 on Saturday afternoon at Gil Coan Field.

The Tornados got on the board first in the first inning, cashing in on a walk and an error, as Gavin McCoy tallied an RBI groundout to make it 1-0 Brevard after the first. The Pacers quickly found the equalizer in the top of the second, as Aidan Allred cashed in an RBI single to draw the Pacers and Tornados even at one.

However, the pitching efforts from Kaden Tuten, Colin Weathers, Grayson Ledford, Jacob Wilde, and Aaron Burchett limited the Pacers' offense the rest of the way, allowing the Tornados to take the lead back.

Brevard got back in the run column in the fourth, as back-to-back hits from Davis Anders and Tyson Hinkle created instant traffic on

the basepaths to start the inning. Gavin Grant capitalized with one out in the frame, poking an RBI single through the left side, making it 2-1 Tornados. Logan Sawyer scored another on an RBI groundout before Adam Newcomb capped off a three-run frame with an RBI single, growing the lead to 4-1 after four.

After a scoreless fifth, Brevard would tack on another with McCoy's second RBI of the day, a sacrifice fly, growing the lead to 6-1.

Peace would get its first hit since the second inning in the seventh on a Nathan Roller leadoff double, but Jacob Wilde and Grayson Ledford proceeded to combine for a scoreless seventh to keep the 6-1 lead intact.

Aaron Burchett would get the final two innings, and the game concluded on a highlight reel double play turned by Adam Newcomb to close out a Tornados win.

Kaden Tuten got the start, dealing 1.1 innings,

allowing a hit and an earned run with a strikeout. Colin Weathers earned the win, matching a season-long 3.2 innings of relief, allowing just one hit and tallying a strikeout. Jacob Wilde dealt 1.1 innings, Grayson Ledford tallied two-thirds of an inning, and Aaron Burchett slammed the door with two scoreless frames.

Offensively, Gavin McCoy led the way with a pair of RBI, while Logan Sawyer, Adam Newcomb, Kacey Shanks, and Gavin Grant tallied an RBI each.

For Peace, five pitchers combined for the eight innings of work, with the bulk of the work coming in the form of four innings from Ethan Hummel, allowing two runs on two hits while walking two and striking out four. Offensively, Nathan Roller led the way with a pair of hits while Aidan Allred tallied the lone RBI.

# Battle of the Blue Ridge delivers electric senior night atmosphere despite late loss

Ivelysse Leighton  
Staff Writer

There are some games you show up to, and then there are games that pull you in and don't let you sit still. Tuesday night at Ives-Lemel Family Field was one of those nights. Senior Night already carried weight, but when you add in the Battle of the Blue Ridge rivalry with Warren Wilson, it felt much bigger than just another game on the schedule.

Before anything started, the focus was on the seniors. Max Dorman, Gage Khayat, Braedyn Perez, and Logan Southern were recognized for everything they have given to the program. It was one of those moments when the crowd fell quiet for a second, when you could actually feel how much it meant.

From the first whistle, the pace was fast and physical. Every possession felt contested, and neither team was willing to back down. You could tell early that this was going to be one of those games where momentum mattered, where the smallest shift could change everything.

The first half built the tension, but the second half is where everything flipped. Students started pouring into the stands in waves, and it kept growing. What began as a solid turnout became an overwhelming crowd. By the time play resumed, the student section was packed and loud, in a way that felt impossible to ignore. Every ground ball had a different reaction, and every shot had an immediate response. It was constant, and it made the entire field feel different.

The energy extended beyond the student section, with fans from both sides fully invested in every moment, turning the game into a true rivalry environment. That energy didn't just stay in the stands; it carried straight onto the field.

As the game moved into the fourth quarter, Brevard stepped it up a notch. The Tornados put together a stretch that completely shifted the momentum, scoring five in a row and pulling the game even after trailing for most of the night. With each goal, the crowd got louder, and with each stop, the belief grew. It felt like everything was building toward something.

Khayat stepped into that moment and made it

his. In his final game, he delivered a performance fitting of senior night, finding the net repeatedly and surpassing 100 career points. Every time he scored, the reaction from the stands only grew, and it felt like the entire crowd was feeding off it.

Around him, the rest of the team showed up in every way they needed to. Sophomore Joseph Piazza created scoring opportunities and capitalized on them. Freshman Cameron Kurzon made an immediate impact in his first appearance, stepping into the moment without hesitation. Southern controlled possessions at the faceoff, continuing a career that had already rewritten parts of the program's record book. On the defensive end, Perez and Sophomore Roderick Frazier Jr. battled for every loose ball and forced key stops, while Sophomore Jameson Murray came up with saves that kept Brevard right in it. Dorman also closed out his career with a program record, finishing with 88 caused turnovers, a mark that speaks to his consistency and impact on defense throughout his time at Brevard.

The final minutes turned into something chaotic in the best way. The lead changed again, the clock kept ticking down, and every single play felt like it could decide the game. The crowd stayed on its feet, reacting to every play, refusing to let the moment settle. Brevard kept pushing, creating chances late, and the energy never dropped.



Photo by Nettie Stokes

In the end, the result didn't fall Brevard's way, but that's not what defined the night. What stood out was the atmosphere. It was the way the students showed up and made their presence impossible to ignore. It was the way the team responded and matched that energy on the field. It was the way the entire game felt alive from start to finish.

The Battle of the Blue Ridge lived up to everything it is supposed to be, and even without the win, it was a fight that felt unforgettable.