



Students and Faculty respond to world-renowned musician and philanthropist Dolly Parton's death

Tom Webb
Staff Writer

On August 25th, world-renowned musician and philanthropist Dolly Parton passed away after a brief battle with cancer. Over the years, Parton donated to several charities and funded educational programs, cancer research, and even COVID vaccine development during the pandemic. Most people also regarded her as an incredibly kind person whose work touched the lives of millions.

On campus, many students are currently mourning the loss of Parton, speaking of how the musician personally touched each of their lives.

"More celebrities should strive to be like her," said junior Clara DeMontmollin, citing how Parton gave most of her wealth away and never forgot where she came from. One of Dolly Parton's main philanthropic efforts was the "Imagination Library," a program to encourage reading and literacy in the US, starting with her hometown of Sevierville, Tennessee.

DeMontmollin also commented on how Parton was "always glamorous and herself" and how she wanted others to be themselves as well. Parton was a large supporter of the LGBTQ community through the years

and once stated, "I think everybody should be allowed to be who they are, and to love who they love. I don't think we should be judgmental." DeMontmollin's favorite songs from Parton are "Islands in the Stream" and "I Will Always Love You."

Sophomore Salem Turrentine said that she always grew up with Parton's music, but didn't quite learn who she was or what she did beyond music until she was in high school. In high school, Turrentine said it was her high school agriculture teacher who got her interested in Dolly Parton. "Every day we would start class by listening to her music, and we even got to watch one of her movies one day," Turrentine said that her teacher's obsession gave her a great impression of Parton and said that "If anyone goes to heaven, it's going to be two people: Dolly Parton & Mr Rogers." Turrentine stated that her favorite song of Parton's was "9-5".

Christie Cauble, a faculty member at Brevard College, says that she was raised on Parton's music from a very young age. She believes that music does different things for different people, but that everyone could find a song of Dolly Parton's to resonate

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Dolly Parton in her last public appearance at the opening of her Tennessee Truck Stop. Photo via: The Sun UK Edition

BC Outdoors announces fall semester trips

Madeleine Pollock
Managing Editor

BC Outdoors— a program open to all students and run by the Outdoor Leadership and Experiential Education Division— announced its fall calendar this week, with hiking and climbing offerings showcasing the plethora of natural spaces that Western North Carolina has to offer.

“BC Outdoors is a non-academic co-curricular program that is college-organized so that students across campus can participate in trips without the commitment of a full semester course or the academic responsibilities or credit,” OLEE Director and Professor Dr. Jennifer Kafsky says.

The fall schedule includes weekly opportunities for hiking at destinations such as Pink Beds, the Carl Sandburg Home, Black Balsam Knob, Panther-town Valley, Gorges State Park, John Rock, Davidson River, and several climbing locations throughout Pisgah National Forest.

No hiking or climbing experience is necessary, as OLEE faculty and staff will lead the trips with support from OLEE students. Kafsky noted that a motivation for creating the program was wanting “to make outdoor experiences accessible to students more widely on campus.”

These locations will allow students to experience waterfalls, scenic overlooks, local parks, and unique ecosystems, with most trips at no cost to students. Some trips may require a small deposit to reserve a spot, which will be refunded after the trip, and the more involved trips may have a small fee.

To sign up, students can email OLEE Logistics Director Neal Beam directly at beamnr@brevard.edu or stop by the OLEE Barn. Because spaces are limited, students are encouraged to sign up early.

“We know how powerful outdoor experiences are for our well-being. We want all students to know that they are invited and welcomed into the outdoors,” Dr. Kafsky says.

BC Outdoors Week Day Outdoor Trips (Fall 2026)			
Week	Date	Location	Activity
3	9.2.26	Pink Beds	Hiking
	9.3.26	Pisgah National Forest	Climbing
4	9.9.26	Carl Sandburg House	Hiking
	9.9.27	Pisgah National Forest	Climbing
5	9.16.26	Black Balsam Knob	Hiking
	9.17.26	Pisgah National Forest	Climbing
6	9.23.26	Panther-town/School House	Hiking
	9.24.26	Pisgah National Forest	Climbing
7	9.30.26	Brevard, NC	Hiking
	10.1.26	Pisgah National Forest	Climbing
8	10.7.26	Gorges State Park	Hiking
9	10.14.26	John Rock	Hiking
9	10.21.26	Davidson River	Hiking

Contact Neal Beam at beamnr@brevard.edu to sign up for any of the listed trips.

Important Dates: Seniors

Jordan Ramey
Staff Writer

Seniors! We are on the last leg of our college journey. I hope all of your guys' last summers before the real-world hits were fantastic. This is an exciting year and something that we have all been looking forward to for a long time. I do not doubt that all of us will be successful as we move onto the next chapter. With that being

said, some important dates for seniors are fast approaching.
Senior Pinning is on Friday Sept. 18, at 6:00 p.m. in the Porter Center. To attend the ceremony, seniors must fill out the form sent out via email by Sept. 1 and choose a faculty, staff, family member, or friend to pin them. A great time of reflection and celebration is almost upon us, so find somebody who shaped your journey and enjoy the moment!

Graduation applications will be due on Sept. 21—do not forget this important date! These need to be turned into the registrar to ensure that you have all the necessary credits to graduate in the spring. All of these dates can be found on BC Radar, the calendar on MyBrevard, and in your BC email. It's all becoming very real. As a fellow senior, I wish you all the best of luck in the completion of this long but oh so short journey!

Brevard Dining now on a two-week rotating menu

BREVARD COLLEGE DINING	
WEEK 1	
14-Day Cycle Menu	
MONDAY	Lunch • Grill Day Burgers • Hot dogs • Steak fries Dinner • Italian Baked ziti • Chicken cacciatore
TUESDAY	Lunch • Taco Tuesday Ground beef • Chicken tinga • Cilantro-lime rice Dinner • Home-Style Roasted chicken • Meatloaf • Mashed potatoes
WEDNESDAY	Lunch • Asian-American Chicken teriyaki • Beef & broccoli • Jasmine rice Dinner • Pizzeria Night Pizza pasta bake • Italian chicken
THURSDAY	Lunch • Chicken Finger Day Chicken tenders • Sloppy joes • Mac & cheese Dinner • Indian Chicken tikka masala • Tandoori chicken • Basmati rice
FRIDAY	Lunch • Carolina BBQ NC pulled pork • BBQ chicken • Potato wedges Dinner • Louisiana Jambalaya • Red beans & sausage • Rice
SATURDAY	Brunch • Chicken & Waffles Full breakfast core • Buttermilk fried chicken Dinner • Slow Roast Pot roast • Roasted chicken • Garlic mashed potatoes
SUNDAY	Brunch • Sunday Ham French toast core • Baked ham Dinner • Soup & Sandwich Grilled cheese • Chicken noodle soup
Available every meal: salad bar • grilled chicken • grab-and-go sandwiches • fruit • yogurt • cereal • soup	

BREVARD COLLEGE DINING	
WEEK 2	
14-Day Cycle Menu	
MONDAY	Lunch • Grill Day Burgers • Chili cheese dogs • Curly fries Dinner • Asian-American Sweet & sour chicken • Mongolian beef • Fried rice
TUESDAY	Lunch • Taco Tuesday Pork carnitas • Chicken fajitas • Spanish rice Dinner • Italian Meatballs • Lemon-herb chicken • Penne
WEDNESDAY	Lunch • Chicken Finger Day Chicken tenders • BBQ pulled chicken • Mac & cheese Dinner • Home-Style Salisbury steak • Herb-roasted chicken • Mashed potatoes
THURSDAY	Lunch • Baked Potato & Chili Bar Beef chili • Grilled chicken • Baked potatoes Dinner • Indian Butter chicken • Beef kofta curry • Basmati rice
FRIDAY	Lunch • Wings & Stromboli Pepperoni stromboli • Wings • Potato wedges Dinner • Carolina BBQ Smoked brisket • BBQ chicken • Sweet potato wedges
SATURDAY	Brunch • Biscuits & Gravy Full breakfast core • Biscuits & sausage gravy Dinner • Mediterranean Chicken souvlaki • Gyro • Lemon-herb rice
SUNDAY	Brunch • Breakfast Burrito Bar Chorizo • Chicken • Potato • Egg • Cheese Dinner • Hot Sub Shop Philly cheesesteak • Chicken cheesesteak • Waffle fries
Available every meal: salad bar • grilled chicken • grab-and-go sandwiches • fruit • yogurt • cereal • soup	

Meet Your Professors!

Liam Smith
Staff Writer

As we begin the Fall semester here at Brevard College, new and returning students should know that your professors are here to help you as much as possible. A unique aspect of BC is that the student-to-professor ratio encourages students to seek help from their instructors in their offices,

with open office hours or the ability to schedule meetings.

“Meet Your Professors!” aims to help students bridge the gap between being too scared to talk to professors and getting help in a course. This week I interviewed Quintin Overocker (Registrar/GEO), Dr. Rocky Nation (BIO/HLT), and Dr. Rochau (EXS). In future iterations, if you have a professor (or peer) that you want me to interview, email smithlj1@brevard.edu with that professor’s name and their office location!



Quintin (Registrar/GEO)

Hometown: Reading, Illinois
Hobbies: hiking, biking, paddling, live music, reading
Favorite Meal: Pad-See-Ew at Love Eat Thai (less than a mile from BC campus!)
Dream Destination: Northern Quebec
Cooldest Place He’s Visited: Beartooth Plateau, Montana
Cats or Dogs: Dogs
If you had a sandwich, what is the one ingredient that brings it all together: Cheese
What’s your ‘dad joke’ of all time: A termite walks into a bar. He asks, “Is the bar tender?”
Favorite Song and Artist: “Rylan” by The National
What’s one piece of advice for students: Be kind.
Office: Registrar in Beam Administration (email him or wander by!)



Dr. Nation or Rocky (BIO/HLT)

Home state: South Carolina
Hobbies: Running, hiking, birding, reading
Favorite meal: Country Fried Steak and Gravy
Dream Destination: Montana
Cooldest Place He’s Visited: Yosemite National Park
Cats or Dogs: Dogs
If you had a sandwich, what’s the one ingredient that brings it all together: Swiss Cheese
Favorite Song and Artist: “So Far So Good” by Bryan Adams
What’s one piece of advice for students: Don’t be afraid to swim in the deep end.
Fun fact: He really likes vanilla ice cream and gets it wherever he goes
Office and office hours: MS110 Mon/Tue 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. Wed 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Thur 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. Fri 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.



Doc' Roc' (EXS)

Hometown: Des Plaines, Illinois
Hobbies: Weightlifting, video games, reading fantasy novels
Favorite Sports Team and Player: Chicago Cubs and Pete Crow-Armstrong
Favorite Meal: Lobster Risotto
Dream Destination: Japan
Cooldest Place He’s Visited: Saint Lucia in the Caribbean
Cats or Dogs: Dogs
If you had a sandwich, what’s the one ingredient that brings it all together: Dijon Mustard
What’s your ‘dad joke’ of all time: “I’m hungry.” “Hi hungry, I’m Kyle.”
Favorite Song and Artist: “Jaws” by Sleep Token
What’s one piece of advice for students: Show up to everything.
Office and office hours: MS204 Mon/Thur 9:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Tue 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.



Dr. Kuck (HIS/Honors)

Home county: Gosper County, Nebraska
Hobbies: Working out, reading, cooking
Favorite sports player: Michael Jordan (O.A.T.), Luka Dončić (current)
Favorite Meal: Quiche Lorraine with German Pinot Noir
Dream Destination: Retiring in Freiburg im Breisgau
Cooldest Place He’s Visited: Prague, Czech Republic

Cats or Dogs: Neither
If you had a sandwich, what’s the one ingredient that brings it all together: Rye bread
What’s your ‘dad joke’ of all time: N/A
Favorite Song and Artist: “Appassionata” by Beethoven
What’s one piece of advice to students: Be accountable to your talent.
Office and office hours: MG108 Tue/Fri 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. or by appointment.

Continued from page 1.

Brevard's response to Dolly

with. Cauble said that Parton was an inspiration due to her openness and her acceptance of everyone, no matter who they were. This was especially notable to Cauble due to the fact that Parton was from a small southern town where many people had small-minded ideas. Cauble says that one of her favorite quotes from Parton was, "If you're gay, you're gay. If you're straight, you're straight. And you should be allowed to be how you are and who you are."

Cauble says that this open, radical acceptance from the 80-year-old Southern celebrity was incredibly inspiring and showcased her strength and love for others. When asked her favorite songs, Cauble listed "9-5", "Jolene", "Coat of Many Colors", and "Islands in the Stream"; her all-time favorite, though, is Dolly Parton and Pitbull's remix of "9-5," titled "Powerful Women".

Vinnie Munson-Jackson, a sophomore and a Tennessee native, stated that Parton was "the breath in the collective lungs of the people" and that "you would be hard pressed to find someone more spoken about, listened to, and loved in the Volunteer State." Munson-Jackson spoke of how Parton inspired them to "not only have love

for [my] state, but for the people living here." Munson-Jackson said that Parton inspired them to give back to their community when they can and that because of Parton they will never forget where they came from. Munson-Jackson stated their favorite song by Parton was "My Tennessee Mountain Home."

Casey Wampler, who is also a sophomore and a Tennessee native, says that the late musician's openness about her faith was something particularly inspiring about Parton. "She shared her faith and wasn't ashamed," Wampler said, believing this faith was best showcased in the charities that Parton would donate to, and the ones that she created herself. Wampler grew up an hour and 30 minutes from Dollywood and had gone since she was 2 years old. She had listened to Parton's music her entire life and expressed frustration and sadness about having never gotten to see Parton in person. She believed that Parton's work in Tennessee was felt throughout the state and into the world beyond.

Frustration and grief were felt by several people for a myriad of reasons. One student, junior Lorelei Laureano, mourned Parton's death and

was frustrated that the musician had been "taken from us too soon". Laureano had listened to Parton's music since middle school and stated that she believed that everyone in the South had to have known of Parton and her work. Laureano believes that the main lesson Parton would have wanted to impart to others is that "it's okay to be different, you can be whoever you want to be." Laureano said that this lesson was especially valuable to her and said that it inspired her to be different without "giving a crap about what anyone else thinks of me."

Students and faculty from all different backgrounds and life stories shared their love and admiration for Parton. Her music, charity, faith, and acceptance of others have been an inspiration to the student and faculty body at Brevard College and across the country. She leaves a legacy as a singer-songwriter, musician, philanthropist, actress, literacy advocate, and so much more. Her work has touched people of all walks of life, and her music and kindness have left a lasting impact on the planet. It's clear that even after her death, people will always love her.

THE CLARION

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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.

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✉ **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.



Dolly Parton reading "Coat of Many Colors" to children at the Library of Congress. Photo via: NPR

Managing Editor Madeleine Pollock lands writing role with North Shore Mountain Biking

Autumn Jones
Editor in Chief

Madeleine Pollock, a senior from North Vancouver, Canada, is heavily involved on campus; she's double-majoring in English and Communication, is the managing editor of The Clarion, is an SI (Supplemental Instructor), a tutor in the Writing Center, is on the Brevard College cycling team, is president of the COM Honor Society, and is vice president of the English Honor Society.

In June, Pollock was hired as a contributor by NSMB, North Shore Mountain Biking, an online news source focused on the global mountain biking hubs of North Vancouver.

Her path to the publication began a year earlier, though not quite as she planned. "I had reached out to them last year about an internship, and they said they didn't have room at the moment," Pollock said. "I had sent them my journalism portfolio, so they had already seen that, and I submitted a writing piece for them. What I thought was a 'no' last year was [actually] them keeping me in their back pocket for later."

That opportunity paid off earlier in the summer. "I saw one of the people who works there, and he was like, 'Oh, we actually need you; we lost somebody. Can you come work for us?'" Pollock recalled. "I was working basically full-time at a bike shop in sales, and then they asked, 'Do you want to do this too?' So I went to working four days a week at my other job to make room in my schedule."

The job started casually with about four to five hours of writing a week—equating to an article or two—mostly covering race recaps. While her editor initially introduced her as an intern at a bike show, her practical newswriting experience quickly shifted expectations. "He realized pretty quickly that he could actually just give me things and I could run with them," she said.

Pollock credits her leadership and hands-on work on campus for that instant trust. "Joining The Clarion was the single best decision I made," she said. "Dr. Padgett kind of ambushed me a little about joining, but once I did, I realized it was a really good way to stay connected. Writing every week makes you good at writing, or at least in the practice of it. You're up to date on

AP style and formatting, so the editors didn't have to spend time on Zoom calls teaching me the basics. One thing they had me doing right away was rewriting press releases into digestible news articles, which we do on The Clarion all the time."

That experience, paired with her background as a competitive racer and bike shop employee, gave her a distinct advantage. "Working in the shop, I already knew about product releases, spec sheets, motors, and batteries, so I didn't have to do back-end research," Pollock explained. "Plus, a lot of my friends are racing in the mountain bike World Cup. I can just text them and say, 'Hey, can I grab a quick statement from you for this article?'"

Beyond news recaps, NSMB has given Pollock room to experiment with tone. "Because it's not a printed news source, I have a lot more leeway on style choices," she said. "I can do blog-style pieces, lean into opinion, show personality, and use stupid cycling lingo in ways I'm not allowed to on The Clarion."

That freedom led her to one of her most interacted-with stories yet: a guide on "Trail Dog Safety Tips," featuring interviews with veterinarians. The idea stemmed from a real-life scare when her boyfriend's 130-pound lab, Chester, suffered a sudden heat-stroke episode on a run. "I realized I really didn't know anything about how to help my dog if they're actually in trouble in the middle of a trail," she said. The article resonated strongly with readers, drawing dozens of comments and photos from pet owners across the community.



Madeline Pollock.

Initial imposter syndrome aside—especially while watching her editor critique her initial drafts in real time—Pollock has settled into the groove, with plans to take on some editing duties for the site as well.

Looking ahead, she is eager to shine a light on topics close to home, including the rise of female athletes in the sport and collegiate cycling. "Right now, we're seeing more women really succeeding on the U23 and elite World Cups, especially from Canada and the U.S., so I've been trying to give them credit where credit is due," Pollock said. "I'm also pitching a feature on collegiate cycling—it's like how mountain biking was in the '90s, where everybody raced a crap load of disciplines, and it was total carnage, chaos, and a lot of fun. As a senior, I want to capture that firsthand experience while I'm still in it."

Students find their community at Brevard College's Club Fair

Elli Clark
Staff Writer

The auxiliary cafeteria filled with more than just the bustle of hungry students Wednesday night as student organizers gathered for the club fair to showcase a wide variety of opportunities available on campus this semester.

Tables topped with posters, information pamphlets, and sign-up sheets were lined up to help introduce new and returning students to the Brevard College community outside of the classroom. Students could be found milling about, walking from table to table, connecting with club leaders and peers alike, writing their names down for activities that piqued their interest.

If students are in search of a welcoming place with like-minded individuals, there are a handful of clubs to choose from. Whether they are seeking to support mental health with Morgan's Message, looking to find a community

with the Black Student Union or the Pride Club, wanting to explore their faith with the Christ Club, or hoping to expand their interests with the Climbing Club, Gaming Club, or Golf Club, there is a place for everyone—and those are just to name a few!

The club fair is always an important part of community building, especially as new students seek out ways to become connected with their peers, develop their interests, and experience all

that Brevard has to offer. Joining a club is the ultimate gateway into becoming an integrated Nado!

If you didn't get the chance to swing by or perhaps felt too shy to sign up in person, feel free to visit the Brevard College website, explore BC radar for upcoming club meetings and events, or reach out directly to the Student Government Association at bcsga@brevard.edu for more information.

Poli sci prof to speak on the G20

"What Is the G20 and Why Does Place Matter?" will be the topic of a presentation and conversation Monday, Aug. 31 at 4 p.m. in the Center for Teaching and Learning in the Jones Library.

The speaker will be Ameena Zia, a political science professor at Brevard College.

The G20, or "Group of 20," brings together some of the world's largest economies to discuss major issues such as economic growth, trade, development, climate change, and more. A key part of the talk will focus on why place matters when global conversations happen.

All are welcome for this event.

Brevard College among Nation's best as a 2026–27 College of Distinction

For the second consecutive year, Brevard College has been named a College of Distinction, a national designation awarded to institutions with a commitment to engaged, experiential education. In addition to the national recognition, Brevard was also selected as a Private College of Distinction and a North Carolina College of Distinction.

As a national College of Distinction, BC joins a list of esteemed institutions including Carnegie Mellon University, Davidson College, Emory University, Johns Hopkins University, New York University, Rice University, University of California – Berkeley, University of Michigan – Ann Arbor, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, University of Notre Dame and Wake Forest University.

"Today's students are navigating a college landscape shaped by rising costs, rapid technological change, and real uncertainty about the future of work," said Tyson Schritter, Chief Operating Officer at Colleges of Distinction. "Brevard College's inclusion reflects its mastery of that measure. From undergraduate research and collaborative coursework to immersive service-learning and mentored internships, its

students are active participants in their own education."

The 2026–27 Colleges of Distinction recognition continues a trend of significant success at Brevard College, which currently enrolls 790 full-time undergraduate students, one of the largest enrollments in the College's history. Brevard College continues to earn national recognition for academic excellence, including a National Teacher of the Year award and distinction in the U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges rankings. The College has also introduced new academic programs in Artificial Intelligence Management and Engineering Science, along with new graduate programs and an annual undergraduate research conference.

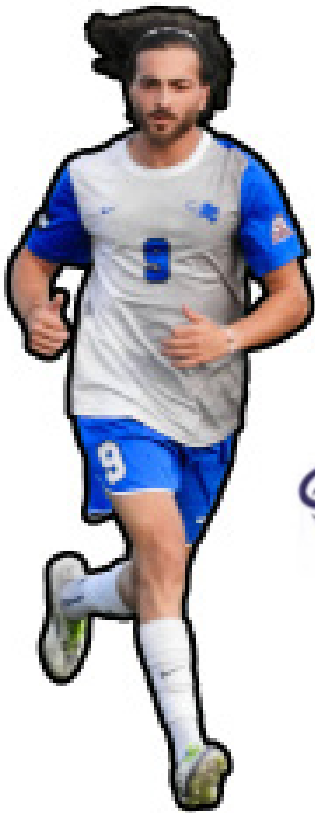
The recognition by Colleges of Distinction is based on the independent guide's unique evaluation criteria, known as the Four Distinctions: Engaged Students, Great Teaching, Vibrant Community, and Successful Outcomes. Through extensive research and interviews, Colleges of Distinction identifies institutions that make a meaningful impact on students' lives.

Unlike rankings that focus on prestige-driven metrics, Colleges of Distinction highlights

schools that champion educational impact, including everything from first-year seminars and collaborative projects to undergraduate research, global learning, and internships. Brevard College's inclusion is a result of its commitment to these high-impact practices and the personalized support it offers students throughout their college journey.

"No two students arrive on campus with the same goals, background, or definition of success," stated Schritter. "Brevard College has built an environment where students are supported and challenged in ways that translate into real academic, professional, and personal outcomes."

Since 2000, Colleges of Distinction has been committed to recognizing schools across the United States for their exceptional contributions to higher education. Colleges of Distinction institutions distinguish themselves through their focus on providing an outstanding undergraduate experience. The organization's website offers dynamic college profiles, customized tools, and valuable resources for students, parents, and high school counselors.



Coming Up...

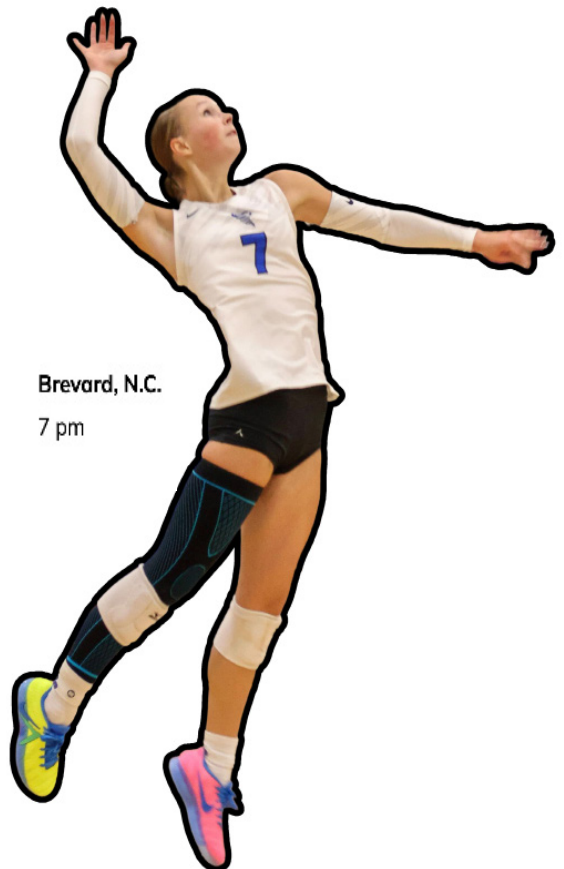
Men's Soccer



PCDA Academy
Aug 29 (Sat)

Brevard, N.C. | Scrimmage
2 pm

Volleyball



Warren Wilson
Sep 1 (Tue)

Brevard, N.C.
7 pm



Women's Soccer



Piedmont
Sep 1 (Tue)

Demorest, Ga.
8 pm