

Reflecting on five years of the BC Sidewalk Art Competition

Autumn Jones
Editor in Chief

Five years ago, a unique tradition started at Brevard College. Sean Parrish, an adjunct art professor, originally conceived the idea of starting a sidewalk festival at BC after years of teaching sidewalk chalk art to high school students in his former career. Observing how much his students loved getting outside—noting that “they loved it maybe as much as I did” and that “this art form allowed their work to be seen and appreciated by the community”—inspired him to bring the concept to campus.

The fine arts faculty were instrumental and supportive in helping the event become a reality, aiming “both to showcase our students and to showcase our campus to prospective BC students.”

Over the past half-decade, the festival has experienced “fluctuating attendance by the participants,” but this year marked a major milestone with “a large number of high school students participating and several new schools attending for the first time.”

“Because of the construction of the new student center/cafeteria, we had to relocate this event to Sims Art Building,” Parrish said. “This change was out of necessity, but worked out to



Art comes alive at the fifth annual Sidewalk Art Competition as artists work on their pieces. Photos by Kendall Hubbard.

be the best location for the sidewalk fest.”

By bringing regional high schools like Brevard High and Rosman High onto campus alongside current students and alumni, the event

plays a crucial role in breaking down barriers. “It breaks down that ‘college bubble,’” Parrish said. “It shows local kids that this space belongs to them, too, while giving the whole community a chance to connect and celebrate together. At the

end of the day, it reminds everyone that the college and the town are part of the same team.”

Planning an event with a temporary, weather-dependent canvas brings unique logistical challenges. “Sidewalk chalk art is of course dependent on the weather, so naturally as the date of the event gets closer, weather becomes a big factor,” Parrish explained. “In the event of rain, we have heavy plastic sheets to place over the art. If the rain chances are high or chances of storms are high, we try to reschedule to another weekend.”

When the chalk hits the pavement, evaluations are carefully conducted: high school participants are judged by art professors, while college students are judged by outside local artists, both using standards that Parrish says “take into account the student’s technical use of the material, use of color, overall quality, presentation, and



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Get to know Pride Club!

Madeleine Pollock
Managing Editor

Welcome to The Club Hub, where we will be highlighting specific clubs on campus! This week the spotlight is on Brevard College's Pride Club, which is a group of queer individuals and allies dedicated to making campus an accepting and welcoming place for all.

Junior Tom Webb is currently the club President. "I felt like our school needed to become a more openly accepting place, and I felt like I had a vision for how that could be accomplished," he says.

The Club is open to anyone on campus. "Anyone can join so long as they have a kind and accepting attitude—whether you're gay, straight, trans, cis, or don't feel like disclosing, we want to have you!" Webb says. The club meets every other week.

Webb is joined by Junior Vinnie Munson-Jackson, who serves as the Vice President, junior Marie Burke, who is the Secretary, and junior Clara DeMontmollin, who is Webb's "evil advisor," meaning they have the important job of "whispering suggestions... and laughing maniacally," according to Webb. The group works cohesively to give everyone a voice in decision-making.

"My favorite thing about Pride Club is getting to use the club as a way to make change on

campus. There are a lot of things that I believe need to be improved regarding our school's relationship to its queer student body, and I believe that Pride Club gives me a way to start making that progress and change," Webb said.

Pride Club events are focused on celebrating queer joy and community outreach. This past Wednesday, Oct. 7, the club had a meeting with a representative from SAFE—a program designed to support survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault—to learn how to develop and maintain personal boundaries.

During their next meeting on Oct. 21 in Tornado Alley at 6 p.m., Pride Club will host a movie night. Events are open to the larger campus community and are designed to be a mix of educational content and opportunities for relaxation and enjoying the company of the Pride Club community.

"I want everyone on campus to know that no matter who they are, they have somewhere they belong and they have people who will love them for who they are. They just need to go and find that place and find those people," Webb said.

"None of us are free until we are all free." Webb continues. "Love what you don't understand and stand with those who remain oppressed under our current society. With our voices, we can lift each other and create a much better world for everyone."

Anyone interested in joining can show up to a meeting or email webbra@brevard.edu with



Club President Tom Webb and Secretary Marie Burke with Pride Club signs at the Christmas Parade. They were invited to attend by the NAACP's lgbtq committee.

any questions!

Want your club to be highlighted in The Club Hub? Email clarion@brevard.edu and we will be sure to include you in a future issue!

Making the most of fall break

Gavin Natt
Contributor

For students staying on campus during fall break, the time off can be a chance to step away from school and enjoy the area around Brevard. With fall arriving in the mountains, students have plenty of opportunities to get outside, hike, and see some of the waterfalls that make the area popular.

One option is Dupont State Recreational Forest, which is located between Brevard and Hendersonville. The forest has more than 10,000 acres of trails, forest, and waterfalls. Two popular stops are Hooker Falls and Triple Falls, making Dupont a good option for students looking to spend part of their break outside.

Jake Stone, a Brevard College student staying on campus, plans to use his fall break to catch

up on work and relax after midterms.

"I plan on catching up on all my work and settling down after midterms and relaxing," Jake Stone, a freshman staying on campus, said.

"Go out and see the area around Brevard, especially because it's fall right now, so there are so many beautiful hikes," Stone continued.

For Stone, one of his favorite activities is hiking to waterfalls.

"Go on a waterfall hike. They're so fun and I love waterfalls," Stone said.

Another option for students is Pisgah National Forest. Looking Glass Falls is one of the most recognizable waterfalls in the area. The waterfall is more than 60 feet tall and can be seen from an overlook near U.S. 276.

Freshman Will Robert, also staying on campus, plans to use his break differently. He wants to step completely away from classes for a few

days.

"I plan on just taking the time to fully relax and not worry about any of my schoolwork or anything else," Robert said.

Robert recommends that other students do the same by getting outside and enjoying the fall weather and scenery.

"I recommend that you take this time to reset if you need to and go outside and go on a hike or just enjoy fall up here in Brevard," Robert said. "I love going to Dupont and searching for new hikes and waterfalls I've never seen before."

Whether students want to catch up on work, completely disconnect from school, or spend time exploring, fall break gives them a chance to do something different. For students staying in Brevard, the mountains, hikes, and waterfalls nearby make it easy to get outside and enjoy the fall season.

A Brevard birthday trip turns into an unexpected surprise

Hint: North Carolina's only reindeer?

Harleigh Reece
Contributor

fun way to get off campus and experience something we never expected; we will probably remember it for a long time.

Around 30 minutes away from campus lives North Carolina's only reindeer. Alongside this rare animal are multiple other exotic animals.

On Oct. 1, four of us went home with Emily Hoxit, a freshman softball player and Brevard local, for her birthday dinner. Upon arriving, we thought it was going to be a normal farm that was owned by Emily's uncle—little did we know that we were in for a shock.

Not only were there normal farm animals, like chickens and ducks, but there was also a kangaroo, some lemurs, albino deer, peacocks, servals, and more. The kangaroo was one of our favorites to watch because it was very active, jumping around in circles after realizing it had an audience.

According to their owner, the reindeer are the only ones in North Carolina. Although he has many animals, he plans to breed the reindeer over time.

"Petting the reindeer was so cool, especially knowing it's one of the only ones [in North Carolina]," freshman Brylee Watkins said.

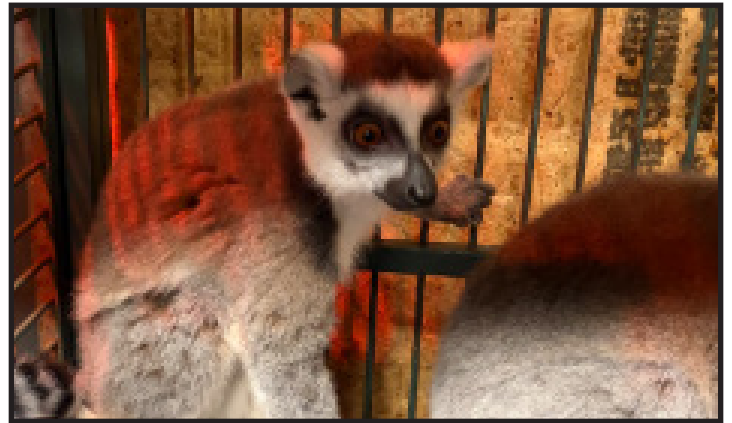
The owner intends to continue growing his collection by adding a reptile building with different types of snakes. "I would not be surprised if I walk down there one day and he has new animals out of nowhere," Hoxit said.

On the family property, he has enough land to add almost any animals he would like. It felt like the land just kept going, with more and more animals appearing everywhere we looked.

We not only got to see these animals, but we also got to pet them, interact with them, and learn how they differ from one another. We also noticed their individual characteristics. For example, one of the reindeer came right up to us and let us pet it, while the other was more hostile and did not want us near it.

The kangaroo was also very active, and the owner had to chase after it to catch it so we could interact with it. Meanwhile, the servals, black-and-orange wild cats, walked to the side of their cages so we could pet them.

This was a unique experience, especially in Brevard, but it was also a



Kangaroo and Lemurs at Hoxit's uncle's farm.

Continued from page 1

BC Sidewalk Art Competition

concept/composition."

While individual standout pieces populated every section of the festival this year, Parrish noted, "There were amazing sidewalk art pieces in every section, but what stood out most to me was seeing so many people having a great time, enjoying the act of making and appreciating art, and watching the artists get their moment of recognition."

With five successful annual events now in the books, Parrish shares his vision for the future: "I hope the future BC Sidewalk Festivals continue to grow, both in the number of participants and the number of spectators, and truly become a tradition at BC." He also hopes "to continue to add more activities to engage the spectators who come to support the artist (more artist vendor booths, games, and treat/food vendors)."

BC Students

1st Place: Phoebe Turner & Scarlett Houser

2nd Place: Nicole Bradbury & Wilsen DeGarmo

3rd Place: Autumn Short

Honorable Mention: Courtlyn Austin

Alum Owen Clark's capstone project accepted into film festivals

Elli Clark
Staff Writer

Alum Owen Clark of the class of 2026 has been accepted into two major film festivals for a short film that was created as his Integrated Studies capstone project.

The short, "Flunked Up", stars Grant Hayes, Chatam Kennedy, Dan Toot, and Kevin Holliday, following two newly acquainted college students who, "after butchering their final exam... hatch a plan to steal and fix their answer."

Filed on campus during the 2026 spring semester, the short shows familiar campus spots, primarily in McLarty-Goodson Hall. The team shot scenes outside the building in the MG/MS courtyard, in the lecture hall of MG 118, and even in Dr. Kuck's office. The team also filmed across town at the Cardinal Drive-In.

"Flunked Up" will premiere at the Okanagan International Film Festival (OKIFF) in British Columbia, Canada, from Oct. 15 to Oct. 18. This will be the debut year for the festival, which will mark "a bold new chapter for the region's rapidly growing film and television industry," as stated on the OKIFF official website. On-site, the festival will offer "an awards gala, local food and wine experiences, exclusive film screenings, industry panels, workshops, interactive experi-

ences, and networking events."

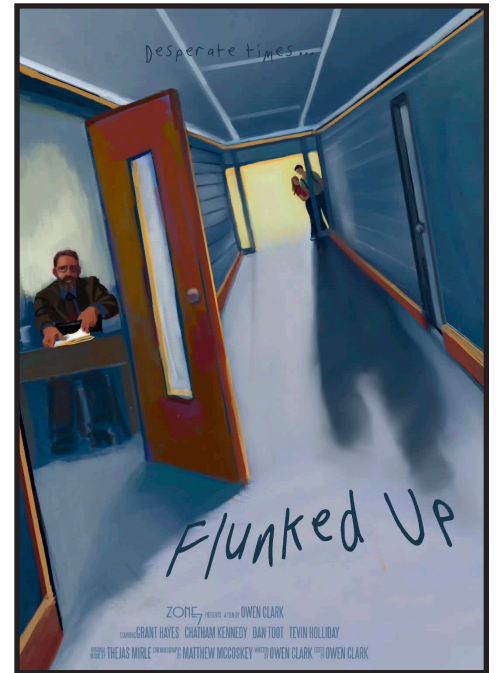
From Oct. 18 to Nov. 5, Clark's short will screen at the 33rd annual Austin Film Festival & Writers Conference, in downtown Austin, Texas. This will showcase over 180 films from 24 countries alongside a large panel of speakers.

"I'm super excited about the selections; it'll be a new experience for me," Clark said. Though another one of his shorts, also filmed at Brevard, was featured in the Footcandle Film Festival in Hickory, NC, he says having "Flunked Up" screened at these upcoming festivals "will be a whole other beast."

Despite Clark officially premiering his short at OKIFF, its very first showing was in the Porter Centre in front of the Theatre Department. "To be honest, I'm way less nervous to watch it on a big screen with a bunch of strangers than I was with a group of people I actually know."

Clark will experience the excitement of the film world when he attends one of the events in late October and early November. "I'll make the trip to Austin for the whole week, but don't think I'll be able to go to Okanagan," he said. Some of his family hope to attend in his place.

That's not it for Clark and "Flunked Up"; after submitting to a total of 9 different festivals, he will be waiting to hear back from seven more. "Right now we're two for nine," Clark said



The poster for "Flunked Up," directed and written by Owen Clark, created by Angela Burdo.

optimistically. Hopefully this successful streak will continue.

Students in the Teacher Education program volunteer at Rise and Shine 30th Anniversary Gala

On Sunday, Oct. 3, students in the Teacher Education program volunteered at the Rise and Shine 30th Anniversary Gala.

The celebration honored the scholars, parents, volunteers, staff, board members, churches, and local donors who have helped Rise & Shine grow from its 1996 founding—which began during a time of racial division to unite the community through investing in children—into a lasting pillar of hope and educational support in Transylvania County, as stated on their website.



(Left to right) Tyler Kelson, Myla Tucker, Jessie Tucker, Elizabeth Caroway, Layne Maurer, and Ian Mazzanti.

Freak of The Week: The Joro Spider

Tom Webb
Staff Writer

As the weather cools and the Halloween decorations come out, one might be screaming “EEK!” or “OH MY GOD, WHAT IS THAT!?” at the sight of this introduced spider species. This living Halloween decoration, known as the Joro Spider (*Trichonephila clavata*), is an invasive species of spider originally native to Eastern Asia.

The Joro Spider is quite large, with a nearly 4-inch leg span and a body length of roughly an inch. Its webs are notable for several reasons: first, its size. The Joro Spider’s web can be as large as 10 feet across and is known to make its webs in a variety of habitats, from high up in trees to the eaves of buildings.

The Joro Spider’s webs are also notable for their color and tensile strength—they take on a beautiful golden hue in sunlight; the reason for the gold hue is due to the presence of a pigment known as xanthurenic acid. The purpose of the yellow silk is still heavily debated among researchers, with one of the main hypotheses being that it simply assists in luring in prey.

The spider arrived in the US likely through a shipping container from Asia heading for Geor-

gia, where the species was first observed. Since then, the spider has slowly spread throughout the Southeast and is slowly moving further north.

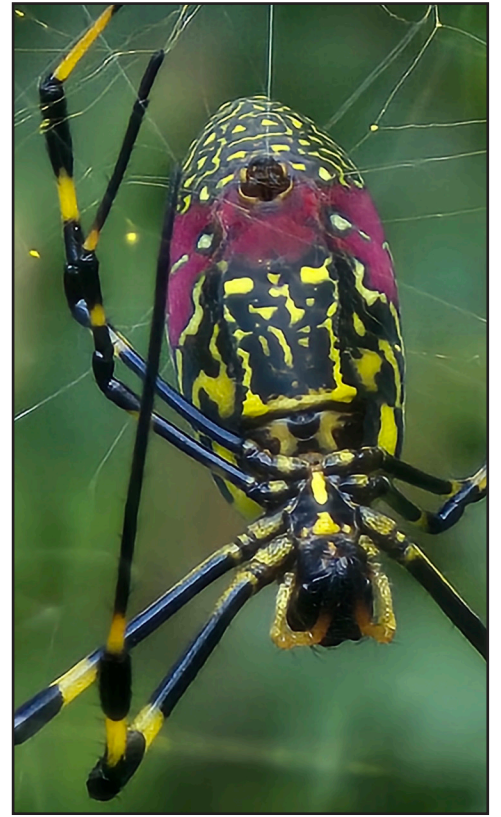
Part of the reason it has spread so quickly is because of an interesting feature within its life stage. As breadcrumb-sized hatchlings, Joro spiderlings engage in a process known as ballooning, where the spiders release a lightweight gossamer thread that catches wind or electric currents in the air. This allows them to travel up to hundreds of miles.

Scientists are beginning to believe that the Joro Spider is “urbanizing,” meaning that it is growing to become adapted to busy, high human traffic environments. This is helping the spider spread further north, but it’s still debated whether or not the spider will be able to establish itself within the Northeast.

Invasive species are a touchy subject for many people. Many people seem to greatly relish the excuse to kill something, and a creature being deemed a harmful invasive gives them the perfect excuse. The issue is, however, that we do not know yet if the Joro Spider is harming the ecosystems it is entering. Some arguments for an extermination campaign state that the spider is displacing native orb weavers and stealing their food, while arguments for the Joro Spider claim that the spider is assisting in the management of another far more harmful invasive species: the spotted lantern fly.

Fear also plays a role in the debate either for or against the Joro Spider, as most people unfortunately do not enjoy the presence of spiders in general. Joro Spiders are harmless to humans, and the claims that their webs can capture birds are entirely baseless (though other species of golden orb weaver have been observed with dead birds in their webs). The Joro Spider is known for possessing a timid nature, is more likely to flee than bite, and its venom is medically insignificant.

The Joro Spider is a fascinating yet controversial species overall, and its spread in the Southeastern United States has led to a lot of



A backyard freak Joro Spider who has been named “Goldie.” Photos by John B. Padgett

sensationalization. It’s still unknown what its effects on the ecosystem will be years down the road, but whether the spider is good or bad, it’s here to stay.

Trying to kill the spider will have little effect, as the spider is already well established throughout this region of the United States and will simply keep spreading.



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Sources:

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It's Banned Books Week: Oct. 4–10

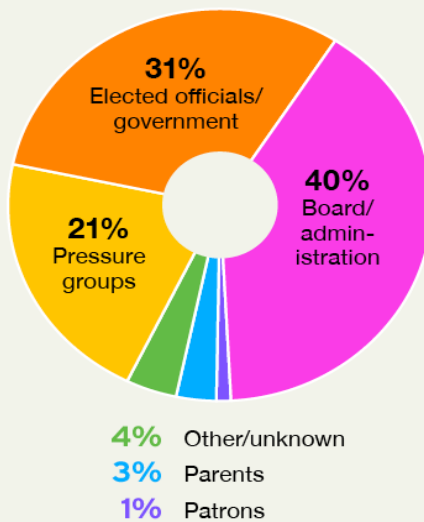
CENSORSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

In 2025, the American Library Association documented the second highest level of book censorship attempts ever and the continuation of an organized effort to systematically suppress voices and ideas that began in 2021. Last year, **4,235 unique titles** were challenged, only five titles short of the highest number ever documented by ALA and significantly exceeding the annual average of 273 unique titles over the period from 2001–2020.

LEARN MORE AT [ALA.ORG/BBOOKS](https://www.ala.org/bbooks)

WHO CHALLENGES BOOKS

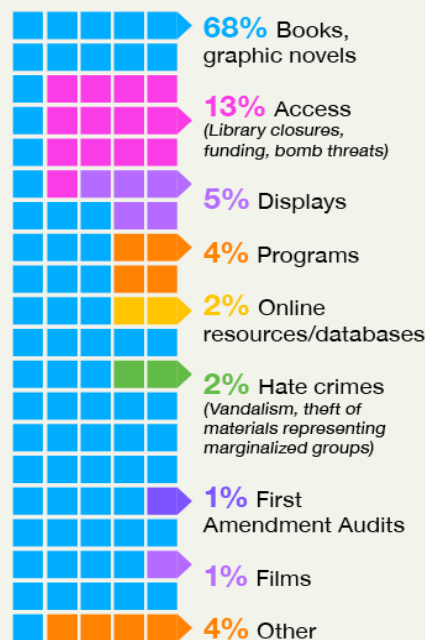
Nearly **92% of censorship attempts** in 2025 were initiated by pressure groups and decision makers swayed by them. This marks a 20-point increase over 2024.



Statistics based on 8,596 total titles targeted for censorship.

BOOKS AND BEYOND

ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked **713 distinct censorship incidents** in 2025. Here's the breakdown:



WHERE CHALLENGES HAPPEN



51%

Public libraries



37%

School libraries



8%

School curricula



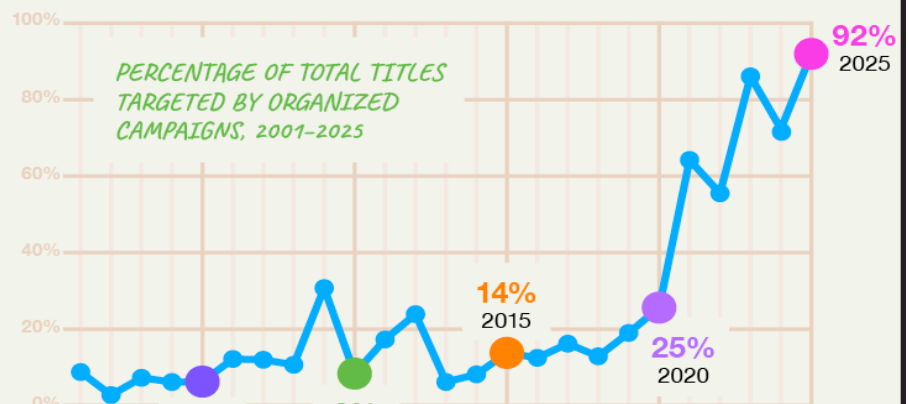
3%

Higher education

Statistics based on 696 incidents with known locations and include challenges to all materials and services. About 1% of censorship attempts took place in other locations.

CENSORSHIP TRENDS

The majority of library censorship remains tied to organized campaigns. Pressure groups and the decision makers they influenced targeted **7,884 total titles** in 2025. From 2001–2020, this constituency tried to remove an average of 46 titles per year. From 2021–2025, they targeted an average of 5,238 total titles annually.



Visit bannedbooksweek.org for more information

TOP 11 MOST CHALLENGED BOOKS OF 2025

The American Library Association documented **487 attempts to censor** books at libraries, schools, and universities in 2025. The reasons most commonly cited for censorship were false claims of illegal obscenity for minors; inclusion of LGBTQIA+ representation; covering topics of race, racism, social justice, and diversity; and presenting political or religious views with which the challengers disagreed. Of the **4,235 unique titles** that were challenged or banned in 2025, here are the top 11 most frequently targeted.

1



SOLD
by Patricia McCormick
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/soldBR

2



THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER
by Stephen Chbosky
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/wallflowerBR

3

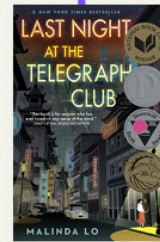


GENDER QUEER: A MEMOIR
by Maia Kobabe
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/genderBR

4



EMPIRE OF STORMS
by Sarah J. Maas
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/empireofstormsBR

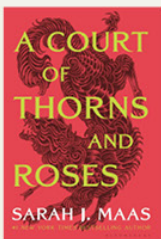
5
(TIE)

LAST NIGHT AT THE TELEGRAPH CLUB
by Malinda Lo
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/telegraphclubBR



TRICKS
by Ellen Hopkins
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/tricksBR

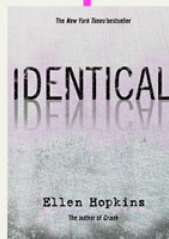
7



A COURT OF THORNS AND ROSES
by Sarah J. Maas
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/thornsBR

8
(TIE)

A CLOCKWORK ORANGE
by Anthony Burgess
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/clockworkorangeBR



IDENTICAL
by Ellen Hopkins
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/identicalBR



LOOKING FOR ALASKA
by John Green
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/alaskaBR



STORM AND FURY
by Jennifer L. Armentrout
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/stormBR

DeBella's late strike salvages draw for Tornados against Greensboro

Sophomore right-back Natalie DeBella ripped a match-tying goal in minute 87, as the Brevard College women's soccer team (8-1-3, 4-0-1 USA South) earned a hard-fought draw against Greensboro (5-3-4, 2-1-2 USAS) on Tuesday evening at Ives-Lemel Family Field.

DeBella, a second-year Tornado from Buford, Georgia, scored her first collegiate goal on her only shot of the match, firing a perfectly placed shot into the top-left corner following a blocked attempt by junior Mikayla Rubin, tying the match late for the Tornados.

Greensboro took an early advantage in minute

12 as Cailey Petrauskas scored her first goal of the season. GC managed to narrowly outshoot the Tornados in the first half of play, 8-7, but senior Abby Nunez turned away three attempts at goal to keep the deficit at just one goal.

BC took eight shots through the first 30 minutes of the second half, but Greensboro was able to keep Brevard off the scoreboard. With just under four minutes to go, Rubin fired an attempt that was blocked by GC's defense, but the Pride were unable to retain possession as DeBella's one-timer found the back of the net.

GC made some late substitutions, looking

to gain the lead back, but their attempts were denied as the Tornados preserved the 1-1 draw.

Kate Floyd and Bella Labno led all Tornados with three shots apiece. Abigail Sanzotta led the Pride with four attempts.

The result extends B's unbeaten streak at home to 37 matches, dating back to Oct. 15, 2022. Brevard has not lost in USA South Conference action since Oct. 14, 2023, a streak of 25 matches.

Brevard is back in action on Saturday at 1 p.m., facing William Peace at home.



All photos by Hunter Wilson.

Down go the Blazers: Nados defeats Belhaven with 51-8 win

Jordan Ramey
Staff Writer

The Brevard College Tornados took on the Belhaven Blazers on Sat. Oct. 3 and walked away with a win with a final score of 51-8. The Tornados are on a roll, starting the season 4-0; the first since 2009. It was also announced earlier in the week that after the dominant win, the Tornados are receiving votes in the coaches' top 25 poll—this is an exciting time to catch action on the Ives-Lemel Field on Saturdays as the rumor mill starts to murmur about “championships.”

It's becoming a common theme in the Nados that the defense and rushing attack on offense

dominate the game. The offense racked up 513 total yards against the Blazers' defense, but the true highlights come from the ground game of the Tornados. The “Human Highlight Reel,” Marvin Reed Jr., freshman running back, rushed for 106 yards and three touchdowns on only eleven attempts. With this incredible performance from the true freshman running back out of Hough High School he was named freshman offensive player of the week in the USA South.

The Tornados defense had yet another stellar performance, only giving up a total of 155 yards of offense and eight points this game. Junior defensive lineman Deshon Hadden recorded a sack and a half, bringing his total to three on

the year. Junior linebacker Seth Murray also recorded a sack and a half and a forced fumble against the Blazers. However, another Tornado earned honors from the USA South this week as the defensive player of the week: Antonio Simpson, sophomore linebacker, had five tackles, all being solo, and three of them recorded for loss.

The Tornados are looking forward to their continuation in conference play this week as they take on the Southern Virginia Knights from Buena Vista, VA. The Tornados will be on the road and play Sat. Oct. 10, at 1:00 P.M. Let's support this week as they hit the road to continue their dominance.