



Scooters and bikes banned from the campus stairwells

Where do students park them now?

Elli Clark
Staff Writer

One thing that has become clear in the new set of posters around campus is that parking scooters or bikes in the stairwells is a no-go. The posters state, “This is a fire safety violation and susceptible for fines by the Transylvania County Fire Marshal.” It’s understandable that these areas need to be kept clear for safety and unobstructed fire escape routes, but these signs bring up different problems for students who use bikes and scooters for transportation: where are they supposed to park them instead?

For students who use this form of transportation to get around campus, finding somewhere to leave them is less about convenience and more about security. Bikes and electric scooters are very expensive belongings, so leaving them outside in an unsecure place can bring about concerns of theft. If the option is left to either take the risk of having it stolen, or bringing that equipment inside, it is easy to understand the choice to store it in the stairwell.

That does not mean to say that stairwells should be free game to use for storage. They need to remain clear for emergency access; however, prohibiting this parking option without providing a practical and secure alternative leaves the students at a loss.

What can be done in addition to these posters? While there is a bike rack on the south side of McLarty-Goodson Hall and under the Moore Science Hall tunnel, neither of these places is equipped with a surveillance camera. One possible solution would be to install such technology in clear view of the designated parking lot and racks. This would give students comfort in the security of their bikes or scooters, and enticement to keep equipment outside.

It could be argued that simply adding a camera is not enough security to prevent stolen property, but it provides a deterrent towards those who might steal and in the case something is taken, provides proof and visual evidence that can help track down the equipment.

A poster can inform students of where they cannot park, but it cannot solve the issue of where they should park instead. By making an investment to create secure parking options around campus, Brevard College will be more successful in coming to an agreement with students surrounding stairwell requirements and safety measures.



Posters hung up in MG.



Halloweenfest returns to Brevard

Halloweenfest returns to downtown Brevard on Saturday, Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event is free to the public and features fun Halloween-themed activities for the whole family to enjoy, like costume contests, vendors, a museum tour, and more!



One of last year's Halloweenfest costumes. Photo by Abigail Callahan.



The Halloweenfest event map.

Submit your two-sentence horror stories to 'The Scarion'

Scan or click the QR code (or go to <https://bit.ly/scarion26form>) to submit your two-sentence horror stories to be featured in 'The Scarion'; the Halloween edition of 'The Clarion'! Stories submitted will be published in the Oct. 30 issue.



Brevard College athletics to host two community events this Halloween

The Brevard College Department of Athletics will host two community events this month, combining Halloween festivities with opportunities to support local families.

Brevard College's annual Trick or Treat for Cans will take place Sunday, October 25, from 2 to 4 p.m. Student-athletes from the College's 21 athletic teams will go door-to-door throughout the Brevard community, collecting canned goods and nonperishable food items to benefit The Sharing House. The event is part of the USA South Athletic Conference's Cans Across the Conference initiative. Community members may also drop off donations through November 19 at Boshamer Gymnasium on the Brevard College campus.

In 2025, Brevard College collected 17,694 items, the fifth-highest total in the initiative's history, to finish second in the competition. Across the

USA South, member institutions collected 59,904 items, the third-highest total in the program's history. Over 21 years, USA South institutions have donated 719,503 items to various local organizations.

Brevard College Athletics will also host its annual Halloween Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 31, at noon in the parking lot of the Field House at Ives-Lemel Family Field. The event will feature candy, face painting, and bounce houses for children, along with a halftime costume contest as part of the day's festivities.

The Trunk or Treat festivities will coincide with potential USA South Conference Tournament soccer matches that afternoon at Ives-Lemel Family Field. That evening, Brevard College football will host conference rival Greensboro College at 7 p.m.

Brevard College to present guest organ recital

Organist Daniel Sansone will present a guest recital on Monday, October 26, at 1 p.m. in Scott Concert Hall at Brevard College's Porter Center for Performing Arts. The recital is part of the Brevard College Music program's weekly student colloquium series. The event is free and open to the public.

Sansone is the director of music at First Presbyterian Church in New Bern, North Carolina. He has performed organ recitals throughout the United States, including at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., and St. Paul's Cathedral in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He has appeared as a guest organ soloist with

the Peabody Concert Orchestra, the United States Naval Academy Brass Ensemble, the Charleston Symphony Orchestra and the North Carolina Symphony.

Sansone has also performed as organ soloist with the Baltimore Bach Festival and the Bach Society of Charleston, South Carolina. He served on the committee for the L'Organo Recital Series of Piccolo Spoleto and also performed as an organ soloist at the festival.

The program will feature works by J.S. Bach, Dietrich Buxtehude, Claude Debussy, Felix Mendelssohn, and William Albright. Sansone will answer audience questions following the recital.

Coming to campus Oct. 29th: Three Hounds Mobile Barbershop

Location: In front of Boshamer Gymnasium

Date: Thursday, October 29

Walk-ins welcome!

Time: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Take advantage of this convenient opportunity. Stop by, say hello, and get fresh for the weekend!

Freak of The Week: The Plant Parasite

Dodder

Tom Webb
Staff Writer

Plants from the genus *Cuscuta*, also known as dodder, are parasitic vines that feed on the nutrients from the stems of the plants they grow on. There are over 200 members of this genus, all referred to as “Dodder”. Key characteristics include its red-to-yellow-hued vines and its silly-string-like appearance as it grows on other plants; it is also notable for its lack of roots, leaves, and chlorophyll, instead relying on its host plant for structure, nutrients, and water.

Dodder does not begin its life as rootless. When it sprouts, the plant has a small root which helps to anchor it to the ground temporarily while it searches for a host. When a dodder finds its host, it will abandon its root and begin to rely solely on the other plant, but how exactly does it feed?

Dodder is an incredibly fascinating plant, using multiple root-like structures called haustoria to infiltrate the vascular systems of other plants and extract their nutrients and water. Plants of this genus can also “smell” their victims. When Dodder sprouts, it follows the emission of organic compounds from nearby plants, slowly creeping its way to them before latching on and beginning to absorb their nutrients.

If a Dodder fails to find a host within 5–10 days, the plant will die. However, because it does not rely on roots of its own, it is capable of sur-

living in a myriad of soil conditions. When the plant is ready to reproduce, small flowers bloom, and eventually the seeds will disperse. Dodder can easily infest cropland or gardens, and it is challenging to remove due to the fact that its seeds can stay dormant for several years in the soil while it waits for the right conditions to sprout.

Dodders do frequently kill their hosts, and this may seem counterintuitive to their survival, but if a dodder completely drains its host, it will still likely have had time to reproduce or spread to other live plants. These plants are incredibly well-adapted parasites with interesting life cycles; though they are parasitic, they should still be admired due to their unique method of survival and their diversity despite their lack of what we consider typical plant structures.



A freak reminiscent of evil spaghetti. Photo by Tom Webb.

Sources:

Orozco, T. (2026, May 22). Dodder: the parasitic plant that sniffs out its victims. Discoverwildscience. <https://discoverwildscience.com/dodder-the-parasitic-plant-that-sniffs-out-its-victims-4-304875/>

Club Hub: The BC Outing Club

Skills-building event to take place Oct. 24 at 5:30 p.m. behind the OLEE barn

Madeleine Pollock
Managing Editor

Welcome back to The Club Hub, where we highlight different clubs on campus! This week, we will be focusing on Brevard’s Outing Club, which helps students build outdoor skills and spend more time exploring the natural beauty of Western North Carolina.

“Since its founding, the club’s main goal has always been to make outdoor recreation accessible to every student, no matter their background or experience,” club President and senior Kyle Gay said.

Gay plans various events on and off campus, with the help of senior Vice President Dustin Vanover, and faculty advisor and OLEE professor, Ryan DeGarmo.

This Saturday Oct. 24 at 5:30 p.m., they will be holding a skills session behind the OLEE barn to help the campus community feel more comfortable doing things like shelter building, stove opera-



Continued on page 7 Members hiking at Pink Beds in Pisgah National Forest last year.

Five hiking spots to explore this fall

Gavin Natt
Contributor

Fall is one of the best times to explore the mountains around Brevard. Cooler temperatures and changing leaves make it a popular season for hiking. From short walks, to waterfalls, to longer trails with mountain views, the area has options for beginners and experienced hikers.

Looking Glass Falls

Located in Pisgah National Forest, Looking Glass Falls is a great option for people who want to see a waterfall without completing a long hike. The waterfall drops about 60 feet and can be viewed from a paved area near the road. Visitors can also take stairs down for a closer look. Parking can get crowded, so arriving early is a good idea.

Hooker Falls

Hooker Falls is located in Dupont State Forest and is an easy option for a short outdoor trip. The trail is about one mile round-trip and leads to a scenic waterfall. Its shorter distance makes it a good choice for beginners or anyone looking to spend some time outside without taking on a difficult hike.

Triple falls

Also located in Dupont, Triple Falls is known for its three sections of cascading water. The trail offers scenic walks through the forest and views of the Falls. Some sections are steep, so visitors should wear comfortable shoes and allow enough time to explore. The stairs leading to the rock shelf at the Falls have been closed, so hikers should check current trail conditions before visiting.

Moore Cove falls

For another waterfall hike, Moore Cove Falls is located in Pisgah National Forest. The trail follows a forest path and leads to a waterfall that drops over a rock ledge. A viewing platform provides a place to see the fall safely. The trail is a good option for people who want a short walk surrounded by trees in nature.

John Rock

For hikers looking for more of a challenge, John Rock offers mountain scenery and views of looking glass rock. The loop is about 4.6 miles long, making it a longer hike than the waterfall hikes. Hikers should bring water, wear appropriate shoes and be careful around exposed rock surfaces, which can be dangerous even in dry weather.

Before heading out on any hike, check the weather and trail conditions. Bring water, wear shoes with good traction and stay on marked trails. Rocks near waterfalls can be slippery, and visitors should never climb near the top of a waterfall or enter dangerous currents. Parking is limited at some popular spots, especially on fall weekends.

Whether you want a quick stop at a waterfall or a longer hike with mountain views, Brevard has plenty of ways to enjoy the outdoors this fall.

THE CLARION

SENIOR STAFF

Editor in Chief **Autumn Jones**
Managing Editor **Madeleine Pollock**
Copy Editor.
Layout & Design **Emma Murray**
Faculty Advisor **John Padgett**

STAFF WRITERS

Elli Clark
Liam Smith
Connor Sechrist

Tom Webb
Jordan Ramey

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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
clarion.brevard.edu

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SKILLS Workshop

SHELTER BUILDING

STOVE OPERATION

EXPLORE MORE

Join us this Saturday October 24th behind the OLEE garage at 5:30PM for our first ever skills workshop

If Brevard won't trust students to design a poster, who will?

Why Brevard's AI-generated event promos frustrate students

Autumn Jones
Editor in Chief

Everywhere you look, AI seems to have made its mark: data collection; the summarization of emails; the implementation into education (whether productive or not)—and now, reshaping campus marketing.

More specifically: Brevard College campus events.

When I open Instagram and scroll through my “suggested” feed, the amount of AI content feels suffocating. Videos, photos, and automated captions have transformed my once-curated space into something that I cannot stand to look at. This frustration with artificial intelligence is even more pronounced when I see the college I pay thousands of dollars to attend using the exact technology it condemns in the classroom.

Take @lifeatbc, the official Instagram account for BC Campus Life and Campus Activity Board (CAB). The account frequently uses Instagram Stories to promote upcoming events. The result? AI-generated flyers.

Frankly, I have no desire to attend an event advertised with AI art. As Reddit user jackof-severaltrades aptly put it, “When you see AI [to advertise], you should ask yourself what else they could be cutting corners on.”

I am far from the only student bothered by this approach.

One student, who wished to remain anonymous, noted that the AI flyers feel entirely unoriginal. “The graphics aren’t appealing and I feel like there’s way too much going on for me to take the time to read the information,” they said. “It’s overwhelming.”

Their critique highlights a broader issue: AI flyers share a repetitive and chaotic look. They rely on uniform fonts, random gradients, and cluttered layouts that jam text into almost every square inch.

Senior Emma Murray took the criticism a step further, calling the flyers tacky. “It’s stupid. Machines were designed to do arduous tasks for us, not creative ones. What happened to whimsy?” Murray asked. “Besides, the way it generates

stuff is by feeding what artists have already created into an algorithm to create whatever nonsense you ask for.”

Relying on AI to generate promotional graphics for an event you organized—and already have all the details for—feels like an unnecessary shortcut.

This local dissatisfaction reflects a growing national sentiment. In a Gallup poll from June, Americans’ increased familiarity with generative AI coincides with negative attitudes about the technology. This is especially true for Gen Z between ages 18 and 29—Brevard’s main demographic—where almost half see generative AI as doing more harm than good.

For student artists, that harm feels personal. Autumn Short, a senior Art major concentrating in graphic design, worries that generative AI is taking opportunities away from emerging digital artists like herself. “Most large artists aren’t as affected because their work holds physical value, whereas beginners rely on small gigs to get to a higher position,” she said. These foundational gigs are things like designing flyers for campus events.

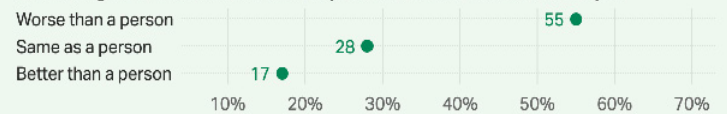
“Seeing people use AI to this extent is frightening,” Short added. “If even a small college isn’t sourcing their materials to students to learn, it makes me worry that at some point, no matter what, I will always be second to a computer program that is already stealing artwork to generate its images.”

Beyond the creative and professional toll, the widespread adoption of AI carries significant environmental costs. According to SQ Magazine, over 150 million people world-wide use AI image generators monthly. Each AI image takes roughly 15–60 milliliters—about a shot

AI vs. Humans

How well does artificial intelligence do the following compared to a person?
% Selected

Create original artistic content such as pictures, videos, literature or scripts



Bentley University-Gallup Business in Society Survey, May 4-11, 2026

GALLUP

Chart from GALLUP.

glass worth of water. That doesn’t sound like a lot, right?

Until you take into account the aforementioned 150 million people using AI image generators, which only counts the people and not the number of images generated.

The environmental strain extends far beyond water consumption to energy use and physical waste. A report by the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health report titled “Environmental Cost of AI’s Energy Use: Carbon, Water and Land Footprints” warns that AI infrastructure could generate up to 2.5 million tonnes [equivalent to 2.5 billion kilograms] of electronic waste each year by 2030, with much of it processed in low-income economies with limited safeguards.

These practices clash directly with Brevard’s core values. The college’s mission statement emphasizes a commitment to an “experiential liberal arts education that encourages personal growth and inspires artistic, intellectual, and social action.” How can the college uphold that promise if event organizers prefer typing prompts into a chatbot for generic, overwhelming graphics rather than engaging with our own art department? Shouldn’t leaders on campus offer students real-world opportunities to develop the skills they pay to learn?

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Why Brevard's AI-generated event promos frustrate students

If given the opportunity, Short says that she would tell those generating the flyers about the harm they are causing. "AI is harmful to the environment, our future careers, and the minds of people. This isn't just true for art and design majors, this is true for everyone. AI usage of all kinds should be banned on this campus. This is a place for learning and cultivating the minds and careers of students. If the people in charge can't even use their own minds for something as simple as a poster, how am I expected to think they care about where I end up?"

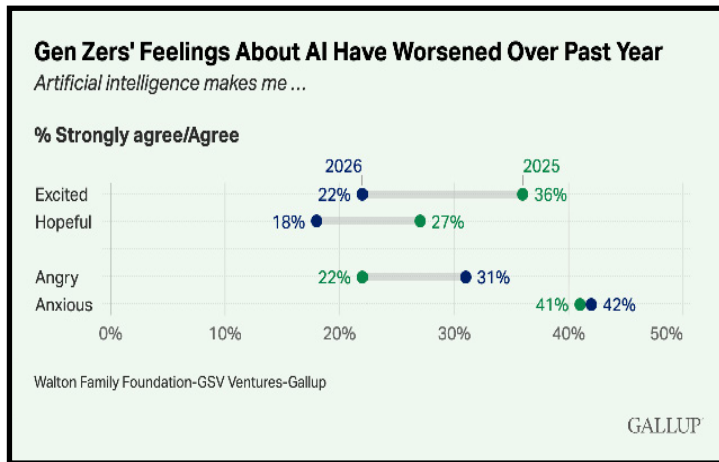
Moving away from AI doesn't require extra complexity. I have three al-

ternatives to using AI to create flyers for events, whether on campus or off.

One: establish a student work-study position. Create a designated student role to produce human-made artwork for upcoming events.

Two: partner with the art department. Connect directly with students eager to build their design portfolios. Giving them the hands-on experience aligns with the hands-on education they came to Brevard for.

Three: Canva. It's free and they have thousands of templates to choose from.



Charts from GALLUP.

Continued from page 4

BC Outing Club spotlight

tion, water filtration, and fire building—giving attendees the confidence and skills to get outside more.

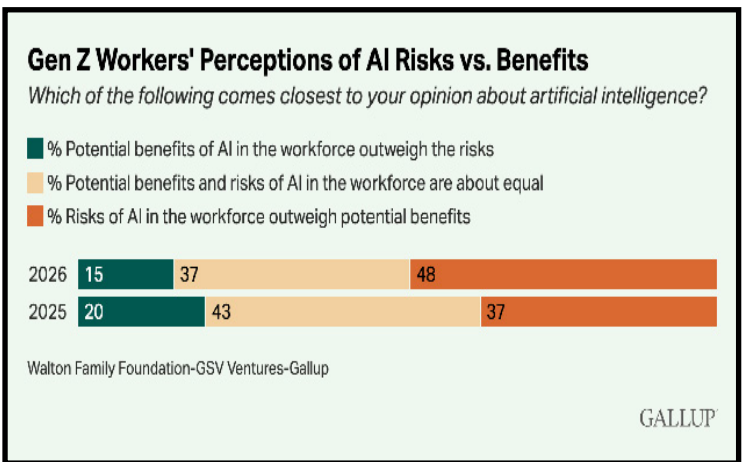
The Outing Club also hosts biweekly fires outside of the center villages, to encourage members to connect with one another, eat s'mores, and to get to experience a traditional outdoor activity of sharing a fire. Their next fire will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. and everyone is welcome.

Additionally, they plan more adventurous activities like day hikes in Pisgah and Whitewater Kayaking. This is a great opportunity to explore the National Forest and the local rivers with experienced guides who know exactly where they are going.

"My favorite thing about the Outing club is how welcoming and member driven it is. We tailor our outings directly to what our members want to do from casual day hikes to whitewater paddling," Gay said. "Every outing is designed around the experiences and skills our members want to gain."

The club is open to everyone at Brevard College. Those interested in getting involved can attend the campus fire nights or any other events, and can stay up to date on upcoming events by following @brevard_outingclub on Instagram or emailing gaykj@brevard.edu.

Additionally, students who are interested in holding a club management position should contact Gay or Vanover. "Both Dustin and I are graduating this December, so we are actively looking for passionate students to step into leadership roles to take over the club for the upcoming spring



semester and beyond," Gay says. "If you are interested in keeping Brevard College's outdoor community thriving, please reach out to us."



Outing Club volunteering at Banff Mountain Film Festival last spring.

BC Cycling athletes finish World-Cup Mountain Bike Series with a bang!

Liam Smith
Staff Writer

For many mountain bike athletes around the world, the finish line was on Oct. 2 and 3 out in Lake Placid, New York. For some Brevard College alumni, it was one of the best results of the 2026 season yet; for some BC Nados, it was the beginning of their final big efforts this fall.

On Friday, Oct. 2, the Under-23 and Elite classes raced the Cross-Country Short Circuit, or XCC, which is designed to be 20 minutes at maximum pace around a course about 2-3 minutes per lap.

There were three BC athletes out on course during the Women's XCC. Sophomores Lily-Rose Marois and Elli Clark blitzed to 24th and 28th, respectively, whilst Junior Ayana Gagné pushed hard to 37th.

"It was honestly such a fun time, especially when the rain hit, and we were running XCC in the mud, barely being able to see through our glasses," Clark, a fellow Clarion staff writer, said regarding her race. It seemed like a shared experience as Marois claimed that she "was having such a blast racing on that course... it added a challenge to that short track."

For both Marois and Clark, their parents had travelled to support their races, which was exciting and helped to elevate their performances.

Later in the day, two Brevard College alumni raced in the Elite Men's Cross-Country Short Circuit. Fall 2026 graduates, Cole Punchard and Owen Clark (one of Elli Clark's older brothers), raced to ninth and 25th, respectively, in the same hard and muddy conditions the under-23 women faced.

On Saturday, the Nados lined up for the last

time this year at the highest level. This time, it was the XCO, or Cross Country Olympic race, which aimed to be approximately 80 minutes while doing laps on the course that was eight to ten minutes in length.

For the Under 23 women: Marois landed 21st, Clark came in 25th, and Marois dug deep to a 33rd. Gagné reflected on some of the challenges she faced, including breaking her rear wheel "on the same rock everyone else flatted on." Marois is already excited to dive into the 2027 season and see what it brings.

In the Elite Men's XCO, Owen Clark and Punchard were joined at the start line by spring 2022 graduate Tyler Orschel. Punchard finished fourth, just seven seconds behind his teammate and race winner. Owen Clark posted a career-best Elite XCO result, finishing 24th, and Orschel finished 51st.



Cole Punchard on the far right in his photo by Michele Mondini

Tornados dominate in victory over Pacers

Connor Sechrist
Staff Writer

The Brevard College women's soccer team shut out the William Peace Pacers 4-0 in Monday's conference matchup.

The Tornados are now 10-1-4 this season heading into Saturday's game against conference rival Southern Virginia University.

The Tornados cruised past the Pacers after an underwhelming 0-0 tie against NC Wesleyan last week. On Monday, the Tornados looked confident with the offense controlling the day: 37 total shots and four goals, three of which were in the first half.

Junior transfer Peyton Coggins contributed two of the four goals against the Pacers—it was also the first two goals for Coggins this season and as a Tornado.

Coggins' first goal was assisted by a free kick by senior goalkeeper Abby Nunez in the sixth minute, while her second goal was assisted by freshman forward Maddy Loranger in the 15th minute.

The next two goals would come from junior forward Catie Barton and sophomore midfielder Janie Steele. Barton scored her first goal of the season and the Tornados' third goal of the first half in the 28th minute with help from sophomore midfielder Carrissa Jenkins. Steele would

score the only goal of the second half in the 60th minute of the match with a header off a corner kick from sophomore defender Natalie Debella.

The Tornados' defense had another stellar performance, holding the Pacers to a total of three shots. The Monday matchup was the Tornados 11th total shutout and 9th shutout win of the season. Goalie Abby Nunez faced one shot her way and made her only save of the day, with an assist to top it off.

The Tornados' next matchup will be at home against Southern Virginia University on Saturday, Oct. 24, and it will also be their "senior game," where they recognize the graduating seniors on the team.