The SCARION

Two-Sentence Horror Stories pages 4 & 5

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Is Brevard College haunted?

Though Ross Hall has been gone more than five years now, rumors and stories of its ghostly past continue to this day

Madeleine Pollock
Managing Editor



Ross Hall was burnt down as a training exercise for local firefighters in 2021. Photo by John Padgett

At the back of campus is Savannah Hill, the high point on the hillside where the disc golf course is, as well as the dual slalom mountain bike track. Now, it sits empty, home only to white squirrels and the other woodland creatures that call Brevard home.

But that wasn't always the case: until 2021, it was home to the notoriously haunted Ross Hall.

Ross Hall was a colonial-style brick and stone building. While the building was operational, students and staff reported eerie feelings, strange noises, light switches flipping on and off, and translucent figures roaming the halls.

"Over the years I had heard many ghost stories of Ross Hall but had never experienced more than just some strange feelings working late at night alone," former WLEE director Clyde Carter says.

Carter shared some stories from a student named Myles who lived as a sort of caretaker at Ross Hall in the early 2000s. One night, Carter found Myles sleeping in his car. "He told me the ghosts were keeping him up all night," Carter says. "When I went into the building, I found all the light switches were taped. Myles said they were flipping on and off all night."



Only the skeleton of the building remained after the fire. Photo by John Padgett.

But the hauntings didn't stop there. "One night another student spent the night with Myles in a room next door," Carter continued. "The next day the student told me in the middle of the night that something grabbed him by the ankles and yanked him off the bed. There was no one in the room and the door was still closed and locked from the inside."

Current OLEE Director Dr. Jennifer Kafsky witnessed strange noises and odd presences while working in the building at night. "On occasion I felt like someone was there, even though there wasn't. I did call security once or twice to circle the building, just to be sure," she said.

"Others heard the noises when they were alone as well," Kafsky continued. "Facilities came over and suspected that there were raccoons in the building, which might have been true, but we never saw the raccoons."

But it wasn't just members of the college that experienced the hauntings. In the '90s, the WLEE program used to host Wilderness First Responders from New Hampshire to teach a course. By the third year, the WLEE program was told that the responders would refuse to return unless given somewhere else to stay, saying that the building was haunted.

According to past Clarion archives, Ross Hall was built by the Zachary Family of Savannah, GA, as a mountain home during World War I. It then underwent renovations in the 1920s.

The building was named after a former Brevard Institute faculty member, Frances H. E. Ross, and it served multiple purposes throughout its history. It began as a summer home for the Zacharies, then transitioned to house the men who were attending the Brevard Institute. Next, it became faculty living quarters, before becoming the Fine Arts Residence Hall. Then in 1994, it became home to the WLEE program.

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Was Ross Hall really haunted?

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The earliest ghost story Carter had to share is from an art student who lived there in the 1980s. "I got a chance to talk to one of the students who told me one time they were sitting in the lobby studying when they saw a translucent figure run through the room with books under its arm," Carter said.

In 2016, Ross Hall was condemned due to fire damage and structural issues, and was burned to the ground in 2021. Its fiery death was used as a training exercise for local firefighters and as a quick way to demolish the building. Today, it only adds to the mystery of Ross Hall.

Kafsky also recounted having recurring nightmares about Ross Hall that stopped when the building was burned. "I had vivid and scary dreams of swirling spiritual lights and air, activity in and outside of Ross Hall, and having to get inside and rescue people to help them and myself leave the building," she said.

"I had heard stories that the hill was a sacred burial site for the Cherokee," Carter said. "It makes sense, a lone hill in the middle of the river valley. So who knows, there very well could be spirits that linger from years past."

There were no reliable sources that confirmed what Carter says about a burial site; however, it is clear that the mystery and stories of Ross Hall continue to live on even without a building to house them.

Have you ever experienced anything scary or unsettling near Savannah Hill or elsewhere on campus? If yes, we would love to hear about it in a letter to the editor! Please send to clarion@brevard.edu, and we may even include it in a future issue.



Right: After the second phase of construction, Ross Hall was a men's residence hall. Photo from 1930 and retrieved from BC Archives.



FESTIVE FASHION: Kara Gusner, a junior history major from Thousand Oaks, California, shows off her unique style outside the Porter Center during Wednesday evening's annual Harvest Fest. Gusner's outfit features Hot Topic jeans adorned with mushrooms, a pumpkin and frog patches, complete with a matching functional mini frog handbag dangling from her belt loop.
Gusner moved across the country to attend Brevard College after her cousin, who played banjo during the summer at the Brevard Music Center, recommended the area. (Photo by John Padgett)

Google's 2026 Frightgeist: cinema, memes, & squishys

Autumn Jones
Editor in Chief

Google has released its 2026 Frightgeist list, which uses Google Trends data to predict the most popular costumes for the upcoming holiday. Last year was the year of the screen, with 18 of the 20 costumes on the list from movies or television shows, and this year seems to be no different, continuing the trend with another screen-heavy, pop-culture-obsessed lineup.

Spot number one belongs to Buddy the Unicorn, the antagonist in the movie of the same name. The movie is a dark comedy horror released in August and was mistaken by quite a few parents online as being a children's movie.

Second on the list is not surprising considering the popularity, but is definitely interesting to speculate how it can be achieved: the Needoh. If you've been on the internet within the last year, you might have noticed the gel-filled squishy toys gaining popularity despite existing since 2017.

In a surprisingly low third spot is Nikki from "Obsession," a horror movie following a hopeless romantic after he breaks a One Wish Willow to win his crush's heart. "Obsession" was released in theaters in May of this year and has flooded the internet with memes, a Fortnite collab, and apparently even a dance on TikTok. Interesting.

Fourth on the list is Agamemnon from "The Odyssey," the movie adaptation of Homer's collection of poems. I'm sure you remember reading this during your freshman year of high school. The movie, released in July of this year, stars a plethora of huge names including Zendaya, Tom Holland, Matt Damon, Anne Hathaway, and Elliot Page.

Spot five belongs to Lily Love Braids from Poppy Playtime, a character from the episodic horror puzzle game first developed and published in October 2021.

Number six on the list is Oliver Tree, a musician, rapper, and songwriter who passed in June. Tree was popular for his eccentric style and his hit 2021 song "Life Goes On."

Seventh on the list is Verity from Minecraft, a horror series created by Canadian YouTuber ThatMob. Verity is an over-100-year-old sentient, omniscient entity/AI assistant that originated as a corporate-created product or answering machine before manifesting inside digital systems like Microsoft's Clippy and eventually a custom Minecraft mod. The normal Verity form is a small, lemon-yellow 50 cm floating sphere with a simple black smiling face and eyes, and the monster form is a 6.5-meter-tall, lanky, slender humanoid with muted dirty-yellow skin, hollow black eyes, human teeth, and Cave Dweller-like features.

Number eight is Carl from the 2020 book series Dungeon Crawler Carl by Matt Dinniman. Carl, the protagonist, survives an alien apocalypse that flattens Earth and turns any survivors into players

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(Mostly) scary movies for Halloween

Students in ENG 211: Introduction to Film were asked to write mini-reviews of some of their favorite movies for Halloween. Collected below are some of their responses.

"Backrooms" (2026)

Directed by Kane Parsons. Starring Chiwetel Ejiofor, Renate Reinsve, Mark Duplass.

In this psychological thriller, written by Will Soodik & Kane Parsons, Clark, an unsuccessful, ruined furniture salesman, discovers an anomalous maze-like room within the basement of his furniture warehouse. But is he alone? This movie has been a breath of fresh air for horror movies, from a lesser-known director whose start was in internet content creation. This movie is rather approachable for people unfamiliar with the internet interpretation of the backrooms. This film is unsettling throughout the movie; there is rarely time to let your guard down. The sound design is next to none. Eugenio Battaglia did a phenomenal job; some sound effects you hear you do not notice until they are gone.

—Evan Webb

"Beetlejuice" (1988)

Directed by Tim Burton. Starring Michael Keaton, Winona Ryder, Alec Baldwin, Geena Davis.

"Beetlejuice" is a supernatural comedy about a recently deceased couple trying to deal with a family that moves into their home. They try to seek help from an unpredictable spirit named Beetlejuice. This movie is entertaining because of its humor and bizarre characters. Tim Burton has a distinctive visual style you can see throughout his works; he uses exaggerated sets, unusual costumes, and practical effects. The prominent contrast shown between the living world and the afterlife is super cool. The living world seems ordinary, like ours, while the afterlife is strange, chaotic, and full of crazy rules. Tim Burton uses his visual style to make the afterlife feel both creepy and funny. This contrast gives the movie its unique atmosphere because even death is treated with dark humor rather than complete seriousness. I think it is a really good Halloween movie for people to watch if they enjoy a spooky movie that isn't relentlessly scary.

—Graycie Barnett

"The Conjuring" (2013)

Directed by James Wan. Starring Patrick Wilson, Vera Farmiga, Ron Livingston, Lili Taylor.

"The Conjuring" is a supernatural horror movie based on the lives of Ed and Lorraine Warren. They were paranormal investigators. The story follows the Perron family when they move into an old farmhouse and begin experiencing terrifying supernatural events. They ask the Warrens for help as they become more afraid for their lives.

I would recommend "The Conjuring" to those who enjoy horror movies because the plot is very well thought through and executed very well. In some scary movies, the plot falls through, and then the movie consists of just jump scares. This movie involves jump scares but also follows an interesting storyline.

One of the strongest parts of this movie is the use of sound and cinematography. It uses dark lighting and camera angles that make the house feel mysterious and unsafe. The movie also uses a lot of silence. Silence can be scarier than loud noises...especially just before a loud noise.

—Emma Fontana

This film is about Ed and Lorraine Warren and follows the real-life 1971 case of paranormal activity that they were investigating. The Conjuring house is a 14-room farmhouse, and the Perron family is who moves into it and is the family that is being haunted. It is located in Rhode Island, and the family has 5 daughters. The mom of the Perron family ends up getting possessed, and Ed and Lorraine try to help.

This film definitely includes some effects as well as visual effects with costumes and makeup. The mise en scene definitely lets you know that it is a horror movie. This movie is full of jump scares and gore, as well as the thrill of suspense. This movie also allows viewers to learn about a real-life event and the history behind it.

—Kaitlyn Aragon

"Halloween" (2018)

Directed by David Gordon Green. Starring Jamie Lee Curtis, Judy Greer, Andi Matichak, James Jude Courtney.

The movie takes place 40 years after the first-ever "Halloween" in 1978. Michael Myers escapes and returns to Haddonfield, Illinois, on Halloween night to stalk the town and try to kill Lorde Strode, who survived the last attack 40 years ago and has been preparing ever since. To me, this movie is the best in the Halloween franchise. I think it has the coolest Michael Myers mask, with it looking old and worn, as well as having some of the coolest kills and shots in the franchise. There is one scene where it's a one-shot camera, and it follows Michael when he first gets to Haddonfield and starts killing people in the house, and then it stops, and you can see Michael moving in the background to kill a lady in her house. Overall, this is a really fun thriller/slasher horror movie to watch, with a really good plot and some cool kills.

—Kaleb James

"Hocus Pocus" (1993)

Directed by Kenny Ortega. Starring Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker, Kathy Najimy, Omri Katz.

"Hocus Pocus" takes place in the 17th century. Three Sanderson sisters who were witches were hanged by the townspeople of Salem because they were stealing kids' souls for themselves. 300 years later, they were accidentally brought back by a teen boy named Max. Max and his little sister Dani and their friend Allison were finding ways to stop the Sanderson sisters from getting little kids' souls. This movie has funny moments, magic, and spooky Halloween fun. Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker, and Kathy Najimy give memorable performances as the three witches, and their funny personalities make the movie better. In this movie, there is the best catchy music ever, and they have the best creative costumes and spooky setting. "Hocus Pocus" is a great movie to watch every Halloween with family and friends.

—Stephany Aranda-Nino

"Hubie Halloween" (2020)

Directed by Steven Brill. Starring Adam Sandler, Julie Bowen, Kevin James, Ray Liotta.

"Hubie Halloween" is a spooky comedy mystery that follows Hubie Dubois, a kind-hearted but awkward deli worker in Salem, Massachusetts. Hubie is constantly being mocked by his hometown for taking his unofficial Halloween monitor job very seriously. Hubie finds himself caught up in a mystery as local townspeople start to disappear. Adam

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THE SCARION

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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.**

Two-Sentence Horror Stories

I love practicing my skills alone on the frozen pond well past midnight when the surface is as clear as glass. When a bloodied face looked up at me from under the ice, it let out a muffled, faint scream: “Get me out.”

—Todd Crawford

The clock struck midnight at Cook Out. But they didn't have any Cook Out Sauce…

—Len

I was alone in my room when suddenly Jeff the Killer appeared.

“I’m going to Jeff the kill you.”

—Jeff the Killer

When I was a kid, I moved into a neighborhood with a young boy in it; his name was EJ, and we spent so much time playing, like building tree houses and riding on Razor scooters and just all the things young boys do, and a few years ago I asked my mother about him and how he’s doing. She told me that our neighbors had a son named EJ, but he died before we moved in. She told me that whenever we were “playing together,” I would turn on the TV and watch static for hours and hours.

—Kk

The BAF (Bosh+Caf), what a place to enjoy some chicken... OH NO- it's pink; today's flavor must be salmonella.

—Tori Gates

Bosun watches the pack ice grind against the ship's hull and shivers as he speaks. "You know how much we've appreciated your skills over the past few weeks, Cook—but we're hungry men and short straw is short straw, I'm afraid."

—Valerie Ruppert

No matter how much I use it, my fifty-yard container of vintage dental floss never seems to run out. Then I realized why: one of the chief ingredients in manufacturing it was PFAS, otherwise known as “FOREVER CHEMICALS.”

—EJP

I stayed up all night studying until I knew all the material and felt super confident that I would ace my final exam. When I woke up at noon, I realized that I had typed 630 into my calculator instead of my alarm.

—oh crap

I've started making friends with the children I work with. One day, one of them asked why they couldn't leave the morgue.

—Abigayle Phelps

Every night, I heard my mom whispering my name from the hallway. Tonight, I remembered she had been missing for three years.

—Harleigh

My wife asked me the other day if I'd ever actually considered killing another person. I didn't have the heart to lie to her, so... Here we are.

—Logan Hislop-Boccanfuso

My wife always said I acted as if the Earth revolved around me. At least until the damaged capsule falls out of orbit, it's actually the opposite.

—Cagney Guest

“I sure am glad I'm not scared right now,” said Dave.

“Think again,” said Evil Dave, holding a very scary sword.

—Sam

The hour was up, and every agenda item had been discussed, so the chair asked, “Anything else?” The loquacious man in the back cleared his throat and began, “We need to reconsider…”

—Brevity is the Soul of Wit

My kitten’s habit of nibbling on my toes at night used to make me giggle. I stopped laughing this morning, however, when I woke up and realized he had finally managed to swallow the last one.

—Atticus Erraticus

Two-Sentence Horror Stories

I saw the man again last night. He had a different face than he'd had the night before.

—Logan Hislop-Boccanfuso

"I'm Captain Clark, welcome to the backrooms.
I'm Captain Clark, and I'm going to kill you."

—Captain Clark

I rushed to the bathroom in MG... Only to find out that my professor was in there!

—anonymous

When asked for his source. He said, "I asked ChatGPT."

—Buckley

Everyone in my town lives alone, and we try to avoid each other as much as possible. I never knew why until I saw my neighbor for the first time yesterday, and I realized no human has a face that long.

—Jude Nelson

The quizzes are open note. The final isn't.

—Chase Bishop

The girl hid under the bed, shaking.
Her finger caressed the trigger as she tried to suppress her laughter, listening to the screams.

—Claire

Dr. J. was out birdwatching on a beautiful fall afternoon, and she looked intently through her binoculars. Out of the blue, a tremendous creature, three times Dr. J.'s size, landed right in front of her and let out a loud birdsong, which Dr. J. identified as that of the Great Tornado Bird just before she fainted from fright.

—Dr. J

"Welcome to all you introverts. Now, everybody find a partner."

—Rocky Nation

I finally finished grading lab reports before midnight. Then Canvas refreshed: 3 new late submissions.

—Dr. Biava

I smiled as my kitten playfully pawed at a pile of rainbow Nerds Gummy Clusters on the rug. The smile vanished when I tasted the familiar crunch, realizing he had just come out of his litter box.

—E P

I was watching a simple college football match when the broadcast abruptly cut to a face seared into my memory, welcomed by the blaring trumpets of Heaven. My next memory is my every memory: the suffocating darkness of my room, my body rendered incapable of even the slightest movement, my vocal cords screaming yet never producing a whisper, and the red, burnt creature standing over me and staring into my soul with unending malice, whispering that I would never be alone for all eternity.

—Sebastian Stevenson

My classmates talked to me about how hard the test was in class yesterday. "There was a test?" I replied shakily.

—Aaron

The text from my eye doctor read, "When you come in for your check-up today, remember we'll have to deflate your eyes this visit." I laughed at the typo, thinking they must have meant to say "dilate," but when I went to dab with a tissue where they had put the drops, the constant oozing of jelly-like fluids onto my cheeks made me realize they hadn't.

—John Padgett

I locked myself in the top-floor library study room after midnight, relieved as I was to finally have a quiet place to cram for midterms. I froze when airdrop notifications from someone I didn't know started lighting up my phone, each one a photo of me taken from the foggy darkness outside the window…

—Todd Crawford

Festive films: Halloween edition

Continued from page 3

Sandler's goofy performance, combined with sound effects and Halloween decorations, gives this movie a fun and festive atmosphere. Hubie Halloween is the perfect movie that creates laughter and is an entertaining movie to watch with friends.

—Michael Geary

"Knives Out" (2019)

Directed by Rian Johnson. Starring Daniel Craig, Ana de Armas, Chris Evans, Jamie Lee Curtis.

"Knives Out" is a murder mystery that follows Benoit Blanc. He investigates the weird death of Harlan Thrombey after a big family gathering. Just about every person in the Thrombey family has somewhat of a motive. This turns the investigation into a suspenseful film that has many secrets, lies, and twists. Daniel Craig makes the movie very interesting with his use of Benoit Blanc. His weird personality and detective style bring a lot of humor to the investigation while also keeping the story tense. The mansion setting, dark lighting, and music create a mysterious atmosphere that makes it great to watch around Halloween without it being a normal horror movie. I would definitely recommend "Knives Out" because it always keeps you guessing, has a great cast, mixes suspense and comedy, and just puts you in that fall mood.

—Riley Martiny

"The Lost Boys" (1987)

Directed by Joel Schumacher. Starring Jason Patric, Corey Haim, Kiefer Sutherland, Jami Gertz, Corey Feldman.

"The Lost Boys" is a fun Halloween movie because it mixes vampires, jump scares, and humor. It follows two brothers who move to a beach town and discover that vampires live there. Kiefer Sutherland stands out because he makes the vampire leader seem cool but dangerous. The dark lighting and loud rock music make the movie feel creepy and exciting. I recommend watching it with friends because the funny moments give you a break from the scares.

—Hunter Busque

"Saw" (2004)

Directed by James Wan. Starring Cary Elwes, Leigh Whannell, Danny Glover, Ken Leung.

"Saw" is a thrilling horror movie that keeps you guessing. It's not a type of horror movie that really makes you jump but keeps you on your heels and on the edge of your seat. I always thought that the "Saw" franchise was always just one of those movies that people couldn't get enough of, but I couldn't understand why till I watched the first movie for the very first time. This movie does a good job at being suspenseful. I have never watched a movie like this before where you feel like your trapped as well as the characters. "Saw" makes you put yourself into the shoes of the characters and make you really think about what you would do if you were in their situations. Sometimes I still think about it being in situations like that till this day. One major thing that stood out was the scenery of the abandoned restroom. The hopelessness of the confined space makes you feel like the characters are never getting out.

—Trenton Strong

"Scream" (1996)

Directed by Wes Craven. Starring Neve Campbell, Courteney Cox, David Arquette, Skeet Ulrich.

"Scream" is a classic horror movie about a masked killer called Ghostface who terrorizes a small town and targets a group of teenagers. The movie stands out because it mixes genuine scares with dark humor and makes fun of the usual rules of horror movies. Neve Campbell delivers a strong performance as Sidney Prescott, a teenager who must fight to survive while trying to figure out who is behind the mask. The creepy phone calls, suspenseful camera work, and unexpected twists keep viewers guessing until the end. If you want a Halloween movie that is scary, entertaining, and occasionally funny, "Scream" is definitely worth watching.

—Jameson Murray

"The Shining" (1980)

Directed by Stanley Kubrick. Starring Jack Nicholson, Shelley Duvall, Scatman Crothers, Danny Lloyd.

If you're looking for a movie you should watch every year, then look no further. I'm sure you've watched this movie before because practically everyone in the world knows it,, but "The Shining" is always hard to beat this time of year. This absolute masterpiece of a movie follows Jack Torrance, an aspiring writer who takes a job as a caretaker of the isolated hotel, only for supernatural forces and a little bit of cabin fever to slowly unravel his sanity. This movie will turn every grand hallway and every geometric carpet into a living nightmare.

—Kyle Gay

"Bride of Frankenstein" (1935)

Directed by James Whale. Starring Boris Karloff, Colin Clive, Ernest Thesiger, and Elsa Lanchester.

The granddaddy of classic horror films, "Bride of Frankenstein" is a sequel to the 1931 original and helped establish the seemingly indestructible movie monster as a horror staple. The film picks up where the 1931 film ended: the lab in flames, Henry Frankenstein barely escaping certain death, and the "monster," played by Boris Karloff, presumed dead in the ruins. In the sequel, we quickly learn the monster is very much still alive, and Frankenstein agrees to team up with the notorious mad scientist Dr. Pretorius to create a mate for the monster. Featuring iconic performances by Karloff and Lanchester as the "bride" and a memorable musical score by Franz Waxman, the film is a must-see for anyone interested in the horror film genre: although it may seem a bit tame by modern-day standards, it's all here, from a haunting, Gothic atmosphere to campy wit, dark humor, and pioneering cinematic style. As Dr. Pretorius says, here's "to a new world of gods and monsters."

—John Padgett

Voting in the midterm election?

If you're not yet registered in Brevard, you have until 3 p.m. Saturday to register and vote.

If you want to vote in this year's midterm election but you are not registered in this county, it's not too late to do so ... but time is running out.

State election law allows college students to register where they attend school and vote the same day. The catch: it has to be done during the early voting period, which ends **tomorrow, Oct. 31, at 3 p.m.**

The Transylvania County Election Center is also **open today for early voting until 7:30 p.m.**

To register and cast your vote in one visit, go to the Election Center at 150 S. Gaston St., where you must "attest" to your eligibility to vote by completing and signing a Voter Registration Application, provide proof of residence, and present photo identification.

For students living on campus, you can use your student ID, but it will need to be a printed card—a digital copy on your phone will not do.

As for proof of residence, you should email campuslife@brevard.edu and explain you need a letter stating you are a student living on campus. (If you need a physical ID card, that can be provided as well.)

For more information, visit the Transylvania County Board of Elections at https://www.transylvaniaelections.org.

The countdown has begun: 56 Days until Christmas!

Liam Smith
Staff Writer

The scariest thing to come this Halloween season is that Christmas looms just around the corner. Decorations have been spotted before Halloween has even struck!

The local Lowe's Home Improvement store in Brevard has already put Christmas lawn decorations up for sale in October. These decorations were sighted as early as Oct. 11 (though there is no photo proof).

However, I visited Lowe's on Oct. 28 to capture evidence of Lowe's decor section. This time around, the first decorations you see upon walking through the doors are Christmas-themed. Of course, the Halloween paraphernalia is still for sale, but they are hidden from view since you cannot see it as you walk through the doors.

Lowe's was not the only one to put up Christmas trees in October. The Biltmore Estate in Asheville boasts 50 decorated trees in the Biltmore House alone, including one 35-foot Fraser fir in the Banquet Hall.

However, there are still 56 days until Christmas Day, so it seems that places like Lowe's and Biltmore are skipping right over Thanksgiving. Lowes does not have any Thanksgiving decorations for sale despite the first of November just days away.



Lowes Christmas decor. Photo by Liam Smith.

Journalists like Nathan Cole on Alibaba have begun calling it the "Christmas Creep." Cole stated that there were psychological reasons that consumers began decorating earlier than December; he claimed that there was a desire for nostalgia, comfort, and security.

The author also claimed that retailers began releasing Christmas product lines earlier because it would boost sales. For consumers, the decisions of retailers do impact when consumers believe it is acceptable to begin decorating.

Overall, the "Christmas Creep" is controversial, as some people find comfort in an early holiday, whilst others feel as though it rushes to the end of the year.

Sources:

Cole, N. (2026, October 21). Why Do People Start Decorating for Christmas Each Year Trends. Alibaba. Why Do People Start Decorating For Christmas Earlier Each Year Trends

Spooky recipes for Halloween

Elli Clark
Staff Writer

Happy Halloween, Brevard Students!

In the spirit of this spooky holiday, these are some yummy and fun treats to make to celebrate the season. Gather your friends, put on a scary movie, and try out these delicious recipes.

The first recipe is definitely a classic. The fingers of Halloween's wickedest witches.

Witches Fingers

2 cups all-purpose flour
½ tsp baking powder
¼ tsp sea salt
½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter (room temp.)
1 cup sugar
1 large egg (room temp.)
1 tsp pure vanilla extract
28 large almond slices
Red decorating gel

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F. Prepare a baking sheet with cooking spray or parchment paper. Beat together butter and sugar, then add in eggs and vanilla. Gradually, add flour, baking powder and salt until dough forms. Roll the dough into 5-inch-long fingers about ½ inch thick. Place a sliced almond at the end of each. Using a knife, cut in knuckle lines along the fingers. Arrange onto the baking sheet and bake for about 15 minutes or until lightly browned. Once cooled, lined the almond ends with some red decorating gel.

This next recipe is perhaps unassuming at first, but trust that it is surely tasty. Pumpkin styled deviled eggs!

Pumpkin Deviled Eggs

12 large hard boiled eggs
¼ cup mayonnaise
3 tsp mustard
½ tsp granulated sugar
⅛ tsp salt
⅛ tsp black pepper
Orange food coloring (optional)
Paprika
Fresh chives

Half the cooked eggs and separate the yolks. Set the halves aside on a plate. In a bowl, mash the cooked yolks with mayonnaise, mustard, sugar, salt and pepper. Add in the food coloring for a fun pumpkin color. Fill some of the orange mixture into each pocket of the egg halves. Give each glop a sprinkle of paprika, with a piece of to make a stem.

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Halloween recipes to get you in the spirit

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To follow these eggs, something truly heartwarming are these pumpkin cookies. These are incredibly fluffy and perfect for autumn.

Pumpkin Cookies

2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
1/2 cup butter (1 stick), softened
1 cup pumpkin puree
1 large egg
2 teaspoons vanilla extract, divided
2 cups powdered sugar, sifted
3 tablespoons milk
1 tablespoon butter, softened

Preheat the oven to 350° F. Prepare your baking sheets with parchment paper. In a bowl beat sugar and 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter. Add in pumpkin, egg and 1 tsp of vanilla extract. Gradually beat flour, baking soda, baking powder, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt. Place scoops of dough onto the baking sheets. Bake for 15 to 18 minutes or until the edges are firm. Allow to cool before frosting with a mixture of the powdered sugar, milk, the 1 tbsp of butter and remaining 1 tsp of vanilla extract in a small bowl.

Of course, a simple, carefree recipe is required for an article written for college students and it cannot get any more carefree than this chocolate bark.

Halloween Chocolate Bark

Chocolate bars or bag of chocolate chips
Halloween themed sprinkles
Any other desired themed candies or chocolates

Super, super simple instructions for this one. Melt the chocolate bar or chocolate chips in a microwave, stirring every 30 seconds. Pour it out onto a parchment sheet on a pan or plate, then top with all the fun ingredients you want on your bark. Allow to cool completely for about 2 hours at room temperature and then move to store in the fridge.

These are all super yummy Halloween themed treats for you to try this season. If you want some advice on what desserts or candies to avoid, junior Max Canterbury vouches that "candy corn sucks." So don't eat them. With that, have a happy and haunted Halloween!

The verdict is in: Google's 2026 frightgeist

Continued from page 2

in an intergalactic game show.

Spot nine is Disco Scooby Doo, specifically from the 2002 live-action "Scooby-Doo." In this iconic scene, Shaggy, played by Matthew Lillard, and Scooby-Doo sneak into a party as "Shizzy McCreepy" and "S.D. McCrawley," wearing easy-to-spot 70s disco outfits (complete with groovy patterned shirts, stars, and dark glasses) and performing a memorable dance routine.

Tenth on the list is Hazel Hook from the Descendants franchise. She is introduced in "Descendants: Wicked Wonderland" and is the youngest daughter of Captain Hook. Hazel is a spunky VK (Villain Kid) who joins Red and Chloe Charming on a journey to Wonderland to stop Maddox Hatter from altering history.

Number 11 is Captain Clark from another 2026 movie release, "Backrooms," the main antagonist of Kane Parsons' 2026 psychological sci-fi horror film, based on his viral YouTube series.

At number 12 is the beloved Dolly Parton, who passed in August. Dolly was dubbed the Queen of Country and was an actress, philanthropist, and businesswoman. You all had better do Dolly proud with your costumes.

Spot 13 is one that I am most excited about: Thragg from Invincible. Thragg is the primary overarching antagonist of the Invincible comic and series universe. He is a ruthless, genetically engineered Viltrumite and the self-appointed ruler of the Viltrum Empire. He has unfathomable superhuman strength, near-invulnerability, flight, extreme stamina, and interstellar travel capabilities.

Number 14 is American country singer-songwriter Kenny Rogers. Largely driven by a wave of nostalgic tributes and the massive surge in popularity surrounding his longtime musical partner, Dolly Parton, the two are forever linked as an iconic country music duo; fans frequently pair or pay tribute to both legends together.

Fifteenth is Bowser Jr. from "The Super Mario Galaxy Movie," released in April. Bowser Jr. is the film's main antagonist and acts out to gain attention from his workaholic father, Bowser, who was often too busy trying to conquer the Mushroom Kingdom.

From the same movie, spot 16 belongs to Princess Rosalina. The Super Mario Galaxy Movie reinterprets Rosalina and Princess Peach as stardust-born sisters. In the movie, Rosalina sent baby Peach through a Warp Pipe to the Mushroom Kingdom to protect her from dark forces.

Spot 17 is Green Lantern from the DC universe. Green Lantern is a legacy superhero identity and part of the intergalactic police force in DC Comics. Wielders use a ring powered by willpower and imagination to create solid-light constructs, fly, and survive in deep space.

Number 18 is Michael Jackson from his Thriller era. Nearly every track on the nine-song album—including "Billie Jean," "Beat It," and "Thriller"—became a massive chart-topping hit. Produced by Quincy Jones, the album combined pop, R&B, rock, funk, and soul, and featured collaborations with Paul McCartney and Eddie Van Halen.

Nineteenth on the list is Skeletor from Master's of the Universe. The movie came out in June and is an original creation by the toy company Mattel. In the early 1980s, Mattel wanted to build a boys' action figure line to compete with competitors like Star Wars and G.I. Joe. Skeletor is the Evil Lord of Destruction who seeks to conquer Castle Grayskull to master Eternia and defeat his archnemesis, He-Man.

Finally, at number 20 is X-Men's Cyclops. Cyclops, also known as Scott Summers, appears across multiple Marvel films, ranging from the 20th Century Fox X-Men series to upcoming Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) projects like "Avengers: Doomsday (2026)" and Marvel Studios' X-Men (2028), where Marvel Studios is launching a fresh reboot of the mutant team (directed by Jake Schreier) following "Avengers: Secret Wars," with Kit Connor officially tapped to play the new MCU version of Scott Summers/Cyclops.

If you see your costume on the list, don't worry! You can have a popular costume while making it unique and your own. Send in some of your most creative Halloween costumes for a chance to be featured in next week's issue!



Movie poster for "Buddy," a 2026 black comedy horror film whose title character tops Google's list of trending Halloween costumes this year.

Tornados spin out versus Huntingdon

Brevard takes a gut-wrenching defeat in Alabama

Jordan Ramey
Staff Writer

The Brevard College Football Team took on the Huntingdon Hawks this past Saturday Oct. 24. The Hawks—who are undefeated in conference play (4-0)– took the win 37-19. This contest proved to be a difficult one for the Tornados.

The Tornados were looking for a win after a devastating defeat during homecoming against Lagrange. However, they were not able to find it this past week. Both sides of the ball struggled to find a rhythm; however, they showed great fight in the second half. It was not enough to push them past the Hawks as the Tornados fell to 2–2 on the season in USA-South play.

Junior quarterback Chase Patalano got the start this past week at quarterback. He went 3/3 for 60 yards and a touchdown through the air, and added 29 yards and another touchdown on the ground before being injured in the second quarter. Freshman Christian Conley stepped in and went 7/13 for 70 yards and an interception; he was able to add 42 yards and a touchdown on the ground. The Tornados had a total of 289 yards of total offense, with 159 yards coming from the elite rushing attack of the Tornados.

The defense gave up the most yards it has all season as the Hawks racked up 436 yards of total offense in the contest. Junior defensive back Eli Ray led the team in total tackles with seven. Junior defensive lineman James Laycock was able to rack up four total tackles, and one of them was for a loss.

The Tornados will be looking to get back on the winning track as they take on a tough Greensboro team this Saturday, Oct. 31 at 7:00 p.m at Ives Lemel Family Field. It's Halloween, so come decked out in your best costume and cheer on our Tornados as they fight for the best record in school history!

BC Futures Football makes history with an undefeated season

Avery Mattina
Contributor

The Brevard College Futures Football team had a record breaking season, going undefeated for the first time in program history.

With a new coaching staff, new players and eager mindsets—the futures program was on fire. Their final game against NC Gorillas was on Sunday Oct. 24, taking the win 28–14.

The futures team has a new coaching staff this year with multiple BC Alumni including Baylee Ramey '26, Brandon Unangst '23, Chance Lee-Parker '24, Steven Victoriano '25 and Adam Douglas '26. All of these coaches helped create the opportunity for these players to succeed and win games, pushing players to their full potential.

2026 Graduate and Futures Defensive Coordinator Baylee Ramey has made it his mission to develop the futures football players and get them to where they want to be. "Being able to do what I love and coach these players has always been my dream, so being able to go undefeated and help develop this team has meant everything to me," Ramey said.

While developing their knowledge and skills, the defense only gave up 9.8 points per game. "We have spent so much time working on knowledge of the game and becoming stronger and faster, and it has paid off," Ramey said. "There is always room for improvement and this was a great undefeated season for the program."



Photo by Raegan Elmore via flickr.

Junior quarterback Blake Peters had a great season leading the offense. He's been a part of both programs for 3 years and this was a breakout year for him on the futures roster. Peters' confidence and trust in teammates led the team to success.

As BC Futures look ahead, there is so much more to come. With this first in history undefeated season, the future looks bright for the program. Proud coaches and determined players are keeping the program moving forward.

BC women's basketball coach Donald Hudson inducted into the 2026 Brevard Hall of Fame

Connor Sechrist
Staff Writer

Women's basketball coach Donald Hudson was inducted into the 2026 Brevard College Hall of Fame on Friday, Oct. 16, alongside Cyclist Cypress Gorry, a 2016 graduate; cyclist Sarah Hill, also a 2016 graduate; and the 2016 Brevard Mountain Bike Team. Coach Hudson was the stand-alone hall of famer of this class, not to be a part of the 2016 Brevard cycling team.

"I didn't know what to feel honestly; I still don't know what to feel," Hudson said in regards to being inducted. "I'm extremely happy about it and proud of the fact that I was able to do that. This place believed in me when not many people did, and it gave me a chance to chase my dream of playing college football, college basketball, and getting an education. So being inducted into the Hall of Fame here means the world to me."

Hudson had double duties this weekend, as at the same time he was being inducted into the Hall of Fame, the 2006 Brevard College football team celebrated their 20th year reunion. The 2006 year was the rebirth of football for Brevard College after 56 years.

"Anytime you're starting something new, you are laying the foundation for whatever it turns into. It was just 18-year-old kids trying to figure it out. Slowly but surely we got better and developed. We grew as men, and our wins and loss results flipped in our favor" Hudson said about the football team.

Hudson explained that it wasn't easy. "We could have all left at some point. The conditions were bad; the locker room was a gym. But we had a bond together that kept us all here, and it was amazing to see those guys."

Coach Hudson graduated in 2011 and was a two-sport athlete at Brevard College, competing in both football and basketball and having a successful career in both. He played both sides of the ball on the field and was a key player on the court, helping lead the 2010 men's basketball team to a conference championship.

"Football was my main sport," Hudson said. "The first three years here [at Brevard] were all football, and once I got to the closing of my football career, coach Mike Jones, who I had grown a relationship with over time, offered me a chance to play basketball. I played basketball for two years, and that's what ultimately changed my life."

Hudson was a key player on the 2010 Brevard basketball team that won a conference championship and went to the NCAA tournament, where they lost to Augusta University in the first round.

"To accomplish that, it was like everything came together perfectly—good post, good guard play, and a well-coached team," Hudson said. "We played to our strengths, and that was an amazing moment. We lost the first round of the tournament, but looking back at it, it was bigger than that game."

Hudson talked about the impact Jones had on his life. "I had grown a relationship with him [Mike Jones] since my freshman year, and he was just somebody you could go talk to. He didn't have to be your coach. He didn't start as my coach, but I would just go into his office and just talk to him. He was that kind of guy. He was genuine, and you knew what you were getting from him was real."

"He was the one that introduced me to coaching," he continued. "I didn't know what I wanted to do out of college. He offered me a spot to be his assistant coach after playing for him, and that's what ultimately led me on the path to coaching."

After graduating, Hudson had stints as an assistant coach for both football and basketball before becoming interim head coach of the women's basketball program in 2016. In February 2017, Hudson officially became head coach. Since then, Hudson has coached the women's basketball team for ten seasons, and this upcoming season will be his eleventh.

Hudson, as well as his Hall of Fame resume as a student-athlete, also has an impressive resume as a coach. Leading the team to its first conference-level postseason in the 2020–21 season. Back-to-back USA South Conference championship game appearances in 2024–25 and 2025–26. USA South regular season championship in 2025–26, as well as Coach of the Year honors and a career 134 wins as head coach.


Donald Hudson

"To be a competitive program, it starts with recruiting," Hudson said. "It starts with recruiting good players, but good people as well. You don't want to fill your locker room with people that can just put it in the basket if they're not quality people."

"Every team is different," he continued. "You have to coach every team differently. Building our habits of the things I know we are good at. Getting a look at the team to see what our best offense is. This year's offense may not look like last year's, and I have to be willing to change that. I have to meet my players where they are, and day by day we're building."

Last season, Hudson led his team to a USA South regular season championship and the USA South Conference tournament finals, where the Tornados fell short to Southern Virginia University 74–82.

"The last two years we've been in the tournament championship, and we've dropped them both," Hudson said. "This past season was probably the toughest. We had a really good regular season and won a regular season championship, and you do all of that to hopefully play a championship game in your building, and we did that. We just picked a really bad time to have our worst defensive game of the year, and we lost to a really good team."

Hudson talked about building from the loss saying, "You build from your underclassmen. Talking to my underclassmen about remembering this feeling and what it took to get here and how you feel now, let that drive you."

"It can't be the same conversation with the seniors because they just played their last game," he continued. "I just want them to make sure they understand the good they did and make sure they understand how thankful I am for them getting us to that point."

Hudson, in the same year as being inducted into the Hall of Fame, is entering his eleventh season as the women's basketball coach.

"It's a real honor to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, but I can't just relax and look back on it and accept it while I'm still actively chasing something," Hudson said. "We've got a season to go play this year."

"We have nine returning, but it's going to be a differently coached team. We have a nice group of freshmen that have come in and are all buying into what we're doing, but at the end of the day they're still freshmen, and they don't know what it's gonna be like in the fourth quarter of a conference game in January," Hudson said about preparing for the upcoming season.

"They're talented, but talent only gets you so far when it gets to that point in the season. We have to lay a foundation right now, myself and the upperclassmen. I'm excited to go into this year with this group to see what this year holds. I know it's going to be a little different, but I wouldn't be surprised if we're right back in the same position as last year".

Hudson left some words of advice, saying, "Don't be so consumed with what you're doing on a day-to-day basis that you're not helping the ones around you. I'm a super selfless person, and I try to help in any way that I can. Trying to make sure that people around me are doing okay, ultimately. Being a person in the group that anyone feels comfortable talking to because you never know what the next person is dealing with from a mental standpoint"

Hudson saw Brevard as more than a school where he had a successful athletic career. Hudson saw Brevard as a family that paved the way for his life, and he was greatly appreciative of what Brevard taught and gave him. It's safe to say Hudson is more than deserving of being a Hall of Famer, but even more important is the impact he left as a student-athlete and is still making as a coach.