

Brevard asks Washington to 'Step it Up'

by Ben Goff
News Editor

Over 100 students, faculty and community members gathered Saturday to participate in the Step It Up rally, asking political leaders to promptly fight global warming.

The rally, sponsored by BC Recycles and the Environmental Issues Committee, took place on the soccer field. Participants posed for group photos and brought

objects that symbolize their personal commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Participants were also asked to fill out a short survey about their personal concerns on global warming and what they are doing to fight it. They were offered the opportunity to dip their index finger in green ink in order to "give congress the green finger."

Step It Up is a national movement focused on putting

positive pressure on politicians to address global warming by making three commitments: 1) No new coal power plants, 2) Cut greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050 and 3) create 5 million new 'green' jobs.

This rally was part of a national day of action that included thousands of similar rallies in all 50 states. The first Step It Up rallies held in April included over 1,400 separate events across the country, with this weekend's events

promising to top that number.

Organizers across the country invited Senators, Representatives and presidential candidates to the rallies, with several showing up to events or issuing statements of support.

According to event organizer Dr. Bob Cabin, this event was a huge success, with a much larger turn-out than expected. The turn-out was larger in fact, than many rallies held in larger cities.

Teachers and students weary of birds and squirrels

by David Ulloa
Staff Writer

In most recent complaints, the massive amounts of bird feces and acorn dents found on cars have made the parking community fearful.

The parking lot in front of the main entrance is where most of the complaints are coming from. Both, students and staff are nervous to leave their cars parked under the bordering trees, because they harbor two deadly threats: defecating birds and frantic squirrels. Birds, (who are known for being extremely liberal with their droppings), apparently have a tendency to congregate in the trees after ingesting food, and to look at cars like they were targets. The squirrels (probably white and brown) are constantly gathering nuts and acorns, and then carelessly plummeting them onto peoples' car hoods.

Not only does the community take this natural tendency as an annoying trend, but less and

less people are parking directly under trees.

Junior Emily Wooten explained to me her thoughts on the recent debacle. "After devoting much time to keeping my car clean and undamaged, the affects of these vicious animals have made my everyday experience at school even more stressful."

Wooten frequently avoids parking in front of "hot spots" where there is the evidence of heavy bird activity and nut shells. Obviously from the distraught confessional of Wooten, the display of sacrificial parking is at hand.

The community will have to abide by the forces of nature and allow the animals to fester over their parked vehicles. Until there is some kind of task force involved to wipe these beasts out, unless the public stop feeding these animals, the people will have to pay the price of life and deal with this issue all year.

Brevard under water restrictions

by Ben Goff
News Editor

This week, the Brevard City Manager announced that voluntary water restrictions are now in effect in Brevard. This action comes in response to drought conditions in the state that, despite the rains of last month, are still the worst in recorded history.

Federal drought maps show that, while the rains received during Oct. did reduce the severity of the drought in over 50 NC counties, all counties continue to experience drought.

The economic effects of the drought are especially severe for NC farmers who are experiencing the lowest crop yields in 50 years as a result of the dry conditions.

NC Governor Mike Easley has been encouraging all municipalities to conserve water since the drought began around March.

According to a press release, "Water consumption must be reduced now and for the foreseeable future if we are

to avoid a water supply emergency."

While many areas are in jeopardy of running out of water, municipalities in Transylvania Co. continue to resist instating any strict regulations on water use. Despite the fact that Transylvania county is one of 22 NC counties experiencing the worst category of drought measured, the water restrictions put in place this week are much less stringent than those recommended by state officials.