

Nine students embark on Immersion journey

by Zack Christy and Daniel Heyman
Staff Writers

Nine Brevard College students embarked Tuesday on the culminating trip of their semester, a 21 day immersion journey.

The students began their journey s in the Georgia wilderness (near where “Deliverance” was set). Along with instructor Allie Lien the students will make their way to Lake Jocassee, SC. The students will be hauling their own gear the entire three weeks.

“I’m basically bringing the essentials, couple pairs of underwear, my sleeping bag, rain jacket, food, and of course my hat... stuff like that” said student Grant Cromie.

The Immersion semester is required of all Wilderness Leadership & Experimental Education majors. Students are enrolled in five interrelated courses under the direction of one faculty member, and are immersed to develop their technical outdoor skills in a variety of land and water based outdoor ac-



Spring 2009 immersion students: John Green, Travis Festa, Max Pelosi, Monica Sees, Grant Cromie, Cherie Haseltine, Brittany Gilley, Michael Eleazer, Joe McGarry, and instructor Allie Lien. photo courtesy Z. Christy

tivities. The focus is on honing the students teaching and leadership abilities.

Former Immersion student Steven Acker described his experience in the immersion semester as “mostly hands on, it’s pretty much taught by the students. It’s an excellent experience.”

The highlights include an eight-day Wilderness First Responder Course, many daily field experiences and 35 overnight field days, including a six-day trip sea

kayaking on the coast, a three-day caving trip and obviously this 21-day wilderness expedition.

This semester’s students return to campus on April 20.

Student Greg Woods, just before he was immersed, said, “I’m excited about the opportunity to participate in such a unique form of education. It’s like nothing I’ve ever done before. I know it’s going to be a life changing experience.”

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Taxing days for campus tokers

New cigarette taxes hit smokers in the wallet

by Joseph Chilton
Editor in Chief

The designated smoking area on the Residential Town Quad was uncharacteristically vacant Wednesday, devoid of the students pilfering a puff between classes usually found there.

People may have stayed away because Wednesday morning was unseasonable cool and unpleasantly damp.

But most likely, the smoking area was empty because the government’s cigarette tax increase, the largest of its kind in history, took effect Wednesday raising the

price of cigarettes by \$1.36 per pack across the state of North Carolina.

The per pack federal tax for cigarettes rose from 39 cents to \$1.01 Wednesday, and state taxes added on another 35 cents to the price hike.

Most local stores rose prices several weeks ago in preparation for the tax increase, and according to one local clerk, customers have responded by cutting down on nicotine.

“Business is way down,” Brevard resident Tony Thomas said Wednesday while manning the cash register in a local Mr. Pete’s Market that was noticeably lacking patrons.

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