

# The CLARION

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The Moon and Mars are in good view at first light today. Mars looks like

a bright orange star a little to the left of the Moon.

Volume 77, Issue 8

Web Edition

SERVING BREVARD COLLEGE SINCE 1935

Oct. 21, 2011

## BC cycling team heads to Nationals

By Park Baker  
Editor in Chief

The Tornados mountain bike team will travel to defend their national title on Sunday.

All of Brevard's A riders will journey cross country to compete in the USA Cycling Collegiate National Championship in Angelfire, New Mexico. The town of Angelfire sits at 8,400 ft above sea level, and sophomore Lewis Gaffney calls this tiny town his home.

"When I heard nationals was in my hometown, I knew that this competition would mean more to me than any event I have ever raced," Gaffney said. "No one in my hometown really knew about Brevard College, so now it is really cool to make it apparent where I go to school and why I do it. To get to win nationals last year and then get the chance to come in to my hometown to

defend the title means a lot to me."

As an endurance athlete, Gaffney's natural acclimation to the elevation and familiarity with the terrain will be an advantage for the Tornados. It is best to arrive the day before a race, so that your body doesn't have time to adapt to the high elevation. If the team were to arrive too early their performance would be hindered.

Nestled in northern New Mexico's Sangre de Cristo Mountains, just 25 miles from Taos, the Angel Fire Resort is known as a hot spot for mountain biking. The resort's bike park has played host to the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup in 2005 and the USA Cycling Collegiate Mountain Bike National Championships in 2006.

Our athletes will race against the best Division II schools in the country on courses designed to test each rider in their own

discipline. Tornado gravity riders will use Angel Fire Resorts ski lifts to get to the top of the downhill course, and then descend through gnarly terrain that is hidden beneath 10 feet of snow in the winter.

Senior Kate Weisenfluh is expected to podium, with a win at nearly every collegiate race this season in the downhill event, fingers are crossed that she and her new downhill race bike will bring home the gold.

"I'm very excited about nationals," Weisenfluh said. "It's been a great year so far and I have high hopes for the team and myself. We have had some tough luck leading up to this point, but if we can come together, our chance for a three-time championship is great! I'm riding two new bikes, with those and the support of Coach Sheedy and my friends I really can't wait to get out there and compete for another national title."



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A rider in a berm at Angel Fire Resort. Photo courtesy Angel Fire Resort