

# The CLARION

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Ryan RisCassi

BC students took advantage of the freak hail storm that took place yesterday afternoon and slid on a combination of their bodies and cardboard boxes through the flooded residential quad. The frozen hail stones did not seem to discourage the students as they continued to play in the water, mud, and ice.

## 11th Congressional District debates to be held at BC

By Olivia Fawcett  
Staff Writer

Brevard College will host debates for both Democratic and Republican candidates hoping to represent the 11th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

These events—scheduled for Thursday, March 22 for Democrats and Monday, March 26, for Republicans—are sponsored by the Brevard College Debate Society and the Young Politicians of America. Both debates will begin at 7:30 p.m. and last up to 90 minutes.

Debate Society president Elise Labus said she is thrilled that Brevard will host these important forums allowing voters in our area to get to know the candidates. She credits the work of Chantel Azevedo, Blake Wall, Krisma Sellers and Rachel Barrow for setting up the event, and Dr. Ralph Hamlett's expertise and advising behind the scenes.

"I hope people and especially students realize the importance of this event," Labus said, "whether they are voting for these particular candidates or not." The topics to

be discussed may very well affect the future of Brevard College students and alumni, Labus said.

U.S. Rep. Heath Shuler announced several weeks ago he would not seek re-election to Congress for a third term. Coupled with redrawn district lines following the 2010 census that should favor Republican candidates, the race in the 11th District is wide open.

Voters in North Carolina will vote May 8 in the Democratic or Republican primary, which will determine who will be each party's candidate in the general election in November.

The goal of the Brevard College Debate Society and the Young Politicians of America is to "provide a platform that will allow voters of the 11th Congressional District to hear the positions of candidates from both political parties," said Hamlett, associate professor of political communications and advisor to the Debate Society and YPA.

Democrats Cecil Bothwell and Tom Hill will face off at Thursday's debate, with WLOS news anchor Darcel Grimes serving

as moderator and panelists James Buchanan of the Asheville Citizen-Times, John Lanier of the Transylvania Times, and Mary Ann Enloe of the Waynesville Mountaineer asking questions.

The Republican debate on the following Monday will feature WLOS news anchor Frank Fraboni as moderator and panelists Buchanan, Lanier, and Lee Goldman of the Hendersonville Times-News asking questions.

Candidates slated to appear at the Republican debate are Spence Campbell, Jeff Hunt, Mark Meadows, Vance Patterson, Chris Petrella, Ethan Wingfield, Susan Harris and Kenny West.

The debate will provide a forum for candidates to speak directly to the public about their views and positions on matters of interest to voters in western North Carolina. Ten of the 11 candidates have agreed to participate in the debate. Only Democrat Hayden Rogers will not take part.

After the debate, audience members will have the opportunity to meet informally with the candidates.