

**FREE****ORANGE****SERVING THE TRIANGLE****COMMUNITY  
SPORTS NEWS****March 2024  
Volume 41  
#662****BASKETBALL ★ CYCLING ★ RUNNING ★ OUTDOORS**

## Splash Pad Plans

It must be magic.

A consultant's report recommending a splash pad (\$1.6M) at Homestead Park was "received and filed" by the Chapel Hill Town Council last June. In a February update, the Chapel Hill Rec Dept. said the splash pad was now planned at the Chapel Hill Community Center along with a new \$500,000 inclusive playground. What brought about the change isn't clear.

Efforts by CSN to determine what happened were not successful. Email messages to Kevin Robinson, senior park planner and operations manager, were not returned.

The Chapel Hill Parks, Rec, Greenways Commission, an advisory board, was expect-

ed to review town recreation priorities in February, but didn't have a quorum, but two projects, renovation of Cedar Falls tennis courts and building the town's first splash pad, were likely to head the list. Many commission members are new appointees and are learning their way may not have any background information on these matters.

The tennis project (CSN, Feb 2024) has been pending for years but rising costs and lack of city support continue to derail it.

Kate Sayre of Chapel Hill petitioned the town council in the summer of 2021 for a splash pad and the idea's been kicking around ever since. Public hearings, engagement sessions, committee reviews, delays, surveys, etc. There's still no money to build one.

Last March consultant 80 West Group issued a final feasibility report saying the public preferred Homestead Park for a splash pad over the Community Center or Hargraves Center based on a survey, and the Community Center was the preferred site for an inclusive playground. That's the report the council "filed" last summer.

I preferred Cedar Falls for the splash pad because of the ample parking but it was vetoed because of the extra funds required for a water line from Weaver Dairy Road. The bathrooms use well water.

Robinson suggested to the rec board last month having the splash pad at the Community Center would put it closer to an underserved community. Years ago the town's population center was the Ridgefield neighborhood across the highway from the nearby Binkley Baptist Church.

The consultant suggested a mid size splash pad (\$900,000) with a nature-based theme, plus

*SPLASHPAD, Continued on page 5*

## Spring Is Here Key Sports Dates

### March

- 16, N.C. Courage, NWSL soccer, home opener, WMSP, Cary.
- 21/23, NCAA Tournament men first/second round, Spectrum Center, Charlotte.
- 28, Orange Krush, 200-lap LMSC exhibition race (invitation only), Orange County Speedway, Rougemont.

### April

- 2, Durham Bulls, AAA baseball, home opener, DBAP, Durham.
- 6, OCS Season Opener, Orange County Speedway, Rougemont.
- 12-14, Savannah Bananas/Party Animals, exhibition baseball, DBAP.
- 17-21 ACC M/W Tennis Championship at Cary Tennis Park.
- 20, Blue/White Spring Football, Kenan Stadium, UNC, 3 p.m.
- 20, Blue & White Spring Football, Wallace Wade Stadium, Duke, 6 p.m.
- 26-27, Lake Wheeler Invitational, rowing, (UNC, Duke), 18 teams, Raleigh.
- 27, Carolina Flyers, pro ultimate, home opener, Durham Co. Stadium, 6 p.m.



*Tundra swans in flight above Lake Mattamuskeet.*

PHOTO BY ALEKSANDRA PRICA

## Coastal Carolina Winter Travelog

### *Lake Mattamuskeet's A Sporting Paradise— Bird Watchers, Hunters, Fishers, Weekenders First Of Two Parts*

**Robbie Breitweiser**

The term "Inner Banks" was coined by real estate developers and tourism promoters hoping to drum up business in coastal North Carolina, and they'll apply it pretty loosely if there's some money in it for them.

To the rest of us, "Inner Banks" are considered the sound-adjacent mainland areas from the Virginia border down to Swansboro or so. These are places shielded from the open ocean by the Outer Banks (assuming, for the sake of argument, that every barrier island from the Bogue Banks to Virginia is the Outer Banks) and, presumably because they lack the waves and views of oceanfront beaches, they don't draw visitors or revenue like their seaward island neighbors.

There are some beautiful and unique spots in the region, however, and the sparse population and relative quiet of some of them can be rewarding for folks looking to avoid crowds and get out into nature.

Lake Mattamuskeet, a few miles inland from the Pamlico Sound in Hyde County, is a prime example. Despite being the largest natural lake in North Carolina, it remains an obscure destination to most visitors unless they happen to hunt, fish, or enjoy birdwatching. Just a 15-minute drive from where the Swan Quarter ferry departs to Ocracoke, The lake is about 18

*COASTAL TRAVELOG, Continued on page 5*

## Take Me Out To Day Baseball

The Durham Bulls have five early season day baseball games at DBAP.

They have Sunday afternoon games at 1:05 p.m. April 7, 28, May 12, and two 11:05 a.m. Tuesday games, April 23 and May 7.

The Sunday games shift to later start time (5:05) in late May as the weather gets warmer. The Tuesday games will have crowds of school kids saluted for good attendance.

In addition, Party Animals at Savannah Bananas, a traveling baseball road show featured at many MiLB parks, concludes a three-game set Sunday, April 14, at 1 p.m.

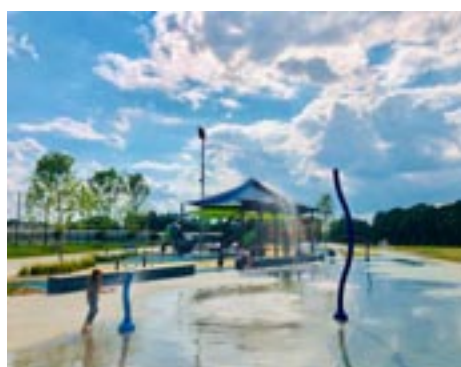
## Public Golf Update Coming April 17

The next issue of CSN (April 17) will feature our annual Local Public Golf Update with green fees for three dozen area courses compiled by Mike Mauriello. In addition, there will be plenty of spring sports results and Part 2 of our Coastal Travelogue. Deadline is 4/10.

Spring Cycling follows in May.

### Newsletter Reminder

Be sure to sign up on the website (community-sports-news.com) for the CSN newsletter that provides links to featured stories in the paper's latest issue. Check out recent issue pdfs.



*The City of Mebane opened a splash pad in its Mebane Community park in 2019.*

PHOTO VIA CITY OF MEBANE

**Inside:  
School MTBers  
Odds Of March  
Rock The Hill**

## Triangle Festivals

### March

- 23, 7th KoreaFest, State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, 10:30-7, fees.
- 23, World Water Day Celebration, Umstead Park, Chapel Hill, 12-4.
- 23, Dog-Gone Egg Hunt, Rock Quarry Park, Durham, 1-4.
- 23, Chatham Co. Spring Ag Fest, saluting agriculture, forestry, natural resources, rides, games, food trucks, exhibits, Chatham Co. Ag & Conf Center, Pittsboro 10-3.
- 23, Holi Celebration, 309 Aviation Pkwy, Morrisville, 11-7, free admission, parking fees.
- 23, Nur Yug India Fest, crafts, food, music, State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, 10:30-8. Free.
- 24, Cars and Carnivores Street Festival, Brooks St., Wake Forest, 10-4, fees.
- 24, Triangle Vegfest Springfest Expo, Moore Square, Raleigh, 11-5, donations accepted.
- 29, Durham Bulls Spring FanFest, DBAP, 3-5, 6:30-9, fees.

*FESTIVALS, Continued on page 2*

## March Standings

### Triangle Dart League

Boogie Flights 7-1110-50 0.688, Darty Old Men 7-1106- 54 0.663, Subway 5-3 83-77 0.519, MRDMCR 2-6 61-99 0.381, We Need 'em All 2-6 57-103 0.356, One For Fun 1-7 63-97 0.394.

### Orange Co. Men's Basketball

Mud Dogs 6-2, Hello 6-2, King Ballers 4-4, Eagles 0-8.

### Orange Co. Co-Rec Volleyball

Paislinators 12-2, Error 404, not found 11-3, Bumpin' Ugliers 10-4, Nash St. Tavern 10-4, Wooden Nickel 7-7, Setting Ducks 4-10, Hillsborough Hitters 2-12, Der Nachbar 0-14.

### Orange Co. Sportsplex Men's Basketball

Uncle Drew Allstars 2-0, Bull City Bullies 2-0, Mud Dogs 2-0, Randy's Home Improvement 1-1, Hillsborough Hobos 1-1, Triad Elite 0-2, Undrafted Free Agents, Jumpstart 0-2.

### OCASL@TASL

Final Winter Season

**Over 30**—TBD 7-2-1 23, Mountain Goat FC 6-4-0 22, Calidad FC 7-1-2 22, Chapel Hill United 5-1-4 16, The Federal 5-0-5 15, Durham FC 1-0-9 3, Still Limpin' 0-10 0.

**Anderson Over 40**—Oldcastle United 7-0-2 21, Auston Villa 6-0-3 18, Artritic Madrid 5-0-5 15, Boot Room FC 4-1-4 13, Bocca Seniors 3-1-5 10, Wrexhamstring 2-0-8 6.

**Kaminsky Studdard Rec**—1-2, Classic Football Society 9-0-1 27, Tar Devils FC 9-0-1 27, Sporting Rose 8-0-2 24, Head Game Strong 5-0-5 15, Karasumo 4-0-6 12, Rabonas and Coronas 3-1-6 10, Chapel Hill FC 3-0-7 9, Cedar Falls FC 2-1-7 7, Unicorns FC 1-0-9 3.

## NC Road Races

### March 23

35th ZTA Franklin 5K, By-num Circle, UNC, Chapel Hill, 8 a.m., zta.crowdchange.com/37362/add/register.

3rd Running with the Angels 5K, East Chapel Hill High, Chapel Hill, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

Carolina Brotherhood 5K, Haw River, Grove Christian Academy, 9am., itsyourrace.com.

Break the Silence 5K, WMSP, Cary, 9 a.m., breakthesilence5k.com. *Live and Virtual*

5K Trek for Track, S. Granville HS, Creedmoor, 8:30 a.m., runsignup.com by 3/18.

N.C. Brewery Running Series 5K, untimed fun run, Mor-decai Beverage Co., Raleigh, 11 a.m., eventbrite.com.

PTI Run on the Runway 5K/10K, Greensboro, 9:20 a.m., runsignup.com.

Raleigh Run for Rare MPS 5K, Lake Crabtree CP, Morrisville, 9 a.m., mpsociety.org

Blue Ribbon Run 5K, Long Leaf Park, Wilmington, 4 p.m., runsignup.com.

**March 24**  
Running Over Cancer 5K, WMSP, Cary, 2 p.m., running-overcancer.com/register.

**March 30**  
Crystal Coast Cancer Rehab Center 5K, Beaufort, 10 a.m., runsignup.com.

**April 6**  
3rd Kevin Dendy Memorial 5K, Gold Park, Hillsborough, 8 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

5th Smile More Complain Less 5K, Harris Lake CP, New Hill, 9 a.m., itsyourrace.com.

Relay for Ribbons 5K, Fenton, Cary, 8:30 a.m.

4th Coast Guard 5K, Waterfront Park, Elizabeth City, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

Core Sound 5K/10K, Harkers Island, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

8th Glenaire 5K, Greenhouse Court, Cary, 9 a.m., app

.racereach.com. *Live & Virtual.*

Sunset Scramble 5K/10K/15K, Bond Park, Cary, staggered start 5-6 p.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

**April 7**  
3rd Bull City Beer Mile, 1m novelty run, indiv, relay, Durham Central Park, 2 p.m., runsignup.com.

Charlotte Spartan 5K/10K with obstacles, Concord, race.spartan.com.

**April 13**  
Haw River Island Ramble 6K, (3.6m), Graham, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

Carrie Shoemaker 5K, Herndon Park, Durham, 10 a.m. Details TBA.

Reel 'N Chill Vineyard 5K, Dodson, 9am, itsyourrace.com. Proceeds to Fishin' for a Cure.

12th Band on the Run 5K, Reidsville, 9 a.m., runsignup.com by 4/10.

Ninja 5K/10K, Green Hills CP, Raleigh, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

Random Runners Spring Has Sprung 5K, Bur Mil Park, Greensboro, runsignup.com.

Willie Stargell 5K, Mayfaire Town Center, Wilmington, 8:30 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

**April 14**  
6th Run for Malawi 5K, Southern Village Green, Chapel Hill, 9:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

Outrace the Stigma 5K, Lake Raleigh Green Space, NCSU, 10 a.m., runsignup.com.

Pig Pounder Brewery 5K, Greensboro, 1 p.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

**April 20**  
Fostering Footsteps for Bright Futures 5K/10K, Scott North Wake Campus, Cary, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

Earth Day 5K, Asheville, 10 a.m., race roster.com. *Live & Virtual.*

Walk/Run (4m)/Bike for Umstead, Raleigh, 9:45 a.m., umsteadcoalition.org.

6th Haliwa-Saponi 5K, Hollister, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

OWLS Fort Macon trail 5K, Atlantic Beach, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

Periwinkle Beer Mile, 1m novelty run, Beaufort, 2 p.m., runsignup.com.

Step Up for Soldiers Combat Mud Run with obstacles 5K, Wilmington, wave starts 9 a.m. to noon, runsignup.com.

8th Storm the Stadium Steps Climb, ECU, Greenville, runsignup.com.

Taylor Anne Foundation 7K, Bond Park, Cary, 9 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

The Cub, 7m, Valle Crucis School, 8 a.m., pinwheel.us.

30th Human Race 5K, Co. Park, Greensboro, 9 a.m., raceroster.com. *Live & Virtual.*

**April 21**  
Race for the Planet 5K, Fort Fisher Aquarium, Kure Beach, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

**March 23**  
Trailathon kayak paddle 2m bike 6.8m, run 3.1m, Glencoe, 9 a.m., alamance.recdesk.com.

**April 13**  
Pinehurst Tri Festival, international 8:30 a.m., sprint tri 4:15 p.m., runsignup.com.

**April 20**  
Belews Lake Sprint Tri, Duathlon, Stokesdale, 8 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

**April 27**  
Beaverdam international tri (1500m swim, 24.9m bike, 6.2m run) and sprint tri (750m swim, 15m bike, 2m run), sprint duathlon, Falls Lake, Wake Forest, 8 a.m., fseries.com.

Lake Norman Wildman HM/5K, Mooresville, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

Wilmington Growler Relay, 29.8m, 10 a.m. wave start, runsignup.com.

Kings Mountain Gateway Trail 5K/10M, 8:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

**March 23-24**  
Blackbeard's Revenge 100, 100m/100K/relay, Corolla, 5:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

**March 24**  
Cary Greenways HM/10K/5K, Bond Park, Cary, 8 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

**March 25**  
Appalachian Series Day 4 M/HM, Mills River, active.com.

**March 30**  
Craft Beer HM/5m, Charlotte, 7:45 a.m., runsignup.com.

Only Fools Run HM/10K/5K, Taylor Corporate Center, Greensboro, 8 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

**April 6**  
Catamount Climb HM/5K, formerly Valley of the Lilies, WCU campus, Cullowhee, 8:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

Charlotte RaceFest HM/10K/5K, Charlotte, 7:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

4th Gateway to Smokies HM, Waynesville, 8 a.m., gloryhoundnccnmotive.com/events.

New South Trail M/HM, Charlotte, 8 a.m., center.white-water.org/new-south-reg/

29th Umstead Ultra Run, 50/100m, Umstead SP, Raleigh,

*Live & Virtual.*

**April 26**  
Mebane Dogwood Festival 5K, downtown, 6:30 p.m., runsignup.com by 4/22.

**April 27**  
31st Angels Among Us 5K, Flowers Drive at Yearby Ave., Duke medical campus, Durham, 8 a.m., supportdukehealth.org.

Socks and Undies 5K Rundle, New Hope Church, 7619 Fayetteville Rd., Durham, 9:30 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

13th Scallywag 5K/10K, Ocracoke, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

Socks & Undies 5K Rundle, Crossroads Fellowship Campus, 4730 Hargrove Rd., Raleigh, 9:30 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

Water for People 5K, White Oak Church Road access at ATT, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

## NC Multisport

**March 23**  
Trailathon kayak paddle 2m bike 6.8m, run 3.1m, Glencoe, 9 a.m., alamance.recdesk.com.

**April 27**  
Beaverdam international tri (1500m swim, 24.9m bike, 6.2m run) and sprint tri (750m swim, 15m bike, 2m run), sprint duathlon, Falls Lake, Wake Forest, 8 a.m., fseries.com.

Lake Norman SP sprint tri, Troutman, 8am, runsignup.com

## NC Long Distance

**March 23**  
4th Cliffs of the Neuse Wine Trail Run, 4/8m, Seven Springs, 10 a.m., runsignup.com.

**April 7**  
4th Coast Guard M/HM, Elizabeth City, runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

**April 13**  
18th Charity Chase HM/5K, Hickory, 7:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

5th High 5 at Hanging Rock SP, 5m/10m trail, Danbury, active.com by 4/9.

Lake James Races, 7m/5K trail, Nebo, 9 a.m., race roster.com.

**April 14**  
15th MST 12m/50K Challenge, trail, Falls Lake, Raleigh, 7 a.m., runsignup.com.

**April 20**  
Tar Heel 10 Miler/4m/ DoubleDown, UNC Bell Tower, Chapel Hill, 7:50 a.m., tarheel-10miler.com/registration.

HalfCraft HM/5K, Winston-Salem, 8:30 a.m. *Live & Virtual.*

5th N.C. Spring Classic, 16K/8K/5K, Holly Springs, 7:15 a.m., runsignup.com.

Tuck Fest HM/5K trail, Charlotte, 8 a.m. (also 5K trail Fri, Sun), tuckfest.whitewater.org.

Wake Forest Historic Half/3m, Wake Forest, 7:30 a.m., fseries.com.

**April 21**  
Flying Pirate HM, Kill Devil Hills, obxse.enmotive.com. Also 5K Sat.

**April 27**  
Owl's Roost Rumble, trail HM/4m, Bur-Mil, Greensboro, 7:30 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

11th Run Sunset Beach HM/10K/5K, 6:45 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

Tobacco Road Relay, 75m, Chapel Hill to Durham to Raleigh, wave start 6-12 noon, runsignup.com.

**April 28**  
16th Philosopher's Way Trail Run, 10m/7K, Carolina North Forest, Chapel Hill, 8 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

9th Blackbeard HM, Ocracoke, 7 a.m., runsignup.com.

## NC Bike Rides

**March 23**  
Ride De Vine 12.5-62m, Warren County Armory, Warrenton, 8 a.m., itsyourrace.com.

**March 30**  
NC Bike Club Spring Rally, 20-64m, Fainting Goat Brewing Co., Fuquay-Varina, 10 am, event.racereach.com/nccb-spring/register

**March 31**  
Beginner's Ride, 15 miles, Carolina Tarwheels, Trek Store, CH, 10 a.m., meetup.com.

**April 6**  
Hamil Kerr Challenge, 35-69m, Jamestown, bikereg.com.

**April 20**  
Tour de TORC bike tours, 4, 7, 12.5m, Bike for Umstead, Umstead SP, Raleigh, 9:30 a.m., umsteadcoalition.org.

Rites of Spring, 13.8-59.2m, Greensboro, 9 a.m., bikereg.com by 4/14.

**April 27**  
Bike LUCK, 25-60m, Charlotte, bikereg.com.

### FESTIVALS, Continued from page 1

31, Holi Celebration, Durham Central Park, 2-5.

**April**  
4-7, Full Frame Docu Film Festival, downtown Durham, fullframefest.com.

6, UNC Science Expo, 20 exhibits, Morehead Planetarium, Chapel Hill, 11-4.

6, Cary's Tacos 'N Taps Festival, Booth Amph, 12-5, fees.

6, Revolutionary War Living History Day, downtown Hillsborough, 10-4.

6-7, Tarheel Antiques Festival, Lloyds Farm, Efland, 9-5, fees.

7. Bull City Beer Mile, Durham Central Park, 2-6.

*FESTIVALS, Continued on page 11*

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April 17 – Local Public Golf Update  
May 15 – Spring Cycling  
Email joelcsn1@gmail.com  
Deadline 7 days in advance

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## Summer Soccer Showcase Returns

Defending English Premier League champion Manchester City will play a European opponent at UNC's Kenan Stadium this summer as part of a four-game U.S. pre-season tour. Neither the opponent nor date were announced.

FC Series of Florida is the promoter. They organized the Chelsea/Wrexham game here last summer that sold out Kenan (50,596) in four days. Chelsea won 5-0. Man City reportedly will play Chelsea at Ohio Stadium in Columbus (capacity 102,000+) in the tour's final game. Earlier, they'll play exhibitions in NC, NY and Orlando.

## Tobacco Road Posts League Win

Tobacco Road men's rugby found their game and demolished Southern Pines 36-0 at home. One spring match remains. Earlier, TR dropped league matches against Onslow and Asheville and beat NC State 57-12 in a friendly in Raleigh.

Mark Markovetz scored twice, Callum Harris, Matt "Nesh" Olkowski, Malcolm Smith-Fraser and Jacob Berber once each against SP. Jack Sears made 3 of 6 conversions in the mud.

TR lost 31-26 to Onslow in the home opener. They got a bonus point for 4 tries and another for a close loss. Try scorers were Jonah Paasche-Orlow, Bill Kinney, Sears, Jack Carpenter. Sears converted 3 of 4 tries. Smith-Fraser received a yellow card for a high tackle early in the second half.

UNC's A-side ran rampant through the TR Bs who played hard, and a highlight was Christian Berry scoring his first try in his first match.

Paasche-Orlow scored twice, Seth Brown, Berry, Will Gates, Ralo Howard, Grant Guthrie, Smith-Fraser and Lance Gloss, once each against State. Robbie Deforge made 4 of 6 conversions and Sears 2 of 3.

Asheville won 47-13 at home. Local try scorers were Aaron "Krispy" Craig and Smith-Fraser. Sears added a penalty kick.

## Co-Rec Volleyball League In Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill is offering an adult co-rec volleyball league that starts April 3 at the Community Center. Cost is \$125/team for nine weeks, ages 16+. Register before 3/23 at [webtrac.townofchapelhill.org](http://webtrac.townofchapelhill.org). Games are Wednesday 7-10 p.m. Matches are best of 3 to 25 points. Two female players must be on the court at all times.

Teams must have a minimum of 7 players and maximum of 12. At least 3 players must be present to play each match, up to 6 players may play at a time. Standard rotation will be used. This league is team registration only, individuals (free agents) interested in playing should contact Jonathan Ray at [jray2@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:jray2@townofchapelhill.org).

## Eno Ruggers Look For Win

With two matches remaining, Eno River women's rugby is looking for its first win.

They lost 57-0 at Charlotte (Middie (forward), Sadie (back), Emily (defense) were featured, 52-0 to Atlanta Selects 2.0 at home and 53-12 at Carolina Villains.

## UNC Rugby Sevens Lose In Plate Semis

UNC men's rugby club sevens went 2-1 in pool play before losing 17-12 to N.C. State in the plate semis in Charlotte. Duke beat State 19-5 in the finals.

UNC beat Furman 31-0, beat Wake 26-0 and lost 12-7 to UNC-W in pool play. The matches were part of qualification #1 for Southern Rugby Conference Finals (16 teams). The second qualification event will be March 23 at Wingate. The top 8 schools earn their way from the qualifiers to the Sevens Finals at ECU 4/13.



PHOTO: SONC

## Polar Plunge Raises \$50,000+

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office Polar Plunge® for Special Olympics North Carolina (SONC) raised more than \$50,000 last month at Jordan Lake's Seaforth swim beach in Pittsboro, with 128 participants doing the plunge. Participants fundraised to support the mission of Special Olympics in providing sports training and competition to children and adults with intellectual disabilities locally and statewide.

Triad Chill Polar Plunge® and Special Olympics North Carolina Cool Schools Plunge and Spread The Word: Inclusion Rally raise funds and awareness of inclusion efforts for SONC. They received more than \$88,000 from its Cool Schools Polar Plunge and Rally and Triad Chill Polar Plunge at Wet'n Wild Emerald Pointe in Greensboro.

Eight hundred students, teachers, principals and parents from 27 North Carolina schools supported the Cool Schools Polar Plunge and Inclusion Rally, raising more than \$36,000. Individuals associated with school communities were invited to rally and plunge to promote inclusion in their academic environments through Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools®. Unified Champion Schools bring youth with and without intellectual disabilities together through sports and education to create school communities of acceptance and respect.

The rally was hosted by students from Chapel Hill High and High Point Central.

Two hundred individuals plunged in support of SONC at the Triad Chill Polar Plunge, raising \$52,000.

## OCASL Soccer Winter Leaders

TBD won the Over 30 winter season at [ocasl@tasl](mailto:ocasl@tasl) in Chapel Hill. They went 7-2-1, scored the most goals (65), allowed the fewest goals (21).

Oldcastle United (7-0-2 took first in Anderson Over 40 and scored the most goals (49), while Auston Villa allowed the fewest (49).

In Kaminsky Studdard Rec 1-2, Classic Football Society and Tar Devils SC both had 9-0-1 records (27 points). The Tar Devils scored the most goals (65) and allowed the fewest (5). CFS had the better goal differential (24), compared to 21 for TDSC.

## Carolina Sends 13 To NWSL

North Carolina had 13 players on eight teams on opening day rosters for the National Women's Soccer League. That's a gain of two over last year. The league has 14 teams for the new season.

Here's the breakdown of players and teams: Angel City FC, Paige Nielsen; Bay FC, Emmie Allen, Savy King, Dorian Bailey; Gotham FC, Maycee Bell, Crystal Dunn; Houston Dash, Avery Patterson; NC Courage, Julia Dorsey, Brianna Pinto; Portland Thorns, Meghan Klingenberg; Seattle Reign, Claudia Dickey, Sam Meza; Utah Royals, Ally Sentnor.

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## Locals Shine In MTB Series Opener

Local riders fueled their schools to strong starts in the first race of scholastic MTB series in Browns Creek Park at Elizabethtown. Chapel Hill High and East Chapel Hill scored well, along with Smith Middle and McDougle in the opening NICA points race of season eight. First race had 467 riders. Seven races are scheduled.

Here are top local finishers: Morgan Watson, Smith Middle, first 7th grade boys, 1 lap, 20:27; Oliver Jensen, Orange Composite S, second 6th grade boys, 1 lap, 21:53; Claudia Baum, Smith, first 8th grade girls, 1 lap, 20:40; Tinsley Yarbrough, Phillips, fourth, 24:35; Vivienne Myers, Smith, first 6th grade girls, 1 lap, 21:17; Andreas Trinidad, Chatham Co. Chaos, third HS3 boys, 1 lap, 19:51; Connor Kross, CHHS, fourth, 20:08; Jesse West, Smith, MSA boys, first, 2 laps, 34:03; Dylan Hall, OC Composite North, second, 35:05; Leif Hastings, CHHS, HS2 boys, first, 2 laps, 34:51; Nicole Clamann, Chatham Co. Chaos, third varsity

## N.C. High School Championships

### Wrestling

Top local finishers in the state championship: Seaforth edged Trinity 136-133.5 to win the 2A state title after losing to the Bulldogs in the dual-team championship (CSN, Feb 2024). 106, Gabe Rogers, Seaforth, third (43-1).

120, Josh Miller, Seaforth, champion (40-0). 126, Layne Armstrong, Seaforth, champion (44-2).

215, Ethan Cranfill, Seaforth, third (45-4).

3A—175, Andra Hill, Orange, third (47-4).

### Indoor Track & Field

4A—Boys 55m Hurdles, James Coleman, Chapel Hill, second, 7.37. Points: CH women 0.75, boys, CH 8, East Chapel Hill 5.

1A/2A—Girls Pole Vault, Laney Bebo, Northwood, first, 10/06, Claire Morgan, Seaforth, third, 9/0. Boys 1000m, William Cuicchi, Seaforth, first, 2:36.20. Boys 3200m, Jack Anstrom, Seaforth, first, 9:30.33. Seaforth was seventh in points (23). Winner had 85.

### Basketball

Boys 4A—#5 Chapel Hill beat #28 Southview 55-53, lost to #12 Panther Creek 67-61. #31 East Chapel Hill lost 104-47 to #2 Richmond County.

3A—#10 Orange beat #23 Currituck 85-62, lost to #7 Northern Nash 68-60. #27 Carrboro lost 84-38 to #6 Southern Lee.

2A—#4 Northwood def. #29 Green Central 62-41, beat #13 N. Johnston 77-35, def. #21 SE Alamance 75-52, lost 77-70 to #1 Farmville Central.

**HS CHAMPS, Continued on page 10**

girls, 4 laps, 1:17:23; Tessa Mead, East CH, second HS1 girls, 3 laps, 1:02:34; Anne Neal, McDougle Middle, third MSA girls, 2 laps, 41:48; Ali Otto, Orange Co. Composite, fourth HS2 girls, 2 laps, 44:21, Vivian Atkins, CHHS, fifth, 45:13; Radek Prochazka, CHHS, first HS1 boys, 3 laps 51:20.

High School Division Points after Race 1, Chapel Hill, fourth, 1976. Leader has 2148. East Chapel Hill, ninth, 1916.

Middle School Points, Smith, first, 2040, McDougle, fifth, 1884, Chatham Co. Chaos Pollard, 12th, 1723; Phillips, 15, 1083, Orange Co. Comp S, 22, 1551, Orange Co. Comp N, 28, 1330, Chatham Co. Chaos, 30, 1099, Culbreth, 41, 1065.

## Swim For Charlie Fundraiser April 14

Swim for Charlie, a local nonprofit, is teaching second graders in Orange and Durham counties water safety skills. They had 573 kids from eight schools at five pools in the fall, compared to 344 the previous year. Completion rate was 98 percent. They have more than 100 trained instructors and the student instructor ratio is 3-1. SFC offers children eight lessons over two weeks. Each lesson is 40 minutes. Data came from Jon Klein, SFC president.

To increase exposure and raise funds for expansion, they are holding a FUNdraising swim meet April 14 at Orange County Sportsplex, Hillsborough. Register at [clubassistant.com](http://clubassistant.com). Deadline is 4/7. They'll have 25-500 individual events and 4x25 relays for masters swimmers.

## UNC Hockey Falls in Playoffs

The UNC hockey club had a strong regular season, winning the Atlantic Coast division of the ACCHL and earning a seven seed in the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) D2 SE regionals in Athens, Ohio, but fell flat in the postseason.

In the ACCHL playoffs in Winston-Salem, UNC was upset by UNCW 5-2 in the first round.

North Carolina lost 8-6 to #14 Penn in the first round of regionals. Indiana, the third seed, beat #8 N.C. State 5-3 in the finals and advanced to nationals in St. Louis where eight teams competed.

Postseason awards for UNC: Patrick O'Shaughnessy was named first team All-ACCHL, Matt Grady ACCHL All Rookie Team, Adam Dauda All ACCHL Rookie Team Coach.

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## Off The Dribble

# Brace Yourselves For Odds of March

Chip Bremer

You know you've been waiting for them. They're in your thoughts. They dominate your lunchroom conversations. They keep you up at night even when you take doses of Trazadone to keep you asleep. They're the Odds of March, and you would do well to heed them as you fill out your NCAA Tournament brackets. Oh, don't worry about Joe Lunardi—he's still a credible talking head and prob-

ably still the foremost expert when it comes to identifying who makes the Big Dance, but even he cannot ignore... the Odds of March!

### 12 to 1: UNC will make it to the Final Four

It's tough not to think of the Heels as a popular pick for reaching the semifinals, but they really haven't had much of a challenge down the stretch, outside of an inspired, but underwhelming Duke team. I'd be cautious with this one.

## Off The Dribble

# Will ACC Glory Years Return

Chap Bremer

Basketball fans used to think of the Atlantic Coast Conference as the pinnacle of college basketball—national championship programs, All-American players, iconic coaches, rabid fan bases—no other conference came close.

That was years ago. Those legendary coaches have retired, the national titles have been few and far between, and the fan bases, and outside of the Duke/Carolina rivalry, nobody really cares much about the rest of the conference.

Given the fluid state of conference expansion, there's no telling the overall impact of bringing in teams like Stanford and California, but one thing is for certain—if the conference ever wants to get back to those glory years, it has to move beyond just Duke and Carolina.

The ACC's blue blood programs have dominated the national recruiting scene for years (particularly Duke, which has another top recruiting class coming in again next season), but when the conference was at its best, virtually every program had their hands in the blue-chip cookie jar.

In the 70s and 80s, you had the likes of David Thompson, Len Bias, Ralph Sampson, Dennis Scott, eventually giving way to the 90s and Tim Duncan, Juan Dixon, Joe Smith, Chris Paul and so on.

Sure, Duke and Carolina had their share of superstars, but it was the balance from the

depth provided by the rest of the conference that made the ACC such an ideal destination for high school All-Americans.

Since those years, it has been a steady decline for the challengers to the big blues. The draw of the NBA draft, turnover in the coaching ranks and the overwhelming shift to the football money power-grabbing all factored into the decline.

Here we are in 2024, and the conference race is still North Carolina, Duke and then everyone else. It's no wonder ACC teams struggle to fight for respect with the NCAA tournament committee.

Will the ACC ever recover to that level of prominence again? Possibly. There is a certain amount of hope with coaches like Tony Bennett, Jim Laranaga, and Leonard Hamilton establishing some continuity, and with newer coaches like Adrian Autry, Steve Forbes, Damon Stoudamire and Micah Shrewsbury building their programs, anything is possible.

Carolina and Duke will continue to dominate the national conversations for the foreseeable future, but the growth of the other programs will determine just how far the ACC can move up the Big Four conference totem pole.

Here's a look at the final ACC standings: North Carolina 17-3, Duke 15-5, Virginia 13-7, Pitt 12-8, Clemson 11-9, Wake Forest 11-9, Syracuse 11-9, Va. Tech 10-10, Florida State 10-10, NC State 9-11, Boston College 8-12, Ga. Tech 7-13, Notre Dame 7-13, Miami 6-14, Louisville 3-17.

## Future Opponents For UNC, Duke

The ACC announced schedule basics for Carolina and Duke conference basketball games (20) for the 2024-25 season:

North Carolina, home and away games (6), Duke, N.C. State, Pitt.

Home only (7), Boston College, Ga. Tech, Miami, SMU, Stanford, Virginia; Away only (7), Clemson, Florida State, Louisville, Notre Dame, Syracuse, Va. Tech, Wake Forest.

Duke, home and away (6), North Carolina, Wake Forest, Miami.

Home only (7), Cal, Florida State, N.C. State, Notre Dame, Pitt, Stanford, Va. Tech. Away only (7), Boston College, Clemson, Ga. Tech, Louisville, SMU, Syracuse, Virginia.

## UNC, Duke Recruits In McDonald's Game

UNC and Duke will have recruits in the McDonald's All American boys game April 2 in Houston

Ian Jackson (Senior Lutheran, NY) and Drake Powell (Northwood HS, Pittsboro) are UNC recruits and Isaiah Evans (N. Mecklenburg HS, Charlotte) and Cooper Flagg (Montverde Academy, Fla.) are Duke signees. The boys game starts about 9 p.m. following the girls' game at 6:30 on ESPN.

### 6 to 1: Harrison Ingram plays himself into the first round of the NBA Draft

He's currently on the fringe of initial first-round projections, but with opponents putting so much focus on R.J. Davis and Armando Bacot, Ingram is in a good position to make some noise in the Big Dance and boost his draft stock at the same time.

### 4 to 1: Duke gets knocked out in the first weekend

The Blue Devils can play with intensity and make offensive runs from time to time, but when Kyle Filipowski gets in foul trouble and Jaren McCain isn't hitting shots, this team can look really green—and early exits have become more common for the Dukies in recent years.

ODDS OF MARCH, Cont. on page 10



PHOTO: ROB KINNAN / USA TODAY SPORTS

## R.J. Davis

North Carolina's R.J. Davis is averaging 21+ points this season. Here's why that's notable.

Brendan Marks of theathletic.com said in early March, "Because it's the most by any UNC guard since Charlie Scott in 1968-69. Just think about all the incredible backcourt players to come through Chapel Hill since then: Michael Jordan, Hubert Davis, Shammond Williams, Ty Lawson, Marcus Paige, Joel Berry, and countless others.

"Yet it's Davis who is truly in uncharted waters in Tar Heels history. He won ACC Player of the Year—the program's first since Justin Jackson in 2016-17—not to mention being a first-team All-American ...both of which get his jersey honored in UNC's rafters. And if not for a certain 7-foot-4 center at Purdue, we'd be talking much more about Davis as a potential National Player of the Year, something no UNC player has won since Tyler Hansbrough. But still, Davis' 42-point masterpiece vs. Miami was the highlight of an already historic season.

"Oh, and did we mention? Davis can technically come back for another season if he wants, since he's in the last class with the extra COVID-19 year of eligibility. \*eyes emoji\* UNC donors, time to back up the Brinks truck."

## Coaches Roy, K Join Conversation For Rivals United

Rodd Boxley, Fayetteville Observer

Wes Durham of ACCN sat inside Greensboro Coliseum in July 2023 and led the first joint interview between former Duke basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski and former UNC coach Roy Williams.

After brief introductions, Durham got the ball rolling with a question that goes back to the beginning for the two Hall of Fame coaches.

"When did you decide that you wanted to be a basketball coach?"

Krzyzewski, who got the itch to coach as a 16-year-old youngster in Chicago, gave a nod to his high school coach, Al Ostrowski.

"He coached me the hardest and, as a result of that, I've always coached my best player the hardest," Krzyzewski said.

"I didn't know that people could have that impact on somebody, so I wanted to be a high school teacher and coach since I was 16, so that I could have the impact that all of you (coaches) have. Hopefully, the parents of the kids give you an opportunity to have that impact."

Williams echoed that sentiment, heaping praise on Buddy Baldwin, who coached Williams at T.C. Roberson High School in Asheville.

"My high school coach was the first person to really brag and say really positive things about me to some of my older buddies," Williams said.

"... It was the first person to give me confidence and the first person to make me feel like I could do something. ... I still get cold chills thinking about the confidence he gave me to try some different things."

The hour-long special, "Coach K & Roy Williams: Rivals Reunited," aired initially on the ACC Network and is available on ESPN Plus. It was filmed during the NC Coaches Association's annual clinic last year and produced by Raycom Sports.

"Organizations that are value driven usually stand the test of time," Krzyzewski said. "North Carolina has theirs and we have ours. When we go against one another, it's pretty damn good. It's really good."

In addition to stories about their time at Duke and UNC, Krzyzewski and Williams offered advice for coaches. Here are the main nuggets from the interview.

### Practice Habits

Krzyzewski likens practice to a classroom.

"But you don't only learn how to put a play in, you learn how to be together," he said. "So that was, to me, the most important thing

COACHES, Continued on page 10



### Spring Cycling

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Canada geese graze and forage in the shallows of an impoundment area.

PHOTO BY ALEKSANDRA PRICA

miles long by 7 miles wide, but averages only 2 to 3 feet in depth. Lakewaters cover 80 percent of the 50,000 acre Mattamuskeet Wildlife Refuge, home to white-tailed deer, red wolves, black bears, bobcats, river otters and an impressive variety of birds and waterfowl.

Anglers fish year-round from the banks and bridges, and from March through October from boats, catching bass, crappie, sunfish, catfish, perch, bowfin and others. Large blue crabs are said to be plentiful in the lake as well, though by most accounts the crabbing was less productive these past few years due to water quality issues, which I will address later.

Limited deer hunting is allowed on the Refuge; applicants are chosen by lottery for two two-day hunts held in October, where deer may only be taken with a bow, crossbow, shotgun or muzzle-loading rifle. Having no experience with deer hunting and only a bit of youthful experience with dove and duck hunting,

I will not embarrass myself by attempting to discuss hunting here, except to say that I have no moral objection to hunting if it is done in a sportsmanlike manner and the meat is put to good use. Waterfowl hunting is also a big fall and winter activity at the Refuge, with seasons for various birds running from September to February and involving an application and lottery process similar to that used for the deer hunts.

A big part of Mattamuskeet's draw for bird hunters and watchers alike is its role as a major wintering site along the "Atlantic Flyway" migratory path for tundra swans, snow geese, Canada geese and over 20 species of ducks. The Refuge is already home to countless bird species from songbirds to woodpeckers to owls, herons, egrets, ospreys and bald eagles—the "eBird" database lists 280 species supposedly observed around the lake, and I believe it—but when the migrating fowl are present, from late November through February or so, it's a spectacle that folks interested in that sort of thing just have to experience for themselves. It's difficult to capture in words or do justice with a photograph, in terms of beauty and sheer scale.

My own journey from preteen hunter to middle age birdwatcher was a long and unlikely one. If anyone had told me 30 years ago that someday I'd be chasing painted buntings around with a pair of binoculars, I'd have laughed, but it was a desire to see the winter bird migration up close that led my girlfriend Aleks and I to load our gear and trusty dog Max into the car on an overcast New Year's Day and head east to Hyde County.

The drive from the Triangle was a pleasant 3.5 hours that took us east of Tarboro on US 64 and then south on NC 99, past Pungo Lake and into some truly rural and peaceful coastal locales. After a few twists and turns, we bypassed Swan Quarter with its ferry terminal and cut back northeast to Lake Mattamuskeet, arriving finally at Carawan's Lakeside Motel, where we would stay the night.

Carawan's is old (supposedly built in 1948) and decidedly no-frills, mostly catering to hunters, anglers and nature enthusiasts, but it's also inexpensive and dog-friendly, and I liked the feel of the place. A stone's throw from the lake's south shore, it sits alongside NC 94 which forms a two-lane causeway that bisects the lake as it runs north.

The place was empty and quiet on New Year's Day, but since we had a reservation I just walked into the office which was unoccupied and had a mildly spooky but cool Bates Motel-type vibe, complete with a stuffed duck or two. We phoned the manager, who drove up after a few minutes and checked us in, very helpful and friendly. I don't know if Carawan's is everyone's cup of tea, but I would definitely stay there again.

After settling in we took the causeway across the lake, getting our first look at what really is a massive body of water. Stands of submerged trees emerge from the shallows here and there, and the eastern shore was too distant for my eyes to discern with any clarity. When we reached the north shore at Fairfield, we found the steak/seafood restaurant where we would eat a good meal that night and then stopped by C&C Groceries for some minor provisions.

The proprietor, an affable old guy, chatted with us about the historical (1850s to mid-1900s) coastal hunting clubs that catered to rich, oddly dressed northerners—he called them the "knickerbockers"—who bought up vast tracts of acreage, primarily around Currituck Sound but also further south, and hired the locals as guides, cooks and domestics.

The story of these clubs is fascinating and a bit ugly in places, as Yankee swells like J.P. Morgan and Andrew Carnegie basically kicked longtime residents out of their own traditional hunting and fishing grounds, and when conflict arose the knickerbockers invariably triumphed, such as in a 1920 case where a local hunter named Derwood Gallop was shot by "marsh guards" for poaching and died of his wounds.

Two employees of the Pine Island Club were tried for murder the following year but were found not guilty. Many locals attributed this verdict to the wealth and influence of the hunting club and the intervention of its powerful local allies. The disgusted judge even told the jury that the prosecution of the accused killers was "the plainest case for the state that I ever saw."

But enough history. We thanked the oldtimer and headed back across the lake, stopping to further enjoy the views and spot some birds from the causeway before turning near the south shore and heading east down Mattamuskeet Road towards the Refuge lodge and headquarters.

COASTAL TRAVELOG, Continued on page 9

# Nelson Repeats, Williams Scores At Webster Rocks

Loki Nelson of Chapel Hill repeated as open men winner and Audrey Williams of Cary scored first in open women at Webster's Rock the Hill 35 indoor climbing competition in Chapel Hill. There were 128 climbers, and more than \$13,000 worth of prizes awarded.

The preliminaries were held during the week and the finals Feb. 18 at the Chapel Hill Community Center climbing wall. The event is considered the oldest continuous indoor climbing competition in the U.S.

Davis Slocum of Chapel Hill was second and David "Grechy" Grech third in open, with Hannah Breen, Hillsborough, second woman, Heidi Segars, Raleigh, third.

Chapel Hill award winners: Youth Men, Nick Schubert, Fayetteville, first, Kenyon Laurer, second, Weston Morris, third; Youth Women, Rebecca Benitz, first, Naomi Joiner, Carrboro, second, Rowan Bursky, third; Recreational Men, Patrick Watts, Durham, first, Devin Plauche, Kennesaw, GA, second, Jon Sadowsky, third; Recreational Women, Anna Strom-

berg, Carrboro, first, Anita Hallberg, Raleigh, second, Kate Nelson, third; Intermediate Men, William Hesler, first, Jimmy Kempter, second, Ben Gaspar, third; Intermediate Women, Rose Kohout, Carrboro, first, Kate Thacker, second, Rosie Maloney, Carrboro, third.

Old Skool Krew, Diane Joseph, Daly City, CA, first, Dave Gilbert, second, Steve Molnar, third.

Other awards went to:

Oldest—Bryan Kempter, 71 (beat Bill Webster by a few months).

Youngest—Adelyn Mitchell age 6.

Hang time—Hannah Breen with 13:28.00.

Crate stacking—Tamara Sanders stacked all 16 and stood on top in 2:20.20s.

Campus only—Davis Slocum time 16.95s.

Speed climb—Audrey Williams time 5.43s.

Event founder and retired, Webster competed and made it to the finals in Old Skool Krew, finishing fourth.

## Area Bike Races

The Triangle Cycling Classic is coming up, along with an MTB race at Briar Chapel:

March 23, Rogue State Road Race, 35-69m, New Hill, community and collegiate races, bikereg.com.

March 24, Tuffy Takeover Criterium, community and collegiate races, 30-70 minutes, Briar Chapel, Pittsboro, bikereg.com. Both events are organized by UNC Cycling, NC State Bike Club, Capital Cycling Club.

April 13, Beast of Repetition MTB races, Briar Chapel, Pittsboro, bikereg.com.



## Cycling Results

Wake Forest University community and Atlantic Collegiate Cycling Conference road race at West End:

Paul Vrounvenelder, Chapel Hill, second, Rec Men cat 3/4 (8 finishers); Joseph Stone, Hillsborough, first, Keith Gerarden, Chapel Hill, second, M Masters 35+/45+/55+ (25); Stone, first M Masters 45+ cat 1-5 (4); Gerarden first, Fred Stutzman, Chapel Hill, third 45+ cat 1-5 (14); Gerarden, third M cat 1-3 (20); Jerome-Marie McPherson, Carrboro, UNC Cycling, second, W Collegiate A (4).

In the criterium, Vrounvenelder was first, M cat 3/4 (14).

## State Games Mountain Bike Set For April 6

Body Armor State Games mountain biking will be held April 6 at Mazeppa Park, Mooresville. Races are 1-3 laps with start waves at 9 a.m. and 11:30. Cost is \$50 for cat 1, \$40 for cat 2 and 1-3, \$35 for cat 3, juniors. USA Cycling licenses required. Register at webscorer.com by 4/5. Questions? Contact David Marlowe at usmtbseries@gmail.com.

Most State Games sports are in June in the Charlotte area, including new additions like adult flag football, padel, powerlifting.

SPLASHPAD, Continued from page 1

an additional restroom/change building (\$600,000), and shade structure (\$100,000). It could be built between the parking area and Strowd Rose Garden, but no drawings showing the locations of the new playground and splash pad are available, and no detailed construction design work for the splash pad has been done.

The playground will be funded by ARPA covid recovery funds (\$500,000). Two engagement sessions for the all abilities playground were held in February. *Joel Bulkley*

ORANGE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

## Holiday Weekend Schedule

	GOOD FRIDAY MARCH 29	EASTER SUNDAY MARCH 31
Curbside Recycling	No Collection. Recycling will be collected on Saturday, March 30.	No Collection.
Landfill/Disposal Center	CLOSED	CLOSED
Waste & Recycling Centers	CLOSED	CLOSED
Administrative Offices	CLOSED	CLOSED

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## Oral Cancer 5K

Akshay Elango (18:14) and Aimee Pack (24:06) had the best times at the UNC SNDA Oral Cancer 5K in Chapel Hill. Matteo Lambert (19:18) was second and Gary Franks (19:38) third. Jordyn Williams (24:54) was second female and Janki Desai (27:41) third. There were 70 finishers. Hometowns N/A.

## St. Paul Village 5K

Tim Meigs (16:54) of Raleigh and Kara Stark (16:53) of Durham were the leaders at the St. Paul Village 5K in Carrboro. There were 96 finishers, compared to 104 last year. Abezu Delvecchia (17:42), age 16, of Hillsborough was second male and Evan Nelsen (18:13) of Chapel Hill third. Chapel Hill runners, Jess Shaver (21:40) and Alison McNamara (22:02), were second and third females.

Chapel Hill age group award winners were Ida Clarke, Carrboro, 10-14, 27:43, Henry Clark, Carrboro, 10-14, 22:35; Raegan Murphy, Indian Trail, 15-19, 29:46, Anthony Guerrero Ariza, 15-19, 20:59; Taylor Holbrooks, 20-24, 22:36; Jenny Sullivan, Pittsboro, 25-29, 34:02, Samuel Strader, Durham, 25-29, 20:59; Sarah Kowitt, 30-34, 31:41, Billy Marinello, Raleigh, 30-34, 22:15; Erika Walker, 35-39, 27:59, Blackwell Allen, Bonlee, 35-39, 22:40; Sarah Swann, Carrboro, 40-44, 25:56, Jonathan Blackwell, Randleman, 40-44, 50:31; Emily OBarr, 45-49, 29:53, Steve Bender, 45-49, 23:01; Tiffany Shubert, 50-54, 24:16, Jose Guerrero Ariza, 50-54, 35:58; Caitlin Fenhagen, 55-59, 36:27; Matthew Sullivan, 55-59, 29:43; Jane Harwell, Carrboro, 60-64, 22:42, Daniel Whittle, Carrboro, 60-64, 21:24; Marva White, Browns Summit, 65-69, 57:39, Richard Ferguson, Danville, Va., 65-69, 23:31; Sheila Kerrigan, 70+. 32:52, James McNamara, 70+. 37:57.

## Shamrock 'N' Run 5K

Ethan Turner (15:54) of Chapel Hill and Abbey McKee (19:39) of Durham were the winners at 31st Kappa Delta Shamrock 'N' Run 5K in Chapel Hill. There were 471 finishers, down from 528 last year.

Bradley Mankus (16:01) of Mooresville was second male and Tommy Johnson (16:55) of Carrboro third. Emma Goddard (20:05) and Jennifer Chu (21:50), both of Chapel Hill, were second and third females.

Chapel Hill award winners included Sarah Nemerovski, first 15&U, 25:23, Ava Keady, second, 27:11, Sabina DePasquale, third, 27:13; Maddock McGregor, Hillsborough, first 15&U, 25:02, Porter Smith, Burlington, third, 41:35, Julian Galie, third, Amelia Loeffler, first 16-24, 22:09, Judith Shaver, second, 22:41, Emma Lyon, Raleigh, third, 24:25; Chauncey Chen, first 16-24, 17:04, Will Scott, Clemmons, second, 17:09, Atticus Bacon, third, 17:24; Mackenzie Short, Durham, first 25-39, 23:05, Helen Paille, second, 25:19, Patterson Sheehan, Raleigh, third, 26:17; Andrew Zachman, first 25-29, 17:32, Jonathan Jacobs, second, 23:06, Vybhav Jagannath, Durham, third, 28:23; Emily McGregor, Hillsborough, first 40-54, 24:56, Elizabeth Hinshaw, Wilmington, second, 26:46, Anna Hunter, third, 26:59; Ben Brookhart, Wake Forest, first 40-54, 22:51, Robert Jones, Charlotte, second, 24:08, Franklin Chen, Raleigh, third, 25:35; Dana Garland, Richmond, Va., first 55+, 22:07, Amy Brooks, Morganton, second, 27:52, Ellen Fountain, Hickory, third, 28:33; Gary Kayye, first, 55+, 27:03, Mark Rowland, Charlotte, second, 27:33, Scott Peck, third, 28:27.

## Einum Wins Ten Miler

Anders Einum (1:15:10) of Chapel Hill took first at the third annual Jordan Lake Ten Mile trail run in New Hill. Women's WT was 1:34:52. Stephanie Furst (1:46:50) of Pittsboro was second female and Mary Wangnen (1:48:08) of Pittsboro third. There were 131 finishers, up from 17 last year, but only six for the 20 miler, compared to 15 last year. Lisa Hecker (3:03:56) of Mebane was third female. WTs were 3:02:44 and 2:47:05.

## Wilmington M/HM

Chapel Hill award winners at Wilmington HM (1,668 finishers): Dan Hirschman, second 50-54, 1:34:10; Ashley Dunham, second 50-54, 1:43:00; Stefan Klakovich, second 50-64, 1:43:49, David Hardy, Carrboro, third, 1:44:26. WTs were 1:05:49 and 1:24:27.

Marathon, Caleb Wyninger, second 19-24, 3:04:29; Tennessee Reed, first 19-24, 3:17:55; Ivy Pointer, first 45-49, 3:29:48; Sari Palmroth, third 50-54, 4:13:50; Kathy Jooss, first 55-59, 3:43:41. WTs were 2:41:43 and 2:50:55 (897 finishers).

## Running Notes

Michelle Gay (2:00:50) of Chapel Hill was second 50-54 at Northern Trails Ten Miler (187), WT was 1:31:04.

The TarDevil 30 Miler from UNC to Duke had 18 finishers. All had 8:09 finish times, according to ultrarunning.com, but it looked like Kurt Rosenkrantz and Kathleen Baer were the winners.

Bryn Barker (4:26:09) of Carrboro was the eighth woman and the top local finisher (51) at the 20th Umstead Trail M in Raleigh. WTs were 3:03:23, a new women's record by Cassidy Heaton, and 3:19:21 (168 finishers, two more than last year).

Katelyn Trumble (20:48) and Jeff Nieman (21:15) of Chapel Hill were the leaders at Tenth Head for the Cure 5K in Chapel Hill. There were 243 finishers, up a dozen from last year. Hometowns NA.

Richard Kesseli (3:45:10) of Hillsborough was ninth overall at Black Mountain Marathon (about 100 finishers). WT was 3:18:23. Kesseli (3:33:06) was second male at Northern Trails M in Greensboro (41 finishers). WT was 3:25:40.

Susanne Jackson (2:23:23) of Pittsboro was first 50-59 in Pilot Mountain 20K trail race (70 finishers). WT was 1:58:50.

### RACE NEWS

The first weekend in May has six local races, with events in Chapel Hill, Pittsboro, Elon, RTP, Mebane.

The Sustainability 5K on May 5 is a new Chapel Hill race organized by the Environmental Affairs Committee of UNC student government to raise funds for Solar Equity, a UNC student run non-profit that facilitates residential solar installations in disadvantaged and low-income communities.

Exceptional Strides 5K trail, Pittsboro, was moved from March to May 11.

The April 13 Ville to Ville, Asheville to Greenville, SC, Craft Beer Relay, 72m, is sold out.

The April 6 Coast Guard M in Elizabeth City has satellite races the same day in Charleston, Boston, Honolulu.

## Northeast Park Duathlon

Sara Larson of Chapel Hill was the top local finisher at Northeast Park Duathlon in Gibsonville, the first area multi-sport event of the season. Larson was first 50-54, 56:58. WTs were 47:20 and 52:31 for 1.6m run, 10.5m bike, 1.6m run (123 finishers, down from 143 in 2023).

Local award winners: Sylvia Furst, Pittsboro, third 55-59, 1:13:18; Cindy Webster, Chapel Hill, second 60-64, 1:09:42; Sharon Roggenbuck, Hillsborough, first 80+, 1:42:18; Austin Hirschfield, Hillsborough, second 35-39, 1:00:10; Craig Helms, Chapel Hill, second 60-64, 1:01:33.

## Ferri First In Cary 5K

Lucas Ferri (20:56) of Pittsboro was first in Sole Mates 5K in Cary (122 finishers), with Zach Broch (23:07) of Chapel Hill third male. Women's WT was 20:59.

Local award winners: Amy Orange, Hillsborough, first 50-54, 34:51; Rochelle Sutton, Hillsborough, third 35-39, 37:34; Sharon Roggenbuck, Hillsborough, first 85-89, 48:47; Michael Collado, Chapel Hill, first 50-54, 23:45.

In the 6.5m (32), Bryan Sartin, Mebane, was third 35-39, 1:01:19. WT was 44:43.

## Run Oak Island

Area runners earned awards at Run Oak Island spring races. Christelle Dorullet of Chapel Hill was third master female (4:59:00) in the Oak Island Ultra Marathon Surprise Detour (78 finishers). WT was 3:20:04.

Madeleine McGrady, Chapel Hill, was first 25-29, 3:26:17, in the OI Marathon (244). WT was 2:58:31.

Lindsay Harper, Pittsboro, was first 40-44, 1:39:54, Kim Manturuk, Chapel Hill, third 50-54, 1:51:32, Bruce Smith, Mebane, third 60-64, 1:45:44 in the OI East HM (636). WTs were 1:10:59 and 1:20:56.

Abigail Agogla, Hillsborough, was third 30-34, 37:51, in the 10K (275), Sara Long, Hillsborough, second 45-49, 59:03, James Meeks, Mebane, second 50-54, 57:33. WTs were 43:49 and 44:00.

## MST 100 Endurance

Allie Harbert (7:22:37) of Chapel Hill was second woman in the 50K at MST 100 Endurance Run in Durham (36 finishers). WT was 5:21:57.

Justin Thomas (27:24:53) of Hillsborough was third male in the 100 Mile (23).

Holly Howell of Hillsborough was 10th overall, 30:23:19, and Suzanna Tyler of Chapel Hill, 11th 30:34:44. WTs were 20:19:25 and 23:49:28. Races were held along Mountains to Sea Trail at Falls Lake.

## Duncan, Sept Lead PSF 5K

Chapel Hill runners Neal Duncan (17:34) and Margaret Sept, age 19, (19:39) were the winners at the PSF 5K for Education in Chapel Hill. There were 741 finishers in the rain (2,239 registered), down from 1,624 last year.

Ben Horton (18:20), 16, of Durham was second male and Matt Straub (18:40) third. Yara Sinnott, (21:21), 15, of Chapel Hill was second female and Heather Lindenman (21:45) of Chapel Hill third.

Chapel Hill age group award winners: 13-14, Lily O'Brien, first, 21:59, Eloroie Martin, second, 22:45, Zach Brach, first, 20:03, Jesse West, second, 20:09; 15-16, Sarah Nemerovski, first, 23:45, Lucy Safir, Carrboro, second, 23:53, Howard Dinglenut, first, 18:45, Leo Fortson, second, 18:46; 17-18, Angela Zhao, first, 23:32, Emma Chekan, second, 24:22, Arthur Zhao, first, 19:04, Elmer Dinglenut, Carrboro, second, 19:06; 20-29, Sarah LaTour, first, 23:26, Sophia Stewart, Hillsborough, second, 27:20; Bob Loblaw, first, 20:13, Hunter Edkins, second, 22:39; 30-39, Jennifer Chu, first, 22:10, Evan Burnette, Durham, second, 23:49, Solomon Hoffman, Carrboro, first, 19:53, Kris Beattu, second, 20:57; 40-49, Mary Montgomery, first, 21:52, Laura Gallaher, second, 23:34, Evan Galloway, first, 19:12, Ethan Hutt, second, 19:41; 50-59, Laura Hill, first, 27:16, Jingmei Shen, second, 27:36, Brian Belval, first, 19:27, Frank Pitts, second, 20:24; 60-69, Susan Lombardo, first, 28:41, Ann Daaleman, second, 36:14, Ted LeMay, first, 23:37, Todd Perri, second, 25:48; 70-79, Cecile Skrzynia, first, 42:10, Millicent Nowman, Greensboro, second, 46:11, David Hack, first, 28:46, Joseph Verdirarne, Sullok, Va., second, 28:15; 80+, Bill Powers, first, 45:19.

## Blue Blood Rivalry Run

Ann Marie Kumfer (21:03) of Chapel Hill was third female overall and first 30-39 at the Blue Blood Rivalry Run 5K in Durham (113 finishers in the rain compared to 233 in 2023). WTs were 18:49 and 20:34.

Other local award winners included David Quintero, Chapel Hill, second 40-49, 21:29; Mike Truell, Mebane, first 60-69, 23:20; Brian Long, Hillsborough, third 40-49, 23:44; Andrew Smith, Carrboro, second 50-59, 24:49; Man Nortier, Chapel Hill, third 20-29, 25:05; Sarah Long, Hillsborough, second 40-49, 26:01; Bert Dempsey, Chapel Hill, third 60-69, 29:00; Bradley Hamilton, second 50-54, 29:49.

## Azalea Triathlon

Three Chapel Hillians earned age group awards at Azalea Sprint Triathlon in Wilmington, first event in N.C. Triathlon Series. Distances were 300 yard swim, 12m bike, 5K run, 227 finishers.

Louis Almekinders was third 65-69, 1:09:32; Melissa Deyle, second 25-29, 1:18:28; Sally Almekinders, first 70-74, 1:37:28.

Hayley Lavoie of Cedar Grove (1:19:30) was third female novice (52). Max DiMuccio (54:25) of Chapel Hill was third collegiate male, Madeleine Sparrow of Chapel Hill (1:07:51) first collegiate female (37 collegiate finishers).

## Tower Climb Hill Ten Miler

Adam Gaines of Siler City (1:07:25) and Kate DiCato (1:26:40) were the leaders at Tower Climb Hill Ten Miler in Pittsboro (29 finishers). It was the seventh and final event in the Carolina Godiva Winter Series. Gaines was a repeat winner.

In the 4 Miler (19), Kevin McCabe (27:57) and Kellie Bosert (33:55) were first.

## Usery Third In Half Marathon

Lauryn Usery (1:19:37) of Chapel Hill was third woman overall at 14th Tobacco Road HM in Cary. WTs were 1:07:43 and 1:17:12. Times are net times. There were 2,164 finishers, up from 2,057 last year.

Award winners from Chapel Hill were Jake Green, third 35-39, 1:18:23; Madeline Frank, second 25-29, 1:25:13; Chris Millikan, third 55-59, 1:28:53; Sarah Williams, third 50-54, 1:42:58; Daniel Whittle, Carrboro, first 60-64, 1:45:32; Ken Shelton, first 65-69, 1:47:25; Cohen Martin, Carrboro, first 12&U, 1:48:44; David Montefiori, Hillsborough, first 70-74, 1:49:30; Walker Livingston, second 16-19, 1:52:35.

### Marathon Results

WTs for the TR Marathon were 2:24:37 and 2:42:17. Top local finisher was Ryan Mouery (3:03:25) of Carrboro. There were 850+ finishers, compared to 794 last year, and 42 were under 3 hours.

Chapel Hill award winners: Cate Schultz, third 20-24, 3:19:31; Patrick Megahan, second 55-59, 3:21:50; Kristen Bryant, third 35-39, 3:25:59; Jingmei Shen, second 50-54, 3:45:20; James Pendergraft, Hillsborough, second 70-74, 3:48:24; Yonsung Lin, first 65-69, 4:07:00; Francesca Eischen, first 60-64, 4:47:39.

**ADVERTISE YOUR RACE HERE!**

*See more race results on page 9*



## OWASA Lakes Open March 30

OWASA lakes in Chapel Hill (University Lake in Carrboro and Cane Creek in Chapel Hill) will open Saturday, March 30, for the new season, offering boating, fishing, picnicking, kayak, canoe, flat bottom boat rentals. UL is open Friday-Sunday, Cane Creek Friday-Saturday. Opening day is free except for motor rentals.

They'll continue the reservation system this season for lake arrivals before 10 a.m. (visitors can pre-register early in the week at OWASA website). Otherwise, walkups are welcome. Daily use fees are charged except on opening day. Lake hours are 6:30 to 6 and they're open holidays like Easter, Memorial Day. Paddleboards, sailboards, float tubes, gas motors are not permitted because the lakes are a municipal water source. UL has a fishing dock and CC a nature trail.

Season passes are available including \$176 for a new season kayak rental pass.

Lake attendance was 2,573 for CC last season, 3,282 for UL. They were in line with 2022 figures, but have not returned to pre-Covid levels.

### Durham Lake

Lake Michie, a Durham city lake in North Durham near Bahama, reopened in early March for fishing, boating, picnicking. Hours are 6:30 to 6 Friday through Monday through Nov. 11. Fees are charged. There's bank fishing, boat launching, boat, canoe and kayak rentals. Michie is open on holidays. Questions? Call 919-257-8658.

Little River, another city lake in northern Durham, will open later after repairs are completed.

A N.C. fishing license is required at all area lakes.

## Easter Weekend Last Before Fees Start

Enjoy Easter weekend at day use areas (free) at Jordan Lake SRA. It's the last weekend before entrance fees (\$7/ car, \$5 for seniors, military) are in effect. Fees are charged weekends only in April, May, September and daily from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Buses are \$20/day. Annual passes are \$60 and sold at the Jordan Visitor Center (park office) off US 64 near the bridge. They are not sold online.

### White Oak Closed

The White Oak recreation area off US 64 is closed due to bald eagle nesting. If you are planning a large outdoor event at White Oak, forget it until after the eagles fledge (when juveniles leave the nest). The area, which can accommodate 1,000+ guests and is available for public use on busy days when not rented, is closed to protect the nesting, state park officials said. The eagles are protected by federal law and violators can face fines or jail time.

## Native Plant Sales

Spring native plant sales are planned in Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill.

The Umstead Park sale takes place Saturday, May 4, 12-3. RSVP at [meetup.com/umstead-coalition](https://www.meetup.com/umstead-coalition).

The Duke Gardens Sale is Friday, April 4, from 4 to 6 for members only. General public sale TBA.

The N.C. Botanical Garden, Chapel Hill, sale is May 4, 9-1, with five vendors including NCBG.

## Fishing Report

# 'Soft' Bass Days

Chris Maroldy

There's a certain kind of spring day—"soft" is the only word for it—that is meant for bass fishing.

Not crappie fishing, not bream fishing, not catfishing.

All of those have their own soft days, but they are not the same as soft bass days.

Too often, crappie "soft days" are lost to desire to fill the cooler. Flipping in the buckbrush becomes a numbers game. The warm sun, the clear skies, the wind that has finally become gentle in the season all take a back seat to "catching a mess" unless you are very careful to get your head right.

Bream fishing, later in the spring, can be the same way. But because bream live in closer, more intimate spaces than most crappie, there is still the possibility that you can recognize a soft bream day when you come up on one, even while trying to fill a small cooler, or empty a large cricket cage.

I'm not sure if I've ever had a soft catfish day. I've had many soft catfish nights, listening to peepers and bullfrogs and river sounds, soaking shad or chicken parts under the stars. I \*can\* say that it's one of my favorite things to catch a nice channel cat while day-fishing for something else in April or May.

When I target cats during the day, though—and yes, it can be done in the late Spring—it is not a soft day, but a day devoted to hunting fish, with the attitude you conjure to accompany.

But a soft bass day? It's not spent blasting down the lake with power poles aft. Not unless you're gonna fish the same cove all day, picking the cover apart like a '49 prospector. Churning the banks and the channel and the timber the way a Twitter troll angles the internet might not qualify. A soft day entails a soft

approach.

A soft day is one of stable weather, warm temps, a gentle near-nothing breeze, and clear or (at most) cotton-puff skies. It is certainly an uncloudy day, to quote the song. It is a day equally suited to fishing a pond from the bank, wading a creek, or sculling a jon boat or canoe along the thick stuff. The trees and brush are budding—the Bradford pears in town have already come and gone, and now it is up to the dogwoods, or beyond. In the air there is jessamine and honeysuckle and maybe that indescribable something else if you are not too far from the coast, and far enough south.

You are more than liable to throw your lure in a tree on a soft day. It's okay. You can probably get it back, unless you tossed it 15 feet up, like a knucklehead.

If you want to run a big motor on a soft day, that's up to you, but you might miss something along the way.

I don't know how I managed, but I used to fish soft bass days with one or two rods. I had only one rod and reel going into things, but then I got a job at a pizza place in college, and that turned into a second rig, to say nothing of the .30-.30 and the growing tackle box. It was all downhill from there from a focus and simplicity standpoint, but I was at least semi-minimalized hell on the soft bass days for a decade or so.

Things got complicated after that, faster-paced and more distracted, which might be why I recognize soft bass days so much better now. Flinging a Hula Popper or some other old-school lure that I more than likely have forgotten the name of toward a lay-down or a pile of brush in stained or dark black water now, I remember how things were.

And that's a good thing.

## Panfish Bait and Lures For Spring Fishing

Ken Schultz

Few activities in spring are more popular than chasing panfish.

Spring fishing bait and lures for these species are fairly well defined, although circumstances vary depending on what stage of the spring exists where you live. As a general rule, minnows, worms, small jigs and small jig-spinner combos are the best spring fishing bait and lures for panfish.

There may be a near-even split among spring fishing bait and lures, and some anglers have clear preferences for bait over lures. Among natural baits, a live minnow is the top bait for spring, and even for later in the season. Worms will work, too, but a minnow is the deal if you can find a concentration of fish.

A live cricket is popular for sunfish (especially bluegills, also known as bream), although worms have a big spring following in many places, including for yellow perch.

Crappies are mostly minnow eaters. Minnows hide around any kind of cover for security, so crappies go where minnows hide. Brush piles are planted in many waters precisely to draw minnows and thus attract crappies. When you set out on a strange lake in search of crappies, think brush or anything

resembling brush as cover.

Bluegills and other sunfish species have smaller mouths than crappies and are not quite the minnow chaser, but they like crickets and love worms. Of the latter, small wrigglers, or pieces of nightcrawler (not the whole crawler), are best.

For post-spawn panfish, particularly perch and crappies, the number one lure is a small jig. This may range from a micro model to a 1/8-ounce model, although it is more likely to be in the 1/32- to 1/16th-ounce class. These are tough to cast any distance, so a light and

*LURES, Continued on page 11*

## Outdoor Notes

### YOUTH FISHING CLINICS

Carrboro holds a first learn to fish clinic for kids 5-15 Saturday, March 23, from 9 to 11 a.m. at Anderson Park Pond off NC54W. Cost is \$5/child and parent or guardian must be present. Register at the town of carrboro website. Supplies including cane poles and worms are furnished. Bring a fishing rod if you have one. Next clinic is April 20.

Learn to Fish for kids 5-15 with Friends of the Lower Haw and Chatham Parks & Rec Saturday, April 6, at Lower Haw SNA riverbank off US15-501 at Bynum from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Supplies provided. Register at [ccparksandrec.recdesk.com](https://ccparksandrec.recdesk.com) by 4/1.

### TREES PLANTED

Wake County crews planted over 1,600 seedlings across four acres near the NC 54/I-540 interchange in Morrisville. The goal is to reverse the loss of tree canopy. Over their 40-year lifetime the native trees, a mix of oaks, pines and cypress, will capture 28M gallons of rainfall, prevent 3.7M gallons of runoff and store more than 5.4M pounds of carbon dioxide removed from the atmosphere, the county said. The reforestation project is a pilot program with Davey Resource Group of Raleigh.

### TICK SEASON

Ticks are here. The warm winter led to the early arrival of tick season. Check your pets and kids and if you see a tick, remove it and take a picture. That will help you identify both its species and the stage of its lifecycle. Not all ticks carry diseases like Lyme. Be careful around tall grasses. Check yourself and the family carefully when they return from outdoors.

### DUKE HERBARIUM

Duke Herbarium, one of the largest in the country, is shutting down after over 100 years and the 825,000 specimens apparently will be relocated in the next two to three years. The story was first reported by the New York Times, about a week before local media. Duke said it can't afford to maintain the collection and researchers, locally and nationally, are urging Duke to reconsider.

### SAFETY REMINDER

Orange Co. deputies warned hikers and bikers to leave valuables at home or do a better job of hiding items in vehicles parked at local trailheads and parks after arresting a man for breaking into cars at area parks including Brumley North and Hollow Rock Nature Park.

### INDY PASS

Two Southeast resorts, Wisp (MD) and Wintergreen (VA), are among a dozen new additions to the Indy Pass for 24-25 season.



**Spring Cycling**  
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**UPCOMING CSN ISSUES:**

April 17, Local Public Golf Update  
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**Kitchen Countertop Food Scrap Bin**  
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**Earth Machine Backyard Composter**  
80-gallon \$50\*

## Pro Pickleball In Cary

PPA Tour North Carolina Cup presented by CIBC, April 2-7, Cary Tennis Center.

The Professional Pickleball Association (PPA Tour), the elite pro and amateur pickleball circuit, comes to the Triangle for the first time. Pros play Wednesday through Sunday. Spectator tickets are available (\$25/weekdays, more for the weekend). Amateur players can register and play in multiple doubles divisions.

### Baseball Invitational

Two N.C. high schools, Apex Friendship and Wesleyan Christian Academy of High Point, are part of a 16-team field for the 11th National High School Invitational April 10-13 at USA Baseball Training Center in Cary. It's a SE tournament.

## Changes For Carrboro Film Fest

The Carrboro Film Fest, saluting new Southern films, is undergoing major changes.

Bryan Reklis is the new director, succeeding Bradley Bethel who resigned after five years. The festival will have new dates (Jan. 24-26, 2025) rather than late November to avoid conflicts with other holiday events. And it will have a new venue (the 203 Project) in downtown Carrboro with its new performance space. The building also will house the new county library and is under construction.

## Triangle's Growth Continues

The Triangle is the tenth fastest growing area in the country since 2020, according to the U.S. Census. The Raleigh/Durham/Cary statistical area has grown 5.6 percent to 2.4M.

Some examples: Wake County up 5.3 percent to 1.2M, Raleigh 6.5 percent, and outlying counties, Franklin 11.3 percent, Johnston 11.1 percent, Chatham 6.5 percent to 81,600.

Statewide the fastest-growing county continues to be Brunswick, home to towns like Ocean Island Beach and Oak Island. The county grew 15.8 percent to 160,000 people from 2020-23.

## Community News

The Orange Krush 200, an invitation-only exhibition auto race Thursday, March 28, opens the season at Orange County Speedway, Rougemont, and benefits the Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation which helps landowners conserve and manage lands in Va. and Pa. Rain date is 3/29. Traditional season opening races are April 6. Three double points nights are planned. First is May 18.

Durham Bulls Spring Fan Fest takes place March 29 at DBAP with sessions 3-5 and 6:30-9. Tickets are \$10 and attendance limited to 1,500 per session.

PBSNC presents a screening and discussion of "State of Change, Seeds of Hope" in person and online at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 4, at the N.C. Museum of Natural Science, Raleigh. The film focuses on climate change and how N.C. communities adapt and will be followed by a panel discussion. Register at eventbrite.com. Free.

The N.C. Science Festival runs in April with events across the state including Star Party April 5, 7-11:15 p.m. at Old North Durham Park in downtown Durham and UNC Science Expo April 6, 11-4 at Morehead Planetarium and Science Center (20 exhibits), Chapel Hill.

Chicken Pickin' April 17, 11-2 in Hillsborough. Cost is \$12/plate (must be ordered in advance, tickets at Sheriff's Dept).

Harlem Globetrotters make an annual visit to PNC Arena, Raleigh, Wednesday, April 17, at 7 p.m. They also play in Greensboro and Fayetteville.

Free Chapel Hill tours, 60-90 minutes each, are available Saturdays at 11 a.m. through May 18 (excluding Easter weekend and UNC graduation) by signing up at heartofthehill-tours.com/sign-up/ for a specific date. Tours focus on history, mystery, myths and realities of Chapel Hill.

Admission to the Dueling Dinosaurs exhibit opening April 27 at NC Museum of Natural Sciences in downtown Raleigh is free but tickets (duelingdinosaurs.org) are required. The ticket link automatically reverts to the first available open date/time. Visits have time limits.

The Carolina Panthers ranked 17th in a new NFLPA player survey, covering 11 categories from treatment of families to ownership. Miami was first, Minnesota second, Green Bay third. Washington was last. The Panthers scored As for head coach, training staff, strength coaches and Ds for nutrition/dietician and ownership.

From theathletic.com, In KC, management promised to renovate the locker room after the team's Super Bowl win in 2022-23. Ownership only added chairs, which was a key complaint in last year's survey.

In Tampa Bay, young players and non-starters are forced to room with another player for road games. If they want to stay solo in a room, they're charged \$1,750. In Los Angeles, the Chargers do provide daycare for players' children, but it's not onsite and the players have to pay for it.

Anthem RC of Charlotte, a developmental team and part of Major League Rugby, lost its home opener 46-13 to New England Free Jacks (CSN, Feb 2024). Attendance was 2,307, a sellout at American Legion Memorial Stadium.

Orange County had 13,385 voters for early voting. Orange Works (Hillsborough) had the most voters (3,978), Seymour Center, Chapel Hill, (2,818) was next.

# Another View, Mine John Nieman

Martha and I found ourselves in a crowded bar on a cruise ship in the Bahamas about 6 feet away from a giant big screen TV showing the Duke-Carolina game. Most of the patrons were Carolina fans and so it brought back a lot of wonderful memories.

Visitors to this space probably know that, over the years, I have moved away from my previously rabid fandom of all things Carolina. The days of camping out at a table in front of the TV hours before the start of a game at He's Not Here are long past. Soccer, stock car racing and equestrian events have occupied the bulk of my time. I have to confess that Martha and I only watched the last 10 minutes of the game.

But watching those 10 minutes with Martha and a bar full of Carolina fans (of course, since this was basketball, the 10 minutes took about 45 minutes) brought so many of those feelings back. I often wonder if alumni and fans of schools like Duke and Wake and State and others have the same ardor and feelings as we. I hope for them that they do, but I kind of doubt it.

I know mentioning this just plays into the stereotype of the obnoxious Carolina fan and fuels the hatred of others, but I just can't help it. Those other schools didn't have Dean Smith, didn't have Roy Williams, don't play in Carolina Blue. Coach Smith and Coach Williams didn't have retirement tours like some coaches down the road. They exuded class and honor. There were probably moments that were not shining, but as hard as I'm trying I can't remember a one. Coach Davis certainly has a lot to live up to. It appears to me that he is up to the task.

And while Dutch Orange has always been a favorite of mine, there's just no matching the thrill of watching a team in Carolina Blue and knowing that you're a part of it.

Son Jeff regularly chastises me for not following the Heels the way I did when he and I were growing up. And he is right in that I no longer hang on the ups and downs of Carolina sports. But you just can't get it out of your soul. As I wrote here in an earlier column, I still can smell the distinctive odor of Woolen Gym and it always makes me smile.

I write this in the aftermath of State's ACC championship

final victory over the Tar Heels. I'm old enough to remember vividly how devastating it would be to lose that game. Back when the NCAA bid would be dependent on a victory. So my disappointment today is muted. It would be nice to retain a number one seeding, but they'll be just fine. Because we live in a time where really any team can win the NCAA championship.

All of this being said, I am really having a hard time understanding how it is possible that the current Tar Heel basketball team is being led by a graduate of Notre Dame who has played at both Notre Dame and Stanford.

In talking with son Jeff, it is apparent to me that younger people have an easier time understanding and accepting all of this. But college sports is really piling on old guys like me right now. (Insert "okay, Boomer" here.)

What with NIL, transfer portals, unionization and graduates from conference rivals, it's a lot to take in. It certainly has contributed to my malaise.

Luckily for me, I can return now to the FA cup and the international break. The Martinsville race is coming soon.

And it's high time in my opinion for me to get back into baseball. It was my first sporting love. I took grandson Burke to his youth league assessments last week and couldn't help but feel a pull to pick up a ball and throw it.

I really wanted to get out there with him. I don't know, but I certainly hope that he either now feels or will someday feel the romance of the game. The smell of your glove and the ball are still wonderful memories for me. There is magic in that moment when a ball you have thrown is caught by a teammate and makes that distinctive pop. And there are very few feelings of power that can match the moment you make pure contact with your bat and the ball. Two arthritic shoulders constitute an impediment to my participation, but it certainly can't stop me from watching.

Burke has so much to look forward to.

*As mentioned earlier, Martha and I were on a cruise to try to get some sun in our lives. Not the best environment for the Index. My hated plateau continues. Fat Boy Index: 283.*

# Media Sportswatch Joel Bulkley

Tournament Time. TNT Sports and CBS Sports will provide live coverage of all 67 games from the 2024 NCAA Div. I Men's Basketball Championship March 19-April 8 across four national networks—TBS, CBS, TNT and truTV. All games will be streamed on NCAA March Madness Live. Games on CBS will stream on Paramount+, TBS, TNT and truTV games stream on Max's B/R Sports Add-On.

There aren't many changes in the PBP/analyst crews this year. Ian Eagle replaces Jim Nantz on the top CBS team with Bill Raftery, Grant Hill, reporter Tracy Wolfson. They'll do the Final Four games in Arizona (TNT).

Dan Bonner (Va. alum), who did a lot of ACCN games this season, and Brendan Haywood of NBA TV, a former UNC and NBA player are among the returning broadcasters.

The tournament tips off March 19-20 with the NCAA First Four on truTV. Spero Dedes, Jim Spanarkel (Duke alum) and reporter Jon Rothstein will have the call from Dayton.

Ernie Johnson will host studio coverage from the CBS Broadcast Center in New York, joined by Charles Barkley, Clark Kellogg and Kenny Smith. Adam Lefkoe will host studio coverage from TNT Sports' Atlanta studio alongside Jay Wright, Candace Parker and Seth Davis. Adam Zucker also will be a host from New York, while Wally Szczerbiak and Wright will make appearances from the CBS Broadcast Center. Jamie Erdahl will provide game updates.

Follow the tourney on X (@MM\_MBB\_TV) and NCAA.com for schedule updates and latest tournament news and information.

The second Carolina/Duke game had strong TV numbers. The rating was 1.5, 3.8M viewers on ESPN. That's up in both ratings and viewership from the 1.3 and 2.63M for the first game and puts game two as the second largest audience of the season. It's behind only Michigan St./Arizona (2.05, 5.18M) on Thanksgiving Day following an NFL game on Fox.

Often hear "Big Blue" Kentucky is hot nationally, but the numbers for KY/TN on CBS the same day as Carolina/Duke #2 were 1.4, 2.61M. Hell, Bacot was a clue on Jeopardy Feb. 29. "Outer Banks" had the Carolina star in a cameo role.

ESPN's College GameDay visited Va. Tech for a women's game between the Hokies and Heels, won by VT.

The ACC reprimanded the Carolina's women basketball coach for her social media post on officiating for the UNC/Duke game at Cameron and fined UNC \$5,000. The money goes to ACC scholarships.

Barry Jacobs of Hillsborough was honored with the Skee-

ter Francis Award for ACC coverage. He's a former county commissioner, retired freelancer, sports book author whose work appeared in the New York Times, News & Observer, Independent Weekly, Duke Basketball Report and others, but is best known locally for a Fan's Guide to ACC Hoops which featured data on how schools fared in games called by popular or unpopular league officials. Last year's Francis Award winners were Va. sports columnist David Teel and TV analyst Mike Gminsky.

Odds & Ends. Two local weeklies, News of Orange County and Mebane Enterprise, merged and will jointly cover Hillsborough, Efland, Mebane. If they cover anything beside high school sports, it would be a first.

"Next Up" is a new weekday morning sports show from 9 to 10 on 99.9 the Fan FM (Capitol Broadcasting Co.). The program reviews last night's local scores and highlights but hears only from WRAL radio and TV staffers. Its purpose isn't clear and it preempts the last hour of ESPN's morning show which often has interesting guests.

The NWSL is underway with a new four-year broadcast package that puts women's games on multiple networks, leaving fans to hunt sports TV listings for games, start time and channel. Some are broadcast, others are streamed. The N&O struggles with accurate listings.

## N.C. Gambles On Sports Betting

For many college students, the timing of North Carolina's legalization of sports betting had a storybook feel.

After Gov. Roy Cooper signed House Bill 347 into law last June, the State Lottery Commission made Jan. 8 the target date for going live. But logistical hurdles pushed the start date back to March 11—the day before the ACC men's basketball tournament began.

Jake Wilson, a 21-year-old junior at UNC-Asheville, said that in a state where college basketball is king, the timing felt auspicious. "Obviously, with Duke, UNC, N.C. State, and Wake being in the ACC tournament, there's going to be students on those campuses who are going to be placing a lot of wagers," he said. "From a marketing standpoint for the betting companies, it's great."

A sports writer for UNC-Asheville's student newspaper, The Blue Banner, Wilson played basketball, football and baseball in high school and describes himself as a "sports fanatic." He

**BETTING, Continued on page 10**



Here, passing alongside the “managed wetlands” or “impoundments” that border the road, we got our first look at a big group of migratory fowl, and it was pretty amazing. Thousands upon thousands of birds milled around on the water, taking off and landing in large formations, and calling out loudly to each other.

We stood on an observation deck and took photos and videos, also using the Merlin Bird ID app (if you’re unfamiliar, check it out) to identify them by their vocalizations. Tundra swans, snow geese, Canada geese, and all manner of ducks crowded the surface as far as we could see.

Again, doing justice to the sheer scale of the gathering with a photograph is difficult—and I certainly failed in the attempt—as you have to zoom out until the birds are mere specks in the frame—but it was very impressive. We lingered for a while and then headed to the lodge and headquarters/visitor center.

The facilities were closed for New Year’s Day, with just a couple of roving game wardens keeping an eye on things, as hunting (which takes place a safe distance away) would not resume until the following morning. We crossed a canal and strolled along an elevated plank walkway that cuts through a swampy forested area, checking out more local scenery before returning to the Mattamuskeet Lodge, also known as the Lake Mattamuskeet Pumping Station.

Built in 1915, it was the world’s largest pumping station at the time, originally intended to drain the lake for agricultural use. It ultimately failed in this role, and when the federal government took it over along with the lake in 1934, the Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge was established. The huge building, with 38 rooms and a 120-foot observation tower (originally a smokestack), was refurbished as a hunting lodge and operated as such from 1937 to 1974. After that, it was used occasionally for special events until it was closed completely due to structural concerns in 2000. The federal government couldn’t pay for repairs and handed the lodge off to North Carolina in 2006, which only recently gave it to Hyde County. Today the lodge is somewhat dilapidated and faces an unclear future, but it’s still very cool to look at.



Mattamuskeet Lodge and observation tower, considered a state treasure, recently was leased to Hyde County for restoration and \$6.5M allocated for initial repairs by the legislature.

PHOTO BY ALEKSANDRA PRICA

Noticing some vultures perched along the railing of the observation tower, we skirted around the water surrounding the lodge, crossing a footbridge and then a catwalk to get a good photo of them. As Aleks set up the shot, a snuffling noise came from the pond created by the pump gates, and we looked over to see a family of otters emerging from the brush nearby and checking us out as they crossed toward the forest. I struggled to contain my excitement as she turned the camera and snapped several photos—we both like otters and had seen one in the wild before, but here were five of them, frolicking around and seeming to size us up before they went on their way.

After the otter encounter, we returned to the impoundment area and watched the feathered hordes for a bit longer before returning to our room at Carawan’s. We crossed back to the north shore for dinner, then took a nighttime walk along the edge of the impoundment, listening in the dark to honking of the snow geese and the euphonic bugling of the tundra swans, a pleasing sound one writer from the early 1900s described as “cathedral music.” It was a perfect way to end the day.

The next morning, we returned to the impoundment but could not go past the lodge area as hunting had resumed and game wardens shut down the eastern road until that afternoon. On the advice of another birdwatcher, we drove to Pungo Lake, where we saw a huge bevy of swans far larger than what we had seen at Mattamuskeet—when they took off together, they seemed to fill the sky as a great, swirling white mass. A huge muskrat posed for a photo as it foraged in a canal, and we stopped along the empty dirt road to play fetch with Max before heading south to Pamlico County. There we spent a few relaxing days near Oriental, exploring its picturesque harbor near the mouth of the Neuse River and taking a day trip to Beaufort and Shackleford Banks. It was a great vacation, and we agreed to return to Lake Mattamuskeet next winter if possible.

Sadly though, the environmental health of Lake Mattamuskeet has been struggling in recent years. The excessive nutrient load from agricultural runoff has caused blooms of toxic blue-green algae that can harm wildlife as well as humans and pets. The algae also blocks sunlight, hindering growth of beneficial and once-abundant aquatic grasses that fish and waterfowl rely on for survival. Outflow through canal gates is inadequate, water quality has declined, and even invasive carp have compounded the crisis.

Major efforts by governmental agencies and local stakeholders are underway to rehabilitate the lake and solve these problems, but some are controversial, such as a plan to combat the algae by treating the lake with a pesticide the EPA labeled as toxic to birds. It’s an alarming situation, and I can only hope that public awareness will increase and the push to clean up the lake will succeed, because it would be a tragedy to lose such an important and irreplaceable feature of the “Inner Banks.”

Editor’s Note: Part 2 covers visiting Ocracoke and will be in the April issue.

## Pie Day PiK

Two Chapel Hill runners earned awards at Pie Day PiK (1.95m) race in Durham. Sally Van Wert was second 60-69, 18:21, and John Northern, third 70+, 17:26. WT’s were 9:43 and 10:15 (313 finishers, down from 347 last year). Runners got a fresh personal pie, apple, chocolate or sea salt.

## Patterson First In Leprechaun 5K

Ashley Patterson (20:57) of Pittsboro was the women’s winner at the 3rd Leprechaun Dash 5K in Pittsboro. Men’s winner was Griffin Jaworski (18:32) of Des Moines, NC. There were 202 finishers, up from 129 last year.

Chris Williams (21:38) of Siler City was second male and Craig Walker (21:48) of Durham third. Rebecca Merrill (25:13) of Apex was second female and Victoria Harris (25:33) of Chapel Hill third.

Chapel Hill award winners included Emily Jump, first 13-19, 26:20, Charlotte Bowman, second, 26:21, Alex Boutin, third, 29:00; Polly Creveling, first 20-29, 26:12, Shealyn Kane, second, 29:12; Megan Policastro, first 30-39, 29:28, Erica Bunn, third, 30:28; Ann Clark, Pittsboro, first 40-49, 28:13, Courtney Gray, Pittsboro, second, 29:02, Kei Alegria-Flores, third, 31:11; Sheila Marz, second 50-59, 32:27, Karen Andrews, Pittsboro, third, 33:18; Susan Lombardo, first 60-69, 27:59; Sharon Holt, Pittsboro, second, 31:41, Neila Hernandez, Pittsboro, third, 36:43.

Also, Cooper Boutin, first 13-19, 28:26, Jack Fleischauer, second, 29:17; Michael House, first 20-29, 22:01, Bayley Palzer, third, 25:55; William Roofener, Moncure, first 30-39, Andrew Schreiber, second, 32:01; David Patterson, Pittsboro, third 40-49, 25:18; Gary Rimer, Pittsboro, second, 50-59, 29:10, Stephen Yarnell, Moncure, third, 29:20; Jim Rokus, third 60-69, 33:42; Jan Christianson, second 70-79, 43:44, Robin Sellers, Pittsboro, third, 58:23.

### 10K Results

Chapel Hill youngsters took first in the 10K (66 finishers, the same number as 2023). G. Barte (38:09), age 12, and M. Putnam (44:36), age 12, were the winners. Adam Gaines (40:05) of Siler City was second and Seth Barte (41:38) of Chapel Hill third. Meredith Bazemore (44:57) of Chapel Hill was second and Sydney Gray (45:20) of Pittsboro third.

Pittsboro award winners: Jenn Sherman, Chapel Hill, second 40-49, 57:40; Mary Fishbeck, third 60-69, 1:10:43; Antonio Sotillo, third 20-29, 1:02:28; Haley Davis, Moncure, second 20-29, 50:52; Jovanni Catalan Hurtado, third 20-29, 46:11; Eric Denny, Chapel Hill, first 40-49, 48:04; Peter Messick, second, 54:25; David Clark, Moncure, first 50-59, 40:42, Wade Bemmels, Chapel Hill, second 50-59, 48:12; Mark Murphy, first 60-69, 45:57, Randy Kauftheil, Chapel Hill, third, 52:12.

## Steve Haydu 10K

Thomas Soth of Chapel Hill was third master male, 41:41, at 20th Steve Haydu St. Patrick’s Day Lo Tide Run 10K at Carolina Beach, with Glenn Dicker of Hillsborough, second 55-59, 58:28, and Hazel Kaplan of Chapel Hill, first 10-14, 48:49. WT’s were 34:01 and 39:25 (272 finishers).

## Running News

Landon Green (24:37) of Chapel Hill was second 14-17 at Chase the Dream 5K in Raleigh (47 finishers). WT was 17:57.

Bailey Moss (47:46) of Pittsboro was second 30-39 at Ambulance Chase 10K in Oxford (13). WT was 37:32.

Edward Plante (3:20:58) of Pittsboro was third 45-49 at the Asheville Marathon (440). WT was 2:39:00.

## UNC Boxing Update

Here’s an update on UNC Boxing Club matches this season (fall and winter):

University of Maryland’s Rumble at Ritchie in College Park, MD, UNC’s Reichen Storey won a split decision vs. University of Michigan’s Chadley Robards at 139lbs.

UNC’s Ike Keku lost a decision vs. Navy’s James Garcia-Gallegos at 185lbs.

Maryland Club Invitational in Baltimore, MD, UNC’s George Antonatos won by RSC (referee stopped contest) vs. Towson’s Jack Griffith at 139lbs. UNC’s Tyler Elliot lost by decision vs. Navy’s JJ Gastelum at 175lbs.

GA Tech’s 3rd Annual College Fight Night in Atlanta, GA, UNC’s Ike Keku won a decision vs. University of Michigan’s Eli Feldman at 185lbs.

UNC’s Ben Rhodes won a decision vs. University of Michigan’s Hanmin Xiang at 185lbs.

Washington Athletic Club Invitational in Seattle, WA, UNC’s Ben Rhodes lost by RSC vs. University of Washington’s Ferni Okafor at 185lbs.

## Carrboro Open Streets April 7

Carrboro Open Streets will be Sunday, April 7, from 12 to 4 for the entire block near Weaver St. Market for an afternoon of bike activities for kids and adults.

## Wildlife Refuges Take Funding Hit

The nation’s wildlife refuges took a federal funding cut that could shutter more visitors’ centers, diminish wildlife management capabilities and further trim an already wafer-thin force of wildlife officers, the Coastal Review reported.

With just hours before a government shutdown, the Senate March 8 approved a resolution to fund about 30 percent of federal government agencies through Sep. 30. President Biden signed H.R. 4366, a short-term measure that keeps government agencies open and operating for now, the next day. NC senators split on the vote, Tillis voting yes, Budd no.

But officials worry how a \$14 million (2.6 percent) cut to the nation’s wildlife refuges will further hurt the system’s resources that are already stretched to the limit, particularly at a time when managing natural lands is gaining recognition as a way to adapt to climate change in some areas of the country, including North Carolina.

Refuges are public lands that may be used for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education and interpretation.

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**16 to 1: Kyle Filipowski trips someone again**

He may not be as crafty as Grayson Allen was back in the day, but Filipowski can trip with the best of them. However, he's already under the microscope, so he'll probably keep it clean for as long as Duke is in the tournament.

**30 to 1: Virginia will score more than 50 points in every game**

The Cavaliers' proficiency for lock-down pack-line defense is well documented, but their offensive woes are even more so. They like to keep the over/under well below 100—just the way Tony Bennett likes it.

**10 to 1: Clemson will outlast every other ACC team**

The Tigers have been floating under the radar mostly because of their lack of star power (and occasional loss to a middling opponent) but are one of those teams that can lull you to sleep and maybe steal a win against a higher seed.



UNC forward Armando Bacot  
SUSAN WALSH / AP

## Wolfpack Sweeps ACC Tournament

N.C. State completed an amazing task, winning five games in five days to sweep the ACC men's tournament in Washington, D.C., with stunning wins over Duke, Virginia, North Carolina after downing Louisville and Syracuse.

In the finals, the DJs prevailed with MVP DJ Burns Jr. scoring 20 and DJ Horne 29 in an 84-76 win over the Tar Heels.

"We couldn't guard them tonight," Coach Hubert Davis said after the loss. State shot 55 percent, UNC 37. One key to State's success was at the foul line where they piled up points, making 47 of 64 in the last three contests. UNC beat Florida State and Pitt to make the final.

Before the tournament, State had five wins in the previous 56 days, a 9-11 ACC record and #10 seed.

On the other side of the road, Wake Forest and Clemson stumbled in early round games and didn't help their resumes. Burns, Horne, Bacot, Davis, McConnell were ACC Tournament first team selections. *J.B.*

## ACC Hoops Notes

Credit to Wake Forest Coach Steve Forbes for steering both the Deacons and family after his wife suffered a stroke last August. She recovered and the entire family was in Washington, D.C., for the ACC Tournament.

Credit to Davis family of UNC for their support of the Hargraves Recreation Center in Chapel Hill. Coach Hubert and Louise Davis organized a visit by Hargraves youngsters to the Smith Center for the Miami game where they joined Tar Heel players in the tunnel for pre-game dancing and on the court for the national anthem as part of Black History Month. They sat behind the scorer's table for the game.

Two coaches with UNC connections were let go. Jerry Stackhouse left Vanderbilt after five seasons and Jerod Haase left Stanford after eight years. Stackhouse, a former NBA all-star, played at UNC, and Haase was a Roy Williams assistant at Kansas and UNC for 13 years. *J.B.*

**20 to 1: Dalton Knecht will break the Tournament's single-game scoring record**

While highly unlikely, if anyone can top Austin Carr's 61-point outburst from 1970, it's Tennessee's Knecht. He can single-handedly outscore teams, and it's a good idea to watch him while he's still in a Volunteer uniform.

**35 to 1: Caleb Love hits the big shot to carry Arizona into the second weekend**

Since transferring from UNC, Love has been having an outstanding season for the Wildcats. However, he's still a streaky shooter, and when Arizona has those tight games and needs that clutch shot, he's a 50-50 prospect at best.

**8 to 1: All Big Ten teams will be eliminated after the first weekend**

Outside of Purdue, the Big Televenteen is a hodgepodge of mediocre teams (c'mon, Nebraska?), and depending on which Boilermaker team shows up, we may not see a single team from this conference make it to the Sweet 16.

**4 to 1: Indiana State's Robbie Avila Boosts his NIL value in one game**

The guy they call "Cream Abdul-Jabbar" (even though he looks more like a stocky Kurt Rambis) has been a fan favorite and an Instagram sensation. He's made the Sycamore program relevant again (first time since the Larry Bird years), and he'll certainly cash in on the attention he draws.

**40 to 1: Kentucky will score more than 100 points in every game**

On the opposite end of the Virginia spectrum, the Wildcats have been blowing up the scoreboard since their freshmen started gelling. However, the SEC isn't known for its defensive prowess, and once John Calipari's team runs into a solid defense, all bets are off.

**3 to 1: Pac-12 loses out in the first weekend**

If any major conference has a better chance than the Big Ten of getting eliminated on the first weekend, it's the "Conference of Champions." It'll be a sad swan song for the conference, but it's been dying a slow death for some time.

**4 to 1: Florida will pull a major surprise**

While the SEC is loaded with high-octane teams, the Gators are the one team that could really shake things up. They're backcourt rotation of Walter Clayton, Zion Pullin, Will Richard, and Riley Kugel is sneaky good, and if t the dominoes fall the right way, they may still be dancing in Phoenix.

**2 to 1: Rick Pitino gets chastised for yelling at his team again**

Even at 129 years of age, Pitino can still draw attention, and when he decided to chew out his team for a really poor performance,

## ACC Hoops Teams Head For Postseason

The ACC has five men's teams (North Carolina, Duke, Clemson, N.C. State, Virginia), the same number as last year, in the NCAA Tournament.

UNC (#1 West) plays the winner of the First Four game (Howard/Wagner) 3/21 in Charlotte. The winner faces Miss. St./Michigan St. winner.

ACC has eight women's teams (Va. Tech, Louisville, Notre Dame, North Carolina, N.C. State, Florida State, Notre Dame, Duke) in the NCAA. UNC is #8 in Albany 1 bracket and plays #9 Michigan State 3/22. The winner advances to likely face #1 overall seed South Carolina.

The Men's NIT has three ACC teams (Boston College, Wake Forest, Va. Tech). Early round games are on campus, with later round games in Indianapolis. Dates are March 19-April 4.

The Women's NIT does not have any ACC entries.

the media blew it out of proportion rather than just chalking it up to him being curmudgeonly. To that, I say "horse hockey!"

**6 to 1: Iowa State will lose in the first round**

The Cyclones have had an amazing season—at their home arena! They went undefeated this season at Hilton Coliseum, but away from there, their performance is pedestrian at best. Last I checked, they won't be playing any tournament games in Ames.

**18 to 1: Purdue repeats the Virginia feat**

When the Virginia Cavaliers became the first #1 seed to lose to a #16 seed six years ago, they used that as motivation the following season on their way to winning the 2019 national title. Last year, the Boilermakers became the second team in history to accomplish the first part of that feat, but the odds don't favor a repeat of the second part this time around.

**10 to 1: Houston will win it all**

The Cougars are the one of the best defensive teams in the tournament that can still put points on the board (sorry Tony Bennett), but their lack of a reliable frontcourt rotation makes them slightly suspect.

**12 to 1: A #1 Seed will win it all**

Last year was absolute madness with none of the top 12 seeds making it to the Final Four. That's a bit less likely this year, and the odds reflect that.

**4 to 1: UConn repeats as national champion**

If there's a chink in the Huskies' armor, I have yet to see it. They're still hungry, they're still talented, and Danny Hurley is still their coach—and that's all you need to know.

**COACHES, Continued from page 4**

in practice."

For Krzyzewski, building that togetherness starts with work ethic.

"I think Michael Jordan said this a long time ago, but work is a talent," Krzyzewski said. "You have to learn how to work and then if you add another word there, can you work together? We tell our guys every practice, 'Make somebody better in practice.' And then to communicate and be coachable."

Seeing those habits translate in games, Williams said, is the main theme of the message.

"The work ethic of doing it the best you can at the highest level of energy, if you do that in practice, you don't have to change for a game," Williams said.

"The speed with which we do it, we want it to be game speed. ... It's fun if you're working your butt off in practice every day. You're investing. ... In basketball, you don't get success unless you invest and try to do that to the absolute best of your ability."

**Advice For Coaches**

In their parting messages to the high school coaches at the clinic, Krzyzewski and Williams offered their thanks and a final piece of advice.

"My high school years were the most important years of my entire life," Williams said.

"What you have is the greatest thing in the world: You have the influence to change somebody. You have the power, you have the benefit of being a tremendous influence on some young people who are going to change things for the rest of their lives."

Krzyzewski added he and Williams "would've been happy and very satisfied to be high school coaches and teachers" in their careers.

"To me, as a coach, it's the one classroom where every kid that you teach in that classroom wants to be there. When you have the opportunity to have them in your class, teach good stuff," Krzyzewski said.

"Teach the values I'm not sure they're being taught everywhere. You have a great responsibility. Your wins, they'll keep track of 'em, but really your wins will be how you develop those young men and women that you have an honor to coach. You just keep getting better and know that you are appreciated."

**BETTING, Continued from page 8**

hopes legal sports wagering will encourage people who don't follow sports to become as passionate about them as he is.

But he also foresees the potential for disaster. "I don't think it's necessarily good for the students themselves," he said.

HB 347 made wagering on professional, college, and amateur sports as well as horse racing legal for those 21 or older. Since 2018, sports betting in North Carolina was limited to three physical locations: Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort in Cherokee, Harrah's Cherokee Valley River Casino in Murphy and Catawba Two Kings Casino in Kings Mountain. Now it will be allowed at certain professional sports venues and eight online sites. Proponents say the change will boost tax revenue and allow the state to regulate sports gambling, which some North Carolinians found ways to do even before it was legalized.

Before 2018, when the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act, sports betting was only legal in Nevada. It has since been legalized in 38 states and the District of Columbia. With this rapid expansion, numerous problems have emerged.

New Jersey, Michigan, Connecticut, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia are among the states that have reported dramatic spikes in the number of calls to their gambling addiction helplines after sports betting became legal. This trend doesn't bode well for what's to come in North Carolina, particularly on its college campuses, where skeptics wonder if the benefits of legalized sports betting can possibly outweigh the dangers.

"I think everything's going to change on March 11," said Dr. Michelle Malkin, an assistant professor at East Carolina University's Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology and director of the Gambling Research and Policy Initiative. "People are going to see that gambling can be fun and exciting, but for some it will become a problem. Gambling's not a healthy way to entertain yourself."

*Storm Reback, The Assembly.com*

## NLRB Certifies Dartmouth Vote

The National Labor Relations Board certified a union to represent Dartmouth basketball players after the deadline passed for the school to object to the election.

Big Green players voted 13-2 March 5 to join the Service Employees International Union Local 560—the first ever labor union for college athletes. The March 12 deadline was for objections about the election process; the school has appealed to the full board an NLRB regional official's decision that the players are school employees.

Barring a successful appeal, the players and school will negotiate a collective bargaining agreement that would cover working conditions such as salary, practice hours and health care benefits.

**HS CHAMPS, Continued from page 5**

**1A**—#28 #5 Chatham Central beat #28 Woods Charter 87-36, lost to #12 N. Edgecomb 86-61.

**Girls 4A**—#6 Chapel Hill beat #27 Knightdale 53-35, beat #11 Green Level 61-28, beat #3 Panther Creek 52-37, lost to #2 Rolesville 50-44.

**3A**—#9 Scotland def. #24 Cedar Ridge 56-42. #12 Rocky Mount beat #21 Orange 43-26. #19 Carrboro lost 57-50 to #14 Jacksonville.

**2A**—#11 Northwood beat #22 Farmville Central 62-22, beat #6 East Carteret 49-24, lost to #3 Seaforth 66-48. #3 Seaforth beat #30 Louisburg 65-28, beat #19 N. Johnston 53-22, beat #11 Northwood 54-36 before losing 70-45 to #1 North Pitt in the East regional final in Winston-Salem. Gabby White scored 30 points and had 11 rebounds for Seaforth.





Carrboro Kite Day at Anderson Park is a rite of spring. TOWN OF CARRBORO / EVE GREEN

## County Opens New Drop Off Site

Orange County Solid Waste is opening a new 24-hour drop off-site at the Jones Ferry Park and Ride Lot, 603 Berryhill Dr, Chapel Hill. The site opens at 1 p.m. March 18, and will be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Residents and businesses can drop off single-stream recycling, corrugated cardboard and separate glass recycling. Site users are responsible for unloading materials and placing them in the correct container. The site is unstaffed.

## N.C. Zoo Third In Readers' Vote

The North Carolina Zoo in Asheboro was nominated for "Best Zoo" in USA Today's 10 Best Readers' Choice Awards for 2024. As the world's largest natural habitat zoo, the North Carolina Zoo has over 2,800 acres and cares for over 1,700 animals. The North Carolina Zoo also turns 50 this year, making the nomination an added treat for its golden anniversary.

The N.C. Zoo claimed third place in the readers' vote.

## Burlington Adds 23 Pickleball Courts

Burlington wants to become a pickleball destination and is adding 23 pickleball courts including 17 at City Park and 6 at Fairchild Park. They are under construction and expected to be complete by the fall.

The pickleball complex, near the Burlington Tennis Center at City Park also will have a shaded championship court with bleachers and restrooms. Two Fairchild Park tennis courts will be turned into six PB courts.

City officials said the improvements are part of their sports tourism efforts and will help make Burlington a destination for regional athletic tournaments.

## U.S. Soccer Schedule

March 21, USMNT, Jamaica, Concacaf Nations League Semis, Arlington, TX, 7 p.m., TV TBA. Finals 3/24 5 p.m.

April 6, USWNT, Japan, She Believes Cup, Atlanta, 12:30 p.m., TNT, Telemundo. 9, USWNT, TBD, She Believes Cup, Columbus, OH, TBS, Universo. Details TBA.

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### FESTIVALS, Continued from page 2

- 7, Carrboro Open Streets, kids' activities, Weaver Street, Carrboro, 12-4.
- 10, N.C. State Earth Fair, Stafford Commons, N.C. State, 11-2.
- 10, Durham Queer Health Fair, Durham Central Park, 11-3.
- 12-13, Peak City Pig Fest, downtown Apex, Fri 5-11, Sat 11-9.
- 13, Pimento Cheese Festival, 50+ food trucks, Downtown Cary Park, 11-4.
- 14, 22nd ClydeFEST kids festival of folk art, Chatham Co. Ag Center, Pittsboro, 12-5.
- 14, Food Truck Rodeo, Durham Central Park, 12-4.
- 14, Touch a Truck, 40 vehicles, Friday Center, Chapel Hill, 12-4, fees.
- 19, Raleigh Arbor Day/Earth Day, music, games, educational exhibits, food trucks, Dix Park. Raleigh, 5-8, movie at 9.
- 18, Fly Through: A Drive Through Wildlife Expo at Piedmont Wildlife Center, Durham, 5:30-7 p.m., donations encouraged.
- 20, 16th Kids Seedling Giveaway, Carrboro Farmers' Market, 8:30 a.m.
- 20, Forest Fest, downtown Wake Forest, 9-2.
- 20, Children's Day Festival, Downtown Cary Park, 11-5.
- 20, Apex Earth Fest, Town Hall Campus, Apex, 12-4.
- 20, Bouncing Bulldogs Jump Rope Showcase, Durham Central Park, 2-5.
- 21, Durham Earth Day Festival, parade, kids' activities, Durham Central Park, 12-5.



## N.C. Music Festivals

### April

- 5-7, Bliss Boogie Festival, Pittsboro, bliss-boogie.com.
- 6-7, Dreamville Festival, Dix Park, Raleigh.
- 11-13, Max Roach Centennial Celebration and Jazz Festival, Elizabeth City. Free.
- 11-14, Singers and Songbirds Songwriting Festival, Statesville.
- 12-13, Strange Fruit Festival, LeBauer Park, Greensboro, 2-8 p.m.
- 12-14, Moo, Brew and 'Que Fest, 25+brewers, Charlotte.
- 13, 2nd Luck Now Music Festival, Dunn, 1-9 p.m.
- 18-20, Big Lick Bluegrass Festival, Oakboro. No alcohol.
- 19-21, 6th Tuck Fest, NC Whitewater Center, Charlotte.
- 20, N.C. 'Cuegrass Festival, 2 stages, downtown Raleigh, 12 noon-6. Free.
- 20, River Park Concert, downtown Hillsborough, 12-8. Free.
- 20, Earth Day Jam, Salisbury, 11-10. Free.
- 20, RockyFest, Hiddenite.
- 25-28, 36th MerleFest, 80+ acts, 13 stages, Wilkes Community College, Wilkesboro.
- 27, Beach Fest, The Farm at 95, Selma.

## Regional Creek Week, 'Water Connects Us'

Regional Creek Week is March 16-23 with cleanup, educational and watersports programs in Chatham, Durham, Orange counties. Cleanups: Haw River Assembly (3/16), Clean Jordan Lake Inc (3/16), Ellerbe Creek Association (3/16), Friends of Lower Haw (3/16) and others all need volunteers.

Here are other highlights:

Sunset Paddle, Hickory Hill boat ramp, Falls Lake, 3/15, 6:30 p.m., fees, froghollow-outdoors.com.

Jordan Lake Bald Eagle Paddle, Farrington Point, Jordan Lake, 3/16, 8:30 a.m., fees, froghollowoutdoors.com.

St. Paddy's Day Paddle on the Eno, organized by Chapel Hill Community Center, 3/17, 10 a.m., fees, webtrac.townofchapelhill.org.

Sunset Beginner's Paddle, Farrington Point, 3/21, 5:30, p.m., fees, ceparksandrec.recodesk.com.

Sunset Float, 3/22, 6:30 p.m., Hickory Hill boat ramp, Falls Lake, fees, connect@twosistersadventure.com.

Women's Kayaking 101, Durham, 3/17, 11 a.m., connect@twosistersadventure.com.

Lower Eno Discovery Paddle, Durham, 3/16, 11 a.m., fees, connect@twosistersadventure.com.

Third Fork Creek Cleanup at Forest Hills Park, Durham, 3/16, 9:30 a.m.; Alston Ave. Cleanup at Campus Hills Park, Durham, 3/16, 10:30 a.m.; I-40 Waterfowl Impoundment with NCWF, New Hope Creek, 3/17, 10 a.m., register at interland3.donorperfect.net/web-link; Eno River Cleanup with Durham Parks & Rec at West Point on Eno 3/22, 10 a.m.; Joint Chapel Hill/Carrboro Cleanup, meet at Community School for People Under Six 3/16, 1 p.m.; Sandy Creek Park Cleanup, Durham, 3/23, 9:30 a.m.

Eno Field Day, hands on activities, Confluence Natural Area, north of Hillsborough, 3/24, 12-3.

### LURES, Continued from page 7

somewhat limber rod, and a small-diameter reel completely filled with light (2- through 6-pound), fine-diameter line, are important complements.

Many jig possibilities exist, including those with assorted soft bodies, or versions with hair or other materials. Productive colors run a wide gamut. Many people have success with white or yellow jigs; when these don't produce, try silver or gray bodies, including plastics with embedded flakes, which produces extra pizzazz. Don't use bodies that are too bulky or long or that have long tails.

When a plain jig doesn't do the job or stops producing after a while, try using a small jig with a tiny spinner blade (a jig-spinner combo). Versions with blades attached to the underside of the head or which are attached to a small overhead wire arm, spinner-bait style, catch perch and crappie alike, and sometimes sunfish. While jigs with spinners have to be fished at a speed that is fast enough to turn the blade, plain jigs should be fished as slowly as possible.

For those who have not fished a jig in and around brush, timber, and weeds, it can be done with a deft touch. Light-wire hooks enable un snagging, but hang ups can be largely avoided with careful use. It is seldom effective to fish over the top of brush and weeds, so you need to develop a good feel for the jig to work it at the proper level and still avoid hangups.

Natural lakes and ponds that do not have timber can provide good results to those using small spinners, especially for sunfish and perch, and mini crankbaits for crappies and occasionally perch. Both also have to be fished slowly, and small spinner blades must rotate freely at a slow pace to be effective.

Remember that panfish often occur in schools, so where you catch one there's more. You may be able to pluck many crappies, perch, or bluegills out of one prime place, so work and rework places where you've located these species.

## Chapel Hill/Durham Spring Races

Here's a preliminary list of upcoming Chapel Hill/Durham area road races:

### March

- 2, St. Paul Village 5K, Carrboro
- 2, TarDevil 2024, 30m off-road, Chapel Hill to Durham.
- 3, Oral Cancer 5K, Chapel Hill.
- 9, PSF 5K for Education, Chapel Hill.
- 9, Blue Blood Rivalry 5K, Durham.
- 9, MST 100 Ultramarathon, Durham.
- 10, Tower Climb Hill 10/4m, Pittsboro.
- 16, Exceptional Strides for Exceptional Students 5K trail, Pittsboro. Rescheduled to May 11.
- 16, Chatham YMCA Leprechaun Dash 5K/10K, Pittsboro.
- 17, Pie Day Pi (3.4m), Durham.
- 23, Running with the Angels 5K, Chapel Hill.
- 23, Franklin 5K, Chapel Hill.
- 23, Carolina Brotherhood 5K, Haw River.

### April

- 6, Kevin Dendy Memorial 5K, Hillsborough.
- 6, Smile More Complain Less 5K, New Hill.
- 7, Bull City Beer Mile, 1m novelty, Durham.
- 13, Haw River Island Ramble 6K, Graham.
- 13, Carrie Shoemaker 5K, Durham.
- 14, Run for Malawi 5K, Chapel Hill.
- 20, Tar Heel Ten Miler/4m, Chapel Hill.
- 26, Mebane Dogwood Festival 5K.
- 26, Socks and Undie 5K Rundie, Durham.
- 27, Angels Among Us 5K, Durham.
- 27, Tobacco Road Relay, 75m, Chapel Hill to Durham to Raleigh.
- 28, Philosopher's Way 10m/7K trail, Chapel Hill.

### May

- 4, Komen/Triangle Race for the Cure 5K, RTP.
- 4, Zen Squirrel Trail, 10/5/2m, Chapel Hill.
- 4, Jogging for Josh 5K, Elon.
- 4, Seaforth HS Hawks Flight Color Run 5K, Pittsboro.
- 4, Learning Outside 5K trail, Mebane.
- 5, Sustainability 5K, Chapel Hill.
- 11, GCA Mom's Day 5K, Haw River.
- 18, Cedarock Trail HM/10K/5K, Burlington.
- 18, Bee Amazing (Girls on the Run) 5K, RTP.

### June

- 1, Running of the Bulls 8K, Durham.
- 5, Big Run 5K, Hillsborough.
- 7-8, Rise N Shine Running Festival, 20K relay/5K, Pittsboro.

## Coming Up in CSN:



**April 17 (digital only)  
Local Public Golf Update**



**May 15 (digital only)  
Spring Cycling**

To advertise,  
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Deadline 7 days in advance