

FREE**ORANGE****SERVING THE TRIANGLE**

COMMUNITY SPORTS NEWS

BASKETBALL ★ CYCLING ★ RUNNING ★ OUTDOORS**December 2024
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#671**

Don't Can This Advisory Board Yet

Chapel Hill is about to spend nearly \$400,000 for a consultant (Berry/Dunn) and take up to a year starting in January to develop a new master plan for Chapel Hill Parks, Greenways and Recreation. The plan will outline needs for facilities, programs, staffing in the next 10+ years, and lay the groundwork in terms of priorities for future park needs, bond financing and grant application funding.

The Town Council killed off one advisory board (police advisory) by an 8-1 vote last month and left others like parks/greenways/recreation hanging by a thread. The council should leave this one be for the time being, although the monthly Dec. 17 advisory board meeting was canceled Dec. 4 and board membership has dropped to only four members as vacancies were not filled.

The council's decision to scale back Legion Park in favor of more housing kicked the legs out from under the advisory board interest and membership, and Adam Searing's council candidate pro-park slate was soundly defeated in the last election.

Perhaps temporary appointments could be made to get the board up and running for 12-15 months for the master plan project. Some interested folks I asked are no longer considering volunteering, but others might be encour-

aged to help for the specific project.

The town needs broad and significant help from both staff and public at large on this project. The town manager is retiring, the rec department director is new and unimpressive, both rec administrators are new. The department's principal planner is guiding the project and it's her first Master Plan.

Public engagement and involvement are major needs for the project and likely will be the first steps taken.

Meanwhile, I'll put together my own list of city park needs—more pickleball courts (but I'll be careful not to go overboard since many players are not city residents, do not pay city taxes since they live in Governors Club, Fearrington, Briar Chapel), upgrade the Community Center climbing wall, build a splash pad, add more sand volleyball courts/lights, greenway trails linking Carrboro and Orange County parks.

This commentary was too late. The council voted 5-4 Dec. 4 to eliminate all advisory boards not required by state law.

Joel Bulkley

Editor's Note: Bulkley served two terms on both the city and county rec advisory boards and participated in previous master plan efforts with both.

Winter/Spring League Signups

Orange Co. is taking teams for men's winter basketball and co-rec volleyball leagues that start Sunday, Jan. 26, at Central Rec Center, downtown Hillsborough. Both are Sunday-only and play weekly. Hoops costs \$395/team and volleyball \$150.

Volleyball plays Sunday morning, with bball games later in the day. Signup deadline is Jan. 12 for basketball, Jan. 19 for volleyball.

Register in person for teams at rec dept. office at the Bonnie Davis Center on Highway 70 across from DMV, or online. Call 919-245-2660 to add your name to the free agent player pool.

Ocasl@Tasl winter soccer leagues have

New High School Division Lineups

High schools come in all sizes, from the largest Myers Park (3317 students) to N.C. Deaf, the smallest (22).

Here is the latest proposal from NCHSAA for Orange/Chatham high schools in the expansion from four to eight divisions for 2025-26 with average daily membership (ADM). There are about 60 schools in each division:

- 7A—Chapel Hill 1638.
- 6A—East Chapel Hill 1455.
- 5A—Orange 1153; Cedar Ridge 1141; Seaforth 1123.
- 4A—Jordan-Matthews 901; Carrboro 896.
- 3A—Northwood 676.
- 2A—Eno River 393.
- 1A—Chatham Central 335; Woods Charter 185.

openings. Season is under way. No games Dec. 23-Jan. 3. Leagues end March 6. Check Rainbow Soccer for winter league openings.

Chapel Hill adult leagues in the spring are the Coed Volleyball, Bocce, Pickleball Ladder and Tennis and Pickleball Lessons. No men's rec softball.

Carrboro holds signups for spring co-rec softball (Tue/Thu) and co-rec ultimate (Mon/Wed) starting in January. Deadlines are early March.

**Inside:
Senior Hoops
High School
Championships
Big 4 Hoops**

UNC Edges Duke 4-3 In Fall Sports

North Carolina edged Duke 4-3 in fall sports. Only regular season games are counted.

UNC won 5-2 in field hockey in Durham; volleyball 3-0 in Durham and 3-0 in Chapel Hill and 2-1 in men's soccer in Durham, while Duke won 21-20 in football in Durham, 1-0 in Durham and 3-2 in Chapel Hill in women's soccer.

Last year UNC led the fall 4-1-1.

SE Ski Mini Guide



Arctic Air, Snow Greet N.C. Skiers

Related Story Page 4

Four of North Carolina's six ski resorts were operating with multiple lifts and trails in early December, a stark contrast to previous years, with two resorts open before Thanksgiving. In some past seasons resorts often were lucky to open for skiing by Christmas.

Cataloochee, Sugar Mountain, Beech and Appalachian were open and building a base of natural and manmade snow amid cold temps and occasional frigid conditions. App and Sugar had night skiing. Tubing and terrain parks were next. App. Beech, Sugar had ice skating.

App, the latest to open, had a base of 24-48 inches, with Sugar's base 41-80 in early December.

Hatley Pointe, formerly Wolf Ridge, did not operate last year but was expected to debut Dec. 13 and Sapphire Valley, the smallish resort

near the S.C. border, Dec. 14.

Ober in Tennessee was operating, but most other SE region resorts were starting later in the DEcember. Last year most SE resorts had a difficult season with wacky temps, erratic snowfalls, especially early in the season. Colder temps arrived later, closer to mid season, allowing snowmakers to run full blast and extend the season briefly.

Nationally, there were 60.483M ski and snowboard visits last year, the fifth most ever, but down nearly 5M from the previous season.

Ski visits in the SE region, which includes resorts from Alabama to Pennsylvania, slipped to 4.142M from 4.286M, according to the National Ski Areas Association. Weather conditions and climate change were blamed for the drop. Nationally all regions reported declines in the number of skiers.

J.B.

Holiday Sports In Chapel Hill

Kenan Stadium, Chapel Hill, will host 2A and 4A state high school football championships Dec. 20 and 21. Details TBA. The 1A and 3A championships will be played at Carter Finley Stadium, Raleigh.

Over the holidays visit the Carolina Basketball Museum on the ground floor of the Ernie Williamson Athletic Center next to the Smith Center. It'll be an informative hour

for you and family members. The museum, which opened in 2008 and was extensively updated in 2017, is open Mon-Fri 10-4, Sat 9-1, closed for university holidays. Museum closes 3 hours prior to the start of each men's basketball home game. Admission is free.

Large groups (20 & more) are asked to call 919 962-6000 to schedule a visit. Metered parking is available across the street from the museum. Use the nearby pay station.

More Skiing Due Jan. 15

Additional ski coverage of resorts in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland will highlight the next issue (Jan. 15) of CSN, plus regional XC skiing hotspots, along with updates on spring sports league signups.

To advertise, contact joelcsn1@gmail.com. Spring Running and March NCAA Hoops follow.

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December Standings

Fall Season, Final Standings

Triangle Dart League

Darty Old Men 10-2 165-75 0.688, That's Bull 9-3 135-105 0.563, Subway 6.5- 5.5 116-124 0.483, We Need 'em All 6-6 110-130 0.458, MRDMCR 5-7 122-118 0.508, Can't See Puck 3.5-8.5 101- 139 0.421, One For Fun 2-10 91-149 0.379.

Chapel Hill Co-Rec Bocce

Dino's Place 5-0-3 18, The Big LeBocce 4-1-3 15, Owl Movement 3-2-3 12, Carolina Bocce Crew 3-3-2 11, Bocce Brothers 3-3-2 11, Sour Pour 2-4-2 8, Kirkland Elite 1-2-5 8, The Gaboghoals 0-6-2 2.

Carrboro Co-Rec Ultimate

Kelly 13-0 26, Scarlet 6-8-12, POver Blue 6-8 12, White 5-8 10, Purple 4-10 8.

Ocasl@tasl.com

Over 30—Mountain Goat FC 8-1-1 25, Tugboat Depot 7-2-1 23, The Federal 6-2-2 20, Chapel Hill United 3-0-7 9, Durham FC 2-2-6 8, Still Limpin 0-1-9 1.

Over 40—Stroke City 9-0-1 27, Beercelona 7-1-2 22, Auston Villa 7-0-3 21, Boot Rom FC 5-2-3 17, Federal 4.0 4-0-6 12, Oldcastle United 4-2-4 14, Boca Seniors 1-0-9 3, Wrexhamstring 0-1-9 1.

Kaminsky/Studdard Rec 1/2—Pickup FC 9-0-0 27, Woodcroft SC 6-1-2 19, The Streets 6-1-2 19, Tar Devils SC 6-1-2 19, Chapel Hill FC 6-1-2 19, Sporting Rose 5-0-4 15, Unicorns FC 3-2-4 11, Chatham FC 2-2-5 8, Head Game Strong 2-1-6 7, Athletic Tri 1-1-7 4, Cedar Falls FC 1-0-8 3.

O'Hara Rec 3—Aztecs 8-1-1 25, Peso Completo 7-1-2 22, Hilary Chi 6-1-3 19, Back That Pass Up 4-3-3 15, Hot Pants FC 5-0-4 15, Black Sabbath 3-0-5 9, The Diamond Dogs 1-1-7 4, Skormor Rangers 1-0-8 3.

N.C. High School Fall Championships

Boys Soccer

4A— #32 East Chapel Hill lost 2-0 to #1 Holly Springs. #24 Chapel Hill beat #9 Pine Forest 7-1, beat #25 Apex Friendship 4-1, lost 2-1 to #1 Holly Springs.

3A— #14 Orange beat #19 Swansboro 1-0, lost 4-1 to #3 Southern Nash. #15 Carrboro lost 3-1 to #18 White Oak.

2A— #28 Seaforth beat #5 Camden 1-0, beat #29 Manteo 2-1, lost 3-0 to #13 James Keenan.

1A— #20 Eno River Academy beat #13 Jones 1-0, beat #4 Lejeune 1-0, lost 2-0 to #21 Wake Prep.

Volleyball

4A— #1 Chapel Hill beat #32 Cary 3-0, beat #17 Apex Friendship 3-0, beat #9 Cleveland 3-0, lost 3-0 to #5 Cardinal Gibbons. #13 East Chapel Hill beat #20 Laney 3-0, lost 3-1 to #4 Millbrook.

3A— #13 Cedar Ridge beat #20 Franklinton 3-0, beat #4 Southern Nash 3-0, lost 3-1 to #5 Orange. #5 Orange beat #28 Triton 3-0, beat #12 South Central 3-1, beat #13 Cedar Ridge 3-12, lost 3-2 to #1 JH Rose. #3 Carrboro beat #30 S. Alamance 3-0, lost 3-2 #19 Person.

2A— #4 Seaforth beat #29 Northeastern 3-0, beat #13 Farmville Central 3-0, beat #5 Wallace Rose Hill 3-0, beat #1 Ayden 3-1, beat #4 Manteo 3-1 in regional, lost 3-2 to McMichael of Mayodan in the state finals. Scores were 25-17, 22-25, 18-25, 25-22, 13-15. #30 Northwood lost 3-0 to #3 Manteo.

1A— #13 Eno River beat #20 Warren 3-0, lost 3-1 to #4 Rosewood. #10 Woods Charter beat #23 N Duplin 3-0, lost to #7 Roxboro Country School 3-1.

Cross Country

4A Women— Chapel Hill finished tenth, 1:40:06.30, average 20:01.20. Leaders were 17, Lily O'Brien, 18:49.87 and 18, Sadie Mersereau, 18:50.29.

3A Men— Orange was first, winning their first title, led by Myles Jermyn, 6, 15:56, Lucas Van Meter, 8, 16:04, Cyrus Neal 12, 16:29. Orange 1:22:29, average 16:29.84. Cedar Ridge was tenth, 128:51.42, average 17:46.29.

3A Women— led by Naomi Dyreng, Cedar Ridge, 7, 19:11.33, Reilly Jermyn, 10, 19:21.85. Orange girls finished 12, 1:50:56, average 22:11; Carrboro 13, 1:50:37, average 22:07.58.

2A Men— Jack Anstrom, Seaforth, first, 15:52.89, for third straight title; Will Cuicchi, Seaforth, 5, 16:33.06, Jordan Wiley, Northwood, 11, 16:56.01, Henry McFall, Seaforth, 17, 17:05.20.

Seaforth boys (1:25:18, average 17:03.80) and girls (1:43:38.26, average 20:43.66) took second. Leaders were Juoma Jiminez, Seaforth, 6, 19:58.09, Emily Jump. Seaforth, 7, 20:08.03, India Hall, Northwood, 9, 20:28.64

Girls Dual Tennis

4A— #17 Chapel Hill lost to Millbrook 6-3. #6 East Chapel Hill lost to #19 Holly Springs 6 -3.

3A— #13 Orange beat #21 Harnett Central 5-2, lost 8-1 to #4 Terry Sanford. #10 Carrboro beat #23 Southern Lee by forfeit, beat #7 Cape Fear 7-2, beat #2 JH Rose 7-2, lost 6-3 to #4 Terry Sanford.

2A— #6 Seaforth beat Raleigh Charter 9-0, lost 6-3 to #14 NCSSM.

1A— #9 Eno River Academy beat #8 Lejeune 6-0, lost 5-2 to #1 Roxboro Country School.

Girls Tennis Individual

3A— Ryan Hanes of Seaforth lost to Pauline Bu of Terry Sanford 3-6, 6-4, 6-2 in the finals.

2A— Lillien McFall of Seaforth lost to Mallory Aull of Pine Lake Prep 6-0, 6-4 in finals.

NC Road Races

December 12

Festivus Fun Run, BCRC, downtown Durham, 5:30 p.m. *Closed Out.*

December 14

Reindeer Run 5K, team and school 5K, Central Carolina Community College, Pittsboro, 8 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

Frosty Run 5K/10K, Fidelity Bank, Wake Forest, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

Merry Fitness 5K, Jacksonville, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

Mushing Mutts Canicross Race, 9 a.m. and Dog Friendly 5K trail, 10 a.m., Holly Springs, runsignup.com.

Running of the Balls 5K, Sunset Hills, Greensboro, 6 pm, therunningoftheballs.com.

First SOHO-HO and Away We Go 5K trail, Ocean Isle Beach, 10 am, itsyourrace.com.

December 15

15th Mebane on the Move Reindeer 5K, downtown Mebane, 8 a.m., mebaneonthemove.org.

December 21

Cousin Eddie's Christmas Run 5K, Jaycee Park, Greensboro, 8 a.m., getmeregistered.com.

Suggly Sweater 5K, Sugg Farm, Holly Springs, 10:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

Jingle Jog 5K, Winston-Salem, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

Riley's Army Santa Dash 5K, Greenville, 9 a.m., runsignup.com, plus bring an unwrapped gift for a child.

December 28

KickStart 5K, Fenton Gateway Dr., Cary, 9 a.m., fseries.com.

December 31

Noon Year's Eve 5K, Mc-Alpine Park, Charlotte, 12 noon, runsignup.com.

Running of the Lights 5K, Tanglewood Park, Clemmons, 12 midnight, runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

January 1

Carolina Godiva New Year's Day 8K, Farmers' Market Pavilion, downtown Hillsborough, 1 p.m. Register on club website.

11th New Year's Day Resolution 5K/10K, Park Square Park, Asheville, 10 a.m., raceroster.com.

Charlotte New Year's Day 5K, University City, 10 a.m., runsignup.com

January 3

Salem Lake Frosty Fifty 5K trail, Winston-Salem, 5:30 p.m., runsignup.com by 12/31.

January 4

Running Outside the Lines 5K for Make A Wish, Raleigh, 10 a.m., runsignup.com.

January 11

Milltown Jam Jog 5K, Princeton, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

12th Mutts & Marshmallows 5K/8K with or w/o dogs, WakeMedSP, Cary, 9 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

Beat the Bridge 5K/10K, Jacksonville, 8:30 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

8th Hot Chocolate 8K, Al-bemarle, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

9th Polar Bear Run 5K, Selma, 10 a.m., runsignup.com.

Be Their Voice 5K, Methodist Univ., Fayetteville, 9:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

Stomp the Tar 5m trail, Greenville, 8:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

NC Long Distance

December 21

Lake Norman Elf Classic HM/5K, Mooresville, 7:45 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

Pilot Mtn Goat, 7m/3m trail, Pinnacle, 10 a.m., runsignup.com by 12/18.

December 21-22

7th Oakwood24, 24H/12H Relay, 50K/26.2m/13.1m/5K, Oakwood Cemetery, Raleigh, 8 am ultrasignup.com by 12/20.

December 28

Carolina Beach SP HM/5K trail, Carolina Beach, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

December 29

Last Mile, 6m/4m/2m, Lake Crabtree CP, Morrisville, 8 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

January 4

Frosty Fifty 12.5K/25K/50K, 50K Trail Relay, Salem Lake, Winston-Salem, 8 a.m., runsignup.com by 12/31.

January 11

20th Little River Trail Run 10m/7K, Rougemont, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

Bear Creek Trailathon, Winter Endurance Challenge, 12H, Robbins, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

5th Mangum M/HM Ellerbe, 7:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

January 17

Southern Tour Ultra 50M/50K trail, Wilmington, 6:30

a.m., runsignup.com.

Charlotte Running Co. Trail Run 13/9/4m, Anne Springs Close Greenway, Charlotte, 8:30 a.m., raceroster.com.

January 18

4th Mount Afton Challenge 2 HR Run, Concord, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

Tsali Ultra 50K/30K/8K trail, Almond, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

Whiskey Tango Foxtrot HM /5K, Northeast Park, Gibsonville, 9:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

January 19

Occoneetchee Speedway Relay, 2/4-person, 13.5m, Hillsborough, 1 pm, runsignup.com.

January 25

UGTBGrind'n Trail 10m (new course)/5m, Harris Lake, New Hill, 9 a.m., fseries.com.

47 Miles of HOPE, 5K/10K /46m, Winston-Salem, 11 a.m., runsignup.com.

17th Asheville Hot Chocolate HM/10K/5K, Isaac Dickson Elementary, 7:30 a.m., raceroster.com.

Viking Dash 10K/5K, Hogan Stone Park, Pleasant Garden, 10 a.m., runsignup.com.

January 26

Occoneetchee Mountain Challenge, 10m trail, Historic Speedway, Hillsborough, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.



Upcoming CSN Issues:

Digital Only

Jan. 15, Winter Sports with SE skiing

Feb. 19, Spring Running

Email joelcsn1@gmail.com

Deadline 7 days in advance

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Indoor Pickleball

Chapel Hill has indoor pickleball 9-12 noon daily except Sunday at the Community Center. Fees are charged. Cost is \$2.00; passes available. Schedule is subject to change.

Orange County has pickleball during open gym at the Central Rec Center, downtown Hillsborough, Tuesday-Thursday 10 a.m. to 12. Closed Dec. 24-26, 31. Bring your own gear or borrow the county's using your ID.

Eno Ruggers Down Charlotte

Eno River women's rugby topped Charlotte in Durham to wrap up the fall season.

Players of the match were Ivy, Justine, Cosmo. Eno finished the fall 4-0-5 (22 points) for sixth place in Carolinas Women D2.

Practice will resume in January for the spring 15s season.

Skateboard Park Clears Last Hurdle

5th Pocket Skateparks Inc. of Pa. will renovate the 25-year-old Homestead skateboard park. Cost is \$609,750, paid for by federal ARPA funds (CSN, Oct 2024). Contract approval was on the town council consent agenda last month after the fourth bid. 5th Pocket built the new skatepark at Cates Creek Park south of Hillsborough.

The design at Homestead includes spaces for both beginner and intermediate skaters and a variety of elements, including rails, quarter pipes, banks and ledges. The new skatepark will be built with steel-reinforced concrete to replace the wood-framed ramps. Construction is expected to start in mid to late 20025, city officials said.

Tobacco Road Drops Finale

Tobacco Road men's rugby dropped the fall finale at Cape Fear. The score was tied 22-22 at halftime, but their subs outclassed ToRo in the last quarter. Final score was 60-27. Try scorers were Jonah Paasche-Orlow (2x), Evan Barbaryka, Aaron "Krispy" Craig and Jacob "Pirate" Barber. Jack Sears converted 1 of 5. Men of the match were Jack Carpenter and Krispy.

They're off for winter break until practice resumes 1/14. They'll have Onslow (2/8), Fear (2/15), and SoPi (3/1) to face in the spring. Going into the break they are 3-0-5 in matrix matches and tied with Onslow and Fear atop the table with 17 points each in Carolinas men D3.

Upcoming Pickleball

Jan. 9-12, Pin Point Winter Classic, downtown Raleigh, app.pickleballden.com/externaltournament4536290. Signup ends 1/1.

Jan. 11-12, PPL Winter Classic, Piney Wood Park, Durham. Signup ends 1/8. app.pickleballden.com.

RECYCLE! RECYCLE!



Spring Adult Programs
Early Bird Discount Until Dec 31
Register today: rainbowsoccer.org



Spring Youth Programs
Play Begins in March
Register today: rainbowsoccer.org

Tip Off Pre-Game

The Carolina Basketball Tip Off Club presented by Modelo is a pregame fan experience outside the front entrance to the Smith Center. It's one way for Tar Heel fans with tickets to gather prior to ACC weekend home games in Chapel Hill.

Details: Pregame hospitality space with access for fans for entertainment, play games, purchase food (Domino's Pizza, food trucks and stadium concessions) and beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) and watch other sporting events on TVs throughout the area prior to tip off of weekend conference games.

The Tip Off Club is outside of the Smith Center along Manning Drive. Look for the big umbrellas. It opens two hours prior to tip off of the Tar Heel home games listed below.

Tipoff games continue Jan. 18 vs. Stanford, Jan. 25 Boston College, Feb. 8 Pitt, Feb. 22 Virginia, March 1 Miami, March 8 Duke.

Basketball Tidbits

Former Duke player Lindsay Harding was the first woman coach to win coach of the year honors for the G League. She led the Kings to a 24-10 record last season.

Tommy Burleson, the 7/2 center who starred for N.C. State's 1974 national championship team, has temporarily relocated to Huntersville and is selling Christmas trees at a local church lot with friends. All proceeds are donated for Hurricane Helene relief in WNC.

The latest AP poll had four ACC clubs in the top 25: Duke 8, Notre Dame 10, UNC 16, Louisville 22. UCLA was first.

Kelly Unbeaten In Ultimate

Kelly completed an undefeated fall season in Carrboro Co-Rec Ultimate.

They went 13-0 in the regular season and beat second-ranked Power Blue 15-11 for the tournament championship. Earlier, they knocked off fourth seed White 15-9. Offensive MVP was Marcus Maguire and defensive MVP Josie Saneco.

Fall Pickleball At The Farm

Division winners at The Farm Pickleball Autumn Invitational, Chapel Hill (146 players):

M Doubles 3.0, Seth Lachacz/Isaac Nelson; M Doubles 3.5, Kamaran Anbalagan/Namit Guthra; M Doubles 4.0, Ryan Paone/Ethan Holland; M Doubles 4.5 Donald Thompson/Humphrey Yao; W Doubles 2.5, Robin Conway/Julie Welge; W Doubles 3.0, Tiffany McKenzie/Aklesandra Trepte; W Doubles 4.0, Anne Merkel/Sophie Duncan; Mix Doubles 3.0, Peter Jacys/Wendy Thompson; Mix Doubles 4.0, Angel Kochuba/Jerry D; M Singles 3.5-4.0, Gavin Vander Schoaf; W Singles 3.0, Christine Bischoff.

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Off The Dribble

Early Warning Signs For Big Four Clubs

Chip Bremer

It's still only one month into the college basketball season, but teams already are displaying the strengths that could carry them through to March, as well as the weaknesses that might end up derailing their postseason hopes.

In previous stories, we've explored the potential strengths of every ACC team, from returning superstars, and dominant coaching styles to freshman phenoms and impact transfers. However, if we want to understand what these teams need to address as the season progresses, it's important to look at their apparent weaknesses. Here's a look at what we've learned so far about the area's ACC teams:

North Carolina—Inside presence

It's no secret the Tar Heels miss Armando Bacot, the team's dominant low-post stalwart for the past 3-4 years. The problem with having a force like that for so long is finding a replacement for the production, and while there's no replacing Bacot, the Heels have been unable to find any significant inside presence to help fill the void.

That's not to say Jalen Washington can't eventually develop into what the Heels need, or that former transfers Jae'Lyn Withers or Ven-Allen Lubin can't use their skills to boost the frontcourt, but Hubert Davis can't depend on R.J. Davis, Elliot Cadeau and Seth Trimble to carry the Heels every night—not when there are so many skilled low-post players in the ACC that can grab rebounds and hit high-percentage shots at a regular pace. The Heels need to find answers, and soon.

Duke—Toughness and grit

The Blue Devils have more natural skill on their roster than anyone else in the country, but like all programs that rely on exceptional recruiting, the lack of experience and coaching on how to leverage that skill is often what hinders these programs early on—especially when it comes to executing with toughness down the stretch.

Cooper Flagg most likely will be the top pick in the 2025 NBA draft, but he has yet to find that grit and determination that will mold him into the clutch "go-to" guy NBA teams want. The same could be said with some of the other young Duke players, and it was obvious in Duke's end-of-game execution in losses to Kentucky and Kansas.

It will take time and coaching to bring that close-out toughness into form, but until then the Blue Devils will need to rely on the experience and grit of transfers Mason Gillis, Maliq Brown and Sion James to help them along.

UNC Hockey Slips To 5th In ACCHL

Battling injuries and stronger opponents, the UNC hockey club lost three of four and slipped to fifth place in ACCHL standings at the end of the fall semester. They have a 10-5-2-0-2 league record (22 points). Va. Tech (29) was first, followed by N.C. State (28), Delaware (26), Penn State (23) fourth. They have nine games remaining before the playoffs start Feb. 7 and are 11-7-2 overall.

Carolina opens the winter season with three straight games against the Hokies including an outside game Jan. 4 at 7 p.m. at Truist Field in Charlotte and a home game in Hillsborough Jan. 10 before facing Roger Williams Jan. 18 in Hillsborough and three more against N.C. State including Jan. 20 at the Lenovo Center, Raleigh.

In recent games, UNC lost to Michigan State 5-3 in Hillsborough, lost 4-2 at D-1 George Mason (goals by O'Shaughnessy, Hilton), topped Maryland 6-5 on the road on three straight goals by Will Smith and lost 4-3 to Army (goals by Smith, Grady, Ansbacher) in a charity home game.

NC State—Perimeter consistency

If there was one element that consistently plagued the Wolfpack prior to their miraculous run last season, it was perimeter shooting. D.J. Horne and Casey Morsell were streaky from beyond the arc, and they got hot when the Pack needed them most, but the rest of the team was lacking in outside consistency.

The same can be said of this year's team, although there is no Horne or Morsell on the roster. Mike O'Connell and Breon Pass are the only players shooting better than 30% from long range, and they've had their moments, but the lack of consistency across the board is allowing teams to take State out of their game and force them into more halfcourt sets.

Until O'Connell or Pass become more consistent, or one of the newcomers like Trey Parker or Mike James (when he comes back from injury) steps up, this will be the Pack's Achilles heel.

Wake Forest—Midrange game

Expectations for this year's Demon Deacons squad were sky-high from the get-go, but they have been demonstrating one glaring spot of trouble—a lack of offense from inside the arc. With the perimeter arsenal that Steve Forbes has at his disposal (Hunter Sallis, Cameron Hildreth, Parker Friedrichsen, Davin Cosby) it's no wonder the offense is reliant on interior players like Efton Reid and Tre' Von Spillers to rebound and kick out to one of the shooters at the three-point line. But even with Sallis becoming more of a "do-everything" scorer, they really don't have anyone that can consistently step inside and hit the mid-range jumper.

It's not an uncommon problem for perimeter-oriented teams, but for the Deacs, it makes them more one-dimensional and an easy target for opposing defenses. Sallis will need to take that next step if Wake is going to go far this season.

Ex-ACC Players In The G League

The ACC has 384 former players in pro basketball leagues across the globe. Triangle schools are a big part in the number with Duke 42 players, N.C. State 27, UNC 25, Wake Forest 24, according to the realgm.com.

Duke and UNC have 7 players each in the G League, State 3, Wake 2.

UNC players are Bacot, Black, Bradley, Little, Manley, Nance, Ryan; Duke, Baker, Keels, O'Connell, Okafor, Stanley, Tucker, Winslow; State, Joiner, Warren, Seabron, Wake, Brown, Johnson.

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North Carolina Ski Resorts

APPALACHIAN SKI MOUNTAIN, 940 Ski Mountain Rd. off US 321 near Blowing Rock, state's oldest resort, 13 slopes, 6 lifts, vertical drop 365, longest run 0.5m, snowboarding, 3 terrain parks, ice arena, tubing, night skiing, 239-503-1759, appskimtn.com. ASM is cashless.

CATALOOCHEE SKI AREA, off I-40 at Maggie Valley, 18 slopes, 5 lifts, vertical drop 740, longest run 1.4m, night skiing, boarding, 2 terrain parks, tubing. Normally first resort to open and last to close, 800-768-0285, snow report 800-768-3588, cataloochee.com.

BEECH MOUNTAIN SKI RESORT, off NC 184 north of Banner Elk, 17 slopes, 8 lifts, vertical drop 830, longest run 1m, snowboarding, night skiing, terrain and snow tubing parks, skating, Highest ski area in eastern NA. 800-438-2093, beechmountainresort.com. Terrain park with 50 features.

SAPPHIRE VALLEY, off US 64 east of Cashiers in Sapphire, 2 slopes, 3 lifts, vertical drop 200, Frozen Falls Terrain Park, tubing, night skiing, recreation center with pool. Normally open Friday-Monday only, 828-743-7663, skisapphirevalley.com.

SUGAR MOUNTAIN, on NC184 west of Boone, state's largest ski area (125 acres), with largest vertical drop (1200), longest run 1.5m, 21 slopes, 9 lifts, night skiing, terrain park, tubing, ice skating, snowshoeing, guided tours, 800-784-2768, skisugar.com, home of NASTAR races.

HATLEY POINTE (formerly Wolf Ridge) on US 23 north of Mars Hill, 15 slopes, 5 lifts, vertical drop 700, night skiing, terrain park, tubing, 828-689-4111, hatleypointe.com. Opening TBA.

Tubing Only

HAWKSNEST, off NC 105 south of Boone in Seven Devils, 4 areas for tubing with 30 lanes, 400-1,000 feet with moving carpet lifts, vertical drop 190, zipline tours. Largest tubing park on the East Coast, snowmaking, 828-963-6561, hawksnesttubing.com. Sessions are 1:45.

SCALY MOUNTAIN OUTDOOR CENTER, on NC 106 SW of Highlands, just north of Georgia line, tubing, ice skating, vertical drop 225. Open 6 days a week, 828-526-3737, highlandsoutpost.com.

JONAS RIDGE Snow Tubing Park at Mast Farm Inn, off NC181South, Newland, 6 lanes with different speeds and uphill conveyor belt. Open Fri-Mon, 828-733-4155, jonasridgesnowtube.com. Closed Christmas Day.

MOONSHINE MOUNTAIN Snow Tubing, 5865 Willow Rd., Hendersonville, 828-696-0333, snow tubing hill with man-made snow, 500 feet. Open Fri-Sun and holidays. Cash only, ATM on site. Closed Christmas Day. No skiing or snowboarding.

TUBE WORLD, Hwy. 19 across from Ghost Town in the Sky, Maggie Valley, 828-926-0285. Sessions are 1:45. Located 4m from Cataloochee Ski Area.



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Ski Conditions

For snow conditions for Tar Heel and SE region ski resorts, weather reports, driving conditions, check skisoutheast.com website. It's independently owned, and updated every morning with info regarding skiing, snowboarding, tubing, terrain parks, operating hours, special events and has links to individual resorts.

Day Bus Trips Start Jan. 9 To Va.

C&R Outdoor of Hillsborough returns to running weekday ski bus trips to Wintergreen (VA) or Winterplace (WVA) starting Jan. 9. The trips were shut down years ago by Covid. The trip destination will be determined by whichever resort has the most snow. Trips are Thursday-only when crowds are smaller and traffic less than weekends; full payment required in advance to sign up.

Nine weekly trips are planned through March 6. Cost is \$149/person for Standard trip (bus transport, lift ticket) or Plus (\$174 (standard plus ski/snowboard gear rental). For the trip, meet at C&R at 5 a.m., leave at 5:30 (no refund if late), return 8-9 p.m. that night after stopping for dinner. Skiers bring their own gloves, helmets, ski jackets, etc. Fittings for ski rentals must be done at the store by Wednesday before the trip.

Sign up online (candrski.com/skitrips) or at the store (654 N. Churton St.). Cancel 5 days before trip for full refund. Questions? Call 919-732-9712. They also organize private group ski trips.

Odds & Ends

When WNC got an early look at winter snow last month and two Tar Heel ski resorts began operating, neither was mentioned by the News and Observer. Instead they ran a full page spread or powder primer from The Colorado Springs Gazette with alphabetical info on all Colorado ski areas...The 24th Virginia Fly Fishing & Wine Festival takes place Jan. 10-11 in Doswell, Va...50th Anniversary Celebration Weekend Jan 10-12 at Wintergreen, VA...The Cupp Run Challenge at Snowshoe, WVA, Feb. 3 for skiers and boarders...Winter X Games return to Buttermilk Mtn. at Aspen Jan. 23-25 with ski and snowboard events for men/women. Games will be broadcast on ESPN platforms...

Tennis Project Starts

Reconstruction of Cedar Falls tennis courts is under way. While this work happens, tennis players can use Ephesus Park, Phillips Middle School and Hargraves courts. The town expects work to finish in June 2025.

Orange Cashes In On Youth Soccer

Fall Showcase Soccer games are played in Raleigh and Orange prior to the NCAA Div. 1 soccer championships at WakeMed SP in Cary. Youth games are scheduled at WRAL Fields in Raleigh, Soccer.com in Efland and other fields as thousands of youngsters descend on the Triangle to participate. Duke and UNC women played in a Dec. 6 women's semifinal along with Stanford/Wake Forest.

Visitors, parents and kids, fill a lot of hotels/motels and eat a lot of meals in multiple Triangle counties including Orange. Early reports had more than 1,600 teams attending.

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U.S. Soccer

Men

Jan. 18, Friendly, Venezuela, Fort Lauderdale, 3 p.m., TNT, Universo.

Women

Feb. 20-26, 3 U.S. cities, She Believes Cup.

Community News

African American Dance Ensemble presents 39th Kwanzaa Celebration of dance and music Jan. 1, 2025 at The Armory in downtown Durham. Doors open at 12 noon with a program 2-6 p.m. Admission is free with a ticket from eventbrite.com and donation of canned goods and toiletries.

Durham Craft Market Holiday Market takes place Dec. 15 10-4 at Durham Central Park, downtown Durham.

Pet fans can see either the 2024/25 NY Cat or Dog Festival Films at the Carolina Theater starting Dec. 13. They are separate festivals.

Carrboro Files Climate Lawsuit Against Duke Energy

Shanteya Hudson,
Public News Service (NC)

The Town of Carrboro is leveraging state law to combat climate change, announcing a lawsuit aimed at Duke Energy.

Barbara Foushee, mayor of Carrboro, announced the lawsuit, filed in Orange County Superior Court, alleging the company misled the public about the dangers of fossil fuels and delayed its transition to renewable-energy sources. Foushee said the town wants accountability for the damage caused by the delays and the harmful effects of the company's continued reliance on coal and gas.

"For years, Duke Energy Corp. has been working against our public safety," Foushee alleged. "As our town has been working hard to use every tool at our disposal to mitigate the devastating effects of climate change."

Foushee argued the climate crisis has taken a toll on Carrboro's public health and well-being and cost the town millions of dollars. She added while fossil fuels have caused measurable harm, Duke Energy has doubled down on coal and gas use, even constructing new coal plants in North Carolina.

Danny Nowell, mayor pro tem., underscored what he called the depth of Duke Energy's climate deception and the effects it has had on communities.

"Because of their monopoly, North Carolinians had no choice but to trust their deceptions," Nowell contended. "Our trust has been violated, and we have paid for it. We have paid for excess road repairs. We have faced the effects of stormwater, and we will continue to pay for even further expenses as we uncover them."

The Center for Biological Diversity and the nonprofit climate justice group NC WARN are assisting Carrboro with its case.

Jim Warren, executive director of NC WARN, said Duke Energy's leadership needs to be held accountable for what he called its long history of misleading the public and the widespread harm caused by its practices, comparing them to the tobacco industry. He is optimistic the lawsuit could provide relief and accountability for others who have suffered from the harmful effects allegedly caused by the company.

"We all hope this lawsuit can help the many communities down east North Carolina, in the mountains, around the world that have been hurt already by climate disasters," Warren emphasized.

Duke Energy said it is reviewing the complaint.

A number of similar lawsuits have been filed, but none has gone to trial.

Orange Senior Hoops Score Six Medals In Greenville

Orange County teams earned six medals, five for women, in 3-on-3 basketball at the N.C. Senior Games State Finals in Greenville. Games are played cross-court, not full court, for each age group.

Steel Cans 55+ won gold (captain Lucinda Covington) and Orange Sprots 55+ (Karin Mills) silver.

Steel Cans 60+ (Sarah Hains) finished second behind Red Foxes.

Orange Sprots 70 (Jo Ann Shelby) took a silver.

Orange Sprots 75 (Laurie Renz) were second.

Double Nickels (Kevin Kelly) were 2-3 and third in men 65+. Wazee of Greensboro was first, Oak Island Gators second. Kelly and Chuck Friend led the team in scoring.

Efforts by CSN to get game scores and leading scorers were unsuccessful. *J.B.*

2024 BikeFest Numbers Drop

BikeFest is a major fundraiser for area cycling groups, but the October 2024 event in Hillsborough drew fewer rides (460, down from nearly 600 in 2023) and resulted in a sizeable reduction in grants to bike organizations.

Mark Olsen of Carolina Tarwheels, ride organizers, said grants awarded this year totaled \$5,250, compared to \$12,000 last year. The Tarwheels also had nearly 100 volunteers helping support three rides that started in Hillsborough on the first Saturday in October.

Olsen said "attendance was down, probably due to hurricane threats that clobbered communities in the mountains.

And some costs, notably insurance, were up significantly." Signup deadline was Sep.

29, the weekend when Helene struck WNC.

Grants this fall were \$1,500 to Triangle Bike Works, \$1,500 Bridge 2 Sports, \$750 Bike Durham, \$750 Bikewalk NC, \$750 Durham Bike Coop.

Olsen said the Tarwheels were looking ahead at some cost reductions and better marketing "so we can increase what we provide to the groups we support."

In both 2022 and 2023 BikeFest grants worth \$12,000 went to the six organizations. The 2021 event was canceled.

N.C. CX Series

Riders competed for division points and prizes.

Top local finishers at 2025 N.C. Cyclocross Series races:

Race 7, Davidson—M Jrs 13-14, Peter Hartingh, Hillsborough, first, Logan McDonald, Chapel Hill, third (5 finishers); M Jrs 11-12, Luca Sherman, Chapel Hill, second (2); M Jrs 9-10, David Sherman, Chapel Hill, first (2); M Masters 50+, Charles Ball, Hillsborough, second (12); M Masters 70+, Chuck Gillis, Pittsboro, first (4); W Masters 40+, Allison Weidner, Chapel Hill, third (5); W Cat 4, Vivienne Myers, Chapel Hill, second (6).

Race 8, Midland—M Jrs 13-14, Hartingh, second (6); M Jrs 11-12, L. Sherman, third (3); M Jrs 9-10, D. Sherman (1); M Masters. Gillis, second (3); M Masters 40+, Morton Jensen, Chapel Hill, third (6); M Cat 4, Oliver Jensen., Chapel Hill, third (13); W Masters, Weidner, first (3); W Cat 4/5, Myers, second (5).

Race 9, Raleigh, M Jrs 11-12, L. Sherman, second, Jasper Brandon, Chapel Hill, third (3); M Jrs 13-14, Oliver Jensen, first, Hartingh second, L. McDonald, third (7); Masters 40+, Morton Jensen, Chapel Hill, third (5); M Cat 4, Oliver Jensen, first (16); Masters 40+. Richard Brandon (10); M Collegiate A, John Paul Amalong, UNC Cycling, first (6); M Pro 1/2/3, Amalong, first (16); W Masters 40+. Alison Weidner, Chapel Hill, first (5); W Jrs 13-14, Vivienne Meyers, Chapel Hill, first (3); W Jrs 16-18, Ada Watson, Chapel Hill, first, Claudia Baum, Chapel Hill, second (2); W Cat 4/5, V. Meyers, second (6); M Masters 50+, Charles Ball, Hillsborough, third (9).

Race 10, N.C. Grand Prix, Hendersonville, Day 1—M Masters 40+, Richard Brandon, Hillsborough (10); M Jrs 10-14, Oliver Jensen, Chapel Hill, first, (11); W Jrs 13-14, Vivienne Myers, Chapel Hill, first (1); M Jrs 9-10, David Sherman, Chapel Hill, first (2); W Jrs 17-18, Ada Watson, Carrboro, first (7); M Collegiate A, John Paul Amalong, Chapel Hill (UNC), third (24); M Masters 70+, Chuck Gillis, Pittsboro, second (4); M Pro/cat 1-3, Jules Van Kempen, Chapel Hill, fourth. His time of 38:36 was 3 seconds out of third (34). WT was 57:15.

Race 11, N.C. Grand Prix, Hendersonville, Day 2—with strong presence of out of state riders, M Masters 40+, R. Brandon, second (9); M Jrs 13-14, Peter Hartingh, Hillsborough, third (8); V. Myers, Chapel Hill, first (2); M Jrs 9-10, David Sherman, Chapel Hill, second (5); W Jrs 17-18, Nicole Claman, Chapel Hill, third (7); W Cat 3/4, Anne Neal, Carrboro, third (6); M Collegiate A, J.P. Amalong, first (25); M Masters, C. Gillis, second (4).

Race 12, NCCX Series Finale, Salisbury—12/8 with award winners announced later.

New Dogs Soccer Lands Gold Medal

New Dogs of Orange County earned gold in 7 aside soccer at the Special Olympics North Carolina Fall Games in Charlotte. Nearly 1,300 athletes competed in seven sports. Soccer coaches were Mike and Rachel Meyen, Kimberly Powell.

Orange athletes also took medals in cycling, golf. Amanda Gillian Fink won a silver in Cycling 5K time trial, Daniel Weiss gold in cycling 2K, silver in 500m time trial and bronze 1K time trial. Cycling coaches were Jim Fink and Taylor Cole.

Joey Allen Kessler earned a bronze in golf level 4 individual stroke play 9, Ahmad Afab Rohman bronze in golf level 5 individual stroke play 18, Daniel Andrew Ward, unified partner, Richie Cliff Vaughan bronze golf level 2 unified team.

Head golf coach John Kessler was caddie for Joey Kessler, Justin and partner Leo Jarmusz (DAD), Bradley Barnett with partner Rob Robinson, Richie Vaughan with partner David Ward, Trevor Shepard with caddie Corey Barth, Ahmad Rahman with caddie Farhan Rahman.

Orange had a smaller delegation (and fewer medal winners) than previous years due to the schedule.

Coordinator Colleen Lannigan explained, "We sent a very small delegation to Charlotte this year. The timing of the state championship was Thursday through Saturday the weekend before Thanksgiving break (rather than a weekend only earlier in November as in past years). People simply thought the timing was not workable in their family schedules."

Charlie Brown, Snoopy

The Peanuts exhibit continues. "The Life and Art of Charles M. Schulz," creator of Peanuts, runs through Jan. 17 at Alamance Arts Center, 213 S. Main St., Graham. Tickets are \$4 in advance, \$6 at the door.

The exhibition follows Schulz from his Minnesota roots to his life in California and tracks the development of the characters that make up the unique world of Peanuts. Call 336-226-4295 for holiday hours.

Briggs Named WRC Director

Michael Kyle Briggs was named as executive director of N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. Since December 2015 Briggs has served as chief deputy director overseeing the agency's day-to-day operations as well as leading the agency's Law Enforcement, Wildlife Management, Inland Fisheries and Habitat Conservation Divisions and a newly established Genetics Program. Briggs will transition into his new role on Jan. 1.

First Live Manatee Rescue In Carolina

Anna Gurney

A manatee was successfully rescued from a Tar River canal in Greenville, Pitt County. It is the first documented case of a manatee being rescued in North Carolina.

The 855-pound, 9-foot female manatee was first reported to the Outer Banks Marine Mammal Stranding Network in late October, near Kitty Hawk, and was exhibiting concerning behavior.

"Manatees are regularly seen in N.C. waters during warmer months, though the numbers of sightings historically have been much lower than what we've seen in recent years," said University of North Carolina Wilmington Assistant Stranding Coordinator Alison Loftis. "Manatees travel north to our waters from Florida during the warm months of the year. However, manatees cannot survive for extended periods in waters less than 68°F, so they must migrate back to Florida before our temperatures drop in the fall/winter. If they do not, they risk becoming cold stressed, an often-fatal condition similar to hypothermia in humans. In recent years, we have seen a significant increase in manatee sightings in North Carolina. Many factors likely contribute to this, but the main one is climate change. As global climate change continues to create warmer ocean temperatures, this is creating more suitable habitat areas for manatees along the Atlantic coast, causing them to venture farther away from Florida."

Working in tandem with key North Carolina partners, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) quickly organized a multi-state, multi-agency marine mammal rescue team led by SeaWorld Orlando and included Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute, N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC), N.C. Aquariums, UNC-Wilmington Marine Mammal Stranding Program, N.C. State University's Center for Marine Sciences and Technology and its College of Veterinary Medicine.

The team created a plan to monitor and rescue the animal and began assembling re-

sources, including a manatee transport truck, multiple nets and a specialized manatee capture boat. However, they lost her location for 10 days as she moved farther inland. Sightings were later reported in the Pamlico River, near the Twin Lakes Campground in Chocowinity, on Nov. 10. She was identified as the same manatee as the one in Kitty Hawk through her scar pattern from a watercraft collision.

The manatee was then spotted on Nov. 15 in the Tar River, at the outfall of a Greenville Utilities Commission's wastewater treatment plant. Law enforcement from Greenville Police Department and NCWRC assisted in monitoring the animal's location while the rescue team traveled to the site.

Veterinarians' initial examinations concluded the manatee was underweight with some skin lesions due to cold stress, and a recent watercraft propeller injury. She also had a bleached muzzle due to cold temperatures. She was transported to SeaWorld Orlando for rehabilitation and hopes of a future return to the wild.

SeaWorld reports the manatee is doing well and eating on her own.

In North Carolina, the public is asked to report an injured manatee by calling the 24-hour marine rescue hotline at 910-515-7354.

To report sightings of healthy manatees, please submit information, including photos and location of the animal to UNCW Marine Mammal Stranding Program.

Election Tidbits

Donald Trump had 2.5M more votes nationally this year than 2020. Kamala Harris got 7M fewer voters than Joe Biden did four years ago.

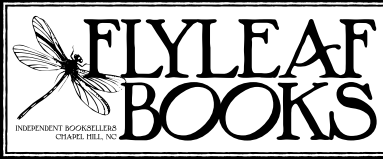
In N.C., Trump got 50.9 percent of the vote this year, Harris 47.6, others 0.4.

Locally, Democrats got 1,850 more Presidential votes in Orange County and Republicans 630 more votes than four years ago. Orange vote totals in 2024 were 65,444 to 20,806.

In Durham, there were 238 more Democratic votes for President, 630 more Republican votes than 2020. The vote was 144,450 to 32,852. Chatham had 2,227 more Democrat Presidential votes, 1,321 more GOP. Margin was 29,014 to 22,507. Voter data from the New York Times.

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Pre-Exam
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Turkey Chase Trail

Xuerzhong Cai (1:50:02) of Chapel Hill was first 55-59 and Jerry Chai (1:53:56) first 20-24 at Turkey Chase trail 13.1 in Cary (52 finishers). WT was 1:22:47.

Liam Shea of Chapel Hill was second 15-19, 23:47, and Ryan Shea third 40-44, 41:59, in the 5K (186 finishers). WT was 18:52.

Zorich Leads 5K Trail

Alexander Zorich (21:38) and Gueniene Moulton (27:03), both of Chapel Hill, were the winners at the second Birds of Feather Trail Trot 5K in Briar Chapel. There were 134 finishers, compared to 305 last year.

Anthony Corriveau of Cary (23:24) was second male and Christopher Bender of St. Johns, FL (28:53) third. Erin Holzbaur of Hoboken NJ (27:10) was second female and Julia Whitten-Zorich of Chapel Hill third (27:17)

Other top Chapel Hill finishers were: Nathan Smith, second 14-19, 26:26; Noel Neville, third, 26:42; Coleman Deans, Pittsboro, first 20-29, 27:10, James Talentino, second, 27:10, Matt Mahler, third, 27:41; Kyler Serfass, first 30-39, 28:01; Jennifer Moorhead, first 40-49, 29:15; Gregory Peters, third 30-39, 30:30; Shantel Grumhaus, second 40-49, 30:44; Vern Wagner, Moncure, first 50-59, 30:59; Sonia Messick, Pittsboro, first 40-49, 33:32; Molly Unger, Pittsboro, third 20-29, 35:13; David Unger, third 50-59, 33:54; Alana Reddy, second 14-19, 36:32; Jocelyn Gesner, third, 36:48.

Kasold Repeats In Efland

Michelle Kasold (36:07) of Efland repeated as women's winner in the 4ish miler at the 15th Chestnut Ridge Trail Run in Efland. Men's winner was Atticus Runnestad (28:09) of Durham. There were 98 finishers compared to 125 last year.

Chapel Hill award winners: Aliah Hummel, Rougemont, first 15-19, 37:44, Gene Ackerman, Bahama, second, 39:40, Jillian Hudson, Hillsborough, third, 56:36; Sarah Brady, first 30-39, 38:51, Megan Finley-Stephenson, Hillsborough, third, 41:56; Brika Eklund, Hillsborough, first 40-49, 42:07, Cathay Keller, Hillsborough, second, 45:03; JoAnna Younts, first 50-59, 39:00, Tiffany Shubert, second, 39:55; Laura DeWald, Carrboro, first 60-69, 44:07; Nancy Margolin, first 70+, 46:22. Teepa Snow, Efland, second, 1:02:12. Kathy Pettiss, third, 1:10:35; Collun Hinson, first 15-19, 28:57, Patrick Soher, second, 33:26; Eli Garner, Efland, first 30-39, 36:48, Adam Ledbetter-Bock, Efland, second, 37:06, Ryun Spurrier, Efland, third, 1:48:49; David McDuffie, Mebane, second 40-49, 35:15; Hansen Su, first 50-59, 32:02, Blaine Schmidt, second, 35:08; Michael Wilkinson, Mebane, first 60-69, 45:33; Ed Pettiss, second 70+, 49:06.

Winners in the 8ish miler were Matt Kearney (58:46) of Dudley and Lisa Hecker (1:10:34) of Mebane, (62 finishers, up from 55 in 2023).

Local award winners: Katherine Evans, Cedar Grove, first 50-59, 1:14:40, Lisa Porterfield, second, 1:22:27, Sandi Wheelis, Hillsborough, third, 1:41:24; Olivia Merli, Hillsborough, first 60-69, 1:36:45, Korinn Suker, Hillsborough, second, 1:37:04; Aidan McDuffie, Mebane, third 19&U, 1:20:07; Jeffrey Glick, second 40-49, 1:01:58; Dan Hegland, second 50-59, 1:17:38, Martin Wileman, Hillsborough, third, 1:21:31; Keith Houck, first 60-69, 1:26:42, Val Martinez, third, 1:45:54; Robert Long, first 70+, 1:46:30.

SHAC 5K, Chapel Hill

Alec Latzke (17:13) of Chapel Hill set a new record en route to winning the SHAC 5K in Chapel Hill. Old record was 18:03 (2023). Women's winner was Trinity Morrow (21:25) of Carrboro. There were 90 finishers, compared to 107 last year.

Luke Moore, Chapel Hill, was second male, 18:15; Colin Thomson, Chapel Hill, third, 18:28; Abby Farrell, Chapel Hill, second female, 21:47; Caroline Kenneally, Raleigh, third, 24:55.

Local age group winners: Cohen Martin, Carrboro, 22:56, 19&U; Kyra Greene, 25:05, 30-39; Jo Rogers, 34:04, 50-59; Cameron Binnie, Carrboro, 25:26, 60+.

Dimuccio Wins HM

Mike Dimuccio (1:10:06) of Chapel Hill was the men's winner at the Charlotte HM (1,947 finishers).

Jack Muldoon was second 25-29, 2:42:37, in the Marathon (1,210). WT was 2:26:51.

Worth Schutte of Chapel Hill was first 10&U, 25:33, and Jenner Schutte third 11-14, 22:90, in the 5K (861). WT was 15:36.



Laura Lamberger (1:41:57) of Chapel Hill was first 50-54 at Greensboro HM (512 finishers). WT was 1:23:09.

Three award winners at the Holly Springs 10K (146 finishers). Sydney Batey of Pittsboro was second 13-19, 54:33, and Heather Batey, third, 1:05:22, with Valerie Murrah of Chapel Hill first 70+, 1:34:35.

Katrina Nunez (1:38:11) of Chapel Hill was first 19-24 at Battleship HM in Wilmington (1,047 finishers, up from 962 in 2023). WT was 1:24:25. Cassidy Sexton was first 18&U, 51:41, in the 5K (371). WT was 17:03.

Jeff Folger of Pittsboro was first 50-59, 25:26, at Viking Dash 5K (57 finishers) in New Hill. WT was 20:52.

Molly Berkoff of Chapel Hill was third 50-59, 30:19, at Jingle Bell Run 5K Raleigh (312 finishers). WT was 22:14.

Running Calendar

The Running in the Triangle 2025 calendar costs \$12 plus tax and lists hundreds of running events, sunrise/sunset times and info on 40 regional run clubs. Copies are available at local running shops. Unpaid volunteers compiled the information and last year's calendar raised \$6,900 for local charities.

Race News

The Little River Trail Races will be previewed Dec. 15 at 8 a.m. in Rougemont. Races are Jan. 11.

Two popular February race dates in Raleigh are the Feb. 1 Krispy Kreme Challenge (run 2.5m, eat donuts, run 2.5m) and the Feb. 16 Run for the Roses 5K where each female finisher receives a rose.

Irons First In Durham 5K

Costen Irons (16:45) of Chapel Hill was first male at 15th Durham Academy 5K trail in Durham (244 finishers, down from 258 last year). Irons was second in 2023.

Grant Lyerly of Chapel Hill was first 20-29, 34:17, and Jeff Clough, first 40-49, 19:16.

Turkey Day Results

Yohei Hisada (30:39) of Chapel Hill was first 35-39 at IOS Turkey Trot 8K in Cary (619 finishers, down from 701 in 2023). WT was 26:18.

Alex Maier (13:41) of Chapel Hill was first male at TROSA 5K in Durham (859 finishers, up from 785 last year). Karsten Heim was third 15-19, 17:10, Jake Grdaolnik, third 20-24, 17:57.

Alex Hill (18:03) of Hillsborough was third male at Fleet Feet Thanksgiving 5K in Durham (575 finishers, down from 639). WT was 17:42. Chapel Hill age group winners: Megan Lesesky, 12&U, 25:30; Katrine Nunez, 20-24, 21:38; Jennifer Gutierrez, 40-44, 26:33; Ed Cooner, 55-59, 24:37; Theresa Reece, 65-69, 30:54.

In the 8K (114 finishers, down from 164), WTs were 30:06 and 32:26. Local age group winners were Samuel Kurz, Carrboro, 13-19, 34:03; Lindsey Maslow, 35-39, 41:13; John Heeterks, 45-49, 39:17; Cesar Palacios, 50-54, 36:51.

The Skinny Turkey HM in Raleigh was canceled due to weather issues and runners shifted to the 10K (349).

M. Putnam (22:38) of Chapel Hill was third 19&U at Trophy Trot 5K in Raleigh (1,916, up from 1,657 in 2023).

Allison Paul (26:18) of Hillsborough was second 50-54 at Running of the Turkeys 3.5m in Greensboro (919 finishers). WT was 20:55.

Collichio Repeats Turkey Win

Dominic Collichio (25:11) of Winterville repeated as men's winner at Gallop & Gorge 8K in Carrboro, the final race of the 20th Le Tour de Carrboro. Sarah Jane Kerwin (29:08) was the women's winner. There were 1,437 finishers, up by 21 over last year.

Thomas Bean (25:13) of Glen Burnie, MD was second male and Pol Domenach (25:20) of Monroe third. Lindsay Siska (29:15) of Durham was second woman and Michelle Langan (29:33) of Cary third.

Masters leaders were Chapel Hill runners Wisp Kelley, 32:36, first, Heather Linderman, 32:43, second, Colleen Mittemberg, 33:00, third; Marc Jeuland, 26:48, first, Caleb Masland, Boone, 28:26, second, and Jason Jabaut, 29:30, third.

Athena leaders were Colleen McHugh, 40:32, first, Rachel Harrison, 41:05, second, Hope Bryan, 49:16, third, with Clydesdales Josh Fink, 36:23, first, Sam Benjamin, Cary, 36:51, second, Thomas Ehlers, Athens, GA, 43:12, third.

Chapel Hill age group award winners were Anna Peeler, second 15-19, 37:56, Lani Rogers, Carrboro, third, 38:13; Robert Benjamin, first, 26:25, Noah Brinson, third, 28:35; Virginia Pridgen, first 20-24, 33:19, Lizzie Mabe, Carrboro, second, 34:22, Emma Thomas, third, 34:30; Lucas Nervo Jabaut, second, 27:07, Emil Arangala, third, 27:08; JeanneMarie McPherson, Carrboro, first 25-29, 32:49, Riley Foster, second, 32:56, Neal Duncan, third, 27:43; Amy Castle, Hillsborough, second, 30-34, 32:34; Erasmo Ordonez, second, 26:24; Lia Stelzig, first 35-39, 33:40, Monica Huang, second, 35:11, Kathryn Leech, third, 37:32; Victor Ornelas, first, 26:28, Matthew Howe, second, 28:09, Matt Straub, Carrboro, third, 30:52; Emily Bernath, Carrboro, first 40-44, 33:22, Lisa Dunn, Carrboro, second 35:16, Jennife Chu, third, 35:20.

Also, Natalie Bowman, first 45-49, 35:23, Lisa Hecker, Mebane, second, 36:26, Ivy Pointer, third, 36:26, Michael Bulleri, first, 30:58, Charlie Baxter, second, 31:49; Leah Boucher, first 50-54, 35:55, Sarah Foster, second, 36:19, Ashley Dunham, third, 37:26, Mark Carey, second, 31:44, Derek Solum, third, 32:19; Elizabeth McCure, second 55-59, 43:38, Sharon Shofer, third, 44:03, Frank Pitts, first, 32:45, Robert Benjamin, second, 32:54, Conan Shearer, third, 35:13, Joan Mabe, Carrboro, first 60-64, 39:47, Dana Lebo, second, 40:06, Cyndy Weeks, Carrboro, third, 40:29, Stefan Klakovich, first 60-64, 38:19, Gerald Meyer, Carrboro, third, 39:05; Julee Waldrop, Carrboro, first 65-69, 44:04, Laura DeWald, Carrboro, second, 44:59, Kathleen Carly, Carrboro, third, 49:15, Randy Kauftheil, second, 40:22, Lenny Alabanze, third, 41:48, Nancy Margolin, first 70-74, 52:26, Eileen Tyler, second, 59:56, Sheila Kerrigan, third, 1:02:23, Roger Mitchell, Carrboro, first, 46:10, Dennis Wipper, Carrboro, second, 46:50, Richard Smith, third, 48:06; Cynthia Smith, first 75-79, 1:07:32, Cecilia Skrzynia, second, 1:12:53, Marion Haywood, third, 1:20:58, David Hack, first, 42:08; Sharon Roggenbuck, first 80+, 1:21:37, Michael Resnick second, 59:17, Norton Hdler, third, 1:07:54.

Durham 13.1

Julien Isnard (1:27:01) of Chapel Hill was the men's winner at the Durham 13.1 HM in Durham (405 finishers). WWT was 1:22:12.

Local award winners: Xumei Liu, first 45-49, 1:47:43, Phoebe Zhang, third, 1:59:28; Gale Milla, third 50-54, 1:32:57; Liping Song, first 50-54, 1:42:19, Jingmei Shen, second, 1:43:22; Dan Wang, first 55-59, 1:40:03, Leah Cook, Cedar Grove, second, 1:59:37; Michael Barrett, Hillsborough, first 60-64, 1:53:13; Richard Keena, Pittsboro, first 70-74, 2:17:03; Tom Carr, Hillsborough, first 75+, 2:30:11.

10K (250 finishers), Kate Rainey, Chapel Hill, first woman, 43:11. MWT was 37:06.

Division winners from Chapel Hill: Max Christman, 20-24, 43:20; Robert Stewart, Hillsborough, 35-39, 53:18; Jena Burkhart, 40-44, 50:34; Karen Alexander, 55-59, 58:24; John Alexander, 55-59, 52:16; Leah Boucher, 50-54, 45:15; Alice Finnell, 70-74, 1:17:58.

5K (161), WTs 18:18 and 20:06.

Chapel Hill winners: Kyle Rezek, 25-29, 29:40; David Levy, 50-54, 22:23; Julia Rosdahl, 50-54, 31:14; Barb Sprang, 75+, 36:26.

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Feb. N.C. LD Races

1, Uwharrie Mountain Run, 8/20/40m, Ophir. Closed Out.
8, Charlotte 4/10m.
8, Fellowship of the Idiots 19.7m, Albemarle.
8, Ghost Road Trail, 4/8m, Wake Forest.
8, Valentine Massacre Marathon Relay, Greensboro.
15, Hot Chocolate 5K/10K/15K, Charlotte.
15, Run Oak Island M/HM/5K.
22, Black Mountain M & Mt. Mitchell Challenge.
22, Holly Springs Race against the Sun, 24H/12H & Relay.
22, Jordan Lake trail, 20m, New Hill.
22, Pilot Mountain M & 20K, Pinnacle.
22, Wilmington NC M/HM/10K/5K.

Raleigh Holiday HM

Three Chapel Hill runners earned awards at Raleigh Holiday Half Marathon (503 finishers): Michael Harris, third 25-29, 1:24:42; Stefan Klakovic, third 60-64, 1:51:59; Berkeley Hudson, second 70-74, 2:21:53. WTs were 1:08:38 and 1:15:31.

Johnson Leads Woods 5K

Tommy Johnson (17:21) of Carrboro was the men's winner at Into the Woods 5K at Briar Chapel. Women's winner was Katherine Kennedy (19:15) of Durham. There were 248 finishers, down from 273 last year.

Local age group winners were Sydney Batey, Pittsboro, 13-18, 24:50, and Coen Figge, Pittsboro, 19-30, 28:18, and Frank Wagoner, Pittsboro, 17-50; Anne Bryan, Chapel Hill, 31-42, and Creighton Irons, Chapel Hill, 18-51; Guenieve Moulton, Chapel Hill, 43-49, 22:36, and Jason Leonard, Moncure, 21:08; Anky Chau, Pittsboro, 50+, 32:21, and Jason Figge, Pittsboro, 21-49.

Roudon Wins LEAP 5K

Robby Roudon (19:04) of Carrboro took first place at Jingle Bell LEAP 5K in Durham (121 finishers on a cold morning, compared to 198 in 2023). Women's WT was 22:09 with Lindsay Savelli (24:01) of Carrboro third.

Other top finishers: Linda Carolina Soto, Carrboro, second 55-59, 29:23; Susan Copland, Hillsborough, first 60-69, 31:39; Timothy Hensley, Hillsborough, second 40-49, 21:51; Jose Gabriel Olmedo, Carrboro, first 50-59, 24:56.

Run at The Rock

Katherine Evans (58:28) of Cedar Grove was first woman at 20th Run at the Rock 10K trail in Burlington (107 finishers, 39 last year). Kavya Balasubramian (1:03:01) of Carrboro was third. MWT was 44:13.

Local award winners: Zana Braden, Mebane, first 40-49, 1:16:23, Tracy Wesley, Chapel Hill, third, 1:19:55; Nancy Margolin, Chapel Hill, first 70+, 1:16:33; Liam Willoughby, Mebane, second 14-19, 1:30:55; Matthew David, second 40-49, 53:33; Dominic Ciavatta, second 50-59, 58:35.

In the 5K (120 finishers, 92 last year), youngsters dominated the leaderboard. WTs were 20:55 and 25:52 with Brooke Brownell, 14, of Mebane, 26:14, second, and Silas Brown, 14, Carrboro, 23:15, third.

Other leaders: Leiha Edmunds, Chapel Hill, first 30-39, 34:00, Lexina Leedom, third, 40:22; Jenny Brownell, Mebane, second 40-49, 36:24; Rachel Orr, Cedar Grove, second 55-59, 37:13; Susan Rogers, Hillsborough, third, 39:20; Kari Wilkinson, Mebane, second 60-69, 35:21; Michael Brown, Carrboro, first 40-49, 26:48; Yusuke Kikacho, Chapel Hill, third, 33:23; Michael Wilkinson, Mebane, second 60-69, 32:50.

Thomas Soth (1:57:29) of Chapel Hill was second male and Bryn Barker (2:08:57) third woman in the HM. WTs were 1:38:16 and 2:01:41 (51 finishers).

Others: Lisa Porterfield, Chapel Hill, second 50-59, 2:15:09; Matthew Ridpath, Mebane, first 30-39, 2:07:16; John Lockyer, Pittsboro, second 50-59, 2:25:01.

Hunting Report

Scout Procrastinate Buddies

Chris Maroldy

I've always wanted to pen a piece titled "Scouting For This Year's Buck Mañana" but I've never gotten around to it. With apologies to Captain John Paul Jones, I have not yet begun to procrastinate.

What brought this to mind is (while reading on the internet when I was supposed to be doing something else) I came across an article about our 2024 deer hunting prospects on NC public land with a December 1, 2024 date up near the byline. Awesome timing, I thought, since the season is nearly over, unless you count the late urban seasons. Which I don't. Not my cup of hot chocolate.

At least the article was dated (in the good way), I thought. There are a few things that irritate me more than the practice of leaving off dates for on-line articles, but let's not get into politics or my old girlfriends right now.

Then I went back the next day to review the piece. Drat! The date now read December 2. So the article was undated, and my blood pressure immediately shot back up. I'll have to do something about that one of these days.

I just hope all that deep research was published early enough in the year to do someone some good. Not that in-season or last-minute scouting can't be beneficial if done right, but we veteran deer hunters like to think our brothers of the oaks and pines aren't reading on their phones in the middle of the season about where to go, and then moseying on over there the next day to tramp about and have a look-see.

But you know it happens, and all it does is mess up the hunting for everyone else who was already firmly planted on location with a long-ago predetermined game plan in mind.

Even as a master procrastinator, I can't condone that.

And speaking of deep research (sarcastically), you rarely get it in "where-to-go" articles, at least not in the hunting and fishing realms. A lot of the material feels distinctly phoned-in. If you're gonna burn a spot by naming it in the first place, you might as well take advantage of the whole power of media, whether print or digital or over-the-air, and throw some GPS coordinates and buoy numbers and whatnot out there.

(It now occurs to me that the lack of such

Loggerch Reintroduced

Staff from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) and the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation reintroduced the Roanoke loggerch to Mayo River State Park in early November, kick-starting a joint effort that helps conserve the endangered darter and other aquatic species in the Dan River Basin.

Fingerling loggerch, *Percina rex*, were released at the state park's Anglin Mill access in Rockingham County. Found only in North Carolina and Virginia and nowhere else in the world, the species has been listed as federally endangered since 1989.

In October, the two state agencies signed an agreement that allows NCWRC and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) access to 18 miles of habitat within Mayo River SP to monitor the reintroduced loggerch. These efforts are part of a larger landmark agreement between the NCWRC and USFWS, signed in 2022, that allows the Commission to conduct conservation and restoration work of 21 aquatic priority species in North Carolina.

The fingerlings grow to 6-8 inches long, longer than many darters, and earned the nickname "king of the darters." Lifespan average is 6.5 years



might be the reason we have so much moseying and tramping and look-seeing. Maybe pin-point spot burning would cut down on a lot of the zig-zagging and the to-and-fro, but I am a bigger claim-taker than I am an anti-tourist when it comes to hunting and fishing areas, so I think I'll leave that thought alone.)

I've learned two things (at least!) at this game: People are deathly afraid that someone is going to steal "their spot," or broadcast it to the public and secondly, if they're not afraid, they might not have enough sense to know which end of the fishing rod the bullet comes out of.

You don't need to be in outdoor media to create this sense of fear and loathing. Who among you random civilians has not had another random civilian—even a good buddy, sometimes—horn in a honey hole you showed him? Or worse, begin to show it to his own friends? You thought bunnies multiplied exponentially? Your short-eared, two-legged competition is much worse. Not vewy, vewy quiet at Awll!

Remember this when it comes to sharing info about hunting and fishing locations: No good deed goes unpunished.

Now, it's easier to avoid over-sharing if you are mostly a solo outdoorsman, and/or you don't have a high need to show off that you're an expert. Either of those things tends to keep your lips from flapping. Also, it helps if you don't like other people all that much.

If you do have a hunting or fishing buddy, or God-forbid two or three, rate them on a scale before you spill any more beans than you already have during your relationship to date. There are real buddies, who will respect your boundaries and the sovereignty of honey holes, and then there are Facebook buddies, whether they're on social media or not. They're virtually your buddies, but they're not really your buddies. You have to watch them. Ever leave a ham on the counter with a dog in the house? That's what I'm talking about.

Then there are the mystery buddies, in between. They might steal the metaphorical ham, or they might not. At least they know—or you think they know—that they're not supposed to take a bite. But you have to see how it all plays out, and that might take some time.

Not making judgments until all the fact are in isn't exactly procrastination—sometimes you know what you should know before you know you know it.

But it's close enough, and I'll take it.

Outdoor Notes

ROCK THE HILL

Webster's Rock the Hill 36 annual climbing competition with multiple divisions will be held the last week of February at the Chapel Hill Community Center climbing wall. It's the country's oldest indoor climbing event and was moved up a bit this year. Finals are Feb. 28-March 1. Online registration starts Dec. 10 and costs \$35 for residents, \$45 non-residents. There are four divisions—youth, recreation, intermediate, open. Register to climb 3-9 Feb. 28, 9-3 March 1, or 3-9 March at web-trac.townofchapelhill.org.

URBAN ARCHERY

Urban archery deer hunting dates are Jan. 11-Feb. 16, 2025, in the Chapel Hill town limits. Bow hunting only. All state hunting rules apply. Program began here in 2010 but hasn't made a dent in the explosive deer population. Questions? Call the rec dept 919-968-2784.

DUKE FOREST REOPENS

Duke Forest sections Durham, Korstian and Blackwood reopen Dec. 13 for public recreation following the 17th deer herd reduction program that began in September.

INDOOR WINTER SHOWS

Jan. 10-12, Bass & Saltwater Fishing Expo, State Fairgrounds, Raleigh.

Feb. 21-23, Central Carolina Boat & Fishing Expo, Greensboro Coliseum.

March 21-23, Raleigh Convention Boat Show, downtown.

OUTDOOR TOWNS

Top Outdoor Towns selected from 100 destinations by Blue Ridge Outdoor readers were Asheville, large town; Charlottesville, Va., medium town; Gatlinburg, TN, small town; Cherokee, NC, tiny town. The voting was done before Hurricane Helene swamped WNC.

TREES PLANTED

Seventy volunteers planted 530 native trees and plants last month along Bolin Creek in Carrboro in areas where invasives recently were removed.

Friends of Bolin Creek remembered P.H. Craig whose Craig Preserve near Seawell School Road offered protection against development for 77 acres along Bolin Creek. Craig, 87, died Nov. 17.

Outdoor Ice Skating

In addition to the rink at Red Hat Amphitheatre, Raleigh, through Jan. 20 (story elsewhere in this issue), there are two other outdoor skating options in the Triangle. Both are in Cary.

Free ice skating (with free skate rental) is available through Jan. 4 downtown at the rink at Park Street Courts, 327 S. Academy. Closed Dec. 24-26, Jan. 1.

Fenton Skate the Square, 201 Fenton Gateway Dr., costs \$18/ person for 75 minutes plus rentals and operates daily through Feb. 9. Make reservations in advance at waiver-master.com/book/. Mondays are \$15, Tuesdays Holiday Heroes, also \$15.

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Start 2025 outdoors with running, biking, hiking activities on Jan. 1.

Carolina Godiva TC has a 8K in on RiverWalk Greenway in downtown Hillsborough at 1 p.m. and NC Road Runners Pop Up Runs of 2.5m or multiples at Anderson Park, Raleigh, at 8:25 a.m.

N.C. Bike Club holds Jan. 1 rides of 25, 40, 62 miles from MacGregor Draft House, Cary, starting at 10 a.m. No pre-registration. Food and beverages follow the ride.

Greensboro Velo Club's Polar Bear Ride, 3 distances including 62m, starts at 9 a.m. at Cycles de Oro, 701A Hill St., Greensboro. Fees are \$25 adults, \$15 kids at bikereg.com by 12/30 plus 2 cans of food for the food bank. Proceeds go to Out of the Garden.

First Day Hikes are planned at Eno River State Park, Durham, and Jordan Lake (10 a.m., Ebenezer Church) and other state parks.

The Eno River Association will hold two guided Eno hikes—a short 2.5m hike along Back Quarter Creek Trail and a longer 4.5m hike on Cox Mountain Trail. Both are free, start at 2 p.m. in the Fews Ford area and do not require pre registration. Refreshments follow. Arrive early, hikes draw big crowds.

Holiday Events

Skate with Santa Saturday, Dec. 21, 12-3 at Orange County Sportsplex, Hillsborough. Fees charged, treats served. Call 919-644-0399 for public skating dates in December. Fees are \$10.00 for adults, \$8.00 children, \$5.00 skate rental.

Climb with Santa takes place Saturday, Dec. 14, at the Chapel Hill Community Center climbing wall. Seven 45-minute sessions from 9 to 5 are available. Cost is \$12 for residents, \$15 nonresidents. Register at webtrac.townofchapel-hill.org.

Holiday Parades

Sat. Dec. 14, Durham, 10 a.m.; Cary, 2 p.m.

Holiday Skating

Holiday ice skating outdoors will be held daily (except Dec. 25) through Jan. 20 at The Rink at Red Hat Amphitheatre in downtown Raleigh. Cost is \$15 plus fees for two-hour session and includes skate rental. Non-skaters pay \$6. Food and beverages available. Register online at ticketmaster.com/the-rink-at-red-hat-amphitheatre-tickets or ticketsales.com.

Carrboro Film Fest Jan. 24-26, 38 Films

The annual Carrboro Film Fest—new. Southern. film—moves to Jan. 24-26 at the new Drakeford Library Complex, offering 38 films. Early bird passes and tickets are on sale at the filmfreeway.com website. Passes are \$25 in advance, \$35 later. Complete festival schedule's on the website.

A pre-festival kickoff event will be held Jan. 13 at The Chelsea Theatre, Chapel Hill, with a 7 p.m. showing of "The Deciders: Red, Whiteville & Blue." Admission charged.

Highway Repairs

\$5B needed to repair state roads damaged by Helene. The N.C. Dept. of Transportation estimates that it will cost about \$5B to repair state roads, bridges and other infrastructure damaged by September's big storm. That's about 7 times as much as NCDOT has spent on repairs from all previous storms since 2016, and the department likely will have to spread out the work over 6 to 10 years, the News & Observer reported.

Community News

The 69th NAIA football championship will be played Saturday, Dec. 21, at 12 noon at Durham County Memorial Stadium. Details TBA, with preliminary games played on college campuses. Tickets are \$30 at the gate. It's the fourth time the championship was held in Durham.

The Solstice Lantern Walk/Market starts Saturday, Dec. 21, at 5 p.m. at Eno River Farmers' Market Pavilion in Hillsborough and runs till 8 p.m.

The Carolina Inn Holiday Market, Chapel Hill, will be held Dec. 15 12-4 on the lawn, while the Really Super Local Holiday Art Show continues through Dec. 21 at Eno Arts Gallery, Hillsborough.

RECYCLE! RECYCLE!

Another View, Mine John Nieman

Regular visitors to this place are, no doubt, keenly aware of my political leanings. Like most people, I think of myself as right thinking and middle of the road. But I have to confess that I have on various occasions be referred to as a "Commie socialist" and "left of Lenin."

Those opinions may very well be true, but it took me a long time to get there. I have confessed in this space that my stance regarding gays was pretty much Neanderthal in my youth. Something of which I am quite ashamed.

The very same can be said of my early years' position on women's sports. I grew up in the '50s and '60s and women's sports were something of an oddity. I remember my first encounter was not until high school. The women's basketball and softball teams wore dresses as their uniforms. And in basketball, for some strange reason, two players had to stay on the defensive side when their team was attacking.

My arrival at UNC Chapel Hill changed so much of that. I came thinking I was some kind of progressive liberal and realized I fell far short.

And eventually I came upon the UNC women's soccer team. I've written in a previous column about my admiration for Coach Anson Dorrance's remarkable success with that team. I would often tell visitors to Chapel Hill who wanted to understand the sport of soccer to just go watch our women's team play. It was truly a different sport from the men's.

Men's soccer in the '70s and '80s was basically unarmed warfare. Slide tackling was the norm. Referees closely inspected players cleats before each match for good reason. In my life, I've played pretty much every sport there is in this country and the most horrific injuries I've seen were inflicted during soccer matches.

Not the women's game. It was and remains tactical, precise and beautiful to watch.

And not to take away anything from Coach Dorrance's skills, one of the major reasons UNC women's soccer was so dominant was that they offered comparable scholarships to the men.

Institutional gender equity in sport should be such a simple thing to achieve. Offer all of the same opportunities in sport to everyone. Scholarships, facilities, equipment and staff pay should be equal.

The introduction of NIL to collegiate sports should make this even easier. Payments to athletes may widely vary for their

name, image and likeness, but the infrastructure provided by the institutions can and should be equal.

And when I refer to institutions, I'm talking about educational programs and national teams. Professional sports are governed by the market.

For the schools and national teams, the fact that one gender's team generates more income for the school or national federation should not govern how much is spent by gender. Those organizations are supposed to be dedicated to the success of everyone, no matter what their gender.

And as much as I want to say that it is simple, one has to address the issue of transgender athletes. That is not so simple. One easy way to go is to deny the existence of transgender identification. To say that it is just not a thing and to suggest that an athlete is pretending to be another gender in order to gain an advantage.

I just can't accept that. And as a culture I believe we should not.

But life is about perspective and I cannot deny or merely dismiss the perspective of the athlete who is competing against a transgender opponent and feels unfairly treated. I certainly don't agree that the answer is to make it a national issue so that the Ted Cruzes of the world can weigh in with their opinion, but I also believe it should be considered.

As should the perspective of the transgender athlete. Where does equity lie? I just don't know.

On a completely different topic, UNC has completely botched their handling of Coach Mack Brown. I'm sure there are legal and institutional issues of which we're not aware which resulted in this fiasco, but I am hard-pressed to understand what they could possibly be. I cannot for the life of me understand why the announcement could not have waited until the end of the post season.

They clearly did not have a particular candidate in mind. And if their reasoning for dispatching Coach Brown is that he is an old guy who cannot accept his aging and for whom the game has passed him by, I cannot get my head around even considering Bill Belichick, a guy at the same age with a 24-year-old girlfriend.

Martha and I returned from a fantastic Thanksgiving in the Bahamas with our family. So much to be thankful for. It has been a long journey from the mobile home park in Orange County to a 14-place Thanksgiving dinner table in Nassau. *Fat Boy index: 287.*

Media Sportswatch Joel Bulkley

The Charlotte Hornets are accepting applications for the fourth annual Rick Bonnell Memorial Scholarship. Journalism students enrolled at a North Carolina college or university can apply for the \$10,000 scholarship on the Hornets' website. Applications are being accepted until Jan. 6.

Bonnell, the Charlotte Observer sports reporter who covered the Hornets for more than 33 seasons, died at 63 in 2021. This is the fourth year the Charlotte Hornets Foundation awards the scholarship. The current recipient is Shelby Swanson, a UNC student, and reporter for Charlotte/Raleigh.

Recent award winners from National Sports Media Association of Winston-Salem:

NC Broadcaster of the Year, 2023, Eric Collins, Charlotte Hornet broadcaster for Bally Sports, shared the award with Mike Solarte of Spectrum News/Sports, Charlotte. The 2022 winner was Stan Cotton, Wake Forest sports broadcaster.

NC Sportswriter of the Year, Brendan Marks, who covers UNC and Duke for The Athletic. The 2022 winner was Andrew Carter of the N&O.

National Sportscaster of the Year, Kevin Harlon of CBS/Turner/Westwood One. Ian Eagle of CBS/Westwood won in 2022.

National Sportswriter of the Year, Jeff Passon, baseball writer for espn.com. Ken Rosenthal of The Athletic won in 2022.

Best Sports Book Award, 2024, "Why We Love Baseball" by Joe Posnanski.

Best Sports Documentary, 2024, "Beckham," on Netflix, directed by Fisher Stevens.

Best Sideline Reporter, 2024, Holly Rowe, ESPN.

Best Young Reporter, Wynston Wilcox, Memphis Commercial-Appeal.

Arledge Award for Innovation, Peter Gilbert and Stan James, creators of 1994 docu "Hoop Dreams."

Woody Durham, 2024, Voice of College Sports Award, Mark Reis, South Illinois University.

Jim Nantz Award, Derryl Barnes, Senior, University of Miami.

Clarence "Big House" Gaines Award, 23-24, Div. 1, Kevin Keatts, N.C. State (M), and Div. 2, Alfred Jordan, Clark Atlanta (M).

Have you checked out The Assembly, a Durham-based digital magazine? They focus mostly on politics, government, food, but had a recent sports story on Puma Elite running club that likes to run on the American Tobacco Trail. The story by Lauren Wingenroth was about an elite running team that grows in the Triangle. Professional runners often train at altitude or in cities with long histories in the sport, but Puma is making the case for N.C.

ACC Bowl Schedule

- Dec. 18, LA, California/UNLV, 9 p.m., Inglewood, ESPN.
- Dec. 21, Playoff First Round, SMU at Penn State, 12 noon, TNT. Winner plays Boise State.
- Dec. 21, Playoff First Round, Clemson at Texas, 4 p.m., TNT. Winner plays Arizona State.
- Dec. 26, GameAbove, Pitt/Toledo, 2 p.m., Detroit, ESPN.
- Dec. 27, Birmingham, Ga. Tech/Vanderbilt, 3:30 p.m., ESPN.
- Dec. 27, Holiday, Syracuse/Washington State, 10:30 p.m., San Diego, Fox.
- Dec. 28, Fenway, North Carolina/UConn, Boston, 11 a.m., ESPN.
- Dec. 28, Pinstripe, Boston College/Nebraska, 12 noon, NYC, ABC.
- Dec. 28, Pop-Tarts, Miami/Iowa State, 3:30 p.m., Orlando, ABC.
- Dec. 28, Military, NC State/East Carolina, 5:45 p.m., Annapolis, ESPN.
- Dec. 31, Sun, Louisville/Washington, 2 p.m., El Paso, CBS.
- Jan. 2, Gator Bowl, Duke/Ole Miss, 7:30 p.m., Jacksonville, ESPN.
- Jan. 3, Duke's Mayo, Va. Tech/Minnesota, 7:30 p.m., Charlotte, ESPN.