

FREE**ORANGE****SERVING THE TRIANGLE****COMMUNITY
SPORTS NEWS****January 2026
Volume 43
#684****BASKETBALL ★ CYCLING ★ RUNNING ★ OUTDOORS****Where'd These OBX Shrimp Come From?***Story Page 7*

PHOTO: COASTALREVIEW.ORG

**Orange Medalists
At Senior Finals**

Nearly 100 Orange County senior athletes earned medals at the N.C. Senior Games State Finals. Here's an alphabetical list excluding basketball (doubles players listed only once, age groups N/A):

Carolyn Barrett, second table tennis singles, first doubles with Marguerite Ledezio, third mixed doubles with Philip Wise; Jeanette Boxill, first football throw, 70, third softball throw, 34/7; Kerry Branon, first pickleball singles, third D1 doubles with Charlene Whayne; Hairpriya Chinnaswamy, first table tennis singles second tennis doubles with Arlene Green, first table tennis mixed doubles with Siva Vilaspakkam; George Cliette, first football throw, 70, running long jump 7/5, 200m dash 55.75, second shot put,

25, softball throw, 76/1, third 100 dash, 22.96, 50 dash, 11.0; Hurt Covington, second cycling 10K, 18:37.79; Cecilia Csapo, second pickleball doubles D3 with Cheryl Sobnosky, first badminton mixed doubles with Mark Willhoit; Rufus Dalton Jr. third table tennis doubles with Siva Vilaspakkam; Arthur Finn, first table tennis singles; Sergey Furer, third table tennis doubles with Amar Shrestha; Arlene Green, second table tennis singles, first mixed doubles with Amar Shrestha; Jayara Hajarnis, second badminton singles, first mixed doubles with Daryl Jones; Peter Hennigan, first discus throw, 148/8; Mark Herboth, third woodturning; Thomas Hoerger, second 800 run 3:04.20; Jim Holloway, first cornhole doubles with Lee Schimmelfing; Charles Hooker, third billiards; Deane Horowitz, second pickleball singles D1.

Also, John Intintolo, second 100m dash, 13.96, first 200 dash 28.82, third 50m 7.69; Daryl Jones, first badminton singles, doubles with Harish Sadasivan; Ronald Kramer, second 1500 run, 5:52.0; Albert Lauritano, second cycling 5K, 8:39.0, 10K, 18:13.52; Joan Levitt, first 500 yard freestyle, 9:35.65; Steve Levitt, second discus throw, 86/1; Catherine Matthews, second pickleball doubles with Yvonne Galbreath D4, third table tennis doubles with Helen Tompkins, third mixed doubles with Eddie Elliott Jr.; Luis Olivieri-Robert, third softball throw, 93/7; Sarandha Pandit, first badminton doubles with Olha Lowery, second mixed doubles with Lee Schimmelfing; Susan Pappas, second 100m dash, 21.15; Amy Piersma, first badminton

MEDALISTS, Continued on page 4**Orange Seniors
Score In Basketball**

Orange County senior basketball teams scored six medals (five by women) at the N.C. Senior Games State Finals in Greenville, and five players added individual scoring honors for shots made by age group in Raleigh.

Here's a breakdown on Orange hoops teams (3on3 cross court, 12 minute halves):

Orange Sprots 50+, Julie Collins captain, were second, and Steel Cans 50+, Sarah Hains captain, third.

Steel Cans 60+, Lucinda Covington captain, were first, and Orange Sprots 60, captain Betty Haswell, third.

Orange Sprots 70, captain Laurie Renz,
SENIORS, Continued on page 4

**Smith Center
Decision Due**

UNC is still considering replacing the Dean E. Smith Center with a new arena at Carolina North as part of a major mixed use project.

North Carolina plans to issue an RFP in January seeking a master developer for Carolina North, the 250-acre site two miles north of the main campus, Sports Business Journal reported in December. The property was tagged as a potential landing spot for a new Tar Heel basketball arena and basketball museum, but no decision was announced. RFP details were not released. Texas and Ole

Miss also are planning campus mixed use projects with housing and athletic components.

To finally jumpstart the Carolina North development process—the concept was first publicly mentioned in 2008—the university hired RCLCo, an expert on sports facilities, in the fall to consult on planning and implementation strategies and plans.

The magazine said an update given to the UNC Board of Trustees' University Affairs committee in mid-November noted that the Carolina North funding mix will vary by
SMITH CENTER, Continued on page 4

**Spring Leagues
Lining Up Teams***Related Story (Soccer) Page 2*

Kickball, softball, ultimate frisbee, tennis highlight spring adult leagues in Chapel Hill-Carrboro-Durham.

Durham has a co-rec kickball league (16 teams), with signup under way at dprplaymore.org/439/Kickball. Games are Thursday and some Tuesdays starting March 5 at Hern-don Park. Cost is \$28/player for Durham residents 17+, others \$43.

Durham offers co-rec (Mon/Wed at Valley Springs, So. Boundaries) and men's softball

(Tue/Thu at Piney Wood). Practice starts 3/16, games 3/23. Signup is by teams (\$475) Jan. 12-Feb. 26. Non-city players pay an additional \$12 fee. Free agents can get their names on an interest list.

Carrboro has co-rec softball (Tue/Thu) and ultimate leagues (Mon/Wed) at Anderson Park. Ultimate costs \$42/player and co-rec teams are formed after registration. Softball registration is by team (\$500-\$600 depending on number of entries, \$100 deposit required).
SPRING LEAGUES, Continued on page 2

**WNC Recovery
Helped By Snowfall****Jane Winik Sartville
Carolina Public Press**

Tropical Storm Helene hit WNC less than two months before ski season started last winter. At Sugar Mountain in Avery County, the ski patrol building went up in flames, the parking lot buckled, falling trees knocked down the night-light system, the ski shop flooded and minor landslides marred the mountain.

Ironically, after all that, last year was a very good weather year for skiing. It snowed 76 inches on Sugar Mountain and the temps often were low enough for snowmaking.

"That definitely made us work very, very hard to recover from Helene and the damage that she did to the ski area," Kim Jochl, president of the NC Ski Association and vice president at Sugar Mountain Ski Resort, told Carolina Public Press.

"It speaks to the resiliency of the people who live here, the people who work here. They understand the value of working hard so that we can open when the snow flies and the temperatures drop."

As hard as Jochl and her colleagues worked to recover, it was impossible for last ski season to be a true economic boon for the
WNC RECOVERY, Continued on page 6

**Inside:
ACC Hoops
SE Ski Resorts
CX Nationals****Spring Running
Coming Feb. 18;
Outdoor Writer Needed**

The next issue of CSN (Feb. 18) will highlight Spring Running with information on upcoming Chapel Hill/Durham road races including several new ones, plus race results, standings, and Mid Term Grades for ACC men's hoops teams and a story on why fishing is so much fun.

To advertise your race contact joelcsn1@gmail.com. Deadline is 7 days in advance.

CSN is looking for an outdoor writer to help this spring, with an 800-word story each month. If you're interested, contact the paper. Fishers, campers, hikers, bikers, hunters invited.

Sign up for the CSN newsletter on the paper's website for timely previews of each issue.

NCAA Hoops and Spring Biking follow.

NC Distance Races

January 16

Southern Tour Ultra trail, 50m/50K/50m relay, 10 a.m., Wilmington, runsignup.com.

January 17

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

Mount Afton Challenge 2H run, Concord, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

Tsaili Ultra 50K 8am/ 30K 9am/ 8K 9:30am, Bryson City, runsignup.com.

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

January 24

URTB Grind 'n Trail Run 5m/10m, Harris Lake CP, New Hill, 9 a.m., fsseries.com.

5th 48 Miles of Hope 48m 7am/ 10K 11:45am/ 5K 11am/ 48m relay 7am, Winston-Salem, runsignup.com.

18th Asheville Hot Chocolate Races, HM/10K/5K, Dickson Elementary, Asheville, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

January 25

Occoneechee Mtn. Challenge, 10m trail, Historic Speedway Track, Hillsborough, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

January 31

Groundhog Lap Race 12H /6H/3H trail, Haw River SP, Greensboro, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

February 7

Charlotte 10m/4m run, Ballantyne Campus, Charlotte, 7:30 a.m., raceroster.com.

Ghost Run Trail Run, 8/

4m, Forest Ridge Park, Wake Forest, 9 a.m., racereach.com. Live & Virtual.

February 8

Valentine Heartbreaker M/ Relay, Greensboro, 10 a.m., runsignup.com. Live & Virtual.

February 14

Hot Chocolate 15K/10K/5K, First Ward Park, Charlotte, 7:30 a.m. valentineenduranceenmotive.com.

Run Oak Island M/East & West HM/10K/5K, 7 a.m., runsignup.com. Live & Virtual.

February 15

Occoneechee Speedway Relay, 13.5m relay, 2/4 person teams, Hillsborough, 1 p.m., runsignup.com.

February 21-22

Holly Springs Race Against the Sun, 24H/12H/Relay, Holly Springs, 7 a.m. runsignup.com.

February 21

MRT 5K-50K, Statesville Soccer Complex, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

Queen Anne's Revenge Ultra 20K/50K/relay, Greenville, 7:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

February 28

Wake Forest Historic Half /7K, Wake Forest, 7:30 a.m., fsseries.com.

Ellerbe M/HM, Ellerbe, 8 a.m., ultrasignup.com.

4th Land and Lakes Relay, 61m, Asheville to Lake James, Swannanoa, 5 a.m., raceroster.com.

Wilmington M/HM/5K, Wrightsville Beach, 7 a.m., runsignup.com. Live & Virtual.

10K, Jacksonville, 8:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

January 31

10th Celebration Run/Walk (Kay Yow Cancer Run) 4K untimed, WMSP, Cary, 11 a.m., runsignup.com.

Frigid Trail Race & Polar Plunge 5K/10K trail, Charlotte Whitewater Center, 9 a.m., whitewater.org/race-forms.

Viking Dash 5K/10K trail, Hagan Stone Park, Pleasant Garden, 10am, runsignup.com.

February 1

43rd Winter Flight 8K/5K, & RRCA State Championship 8K, Catawba College, Salisbury 2 p.m., runsignup.com.

February 7

Original Krispy Kreme Challenge 5m/5m novelty eat donuts & run, 5 divisions, NC State Bell Tower, Hillsborough St., Raleigh, 8am raceentry.com

The Trudge 5K, Wilmington, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

Viking Dash Cape Fear 10K/5K trail, Winnabow, 10 a.m., runsignup.com.

February 8

Big Game 4 Miler, Charlotte, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

February 14

Sole Mates 5K/6.5m Wake-MedSP, Cary, 9 a.m., mass start. Live & Virtual.

Viking Dash Trail Run 5K /10K, Harris Lake, New Hill, 10 a.m., runsignup.com.

Azalea Sun Run 5K, UNC-W, 8 a.m. runsignup.com.

Cupid's Crawl 5K/10K, Elm Street Park, Greenville, 8:45 a.m., runsignup.com. Live & Virtual.

Cupid's Run 5K, Station Park, Knightdale, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

February 15

45th Run for Roses 5K & couples comp, Walnut Creek Complex, Raleigh, 2 p.m., runsignup.com.

Love the Run You're With 5K, indiv & couples, Wake-MedSP, Cary, 9 a.m., itsyourrace.com.

February 21

Cupid's Undie Run 1m for 21+, Motorco Music Hall, Durham, 2 p.m., join.ctf.org/event/2026-cupids-undie-run-raleigh-durham/e705252

2nd Play 4 Kay 5K, Fayetteville, 9 a.m. active.com.

Polar Plunge and Run 5K, run-plunge or both, Kure Beach 1:30 p.m. runsignup.com.

February 22

NCRC 15th Snoopy's Social Run, 5m and hotdogs, Raleigh, 2:30 p.m., Signup TBA.

February 28

2nd Duke Time for Time 5K Color Run, Duke East Campus, Durham, 10 a.m., runsignup.com.

Inaugural Donut 8K, Jones Elem. School, Asheville, 8:30 a.m., raceroster.com.

NPSNC Match for Sickle Cell 5K, Union Point Park, New Bern, 9 a.m., runsignup.com. Live & Virtual.

Tar Heel Distance Races In March

7, Umstead Trail M, Raleigh. Moore Co. M/HM, Pinehurst. Live Well HM/5K, Greenville. Corporate Cup HM, Charlotte.

15, Tobacco Road M/HM, Cary.

21, All America HM/5K, Fort Bragg, Asheville M/HM, Asheville.

22, Cary Greenways HM/10K/5K, Cary. Tower Climb Hill 10m, Pittsboro.

28, Lake Norman HM/5K, Mooresville. Only Fools Run HM/10K/5K, Greensboro.



NC Music Festivals

February

5-7, 46th North Carolina Jazz Festival, Hotel Ballast, Wilmington., etix.com.

6-7, Appalachian State Old-Time Fiddlers Convention, Plemmons Student Union, ASU, Boone. Free.

13-15, 31st Bluegrass First Class, Crown Plaza Resort, Asheville.

19-March 8, NC HIP Music Festival, Triangle, chamber music groups,; venues in Chapel Hill, Durham, Raleigh, Hillsborough.

26-28, 49th Carolina Jazz Festival, UNC—Thu night at Sharp 9 Gallery, Durham, UNC Faculty Jazz with baritone sax Jason Marshall; Fri, Rahsaan Barber Quartet, UNC Jazz Combos at UNC, jam session at Imbibe, Chapel Hill, 9:30 p.m.; Sat, Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Festival at UNC, 9-6, UNC Jazz Band 4:30 p.m.

U.S. National Soccer

January

24, USWNT v. Paraguay, Carson City, CA, 5:30 p.m., TNT, Universo.

27, USWNT v. Chile, Santa Barbara, 10 p.m., TBS, Universo.

March

28, USMNT v. Belgium, Atlanta, 3:30 p.m., TNT, Universo.

31, USMNT v. Portugal, Atlanta, 7 p.m., TBS, Universo.

Community News

Sunday, Jan. 25, is National Girls and Women Sports Day at UNC. Activities at the Koman Practice Complex 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. will involve UNC players from women's teams interacting with kids pre-k through eighth grade.

There is no charge to participate, and everyone (including parents/guardians) who registers in advance will receive a complimentary ticket to the UNC women's basketball game against Syracuse that day at 2 p.m. at Carmichael Arena.

NC Road Races

January 24

Sanford Resolution Run 5K, Sanford, 8:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

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

8th Ainsley's Angels Frosty 5K, Wilmington, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

Be Their Voice 5K, Fayetteville, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

12th Beat the Bridge 5K/

NC Multisport Races

February 28

Northeast Park Sprint Duathlon, run 1m, 10.5m bike, 1m run, Gibsonville, 10 a.m., runsignup.com.first event in Trivium Series.

NC Bike Rides

February 1

Winter Warm Up Criterium by Mountain Events, Kernersville, 10 a.m., bikereg.com.



Spring Soccer Options Expand



Spring soccer options aplenty for adults.

Durham offers women 30+ 9v9 league at Herndon Park and Merrick-Moore. Games are Mon/Wed starting 3/16. Cost is \$39 for Durham players, others \$54. Questions? Contact Jennifer Bearman 919-560-4355 ext. 27229.

OCASL spring registration starts Jan. 12 at ocasl@tasl. Divisions & League Fees: Open Recreation (Kaminsky 1, Studdard 2 and O'Hara 3), Coed Rec Divisions, \$115/player, 11v11, 10 games, 45m halves, Saturday. Over 40 Anderson Division, (O40 men/O30 women), \$105 fee, 8v8, 40m halves, Tuesday; Over 30 Division, \$105 fee, 8v8, 40m halves, Wednesday; Over 50 Pickup Nights, \$85 fee. Register for a team Closer to 70 than 80, 10 Mondays, 10 Thursdays. Games begin March 7.

Rainbow Soccer, Chapel Hill, has 11v11 adult soccer and over 40 pickup. League runs March 2-May 30. Register on the website. Fees are charged.

TASL has a women age 18+ 8v8 recreational league starting Feb. 21. Cost is \$70/player for six games plus \$30 state association fee. Games are Sunday night. Register on Triangle Adult Soccer League (TASL) website. Questions? Call 919-341-4554.

Chatham Co. Parks & Rec will have soccer open play twice a week (Sunday afternoon and Wednesday night) in March and April at Earl Thompson Park and Briar Chapel Park field 4. Free.

SPRING LEAGUES, Continued from page 1

Signup ends March 13 and games start late March. Register online or in-person. The Rec Dept. office is now in the new Drakeford building downtown.

USTA tennis leagues for Chapel Hill/Durham players are now run by Eno Community Tennis Association rather than Durham Parks & Rec. They have five this spring for 18+, 40+, 55+, but the signup deadline is Jan. 14 for teams. Matches begin in February. Check enocitta.tennis.

Chapel Hill begins signup in March for spring co-rec volleyball and bocce leagues that start in April. VB costs \$125/team with matches at Community Center, Rashkis or Hargraves. Bocce (\$125) plays on the court outside the Community Center. Winter Hockey Leagues

The Orange County Sportsplex, Hillsborough (Triangle Hockey League) has four separate adult hockey leagues. Three are divided by skill level and an Over 40 division. Teams play once a week. Winter season is under way. Check the website for registration info. It's expensive.

They also offer learn to skate programs for kids and adults, as well as public skating sessions.

Upcoming CSN Issues:

Digital Only

Feb. 18, Spring Running,
ACC Hoops Midterm Grades
March 18, NCAA HOOPS

For ads, email joelcsn1@gmail.com

Deadline 7 days in advance

COMMUNITY SPORTS NEWS

Published monthly

Covering adult sports and recreation
Distributed free in Orange County, from Jordan
Lake to Hillsborough, Mebane

Chief Editor Joel Bulkley

Advertising rates and publication schedule
available upon request. *One copy per person;*
additional copies may be purchased from CSN.

311 Granville Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27514
joelcsn1@gmail.com • Circa 1983

www.community-sports-news.com

Rock The Hill Indoor Climbing

Webster's Rock the Hill indoor climbing competition will be held March 13-15 at the Chapel Hill Community Center. It will be the 37th edition, longest running event of its kind in the country, and the final one on the original wall before it is replaced later in the spring.

The wall covers more than 5,000 sq. ft. of rock, wood, bolts, holds, with 40 routes.

Registration is under way. Climbers complete the route March 13 (9am-3pm) or March 14 (9-3 or 3-9) at the Community Center. Top three (M/F/non binary) scorers in each division advance to March 15 finals starting at 2 p.m.. They will be livestreamed. Five divisions: youth, recreational, intermediate, open, adaptive. Limited to 120 climbers. Cost is \$35/Orange County, others \$40 at webtrac.townofchapelhill.org by Feb. 20.

OCASL Fall Season Leaders

Division leaders for OCASL soccer fall season:

Over 30—Mountain Goat FC (8-1-1, 25 points) was the fall season winner based on goal differential (1 more than TugBoat Depot). Most goals scored: Mountain Goat FC (66). Fewest goals allowed: Mountain Goat FC (16).

Over 40—Beercelona (9-1-0, 28) champion. Most goals scored: Stroke City (49). Fewest goals allowed: Beercelona (14).

Kaminsky Rec 1—Woodcroft SC (4-0-0, 12) was the champion. Most goals scored: Woodcroft (15). Fewest goals allowed: Woodcroft (4).

Studdard Rec 2—Head Game Strong (4-0-0, 12) champion. Most goals scored: Head Game Strong (12). Fewest goals allowed: Head Game Strong (5).

O'Hara Rec 3—AR United 92 (4-1-1, 13) was the champion. Most goals scored: Baby Ballers (24). Fewest goals allowed: Baby Ballers (9).

Coed 11—LFG

Primary Ballot Fills Out For March 3

Democratic primaries for U.S. Senate and Congress and state legislature headline the March 3 ballot in Orange County, but three races—county commissioner (3 seats), sheriff, register of deeds—highlight the spring Democratic primary local ballot. Barring a runoff, the winners will be on the November ballot.

Orange County Commissioner, District 1, incumbent Bedford v. challenger Palmer, Dist. 2, challenger Bronson v. incumbent McKee and at-large challengers Beeman v. Stegman. The incumbent is retiring.

Sheriff, incumbent Blackwood v. challenger LaBarre.

Register of Deeds, challengers McLamb v. Rich. The incumbent is retiring.

Early voting starts Feb. 8 and allows registration for new voters. A number of other area candidates running for re-election are unopposed in the primary but their names will be on the March ballot.

NASCAR Events Increase In N.C.

The NASCAR schedule for 2026 is expanding here with April events at Rockingham Speedway (AKA The Rock) in Richmond County. Rockingham will host the April 3 NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series race (200 laps), April 4 ARCA Menards Series East Race. (it's Easter weekend) and April 11 O'Reilly Auto Parts 200 lap night race. The track was purchased recently by International Hot Rod Association (IHRA) which plans to increase auto races and entertainment shows. Previous owners made improvements and investments to upgrade the

track and spark the new events.

Other Tar Heel NASCAR races: Feb. 1, Clash at Bowman Gray Stadium, Winston-Salem (8 p.m., 200 laps); May 24, Coca Cola 600 (5 p.m., 400 laps), Charlotte Motor Speedway; Oct. 11, BOA Roval 400 (109 laps), Charlotte.

Additional N.C. truck race dates are May 22, N.C. Education Lottery, 200 laps at Charlotte; July 18 at North Wilkesboro; Oct. 9 at Charlotte.

Community News

Unbeaten Triad Elite topped second seed Bull City Bullies 75-62 to win the fall men's basketball championship at Orange County Sportsplex, Hillsborough. Triad went 6-0, Bull City 4-2 in the regular season.

Florida State beat Stanford 1-0 in Kansas City for the D-1 NCAA women's soccer championship. Washington stopped NC State 3-2 in OT for the men's title in Cary.

Five schools will compete in the ACC fencing championship at Duke's Cameron Indoor Stadium, Durham, Feb. 21-22 in five weapons, starting at 8 a.m. Schools are Duke, UNC, Notre Dame, Boston College, Stanford.

UNC Hockey Club Faces Home Slate

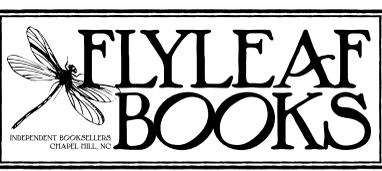
UNC hockey club struggled through the fall portion of the schedule (5-6-2), but has six of the first seven in the second half of the year at home where they're 3-1.

The Tar Heels hosted West Chester and Temple and will play Oregon (3 p.m. Jan. 24) at Orange County Sportsplex, Hillsborough, and at Fort Bragg (11 a.m. Jan. 25) before hosting division mate Louisville (8:30 p.m. Jan. 30, 10:15 Jan. 31), Cincinnati (7 p.m. Feb. 6) and the next day in Charlotte before hitting the road against Lehigh for two games to close out the regular season.

Carolina is third place (2-4-0-1) in the ACCHL's M1 South division with 6 points. NC State and Kentucky have 13, Louisville is fifth (3 points).

Basketball Notes

Former UNC basketball star Tyler Hansbrough, former Florida State Coach Leonard Hamilton and Texas Tech Coach Calvin Sampson were among new selections for the N.C. Sports Hall of Fame. They will be inducted in the spring in Greensboro as the organization's Raleigh home (NC History Museum) is closed for renovations until 2028 ... One of the most exciting moments at Carolina game this season was after USC Upstate when YouTube superstar MrBeast gave away more than \$250,000 in a suitcase for a FT shooting contest ... UNC sold 479 fewer season tickets to men's basketball this season, presumably due to hefty price increases ... UNC at Virginia will be played Jan. 24 at 2 p.m. (ESPN) ... The new book by former UNC basketball walk-on Jackson Watkins is "Dream On: From Backyard to Biscuits," sharing his journey from JV to varsity, including memorable moments like the "Biscuit Boys" era. Copies can be ordered from his website ... FC (8-0-1, 25) was the champion. Most goals scored: LFG FC (38). Fewest goals allowed: Unicorns FC (14).



FLYLEAF BOOKS
INDEPENDENT BOOKSELLERS

752 MLK Blvd. (Airport Rd.), Chapel Hill
Mon-Sat 9-8, Sun 10-7

Tel: 919-942-7373 flyleafbooks.com

Pickleball Winners

Division winners at 6th Nutcracker pickleball tournament outdoors in Durham (115 players):

MDoubles 3.0 — Nico Camp/Nathan Cooksey.
MDoubles 3.0 50+ — Bob Citrin / Mike Lamson.
MDoubles 3.5 — Komoljit Singh / Sirakishna Pappireddy.
MDoubles 3.5 50+ — Bob Tian/Jacky Zhu.
WDoubles 2.5 — Dyana Paredes / Chalice Overy.
WDoubles 2.5 50+ — Cynthia Cole / Tammy Atkins.
WDoubles 3.0 — Kimberlin Schmidt / Molly Van Dyne.
WDoubles 3.0 50+ — Molly Devaney / Jill Pafford.
WDoubles 3.5-4.0 — Estifania Chua / Meghan De los Reyes.
WDoubles 3.5 50+ — Liisa Purtell / Ivonne Rodriguez.
MixDoubles 2.5 — Greta Neigher / Clay Weigher.
MixDoubles 3.0 — Hayen Lee / Lite Lim.
MixDoubles 3.5 — Karen Courtney / Joshua Kalish.

Upcoming PB Tournaments

Feb. 20-22, The Thaw, Pickles & Play, Chapel Hill. Registration ends 2/15.

Feb. 21, advanced beginners, Orange Co. Sportsplex, Hillsborough, 8 a.m., \$45, gfinch@oc-sportsplex.com.

March 6-8, 5th Bull City Open, Piney Wood Park, Durham. Registration ends 2/23.
March 12-15, Winter BodyArmor State Games Pickleball, Pin Point, downtown Raleigh, divisions: 10+, 35+, 50+, 65+; \$60/player plus \$15 each event, deadline 3/1 at ncsports.org.

April 18-19, Dink4Choice 2026, Ephesus Park, Chapel Hill. Registration ends 4/12.

April 24-26, The Farm Spring Pickleball Smash with juniors, Chapel Hill. Registration ends 4/19.

Sign up for most events at app.pickleball-den.com.

Indoor Pickleball

Orange County has open gym pickleball Tuesday-Thursday 11-2 at Central Rec Center, downtown Hillsborough. Free. Use the rear entrance to the building to check in. No PB Jan. 20-21. B ring your own paddle or trade your ID for loaner.

Chapel Hill holds open gym for pickleball Monday-Friday 10-1 at the Chapel Hill Community Center, S. Estes Drive. Fees charged. Call 919-968-2780 to confirm as schedule can change.

Polar Plunge Feb. 21 For Special Olympics

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office Polar Plunge for Special Olympics NC takes place Saturday, Feb. 21, 9-1 at Seaforth Swim Beach at Jordan Lake off US64, Pittsboro. Breakfast and coffee provided. Cost to plunge is \$75 for an individual, \$375 for a 5-member team.

The fundraising goal is \$60,000. Register at specialolympicsnc.com.



Senior Baseball Offers 4 Age Groups

Players interested in playing senior baseball can check out the Central NC Men's Senior League.

The wood bat league plays April-September and offers four age divisions—18+, 32+, 50+, 60+. They had 29 teams last season and the 18s played their All Star Game at Chapel Hill High in July and the 50s at Durham Athletic Park.

Players can spend \$250-\$350 each per season as they share team expenses like field rental, umpires, balls, insurance for 20+ games. Amounts vary depending on sponsorship and equipment needs. Games are generally weekend afternoons at high schools, parks across the Triangle area so some travel is involved.

Playoff fields are provided by the league and are often in Cary or Durham. Contact info@cnmsbl.com with questions. Player signup is around the corner.

Rugby Matches Start Jan. 24

Durham-based Tobacco Road rugby club jumps into the spring 15s season with two Carolinas men D3 home matches in January—Jan. 24, 1 p.m., Southern Pines and Jan. 31, 1 p.m., Onslow. They have six spring matches and are looking for new players. No rugby experience required.

The club practices Tuesday/Thursday 7-9 p.m. at Herndon Park in southern Durham. Home matches are played at the Holt Athletic Association Fields on Hedgegrow Place in North Durham. The club upgraded and resized the field last spring before Chantal and Eno River stormed the area with 6 feet of water in early July, forcing repairs and cleanup.

Local News Tidbits

New hours are in effect for Orange County Library, Hillsborough, and Southern Branch, Carrboro.: Mon-Thu 9-7, Fri-Sat 9-6, Sun 12-6.

TET Vietnamese New Year Festival Sunday, Jan. 18, at Dorton Arena, State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, 10 to 6:30 p.m., features dance, performances, demonstrations, games, Vietnamese food. Admission is \$20.

First Sunday food truck rodeo of the season at Durham Central Park downtown is Feb. 22, 12-4, with 50+ trucks expected.

Coming Up in CSN:



February 18
Spring Running
ACC Hoops Midterm Grades



March 18
NCAA Hoops

To advertise,
contact joelcsnl@gmail.com
Deadline 7 days in advance

Buy Local
Every Day
And Support
Local Businesses

Off The Dribble

Early ACC Observations

Chip Bremer

Now that the in-conference schedule has started for ACC teams, it's time to move beyond the pre-season speculation and focus on some of the early trends that will affect where these teams stand come March. Here's a few early observations:

Duke is still the one to beat.

Just when you think there might be a chink in the Blue Devils' collective armor, they seem to find a way of quickly stifling any aspirations of upset-minded teams. Cam Boozer is every bit the workhorse he was expected to be—leading the team in virtually every statistical category, and the rest of his teammates are starting to carve out their own roles around what he already does.

The three-guard set of Caleb Foster, Isaiah Evans and Cayden Boozer has helped minimize turnovers and streamline the offense. As long as the frontcourt rotation remains consistent and fellow freshmen Nikolas Khamenia and Dame Sarr continue to develop alongside big Boozer, Duke will be tough to dethrone as ACC champions.

SMITH CENTER, Continued from page 1

project, but it could include public-private partnerships in addition to fully university-funded efforts. The development will, or could, entail:

- Undergraduate/graduate student housing
- Workforce housing
- Retail
- Hotel
- New athletics facilities
- Expanded academic and research programs and facilities

UNC trustees also heard a pitch in July from a group of investors interested in putting a cricket oval at the new development, according to SBJ.

Populous, a Kansas City design firm, produced a site study for the university over a year ago, which targeted five potential new sites, including Carolina North, as well as addressing whether the Tar Heel basketball's 40-year-old Smith Center could be suitably renovated. Since then, the former Horace Williams Airport property appeared to be the leading candidate, along with the idea of having an entertainment district with hotel, restaurants, shops for an enhanced fan experience, revenue generator.

But a flurry of events in mid-December could have slowed down the project. University officials held meetings with focus and booster groups and a video call with former players who asked for their voices to be heard and the arena be kept on campus.

This occurred after a statement opposing the off-campus move, signed by 91 former players, boosters, alumni and donors, arrived. The signees included Tyler Hansbrough and Wanda Williams. UNC officials downplayed the opposition.

Meanwhile, the idea of developing the North Campus keeps growing. The main campus is aging and they're adding 5,000 more students over the next several years so new dorms, labs and academic facilities are needed. The health affairs campus continues growing as well. The chancellor is the leading cheerleader for the new arena.

Also growing are neighborhood and community concerns here about noise and traffic that would be generated by the new 16,000-seat arena and the threat caused by new construction to the trails and forests of Carolina North.

The General Assembly last year limited local governments in four countries including Orange from reviewing and impacting or restricting state construction. The other three are Buncombe, Watauga, Wake.

Joel Bulkley

Race for POY is already narrowing. Speaking of Cam Boozer, what was previously a three-horse race between him, Louisville's Mikel Brown, and UNC's Caleb Wilson is currently narrowing down to just the Duke freshman. Brown has been injured for a significant amount of time, and Wilson is still limited with his opportunities due to the Heels' backcourt inconsistencies.

There's plenty of time for others to emerge, such as SMU's Boopie Miller, who is having an amazing season, and Louisville's Ryan Conwell, who is stepping up in Brown's absence. But Boozer appears to have a tight grip on that honor right now, as he still leads the ACC in points per game, is top five in rebounds, and is the key facilitator for the best team in the conference.

Road wins remain at a premium.

One of the key determinants for the ACC championship is still the amount of wins a team can steal on the road. A winning road record is always a formula for winning the conference, and as interconference competition has intensified this year, it will be even more difficult to come away with quality road wins. With all the competition it faced at neutral events in the preseason, Duke further demonstrated its proficiency in this area with a big comeback win in Louisville.

Conversely, if a team can't seem to hold its home court, they likely will be relegated to the ACC basement, as Boston College, Pittsburgh and Florida State are already noticing.

West Coast teams are surprising.

Ever since they joined the conference a year ago, expectations for California and Stanford have been minimal and their adjustment period was expected to be significant. However, with the emergence of superstar freshman Ebuka Okorie, the Cardinal have turned heads—especially with the win over a ranked Louisville team (even though Brown's injury probably helped).

On the other hand, Cal—despite its weak schedule—also has been a revelation, as the trio of Dai Dai Ames, Justin Pippen and Chris Bell continues to fill up the stat sheet every time they take the floor. Maybe the addition of these teams wasn't such a bad move after all.

Middle of the field is still wide open.

Behind Duke, the next tier within the conference is led by SMU, UNC, Virginia, and Louisville (when Brown returns from injury). However, Clemson, Virginia Tech, Wake Forest, Syracuse, NC State, Miami, and the aforementioned west coast teams all have a chance to reach that tier and even challenge Duke for the conference lead. In all likelihood, this means the ACC should at least double their NCAA bids from a year ago and ensure its place as the most competitive conference in the country.

Community News

Second Annual Chili Cookoff at Steel String Brewery at Pluck Farm, NC54W, Mebane, takes place Jan. 25 at 1 p.m. Ten competitors vie for prizes. W94th St Pub, Woodcroft SC, Durham, has annual chili cookoff the same day at 3 p.m.

25th Annual African American Cultural Festival will be held Jan. 31 at a new location, the NC Museum of Art, Raleigh, 10:30-4:30. Performances, panels, story telling will be featured. It moved because N.C. History Museum downtown is being renovated.

State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, hosts the N. C. Vintage Bazaar (clothing, games) Jan. 17-18. Hours are 12-7. General admission \$10/day plus fees, early bird tickets (11 a.m. entry) \$15 from eventbrite.com. Different vendors each day.



The Homestead skatepark in Chapel Hill re-opened in mid December after a major upgrade and redesign following 25 years of use. Durable steel-reinforced elements and poured concrete replaced the old wood-frame ramps and different skill-level zones were added. Skaters will find smoother transitions, a custom-built bowl and integrated street and transition features. The town will finish up painting and landscaping in the spring. The project began in August, funded by \$500,000 in ARPA monies, was designed and completed by Fifth Pocket Skatepark of Pennsylvania. Design work was paid for by Penny for Parks. It's open daily 9-8 and has lights. Free.

PHOTO BY SUSAN KELLY

World Cup Notes

USMNT In Charlotte For World Cup Tuneup

The U.S. Men's national soccer team will play Senegal Sunday, May 31, at 3:30 p.m. at Bank of America Stadium, Charlotte, in the next to the last tuneup before the World Cup. This could be the closest U.S. fans in the Triangle get to see the U.S. team in person.

WC prep games for the U.S. wrap up June 6 at Soldier Field in Chicago against Germany. The first U.S. game in the WC is June 12 on the west coast.

Senegal advanced to the Round of 16 in the last World Cup and is ranked 19th in the latest FIFA update, Team USA is 14. Tickets for the Allstate Continental Classico range from \$73 to \$387 at ticketmaster.com.

\$50M Payout For WC Winner

The World Cup will feature the biggest prize in the history of the tournament, with the winner taking home a record \$50 million. That's up from \$42 million four years ago and \$2.2 million back in 1982, the first year FIFA publicized the prize money. Total prize money 655M, up 50 percent.

Full payouts: champion (\$50M); runner-up (\$33M); 3rd place (\$29M); 4th place (\$27M); 5th-8th place (\$19M); 9th-16th place (\$15M); 17th-32nd place (\$11M); 33rd-48th place (\$9M).

Water Breaks Set For All WC Games

FIFA plans mandatory 3-minute hydration breaks in every World Cup match, occurring at the 22-minute mark of each half, regardless of weather, effectively splitting games into four quarters for player welfare and broadcaster appeal.

This is a new, universal policy, moving away from the previous conditional breaks only for extreme heat, with the clock running and time added to stoppage and is required in all host countries.

SENIORS, Continued from page 1

were third.

Men 70+, Double Nickels, captain Kevin Kelly, were second.

Double Nickels went 2-1 in pool play losing to Land of Waterfalls. As a #2 seed in knockout round, they defeated Greenville in OT by 1 point and lost to LOF by 9 in the gold medal game. Kevin Reily was the leading scorer, followed by Chuck Friend.

Here are OC medalists for basketball shooting (players take three shots at 6 specific locations, 18 total):

M70-74, Chuck Friend, third, made 13. The winner had 15.

W55-59, Catherine Mills, first, made 13.

W70-74, Jo Ann Shelby, first, made 12, and Catherine Matthews, second, made 9

W85-89, Jeanette Boxill, first, made 6.

MEDALISTS, Continued from page 1

singles, doubles with Virginia Wallace; Sharon Roggenbuck, first cycling 1 mile, 3:27.92, 5K 12:56.03, 10K 26:54.64, second 100m dash, 26.82, 200 dash, 59.98, first 400 dash, 2:30.21, second 50m dash, 12.64.

Also, Kevin Rumsey, first 400 dash, 1:20.66, third 500 run, 3:03.06, 1500 run, 5:48.18; Harish Sadasivan, first badminton singles; Lee Schimmelfing, first bocce, badminton doubles with Milt Sherman; Aurel Selezeanu, second pickleball singles; Amar Shrestha, third table tennis singles, cornhole doubles with Mike Royster; Leslye Sinn, third mixed media 2D; Steven Smith, first billiards; Roxanne Springer, first 400 dash, 1:14.52, 800 run, 2:51.26, 1500 run, 5:51.71; Kim Steffan first quilting (hand stitched), third photography; Tom Swanekamp, first bocce; Helen Tompkins, Quanda Turner, first running long jump, 7/8, third shot put 20/7, second standing long jump, 4/9, 100m dash, 19.33, 200 dash 44.64, 50m dash, 9.88; Mike Valle, first discus throw, 61/3, third shot put 22/8; Virginia Wallace, first badminton singles, mixed doubles with David Hosteller; Mark Williamson, third discus throw, 97/11, second football throw, 65, first standing long jump, 7/3.

2026 Senior Games

Sports and Silver Arts competition in the Orange County Senior Games for men/women 50+ will be held April 9-May 6 throughout the county. Competition is by age group in five-year brackets for men and women. Medalists can advance to the state finals in the fall.

Registration starts Feb. 2 at ncseniorgames.org/orange, with early bird deadline March 20 (\$15.00), and final deadline March 27 (\$20.00). Golf and bowling have additional costs.

SIGN UP FOR CSN NEWSLETTER TODAY for highlights from each new issue

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.

Ski Mountaineering Added To Olympics

Winter Olympics in Milan/Cortina to add a new sport, ski mountaineering which combines uphill sprinting (on boots and skis) and downhill skiing. It's a popular backcountry sport that will debut in February and feature men/women sprints and a mixed relay. The Olympics are Feb. 6-22 (NBC).

Best Resorts For Families

Top-rated U.S. ski resorts for families, according to OnTheSnow.com, were

1. Keystone, CO.
2. Steamboat, CO.
3. Park City Mountain Resort, UT.
4. Deer Valley, UT.
5. Northstar, CA.

Most Affordable

Most Affordable Ski Resorts in the U.S.: East, Wildcat Mountain, NH; Mad River Glen, VT; Magic Mountain, VT
Lots of variables: date, time of season, etc.
OnTheSnow.com

Backcountry Ski Spots in NE

from *AI*, powder.com

The best East Coast backcountry ski destinations offer diverse terrain, from big mountain adventure to accessible glades, with top spots including Mount Washington (NH) for iconic ravines (Tuckerman/Huntington), the White Mountains (NH) for classic trails like Wildcat Valley, Acadia National Park (ME) for unique coastal views, the Adirondacks (NY) (Mt. Marcy), and Bolton Valley (VT) for accessible powder, with options for beginners at places like Mt. Watatic (MA). Expect variable, often icy conditions that demand patience but reward with steep, challenging, and classic Northeast skiing.

Carrboro Film Fest

Here's the schedule for the 20th Carrboro Film Fest, new Southern film, at the Drakeford Library Complex:

Jan. 23

7:00pm Opening Film: *Leads* (feature film)
9:00pm Opening Night Reception,
Drakeford Library Complex, 3rd Floor

Jan. 24

11:00am Funding Your Film With PBS NC and Southern Documentary Fund (workshop)
12:30pm Keystone Species (short films)
3:00pm Mile Markers (short films)
5:30pm Discoveries (student short films)
8:30pm Embrace the Echo (short films)

Jan. 25

12:00pm The True Cost of Power (short films)
1:30pm Keep Holding (short films)
4:00pm Closing Film: Minnie Evans: *Draw or Die* (feature film)

Tickets available at filmfreeway.com.
Festival passes sold out.

RECYCLE! RECYCLE!



CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS

SE Ski Resorts

Excluding North Carolina (CSN, Dec 2025), here are SE ski resorts:

Virginia

BRYCE RESORT—in Bayse, near I-81, 8 slopes, 7 lifts, vertical drop 500, night skiing, terrain park, tubing, 540-856-212, bryceresort.com.

MASSANUTTEN—off I-81 about 20 miles east of Harrisonburg, 14 slopes, 8 lifts, longest run .77m. largest vertical drop (1155 ft) in VA, first Va. resort with snowboarding, also tubing, night skiing, terrain parks, all trails open to skiers, snowboarders, skiboarders, 540-289-4954, massresort.com.

OMNI HOMESTEAD RESORT—off US 220 near Hot Springs, 9 slopes, 2 lifts, vertical drop 700, snowboarding, terrain park, tubing, snowshoeing, XC skiing, skating, snowmobile tours, region's oldest resort (1959), best known for pampering and amenities, like tomahawk throwing, ebikes, 540-839-1766, thomestead.com.

WINTERGREEN—on Rt. 664, 43 miles SW of Charlottesville, largest resort in state, 23 trails, 5 lifts, longest run 1.40m, vertical drop 1,003, snowboarding, terrain park, skating, night skiing, tubing and largest tubing park in state, visit Adventure Dome for interactive games, 800-607-7669, wintergreenresort.com.

West Virginia

CANAAN VALLEY—state park ten miles south of Davis off WVA 32, 47 slopes, 5 lifts, vertical drop 850, longest run 1.13m, snowboarding, terrain park, tubing, snowshoeing, XC skiing, night skiing (11 trails), skating, airboarding after taking a class, sleigh rides, uphill, 800-622-4121, canaanresort.com.

SNOWSHOE MOUNTAIN—20 miles north of Marlinton, largest ski resort in SE, three mountains (including Silver Creek) with 57 slopes, 14 lifts, vertical drop 1,500, longest run 1.5m, night skiing, snowboarding, terrain parks, tubing, XC skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, uphill, 877-441-4FUN, snowshoemtn.com. Snowshoe, SE's best-known resort, has capacity limits so advance tickets are suggested.

TIMBERLINE MOUNTAIN—254 Four Seasons Dr., Davis, in Canaan Valley, 3 miles from WV Rt. 32, 304-403-2174, 36 slopes/trails (5 dedicated glades), 4 lifts, vertical drop 1,000, SE longest run 2m. Formerly Timberline Four Season Resort, was purchased by Perfect North Slopes Inc. of Indiana which recently put \$11M in capital improvements, alpine skiing, snowboarding. timberlineresort.com.

WINTERPLACE—2 miles off I-77 exit 28 in Ghent, 27 slopes, 9 lifts, vertical drop 603, longest run 1.25m, snowboard park, terrain park, largest tubing area in state, night skiing, 800-607-7669, winterplace.com.

OGLEBAY RESORT—Route 88N, 4 miles off I-70, exit 2A, Wheeling, skiing, snowboarding, 18 slopes, terrain park, 168 foot vertical drop, 877-406-1787, ogelbay-resort.com. Well known for the holiday Festival of Lights, good zoo.

Others

WISP AT DEEP CREEK, MD—on Marsh Mountain in Deep Creek Lake, 34 slopes, 11 lifts, vertical drop 700, longest run 1.5m, snowboarding, tubing park, terrain parks, ice skating, XC skiing, snowshoeing, mountain coaster, 800-462-9477 or 301-387-4911, wispresort.com, considered a sister resort to Wintergreen.

OBER AT GATLINBURG, TENN—10 slopes, 4 lifts, vertical drop 600, longest run .94m. aerial tramway from downtown, night skiing, snow tubing park, ice skating, alpine slide, 865-436-5423.



PHOTO: HIGHLANDOUTDOORS.COM

Top XC N.C. Skiing Trails

Appalachian Trail Carvers Gap to US 19E. Cherokee Nat. Forest, 16.7m. near Bakersville. Cloudland Trail, Pisgah Nat. Forest, 2.4m. Rich Mountain Carriage Trail, Moses H. Cone Memorial Park, 6.3m near Blowing Rock. Big Bold, Pisgah Nat. Forest, 14.3m. Figure Eight Trail, Moses H. Cone Memorial Park, 0.3m. Wild Iris Trail, Beech Mountain, N.C., 2.2m.



Cyclocross Riders Shine At Nationals

A bevy of area riders took part in USA Cycling Cyclocross Nationals in Fayetteville, AR.

Here's how they did:

M Jrs 15-16—Jesse West, Chapel Hill, was seventh (42:07) and Oliver Jensen, Chapel Hill, 19 (43:35). WT was 40:49, 65 finishers.

W Sr Pro 1/2—Lauren Zoerner, Chapel Hill, fifth (53:012). WT was 51:57, 25.

M Sr Pro 1/2—Jules Van Kempen, Chapel Hill, eighth (1:04:41. WT:1:01:22, 25.

M Masters 65-69—Evan Myers, Chapel Hill, 23 (45:48. WT: 43:28, 26.

M Masters 75-79—Chuck Gillis, Pittsboro, fifth (43:24). WT: 40:15, 14.

F Masters 60-64—Lynn Weller, Carrboro, fourth (42:17) and Alison Weidner, Chapel Hill, ninth (45:43). WT: 38:40, 9.

M Collegiate Club—John Paul Amalong, Chapel Hill, UNC Cycling, seventh (55:41). WT: 53:25. 32.

Non Champ Relay—seventh Nicole Clammann, Chapel Hill, Camille Culbertson, Va, Leah Marozowski, Ariz, Kira Mullins, Col, 322.19 points. Winner had 396.81.

12—Ryder Molnar, Cary, Vivienne Myers, Chapel Hill, Peter Hartingh, Hillsborough, Oliver Jensen, Chapel Hill, Hammercross Team A, 343.34.

18—Morten Jensen, Chapel Hill, Evan Myers, Chapel Hill, Alison Weidner, Chapel Hill, James Molnar, Cary, 368.71, 18 teams.

NCCX Series Finale

Race 12, Salisbury, double points—Vivienne Myers, Chapel Hill, second F Jrs 13-14 (2 finishers); David Sherman, Chapel Hill, third M Jrs Novice (4); Jules Van Kempen, Chapel Hill, first M Pro cat 1-3 (10). Earlier race results can be found in (CSN Dec 2025). Series Points Results

Five local riders earned awards at the N.C. CX Series in WNC. Riders competed for points in 12 events over three months. Participation in a minimum of four races was required to be eligible for awards. First place in a race was worth 240 points. There were fewer local and total riders than last year.

Lucas Sherman (1720 points) of Chapel Hill was third M Jrs 13-14. Winner had 2640. Vivienne Myers (829) of Chapel Hill was third F Jrs 13-14. Winner had 1379.

David Sherman (1759) of Chapel Hill was third M Jrs 11-12. Winner had 2594.

Chuck Gillis (1992) of Pittsboro was first in M Masters 70+.

Alison Weidner (2069) of Chapel Hill took second in W Masters 40+. Winner had 2311.

Bike Gravel Races

Feb. 22, Uwharrie Forest, Gravel Grinder, 29/55m, Troy, bikereg.com.

March 21, Croatan Buck Fifty, 20/40/93/139m, Cape Carteret Speedway, Swansboro, bikereg.com.

March 28, Holly Shelter Gravel Grinder, 33/55m, Rocky Point, bikereg.com.

Community News

Carrboro has a Poets Party Saturday, Jan. 10, 7-9 p.m. at Drakeford Building to salute outgoing Poet Laureate Lisa Wolff-Francis and welcome new PL Dr. Amanda Bennett. Poetry readings by both and members of the public.

TET Vietnamese New Year will be celebrated Sunday, Jan. 18, 10-6:30 p.m. at Dorton Arena, State Fairgrounds, Raleigh with dance, performances, demos, games, food. Admission (\$20) charged.

N.C. folk artist Clyde Jones of Bynum whose "chain saw critters" are popular with all ages, passed away Dec. 24. He was 87.

Five Earn NCTS Awards

Five area triathletes earned awards at 2025 N.C. Triathlon Series (4 events required).

Eric Scheier, Hillsborough, third 20-25 age group, 20,274 points.

William Linehan, Chapel Hill, first 40-44, 29,368.

Terence Costello, Chapel Hill, second 45-49, 35,951. Winner had 37,624.

Nicolai Tvermoe, Chapel Hill, second 55-59, 34,621. Winner had 36,834.

Amy Rodriguez, Chapel Hill, first 40-44, 29, 999.

The '26 series begins with the Azalea Sprint Triathlon, March 8 in Wilmington and runs through Oct. 3 at Falls Lake. According to the preliminary schedule, the series has ten events of differing distances, four fewer than 2025. Biggest local event is Triangle Sprint Triathlon May 30 at Harris Lake, New Hill.

Trivium Series

Christopher Halsey of Chapel Hill (1500 points) finished fourth overall and third 30-39 in the 2025 Trivium Multisport Medal Series (7 events, 3 required). The 2026 series begins Feb. 22 with Northeast Park Duathlon; medal series starts April 12 with Belews Lake Sprint Tri.

Baskin First In 8K

Hana Baskin (32:09) of Chapel Hill was the leader at the New Year's Day 8K Run in Hillsborough. Richard Kesseli (33:29) of Hillsborough was second and Mike Kelley (33:51) of Chapel Hill third. There were 103 finishers for the fourth race in the Carolina Godiva Winter Series, down from 117 last year.

Kumfer Takes Third

Wesley Kumfer (15:21) of Chapel Hill was third male in the 2 miler (51 finishers) at The Last Mile in Morrisville. WTs were 11:44 and 14:45.

Other Chapel Hill award winners: Angela Yates, second 35-39, 24:48; Kim Manturk, first 50-54, 16:08; Becci Ritter, first 80-84, 35:02.

In the 6 miler (38), Lynn Thomas of Mebane was second 30-34, 1:15:34; Sharon Roggenbuck, Hillsborough, first 85-89, 1:39:43. WTs were 44:49 and 43:25.

KickStart 5K In Cary

Three area runners earned age group awards at KickStart 5K in Cary (131). WTs were 17:13 and 23:13.

John Kotla, Chapel Hill, second 20-29, 24:35; Susan Hill, Hillsborough, second 70-79, 48:22; Brian Hill, Hillsborough, first 80+, 50:00.

Sipling Third In Mebane

Jonathan Sipling (19:41) of Chapel Hill was third male overall at MOTM Reindeer Run 5K in Mebane. WTs were 18:58 and 19:18. There were 438 finishers, compared to 188 last year.

Mebane age group winners included Ryu Anodera, Chapel Hill, 19-29, 23:16; Alarie Williams, 35-39, 25:32, and Eric Macintosh, 19:46; Sara Flynn-Loy, 46-49, 21:39; Lisa Hecker, 50-59, 22:09, and Dominic Ciavatta, Chapel Hill, 22:05; Kari Wilkinson, 60-69, 29:04, and Craig Helms, Chapel Hill, 23:42; Margie Nichols, Hillsborough, 70+, 23:54.

Run at The Rock

Iлона Jaspers (57:14) of Carrboro was second woman and Joshua Paxson (53:35) of Pittsboro third male at Run at the Rock 10K trail in Burlington (109 finishers). WTs were 45:37 and 50:54.

Local age group winners: Isabelle Lee, Chapel Hill, 14-19, 1:27:16, and Andrew Bhansali, Chapel Hill, 1:04:21; Wayne Price, Chapel Hill, 60-69, 59:45; Nancy Margolin, Chapel Hill, 70+, 1:22:05.

Age group leaders at the HM trail (96) were Ellie Geil, Chapel Hill, 14-19, 2:17:10; Gaby Soden, Chapel Hill, 20-29, 2:25:21; Catherine Sampey, Hillsborough, 50-59, 2:14:58, and Thomas Soth, Chapel Hill, 1:56:37. WTs were 1:45:29 and 1:57:11.

Silas Brown (21:10), age 15 of Carrboro and Brooke Brownell (25:37) of Mebane were the 5K winners (154). U. Guidry (23:25), age 11 of Carrboro, was second male. Local division winners: Theo May, Hillsborough, 14-19, 33:24; Christopher Guidry, Chapel Hill, 50-59, 26:27, and Catherine Singley, Chapel Hill, 60-69, 35:39.



Running News

Rand Cork (2:02:52) of Chapel Hill was second 60-69 at Carolina Beach Trail HM (211). WT was 1:28:00.

David Montefiori (2:16:47) of Hillsborough was first 70+ at Frosty Fifty 25K trail (152) in Winston-Salem. WT 1:31:01.

Colin Thomson (18:14) was second 30-34 at Huntersville 5K (513 finishers). WT 16:30.

Theresa Reece (57:16) of Chapel Hill was first 65-69 at Frosty Run 10K (183) in Wake Forest. WT was 38:15.

Neal Duncan (21:30) of Chapel Hill was first 25-29 at Mill Chill 4 Miler in Rocky Mount (406). WT was 19:49.

Lisa Hecker (22:14) of Mebane was second master 40+ at the Mushing Mutts 5K in Holly Springs (548). WT was 18:19.

Tommy Chu (19:42) of Chapel Hill was third male overall at Wilmington Historic 5K (344). WT was 19:08.

Shakori Running Festival

Christopher Mershon (5:20:13) was the leader at the Shakori 40 Running Festival 40M in Pittsboro (10 laps, 40 finishers). Stephen Durley, second, 5:30:17; Tony Marshall, third, 5:56:45. Kristin Johnson, was first woman, 7:30:44, Cora Walls, second, 7:44:44, Kaitlyn Cox, third, 8:05:56. Hometowns N/A.

In the 40K (6 laps), Matthew Holland Thielen (3:29:16) was first (30), Mercedes Simmons, second, 4:01:54, Kendra Ferreira, third, 4:12:45.

Bobby Mack (22:39) took first in the 5K (647). Samuel Montclair (22:56) was second, Stephen Paddock (23:06) third. The women's winner was Hana Baskin (27:40).

Team Bond Bros. Run Club had the best net time (3:53:54) and Team They Don't Know best gross time (4:10:30). Some 98 teams started and 65 finished the ten laps.

Chatham Runners Score

Chatham runners took four of the top six spots at 21st Reindeer Romp 5K in Pittsboro. Winners were Drew Yell (17:30) of Pittsboro and Megan Leonard (19:12) of Moncure.

Runners up were Frank Wagoner (17:42), second last year, of Pittsboro and Chloe Freeman (21:03) of Chapel Hill, with Will Cuicchi (18:00) of Chapel Hill and Ashley Patterson (21:06) of Pittsboro third. There were 395 finishers, down from 560 in 2024.

Local age group leaders were Caidance Bazemore, Chapel Hill, 13-19, 23:32; Emma Houser, Chapel Hill, 20-29, 21:21, and Jack Spatz, Bynum, 22:31; Ann Marie Kumfer, Chapel Hill, 30-39, 22:32; Kerry Freeman, Chapel Hill, 40-49, 25:25, and Edward Plante, Pittsboro, 18:54; Meredith Bazemore, Chapel Hill, 50-59, 23:22; David Harris, Pittsboro, 60-69, 28:39; Doug Jamison, Pittsboro, 70+, 27:38.

GMH Wildcats (1:01:53) were first in teams (15, 5 runners each), with Chatham Thunder (1:04:31 second and Polard Mustangs (1:08:51) third.

Jingle Bell Leap 5K

Six Orange County runners earned awards at Jingle Bell Leap 5K in Durham (228 finishers). WTs were 18:42 and 20:02.

Chapel Hill award winners: Craig Helms, first 60-69, 23:16; Polly Creveling, third 30-39, 25:56; Susan Copland, Hillsborough, second 60-69, 32:15, Tonya Helms, third, 32:41; Ann Beardsley, third 70+, 47:25; Bob Wall, second 70+, 33:04.

Running Of The Elves

Top finishers at Running of the Elves 1 miler in Hillsborough (804 finishers):

M, Taylor Healy, Chapel Hill, 4:30; Grant Schmid Jr, 19, Efland, 4:42; John Ngunjiri, Hillsborough, 17, 4:14.

W, Kristen Thompson, Durham, 5:43; Leslie Stone, Hillsborough, 5:44; C. Crandell, age 12, Hillsborough, 5:45.

Bowman Second At Little River

Natalie Bowman (1:26:24) of Chapel Hill was second woman overall at 21st Little River Ten Miler trail run in Rougement.

Winners were Durham runners Peter Alexander (1:11:26) and Becca Morris (1:24:49), with Emile Moussa (1:15:32) of Durham second and Noah Sidenberg (1:22:44) of Cary third. Lisa Hecker (1:34:00) of Mebane was the third woman. There were 95 finishers, compared to 71 last year when the races were rescheduled.

Masters leaders were John Ruemaker, Bahama, 1:23:06, and Iлона Jaspers, Carrboro, 1:38:00.

Chapel Hill age group award winners: Ellie Geil, first 15-19, 1:44:21, Dahlia Silliman, second, 1:45:52; Zoe Wade, Hillsborough, second 20-29, 1:42:20, Eliza Cook, third, 1:46:32; Lemontrel Leary, first 30-39, 1:31:19, Evan Calabrese, third, 1:35:38, Nan Pincus, third 30-39, 2:24:31; Leah Blasiak, first 40-49, 1:42:25; Jennifer Goldstein, Carrboro, first 50-59, 1:44:09, Lisa Porterfield, third, 1:47:18; Sheri Branson, second 60-69, 2:19:35; Don Rose, first 60-69, 1:35:00. Jack Denver, second, 1:54:45.

7K Results

Anthony Corriveau (30:27) of Cary repeated in the 7K trail where Lisa Dunn (39:01) of Carrboro was first woman. Elliott Lin (33:33) of Durham was second and Jacob Baidridge (35:55) of Durham third. Haley Leddy (35:06) and Emily Cox (37:43), both of Durham, were second and third. Finishers totaled 140, up from 115 last year.

Aaron Westrick (36:28) and Virginia Hall (37:46) of Durham were masters leaders.

Award winners from Chapel Hill: Ellen Langman, third 20-29, 45:55; Ellis Henry, Carrboro, first 15-19, 43:29; Noah Safer, first 20-29, 36:05, Jacob Abney, Carrboro, 46:12; Forrest Li, first 30-39, 36:16, Adam Hji, Carrboro, second, 37:57; Tomlin Pavels, second 40-49, 38:20; LeeAnn West, second 40-49, 42:20, Margaret Robe, Carrboro, third, 42:21; Norman Goco, Carrboro, second 50-59, 38:35; Scottie Seawell, Carrboro, first 60-69, 49:55, Kathleen Carley, Carrboro, second, 53:25, Ann Chelminski, Carrboro, third, 53:49; Daniel Whittle, Carrboro, first 60-69, 38:55, Owen Astrachan, third, 44:04; Nancy Margolin, first 70-79, 50:08; Gary Pohl, Hurdle Mills, first 70-79, 1:00:42.

Mutts & Marshmallows

WTs for the 5K at Mutts & Marshmallows, Cary, were 20:11 and 21:44 (342 finishers).

Chapel Hill award winners: Lucy Hirschman, first 15-19, 32:10; Hailey Hirschman, second 20-24, 32:12; Elizabeth Bonner, second 25-29, 27:26; Caitlin Hirschman, third 50-54, 35:53; Jose Vanderham, second 65-69, 39:36; Valerie Murrar, first 75-79, 51:55; Sharon Roggenbuck, Hillsborough, first 85-89, 48:41; Will Bonner, first 20-24, 22:33; Kyle Serfass, third 40-44, 24:34; Kurt Patzer, third 60-64, 26:48; Randy Kauftheil, first 65-69, 31:11.

In the 8K (75), WTs were 28:56 and 38:43. Olivia Jackson, Chapel Hill, was second 55-59, 1:06:50; Theresa Reece, first 60-69, 48:11.

WNC RECOVERY, Continued from page 1

region. Many, at the time, believed the mountains were completely out of commission.

Jochl hopes this year will be a repeat of last year's voluminous snowfall. Early signs suggested she may get lucky. When David Jackson, president of the Boone Chamber of Commerce, looked out his window on Dec. 9, it looked like a picture-perfect snowy winter postcard.

"We need a win, and this is an opportunity for a win," Jackson told CPP that day. "People can see that this area of the state is healed, and can continue to offer something that no other area in the state can."

Finding enough people to staff the ski slopes is a challenge every year, but after Helene, it's an even bigger concern.

Winter sports in WNC are fueled by seasonal employees who bounce between summer and winter jobs. This summer, those warm-weather jobs, like rafting and hiking tours, were stilted by the physical and economic woes of Helene. In response, some workers moved elsewhere or sought more consistent employment.

"It's just taken a little bit longer for some of the resorts to get what they need in terms of employment," Jackson said.

"It's been harder this year across the board, whether that's directly at the resorts or at the restaurants and hoteliers that support that tourism. It's been weighing on the minds of businesses much more so than we hoped it would, certainly at this stage of recovery."

At Sugar, Jochl has relied on foreign labor for 60 of the ski resort positions, an increase of 20 positions from last year. That labor has helped the ski mountains bounce back.

"The ski areas, from a business perspective, have moved on," Jochl said. "Everything's been fixed."

ADVERTISE YOUR RACE HERE



PHOTO: ERIC ABERNETHY

OBX Shrimp Source Raises Touchy Issues

Restaurants advertising local shrimp were using imported varieties, according to a recent study reported by Catherine Kozak of the Coastal Review. Here's her report.

Genetic testing of purportedly wild-caught shrimp served in December at dozens of Outer Banks restaurants in North Carolina found that 64% of the shrimp was actually imported.

For the Southern Shrimp Alliance, SeaD Consulting collected and analyzed shrimp samples from randomly selected seafood restaurants in Duck, Southern Shores, Kitty Hawk, Kill Devil Hills, Manteo, Rodanthe, Salvo, Avon, Buxton, Frisco, Nags Head and Hatteras, according to a Dec. 17 press release from SeaD.

Of the 44 restaurants tested, 43 verbally claimed to serve local American wild-caught shrimp, but only 16—36%—were found to be serving local shrimp in the tested dishes. The remaining 28 restaurants had served imported farm-raised shrimp, but only one of them admitted it. All 44 of the eateries used imagery to imply that they served local shrimp.

"The findings raise concerns about seafood transparency in an iconic coastal region known for its local fishing heritage," the release said. Despite the Outer Banks' poor showing, it was noted that Wilmington did even worse, with an "inauthenticity rate" of 77% in previous testing.

SeaD (Seafood Development) Consulting, in partnership with Florida State University, holds the patent for the Rapid ID Genetic High-Accuracy Test, or RIGHTTest, that was used in the survey conducted Dec. 2-6. The Southern Shrimp Alliance, an advocacy trade group, funded the genetic testing of shrimp throughout the region.

Shrimp, the most popular seafood in the U.S., was an \$8 billion market in 2025, with Americans consuming 5 pounds per capita of shrimp a year. But it's not local shrimpers who are raking in big profits.

According to the U.S. International Trade Commission, 93% of the shrimp consumed in the United States comes from overseas, with 1.7 billion pounds of shrimp products imported in 2024, valued at \$6 billion. Meanwhile, commercial shrimp harvests in the Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic declined from \$522 million in 2021 to \$269 million in 2023; \$25 million to \$14 million, respectively, in North Carolina.

The demand for shrimp is only increasing, along with the creativity in how to serve it. "We don't need to undersell our industry and our product," David Williams, a commercial fishery scientist and co-founder of SeaD, told Coastal Review.

A generation ago, shrimp cocktail was the extent of its use in most American cuisine; now there's a dozen different shrimp dishes on menus, he said. "It should be a proud part of our industry" As the Alliance detailed, imports, depending on the country, can be "dumped" at lower prices because they use cheap labor, and sometimes even forced, trafficked or child labor. Some countries use a lot of antibiotics, or grow shrimp in polluted ponds. A few countries impose tariffs ranging from 13% to 45% on U.S. wild-caught and farmed shrimp.

While most restaurant prices for shrimp dinners are on the higher end of the menu, they're not reflecting the dock prices, which have remained low. But more recognition for the quality of wild shrimp as a food source would increase its value. "The only real way of doing that is that people in restaurants appreciate wild caught shrimp," Williams said. And diners who choose to eat wild seafood should be able to trust that they're getting what they're paying for, otherwise, it's misrepresentation.

"You charge a premium for a product

that's not a premium," he said. North Carolina does not have a law that requires restaurants to disclose the origin of shrimp on menus. Certain retail seafood products fall under federal country-of-origin requirements, but they do not apply to restaurants.

North Carolina Rep. David Rouzer, R-7th District, recently met with the Alliance and others in the industry and is looking into the legislative remedies and other shrimp industry issues.

"Tackling mislabeling is crucial to ensure that consumers receive the shrimp they are sold," Blake Price, deputy director of the Southern Shrimp Alliance said in the release.

"This testing shows American fishermen are regularly losing sales of their own product to shrimp farmed in countries with safety, labor, and environmental abuses." Mark Vrablic, general manager of Willie R. Etheridge Seafood in Wanchese, said that he's not directly aware of Outer Banks restaurants misrepresenting imported shrimp as local. Still, he has had people tell him they were told the seafood they were served had come from Etheridge's, when he knew it didn't. "I would love for it not to be this way, but I wouldn't dare sell a farm-raised shrimp and call it domestic," he told Coastal Review. People have a right to know what they're eating, he added. "I'm not going to sell something marked one thing and it's something else."

Vrablic, 66, agrees that the biggest problem with imported shrimp is that the dock price shrimpers are paid is almost too low to make it worth the costs and work involved. Probably 25 countries send shrimp here, including Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Ecuador, Peru, Mexico and Venezuela, he said. "When fuels went up real high two years back, (local shrimpers) were going to have to either raise prices or just get out of it, because they were going to go broke," Vrablic said. Even with gas lower now, he said, the "homeboys" should still be getting prices 30% to 40% higher. "But because of the millions of pounds of farm-raised that's available daily, it's just overwhelming," he said. "The market is staying down because of the supply."

Vrablic, who is a member of the Etheridge family, once one of the most powerful fishing clans on the Outer Banks, began fishing when he was 14 years old, and later joined the family restaurant business for a few years before taking over commercial management and sales.

Until about 20 years ago, shrimping was a short summer fishery in North Carolina, he said. But as the climate changed, the waters warmed to the shrimp's liking. Now the season stretches from July Fourth until December or later. "I don't like imports, Vrablic said. "They've crushed us like cockroaches. They've taken our markets away, and our fishermen can't get the fair share of what they should be getting. When I fished, I made a lot of money. We didn't have imports." But the fact is, he said, the increased demand for shrimp on the Outer Banks, and elsewhere, exceeds what local shrimpers can catch. And almost all farm-raised shrimp is from overseas.

"We produce shrimp in this country, but we do not produce enough," Vrablic said, and referred to the 1.7 billion pounds that were imported last year. "Where would we find something like that?" To his point, he explained, Etheridge Seafood doesn't have the capacity or bargaining power to meet the volume of the demand. "We keep a heavy inventory of shrimp, and it's just the whole world dumps on us," Vrablic said.

Bottom line, Vrablic says that something has to be done about the unfair competition from imported shrimp. Ideally, restaurants and fish markets should prioritize serving local catch, but when they can't, they need to be honest about the origin of the shrimp they're selling. And it would help if consumers remember that wild-caught shrimp also is a seasonal product.

Outdoor Notes

INDOOR SHOWS

Jan. 30-Feb. 1, Fayetteville Fishing Expo, Crown Complex, Fayetteville.

Feb. 20-22, Central Carolina Boat Show, First Horizon Coliseum, Greensboro.

Feb. 27-March 1, 45th Dixie Deer Classic, State Fairgrounds, Raleigh. Hours: 11-7 Fri, 9-7 Sat, 9-5 Sun. Admission charged.

DROUGHT MONITOR

Dry conditions are widespread across the state, with 32 counties primarily in central and western counties including Chatham, Durham, Orange severe drought; 53 including Wake moderate drought and 15 others on the Carolina Coast abnormally dry, according to Jan. 6 NC Drought Monitor. OWASA reservoirs here were 88 percent full.

WINTER BOATING SAFETY

Wear your life preserver. Dress for the water temperature not the air temperature. Check the weather before heading out. Prepare your boat. Carry extra safety gear.

from National Safe Boating Council

MOUNTAINS PROTECTED

The Blue Ridge Conservancy purchased 74 acres at Howard Knob for mountain climbers. The group has long worked to protect the site overlooking Boone, with its unusual gneiss boulder field, from development. It plans to open the property in 2026 to climbers and hikers.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Asheville, announced \$489,000 in grants to strengthen conservation, connectivity and safeguard the Appalachian Trail landscape through the East Action Fund.

Community News

What was the sales tax impact from Chantal in Chapel Hill? By Dec. 15, the town had received \$5,763,798.84 for three months of N.C. sales tax, compared to \$5,423,060.30 at the same time last year.

Chapel Hill's first indoor golf facility, The Back Nine Golf, opened on S. Elliott Rd. with three golf simulators to help players improve. Pinehurst, Bethpage, Pebble Beach are among available courses.

Extraordinary Ventures, a nonprofit that provides job training to people with intellectual disabilities, will take over the CommunityWorx thrift shop that closed last year in downtown Carrboro. The CW store succeeded the PTA Thrift Shops.

EagleFest Returns Jan. 24 At Jordan

The second EagleFest saluting bald eagles at Jordan Lake will be held Saturday, Jan. 24, from 8 to 12 at Tailrace Park at the dam at the southern end of the lake (Jordan Dam Rd., Moncure). Free.

Activities organized by the Corps of Engineers and N.C. State Parks Jan. 19-23 include bird walks, junior ranger programs, photography workshop and culminate with the festival. Jordan is the home of more than two dozen bald eagles which can often be seen searching for fish near the dam. Contact the Corps Visitor Assistance Center 919-542-4501 for more information.

The Tailrace Park was closed Jan. 8-12 for a ten-year safety inspection of the dam.

Chapel Hill Reaffirms Urban Archery Plans

In a Dec. 12 update, Chapel Hill is still part of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission's Urban Archery program.

"We've spoken with NC Wildlife and confirmed that we are enrolled in the 2025-26 program, Alex Carrasquillo of the town communications staff told CSN. "The urban archery season runs Jan. 10-Feb. 15, 2026. Our participation is noted within the 2025-26 North Carolina Inland Fishing, Hunting & Trapping Regulations Digest at ncwildlife.gov. Our website has been updated to reflect our (continued) enrollment in the program."

Urban archery allows licensed hunters to take deer by bow and arrow on private property within the city limits with landowner's permission during specified dates and in accordance with state hunting regulations. Last year 15 deer (14 of them female) were taken in Chapel Hill, the highest number ever. The previous year it was one deer.

Mining Deadline Backed By Court

The N.C. Department of Environmental Quality will not contest a Wake County judge's decision that sets an end date for the stone quarry operation next to William B. Umstead State Park. Judge Sean A. Cole ruled last month that the agency improperly altered a mining permit for Wake Stone Corp. that allowed it to quarry rock next to the park indefinitely. The decision restored a clause that requires the company to cease mining by the end of 2031.

Wake Stone, now owned by Vulcan Materials, used that mining permit to expand the quarry operation onto neighboring land owned by Raleigh-Durham International Airport. Now those plans are in doubt. The clause first appeared in the 1981 permit that allowed Wake Stone to open the Triangle Quarry off North Harrison Avenue. Permitting an open pit mine next to the state park was controversial, opposed by then Gov. Jim Hunt and state Attorney General Rufus Edmisten, among others.

After negotiations between the state and the company, the permit included a "sunset clause" that would effectively end mining by the end of 2031. The permit gave the state the right to acquire the quarry site at no cost "at the end of 50 years from the date quarrying commences or 10 years after quarrying operations have ceased without having been resumed, whichever is sooner."

ACC Hoops Midterm Grades

Coming in February issue

UPCOMING CSN ISSUES:

Feb. 18, Spring Running,
ACC Hoops Midterm Grades

March 18, NCAA HOOPS

To advertise contact joelcsn1@gmail.com
Ad deadline 7 days before publication

UNC Spring Sports

Home-only games:

Baseball, Feb. 13-15, Indiana, 4, 2, 1 p.m.; 17, Richmond, 4; 18, Longwood, 4; 21 in Durham at DBAP, 2, East Carolina and home 21, 1 p.m.; 24, N.C. A&T, 4; 25, VCU, 4; 27-29, Le Moyne, 4, 2, 1 p.m. ACC home opener (Virginia), March 6 at 4.

Women Lacrosse, Feb. 20, Ohio State; 22, Louisville, ACC home opener; 27, Florida State. Game times TBD.

Softball, Feb. 11, Coastal Carolina, 5; Carolina Classic, Feb. 13, Bryant, 4, Monmouth Feb. 14, 12:30, and Bryant, 3 p.m.; Feb. 15, Monmouth, 11:30 a.m., and Northern Kentucky, 1 p.m.; Feb. 18, Radford, 5; Tar Heel Invitational, Feb. 19, NCCU 4 and 6:30 p.m., Feb. 20, Rider, 3 and App State, 5:30, Feb. 21, Princeton 12:30, and Rider, Feb. 22, 3 p.m., Feb. 25, Elon, 6; Feb. 27-March 1, Boston College, ACC home opener, 6, 1, and 12 noon.

Men Lacrosse, Feb. 7, Jacksonville, 12 noon; 13, High Point, 5 p.m.; 15, Iona, 12 noon; 20, Johns Hopkins, 5 p.m.; March 1, Brown, 1 p.m. ACC home opener (Syracuse) April 4, 2 p.m.

Fencing, Feb. 7, Miller Invitational at Smith Field House, 8 a.m.

Track & Field, Jan. 16-17, Dick Taylor Championship, Smith Field House.

Gymnastics, Jan. 18, Stanford at Carmichael, 3:45 p.m.; 23, Pitt, 6:45 p.m.; Feb. 13, NC State, 6:45 p.m.

Rowing, April 24-25, Lake Wheeler Invitational, Raleigh, and May 15-16, ACC Championship.

Community News

Local MLK Jr. Celebrations:

Carrboro, Saturday, Jan. 17, 1 p.m., Century Center with youth speakers, performances by Sisters Voices Choir and SkyBlew, poetry reading by youth contest winner.

Christ United Methodist Church, Market Street, Southern Village, Chapel Hill, needs 140 volunteers the afternoon of Jan. 18 to help pack meals for distribution to families in need in the Greater Triangle. A similar site in Durham is fully staffed. For info, contact Kathleen Cody 570-219-7968.

Help TriWild volunteers plant natural species plants and remove invasives at Brumley Nature Preserve, Chapel Hill. Use School House of Wonder entrance from New Hope Church Rd., south of Old NC 10, 1-3 p.m. For info contact 254-624-5321.

Duke Chapel, Durham, Sunday, Jan. 18, 3 p.m., Keynote speaker Abby Phillips of CNN, moderated by Candis Watts Smith, a Duke political science professor.

41st MLK Jr. Memorial Banquet, Friday Center, Chapel Hill, Jan. 18, 6 p.m. Speaker will be Carl Fox, retired superior court judge. Tickets are \$40 each with proceeds used for local scholarships. Sign up at <https://mlkpc-ch.com/>.

UNC Football 26

North Carolina football has six home games next season. They'll play 8 conference games and shift to 9 the following year.

Here are the opponents:

Nonconference

8/29 vs. TCU (Dublin, Ireland)

9/12 vs. East Tennessee State (Kenan Stadium)

10/3 vs. Notre Dame (Kenan Stadium)

11/7 at UConn (East Hartford, Conn.)

Home games

Louisville, Miami, NC State, Syracuse.

Road games

Clemson, Duke, Pitt, Virginia.

Duke Football (9 conference games)

Home games

Boston College, Clemson, North Carolina, Stanford.

Road games

Ga. Tech, Miami, NC State, Wake Forest.

Non conference

Tulane Sep 5, William & Mary Sep 26, at Illinois Sep. 12.

January Standings

Winter Season, Ocasl@TASL

Over 30—Mountain Goat FC 2-0 6, Tugboat Depot FC 2-0 6, Durham FC 2-0 6, Matienzo FC 1-0-1 3, Sneaky PK FC 0-1-1 1, The Federal 0-1-1 1, Still Limpin 0-0-2 0, Hot Pants FC 0-0-2 0.

Anderson Over 40—Beercelona 3-0 9, Federal 1.0 2-0-1 6, Boca Seniors 2-0-1 6, Oldcastle United 1-1-1 4, Boot Room FC 0-1-2 1, Wrexhamstring 0-0-3 0.

Kaminsky/Studdard Rec 1/2—Woodcroft SC 2-0 6, Pickup FC 1-0 3, Head Game Strong 1-0-1 3, Chapel Hill FC 0-0-3 0.

O'Hara Rec 3—Sporting Rose 2-0-1 6, Stone Cold FC 2-0-1 6, AR United 92 1-0-2 3, Noir FC 1-0-2 3.

Coed 11 Rec—Diamond Dogs 3-0 9, Unicorns FC 2-0-1 6, Athletic Tri 1-0-2 3, Hairy Fairies 0-0-3 0.

Another View, Mine John Nieman

It is becoming ever-increasingly difficult to put aside the daily events of our country in order to have some feeling of calm and serenity. My reliance on sport to achieve that grows every day.

I begin each day by waking up and watching ESPN FC, a daily recap of the world of soccer. Not only does it give me some respite from the madness of our political culture, but the presenters provide a wonderful example of carrying on.

One of the regular hosts, Dan Thomas, is just coming off receiving a liver transplant and yet he provides a jovial atmosphere. Another presenter, Alejandro Moreno—a former UNC-G star, by the way—is a native of Venezuela, and yet he has yet to comment on the goings on, focusing instead on soccer. Watching this program each morning is a wonderful way for me to detach and start the day. I heartily recommend it.

We are entering a World Cup year and those of us who are addicted to the Beautiful Game should be rhapsodic in anticipation of the US hosting the event with Canada and Mexico. While I'm sure many decry the expansion to 48 teams, the opportunities for these nations could be exciting and the possibility of a Cinderella team is something to anticipate.

But of all the countries that could be hosting this first expanded Cup, I can't help but think that the United States is the most problematic.

It is horrifying to imagine what havoc could be caused by a xenophobic demagogue, completely unchecked by a complicit legislature and a milquetoast judiciary, who is hell bent on causing as much chaos as possible to distract from his own personal character foibles.

What kind of indignities will be imposed upon the fans, players and staff from countries deemed unsuitable by the administration? How much disruption can we imagine?

And so I watch sporting shows and sporting events and try to become hopeful that this wonderful event will somehow bring the peace and calm and excitement for which it was meant.

The individual members of the US Men's National Team are outperforming expectations at their clubs throughout the

world and, despite all of our fears, Pochettino seems to be putting together a team capable of some measure of success. England has a team that could actually bring the Cup home. France and Spain have more talent on each of their teams than some confederations. And Lionel Messi will still be playing for Argentina.

But it takes more than just the anticipation of a summer tournament to divert my attention from ICE violence, Venezuela, Greenland, the Kennedy Center, vaccination restrictions, and the rest of the playlist from the administration. And so I have found myself fascinated by the college football playoffs.

For a lot of the country who are neutral, the dream matchup probably would have been Ole Miss and Indiana. But for those of us in the ACC, there could not have been a better final. Miami making it to the final was just so satisfying. Sit down, shut up, and eat your popcorn, Notre Dame!

And Indiana seems intent on showing the football world that superior coaching with top talent can succeed. The SEC model of just getting the biggest, the fastest, and the strongest football athletes may not be enough. And we may be seeing that in a world of portals and NIL, where you really can't cheat, it's going to take more than just out-recruiting everyone else.

I have to say that the way Indiana plays almost makes me renew my interest in American football. It is fast-paced and innovative and almost overcomes the irritating down time.

But my hopes are with Miami. Go ACC!

In next month's edition, I will be happily reporting the induction of Kip Ward and Vicki Brawley into the North Carolina Soccer Hall of Fame for their founding and nurturing of the Rainbow Soccer program in Chapel Hill. It is much overdue and truly deserved.

As I have noted in this space before, I reluctantly agreed to begin a GLP-1 regimen. So far, so good. No side effects to speak of.

And so, *Fat Boy Index*: 271.

Media Sportswatch Joel Bulkley

End of the year awards honored broadcasters and sports writers.

North Carolina Sportscaster of the Year was Mike Maniscalco, Carolina Hurricane play-by-play voice on FanDuel Sports. Canes hockey analyst Skipp Tracy shared the honor in 2024 with Anish Shroff of Carolina Panthers radio.

N.C. Sportswriter of the Year was Aaron Beard of the Associated Press, Raleigh. Luke DeCock of the N&O won in 2024 and Brendan Marks of the Athletic in 2023. Marks, who covered North Carolina, Duke and ACC hoops for the New York Times, now is a national college basketball writer for the paper.

Nationally, Sportswriter of the Year was Ross Dellinger of Yahoo Sports. Ken Rosenthal, baseball writer for The Athletic, won in 2024. Sportscaster 2025 honoree was Sean McDonough, ESPN/ABC football play-by-play. Ian Eagle of CBS won the previous year.

The Woody Durham Voice of College Sports award winner was Ray Goss of Duquesne.

The awards were made by the National Sports Media Association (NSMA) of Winston-Salem after voting by members, and will be presented next summer in Greensboro.

UNC sports statistician and history teacher Fred Kieger of Chapel Hill was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, one of the state's highest honors, by the governor.

"We're #1," the ESPN docu on the 1993 Tar Heel national men's basketball championship and Dean Smith's first debuted on the ACC Network after the UNC/Wake game. Highlights included home video shot by the late Eric Montross. I missed it due to game conflicts but hope it will be repeated soon and often.

Carolina Sportsman, a monthly mag from Alabama, shifted to digital-only last year. Now it has a digital cousin called Carolina Fish & Hunt. The same writers are in both, but it's mostly pictures.

Can't say that I'm not enjoying watching the SEC squirm about their poor football bowl and playoff records this season. Led by the unexpected Miami success, the ACC is much

improved. And ACC men's hoops also are moving up with five teams (Duke, UNC, SMU, Louisville, Virginia) in the top 25 to start the new year. ACC women haven't been as fortunate.

If you're thinking of heading to baseball spring training, keep the dates of the World Baseball Classic (March 3-17 in Florida) in mind. Regular season starts 3/31.

Here's a surprise. The NFL dominated the top 100 TV audiences for 2025. The highest non-NFL shows included joint address to Congress (8), World Series Game 7 (25), Macy's Thanksgiving Parade (30). The Super Bowl topped the list.

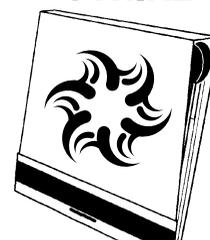
Former ESPN Sports Center anchor Elle Duncan is the first sports anchor at Netflix.

WRAL's docu "Coaching Carolina: The Belichick Way" added little. UNC folks didn't talk to them so it's another series that adds no new football information. An explanation about why the Transfer Portal players were a bust might have been helpful.

If you use regular mail to pay your bills, be aware that USPS now says they will no longer postmark letters when they first arrive at a regional center. With this new policy (effective Dec. 24) you would likely be subject to late fees for time sensitive payments that arrive late even though they were mailed on time. For many years postmarks were considered a quasi-legal time stamp. Postage now costs 78 cents for a letter or card.

Credit to Carolina Panther fans for being loud and proud at BOA Stadium for the NFL wildcard game in Charlotte.

Advertise with Matches
STRIKE OUT MATCH CO.



joelcsn1@gmail.com

Serving Triangle
Restaurants, Bars,
Businesses & Events
Circa 1985

RECYCLE! RECYCLE!