

FREE**ORANGE****SERVING THE TRIANGLE****COMMUNITY
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#686****BASKETBALL ★ CYCLING ★ RUNNING ★ OUTDOORS**

PHOTO: JOHN COLETTI / AWL IMAGES

N.C. Musician Murals Salute Tar Heel Legends

Chapel Hill artist Scott Nurkin is best known for his nine North Carolina Musician Murals saluting where legends were born.

They are scattered across the state and include Thelonious Monk, Rocky Mount, 235 SE Main Street; John Coltrane, Hamlet, Vance & Raleigh St.; Nina Simone, Tryon, 2960 Lynn Rd.; Roberta Flack, Black Mountain, Black Mtn Brewery; Earl Scruggs, Shelby, Ningrass Brewing; Randy Travis, Marshville; Betty Davis, Durham, University Apartment walls, Mayfair St.; Elizabeth Cotten, Carrboro, 111 Merritt Mill Rd., Chapel Hill; Don Gibson, Shelby, Miss Molly's Boutique.

The original murals featured musicians he idolized as a drummer growing up in Charlotte.

His Dean Smith mural on the back of a convenience store on 15-501S at Smith Level Rd. was painted a few days after Smith's death in 2015 but the building was demolished last year. His Chapel Hill mural on the back side of He's Not Here on West Rosemary is a popular spot for graduation and family photos.

Nurkin's Chapel Hill-based Mural Shop continues covering the state one mural at a time. Check them out on Instagram. *J.B.*

Cricket At Carolina North

Laurie Paolicelli
Orange County Tourism Dept.

In July 2025, a proposal for a 25,000-seat multi-sport stadium landed before the UNC Board of Trustees—campus-level leadership—and immediately sparked curiosity. Nicknamed the “NC Colosseum,” the concept envisioned a venue at Carolina North capable of hosting soccer, rugby, football, cricket and major concerts. For many in Chapel Hill, one question arose: cricket?

The idea was presented by Trustee Vimal Kolappa alongside Vijay Nandakumar, a part-owner of Minor League Cricket. Their pitch framed the stadium as a way to position UNC as a future-facing, globally connected institution.

Chancellor Lee Roberts acknowledged interest in a broader mixed-use outdoor facility as part of Carolina North, while emphasizing

that the concept may or may not advance. Still, the proposal ignited a larger local conversation, which was essentially: cricket?

First, a quick explanation of the game itself. Cricket is a bat-and-ball game played on a large oval field. Two teams of eleven take turns batting and bowling. The batting side scores runs by hitting the ball and running between two sets of wooden stumps—called wickets—while the fielding side tries to limit runs and get batters out, like baseball with a flat-fronted bat, no gloves, and a match that could last for days. A fast-paced version Twenty20 (T20) format lasts about three hours and has helped introduce the sport to new audiences. Like all sports in the U.S., cricket's rise is shaped by both athletes and influential business leaders. Money follows money. Members of the U.S. national team—including Saurabh Netravalkar, Steven Taylor, Ali Khan, and Monank Patel—have elevated the sport through international competition. At the same time, figures such as Mark Cuban and tech executives Satya Nadella and Sundar Pichai pitch the sport's growing cultural and economic relevance.

No one is a more passionate supporter of **CRICKET**, Continued on page 7

**Inside:
Odds of March
Brumley Bridge
Lakes Reopen**

ACC Sends 8 To NCAAs

The ACC will have eight teams in the men's NCAA Tournament. That's twice as many as last year.

Duke, the top seed overall and in the East, and Virginia third in the Midwest, lead the group and are playing the best of late, though Duke was down two starters in Charlotte and still held on to win the ACC Tournament behind MVP Cam Boozer.

UNC and Louisville are 6 seeds in the East and South, Miami a 7 in the West, and Clemson 8 in the South. They'll have to play at the A+ level to make it to the second weekend.

N.C. State and SMU are 11s and headed to Dayton for First Four games against Texas and Miami (OH). If they win they'll face

BYU and Tennessee in the next round. SMU, the last team in the field, is expected to get injured star BJ Edwards back. Texas edged NC State in Maui. Both underperformed since.

Women's NCAA

North Carolina and Duke will host first and second round NCAA women's games at Carmichael Arena and Cameron Indoor Stadium. #4 UNC faces #13 Western Illinois and #5 Maryland plays #12 Murray State in Chapel Hill, while #3 Duke plays #14 Charleston and #6 Baylor faces #11 Nebraska/Richmond First Four winner. Schedule TBA. Games will be broadcast on ESPN networks.

NCAA HOOPS, Continued on page 5

Off The Dribble

ACC Strength Still Along Tobacco Road

Chip Bremer

While this season signified a return to relevance for the ACC, with more programs emerging on the national stage than previous years, the biggest takeaway is the revelation that the core of the conference's power still resides along Tobacco Road.

Duke, UNC and NC State have all demonstrated that they belong in the national spotlight, and the attention they are generating now will ensure they will be the backbone of ACC success in years to come. Here's a closer look at why Triangle hoops fans have

reason to be proud of the 2025-26 results as well as prospects for the years ahead:

Duke remains the one to beat

In the post-Cooper Flagg era, few expected Jon Scheyer to keep his team playing at the same level and once again challenge for a national title. But once people realized how good Cameron Boozer is and how easily he can dominate the game, it became apparent that Scheyer once again found the right for-

ACC HOOPS, Continued on page 4

Third Option For UNC Arena Draws Interest

A third option for a UNC basketball arena emerged in early March. The first two, are renovating the Dean E. Smith Center or building a new area at the Carolina North campus, 1.6m from downtown.

Third option is to build an arena on 14 acres of Odum Village, formerly married student housing on Mason Farm Road beside the Medical Center. This option is gaining interest because it solves two giant problems—no more \$80M roof replacement for the Smith Center and no more permanent seat agreements.

It also sits in the middle of the estimated project cost category (\$703M) between Carolina North project (\$786M) and DES renovation (\$591M) and would have an egress time of 42 mins. compared to 54 for the Smith Center. To many it could be viewed as a compromise between moving and renovating. More than 38,550 signed the renovate don't relocate petition (3/9).

According to UNC, a new arena at Odum Village could seat between 16,200 and 17,700,

have expanded concourses, more bathrooms and concessions, premium seating and student seating near the floor with men/women practice facilities. Games could be played at the Smith Center while Odum was built for no loss of ticket sales.

Rick Steinbacher, Senior Associate Athletic Director, said UNC has spent \$1.3M since 2022 on studies to gather arena information. *J.B.*

Spring Cycling Coming April 15

The next issue of CSN (April 15) features Spring Cycling with stories on new trails, race results, workdays, projects plus plenty of road race, spring results. The deadline is 7 days in advance. Contact joelcsn1@gmail.com.

Local Golf Update follows in May.

Sign up for monthly updates on the communitysportsnews.com website.

NC Road Races

March 21

Run for the Health of It 5K, Hillside High, Durham, 8:30 a.m., itsyourrace.com.

Cane Creek Mtn 3.3m trail, Snow Camp, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

Ella's Race 5K/10K, N. Ridge Country Club, Raleigh, 8 a.m., itsyourrace.com.

Granville Ambulance Chase 5K/10K, Oxford, 11 a.m., runsignup.com.

3rd Kilometers Over Cancer Tournament Trot, 1m, Greensboro, 8:45 a.m., runsignup.com.

March 28

33rd Shamrock 'N' Run 5K, Kappa Delta Sorority, E. Franklin St., downtown Chapel Hill, 7:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

Dream Big 5K Dash Trail, Apex, 9 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

Greater Goldsboro Road Run 5K/10K, Goldsboro, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

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

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

Raleigh Run for Rare 5K, Lake Crabtree CP, Morrisville, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

Taylor Anne Foundation 7K, WakeMedSP, Cary, 9:15 a.m., runsignup.com.

Viking Dash 5K/10K trail, Pinehurst, 9am, runsignup.com.

Peace Pacer 5K, Peace Univ., downtown Raleigh, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

19th Movin' for Community 5K, Tarrboro, 8:15 a.m., runsignup.com.

March 29

Anchors Aweigh 5K, Campus Y, UNC, Chapel Hill, 7:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

April 4

NC Sports Con Wendell 5K, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

Core Sound 5K, Harkers Island, 9 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

Crystal Coast Cancer Rehab Center 5K, downtown Beaufort, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

April 11

9th Run for Malawi 5K, Southern Village, Chapel Hill, 8:30 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

Haw River Island Rumble 6K (3.6m) trail, Graham, 9 a.m., secure.qgiv.com.

5th Kevin Dendy Memorial 5K, Eno River Brewing, Hillsborough, 9:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

10th Glenaire 5K, Cary, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

3rd Glory Run 5K, Clayton, 8: a.m., runsignup.com.

8th Outrace the Stigma 5K, Lake Raleigh, Raleigh, 10 a.m., runsignup.com.

OWLS Fort Macon 5K trail, Atlantic Beach, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

Running of the Bears 5K, Greensboro, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

Run for Malawi 5K, Southern Village Green, Chapel Hill, 8:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

April 12

37th ZTA Franklin 5K,

Old Well, UNC, Chapel Hill, 7:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

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

April 18

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

FinFit 5K Fitness Challenge, RTP Campus, Durham, 9:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

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

7th Halwa-Saponi 5K, Hollister, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

Reach, Rally and Run 5K/10K, Wake Tech North Campus, Raleigh, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

Willie Stargell 5K, Mayfair Center, Wilmington, 8:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

Miles for Meals 5K and Field Day, Wake Co. Speedway, Raleigh, 11:30 a.m., itsyourrace.com.

April 19

Break the Silence 5K, WMSP, Cary, 10 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

PHS Marching Band 5K, Roxboro, 8am, runsignup.com.

Race for the Planet 5K, Kure Beach, 8 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

UNC Pals Golden Heroes 5K, Bynum Circle, UNC, Chapel Hill, 7:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

Mebane Dogwood Festival Family 5K, Mebane, 6:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

April 24

33rd Angels Among Us 5K, Yearby Ave, Duke Medical Center, Durham, 8 a.m., supportthehealth.org by 4/23.

5th Bull City Beer Mile, 1m novelty run, Durham Central Park, downtown, 2:30 p.m., runsignup.com.

Komen Triangle Race for the Cure 5K, Durham Bulls Athletic Park, downtown, 8 a.m. info-komen.org.

Socks and Undie 5K Rundle, timed/untimed, New Hope Church, Fayetteville Rd., Durham, 9:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

GCA Charge Ahead 5K, Burlington, 8:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

RFL of the Triangle Relay for Ribbons, Fenton Square, Cary, 8am, riconts.cancedr.org.

Water for the People 5K, ATT at White Oak Chapel, Apex, 9 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

Feet for the Street 5K/7m, Salem Lake Greenway, Winston-Salem, 8:45 a.m., runsignup.com.

Mutt Strut 5K, Tanglewood Park, Winston-Salem, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

3rd She Slays 5K, Hendersonville, 8 a.m., raceroster.com.

Scallywag Ocracoke 5K/10K, 8 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

GCA Charge Ahead 5K & Relay 5K, Burlington, 8:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

April 30 Corporate Fun Run 5K, WMSP, Cary, 6:30 p.m., elitesports.com/upcoming.

April 11 Pinehurst Tri Festival, Olympic, Sprint distance, Pinehurst Marina, 8:15 a.m., runsignup.com.

April 18 Beaverdam Tri/Duathlon, Olympic, Sprint distance, Falls Lake, Wake Forest, 8 a.m., eventreach.com.

April 25 Belews Lake Sprint Tri, Carolina Marina, Stokesdale, 8 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live*

NC Distance Races

March 21

3rd Harepin Hustle Trail Run, HM/10K+, Lake Crabtree CP, Morrisville, 7 a.m., runsignup.com.

All American HM/5K, Main Post Parade Field, Fort Bragg, 7a.m. Registration TBA.

Asheville M/HM, 7:30 a.m. raceroster.com.

Assault on Black Rock Trail Race, 7m, Sylva, 9 a.m., ultrasignup.com.

Badwater Cape Fear 51m/50K run, Bald Head Island, 7:45 a.m., runsignup.com.

Blackbeard's Revenge 100 Ultra, 100m/100K/100m relay, Corolla, runsignup.com.

6th Cliffs of the Neuse Trail Run, 50K/25K/8m/4m, Seven Springs, 9:30 a.m., runsignup.com by 3/19.

28th Fellowship of the Idiots 19.7m run, Albemarle, 5 a.m., runsignup.com.

March 22

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

Tower Climb Hill, 10m, Pittsboro, 10:30 a.m., carolinagodiva.org/winter-series.

March 23

Appalachian Series Day 4 (NC) M/HM, Etowah Park, Hendersonville, active.com.

March 28

8th Craft Beer HM/5m, Charlotte, 8am, runsignup.com.

4th Lake Norman HM/5K/10K Wildman, Mooresville, 7:30 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live or Virtual.*

Only Fools Run HM/10K/5K, Jaycee Park, Greensboro, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

Hanging Rock 8H Adventure Race, solo/teams, Danbury, 8:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

April 4

Craft HM/5K, Winston-Salem, 8:30am, runsignup.com.

New South Trail M 8 a.m./HM 9 a.m., Whitewater Center, Charlotte, 9am, whitewater.org.

Lake James Races 7m/5K, Nebo, 9 a.m., kickitevents.com.

Weymouth Woods 25K/50K trail, Southern Pines, 8 a.m., runsignup.com

April 11

Cedar Rock Trail Run HM/10K/5K trail, Burlington, 8:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

Sunset Scramble, Bond Park, Cary, 15K/10K/5K, 5:15 p.m., runsignup.com.

Catamount Climb HM/5K, WCU Campus, Cullowhee, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

High 5 at Hanging Rock,

11m/5m trail, running/hiking, Danbury, active.com.

7th N.C. Spring Classic 6K/8K/5K, downtown Holly Springs, 7:215 a.m., runsignup.com.

Run Sunset Beach, HM/10K/5K, 6:45 a.m., runsignup.com.

Sledgehammer HM/10K/5K, N. Topsail Beach, 8:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

April 12

17th MST12m 8:30 a.m./50K 7 a.m. Challenge trail, Riverside HS, Durham, runsignup.com.

Coast Guard M/HM, Elizabeth City, 7:30 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

April 18

Tar Heel Ten Miler/4M/14M, South Road, UNC, Chapel Hill, 7:15 a.m., tarheel-tenmiler.com/registration.

25th Charlotte Racefest HM/10K, 10K relay, 7:30 a.m., raceroster.com.

Charity Chase HM/5K, Hickory, 7:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

April 24-25

Inaugural Blue Heaven Trail Fest, 100m team relay, XC HM, XC4m sunrise to sunset on 4m loop, Beautiful Together Animal Sanctuary, Chapel Hill, blueheaventrailfest.com.

April 24-26

Smoky Mountain Relay, 208m, Brevard to Bryson City, runsignup.com.

April 25-26

Flying Pirate 8K/5K Sat, HM Sun, Kill Devil Hills, 7 a.m., itsyourrace.com.

April 25

Tobacco Road Relay, 75m, Chapel Hill to Durham to Raleigh, Orange Co. Southern Human Services Center, Chapel Hill, rolling start 5 a.m. to 12 noon, runsignup.com.

Harmon Field HM, Tryon, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

Owl's Roost Ramble, HM/4m trail, Greensboro, 7:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

Tuck Fest HM trail, Whitewater Center, Charlotte, 8 a.m., whitewater.org.

April 26

18th Philosopher's Way Trail Run, 10m/7K, Carolina North Forest, Chapel Hill, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

Inaugural Corolla Ten Miler/5K, Corolla, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

10th Blackbeard's HM, Ocracoke, 7 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

NC Multi Sports

April 11

Pinehurst Tri Festival, Olympic, Sprint distance, Pinehurst Marina, 8:15 a.m., runsignup.com.

April 18

Beaverdam Tri/Duathlon, Olympic, Sprint distance, Falls Lake, Wake Forest, 8 a.m., eventreach.com.

April 25 Belews Lake Sprint Tri, Carolina Marina, Stokesdale, 8 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live*

& Virtual.

April 19

Cal Tri Charlotte, Olympic, Sprint distance, Lake Norman Picnic Ground, Statesville, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

Hanging Man (adventure) Tri, Danbury, 7 a.m., runsignup.com by 5/17.

April 25

Lake Norman SP Sprint Tri, Troutman, 8am, runsignup.com.



N.C. Music Festivals

March

18, Carrboro Bluegrass Festival, Cat's Cradle Backroom, Carrboro.

20-22, 5th Django Festival, Cat's Cradle, Carrboro.

April

2-5, Singers and Songbirds Songwriters Festival, Statesville.

11, 4th Lucknow Music Festival, 4 groups, Dunn, 3-9 p.m.

16-18, Big Lick Bluegrass Festival, Oakboro.

17-19, Festival on the Hill, Speak, Listen, UNC Music Dept. —bluegrass, solon concert, soundwalk, opera.

17-19, Strange Fruit Festival, jazz and blues, Le Bauer Park Greensboro.

18, Earth Day Jam, 2 stages, Bell Town Green, Salisbury, 11-10.

18, 16th N.C. Cuegrass Festival, downtown Raleigh, 12 noon-6.

23-26, 38th MerleFest, 100+ musicians, dozen stages, Wilkesboro Community College, Wilkesboro.

24-26, Tuck Fest, National Whitewater Center, Charlotte.

25, 13th Beach Fest, The Farm at 95, Selma.

27, Rhiannon Giddens Presents American Tunes—Lift Ev'ry Voice & Sing Tour, DUPAC, Durham, with Mary Chapin Carpenter, Mavis Staples.

U.S. Soccer

Men

March 31—Portugal, Atlanta, 7 p.m., TNT, Universo.

May 31—Senegal, BOA, Charlotte, 3:30 p.m., TNT, Universo.

June 6—Germany, Soldier Field, Chicago, 3:30 p.m., TNT, Universo.

Women

April 11—Japan, San Jose, 5:30 p.m., TNT, Universo.

April 14—Japan, Seattle, 10 p.m., TNT, Universo.

April 17—Japan, Commerce City, CO, 9 p.m., TNT, Universo.

Community News

Carrboro Spring CD & Record Show Sunday, April 19, noon-6 p.m. at Carrboro Century Center, 40 tables for vendors.

Tarheel Antique Festival will be held April 5-6 at Lloyds Farm. Highway 70, Efland. Hours are 9-5; admission charged.

Raulston Blooms Garden Festival, Raleigh, takes place Saturday, April 26, 10-3. Admission charged. There will be garden/nature activities, plant sales.

Arbor Day Celebration

Arbor Day Celebration takes place Saturday, April 4, 10-1 at the Morrisville Dog Park with free native saplings to first 50 arrivals, bring your tree questions for experts to answer.

Upcoming CSN Issues:

Digital Only

April 15, Spring Cycling

May 13, Local Public Golf Update

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Durham Skate Park Gets \$1.2M Upgrade

Durham's downtown skate park on Rigsbee Ave. built 16 years ago earned a \$1.2M upgrade from the city. The renovations and safety update are expected to take up to two years. The project received over 16,000 votes in the participatory budget process that solicits ideas from residents, reviews them and finds support. The refresh for the skate park was proposed each year since the PB started. Other projects approved were a playground at Bethesda Park and a downtown outdoor bathroom.

Chapel Hill's Homestead skate park received an upgrade last fall that sparked an increase in skaters/boarders.

Eno River Romps 43-0 In Rugby

Durham-based Eno River women's rugby posted a 43-0 win over Augusta Furies on the road for the second win of spring.

Try scorers were Crowder, her first with the club, Aly, Sadie (2), AJ, Isaac, Lendro. Mads made 4 conversions.

Back BOP was Aly; Forward BOP Beldnap; Eno Player of the Match Crowder.

Garner's Inclusive Playground Opens

The Triangle's latest inclusive playground opened at the Garner Recreation Center, 215 W. Main. It's their first park designed to be intentionally inclusive with wheelchair accessible play structures.

The park features sign language board, sensory gardens. It joins similar parks in Raleigh at Laurel Hills, Marsh Creek and Method Road, Chapel Hill's Community Center and CR Woods, Morreene Road in Durham.



Pitt Ends UNC Hockey Season

Pitt drilled UNC 6-2 to end the UNC hockey season at ACCHL playoffs in Newark, Del. Pitt took a 2-1 lead after one and 4-1 after two. Patrick Kambo and Patrick O'Shaughnessy, the team's leading scorer with 17 points in regular season, scored for Carolina who finished 7-15-1-1. They were seventh in the MD2 regular session. Va. Tech won the league by one point over N.C. State.

Earlier, winter storms disrupted the Feb. schedule. UNC topped Lehigh 4-2 on the road. The second game was cancelled. NC State downed Carolina 4-0 in Morrisville on Senior Night for both clubs. It was State's fourth win over the Heels in five games this season. Earlier games against Cincinnati, Oregon, Louisville were canceled.

Key Tar Heel Dates

- March 21—ACC Women's Gymnastics Championships, Horizon Center, Greensboro.
- March 31—Baseball, Durham Bulls home opener, DBAP, Durham.
- April 11—Auto Racing, Orange Co. Speedway season opener, Rougemont.
- April 12—Football, Maroon & Gray, NCCU.
- April 20—Football, Blue-White, Duke.
- May 27-June 1—Soccer, TST men/women/mixed 7v7, Cary.
- May 31—MSoccer, USA v. Senegal, BOA, Charlotte.
- June 9—WSoftball, Carolina Blaze home opener, Smith Family Stadium, Duke.
- July 29—MSoccer, MLS Allstar Game, BOA, Charlotte.

ToRo Rugby Starts Season 1-2

Tobacco Road men's rugby club is off to a 1-2 start for the spring season, splitting a pair with Southern Pines and falling to Cape Fear.

ToRo won the opener 27-22 over SoPi. Try scorers were Matt Markovetz, Aaron "Krispy" Craig, Christian "Juice" Berry, Adam Bulgrin; Jack Carpenter made 2 of 4 conversions and a penalty.

ToRo fell to Cape Fear 26-22, with Markovetz, Sam Troughton, Jordan Phasey, Evan Babbaryka scoring tries and Carpenter made one of four conversions.

Bulgrin scored twice and converted both in a 27-14 loss to SoPi.

Pickleball Results

Division winners at Chapel Hill P&P The Thaw Tournament (321 players):

- MDoubles 3.0 12-49—Stravis Simos/Jason Guo
- MDoubles 3.0 50+—Bill Bryan/Jeff Fardos.
- MDoubles 3.5 12-49—Michael O'Connor / Marc LeBlanc.
- MDoubles 3.5 50+—Chris Stewart / Chris Boulton.
- MDoubles 4.0 12-49—Tiem Nguyen / Tyrus LaRocca.
- MDoubles 4.0 50+—Alex Dusek / LaRocca Abet Macbongon.
- MDoubles 4.5 12+ Frank Terranova / Taro Shigenobue.
- MDoubles 5.0 12+, Cory Barnes / Austin Manley.
- WDoubles 3.0 12-49, Anh Thrieu / Silvio Elena Schocher.
- WDoubles 3.0 50+—Sandrine Tokoto / Cheryl Briley.
- WDoubles 3.5 8-49, Kimberly Hall / Raworn Belgrane.
- WDoubles 3.5 50+—Shelby Harrison / Jimi Pope.
- WDoubles 4.0 12-49—Lorin Wagler / Anna Smith.
- WDoubles 4.5-5.0 12+—Patience Okpe / Lauren Perry.
- MixDoubles 3.0 12-49—Stavos Simos / Connie Lee.
- MixDoubles 3.0 50+—Wendy Thompson / Greg Thompson.
- MixDoubles 3.5 8-49—Jeremiah Johnson / Carolina Merry.
- MixDoubles 3.5 50+—Frankie Mylott / Tence Hui.
- MixDoubles 4.0 12-49—Daniel Kenney / Eason Kenney.
- MixDoubles 4.5 12+—Soren Pelz-Walsh / Larin Wagler.
- MixDoubles 5.0 12+—Cory Barnes / Emily Monk.
- MSingles 3.0 12+—Mazikel Coto Salazar.
- MSingles 3.5 12+—Mike Brown.
- MSingles 4.0-4.5 12-49—Agasthaya Aspani.
- MSingles 4.0 50+—Jeff Yurk.
- WSingles 3.5 8-49—Daniel Hewetson.
- WSingles 4.0 12-49—Patience Okpe.

Spring Hours Due At Farmers' Markets

Area farmers' markets will expand spring hours in April. In Carrboro, the Wednesday market at the Town Commons opens for season April 1, 3-6 p.m. The Saturday Farmers'

Market runs 7 a.m. to 12 noon starting April 4. Strawberry Jamboree is May 2; Tomato Day July 11.

Chapel Hill FM at University Place expands Saturday hours to 8-12 April 4 and opens Tuesday market April 7, 3-6.

Eno River FM on Margaret Lane downtown Hillsborough operates 8-12 Saturdays starting in April.

Ferrington FM runs Tuesday 3-5 p.m. at Market Commons.

Pittsboro FM moved to Pop Up Park, 50 W. Salisbury, Pittsboro, Thursday 3-6. Chatham Mills FM operates Saturday 8-12 in Pittsboro.

Visitors' Tax Funds Projects For Sports, Arts

The Raleigh and Wake County meal and hotel tax, called hospitality or visitors' tax, funded 12 projects in 9 cities totaling \$23.5M. They are a mix of sports, culture and arts projects, including a new skate park and pump track in Wake Forest, improvements to fields and facilities like NC Museum of Natural History, Raleigh, and competed against each other for funding.

Here's a list of approved projects: Triangle Aquatic Center, Cary, Hospitality Suite Renovations, \$59,000; Morrisville, Church Street Park Cricket Field Improvements, \$2M; Rolesville, The Farm Athletic Complex Fields Construction, \$3,800,000; NCFC Youth, Administrative and Event HQ at WRAL Soccer Park, Raleigh, \$2M; Wake Forest, Skate Park and Pump Track Construction, \$3,891,000; Wake Forest, JB Flaherty Park Improvements, \$750,000; Friends of the NC Museum of Natural Sciences, Welcome Hall Improvements, \$954,000; Holly Springs, North Main Athletic Complex (formerly Ting Park) Improvements (Joint Portion): \$546,000—this project funding is split between Joint and County-only funds. Total committed funds are \$1,789,000. Carolina Ballet, Starline at South Hills Conversion, \$1,500,000. County-only funded projects were Zebulon, Community Park Fields Phase I Construction, \$2,159,000; Fuquay-Varina, Fleming Loop Park Turf Conversion, \$4,250,000; Apex, Performance and Event Stage Construction, \$348,000; Holly Springs, North Main Athletic Complex (formerly Ting Park) Improvements (County Portion), \$1,243,000.

Together, the projects represent investments that are expected to generate "significant tourism activity and economic impact" throughout Wake County.

World Cup Update

The Scotland National Team will use Charlotte FC training facilities in Charlotte for the World Cup. They can do that because Major League Soccer (MLS) is taking a seven-week break for the WC from May 15 to July 16.

They are the third team training in North Carolina. Germany will be at Wake Forest University and Norway in Greensboro. The U.S. will train at Grant Park Sports Complex in Irvine, CA.

The five remaining World Cup team slots will be determined in games March 26/31. Questions about teams from Iraq and other world hotspots have not been resolved.

15 Former Heels On NWSL Rosters

UNC had 15 former soccer players on eight opening day National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) rosters. That's one more player than last year.

Here's the lineup with team and UNC alums: Angel City, Savvy King, Evelyn Shores; Bay FC Emmie Allen, Darian Bailey; Boston Legacy, Emerson Elgin; Chicago Stars FC, Tess Dellerose, Briana Pinto; Denver Summit, Olivia Thyomas; Houston Dash, Kate Faasse, Avery Patterson, Linda Ullmark, Paige Nielsen; Kansas City Current, Ally Sentor, Clare Cagne; N.C. Courage, Maycee Bell.

Community News

The UNC men's rugby club went 2-3, reached the cup quarters and finished sixth at Gold Rush Sevens (12 teams) near Charlotte.

Plant Sales. Daily plant sales, a rotating selection of native plants, start March 17 at N.C. Botanical Garden, Chapel Hill. Spring plant sale is May 2.

Earth Day/Arbor Day will be celebrated Saturday, April 25, from 4 to 9 p.m. at Dix Park, Raleigh, with music, games, crafts, food trucks, free trees distributed, highlighted by a film at 8:15. In Durham, the celebration will be 12-5 at Durham Central Park downtown with music, parade, hands-on environmental kids' activities. Earth Day in Carrboro will be celebrated April 19 with Carrboro Day on Weaver Street (no cars) and Town Commons.

Benefit Concert

Calling all lovers of music and justice, Community Church of Chapel Hill Unitarian Universalist is holding a benefit concert for immigrant justice Sunday, March 29, featuring Debbie Davis on cello, Deb Hollis on piano, with flautist Brooks de Wetter-Smith.

Reservations for in-person or livestream attendance are available at c3huu.org. Cost is \$20/person, \$15 to livestream at home. Tickets at the door are \$25. Doors open at 2:40 p.m.

MST Endurance Races

Constantin Demuth (5:32:00) of Chapel Hill finished third in MST Endurance Race 50K in Durham (37 finishers). WT was 4:27:00.

Lionel Ferland, Efland, 14:01:00, was 11th in 50 Miler (20). WT was 8:34:00.

The 100 mile results are reported elsewhere in this issue.

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RECYCLE!

Off The Dribble

Prepare Yourself For Odds Of March

Chip Bremer

The time is nigh for another round of predictions, projections and prognostications around the annual NCAA men's basketball tournament. This year's event has its share of favorites, thoroughbreds, underdogs and dark horses, so it's important to stay on top of all of the madness if you're into office pools, bracketology, or whatever helps you live vicariously through the greatest postseason event ever created.

Having said that, here's another take on potential outcomes that just might make you think twice about your picks or even smile.

40 to 1: All ACC teams survive the first round

It's nice to see the conference rebound with so many at-large bids this year, but not all of these teams are sure-fire bets to get through their first game. In fact, some may be victims of upset-minded Cinderellas in the opening slate.

8 to 1: SEC loses most of its teams in the first weekend

With so many teams in the field, one would think the SEC might dominate the field as it has in the past. But beyond Florida, most of their entries are vulnerable to early exits, and some teams (Alabama, Arkansas) may not even see them coming.

10 to 1: The Big East is eliminated after the first weekend

The conference has certainly fallen on hard times, and the lack of competition makes top-seeded UConn particularly vulnerable as upset fodder.

100 to 1: A #16 seed will beat a #1 seed

Up until Virginia's collapse in 2018, such an event had never happened in the tournament, and since it's happened twice now in the past eight years, the odds have come down a bit. However, this year's tops seeds are even more guarded against an early surprise, mak-

ing the odds still a bit overwhelming for the underdogs.

12 to 1: The freshman scoring record will be broken

With all of the talented, high-scoring freshmen in this year's tourney—including Cam Boozer, A.J. Dybantsa and Kingston Fleming to name a few—it's easy to see at least one of them take a shot at De'Aaron Fox's 39-point freshman scoring record.

8 to 1: Purdue makes a first-round exit

The once popular preseason pick to win it all, the Boilermakers just haven't been able to find their stride this season, and this version is starting to look like the 2023 top seed that stumbled out of the gate.

8 to 1: NC State is eliminated in the first round

The Wolfpack was lucky enough to make the field this season after the late-season stumbles. Maybe Will Wade's next squad will be better prepared for a postseason run.

12 to 1: Louisville shatters the record for most three-point attempts in a game

Between Ryan Conwell, Isaac McKneely and freshman Mikel Brown, the Cards have no shortage of snipers who won't hesitate to chuck it up from deep at least a dozen times during the game. Since it's become their formula for winning, it wouldn't surprise to see them make a record out of it.

10 to 1: UNC is eliminated after the first weekend

The Tar Heels have been resilient following the season-ending injury to star freshman Caleb Wilson, but they haven't shown the same consistency either. It wouldn't be surprising to see an early exit during the second round.

20 to 1: Duke makes it to the Final Four

Top seeds typically have much better odds

stamp on the program—and more talent on the way with Dylan Mingo and Maximo Adams set to arrive next season, Hubert Davis proved that he can recruit talent at an elite level, quieting criticisms to the contrary. As long as his roster-building continues to improve and team chemistry remains constant, Davis should enjoy a long and fruitful career coaching at his alma mater.

NC State back in the picture

Will Wade's arrival in Raleigh appears to be just what the Wolfpack program needed to become relevant once again. His ability to bring in top-notch talent through the transfer portal brought a level of excitement back to the Lenovo Center that has been lacking in recent years in Kevin Keatts. While the results of this past season were mixed when considering preseason expectations, Wade did find a way to get the Wolfpack back to the NCAA Tournament, which was priority number one in the eyes of the fanbase. Also, having a playmaker like Quadir Copeland running the team made up for the mixed performance of preseason ACC POY Darrion Williams, who didn't quite measure up to the lofty initial expectations.

Regardless, Wade has the Pack on track to rejoin the ACC elite in the years ahead. He's starting to make his presence known on the high school recruiting trail, and he will certainly learn from this season's roster construction issues to build teams that will continue to win on a national level and give the fans a team of which they can be proud.

of reaching the national semis, but with injuries to starters Caleb Foster and Patrick Ngongba, the Blue Devils' lack of depth will be exploited.

8 to 1: Virginia is the last ACC left standing

The Cavaliers were the most consistent team in the conference this season, and with Duke's injury issues, Ryan Odom's first team should go far this postseason.

10 to 1: Darryn Peterson finally emerges for Kansas

There's been a lot of talk about whether this diaper dandy will ever live up to the hype he garnered before the season started, but this tourney will be the stage on which he reminds people why he should be considered the top pick in this year's NBA draft.

250 to 1: Cam Boozer is held to under 10 points in a game

It hasn't happened all season, and given Duke's depth issues, it won't happen in the foreseeable future.

8 to 1: Jeremy Fears gets ejected for fighting

The hot-headed point guard has been a driver for Michigan State all season, but his temper may get the better of him if the Spartans start to fold.

12 to 1: Miami (of Florida) will go farther than Miami of Ohio

It was impressive to see the RedHawks run the table during the regular season, but the quality of competition has to be a factor at some point—and the Hurricanes have seen more than their fair share this season.

16 to 1: An ACC team wins it all

Again, the conference has some good representatives this year, but injuries have set the ACC's chances for a title back a bit. It would be interesting to see UVA or Louisville step up and win it, but they just don't have the firepower to take down the big guns.

6 to 1: A team from the Big 12 will win the title

Arizona and Houston are heavy favorites, and Iowa State, Texas Tech and even Kansas have the potential to make a Final Four run. We might even see an all-Big 12 Final.

5 to 1: Florida goes back-to-back

No team has been hotter than the Gators over the past couple of months. They seem to have regained that swagger many expected at the start of the season, and it wouldn't surprise anyone to become another repeat title winner.

4 to 1: Michigan wins it all

The Wolverines, behind the coaching of Dusty May and the play of stud forward Yaxel Lendeborg, have emerged as the most consistently powerful team in the country, and with Duke hobbled, they have a clear shot of taking the title back to Ann Arbor.

Tar Heel Notes

North Carolina went 18-0 at the Smith Center this season. That's the most home wins since 17-1 in 2011-12, and the first unbeaten home season since 2016-17 ... RJ Davis (#4) was honored with his jersey in the rafters on Senior Night for Trimble and Davis ... Former UNC player and NBA coach Doug Moe, a colorful character touched by scandal, passed away Feb. 17. He was 87 ... Three ACC coaches whose teams missed the NCAAs again, Boston College, Georgia Tech, Syracuse, were fired ... No NCAA men's tournament games in North Carolina this year, but Charlotte's Spectrum Center will host first/second round games next year (2027) and Lenovo Center, Raleigh, has the East Regional in 2028 ... Former UNC player and ABA/NBA coach George Karl and hoops superstar Julius Erving were executive producers of the four-part Prime Video docuseries "Soul Power: the lesson of the American Basketball Association," that debuted last month ... UNC's injured Caleb Wilson was first team All-ACC, Henri Veesaar second team, Seth Trimble

honorable mention. Wilson was ACC Rookie first team but surprisingly not on the league's all-defensive team. Duke dominated the end of season awards. Wilson averaged 19.8 points, 9.4 rebounds, 1.5 blocks, 1.4 steals ... No area high school basketball teams, boys or girls, made it to the state finals in Winston-Salem. *J.B.*

Five Hoops Movies, Have You Seen Them?

Here are five well-known basketball movies (available on Netflix):

High Flying Bird (2019).

Last Chance U: Basketball (2020).

Amateur (2018).

Coach Carter (2005).

The Last Dance (2020).

How many have you seen?

Wins Above Bubble, What It Means

Wins Above Bubble, or WAB, is a new metric added to the NCAA's team sheets ahead of last year's tournament. It attempts to measure how much better or worse a specific team did against its own schedule than what would be expected of a generic bubble-caliber team.

In other words, how many wins did you amass, and how many more or less is that than a bubble team would have?

That approach has multiple benefits. Most importantly, it provides one number to directly compare teams with drastically different strengths of schedule.

For a real-world example: Using the NET rankings to measure opponent quality, a bubble team would be expected to have won 14.09 games so far against Auburn's wildly difficult schedule. Auburn currently has 15 wins, which puts the Tigers at +0.91 WAB. That same generic bubble team would be expected to accumulate 25.87 wins against Miami (Ohio)'s schedule. The Redhawks are 28-0, so they are at +2.13 WAB. That's a one-to-one comparison to show that Miami has accomplished more than Auburn, despite a galactic gulf in schedule strength.

Furthermore, WAB makes every game matter. Rather than a microscopic focus on Quadrant 1 wins and Quadrant 3 losses, this all-encompassing metric captures the results of every single game on a team's schedule. That nuance prevents arbitrary cutoff—like the difference between a home win over No. 30 in the NET (Q1) or No. 31 (Q2)—from skewing our perception.

Flaws remain. WAB does not adjust for injuries/player absences, and it is only as strong as the tool being used to value the teams: the NET itself. But its ability to equalize across all levels of teams makes it as fair a tool as any.

On 3/12 Duke's WAB was +12, Louisville 4.5, Va. 7.4, UNC 5.5, Clemson 2.8, Miami 2.4, NC State 0.35, according to Bart Tovik.

Jim Root, theathletic.com.

Community News

FitLot, the outdoor exercise apparatus at the Seymour Senior Center, Chapel Hill, has an open, free class Tuesday/Thursday 3-4 p.m. at the center. Learn how to use it.

NFL stars Larry Fitzgerald and Luke Kuechly will be enshrined at the NFL Hall of Fame the following day after the season's first exhibition game Aug. 6 in Canton, OH, with Carolina Panthers playing Arizona Cardinals in the HOF game. They are part of a five-member NFL class.

The May 4 Raven Rock Ramble 100-mile bike ride that benefits the UNC Kidney Center is closed out.

Spring men's hoops league at Orange Co. Sportsplex, Hillsborough, Wednesday nights starting April 8. Cost is \$65/player, \$500/team. Contact 644-0339 ext 220.

ACC HOOPS, Continued from page 1

mula to build a winner around a generational talent. This speaks not only to Scheyer's ability to attract top talent to Durham but also to build a roster that buys into the system and creates instant chemistry.

The future continues to look bright for Duke, as Scheyer is still relatively young, and his presence on the recruiting trail is constant. He may not have a Cooper Flagg or a Cam Boozer to build around in future years, but he'll still be able to bring in the talent necessary to keep the Blue Devils in the battle at the top of the conference standings for the foreseeable future.

Carolina regains momentum

After a lackluster 2024-25 season in which the Tar Heels struggled to make the NCAA Tournament, the program made a significant comeback this season thanks mostly to the arrival of star freshman Caleb Wilson. While his season was cut short by a broken bone in his hand, it was clear from Day One that Wilson was a special talent.

His ability to control the game from rim to rim gave the Heels something they lacked over the Hubert Davis era—a bonafide superstar. Wilson's dominance allowed other teammates to flourish, particularly center Henri Veesaar and guard Seth Trimble, and even when Wilson went down, the rest of the team stepped up to guide North Carolina to a top-four ACC finish.

Moving forward, the Heels should continue to have a strong presence atop the conference standings. With Wilson making his

Eno Festival Shelves For '26

Festival for the Eno, for 46 years the Independence Weekend outdoor salute to music, crafts and the river in Durham, will not be held this year. There will be a benefit concert for Eno River Association (ERA) Sep. 12 at the Carolina Theatre downtown Durham following an afternoon of outdoor activities at the Downtown Plaza.

The changes were a response to a changing climate and a commitment to the long-term health of the river, said Ryan Fehrman, executive director of the association.

"In the grand scheme of things, a festival isn't all that important when people's lives and livelihoods are at stake," Fehrman wrote in a blog post March 1. "If Chantyal had hit 24-36 hours earlier, the festival would have lost six figures and our 'fundraiser' would have blown a huge hole in our budget."

Tropical Storm Chantal brought heavy rains and flooding in the Carolinas. The flooding caused the Eno River, which lies in both northern Durham and Orange to rise over 25 feet, the highest ever recorded. Eighty people were rescued by boat in Durham County, and another 50 in Chapel Hill. Eno River State Park, for example, remained closed due to damage from storm flooding.

The 100 degree reality. Beyond the financial risks, Fehrman said there is a human cost of the July heat. The festival relies on over 600 volunteers, two-thirds of whom are seniors. "We are asking our volunteers, sponsors, artists and staff to brave temperatures that can often feel like 100 degrees

or more. That scares the bejesus out of me," he wrote.

The decision acknowledges a reality many North Carolinians have felt in recent years: the 4th of July is simply becoming too hot to safely host thousands of people outdoors for a multi-day event. Last year, July was the hottest month in Raleigh with average highs around 90 degrees.

Durham's West Point on the Eno city park is undergoing construction and will be closed until next spring.

ERA will re-evaluate fundraising plans next spring.

Orange County Creek Week

Orange County Creek Week is a chance to celebrate the streams, lakes and rivers that connect us all. From March 21-29, people across Orange County can take part in fun and meaningful activities that help protect local waterways. Events include a litter clean-up challenge, a community science BioThon, invasive plant removal projects, green infrastructure tours and more. Creek Week is a way to get outside, learn something new and make a positive impact in the community. Activities take place all across Orange County and are open for all ages and experience levels. Help care for the waterways that keep the community healthy. Check the creek week website for more information and events.

UNC Faces VCU

The North Carolina Tar Heels are the No. 6 seed in the South Region in the 2026 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament. Carolina (24-8) will play No. 11 VCU on Thursday, March 19, in Greenville, S.C.

The Rams are 27-7 and have won 16 of their last 17 games, including a three-game sweep of Duquesne, Saint Joseph's and Dayton to win the Atlantic 10 title last weekend in Pittsburgh.

This is Carolina's 55th appearance in the NCAA Tournament, the second most all-time. It is the fourth NCAA Tournament appearance in five seasons under head coach Hubert Davis, who has led the Tar Heels to an 8-3 record in the NCAA Tournament.

NCAA HOOPS, Continued from page 1

The ACC will have nine women's teams in the NCAA Tournament. In addition to UNC and Duke, teams and seeds are Syracuse 9, Notre Dame 6, Va. Tech 9, Louisville 3, NC State 7, Clemson 8, Virginia 10 (they play in the First Four against Arizona State). *J.B.*

Veteran Lineup For NCAA Games

CBS and TNT Sports announced their men's NCAA tournament broadcast crews and there are plenty of familiar faces.

Ian Eagle, Bill Raftery and Grant Hill Kevin Harlan, Robbie Hummel and Stan Van Gundy

Brian Anderson and Jim Jackson Andrew Catalon and Steve Lappas Brandon Gaudin and Chris Webber Spero Dedes and Jim Spanarkel Tom McCarthy and Candace Parker and Dan Bonner

Brad Nessler and Wally Szczerbiak Former UNC player Brendan Haywood (analyst) apparently is not working the NC-AAs this year.

One bit of news: Anderson, Charles Barkley and Dick Vitale will call TruTV's second game of the "First Four" Tuesday, March 17.

The Tar Heels have won six NCAA Tournament championships, played in a record 21 Final Fours and won 134 NCAA Tournament games, the second-most all-time.

Carolina and VCU will be playing for the first time in men's basketball. The winner will play the winner of No. 3 Illinois and No. 14 Penn on Saturday, March 21, also in Greenville.

The Tar Heels began their run to the 2017 NCAA championship in Greenville with first- and second-round wins over Texas Southern and Arkansas.

Carolina has played 13 games this season against teams that are in the 68-team NCAA Tournament. The Tar Heels went 7-6, splitting a pair of games against Clemson and Duke; beating Kansas, Kentucky, Louisville, Ohio State and Virginia; and losing to Miami (Fla.), Michigan State, NC State and SMU. UNC Sports Information

Duke 'Survives' ACC Tournament

Duke outlasted Virginia 74-70 to win the ACC Tournament in Charlotte. It wasn't pretty, but gritty.

Tournament MVP Cameron Boozer made only 3 of 17 FGs, but scored 13 including two key FTs with 3.9 seconds left. He added 8 rebounds and 8 assists. Isaiah Evans had 20 and Cayden Boozer, who played 40 minutes, 16. Down two starters, Duke used only 7 players but outrebounded Va. by 10.

Malik Thomas (18) and Sam Lewis (17) led the Cavalier scoring, with Ugonna Onyenso getting 9 blocks, 8 rebounds.

Early tourney games involving lower seeds were exciting and intense with stifling defense. Notre Dame, Ga. Tech, Boston College didn't make the tournament cut. Three schools, Ga. Tech, Syracuse, Boston College, fired their coaches.

Duke edged FSU 80-79 and topped Clemson 73-61. Clemson eliminated UNC 70-69 in a game that wasn't that close. Va. beat Miami 84-62 and N.C. State 81-74. *J.B.*



Area Riders Shine At Browns Creek

Area riders earned two firsts, three seconds and other awards at the first N.C. ICL at Browns Creek in Elizabethtown (528 riders). It was the first race in the tenth race season.

Here are top local finishers at the scholastic MTB races as they accumulated points for their teams based on their finish:



TLC PHOTO

Brumley Bridge Back In Business

The Brumley Bridge is back.

"Last July, Tropical Storm Chantal swept away the large bridge crossing Stony Creek on Springhouse Loop at Brumley South Nature Preserve, Chapel Hill. Eight months later—thanks to the generous support of our donors—the bridge has officially been rebuilt and reopened. A special thanks to Ellie and Bob De Vries and Triangle Off-Road Cyclists for their generous gifts that helped make this replacement possible.

"With the bridge restored, you can once again explore Brumley South in its full capacity. Both sides of the preserve are now accessible from both New Hope Church and University Station parking lots."

March 5 Facebook post by Triangle Land Conservancy

NC Bike Rides

March 28

Movin' For Community 10K Fun Ride, Tarrboro, 8:15 a.m., runsignup.com.

March 29

NCBC Spring Rally, 20/37/64m, Aviator Brewery, Fuquay-Varina, 10 a.m., ncbike-club.net.

April 11

Bicycle Chain Pedal Party, 20-60m, Apex, teamcbc.com.

Hamill Kerr Challenge 25-55m, High Point City Lake Park, Jamestown, 10 a.m. Rain date 4/18, hkcfoundationforparkinsons.org.

Assault on the Carolinas 50K/100K, Brevard 9 a.m., active.com.

April 18

Tarwheel Century, 33-100m, Camden, active.com.

6th Ride de Vine, 10-55m, Seven Springs Farm & Vineyard, Warrenton, 10 a.m., itsy-ourrace.com.

Pedal for Paratroopers, 34K-100K, McDeeds Creek Elementary, Southern Pines, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

April 25

Tour de Pickle, 29-64m, Mount Olive, 9 a.m., ncpicklefest.org.

5th grade boys—Kai Hastings, fourth, Smith Middle, 1 lap, 20:58, Sam Zarzecki, fifth, Chatham Co. Chaos, 21:20, 43 finishers.

6th grade girls—Birdie Pedriza, first, Chatham Co. Chaos, 1 lap, 20:39, 12 finishers.

JV1 girls—Vivienne Myers, fourth, Smith Middle, 3 laps, 57:37, (15).

JV2 boys—Wyatt Rosenthal, second, Chapel Hill High, 2 laps, 35:47 (73).

JV2 girls—Olivia Foster, second, Chatham Co. Chaos, 2 laps, 40:22, Ali Otto, third, Orange Co. Comp, 40:42 (32).

JV3 girls—Emma Paul, second, East Chapel Hill, 1 lap, 23:42 (8).

MS A boys—Peter Hartingh, fifth, Orange Co. Comp, 2 laps, 36:21 (25).

Varsity boys—Leif Hastings, first, Chapel Hill High, 4 laps, 1:03:29, Jesse West, fourth, East Chapel Hill, 1:05:50 (23).

Varsity girls—Claudia Baum, fourth, Chapel Hill High, 4 laps, 1:16:46 (7).

Warmup Criterium

Local riders won two races at the rescheduled Winter Warmup Criterium in Kernersville.

William Swofford (UNC) of Chapel Hill was first cat 4/5 (8 finishers), and Daniel Nowell of Carrboro won cat 3/4 (7).

Hillsborough Third Stop On Bike Tour

The 22nd annual Cycle NC Mountains to Coast Ride Oct. 4-10 runs from Mount Airy to Hatteras Island. The third overnight stop on the route is Hillsborough.

Others are Eden, Henderson, Edenton, Weldon, Manteo. The event normally has more than 950 riders from 40+ states for most or all of the fully-supported ride. Register at ncsports.org.

The annual CNC Coastal Ride will be April 24-26 in Oriental, and the Mountain Ride July 31-Aug. 2 in Brevard.

Community News

Some 49 films from 31 countries are part of the New Docs category at the 28th Full Frame Documentary Festival in downtown Durham April 16-19. Passes are on sale, individual tickets 4/9.

UNC Science Expo with 100+ booths in Morehead Planetarium parking lot, downtown Chapel Hill, April 11, 10-4, food trucks.

Revolutionary War Living History Day is Saturday, April 11, 10-4 in downtown Hillsborough.



SPRING CYCLING

Coming April 15

Youngsters Take Chapel Hill Race

Mason Shanahan (17:37), age 14, and Marie Weber (24:02), age 16, were the winners at Run for the Cure 5K in Chapel Hill (289 runners). Hometowns N/A.

Harrison Lamach (20:27), age 15, was second male and Thomas Soth (20:54) third. Clio Rubinos (24:19) was second female and Monique Diaz (25:18) third.

Hill Shines At Azalea Sprint

Alex Hill of Hillsborough had the best time (51:48) among 285 age groupers and was first 16-19 at the Azalea Sprint Triathlon in Wilmington, first race in N.C. Tri Series. Distances were 300y pool swim, 12m bike, 5K run.

Nicholai Tvermoe of Chapel Hill was first 55-59, 56:55; Sylvia Furst, Pittsboro, first 60-64, 1:16:18,

Laura VanSant, Chapel Hill, second, 1:17:18.

Thomson First In Mebane

Colin Thomson (20:19) of Chapel Hill was first at Learning Outside 5K Trail in Mebane (27 finishers). The women's winner was Buttercup Granon (22:50), age 12 of Graham.

Aidan McDuffie (21:17), age 16 of Mebane, was second male and Seth Williams (22:40), age 13 of Mebane third. Emily Tysinger (23:50) and Lauren Codd (24:31), both of Chapel Hill, were second and third women.

Shuldt Wins Oral Cancer 5K

Guenther Filho Shuldt (18:40) of Chapel Hill was the first finisher at UNC SNDA Oral Cancer 5K in Chapel Hill (85). Brilliant Adams (22:31) of Durham was first woman with Lillie Hyman, Chapel Hill, 23:07, second and Jacqueline Renes, Goldsboro, 25:21, third. Eli Wells, Burlington, 20:30, was second male and Adam Qureshi, Morrisville, 20:58. third.

Durham Runners Lead 5K

Matthew Jordan-Steele (15:13) and Mary Joy (19:39), both of Durham, were the leaders at the 14th St. Paul Village 5K in Carrboro (121 finishers, down one from last year).

Matt Straub (16:13) of Carrboro was second and Nathaniel Williams (21:07) of Chapel Hill third. Ariel Kopelove (23:55) of Chapel Hill was second woman and Alison McNamara, Chapel Hill, third (23:59).

Dead Heat For Bushwackers

The TarDevil Bushwack 30 Miler from Chapel Hill to Durham ended in a dead heat with 15 finishers in 7:19:08. Laura Dewald, Carrboro, age 68, and Kramer Reeves, Chapel Hill, age 58, were atop the leaderboard. Runners ranged from 24 to 74.

Best times ever, 7:13:52, were recorded in 2020. Last year there were 17 finishers (7:24:07).

Northern Trails Run

Lisa Hecker (2:57:33) of Mebane was the women's winner at the Northern Trails 17 miler (54 finishers) in Greensboro. Men's WT was 2:25:25. Raymond Toney of Carrboro was third 60-69, 4:48:55.

Kaity Andersen (1:34:31) of Siler City was first woman in 10 miler (71). Men's WT: 1:15:45.

Joey Loftis of Mebane was second 55-59, 58:04, in the 5 miler (99). WTs were 36:00 and 43:09.

McKee Second In HM

Abbey McKee (1:23:07) of Hillsborough was second woman overall at Wilmington NC HM (2,549 finishers). WTs were 1:07:00 and 1:20:36.

Award winners from Chapel Hill were Erica Brecher, first female master, 1:32:21; Taylor Healy, second 19-24, 1:10:56; Adam Levy, second 40-44, 1:24:56; Ashley Bunhom, second 50-54, 1:44:15.

Jonah Parker of Chapel Hill was third 19-24 and had the best time (2:37:53) among local runners in the Marathon (1,794 finishers). WTs were 2:27:29 and 2:36:42.

Local award winners included Allen Baddour, second male masters, 2:45:33; Jessica Hem, first 25-29, 2:55:28, Simon Veale, second, 2:57:39; Hana Baskin, third 35-39, 3:05:53; Tanelle Smith, Pittsboro, second 45-49, 3:34:22.

In the 5K (513), Arzu Azoguz was first masters female, 23:51, and Katherine Bleacher, third, 26:19. WTs were 14:42 and 17:25. Tyler Goodridge, first 40-49, 22:54; Jennifer Braby, first 40-49, 26:21.



Running News

Jeff Galloway, America's unofficial running coach, died recently at 80. He was an important figure in American distance running and the author of "Galloway's Book on Running." Galloway grew up in Raleigh.

Marie Kumer (22:03) of Chapel Hill was first woman at the Blue Blood Rivalry 5K in Durham (62 finishers, down from 170 last year). She was third last year. Men's WT was 17:36.

Martha Hamblin of Mebane was third 60-69, 38:33, at the Waggin' Wild 5K in Greensboro (151). WT was 20:48.

Omax Shiels (2:09:38) of Chapel Hill was third 19&U, 2:09:38, at Live Well HM in Greenville (286). WT was 1:26:29. There were 839 finishers in the free 5K.

Justin Thomas (25:28:00) of Hillsborough was the top local finisher (fourth) at MST 100M Endurance in Durham. There were 23 finishers including 12 from out of state. WT was 23:26:00.

Hillsborough runners Cole Merritt (24:27) and India Woody (31:18) earned awards at Viking Dash 5K trail run in Pleasant Garden (65). Merritt was first 11-15, Woody second 16-19. WTs were 18:25 and 26:47.

Kelly Holloway (24:44) of Mebane was third 40-44 at Running of the Leprechauns 5K in Greensboro (500 finishers). WT was 19:39.

Thomas Soth (40:56) of Chapel Hill was third master male at Steve Haydu St. Patrick's Lo Tide Run 10K in Carolina Beach (300). WT was 34:46.

Race News

The 30th edition of the Komen Triangle Race for the Cure 5K (April 25) has a different location. It'll start and end at Durham Bulls Athletic Park (DBAP). The race started at Meredith College, Raleigh, later moved to RTP and now shifts to downtown Durham.

The 17th MST 12M/50K Challenge (April 12) has a new route due to construction at Blue Jay Point CP in North Raleigh.

Ville to Ville Craft Brew Relay from Asheville to Greenville, SC, April 11 is closed out.

Canepari Wins Wake Forest HM

Natalia Canepari (1:37:43) of Chapel Hill was the women's winner at Wake Forest Historic HM in Wake Forest. Men's WT was 1:21:01. There were 111 finishers, down from 234 last year.

Toren Kristoffersen of Chapel Hill was first 20-29, 1:41:49; Ridgeley Kalil, first 16-19, 1:47:45; Natalia Serre, first 20-29, 1:50:40; Samantha Knapp, third 20-29, 2:03:44.

Tim Maynor of Carrboro was second 50-59 in the 7K (83). WT was 27:34.

Northeast Duathlon

A number of new local faces were among award winners at the Northeast Park Sprint Duathlon in Gibsonville, the season opener (101 finishers). WTs were 48:12 and 58:17 for 1.6m run, 10.5m bike, 1.6m run.

Award winners: Katie DesJardin, Mebane, second 30-34, 1:01:19; Mary Thompson, Chapel Hill, second 40-44, 1:06:08; Louise Atkinson, Chapel Hill, first 45-49, 1:10:08; Sylvia Furst, Pittsboro, second 60-64, 1:09:28; Sharon Roggenbuck, Hillsborough, first 80+, 1:42:37; Brandon Wheeler, Carrboro, third 25-29, 1:11:33; Robert Locker, Mebane, first 35-39, 52:49.

Martin Wins Ten Miler

Kaleb Martin (1:05:27) of Carrboro was the men's winner at the rescheduled Occoneechee Mountain Challenge Ten Miler in Hillsborough (136 finishers, down from 170 last year). Dave Staples (1:10:33) of Hillsborough was second and Shan Guo (1:13:24) of Cary third.

Durham runners swept the top three women's spots: Emma-Astrike Davis (1:14:07), Ashley Peppriell (1:14:07), Halei Benefield (1:15:26).

Masters leaders were Paul Sopianza (1:16:39) of Hillsborough and Abigail Jeck (1:24:27) of Chapel Hill, with grand masters Carlos Rojas (1:28:02) of Durham and Lisa Hecker (1:27:33) of Mebane.

Wilde First In HM

Max Wilde (1:12:47) of Chapel Hill was first male at the East HM (819 finishers) at Run Oak Island. Bruce Smith, Mebane (1:53:02), was third 60-64.

Other results: Christelle Douillet, Chapel Hill, first 55-59, 4:39:12. at Ultra M with Scenic Detour (162).

Kim Manturuk (4:13:01), Chapel Hill, was second 50-54 and Rob McCormick (3:35:53), Chapel Hill, first 55-59.

Jennifer McLaurin (2:21:49) of Pittsboro in West HM (168).

Henry Baddour, Chapel Hill, was first 25-29, 39:55, and Emilee Hendee, Chapel Hill, second 40-44, 47:35, in the 10K (879). WTs were 34:47 and 37:28.

Honeycutt Takes PSF 5K

Raine Honeycutt (20:11), age 18, of Chapel Hill was the women's winner at PSF 5K for Education in Chapel Hill. Ryan Lynch (17:34) of Cary was the men's leader (1,288 finishers, down from 1,484 last year).

Myrian Keen (20:14), age 13 of Chapel Hill, was second (she finished third in 2025). Annilee Malia Reyes (21:11) of Carrboro third. Carter Hunt (17:43) age 16 of Chapel Hill, was second male and Andrew Zachman (17:46) of Chapel Hill third.

Teacher leaders were Christopher Noce, Asheville, 20:46, and Lisa Dunn, Carrboro, 21:58.

Age group winners from Chapel Hill: 13-14, Violet Olley 21:33, Max Garlington 18:24; 15-16, Camille Sinnott 22:16, David DeBrugand 19:32; 17-19, Yara Sinnott 21:42, Leo Fortson 18:04; 30-39, Mark Wilson 23:17; 40-49, Lisa Dunn, Carrboro, 21:58, Peter Brayshaw, Carrboro, 21:02; 50-59, Laura Hill 24:05, Charlie Baxter 19:18; 60-69, Dana Lebo 25:35, Brian Halla 21:51; 70-79, Joyce Tompkins, Pittsboro, 30:45; 80+, Michael Brown 40:57.

Pittsboro Runners Score

Pittsboro runners Liam Patterson (19:22), age 14, and Erica Bunn (22:08) were the winners at Chatham YMCA Leprechaun Dash 5K in Pittsboro. There were 204 runners, down from 280 in 2025. Leo Durst of Pittsboro, 15, was second male, 20:17, and S. Weant, 12, of Durham third, 21:46.

Caroline Moakley, Cary, 22:58, was second female and Rocio Spurlock, Bunnlevel, 25:37, third.

David Patterson, 23:09, and Aimee Gaunt, 27:39, both of Pittsboro, were the masters leaders.

Chapel Hill age group winners were Emmanda Vandell, 13-19, 25:38; Salmon Ameer, 20-29, 30:11; Kevin O'Leary, 60-69, 27:08.

10K Results

Doran Cummings (37:19) of Durham, age 15, and Ashley Patterson (41:13) of Pittsboro took first in the Leprechaun 10K (80 finishers, up from 67 last year). Logan Call, 15, Apex, 39:58, was second male and Sam Martinson, 14, Durham, 40:13, third. Kerry Freeman, Chapel Hill, 47:34 was second female and Brianna Hennessy, Pittsboro, 49:37 third.

Masters leaders were Diego Riveros, Chapel Hill, 44:50, and Bennett Arble, Pittsboro, 53:51.

Award winners from Chapel Hill: Sophia Almeida, 13-19, 1:11:37; Ariel Kopelove, 20-29, 54:25; Bruce Jackson, 60+, 50:11.

Tobacco Road Races

Half Marathon

Chapel Hill award winners at 16th Tobacco Road HM in Cary (2103 finishers; 2056 last year):

Corey Fairchild, first 20-24, 1:11:43; Jeffrey Dichiera, first male master, 1:13:27; Abigail Hart, third 30-34, 1:27:15; Brenna Maddox, third 35-39, 1:29:43; Natalie Bowman, third 45-49, 1:33:56.

WTs were 1:07:53 and 1:14:18.

Marathon

Julien Isnard, Chapel Hill, second 35-39, 2:48:42; Caroline Greene, third 25-29, 3:11:30; Shen Luo, second 50-54, 3:15:34; Xuezhong Cai, second 55-59, 3:20:11; Jingmei Shen, first 55-59, 3:47:30; Mike Kelley, third pacer, 3:50:21.

WTs were 2:25:19 and 2:50:11 (840 finishers, 655 in 2025).

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Land Swap Helps Umstead Visitors; Sidepath Funded; Estes Ext. Plan Stalled

A land swap between N.C. State Parks and Anderson Automotive Group will upgrade the entrance to Umstead Park off Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh.

The new entrance will be at a traffic light that will make coming and going easier for park visitors and follows eight years of negotiations. The state gets 26 acres adjacent to the park and the auto group 23 acres of park land that's inaccessible to the public.

Fordham Sidepath

The Fordham Sidepath Project in Chapel Hill has already received about \$2 million in federal funding and is getting another \$1 million from the House Committee on Appropriations' Community Project Funding Program (\$2M was requested). Together with the town's contribution, this matches the latest construction cost estimates and work is expected to start in the fall, city officials said.

The project updates the sidewalk from asphalt to concrete and adds 3,500 sq. ft. more along the busy and flood-prone Fordham Blvd. (US15-501 corridor) from Cleland to Willow Drive.

Estes Dr. Ext. Project

NC DOT is delaying the start of the Estes Dr. Extension Project another five years (to 2031) and cutting funds to \$5-6M. The bike/pedestrian path/sidewalk project was supposed to run from MLK Blvd along Estes Dr. Ext. to the railroad tracks at the town limits where it would connect to the Carrboro greenway.

The first portion of the connectivity project runs from Estes Elementary to MLK, was years late in construction and is widely used by kids and adults, bikers, runners, walkers.

Port Expansion Voided By Regulators

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can't dredge 28 miles of the Wilmington Harbor as planned, after North Carolina environmental regulators determined the \$1.2 billion proposal would be inconsistent with the state's coastal management policies.

Tancred Miller, director of the Division of Coastal Management (DCM), sent a letter Feb. 24 to the Corps that listed reasons for the formal objection, including cumulative flooding impacts, sea level rise, PFAS contamination, the loss of freshwater wetlands and fisheries.

The Corps also failed to provide adequate information in its Draft Environmental Impact Statement about how it would mitigate many of the harms incurred by the project, according to the letter.

"The DEIS lacks rigorous analysis of net economic benefits and does not adequately evaluate potential economic losses associated with environmental degradation," Miller wrote. Contaminated soil removed from the harbor would have been spread on public beaches and marshes in coastal communities.

Lisa Sorg, Inside Climate News

Star Parties Slated April 24

Orange County families will have to travel to Apex or Durham for stargazing activities at Star Parties April 24, part of 2026 NC Sci Fest. There are no star watching events in Chapel Hill or Hillsborough.

In Apex, stargazing will be held at the American Tobacco Trail at White Oak parking lot 6-9:30 p.m., while West Point on the Eno, Durham city park, has stargazing 8-11:30 p.m. and at Eno River State Park on Cole Mill Road, 7:30-9 p.m. Programs are free and don't require registration. They are all part of N.C. Scifest April 1-30 across the state.

OWASA Lakes Reopen March 28

OWASA lakes, University Lake in Carrboro and Cane Creek in Chapel Hill, reopen Saturday, March 28. Opening day is Lightning Brown Day and all lake fees and rental rates except motors are waived. Hours are 6:30 to 6.

University Lake is open Friday-Sunday and Cane Creek Friday-Saturday plus most holidays except Good Friday through October. Lakes offer fishing, boat rentals (kayak, canoe, flatbottom), birdwatching, hiking, picnicking, sunbathing. Remember to release all of your catch at Cane Creek due to PFAs.

Hours and fees are the same as last year. Swimming, wading, sailing is not allowed at either reservoir. Fishers need to have a N.C. fishing license.

Lake use fees are charged daily after opening day for all visitors except Orange County seniors. Season passes are available. Small private boats can be launched for a fee after inspection by lake staffers.

They'll continue requiring reservations for visitors arriving before 10 a.m., a leftover rule from the covid era. Sign up on the OWASA website before Wednesday each week for early arrival. Otherwise, no registration is needed.

OWASA plans to step marketing for the lakes this year after attendance and income slipped slightly last season. UL was closed for several weeks for cleanup after Chantal flooded the region last July.

Attendance totaled 5,835 at CC, 3,222 at UL in '25. Most UL visitors are from Orange County, but that's not so at Cane Creek with big numbers from Alamance, Chatham and others.



Other Area Lakes

Little River, a Durham reservoir on Orange Factory Rd. in north Durham, operates Friday-Monday 6:30-6 for boating and fishing. Fees are charged. No personal boats allowed at LR; they rent kayaks, canoes, jon boats but citizens need to bring their own trolling motor battery. Lake Michie remains closed due to flooding damage from Chantal that wrecked the dock and platform. LR is open holidays.

Boat ramps at Lake Wheeler, Raleigh, are closed due to low water level. Call 919-996-6740 for updates.

Graham-Mebane Lake on Bason Rd., Mebane, has fishing and boating, sunrise to sunset, closed Tuesday. Fees are charged. For info call 919-563-6544.

Jordan Lake day use areas are free for now, but entrance fees are charged weekends in April, May and September. Daily fees are collected Memorial Day through Labor Day. *J.B.*

CRICKET, Continued from page 1

the sport than Sam Vadgama of Cary, longtime North Carolina hotelier and general manager of the Residence Inn in Chapel Hill. Originally from the United Kingdom, Vadgama played competitive county cricket—the club system that feeds England's professional ranks. "In the U.K. I played with one of the county teams and alongside players who went on to turn pro," he recalls. "I might have had the opportunity myself. But in the late 1990s, there just wasn't money in the game. So I turned my attention to business."

Vadgama says everything changed with the rise of the Indian Premier League (IPL). "The IPL transformed cricket by turning it into a fast-paced, global entertainment product," he says. "The three-hour T20 format made the sport accessible to modern audiences, blending athletics with music, spectacle and prime-time television." That transformation reshaped cricket worldwide—boosting player salaries through auctions and endorsements, creating international stars, and inspiring leagues across continents.

England's professional women's league, The Hundred, was launched in 2021, and features city-based teams playing a fast, fan-friendly format—an important signal for cricket's inclusive future.

For those who can't wait for a Cricket Coliseum, cricket is already nearby. Church Street Park—often called the Morrisville Cricket Ground—serves as the Triangle's de facto cricket stadium. The facility has hosted Minor League Cricket and Major League Cricket matches, with recent upgrades expanding seating to roughly 3,500 and adding broadcast and practice infrastructure.

Nationally, other U.S. cricket venues in New York, Florida, and Texas have drawn impressive crowds. So there's excitement, certainly. Still, Vadgama offers a measured perspective. "Cricket will never reach the level it has in India," he says. "There, it doesn't compete with as many professional sports. In the U.S., cricket is up against football, basketball, baseball—everything."

He also wonders about the next generation. "Will American-born kids of expatriates take up cricket? I'm not sure. It's not a collegiate sport, there are no scholarships. It will attract people here, absolutely—but whether it becomes truly huge 50 years from now remains to be seen."

Cricket returns to the Olympics at the 2028 Summer Olympics, marking just its second Olympic appearance after the 1900 Summer Olympics. The sport will be played in the fast-paced Twenty20 (T20) format, with each team limited to 20 overs. An over consists of six pitches of the ball, meaning each team has 120 pitches total to score as many runs as possible—creating a shorter, faster, and more spectator-friendly game.

For now, UNC's exploration of cricket at Carolina North reflects a broader truth: Chapel Hill sits at the intersection of tradition and global change. A coliseum aside, the conversation itself signals how international culture, sports, and community are reshaping the future of Orange County—one sticky wicket at a time.

Fayetteville Project

Two cricket stadiums are part of a \$150M U.S. Open Sports Complex in Fayetteville near I-95 where ground was broken last month.

Outdoor Notes

YOUTH FISHING CLINIC

The first youth fishing clinic of the season for ages 5-15 takes place Saturday, March 21, 9-11 a.m. at Anderson Park Pond off NC54W, Carrboro. Clinic focus is learning the basics. Cost is \$5.00 and a parent or guardian must attend. Register at WebTrac. Supplies are furnished; bring a fishing rod if you have one or use a cane pole from Carrboro. Other clinics are April 18, May 9.

Falls Lake SRA will hold its 9th annual Youth Fishing Tournament for ages 5-13 April 25 starting at 8:30 a.m. at Beaverdam Rec Area off Wake Forest Road, Raleigh. Call 984-867-8000 to register.

BALD EAGLE PADDLES

Bald eagle search paddles, organized by Two Sisters Adventure Co. of Durham, will be held 3/26 9-1, 4/26 8:30-12, 5/9 8-12 at Jordan Lake's Farrington Point canoe ramp. Cost is \$60/person for a 4-hour trip. Register at connect@twosistersadventure.com. Single person kayaks provided. Program is part of Connect 250.

BOATING AMERICA CLASS

Jordan Lake Flotilla 9-11 (U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary) offers a Boating America class monthly in Cary—March 21, April 18, May 16, 9-5, at Bass Pro Shop. Cost is \$25.00 for materials. Contact David Kapthammer, aux0911fc@gmail.com. The eight-hour class covers topics like boating law, safety equipment, safe operation & navigation.

PETITION TO REVOKE

A change.org petition to the Durham City Council to revoke the rezoning of land adjacent to Sandy Creek Park in SW Durham for apartments had 2160+ signers in late February. Sandy Creek Park is a 100+ acre natural area and popular birding spot near Pickett Road. The council approved the rezoning 4-3 in March 2025.

Community News

Repair Cafe NC will be held Saturday, April 11, 1-5 p.m. at Whitted Meeting Room, in the county's Whitted Building, 300 W. Tryon St., Hillsborough. Bring your broken items, clothing, electrical or mechanical items, and experienced personnel will help you fix them.

AgFest Saturday, March 28, at Chatham Co. Ag & Conference Center, US64W, Pittsboro, offers something for everybody, 10-3. There will be games, contests and activities for kids, food trucks, info sessions for gardeners, large and small. Free. Additional parking and shuttle service provided to AgFest from Chatham Community College campus main building.

A Family Fun Day is planned April 11 from 11 to 2 at Orange Co. Sportsplex, Hillsborough, with games, contests and basketball competitions. Check the website.

Wildlife Issue?

If you have a wildlife problem or concern, contact the NC Wildlife Helpline, 866-318-2401, Mon-Fri 8-5. Or visit 24-7 ncwildlife.org/have-a-problem.

To report wildlife violations, 800-662-7137.

UPCOMING CSN ISSUES:

April 15, Spring Cycling

May 13, Local Public Golf Update



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

March Standings

Triangle Dart League

Darty Old Men 6-0 86-34 0.717, Dave's Not Here 6-1 97-43 0.693, We Need 'em All 4-3 72-68 0.514. MRDMCR 3-4 69-71 0.493, STDW 3 4 59-81 0.421, Subway 2-5 56-84 0.400, One For Fun 0-7 41-99 0.293.

Orange Co. Men's Basketball/Winter

Dynasty 4-0, Mud Dogs 3-1, Buckets 2-2, King Ballers 2-2 Petite Ballers 2-2, Big Dawgs 2-02, Leftovers 1-3, Airballers 0-4.

Orange Co. Co-Rec Volleyball

I'd Hit It 8-0, Average Joes 7-1, Tool Time 7-1, Nash Street Tavern 5-3, Paislinators 3.0 5-3, A Set to Kill 4-4, Set Happens 3-5, Set It & Forget It 1-7, Setting Ducks 1-7, Hillsborough Hitters 0-8.

Final Standings

Ocasl@tasl Winter

Over 30—Tugboat Depot 10-0 30, Mountain Goat FC 8-0-2 24, Durham FC 5-1-4 16, Still Limpin 4-1-5 13, The Federal 4-1-5 13, Sneaky PK FC 4-1-5 13, Matienzo FC 3-0-7 9, Hot Pants FC 0-0-10 0.

Over 40—Beercelona 9-0-1 27, Federal 4.0 8-0-2 24, Oldcastle United 4-3-3 15, Boca Seniors 3-1-6 10, Boot Room FC 3-1-6 10, Wrexhamstring 0-1-9 1.

Kaminsky/Studdard Rec 1/2—Woodcroft SC 8-1-1 25, Quality Assurance 7-1-2 22, Pickup FC 5-0-5 15, Head Game Strong 5-0-5 15, Chapel Hill FC 3-0-7 9, College United FC 1-0-9 3.

O'Hara Rec 3—Sporting Rose 5-1-4 16, AR United 5-1-4 16, Noir FC 4-1-5 13, Stone Cold FC 4-1-5 13.

Coed 11 Rec—Unicorns FC 7-2-1 23, Diamond Dogs 6-2-2 20, Athletic Tri 4-2-4 14, Hairy Fairies 0-0-10 0.

Orange Co. Sportsplex Men's Basketball/Winter

Buckets 7-0, Pollard Mustangs 4-3, FA-White 4-3, Screwdrivers 4-3, Live Wire 2-5, FA-Blue 0-7.

Community News

UNC spring football practice (15 days total) starts March 24. No info yet on any open practice sessions.

Carolina Hurricane principal owner Tom Dundon plans to sell 12.5 percent (\$2.66B) of the team to raise funds to buy the NBA Portland Trailblazers.

Ceramic art installation at Pritchard Park (Chapel Hill Library) opens Saturday, March 21, 1-3 p.m. The opening of "Faces of the Forest" features 12 ceramic faces by Levi Yakubu and a talk by the artist, nature walk. Free.

Take The Train To NASCAR Race

For a second straight year, NASCAR fans will be able to take a train from the Triangle to watch auto racing at Rockingham Speedway.

Amtrak and NC DOT will run a special train for race fans April 4, the second day of the Easter Weekend Classic at Rockingham. The "Rockingham Special" will leave Raleigh Union Station that morning, with stops in Cary and Southern Pines before arriving at the speedway in time for the first of two races.

NCDOT's passenger rail program, NC By Train, was inspired to offer the Rockingham train last year after the success of the "Open Express," which carried passengers from the Triangle to the U.S. Open golf tournament in Pinehurst over four days in June 2024. Those trains sold out. Last year's NASCAR train also was a big success, said Bob Sargent, president of Track Enterprises, the NASCAR promoter at Rockingham Speedway. "We're fortunate to have NC By Train passenger rail tracks adjacent to the speedway," Sargent said in a statement. "This is a one-of-a-kind travel solution and helps take some of the guesswork and effort out of the planning for our fans."

Standard tickets cost \$25 each way and must be purchased in advance online at www.amtrak.com/promotions/rockingham. Customers should type or select "Rockingham" for your destination and return trip. Food and beverages, including beer, wine and liquor, will be available to purchase on board.

The morning Rockingham Special will leave Raleigh Union Station at 7:50 a.m. and stop in Cary at 8:05 a.m. and Southern Pines at 9:18 a.m. before arriving at a temporary station outside the raceway gate shortly before 10 a.m.

The evening train is scheduled to leave the speedway at 6:35 p.m. with stops in Southern Pines and Cary before returning to Raleigh a little after 8:40 p.m. NCDOT subsidizes Amtrak service in North Carolina on the Piedmont and Carolinian trains. It works with Amtrak to make special stops at big events along those routes, including the N.C. State Fair in Raleigh and the Lexington

Another View, Mine John Nieman

As I have expressed in this space and pretty much everywhere else, I am greatly concerned about the upcoming World Cup here in the United States. Our president has—with the complicit help of the president of FIFA—assumed control and ownership of this important International event. By the way, this is someone who, if asked to explain the offside rule, would go off on a rant about immigration and tariffs. It has become a great concern of mine.

And so, it is with this background that I was able to experience one of the happiest events of my life last week when Martha and I attended the induction of Kip Ward and Vicky (Ward) Brawley into the North Carolina Soccer Hall of Fame. This was a well-deserved and long overdue honor. Rainbow Soccer was an integral part of my life and the lives of thousands of residents of the greater Chapel Hill area in the 70s and 80s.

Begun by Kip and Vicky in the 70s, along with the help of their good friend Anson Dorrance (you might have heard of him) it was a unique and one of a kind sporting endeavor. And that gives short shrift to the definition of unique and one of a kind.

Although the brainchild of two Division I soccer players and high level accomplished competitive athletes in Kip and Anson, it was based on the idea that soccer was a game to be played. Competition and goal achievement were something to achieve elsewhere. This was a place purely to play. To enjoy the moment of touching the ball and connecting with teammates both on and off the field.

That aura was embodied in Vicky and she was the central force of that continuing spirit throughout her more than 20 years with the program. Kip was the face of the program. Adorned most times with a white fedora and seersucker suit, he would come to practices and games, perform a perfectly-executed rainbow move, and laugh and embrace with all of the participants.

The adult program became a place for both the experienced and the complete novice to bind together in friendship and love of play. Soccer was the vehicle, but the destination was Joy and Fellowship. The number of couples throughout the state, and perhaps throughout the nation—including Martha and me—who can say, "we met through Rainbow" is immeasurable.

On a personal note, Kip and Vicky changed and perhaps saved my life. I had just been unceremoniously booted from the graduate program at the sociology school at UNC because my research was in their words, "too mainstream pop culture." I had lost my research and teaching positions.

That night, Kip and Vicky asked me if I would be willing to be the director of Rainbow Soccer and Rainbow Soccer Camp for a couple hundred bucks a week. It was over 40 years ago and I still remember every moment of that night.

Rainbow Soccer today is still a wonderful program. It is certainly not the purely Joy of play experience of its inception, but, unfortunately, life has changed. During my time as director I have to admit that I contributed to the evolution—some would say devolution—of the program.

We expanded the Sunset program, an adult, more competitive league, to year round. We initiated what we called the Frostbite League, which competed in the snow and ice, much to the demolition of the poor fields down on Cleland Road. But, as Bluey would say, it was the '80s man. People were watching Wall Street and Andrew Dice Clay and were it not for Vicky, Rainbow could have completely evaporated. But thank heavens, we had Vicky.

And so there we were last week initiating her and Kip into the soccer Hall of Fame. Kip has passed and so his initiation was posthumous, but there was Vicky. Amidst her fellow inductees who were all lauded for their championships and accomplishments on the field,

Vicky was there to talk about the wonderment of human interaction and love on the field of play. There were so many Rainbow Soccer folks in attendance. Of course, Anson was there as were former professional soccer players, many of the original players, four or five former inductees, all of whom were Rainbow alumni.

As she stood there with John Scott, one of those Originals and a driving force behind the induction, having her picture taken for posterity, I was wiping away tears of joy for her and remembrance of what was.

If nothing else, it gives me hope that we can overcome the madness within which we now find ourselves.

Of course, I can also console myself with the knowledge that the Fat Boy Index is 255.

Media Sportswatch Joel Bulkley

With N&O sports columnist Luke DeCock gone, there's no "sports conscience" in print for the Triangle to rail about honor, integrity, equity—things like Trump's "Save College Sports" confab, FIFA's price gouging for World Cup tickets, parking, NFL Thanksgiving TV expansion, etc. In the meantime, I guess Scott Fowler, the all-everything columnist/sportswriter for Charlotte, will have to be tasked to assume the role.

DeCock spent 25 years at the N&O. He moved to Chicago last fall, commuted or wrote from home until the end of the year when the job apparently ended. He still posts on Bluesky about Canes hockey and the ACC.

Another change at the N&O, Patrick Stevens, college hoops bracketologist, is now a "correspondent." He was at WaPo for years.

Credit to the Daily Tar Heel for The Shot special edition on Seth Trimble's game-winner against Duke in the Smith Center. Pix on the front page was great. The pre-game joint Rivalry Edition with Duke Chronicle, 40 pages, the largest ever, was fun.

I've noticed how lightly the N&O and others comment about UNC and other ACC teams underachieving in basketball. Usually they lay it entirely on the head coach. Coach Davis, for example, is in charge but his assistant coaches don't seem to excel or develop any aspect of the game so little

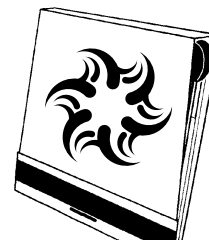
improvement in play is evident as the season winds down. Maybe some new faces, elite coaches, would help.

Davis had a much better year in recruiting and team chemistry and brought more success, silencing some critics for the moment.

Odds and Ends. Civil rights leader Jesse Jackson was knee deep in sports. He was QB at NC A&T in Greensboro and spoke at Jackie Robinson's funeral. In February Carrboro paused consideration of a 6-month trial closing of E.Weaver St for a pedestrian mall or bikeway for 6 months. U.S. medal winners in the Winter Olympics in Milan were rewarded for success: gold medal \$37,500, silver \$22,500, bronze \$15,000. The '28 Olympics, based in LA, will play soccer games in five states—Queens, NY, Columbus, Nashville, St. Louis, San Jose, San Diego. Early voting for the primary in Orange County totaled 15,417 voters. Orange Works, Hillsborough, had the most (4190), Chapel of the Cross, Chapel Hill, the fewest (964). March 30 is Take a Walk in the Park Day. Banana Ball visits Chapel Hill and Charlotte this spring. Otherwise, you can watch any of 26 Banana ball games on Disney networks (ABC, ESPN, ESPN2). The UNC games are not on the TV schedule. Wallet Hub says Durham is the country's 24th happiest city, Raleigh 22, I don't believe it. Fremont, CA was first. NCCU lost 70-63 to Howard in the MEAC tournament final. Too bad there's nobody writing about it...

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