

FREE

ORANGE

SERVING THE TRIANGLE

COMMUNITY SPORTS NEWS

BASKETBALL ★ CYCLING ★ RUNNING ★ OUTDOORS

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TLC PHOTO

SPRING CYCLING

Brumley Bridge Celebration

Tropical Storm Chantal swept away the bridge crossing Stony Creek on Springhouse Loop at Brumley South Nature Preserve, Chapel Hill, last summer. Eight months later a new bridge linking both sides of Brumley is in place thanks to the generous donations and support from individuals and TORC (CSN, March 2026).

Triangle Land Conservancy (TLC) and Triangle Off-Road Cyclists (TORC) are celebrating the return of the bridge, built back much stronger than the original, Saturday, April 18, from 10 to 1. There will be food, group rides and a kid-friendly and family-friendly ride. If you like biking at Brumley, register to attend at meetup.com/torc-nc/events/313769178. It's a chance to show support for TLC and TORC and have some fun all at once.

The bridge celebration leads off a busy



The new bridge made it easier for volunteers to continue trail repair work at Brumley South.

TORC PHOTO

spring for TORC and local MTBers.

ROXBORO ROTARY Centennial Park, just across the county line from Durham on

BRUMLEY, Continued on page 5

Off The Dribble

ACC's Postseason Collapse

Chip Bremer

What a difference a few weeks makes.

After what appeared to be a resurgence of ACC prominence—doubling the conference's NCAA tournament bids a year ago from four to eight—the ACC took a face plant by only advancing top-seeded Duke beyond the tournament's first weekend, and then watching the Blue Devils collapse in the regional final after building a 19-point lead.

It was one of the ugliest collective performances in recent memory, and something the conference needs to address as a whole.

UNC Pauses Smith Center Renovation Talk

North Carolina is putting talks about the future home for its men's basketball program on hold.

The school said in a statement March 29 that it is suspending those discussions as officials focus on hiring a new coach.

"Arena discussions will resume after the new coach has had time to acclimate to the program and focus on future needs," the school said.

County Changes Millhouse Plans

Years ago Orange County bought the 75-acre Millhouse Road property adjacent to Duke Forest near I-40 and was going to jointly develop the land as a soccer complex with Chapel Hill. Coupled with the county's soccer.com property in Efland they had enough fields to host youth soccer or lacrosse weekend tournaments. They would draw visitors and tax revenue for the county.

Neither the county or the city has money for such projects these days, so the county changed course. They are now interested in selling the property to a non-profit or non-profit-led partnership to build a playing field

MILLHOUSE, Continued on page 5

Duke's self-destruction would be considered a massive feat had it not been preceded by a similar implosion the week before, when the sixth-seeded UNC Tar Heels surrendered a 19-point lead to 11-seeded VCU enroute to their second consecutive first-round loss under Hubert Davis—which ultimately led to his removal.

That the tournament's biggest choke jobs came at the expense of two of the ACC's top programs could be considered something of a baffling development, but it reveals something about how the conference prepares its teams for the postseason—and it can all be traced back to officiating.

ACC officials are notorious for calling games tighter than officiating teams of other conferences, with the intention of improving overall performance. But this approach is actually having the opposite effect when the

ACC COLLAPSE, Continued on page 4



The Homestead Park lot was jammed for the grand "reopening" of the upgraded Chapel Hill skate park. The changes were designed by boarders, rebuilt with concrete, reopened in late fall but the celebration was delayed until spring and warm weather. Young and old enjoyed the action.

TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL PHOTO

Carolina Hires New Hoops Coach

Related Stories Page 4

North Carolina hired Michael Malone, a former NBA coach, to lead the basketball program, paying him \$50M over six years. It's the school's first move "outside the family" in decades and he'll be the fifth new coach in the ACC next season.

Michael Malone, 54, had a 24-year NBA coaching career (12 as a head coach with 10 in Denver where he won a championship in 2023) and is described as a selfless teacher and innovator who can move UNC to a higher level. He wanted to be "part of something bigger than myself," Malone said in his first remarks here after taking the job.

NEW COACH, Continued on page 4

**Inside:
Climbing Results
NC MiLB Teams
Music Festivals**

Local Public Golf Update May 13

The next issue (May 13) of CSN will highlight local public golf with green fees for nearly three dozen regional courses open for public play.

The annual update also will outline the top courses in the region and state selected by the N.C. Golf Panel, as well as a bucketful of road race and triathlon results. The deadline is 7 days in advance. Contact joelcsn1@gmail.com.

The World Cup Mini Guide follows in June. Sign up on the website for monthly updates.

NC Road Races

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 Road Race, Mayfair Center, Wilmington, 8:30am, 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.*

April 24

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

April 25

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, 8 a.m., ricons.cancer.org.

Water for the People 5K, ATT at White Oak Chapel access, 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.*

April 30

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

May 2

Jogging for Josh 5K, 3101 S. Church St., Burlington, 9:30 a.m., joggingforjosh.com. *Live & Virtual.*

Moonlight Bootlegger 5K trail, Pleasant Garden, 8 p.m., runsignup.com.

Carolina Strawberry Festival 5K, Wallace, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

Derby Run 5K/10K, Terry Sanford HS, Fayetteville, 8:15

a.m., runsignup.com.

5th Refuge Hope Partners, King's Chapel, Raleigh, 8 a.m., evente.racereach.com.

Watermelon 5K Family Fest, WMSP, Cary, runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

YMCA Families On Challenge 2m obstacle run, Finley YMCA, Raleigh, heats start 8 a.m., ymca.triangleregister.org.

May 3

14th Racing for Rescues 5K, WMSP, Cary, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

May 6

Wilma Dash 5K, Wilmington, 6:30 p.m., runsignup.com.

May 8

Main Street Challenge 5K, China Grove, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

May 9

Inaugural Run to Rhythm trail 5K, Northwood HS, Pittsboro, 9:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

FCA Mom's Day 5K, Burlington, 8:30 a.m., itsyourrace.com.

Bloom and Zoom 5K/8K, WMSP, Cary, 8:15 a.m. mass start, runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

May 10

Vineyard Run@ The Grove 5K, Gibsonville, 8:30 a.m., itsyourrace.com.

May 15

New River 5K, Todd, 6:30 p.m., rfunsignup.com.

May 16

Bee Amazing 5K, comp/rec div, 79 TW Alexander Dr., RTP, 10 a.m., evente.racereach.com.

Looking for a Cure 5K on ATT, Bull City Running Co., South Durham, 8 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

Five Points 5K, timed/untimed, Hayes Barton Church, Raleigh, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

Adopt Don't Stop 5K, Cedarock Park, Burlington, 4:15 p.m. runsignup.com.

7th Miles for Music 5K, downtown Beaufort, 8:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

Tackle the Tar 5K obstacle run, Rocky Mount Sports Complex, 8:45 a.m., eventbrite.com by 5/14.

The Bear Crawl, 6m/2m/1m obstacle, Morganton, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

May 20

UT Breast Cancer Awareness 5K, 55 TW Alexander, RTP, 11 a.m., runsignup.com.

May 21

N.C. Beer Mile, 1m novelty run, 202 E. Cedar St., Cary, 6 p.m., evente.racereach.com

May 23

Memorial Day 5K, The Chatham Rabbit, Siler City, 8:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

Memorial Day Trail Race 8m/5m/3m, Charlotte White-water Center, 8 a.m., white-water.org/race.

Run to Remember 6/4/2m, Northwest Cary YMCA, 8 a.m., staggered start, runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

Tunnel To Tower 5K, Hurdle Mills, 9am, runsignup.com.

May 24

NC Fossil Fest 5K, Aurora, 8 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

May 30

Running of the Bulls 8K, DAP, downtown Durham, 7:15 a.m., runsignup.com.

N.C. AAZK Zoo Dash 5K, Jaycee Park, Greensboro, 7:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

NaDa 5K Charlotte, 6 p.m., raceroster.com.

NC Long Distance

April 18

Tar Heel Ten Miler/4M/14M, Laurel Hill Challenge, South Road, UNC, Chapel Hill, 7:15 a.m., tarheeltenmiler.com.

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.

April 25

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

April 25

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

Tuck Fest HM trail, White-water 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.*

Garmin M Durham/HM/10K/5K, DBAC, downtown Durham, 7a.m., runsignup.com.

Neuse River Bridge Run HM/10K/5K, New Bern, 7 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

Fayetteville Spartan Tri-fecta 50K/21K obstacle run, McCormick Farms, Spring Lake, runsignup.com.

6th Jump Off HM/10K, Hendersonville, 7:30 a.m., raceroster.com.

Zen Squirrel 10m/5m trail at Briar Chapel, Chapel Hill, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

New River M/HM, Todd, 7:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

Quest for the Crest Trail Races 50K/25K/11K, Burnsville, 5:30am, ultrasignup.com.

Biltmore Kiwanis Classic 15K/5K, Biltmore Estate, Asheville, 7:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

Beer City 20K Relay and 5K, New Belgium Brewing, Asheville, 9 a.m., raceroster.com.

Brevard Classic 12K/5K, downtown Brevard, 8 a.m., raceroster.com

14th Levine JCC Kids Tri, youth tri for kids 5-14, Charlotte, 1p.m., jewishcharlotte.org.

Triangle Sprint & Mini Sprint & Youth Tris, Harris Lake, New Hill, 7:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

8th Tri for Fun Multi-Sport Youth 5-15, youth tri, Morehead City, runsignup.com.

Uwharrie 5 Hr Adventure Race, solo/team for hiking/paddling, Badin, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

5th South Fork Sampler: A Multisport Adventure Race, 5Hr/3Hr, Cramerton, 9 a.m., raceroster.com.

N.C. Summer Distance Races

June

6, Lake Norman Forest Run HM, Statesville.

10, Flying Squirrel 10m, Asheville.

19, RAD HM/10K, Asheville.

20, Run the South HM/10K/5K, Charlotte.

July

11, Sizzling Soles HM/10K/5K, Cary.

18, Common Rush Trail, 10m/5m, New Hill.



N.C. Music Festivals

April

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, Big Blues Show with Music Maker Foundation, Cary Arts Center, Cary, 7:30 p.m.

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.

28, Jazz Festival at Moorefields, Hillsborough, 1-5 p.m., etix.com.

May

1-3, Casual Campout, Lakeside Retreats, Raleigh, 2 stages.

2, Midtown Park Music Fest, North Hills Complex, Raleigh.

2-3, Inaugural Asheville Buskerfest, Pack Square Park, Asheville. Free.

7-9, Malpass Brothers Country & Bluegrass Festival, Denton.

7-10, Shakori Hills Festival of Music & Dance, Pittsboro.

8-9, Steve Sutton Fest, Lake Janaluska.

15-16, 6th Carolina Indie Fest, Sanford. Fri 5-10, Sat 2-9. Free.

16, 12th Atlantic Beach Boardwalk Beach Music Festival, Atlantic Beach, 11-6. Free.

16, Vet Jam, Fuquay-Varina.

16, 40th Carolina Blues Festival, LaBauer Park, Greensboro.

16-17, Artspllosure street festival, Raleigh. Free.

21-23, Tony Rice Memorial Day Music Fest, Camp Springs Blue Grass Park, Elon.

22-23, Gears & Guitars, Winston-Salem.

23, Carrboro Bluegrass Festival, 6+ bands, Cat's Cradle Back Yard, Carrboro.

29-30, Cold Mountain Music Festival, Canton.

29-31, Bear Shadow, Ferngrove, Highlands.

Upcoming CSN Issues:

Digital Only

May 13—Local Public Golf Update

June 10—World Cup Mini-Preview

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10 N.C. Cities For MiLB Ball

Durham (Tampa Bay) and Charlotte (Chicago WSox) are the top-level Triple A baseball franchises in North Carolina. There are ten in all, plus many more if you count summer college league teams.

If you're traveling the state this summer, check out MiLB games in these cities:

Asheville—level High A, parent club Houston; Fayetteville Woodpeckers—High A, Houston; Greensboro Grasshoppers—High A, Pittsburgh; Hickory Crawdads—low A, Texas Rangers; Kannapolis Cannonballers, Single A, Chicago WSox;

Winston-Salem Dash—South Atlantic, High A, Chicago WSox;

Wilmington Blue Rocks—South Atlantic, High A, Washington Nationals;

Wilson Warbirds—Single A, Milwaukee (formerly Carolina Mudcats);

Others: Down East Bird Dogs, Kinston, Frontier League; Gastonia Ghost Peppers, High Point Rockers, Atlantic League. These are partner leagues with MLB.

Nearest summer collegiate team is the Burlington Sock Puppets, the only N.C. member of the Appalachian League. Their season home opener is June 8. Roster normally includes UNC, Duke and ACC players.

Pickleball Winners

Division winners at Bull City Open Pickleball (191 players), Durham:

MSingles 3.0—Anthony Gomes.

MSingles 3.5—Ryan Gatt.

SrMDoubles—Levi Larroza/Joel Eagle.

WSingles 3.0-3.5—Hope Tolley.

SrWDoubles 3.0-3.5—Susan Wilson/Rose Cody.

MDoubles 2.5-3.0—Colin Meadows/Gunner Rojas.

MDoubles 3.5—Brad Crawford/Edwardo Cruz.

MDoubles 4.0—Thomas Spencer/Matt Anderson.

MDoubles 4.5—Jeremy Harrelson/Scott McLamb.

WDoubles 2.5-3.0—Sarah Wilbur/Laura Shively.

WDoubles 3.5—Sherry Stolfo/Christa Resavy.

WDoubles 4.0—Daniela Prodanova/Lisa Davidson.

MixDoubles 2.5-3.0—Greta Neigher/Clay Neigher.

MixDoubles 3.5—Kinston Ashley/Jacob Ashley.

MixDoubles 4.0—Connor Wilkins/Angelina Neighberger.

SrMixDoubles 2.5-3.0—Richard Cohen/Elisa Prestwood.

Winter Pickleball Medalists

Orange County players earned awards at the BodyArmor State Games Winter Pickleball Tournament in Raleigh (379 players):

WDoubles 4.0-4.5 age 50-64—Tracey Taylor, Rougemont/Donna Kendall, Cary, second.

MixDoubles 4.0 age 35-49—Daniel Bradley, Mebane/Amy Brewington, Greensboro, third.

MixDoubles 4.0-5.0 age 50+—Tracey Taylor, Rougemont/Rickey Stephens, Pinehurst, third.

WSingles 3.0-3.5 50+—Susan Eisenson, Chapel Hill, third.

Atlanta Gives Eno Rugby First Loss

Atlanta 2.0 defeated Eno River women's rugby 31-21 in Durham. It was Eno's first loss (2-1 in WD2) of the limited spring season.

Sadie scored two tries and AJ one for Eno. Mads added three conversions.

Back of the Match was Mads, forward Tonic and Eno Player of Match Cosmo.

Tobacco Road Edges Fayetteville

Travis Spencer had two of everything for Tobacco Road men's rugby in a 30-29 road win over Fayetteville. Spencer had two tries, two conversions, two field goals to spark To-Ro. Jack Carpenter and Matt Markovetz also scored tries.

TR did not qualify for the postseason.

Summer Sevens

The third edition of Bull City 7s tournament will be held Saturday, June 13, starting at 9 a.m. at Holt Fields in North Durham. Fee is \$350/team for the social division entries. Learn more or register a team at zeffy.com.

OCASL Winter League Leaders

Over 30—champion Tugboat Depot, 10-0 30 points. Most goals scored, Mountain Goat FC (74). Fewest goals allowed, Tugboat Depot (19).

Anderson Over 40—champion Beercelona 9-0-1 27. Most goals scored, Beercelona (57). Fewest goals allowed, Federal 4.0 (19).

Kaminsky Studdard Rec—champion Woodcroft SC, 8-1-1 25. Most goals scored, Woodcroft SC (47). Fewest goals allowed, Woodcroft SC and Quality Assurance (15 each).

O'Hara Rec 3—champion Sporting Rose, 5-1-4 16 and AR United 92 5-1-4 16. Most goals scored, Sporting Rose (30). Fewest goals allowed AR United 92 (22).

Coed 11 Rec—champion Unicorns FC 7-2-1 23. Most goals scored, Diamond Dogs (35). Fewest goals allowed Unicorns FC (6).

U.S. Open Golf Local Qualifying May 11 At Duke

It's too late to enter the U.S. Open Championship June 18-21 at Shinnecock Hills CC on Long Island. The deadline was April 8.

But local qualifying for the Open for amateur players with 0.4 handicap index is scheduled May 6 at River Landing, Wallace; May 11, Duke Univ. GC, Durham, and The Cardinal by Pat Daye, Greensboro; final qualifying (2 rounds) June 8 at Gaston CC, Gastonia.

In 2024, 9,522 golfers played local qualifiers at 109 sites with 530 (5.6 percent) advancing to final qualifying where 937 played at 13 sites with 73 making the Open (7.8 percent), according to the USGA.

Truist Championship Returns to Charlotte

The state's top golf event, the Truist Championship, takes place May 7-10 at Quail Hollow Club, Charlotte, site of the 2025 PGA Championship. Purse is \$20M. The Truist was displaced last year and was played in Pennsylvania. Years ago it was sponsored by Wachovia and Wells Fargo in Charlotte.

It's the first of three PGA events in the state this year: Wyndham Championship, Aug. 6-9, Sedgefield CC, Greensboro (\$8.5M purse) and the inaugural Biltmore Championship Asheville at the Jack Nicklaus-designed Cliffs at Walnut Cove, Sep. 17-20 (\$5M purse). It's Asheville's first tour event since 1942.

Volunteer registration is open.

3 Ex-UNC Players On MLB Rosters

The number of former UNC players on Major League Baseball opening day rosters dropped from five to three this year—Zac Gallen, Arizona Diamondbacks, Michael Busch, Chicago Cubs and Cooper Criswell, Seattle Mariners. The number goes to four if you include Walt Weiss, manager of the Atlanta Braves.

Rock The Hill 37 Award Winners

Four Chapel Hill climbers were division winners at Webster's Rock the Hill 37 indoor climbing, "The Last Rodeo," in Chapel Hill. There were 114 climbers, down from 160 last year, using 42 different route combinations for the final event on the Community Center climbing wall before it gets replaced. Over \$20,000 worth of donations and prizes were awarded.

Here are the results:

Youth Female—first, Anna Stromberg of Mountain Goat Climbing Team of Chapel Hill; second, Avery Kranz, Chapel Hill, third, Vita Yobost-Siegel of Mountain Goat Climbing Team; Youth Male, first, Nathan Miller, Chapel Hill, second, Jackson Howes, Chapel Hill, third, Asher Vinson Hillsborough.

Recreation Female—first, Karen Tan, Raleigh, second, Kate Thacker of Mountain Goat Climbing Team, third, Abby Weaver, Raleigh; Recreation Male, first, Hunter Roberts, Durham, second, Nikhill Kaza, Chapel Hill, third, Brandon Smith, Carrboro.

Intermediate Female—first, Rosie Maloney Carrboro, second, Maya Gadde, Durham, third, Theresa D'Aquila, Chapel Hill; Intermediate Male, first, Jimmy Kempter of Mountain Goat Climbing Team, second, Finn Tyrell, Mebane, third, Hayden, Chapel Hill.

Open Females—first, Brynn Oliver, Cary, second, Tamera Sanders, Carrboro, third, Caroline Fraser, Chapel Hill,

Open Males—first, Quentin Parsons, Raleigh, second, Bryan Phillips, Raleigh, third, Ben Parsons, Fayetteville.

Stone Masters 50+—first, Matt Westlake, Durham, second, Brian Decker, Chapel Hill, third, Betsey Kempter, Chapel Hill.

Non-Binary—first, Eli Yetter-Bowman, Chapel Hill, second, Noelle Doucette, Cornelius, third, Sammy Bauer, Chapel Hill.

Other award winners: Oldest Climber, Bryan Kempter, 73; Speed, Quentin Parsons, Raleigh; Hang time, Bryan Phillips, Raleigh; Boot Climb Lilly Kohout, Chapel Hill; Best dress, Diane Joseph, Chapel Hill; Youngest climber, Max Moroff 6.2 years, Chapel Hill; Campus, Ben Parsons, Fayetteville.

Carrboro Leagues Start Spring Season

Orange won its first two matches for the early lead in Carrboro spring co-rec ultimate. There are four teams with matches Monday/Wednesday starting at 6:30 p.m..

The co-rec softball league has four entries: Fightin Squids, Street Walkin Cheetahs, Speakeasy Spirits, Haw River Chuggernauts. Season began April 7. Games are Tuesday/Thursday at Anderson Park starting at 7. Spectators are welcome. Cheetahs won their first two for the early lead.

Community News

Biscuits & Banjos Community Day will be held Sunday, April 26, starting at 10:30 a.m. at The Fruit on Dillard Street in Durham with music, storytelling, workshops. Free. RSVP at app.opendate.io.

Two N.C. cities were near the top of a list by Storage Cafe of best cities for families with children. Durham was second and Winston-Salem fourth. Other N.C. cities: Greensboro 16, Raleigh 19, Charlotte 23. Lexington, Ky, was first.

The 8th Spring Chicken Festival will be held May 2 in downtown Siler City from 10 to 4 with music, food trucks.

World Cup's Full Slate

Playoffs for the six remaining World Cup openings were completed, filling out the 48-team field. Games begin June 11. CSN will have a WC Mini Guide (online only) in early June.

Turkey def. Kosovo in shootout to join the U.S., Australia, Paraguay in Group D.

Bosnia & Herzegovina def. Italy in shootout to make Group B.

Sweden def. Poland 3-2 and moved into Group F.

Czech Republic topped Denmark on PKs for Group A.

DR Congo eliminated Jamaica 1-0 for Group K.

Iraq downed Bolivia 2-1 for Group I.

Women's Flag Coming To Durham

Conference Carolinas flag football championships are coming to Durham April 17-19 at Durham County Stadium, organized by Durham Sports Commission.

Quarters are Friday starting at 12 noon, semis Saturday at 3 and finals Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 a day, \$25 for the weekend. Concessions will be available.

The conference has ten schools with Wingate 4-1, Barton, Ferrum, Lees-McCrae 3-1, Emanuel 3-2 in the late March standings.

In case you missed it, Team USA Flag Football easily dispatched two teams made up of current and former NFL players in California on national TV last month. Scores were 39-14, 43-16, 24-14.

Buckets Wins Sportsplex Hoops

Buckets completed an undefeated season, beating third seed FA-White 68-58 in finals of Orange Co. Sportsplex men's basketball winter league playoffs. Scorers N/A.

In the semis, Buckets downed #5 Live Wire and FAW beat #2 Pollard Mustangs.



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He has spent seven seasons in the college coaching ranks, serving as an assistant coach at Oakland University under Greg Kampe, at Providence and Virginia under Pete Gillen and Manhattan College, where he was the lead assistant for two seasons.

His contract allocates \$2M annually for assistants and staff. News reports said he'll retain former UNC assistants Sean May, Pat Sullivan, Eric Hoots and hire Chuck Martin, a recruiting wiz at Arkansas, as the associate head coach. They worked together at Manhattan.

The three most important features UNC was looking for in a new head coach, according to the N&O, "They need to be an elite teacher, innovator, strategist and leader."

"They need to kind of display and possess the character and integrity that's consistent

with our university and our principles."

"They need to believe in—not just acknowledge and recognize—they need to believe in the importance of the Carolina family and the Carolina tradition and what that means to the UNC community."

Malone exemplified all of these traits, incoming UNC AD Steve Newmark said. His experience "warrants that type of compensation," and "if you look at where he has been compensated in the NBA, he's taking this [cut] because he's passionate about it."

Malone was fired by the Nuggets in 2025, and has worked for ESPN as an analyst since. His daughter is a UNC sophomore and volleyball player.

Why Was Davis Released At UNC

Hubert Davis was on the hot seat because North Carolina was struggling to live up to championship-level expectations, according to Field of 68's Jeff Goodman.

"It's former players, it's boosters, it's everybody understanding that Davis hasn't done the standard at Carolina," Goodman said. "The standard is to be competing for national titles. The standard is competing for Final Fours. The standard isn't just to limp into the NCAA tournament, which they have done multiple times when he's been there."

While earning a No. 6 seed and losing in the first round without injured star Caleb Wilson may be excusable on the surface, the nature of the Tar Heels' loss, with a 19-point blown lead and no offensive traction in overtime, ramped up the pressure on Davis. North Carolina narrowly made the NCAA Tournament in 2025 and lost in the first round, and the team missed the tournament entirely in 2023 despite high expectations.

Davis' deepest tournament run was in his first season after a rocky regular season, while his best regular season in Chapel Hill ended with an upset Sweet 16 loss to Alabama in 2024.

If the standard is indeed competing for national championships, Davis couldn't show the program was on the right trajectory to do that.

Other media reports suggested additional issues were involved: inconsistent play, a need to modernize the program, upgrade assistant coaches and improve player development.

The decision to replace Davis drew pushback from some UNC fans, saying the school administration should have stood behind the coach.

"Short-term results should not overshadow the loyalty, perseverance and integrity that define Carolina basketball," wrote one letterwriter.

ACC Tripped Up In Post Season

The postseason was unkind to the ACC. They sent eight men's teams to the NCAAs (March 2026), but only Duke advanced to the second weekend. They had two teams in the NIT but Cal and Wake didn't last long.

The ACC sent nine women's teams to the NCAAs but the top teams, Duke, Notre Dame, Louisville lost in Elite 8 and UNC, NC State, Virginia (who was in the First Four) bowed out in the Sweet 16. One ACC team played in the women's NIT.

North Carolina men finished the season 32 in KenPom (37 in offensive efficiency, 37 defensive), according to final season stats. Duke was 3, Louisville 19, Virginia 17, Miami 30, NC State 36. Others: Clemson 39, SMU 49, Va. Tech 59, FSU 61, Stanford 62, Cal 79, Wake Forest 81, Syracuse 87, Notre Dame 93, Pitt 99, Boston College 109, Ga. Tech 169.

New hoops coaches will be in place next year at Boston College, Ga. Tech, Syracuse, N.C. State, UNC.

UNC Shooting Woes

Record 24-9 for 2025-26 season.

Everyone misses shots, but UNC had a woeful shooting percentage for free throws this season, ranking 321 out of 365 for Div. 1 schools. We practice them every day, the coach said following the VCU game. My high school coach would have added, "see you in the gym tomorrow."

Free Throws, UNC made 497 of 729, .682, (74.1 percent the previous year); opponents 348 of 497, .700.

3-Pointers, UNC made 284 of 410, .342; opponents 268 of 772 .347.

Field Goals, UNC made 925 of 1965, .471; opponents 874 of 2085, .419. *J.B.*

Hubert Davis Coaching Record at UNC

2021-22 — 29-10 Overall, 15-5 ACC, lost national championship game, #8 seed.

2022-23 — 20-13, 11-9 ACC, missed NCAAs, N/A.

2023-24 — 29-8, 17-3 ACC, lost in Sweet 16, #1 seed.

2024-25 — 23-14, 13-7 ACC, lost in first round, #11 seed.

2025-26 — 24-9, 12-6 ACC, lost in first round, #6 seed.

Career — 125-54, ACC 68-30

Hubert Davis won at least 20 games in each of his five seasons. UNC finished fourth in the ACC this year. He was Coach of the Year in 2024.

Davis played for the Tar Heels from 1988 to 1992 and 12 seasons in the NBA. He was an assistant coach under Roy Williams for nine years, helping UNC win the national title in 2017. He was named head coach in April 2021 after Williams retired.



Trump To Limit Sports Transfers

President Donald Trump signed an executive order April 3 to limit how long athletes can play college sports and how often they can transfer between schools.

Multiple lawyers who work with colleges and their athletes told ESPN they believe judges would rule the president's order unconstitutional and unenforceable if challenged in court. The order contradicts previous court decisions and legislation.

The order directs the NCAA to create rules that mandate college athletes can play for "no more than a five-year period" and allows them to transfer schools only once before they graduate without having to sit out a season. The rule changes are scheduled to go into effect Aug. 1. A school that plays an athlete who doesn't meet these new limits could risk losing its federal funding.

The order also says that the NCAA should update its rules to create a national registry for player agents and create policies that prevent schools from cutting scholarships or other opportunities for women's and Olympic sports in order to pay their athletes.

"College sports cannot function without clear, agreed-upon rules concerning pay-for-play and player eligibility that can't be endlessly challenged in court, as is the case now," the White House said in a news release.

espn news

Rule Change Proposed

The NCAA is considering an eligibility rule change that could have dramatic impact.

The latest proposal is for a five-year clock for four years of college competition starting at either the athlete's 19th birthday or high school graduation. No red shirts, no waivers. Only exceptions would be for military service, maternity leave and religious mission.

NCAA Payouts For Tournaments

The NCAA Tournaments this year will provide nearly \$70M to the Big Ten. They had 9 men's, 12 women's teams, played 31 games and won both the men and women's titles, earning \$69.4M.

Others: SEC \$56.2M (ten in both), \$42.9M for Big 12, \$34.2M for the ACC, \$22.2M for the Big East. The funds will be paid out over six years (men) and five years (women) starting in April 27.

Women Coaches Earn Pay Hikes

Women basketball coaches including several from the ACC earned major pay hikes since 21-22:

Wes Moore, NC State, 24.02 percent increase.

Jeff Walz, Louisville, 21.31 percent.

Courtney Banghart, UNC, 19.05 percent.

Churman Smith, California, 47.71 percent.

theathletic.com.

Basketball News

Marcus Paige, former UNC player and assistant coach, joined head coach Wes Miller at the Charlotte 49ers. He was the first Hubert Davis assistant to land a new job ... Jerod Haase, a former player and coach for Roy Williams, is the head coach at UNC Greensboro... UConn star sophomore Sarah Strong from Durham was named AP Player of the Year, male player was Cameron Boozer of Duke ... The Greensboro Police Dept. tweeted March 19, "Please don't call us about UNC and your bracket." ... A poll of college basketball coaches by theathletic.com reported Duke is the best men's college coaching job (37 of 51 votes), followed by a tie between UNC (5 votes) and Kentucky (3), Kansas (5) 4, UConn (0) 5, Arizona 6, Michigan 7, Florida and Texas 8, UCLA 10. Four years ago Kentucky was the top job ... UNC's Nyla Harris was selected for Lilly's Women College Allstar game in Phoenix on Final Four weekend. Coaches were Nancy Lieberman and Cheryl Miller ... Former UNC player Elliot Cadeau of Michigan was the Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four ... Way Too Early projections for next season from theathletic.com had Duke 5, Virginia 20, Miami 21, UNC 24. Illinois, Michigan, Arizona were the top 3 ... Final AP poll had Duke 4, Va. 17, Louisville 23, Miami 24... Tar Heel legend Antawn Jamison was a member of the search committee for the new coach, along with Newmark, Cunningham, Turner (BOT Chair), Moore (Rams Club). Jamison played for Malone in Cleveland and called him an "unbelievable coach" in a Carolina Podcast interview ...

New Hoops Films

"Breaking Glass: The Pat Summitt Story" about the women's college hoops coach and leader debuted on Hulu. Executive producer was Robin Roberts.

"Unraveling George," a documentary saluting George Raveling, hoops player, coach, civil rights figure, was produced and narrated by Marlon Wayans and debuted on TNT/TBS. Charles Barkley was executive producer.

ACC COLLAPSE, Continued from page 1

postseason gives way to playing styles that emphasize physicality, flow and adaptability. Continued use of hand checks, extra body contact, and other physical measures caused several ACC teams to adjust their playing styles mid-game, and for many, those adjustments came too late—or not at all.

Other ACC tourney entrants like Louisville, Virginia, Miami, Clemson, SMU and NC State did not suffer the same kind of disasters as UNC and Duke. They were just outclassed and overmatched in almost every game they played during that first weekend.

But the level of talent or coaching wasn't any different than competitors from other conferences. It was the lack of preparedness for the level of physicality and relentless pressure that has become requisite for winning NCAA tournament games. Suddenly, ACC teams are faced with new challenges that didn't exist during the regular season, and they paid the price this year.

The ACC needs to address this issue from an officiating standpoint and stop trying to pretend the current philosophy reflects the standard by which all conferences operate. Conference games need to allow for more freedom of movement and less stoppages for fouls. This way, teams might be more prepared for the issues they face in the postseason.

Of course, the blame may not fall entirely on ACC officials. Coaches also have a responsibility to prepare their teams for physical play and end-of-game situations—especially in response to full-court pressure—and players have the responsibility to apply what they practice.

Certainly, coaches like Jon Scheyer and Ryan Odom address these issues in game prep, but more focus on these types of situations certainly will become the norm in the future. There's no telling how UNC's new coach Michael Malone or NC State's new coach Justin Gainey will eventually adjust their practices, but it appears both hires were made to raise the playing level to that of the SEC (Gainey) or even the NBA (Malone).

But until the level of play reaches those aspirations or the ACC decides to make the necessary adjustments to its officiating methodology, the conference is doomed to repeat its collective postseason performance as critics chant the "Always Choke Conference."

Transfer Portal Dates 2026

Men Basketball—April 7-21.

Women Basketball—April 6-20.

Buy Local Every Day
Support Local Businesses

Roxboro Road, has soft-launched and is open. TORC Executive Director Shaun King said the grand opening is expected mid to late June. Trails like Firebreak are open but remember more trails are coming. The new park has biking, hiking, ADA trails, disc golf, picnic area and could have the most MTB trails in



NC Bike Rides

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.

May 9

17th CARA Ride for Their Lives, 30-70m, Goldston Park, Goldston, 8:30 a.m., eventreach.com.

26th Tour de Lions, 13-62m, Climax, bike-reg.com.

May 16

Ride of Silence, 5m, CCB Plaza, downtown Durham, 7 p.m. Ride not yet confirmed.

Local Bike Rides

SHIFT, the recently combined local bike organization, holds Wednesday night rides in Carrboro/Chapel Hill.

They have rides April 15 and April 22 from Carrboro Town Commons at 7 p.m.

On April 29 there's a Cruise of Curiosities at 7 p.m. from Back Alley Bikes, Carrboro. Check the SHIFT events calendar on Meetup.com. Pre-registration is not needed.

Don't Tread On My Bike Lane April 21

BikeDurham plans an April 21 Rally for America's Bike Lane at 5 p.m. at CCB Plaza, downtown Durham.

The Trump Administration is threatening to tear out a well-used protected bike lane in Washington, DC. We are joining organizations around the country on a solidarity ride.

One-Day Jazz Festival

WHUP and Friends of Moorefields host a one-day spring Jazz Festival Saturday, April 18, 1-5 p.m. at Moorefields in Hillsborough, featuring Sam Furbush Trio, Angela Bingham Quartet and students from Durham Jazz Workshop. Rain or shine. Tickets at etix.com, food trucks.

Rival Festivals

Raleigh Brewing Co. hosts a N.C. Beer Festival (Y'all Means All) April 25 with 14+ brewers at 3709 Neil St., Raleigh, food trucks, music.

It's the same weekend as Brewgaloo, a giant craft beer festival, April 24-25 presented by Shop Raleigh along Fayetteville Street downtown. Comments by a Shop Raleigh exec triggered the need for a new beer event with broader appeal.

the region when finished.

NEW SINGLE-track mountain bike trails are coming to Umstead State Park, Raleigh. Wake County will build and maintain the new Haleys Branch Trails on land north and south of the 286 East tract and west of the Reedy Creek Multi-use Trail.

The bike/pedestrian trails on the 150-acre 286 East currently leased by Wake County from the RDUAA will be redesigned to join the new trails within Umstead State Park. They hired IMBA to oversee the project. County staff have indicated they would welcome additional trails if the first phase goes well. They sought feedback in late March for the first draft plans.

TRAIL PLANNING for Jordan Lake MTB trails was paused, TORC reported.

Trail Science Holds Bike Party April 25 At UNC

Trail Science of Chapel Hill has been building and repairing local trails for the last seven years.

To celebrate our great local cycling community and raise funds for our next project at Cedar Falls Park we are throwing a field day party at the UNC Outdoor Education Center Saturday, April 25, 2-6 p.m. by the courts where they have worked for thousands of hours.

There will be live music, food and drinks, games, gear swap, and even a jump competition. Bring the family and tell your friends. State and national champions, world champions, former Olympians and even a Tour de France participant have called the town home.

"We are excited to celebrate how lucky we are to live in a place with such a strong cycling community and history," said Chris Francis of Trail Science.

Bull City Bike Stampede May 9

Organizers of the Bull City Stampede are planning to hold the Triangle's largest group ride May 9 at 12 noon at Crank Arm Brewing, kicking off Bike Month in Durham.

Register at BikeDurham website. Block party follows from 1 to 3:30 at 620 Fenway Ave., Durham.

State Games MTB Races May 30

BodyArmor State Games mountain biking will be held May 30 at Farris Memorial Park in Mayodan from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Signup deadline is 10 p.m. May 29 at bikereg.com.

First wave (5 laps) at 10 a.m., second wave (4 laps or fewer), 12:30 p.m. A USA Cycling license is required. One-day license available. Entry fees range from \$25 to \$40, organized by Racing in the Woods Inc. for N.C. Amateur Sports.

Community News

The new Extraordinary Thrift Store in Carrboro operates Tue-Sat 10-6, Sun 12 noon-6. UNC students with ID get a 10 percent discount Fridays. The store takes donations Tue-Sat 10-5, Sun 12-5.

Orange Co. Earth Day Celebration Wednesday, April 22, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Blackwood Farm Park on NC86 south of Hillsborough with environmental and hands-on activities for kids and adults.

Shred-a-thons are scheduled Saturday, April 18, 10-2 at Eubanks Park & Ride Lot, Chapel Hill, and April 29, 10-2 at Walnut Grove Waste & Recycling Center off NC86, Hillsborough. The limit is 4 boxes or bags. Questions? Call 919-968-2788.



Tar Heel Grand Prix

Schedule conflicts limited the Tar Heel Grand Prix presented by Triangle Velo at Orange Co. Speedway (Rougemont) and Mid Atlantic Stihl (Mebane). It was spring break at UNC and scholastic riders were competing in Tryon.

Oliver Jensen of Chapel Hill was second cat 4/5 criterium (5); William Stafford (UNC Cycling) first in collegiate men cat 4/5 (1) and Owen Cole (UNC Cycling) first in collegiate men cat 1/2/3 (6).

Velocious Sport Criterium

Oliver Jensen, Chapel Hill, third cat 3/4 men (9 finishers) at Velocious Sport Criterium in Kernersville.

William Swofford, Chapel Hill, UNC Cycling, first cat 3/4 collegiate men (20).

Adrian Gorman, Chapel Hill, UNC Cycling third cat 1/2/3 collegiate men (21).

Jensen was second cat 4/5 men (5).

Velocious Sport Road Race, Booneville

William Swofford, Chapel Hill, UNC Cycling, first cat 4/5 collegiate men (14) in road race in Booneville.

Eric Vanderford, Chapel Hill, third cat 3/4 men (5).

Swofford, third cat 3/4 collegiate men (20).

Adrian Gorman, Chapel Hill, UNC Cycling, second cat 1/2/3 collegiate men (18).

Owen Cole, Chapel Hill, UNC Cycling, first cat 1/2 men (16).

Velocious Sport Criterium, Easter Weekend, Kernersville

Chris Jensen, Chapel Hill, third cat 3/4 Men (9).

William Swofford, Chapel Hill, UNC Cycling, took first in cat 3/4 Men (20).

Adrian Garman, Chapel Hill, UNC Cycling, third cat 1/2/3 collegiate Men (21).

Oliver Jensen, Chapel Hill, second cat 4/5 Men (5).

Pfeiffer Sixth At Buck Fifty

Will Pfeiffer (7:48:56) of Chapel Hill finished sixth in the Croatan Buck Fifty, 150 miles of coastal gravel near Swansboro in the Croatan National Forest (67 finishers). WTs were 7:15:49 and 7:48:56.

Other results: Chris Bail, Chapel Hill, sixth 40+, 8:21:57; James Price, Chapel Hill, first 60+, 8:11:39.

Jason Norman (5:30:13) of Chapel Hill was sixth 40+ in the The Buck (121). WT was 4:38:26.

James Allen, Mebane, first combined singlespeed, 5:04:14.

Kelly Saxton (3:57:11) of Hillsborough was second non binary open in The Fifty (191). WTs were 2:24:41 and 3:08:12. Matthew Wilson (2:33:40) of Chapel Hill was fifth in 40+ division. Chad Smith (3:03:01) was 13th in 50+.

Richard Brandon of Hillsborough (1:57:30) was third male in The Twenty (32). WTs were 1:22:40 and 1:24:05. J. Brandon (1:57:29) was fifth junior boys.

U.S. Soccer

Men

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

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

Scholastic Races

NICA Race 2, Tryon

Local riders took only one first place at NCICL Race 2 in Tryon There were 569 riders for the MTB races.

Top local finishers:

5th grade boys, Kai Hastings, Smith Middle School, second, 1 lap, 14:58 (43 finishers).

6th grade girls, Birdie Pedroza, Chatham Co. Chaos, third, 16:52, (18).

7th grade boys, Owen Foster, Chatham Co. Chaos, fourth, 15:52 (64).

JV1 girls, Tess Neville, East Chapel Hill, third, 3 laps, 40:42 (14).

JV2 girls, Olivia Foster, East Chapel Hill, fifth, 2 laps, 30:23, (25).

JV3 boys, Bodie Williams, Chapel Hill High, third, 1 lap, 14:56 (61).

JV3 girls, Emmora Paul, East Chapel Hill, second, 1 lap, 18:15

MS-A boys, Wyatt Zarecki, Chatham Co. Chaos, fifth, 2 laps, 25:59 (24).

Varsity boys, Jesse West, East Chapel Hill, first, 4 laps, 44:43, Isaac Schultz, Orange Co. Composite, third, 44:46 (21).

Varsity girls, Claudia Baum, Chapel Hill High, fifth, 4 laps, 57:36 (7).

Points totals from this race, high school div. 2; leader Guilford Gears Cup 2116, East Chapel Hill, fourth, 2020, Chapel Hill High ninth, 1935, 28 Orange Co. Comp, 1030, Chatham Co. Chaos, 31, 941, Smith MS, 36, 788 (45 teams).

Middle school div 2: leader Wake Prep Academy, 1992, Chatham Co. Chaos, 13, 1697, McDougale MS, 15, 1630, Chatham Co. Composite, 23, 1242, Culbreth MS, 27, 1045, Orange Co. Comp. 28, 996, Smith MS, 29, 967, Phillips MS, 33, 380 (36 teams).

NICA, Race 3, Mayodan

Two Chapel Hill riders earned a first place at Farris Memorial Park in Mayodan, race three of the tenth NICA scholastic race season (525 riders).

Here are the top local finishers:

5th grade boys, Kai Hastings, Smith MS, second, 1 lap, 22:30, 36 finishers.

6th grade girls, Birdie Predosa, Chatham Co. Chaos, second, 22:37 (17).

7th grade boys, Owen Foster, Chatham Co. Chaos, second, 21:00 (56).

JV1 girls, Vivienne Meyers, Smith MS, fourth, 3 laps, 1:01:30 (15).

JV3 boys, Bodie Williams, Chapel Hill High, fourth, 1 lap, 20:49 (55).

JV3 girls, Emma Paul, East Chapel Hill High, first, 1 lap, 27:56, (11).

Open, Lewis Wood, Orange Co. Comp., second, 32:15.

Varsity Boys, Jesse West, Chapel Hill High, first, 4 laps, 1:07:23, Isaac Schultz, Orange Co. Comp, second, 1:07:26 (21).

Varsity Girls, Claudia Baum, Chapel Hill High, fourth, 4 laps, 1:23:55.

Team results for this race: high schools (45), leader 2096 (first place in a race worth 500 points), Chapel Hill High, tenth, 1872, Chatham Co. Chaos, 13th, 1830, East Chapel Hill, 22, 1830, Orange Co. Comp., 26, 1053. Middle Schools (36) leader 2053, Chatham Co. Chaos, tenth, 1836, McDougale MS, 17, 16)2, Orange Co. Comp, 24, 1120, Smith MS, 28, 942, Phillips, 30,m 710.

Team results after 3 races, High Schools, leader 6270, Chapel Hill High 8, 5860, East Chapel Hill, 15, 5327; Middle Schools, leader 5987, Chatham Co. Chaos, 11, 5122, McDougale MS, 15, 4490, Orange Co. Comp., 24, 3491, Smith MS, 27, 2957.

MILLHOUSE, Continued from page 1

complex (soccer, lacrosse, etc.). Plans for a solicitation offer for the property are being revised after county commissioners offered their thoughts last month.

Earlier, the county ruled out using some of the land for affordable housing due to the high cost to bring in water and sewer lines. *J.B.*

Craft HM

Jessica Beardsley (1:46:02) of Chapel Hill was first 45-49, at Craft HM in Winston-Salem (277 finishers). WT was 1:28:47.

In the 5K, Martha Hamblin of Mebane was second 65-69, 38:37, and John Alexander, Chapel Hill, third 55-59, 26:32. WTs were 16:51 and 19:31 (566).

Mankus Second In Shamrock

Bradley Mankus (16:14) of Chapel Hill, last year's winner, was second male at 33rd Shamrock 'N' Run 5K in Chapel Hill. WTs were 16:07 and 19:19 (670 finishers, up 62 from 2025). Isa Wurster (20:18) of Chapel Hill was third female.

Local age group winners were Olivia Kayye, 25-39, 26:27, and Laurenz Lukawinsky, Chapel Hill, 22:33; Robert McAlear, Chapel Hill, 55+, 27:29.

Run For Rare 5K

Local award winners at Raleigh Run for Rare 5K in Morrisville were Kaya Rose, Carrboro, first 13-19, 37:57; Susan Bauer, Pittsboro, first 60+, 29:57; Deepak Joshi, Chapel Hill, first 50-59, 28:53, David Miller, second, 29:41. WTs were 19:02 and 21:59.

Tower Climb Hill

Sean Bartlow (1:22:18) was first in the Carolina Godiva Tower Climb Hill Ten Miler in Pittsboro (16). It was the last event in the club's Winter Series. Adam Gaines (1:22:49) was second and Michael Fiorito (1:23:30) third.

Speedy Mclovin (35:37) took first in the 4 Miler (17).

Jaspers First In HM

Carrboro runners Ilona Jaspers (2:07:41) and Ella Matischak (2:10:33) were first and second women at Harepin Hustle HM trail in Morrisville (35 finishers). Men's WT was 1:36:32.

Age group winners were Sandi Wheelis, Hillsborough, 50-59, 2:34:38, and Kevin Edwards, Hillsborough, 50-59, 2:27:49.

10K+ Results

Teresa Chilton (1:09:46) of Efland was third woman at Harepin Hustle 10K+ (7.3m) trail run (81). WTs were 55:03 and 1:02:43.

Chapel Hill age group winners: LeAnn West, 40-49, 1:18:34; Julie Ricker, Pittsboro, 50-59, 1:25:07; Catherine Singley, 60-69, 1:25:05; Nancy Margolin, 70+, 1:35:41.

Cary Greenway HM

Zoe Wade (1:55:52) of Hillsborough was first 20-24 and Eric Reid (1:41:09) of Chapel Hill first 50-54 at Cary Greenway HM in Cary (141). WTs were 1:26:03 and 1:39:19.

Latoya "That Girl" Torrance of Mebane (39:38) was first 35-39 and Sharon Roggenbuck (1:49:58) of Hillsborough first 85-89 in the 10K (98). WT was 43:49.

Margaret Maples (26:06) of Hillsborough was the winner in the 5K (125). Men's WT was 22:01. Josephina Wanderham, Chapel Hill, was first 65-69, 38:46, and Jack Maples, Hillsborough, first 35-39, 24:54.

Webinar On Mobility Issues

TORC and Endurance Unleashed will have a webinar for runners, cyclists dealing with back, hip and knee mobility issues April 29 from 7 to 8 p.m. The program, led by Dr. Rob Berghorn, will encourage viewers to ask questions and engage in live discussions. Register at [meetup.com/torc-nc/events](https://www.meetup.com/torc-nc/events) and watch it online.

Hecker First At Cedarock

Lisa Hecker (2:04:28) of Mebane was first woman at Cedarock Trail Run HM in Burlington (25, down from 57 in 2025). Men's WT was 1:52:11. Lou Atkinson, Chapel Hill, was first 40-49, 2:57:02.

In the 5K (78), Kari Wilkinson, Mebane, was first 60-69, 37:27. WTs were 24:26 and 29:18.

Dawn Kleinman, Chapel Hill, 60-69, 1:15:56, and Russell Thorn, Chapel Hill, 40-49, 54:49, were age group winners in the 10K (50). WTs were 42:49 and 54:44.



Running News

Sullivan Gaddy (54:06) of Hillsborough was second 15-19 in Core Sound 10K at Harkers Island (71). WT was 37:05.

Jessica Alley (1:11:13) of Chapel Hill was third woman overall at the Pirate Ten Miler in Greenville (342). WT was 1:08:47.

Tianhang Zhu (19:57) of Chapel Hill was the winner at first Run 4 the Health of It 5K in Durham (43).

Henry Baddour (1:31:53) of Chapel Hill was second 25-29 at the Asheville HM (1289). WT was 1:09:41. Thomas Joyce (2:49:40) of Carrboro was first 20-24 in the Asheville Marathon (584). WT was 2:36:59.

Jack Crandall (41:18) of Hillsborough was first 15-19 at Ella's Race 10K in Raleigh (114). WT was 34:45.

Winners at Crush Colorectal Cancer 5K in Durham (248 finishers) were Michael Spragley (15:38) and Sartah Gray (19:39). Hometowns NA.

Winning time for the fifth Haw River Island Ramble 6K (3.6m) trail run in Graham was 24:59. It was a fundraiser for the Bynum-based Haw River Assembly. There were 56 finishers, down from 60 last year. Hometowns N/A.

Race News

Garmin Durham Marathon Shake-out Run with Crank Arm Run Club will be 4/30 at 6:30 p.m. There will be a GMD Expo 4/30 and 5/1 at CCB Plaza downtown. Hours are 2-7 and 9-7.

The March 21 Cane Creek Mtn. 3.3m trail run in Snow Camp, put on by the Vol. Fire Dept., was postponed. New date TBA.

The Spring SOTA Run 5K was moved from March to June 6 in Chapel Hill.

The March 29 Anchors Aweigh 5K in Chapel Hill was canceled.

Apex will have its first HM Oct. 24 starting at Sweetwater Town Center, using American Tobacco Trail and White Oak Greenway.

The Novant Health Charlotte Marathon will return Nov. 14 with an updated course highlighting neighborhoods from Uptown to NoDa and Plaza Midwood. The race will mark its first year under the Charlotte Sports Foundation.

Franklin 5K

Winners of the 37th ZTA Franklin 5K in Chapel Hill were Colin Graham (17:35) and Blakely Ainsley (19:51, both of Apex and both age 16. There were 325 finishers (489 registered), down from 537 last year.

Pittsboro runners Roger Rosada (19:19) and Jackson Adams (19:28) were second and third. Julia Sadonsky (21:03) of Matthews and Lily Beaver (21:03) of China Grove were second and third women.

Age group winners were primarily from out of town except for Robert Hummer, Chapel Hill, 24:01, and Kay Matlock, Carrboro, 29:01, 60+.

Barreto Third In Hillsborough

Caleb Barreto (20:21) of Hillsborough was third male at the fifth Kevin Dendy Memorial 5K in Hillsborough. There were 133 finishers, down from 160 in 2025.

Winners were Kody Kerr, age 14, of Timberlake, 18:14, and Robin Conradi, Cary, 18:51. Bennet Palmer of Durham, age 16, was second male, 19:48, and Julie Crawford, Durham, second woman, 23:49, and Kristin Pellom, third, 24:09.

Pinehurst Sprint Tri

Chapel Hill award winners at Pinehurst Sprint Triathlon: Paul Zivich, Carrboro, third 30-34, 1:31:44; Jonathan Farber, first 70-74, 1:31:11; Amy Rodriguez, second 40-44, 1:48:16; Elizabeth Skiba, second 50-54, 1:39:02, Sara Larson, third, 1:42:23. Distances were 750m swim, 18m bike, 5K run (107 age groupers).

Christopher Halsey (1:11:01) of Chapel Hill was first in sprint advanced tri (3).

Michael Cotton, Chapel Hill, was second 20-24, 2:30:21, and Jessica Jones, Chapel Hill, first 40-44, 2:22:55, in the international tri (46). Distances were 1500m swim, 26.3m bike, 10K run.

N.C. Spring Classic

Sage Hengen of Carrboro was first 20-29, 19:07, at N.C. Spring Classic 5K in Holly Springs (197). WT was 17:30.

Aidan Arvoy of Pittsboro was first in the 16K ruck, 1:56:19, (4).

Berkman Wins MST 12 Miler

Amy Berkman (1:54:58) of Hillsborough was the women's winner at Mountains to the Sea 12 Miler in Durham (111 finishers compared to 131 last year). Men's WT was 1:31:51, with Matt Waller, Hillsborough, third, 1:36:58.

Local age group winners were Laura Maile, Hillsborough, 2:30:06, 50-59, and David Margan, Carrboro, 2:51:00, 60-69.

Youngsters Lead Malawi 5K

Teenagers took four of the top six spots at the Run for Malawi 5K in Chapel Hill (124 finishers).

Lincoln Gallagher (18:16), age 13 of Chapel Hill and Emmanda Vandell (23:37), age 13 of Chapel Hill, were the winners. Conner Faulkner (20:11), age 14 of Waxhaw, and Sarah Koniski (24:02) of Chapel Hill were second and Walker Redd (20:49) of Chapel Hill and Josephine Murdoch (24:23), age 13, of Chapel Hill, third.

Chapel Hill age group winners included Clare Pederson, 25:14, and Samuel Highbee, 21:34. 19-29; Carli Opland, 25:00, 30-39; Michael King 21:34, 40-49; Marjory Charlot, 33:33 and James Sinnott, 21:38, 50-59; Maria La Via, 33:05, and David Wohl, Carrboro, 24:25, 60+.

Community News

Derby Day is May 2 at Portofino Equestrian Center, Clayton. Gates open at 2:30; races start at 3:30 p.m. Fans will watch "The Derby" on TV at 6:45 p.m. on a giant screen. Admission (expensive) is charged. It's a fundraiser for UNC Health Johnston. Meal included in ticket price.

Friends of Chatham Co. Library is selling tomato plants April 17-18 at Chatham Co. Ag & Conf Ctr., Pittsboro, assisted by Extension Master Gardener volunteers.

The 12th season of Freight Train Blues Concert Series returns to Carrboro Town Commons at 6:30 p.m. May 15 and features Mary Evans, the great-granddaughter of Libba Cotten. She will be accompanied by her nephews, Jordan, Jared and John Evans of Charlotte, on Elizabeth Cotten songs. The weekly series runs five weeks.

Chapel Hill plans a July Fourth drone show (300 synchronized drones) at Chapel Hill High in lieu of fireworks at Southern Village.

ADVERTISE YOUR RACE HERE
Local Runners Read CSN

Clean-up-a-thon For Haw, Jordan

The 36th Haw River Assembly Clean-up-a-thon in March had 30 teams in five counties and collected 306 bags of trash, 31 tires and miscellaneous items including two basketballs. The cleanup involved 418 volunteers working to remove trash from the Haw, Jordan and tributaries.

Spring Cleanup

Clean Jordan Lake Inc. volunteers used boats to help with spring cleanup at Jordan's New Hope Overlook where they removed 231 bags of trash and 26 tires. The weather was beautiful for both cleanups.

Migratory Birds Need Your Help

This spring Carrboro is urging residents and business owners to help clear the way for millions of migratory birds passing through our region.

Many of these birds travel by the stars, but artificial night lighting can act as a dangerous distraction, leading to disorientation and collisions. By joining the 2026 Lights Out initiative, you are providing a safer corridor for these travelers as they move toward their summer nesting grounds.

How you can help before May 31

Flip the Switch, turn off non-essential outdoor lighting 11 p.m.–6 a.m.

Shield the Glow, aim lights downward and use motion sensors where possible.

Spread the word, encourage your neighbors to darken the skies for wildlife.

Small changes in nightly routines can create a massive impact for biodiversity. For more tips on making your home or business bird-friendly, visit our Birds in Our Community website at carrboronc.gov.

Bald Eagle Rescued From Haw River

A bald eagle entangled in fishing line was rescued from the Haw River below the Jordan Dam March 27 by two state wildlife officers. He's recovering at a wildlife rehabilitator and will be released back into the wild, Channel 12 News reported.

Moral of the story is dispose of used fishing line properly, not in the river.

Pick Your Own Strawberries

Orange

Eno Run Farm, 2127 St. Marys Rd., Hillsborough, 919-245-8775.

McAdams Farm, 1100 Efland Cedar Grove Rd, Efland, 919-732-7701. UPick or pre-picked.

Double R Cattle Services, 701 Ollie Lane, Hillsborough, 919-449-8157.

Durham

Waller Family Farm, 5030 Kerley Rd., 919-225-4305.

Herndon Hills Farm, 7110 Massey Chapel Rd., 919-544-3313.

Community News

The Chapel Hill Community Center is closed while crews replace the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system. The town expects the Community Center to reopen in May. Similar work was done last year at Hargraves.

Strawberry treats are featured May 2, 11-3, at 21st Strawberry Festival at Old North Durham Park in downtown Durham with child-centered entertainment, arts & crafts.

Canine Field Day will test your dog's skills and takes place April 25 at Rock Quarry Park in north Durham, 11-3. Also a pet market, food trucks. Free. Rain or shine.



The New Hope Bird Alliance holds New Hope Birdathon to raise awareness and money to expand the club's reach and hire an executive director to enlarge the conservation activities. Individuals or teams register (\$25 adults, students \$10, tax deductible), record the number of different bird species they see in Chatham/Durham/Orange counties only April 23-26 and make a donation. Questions? newhopebird@gmail.com. PHOTO: WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW, WIKIPEDIA

Women's Rowing At Lake Wheeler

The Lake Wheeler Invitational is an annual intercollegiate women's rowing event co-hosted by Duke and UNC. Some 20 schools will be participating. Competition takes place at Lake Wheeler Park in Raleigh April 24-25.

Spectators are welcome! There's no admission charge, but parking is \$20. If you'd like to volunteer, parking is free all weekend. Concessions will be available.

Racing will take place on Friday, April 24, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., followed by a lunch break, and will resume from 2:15 to 5 p.m. On Saturday racing will be from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

There is limited bleacher seating, so spectators are encouraged to bring their own chairs.

UNC Holds Lead For Learfield Cup

Keyed by the women's basketball team's Sweet 16 appearance in the NCAA Tournament and top-20 finishes by men's and women's fencing and men's swimming and diving, UNC continues to lead the 2025-26 Learfield Directors' Cup standings.

Carolina has amassed 781.50 points, 35.25 ahead of Stanford. UNC led after the fall with 359.00 points and added 422.50 points in the winter with two sports' championships remaining to be played.

UNC's men's fencing team placed seventh, which earned the Tar Heels 69 points in the points standings, while the women were 15th for 45 points. This was the first time the NCAA Men's and Women's Championships were contested separately.

Freshman Youssef Shamel won the NCAA championship in the men's epee, Carolina fencing's first national title in 43 seasons, and Peter Bruk tied for third, UNC's top-ever finish in foil. Dagny Johnson placed seventh in the women's sabre, Carolina's best finish by a freshman in that weapon in the last 25 seasons. Carolina now has 25 top-20 NCAA finishes in fencing.

The women's basketball team won a pair of games in the NCAA Tournament, advancing to the Sweet 16 for the 20th time, making the Tar Heels one of nine women's basketball programs to reach the Sweet 16 20 or more times.

Louis Dramm's three All-America honors led the men's swimming and diving team to its highest finish (19th) since 2015.

Carolina and Stanford are two of five ACC schools currently ranked in the top 10 in the Directors' Cup standings. The rest of the top 10 includes Virginia, Princeton, Ohio State, Penn State, Notre Dame, Duke, Michigan and Texas.

UNC placed fourth last year in the final standings, which equaled the Tar Heels' best finish in the last 16 seasons. It was Carolina's sixth-consecutive top-10 finish and the ninth time in 10 years the Tar Heels placed in the top 10.

Chapel Hill/Durham Road Races

April

18, Smile More Complain Less 5K, New Hill.

18, Tar Heel Ten Miler/4m/Double Down, Chapel Hill.

19, CAPLS Golden Heroes 5K, Chapel Hill.

24, Mebane Dogwood Festival Family 5K, Mebane.

24-25, Blue Heaven Trail Fest, 4m/HM/100m relay, Chapel Hill.**

25, Angels Among Us 5K, Durham.

25, Bull City Beer Mile, 1m novelty run, Durham.

25, Komen NC Triangle Race for the Cure 5K, Durham.

25, Socks and Undie 5K Rundie, Durham.

25, Tobacco Road Relay, 75m, Chapel Hill to Raleigh.

25, GCA Charge Ahead 5K, Burlington.

26, Philosopher's Way Trail Run, 10m/7K, Chapel Hill.

May

2, Garmin M/HM/10K/5K, Durham.**

2, Jogging for Josh 5K, Burlington.

9, FCA Mom's Day 5K, Burlington.

9, Run to the Rhythm Trail 5K, Pittsboro.**

16, Bee Amazing 5K, RTP, Durham.

16, Lookin For A Cure 5K, Durham.

16, Adopt Don't Stop 5K, Burlington.

16, Zen Squirrel Trail Run 10m/5m/2m, Briar Chapel, Chapel Hill.

20, UT Breast Cancer Awareness 5K, RTP, Durham.

23, Memorial Day 5K, Siler City. **

30, Running of the Bulls 8K, Durham.

June

3, Big Run 5K, Hillsborough.

6, ASCL Stride for Service 5K, Elon.

6, Spring SOTA Run 5K, Chapel Hill.

July

4, Four on the Fourth, Carrboro.

For more race info and registration, check community-sports-news.com website.

** New Race

Haw River Festival Slated May 2

The Haw River Festival returns Saturday, May 2, from 4 to 8 p.m. in Saxapahaw, featuring music by Jasme Kelly, The Spectacles and The New Potatoes.

Since 1990 the spring festival serves as an educational program and fundraiser for the Haw River Assembly and includes a farmers' market, silent auction, kayak raffle, interactive demos, kids activities, film screening and discussion, guided tours. There's also hands-on river monitoring, puppet parade, food trucks. Free parking, no dogs.

Spend a Saturday afternoon doing something that matters and have fun.

Outdoor Notes

FISHING FOR KIDS

Carrboro's second learn to fish clinic for kids 5-15 takes place Saturday, April 18, from 9 to 11 a.m. at Anderson Park Pond, off NC 54W. Cost is \$5/child and parent/guardian must attend. Equipment provided or bring your own fishing rod. Signup on the RecConnect website. The next clinic is May 9.

PADDLE/CLEANUP

N.C. State Parks is organizing a small paddle and cleanup along the Haw on Earth Day April 22, 10-2, starting at the new Bynum Mill Access, part of the Lower Haw SNA. They'll paddle 3.4m downstream to US 64 cleaning as they go. State Parks provides ten canoes, paddles, lifejackets and a shuttle back to the starting point. Space limited. Sign up at lowerhaw.org/events.

SEASONAL JOBS

Jordan Lake has seasonal job openings for the summer. Stop by the park office off US 64, Apex, and fill out an application. Jobs require weekend and holiday work.

FALLS LAKE DROWNING

A 29-year-old man drowned March 21 in Falls Lake apparently after falling off the Cheek Road bridge near the Durham/Wake line when his casting net caught, according to Wake County authorities.

DROUGHT CONDITIONS

Some 79 Tar Heel counties including Orange, Chatham, Durham, Wake are experiencing severe drought conditions, 6 counties, mostly in the coastal region, moderate drought and 15 in three clusters extreme drought due to lack of rain in early April, according to Drought Monitor.com. OWASA reservoirs were 91 percent full 3/31.

County and state open burning bans are in effect throughout the Triangle due to the increased threat of wildfires. Fireworks are banned statewide including at Durham Bulls games. No exceptions.

Umstead Bridge Replacement Plan

N.C. State Parks is working closely with the N.C. Department of Transportation on the bridge replacement project across Crabtree Creek at Umstead State Park, Raleigh. The project is currently out for bid, and the general contractor will be selected in the next few weeks. Work is scheduled to begin late spring to early summer, and the project is still on track to be completed before the end of the year.

In the meantime, visitors should be aware that there is no connection from South Turkey Creek Multiuse Trail to either North Turkey Creek Multiuse Trail or Cedar Ridge Multiuse Trail. Plan accordingly. Hikers, bicyclists and equestrians should not utilize the Ebenezer Church Road bridge, as this is a busy vehicular road (45 mph speed limit) and does not currently provide safe pedestrian access.

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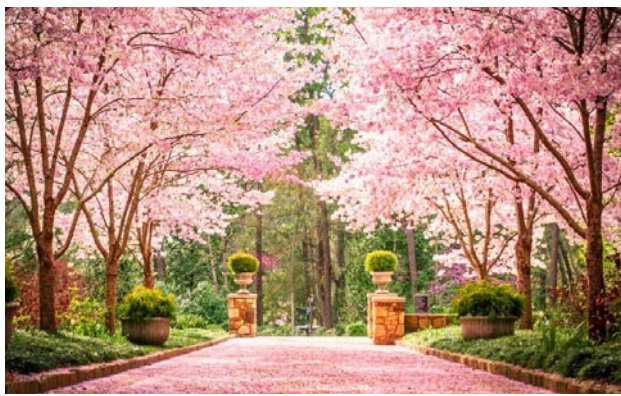


PHOTO: DISCOVER DURHAM

Upgraded Duke Gardens Reopens

One of Durham's top visitor attractions, Sarah P. Duke Gardens, reopened after \$30M upgrade. Hours are 8 to sunset daily. Weekend-only parking is available at nearby Duke H lot. Admission is free.

There's a new welcome center, cafe and a "mini" Duke Gardens outdoor gathering space.

The garden drew 600,000 visitors in 2024 and had as many as 20,000 on a cherry blossom day this spring, Duke said.

April Standings

Orange Co. Men's Basketball

Winter, Mud Dogs 7-0, Dynasty 6-1, Big Dawgs 5-2, King Ballers 4-3, Buckets 3-4, Petite Ballers 2-5, Leftovers 1-6, Airballers 0-7.

Orange Co. Co-Rec Volleyball

I'd Hit It 14-0, Nash Street Tavern 10-4, Paislinators 3.0 10-4, Tool Time 10-4, Average Joes 9-5, A Set to Kill 8-6, Set Happens 6-8, Set It & Forget It 2-12, Setting Ducks 1-13, Hillsborough Hitters 1-13.

Ocasl@tasl, Spring

Over 30—Mountain Goat FC 3-0 9, The Federal 2-0-1 6, Tugboat Depot 2-0-1 6, Still Limpin 1-1-1 4, Durham FC 0-1-2 1, Matienzo FC 0-0-3 0.

Anderson Over 40—Federal 4.0 3-0 9, Beercelona 2-0-1 6, Stroke City 2-0-1 6, Boot Room FC 1-0-1 3, OldCastle United 1-0-1 3, Wrexhamstring 0-0-2 0, Boca Seniors 0-0-2 0.

Over 50 (8v8)—Tar Drewblers 3-0 9, Athletico Descripto 2-0-1 6, Gray Sabbath 1-0-2 3, Old Riders 0-0-3 0.

Studdard Rec 2—Unicorns FC 1-0-1 3, Sporting Rose 1-0-1 3, Baby Ballers 1-0-1 3, Hilary Chi 1-0-1 3.

O'Hara Rec 3—Noir FC 4-0 12, Aztecs FC 3-0-1 9, Athletico Tri 2-0-2 6, Hot Pants FC 1-0-2 1, The Diamond Dogs 0-1-2 1, Black Sabbath 0-1-3 1.

Triangle Dart League, Winter

Darty Old Men 9-0 126-54 0.700, Dave's Not Here 8-1123-57 0.683, We Need 'em All 5-4 92-88 0.511, MRDMCR 4-6 92-108 0.460, STDW 3-6 76-104 0.422, Subway 3-7 83-117 0.415, One For Fun 1-9 100-68 .340.

Community News

Zebulon joined Durham and closed a city park (Gill Street) due to soil contamination by lead in a park built on a former landfill. Five Durham parks remain closed as the city plans multi-million dollar cleanup (four were trash incineration sites) due to soil contamination.

General admission to Morehead Planetarium and Science Center, Chapel Hill, is \$5.00 each for kids and adults during April 2026.

Carrboro Day, April 19 at Town Commons and along Weaver Street, 12 noon to 4, with poetry, music, crafts, food trucks. Performers include Honey Magpie, a Chapel Hill-based folk pop trio; and One after 919, a Triangle-based tribute band to The Beatles. Takiri Folclor Latino will showcase Latin American culture through dance performances. Chapel Hill artist Wake Moody will play music that fuses R&B/soul with singer-songwriter pop.

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Another View, Mine John Nieman

I turn 74 in a few weeks and so there's a lot of looking back. I have a great life and it's because of the many influences I've been fortunate enough to have. There was the shining example of love and devotion given me by my parents, John and Jean.

The relentless work ethic and striving for excellence of my sister Lisa. My brother Bill's ability to give unconditional love to everyone to whom he came in contact. The joy, laughter and beautiful family bonds formed by my son's family Jeff, Stephanie, Burke, and Larkin.

My early Catholic education taught me about self-determination and individual responsibility. The lyrics of Dylan and Springsteen. The far-too-numerous-to-name friends, colleagues and soccer mates who taught me that family is much more than blood. And the love, humor, devotion, loyalty and support of the finest partner anyone could hope for in Martha.

And the Carolina Way, written, directed and produced by Dean Smith.

Coach Smith's strong stances against segregation, racism and the death penalty shaped my and certainly my son's legal careers. Truth is, the total amount of time that I spent in one-on-one or small group conversations with Coach Smith would be less than an hour.

My admiration and idealization of him stem from my observations of him as a man and a coach. For many, if not most, coaches, the top priority is winning. For Coach Smith and the Carolina Way the number one priority was and is the player. From the absolute star player to the assistant manager for the freshman team, the Carolina Way was to be concerned not just for the person's time spent at Carolina, but for their life.

Coach Smith was interested in and did whatever he could for his players from the time he met them for the rest of his life. He was just as interested and concerned about your 40s and 50s as he was about your teens and twenties. The last time we spoke was in the mid 80s. We hadn't seen or spoken to each other since the early 70s, but somehow he knew that

Jeff and I were living in Chapel Hill and he said he was hoping he'd run into me. I never played for him. We knew each other tangentially, but that was the Carolina Way.

I read where the Daily Tar Heel was criticized harshly recently because of their annual April Fool's Day satirical issue. I remember that edition in 1972. They wrote about one of the Tarheel basketball players, a sophomore who rarely got into the game, making the All-ACC team. I guess they thought it was funny. That player was my roommate. He had been a highly recruited player in both football and basketball by the likes of Notre Dame and others. He had been a standout on the freshman team but during his sophomore year he was behind upperclassmen on the depth chart. The story certainly hurt his feelings, but he believed in Coach Smith and he believed in the Carolina Way.

By his senior year, he WAS All-ACC, drafted by the Hawks in the NBA and the Cougars in the ABA and played for the Virginia Squires and the Indiana Pacers. When his basketball career was over he went to go see Coach Smith to see what he would do next in his life. He told the coach that he had gotten to like playing golf and he became an assistant golf pro at Pinehurst Country Club while he sorted out what to do next. I got to play Pinehurst No.2! The Carolina Way.

And that is why I have some sadness with our new basketball hire. So many have said that Dean Smith would not have been able to coach in these days of portals and payments. I just have to disagree. I think a coach who prioritizes the person who is a player and truly cares about their life more than their performance could manage to succeed on a basketball court in any age. At least that is my hope.

But I understand that time goes on. I support and believe that success will come for Tar Heel basketball under Coach Malone. But I hope you can understand my feelings of loss and regret.

No regrets but plenty of loss with regard to the Index. *Fat Boy Index: 248*

Media Sportswatch Joel Bulkley

"Clinton & Friends" was an ESPN radio weekday morning (10-noon) show, locally on 99 The Fan. It was canceled after about a year by ESPN March 27 without explanation. The show began after host Mike Greenberg retreated from radio to do TV only for the network. Clinton Yates, the host and baseball writer, was based in LA. and filled the Greenberg timeslot. He started with the company in 2016 and was terminated last month.

I enjoyed the show because it had interesting guests—many were baseball connected—and was more candid than most as he chatted with producers and staffers in Bristol, at ESPN HQ. They're still working to line up a replacement show.

Basketball notes. Vitale and Barkley broadcast a NCAA First Four game together on TNT. They were both well prepared and made it fun. Don't remember who was playing.

The Tournament had a goodly number of exciting games and finishes. The TV folks, for once, were secondary to the players. But Duke's collapse to UConn illustrated how invested Grant Hill remains in Duke hoops. His chagrin with the outcome was clear.

The Daily Tar Heel stepped in it with their April Fool's issue. They did a mea culpa but put this headline "An apology from editors regarding the April 1 satire edition" below the fold on the front page in the next issue so it wasn't easily visible to readers.

The 9th St Journal received the Frank Barrows Award for Excellence in Student Journalism for a series on Durham's most reliable voters.

The Local Reporter, an online weekly in Chapel Hill, will move to monthly in May. They've struggled with quality so don't know what to expect with a monthly publication, especially if it involves long form stories.

Luke DeCock, former N&O sports columnist (March 2026) now living in Chicago, resurfaced in the Triangle with a kick-the-dog-story on State and UNC basketball coaching changes ("Hubert Davis and Will Wade are just cogs in a money machine") in The Assembly newsletter.

DOJ opens probe into NFL on TV rights deals, like why it costs a small fortune to watch pro football. I don't have much faith they'll do much since they've done little recently to protect consumers. But I especially don't want to subscribe to more streaming services to see games that previously were available for free.

North Carolina's Attorney General joined in a lawsuit opposing merger of Nexstar and Tegna TV groups on anti-trust

grounds.

College hoops had a strong year on TV.

Regular season games had higher ratings. Men's tournament games averaged 10.9M, up 7 percent and second most watched since 1994. Duke's Elite 8 game against UConn drew 13.43M viewers.

Here are more viewership numbers:

Final Four games: UConn/Ill., 14.16M; Mich/Ariz 14.29, CBS.

The NCAA Men's Championship: 18.3M on TBS/TNT/Tru, highest since 2019 championship.

Women's Championship: 9.9M viewers on ESPN, third most since the 1996 championship.

Duke-UNC Still Resonates

Here are the ten most watched men's regular season college basketball games for 25-26 season. Numbers are from Nielsen.

Duke/Arkansas—Turkey Day 11/27, CBS, 6.8M.

UNC/Mich St—Turkey Day 11/27, 11/27, Fox, 6.5M.

Duke/Mich—2/21, ESPN, 4.3M.

Duke/UNC game 1—2/7, ESPN, 3.5M.

Duke/UNC game 2—3/7, ESPN, 3.4M.

Mich St/Mich, 3/8—CBS, 2.9M.

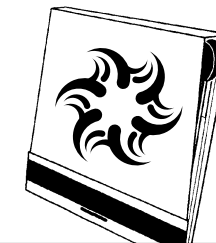
Maryland/UCLA—1/10, Fox, 2.86M.

Mich/Mich St—1/30, Fox, 2.8M.

Ariz/Houston—2/21, ABC, 2.44M.

Ky/Arkansas—1/31, ESPN, 2.39M.

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