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COMMUNITY SPORTS NEWS

BASKETBALL ★ CYCLING ★ RUNNING ★ OUTDOORS

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Town Moves On Pond Removal

The town is moving ahead on removing the trees, dam and pond at Legion Park in eastern Chapel Hill (CSN, Oct 2026). It's another step of preparation for affordable housing, a constructed wetland and years later a new park.

Morgan Corp (industrial heavy construction) was the sole bidder and bid winner . The contract is $1,472,400. There's a project manual which the consultant engineer Tetra Tech created, and Morgan Corp is agreeing to adhere to that manual. It's over 400 pages.

The town's Legion project team said the manual doesn't dictate the timeline, but their goal is to begin work later this fall/winter. This timeframe will help meet some eventual deadlines around a tax credit for the future affordable housing work. The developer plans 150 units on 8-9 acres of the 36.2 acre property. Also, removing the trees and pond in the wintertime will help avoid disrupting the green heron nesting season.

Last month the town council voted to name the future town park in honor of former Mayor Howard N. Lee and educator Lillian W. Lee. They also voted to name the road into the park Howard N. Lee Street. The Lees lived in the Ephesus neighborhood years ago. The park is years away. There's no plan for the park or money to build it. *J.B.*

UNC Basketball

Here's the UNC men's hoops schedule with home games all caps:

Nov. 20, MARSHALL, 9 p.m., ACCN; 23, MONMOUTH, 8, ACCN; 27, Dick Vitale Invitational, West Virginia in Charlotte, 7, ESPN.

Dec. 1, ACC-SEC Challenge ARKANSAS, 7:30, ESPN; 6, BUTLER, 3, ESPN2; 12, at Georgetown, 12 noon, Peacock; 15, Tobacco Road Classic, NC State in Greensboro, 7, ESPN2; 19, CBS Sports Classic, Kentucky in New York, 2:30 p.m., CBS; 21, THE CITADEL, 8, The CW; 30, CAL, 4, ACCN.

Jan. 2, at Boston College, 4, ESPN or ESPN2; 5, at Louisville, 9, ESPN or ESPN2; 9, NC STATE, 122 noon, ESPN2; 13, at Florida State, 7, ESPN or ESPN2; 16, STANFORD, 2:15, The CW; 19, VIRGINIA, 9, ESPN; 23, at Syracuse, 12 noon, ESPN or ESPN2; 26, SMU, 7, ESPN or ESPN2; 30, Nashville, Bridgestone Arena, Illinois, 6 or 6:30, ESPN.

Feb. 2, NOTRE DAME, 7, ESPN or ESPN2; 6, GEORGIA TECH, 2:15, The CW; 8, LOUISVILLE, 7, ESPN; 13, at Duke, 5:30, ESPN; 20, at Wake Forest, 7, ACCN; 22, MIAMI, 7, ESPN; 27, at Va. Tech, 7, ACCN.

March 2, at Pitt, 9, ESPN or ESPN2; 6, DUKE, 6 or 6:30 p.m., ESPN; March 9-13, ACC Tournament in Greensboro.

UNC does not play Clemson.

Inside:
Cycling News
Race Results
Holiday Parades

Three Advance In Football Playoffs

Three area high schools advanced to the second round of the N.C. High School football playoffs.

5A East— #5 Seaforth had a bye in the first round and plays #12 South Granville Nov. 13. #10 Orange defeated Richlands 35-21 in round one and faces #7 Eastern Alamance Nov. 13.

3A East—#15 Northwood defeated #16 Kinston 34-30 and travels to #2 Whiteville Nov. 13.

7A West—#9 Hickory Ridge defeated #24 Chapel Hill 59-0.

Regular Season

Regular season records: Carrboro 1-9, Seaforth 9-1, Northwood 5-5, Orange 6-4, Cedar Ridge 1-7, Chapel Hill 3-7, East Chapel Hill 1-8.

ACC BASKETBALL

Duke Still Leads, Cards Right There In ACC Hoops Picks

Chip Bremer

With the college hoops season upon us, it's good to know where the ACC stands in terms of expectations for the 2026-27 season. Sure, we've already assessed what the lineups look like after some interesting offseason acquisitions and personnel movements, but lately we've seen practices and exhibitions that give us an idea of how good these teams are.

Here are the ACC projections for the upcoming season:

1. Duke. Nothing has changed, the Blue Devils still have more talent on their bench than most teams have in their starting lineup. Everyone knows the returners (Dame Sarr, Patrick Ngongba, Cayden Boozer, Caleb Foster), but it's the newcomers that really put Duke over the top. Freshman Joaquim Boumtje-Boumtje is no Cam Boozer or Cooper Flagg, but he is the real deal, and he will be the Devils' top option for the next two years (since he's only 17). Oh, they also have top transfer shooter John Blackwell and a super-talented freshman class. What else is new?

2. Louisville. The surprising thing here is how much closer Louisville is to matching the Blue Devils. They're not quite at the same level of depth, but the talent is undeniable with all the expensive offseason acquisitions, including the portal's top center in Flory Bidunga and best point guard in Jackson Shelstad. Returning guard Adrian Wooley will certainly have a breakout year but watch out for freshman center Obinna Ekezie Jr. The matchup of Bidunga/Ekezie vs. Duke's Ngongba/Boumtje-Boumtje will be the best heavyweight battle of the season.

3. Virginia. With all the offseason additions at other ACC programs, the Cavaliers are still in a solid place with their returning

ACC, Continued on page 5

14 Ex-Tar Heels On NBA Rosters

There were 76 former ACC players on opening day NBA rosters, headed by 26 from Duke, 14 UNC, 8 Virginia. Seventeen of the ACC's 18 schools are represented, according to basketball.realgm.com.

Ex-Tar Heels in the NBA: Harrison Barnes, San Antonio; Leaky Black, Sacramento; Tony Bradley, Utah; Harris Ingram, Utah; Cameron Johnson, Denver, Walker Kessler, LA Lakers; Caleb Love, Philadelphia; Pete Nance, Milwaukee; Tyler Nickel, New York; Drake Powell. Brooklyn; Cormac Ryan, Milwaukee; Day'Ron Sharpe, Brooklyn; Coby White, Charlotte; Caleb Wilson, Chicago.

Several UNC transfers like Kessler, Love, Nickel, Ryan could be on multiple school alumni lists.

Late scratches were Henri Veesaar (Atlanta) who suffered a season-ending knee injury in the preseason and RJ Davis who was waived by San Antonio. He's on the Spurs G League team.

Other ACC alumni on NBA rosters: Florida State, Stanford 7 each; Va. Tech, Pitt 4; Louisville 3, California, Clemson, Ga. Tech, Miami, Syracuse, Miami 2 each, Boston College, Notre Dame, N.C. State 1 apiece, SMU 0.

Cradle Adds New Show Venue

The Cat's Cradle, Carrboro, added a third live music ballroom at 107 Brewer Lane. It's the old ice house, has 1,100 capacity and was under construction for a while, with land next door to expand later or add parking. The preview opener was a Get Out the Vote show for now Sen-Elect Roy Cooper last month.

The Cradle's latest home, 300 E. Main since 1993, offers front room (750), back room (200) and outdoor concert space. The property may be redeveloped at some point in the future by the landlord.

SE Ski Mini Guide Coming

The next issue of CSN (Dec, 16) will highlight SE Skiing.

Last season snowsports (skiing/snowboarding) visits declined by 9M nationally, but the SE and NE regions had the second best years in the past ten. CSN will outline how it happened, plus fall sports wrapups and a look ahead to winter/spring leagues.

To advertise, contact joelcsn1@gmail.com before the Dec. 9 deadline. Winter sports follows in January.

Judge Blocks Amphitheater Plans

Superior Court Judge John Morris upheld an amphitheater ban Oct. 15 and supported a conservation easement in a lawsuit brought byTriangle Land Conservancy (TLC) against Union Grove Farm and partners. Morris did not elaborate and farm owner Greg Bohlen has 30 days to appeal.

TLC sued Bohlen in 2025 over three farm roads built through the conservation easement-protected land and plans to build a 2,500 seat amphitheater. TLC sued to stop him from making permanent changes to the conservation easement area in the rural buffer off Dairyland Road north of Carrboro in southern Orange County.

Under county rules the buffer area bans water/sewer to curb urban sprawl. Orange County earlier rejected plans for the amphitheater, saying it was not an agritourism use.

Free Tree Distribution In Carrboro

Grow Carrboro's tree canopy from your own yard with free native trees from local nonprofit Trees for the Triangle.

Funded by a grant from Orange County, the program will plant native tree species at no cost to 50 participating homeowners in Carrboro, Hillsborough, Mebane and unincorporated areas of Orange County. Homeowners can choose to plant up to two trees.

"Our urban forest is one of Carrboro's greatest natural assets, shaping the vibrant community where we live, work, and play," said Allie Seguret, Carrboro's climate and resilience program manager. "While the Town manages trees in public rights-of-way and parks, the vast majority of our local canopy thrives on private property. This program gives residents a direct, hands-on role in growing a cooler, more resilient community."

How to Participate

Eligibility: Available to 50 homes in the local area on a first-come, first-served basis.

Planting Window: Through April (during the dormant planting season).

How to Apply: Residents and neighborhood coordinators interested in requesting trees can visit treesforthetriangle.org and click "Grow a tree" to submit their request.

Cost: None.

Durham Parks Ranked Last

Durham's public parks ranked last in the U.S. in 2026 with a Trust for Public Land parkscore index of 35.5 out of 100. Index considers access, acreage, amenities, equity and investment. They surveyed the 100 largest cities and Durham was 99. Washington, DC, was first.

Durham spends $70 per capita on public parks, while Raleigh (ranked 49) spends $289. Greensboro ranked 79 and Winston-Salem 88.

Some of Durham's problems. Five Durham parks have been closed for three plus years due to lead contamination in soil while someone develops a remediation plan. The park land had incinerators to burn trash in the 40s and 50s. The city is waiting for a plan and has $12M to help pay for it.

Voters approved bonds for three major swim projects ($85M) in 2024 to build an aquatic center and rebuild two outdoor pools. They were supposed to be ready by summer 2028, now they're saying 2030, but they don't have enough money so they're trying for a $15M federal grant to close the gap for the rebuild, according to an Op-Ed story by Zack Czajkowski in the Oct. 28 Indy.

They don't have enough money because "staff explained that the estimates voters were shown before the bond was approved were conceptual and left out design, permitting, cost escalation and other soft costs."

Community News

Expanded CIAA Football Championship Weekend in Durham features games Friday night and Saturday, Nov. 13-14, at Durham County Stadium, Durham. CIAA #3 plays #4 for the first time Friday at 6, the top two teams face off Saturday at 3 p.m. Checkevents.hometownticketing.com for game tickets, parking, tailgate passes. Games are cashless.

Duke Homestead, Durham, has Christmas by Candlelight holiday programs Fridays, Dec. 4, 11 at 5:30 p.m. Free.

The Friends of the Chapel Hill Public Library pre-holiday book sale takes place Dec. 4-6 at the library. Hours are 10-5 Saturday, 10-3 Sunday (bring your own bag, fill it for $10). Hardbacks, paperbacks, CDs, DVDs, puzzles available. Proceeds support library projects.

NC Road Races

November 14

17th Durham Academy Turkey Trot 5K, Durham, 10 a.m., runsignup.com.

Farm City Week 5K Trail Day, The Land of Hawkins Loop, Hurdle Mills, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

Heister Cares 5K, Fuquay-Varina, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

30th Joint Operations Special Operations 10K, Fort Bragg 8 a.m., itsyourrace.com.

Loaves and Fishes Run for Recovery 5K, Beaufort, 8 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual.*

8th Race for Ace! 5K trail, Fuquay-Varina, 10 a.m., agapekurebeach.org/ace/ *Live & Virtual*.

November 15

Kilometers for the Kids 5K, Old Well, UNC, 7:30 a.m., Chapel Hill, runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual*.

2nd Solar Strides 5K, Bynum Circle, UNC, Chapel Hill, 7:30 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual*.

November 21

28th Apex Turkey Trot 5K rec or comp, Apex Community Center, 10 a.m., active.com.

18th Gobble Waddle 5K/10K, Smithfield, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

Rise Up! Run Over Cancer 5K, Rocky Mount Sports Complex, 8:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

November 22

2nd NCFC ECNL 5K, WRAL Soccer Park, Raleigh, 6 p.m., runsignup.com.

November 25

Tipsy Turkey Beer Mile, 1m novelty run, Kill Devil Hills, 11 a.m., runsignup.com.

November 26

Birds of a Feather Trail Trot 10K/5K/2m, Briar Chapel, Chapel Hill, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

Gallop & Gorge 8K, third race in Tour de Carrboro, downtown Carrboro, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

HRC Turkey Trot 5K, Farmers' Market Pavilion, Hillsborough, 8:30 a.m. Free.

6th Trosa Turkey Trot 5K, 1820 James St., Durham, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

Thanksgiving 5K, Renaissance Center, Durham, 8:30 a.m., event.racereach.com.

Gobbler's Run 5K, Wake Forest, 8 a.m., itsyourrace.com.

Greensboro Gobbler 5K, City Park, Greensboro, 8 a.m., raceroster.com.

IOS Turkey Trot 8K, Cary, 9 a.m., fsseries.com.

Leesville Community Turkey Trot 5K, Raleigh, 8:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

Raleigh Turkey Trot 8K, Ridgewood SC, Raleigh, 8:30 a.m., itsyourrace.com.

Running of the Turkeys 5K, Greensboro, 8:30 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual*.

Trophy Trot 10K, Dix Park, Raleigh, 9 a.m., racereach.com.

November 28

2nd Leftovers Trail Run 10K/5K, Briar Chapel, Chapel Hill, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

Vision of Hope 5K, Kenly, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

5th Run the Fort 5K, Fort Macon, Atlantic Beach 8 a.m. runsignup.com.

Turtle Trot 5K, Bald Head Island, 8:30am, runsignup.com.

December 5

Into the Woods 5K, Briar Chapel, Chapel Hill, 9:05 a.m., runsignup.com.

Reindeer Romp 5K (GO-TR) rec & comp div, Meredith College, Raleigh, 10 a.m., reindeerromp5k.com.

Jingle Bell Run 5K, timed /untimed, Fenton in Cary, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

3rd Mashing Mutts Canicross Race & Dog Friendly 5K trail, Holly Springs, 9 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual*.

Downtown Jingle Jog 5K, Greensboro, 2:05 p.m., runsignup.com.

3rd Santa Beach Run 5K, Fort Macon SP, Atlantic Beach, 8:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

20th Lanes of Light Twin Lakes Community Fun Run, Burlington, 5:30 p.m., runsignup.com.

15th Green Beret Jingle Jog 5K/10K, Hope Mills, 8:30 a.m., itsyourrace.com.

December 6

8th Running of the Elves, 1m novelty run, downtown Hillsborough, 4 p.m., runsignup.com.

WH Craig Race for Life 5K/10K, Wilmington, 8:30 a.m. runsignup.com

December 11

Huntersville Hustle 5K, 7 p.m., runsignup.com.

December 12

Jingle Bell LEAP 5K on ATT, Miracle Field, Durham, 9 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual*.

Reindeer Run 5K, Central Carolina Community College, Pittsboro, 8 am, runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual*.

Jolly Jog 5K Fun Run, Fleet Feet Southpoint, Durham, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

Fortnight Before Christmas 7K/5K, NW Cary YMCA, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

Frosty Night 10K/5K, Wake Forest, 8 a.m., racereach.com.

Winter Wunderland 5K, Aberdeen, 8:30 a.m., itsyourrace.com.

Dirty Santa Trail Run, 5m-ish, Lenoir, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

Running of the Balls 5K, Greensboro, 6pm runsignup.com

December 13

Mill Chill 4m trail, Rocky Mount Mills, Rocky Mount, 1:30 p.m., eventbrite.com.

December 19

MOTM Reindeer Run 5K, downtown Mebane, 8 a.m., runsignup.com.

JKL Aero 5K, 4913 Professional Ct., Raleigh, runsignup.com.

10th Santa Run 8K/5K, Truist Park, Charlotte, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

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

December 27

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

December 31

4th Noon Year's Eve 5K, McAlpine Park, Charlotte, 12 noon, runsignup.com.

Running of the Lights 5K, Tanglewood Park, Clemmons, 12 midnight, runsignup.com.

NC Distance Races

November 14

Charlotte M/HM/5K downtown Charlotte, 7:10 a.m., rtunsignup.com.

Goose Creek Trail Run & Hike, 50K/HM/10K, Washington, 9 a.m., runsignup.com.

Stars, Stripes and Strides, 15K/10K/5K, Bond Park, Cary, 9 am mass start, runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual*.

Tryon HM/5K, Tryon, 8am, runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual*.

November 15

Battleship HM/10K/5K, Wilmington, mass start 6:45 a.m., runsignup.com.

November 21

17th Chestnut Ridge Trail Race 8m/4m, Efland, 10 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual*.

Greensboro HM/5K, Greensboro, 8:30 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & VIrtua*l.

10th Holly Springs HM/10K/5K, Ting Park, Holly Spgs, 7:20 a.m., runsignup .com.

Oakwood 24H/12H/6H/5K, Lakeside Retreats, Raleigh, ultrasignup.com, 8 a.m.

November 26

Skinny Turkey HM/10K/5K, N. Raleigh, 7:30 a.m., fsseries.com,

20th Lake Norman HM/10K/5K, Cornelius, 7:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

November 27

Black Toenail Friday HM/7.5m, Cane Creek Mtn., Snow Camp, 11 a.m., runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual*.

Black Friday Relays Leftover Races, 5K run/20K/15K/10K relays, Salem Lake, Winston-Salem, 9 a.m., runsignup .com by 11/25.

November 28

Derby 50K run, Ellerbe, 7 a.m., runsignup.com.

Turkey Chase HM/10K/5K, Reedy Creek Shelter #2, Umstead SP, Cary, 8:45 a.m. mass start, runsignup.com. *Live & Virtual*.

December 5

Shakori 40 Ultra, 40m/40K /4m/relay, Shakori Hills, Pittsboro, 7:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

Raleigh Holiday HM, Gateway Plaza, Raleigh, 8 a.m., racereach.com. Live & Virtual.

Lake Waccamaw Trail Race, 50K/30K, Troutman, 8 a.m., ultrasignup.com.

Trail to Tryon Holiday HM/10K/5K, New Bern, 7:30 a.m., runsignup.com.

43rd YMCA Mistletoe Run HM, WG White YMCA, Winston-Salem, 8 a.m., runsignup .com.

Wilmington Historic HM/10K/5K, Riverfront Park, Wilmington, 7a.m., runsignup.com.

December 6

22nd Reindeer Dash for Cash 10m/4m, Greenville, 1 p.m. itsyourrace.com. *Live & Virtual.*

December 12

20th Run at the Rock HM/10K/5K trail, Cedarock Park, Burlington, 9 a.m., runsignup .com.

Beast of the East 100, 100m /100K/M/HM/ trail run, Kings Mountain, 8 a.m., ultrasignup .com by 12/8.

Huntersville HM/10K Huntersville, 8 a.m., raceroster .com. *Live & Virtual.*

December 19

Pilot Mountain Goat, 7m/3m trail, Pinnacle, 10 a.m., ultrasignup.com by 12/17.

December 31

7th Abrasthon 50K trail, ZKN Brewery, Denver, 6 a.m., runsignup.com by 11/20.

Upcoming CSN Issues:

Digital Only

December – SE Ski Mini Guide

January 2027 – Winter Sports

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Orange Wins Fall Ultimate

Second seed Orange knocked off regular season winner Purple 15-14 to win the fall Carrboro co-rec ultimate frisbee championship.

In the semis, Orange beat Columbia Blue 14-13 and Purple beat Black 14-11. Black beat Columbia 15-8 for consolation honors.

Orange co-captain Abe Crystal said team MVPs were defensive, Quinlan 'Q' Collier for lock-down defense on the best handlers in the league, and offensive, Chris Heim for relentless cutting and great throws to space.

Pickleball Results

Pickle4Paws, Chapel Hill, 172 players
Division winners:
MDoubles Int, Andrew Tan/Lite Lim.
WDoubles Novice/Int U50, Grace Bausom / Ellie Helton.
WDoubles Int 50+, Susan Wilson / Roe Cody.
WDoubles Adv, Erin Andress / Beth Hurtt.

Rally for Early Years Serve & Support, Chapel Hill, 25 players

WDoubles Int 50+, Tony Davis / Rachel Leslie.
MixDoubles Beg/Int 18+, Wendy Thompson / Charles Hooker.

The Farm Autumn Invitational, Chapel Hill, 181 players
MDoubles 3.0, Al Dean / Matt Hanna.
MDoubles 3.5, Kemonte Jones / Carlos Hernandez.
MDoubles 3.5 40+, Patrick Ou / Xiaoshu Wang.
MDoubles 4.0-4.5, Jeremiah Johnson / Andrew Wiebe (2x).
WDoubles 3.0, Nicole Sawyer / Alexandra Hoyt-Miggelbrink.
WDoubles 3.0 50+, Wendy Thompson / Mindi Sullivan.
WDoubles 3.5-4.0, Fannie Chu / Kelci Kovacs.
WDoubles 3.5-4.0 40+, Sarah Gabbert / Leah Weinberger.
MixD 3.0, Robin Conway / Edward Ort.
MixD 3.0 50+, Grace Dogpin / Levi Loyola.
MixD 3.5, Victoria Power / Bryan Jennings.
MixD 3.5 50+, Michael Maher / Catherine Maher.
MixD 4.0-4.5, Carolina Merry / Andrew Wieber.
MSingles 3.0, Justin Martin.
MSingles 3.5, Josh Smith.
MSingles 4.0, Anthony Gomes.
WSingles 3.5-4.0, Taheya Foster.

ToRo Wins Third; Fayetteville Tops Eno Rugby 36-31

Tobacco Road men's rugby demolished Triad 93-7 in Durham for their third straight win. Earlier, ToRo torched Onslow 55-12 at home.

David Coleman, Bill Kinney, Max Fausnaugh scored two tries each against Onslow. Luke Texeira, Aiden Gallagher added one each. Gallagher made 6 conversions and a PK.

Eno has two road matches left on the fall schedule.

Women Ruggers

Eno River women's rugby fell 36-31 to Fayetteville Valkyries 36-31 in Durham. Their fall record is 0-2 for their 35th season, the oldest in the state.

The Eno Player of the Match was Cosmo. Beth was Back BOP and Kat Forward BOP. Try scorers were Sadie J, Kat, Isaac, Mods for conversions.

An earlier match at Charlotte was canceled by the weather and may be rescheduled.

Winter Hours Start At Farmers' Markets

Carrboro Farmers' Market winter hours are 9-12 Saturday. Wednesday Market is 3-5 and the last one of the season is Nov. 18. They'll have a special pre-Thanksgiving Market Tuesday, Nov. 24, 3-5.

Chapel Hill FM at University Place runs Saturday 9-12 and Tuesday 3-5.

Eno River Market, Hillsborough, operates Saturday 8-12. In December they shift to 9-12 for winter.

In Chatham, Fearrington market runs Tuesday 3-5 p.m. and Pittsboro Thursday 3-6 at Pop-up Park downtown. Pre-Thanksgiving market 11/25 (tentative).

Durham's Black Farmers' Market is holding its Collard Green Festival Sunday, Nov. 15, at Durham Tech Community College, 1637 E. Lawson St. from 12 to 4 p.m.

Ellis Takes Late Model Honors At OCS Track

Chase Ellis (1 win) took the top spot in Late Model points race at Orange County Speedway, Rougemont, for 2026 season with 314. Mike Chambers (284) was second and Blake Bedsoe (256, one win) third.

Pure Stock, BJ Raines (3 wins), was first, 308; Jay Hemenway (2 wins), 288, second; Corey Durham, 214, third.

Charger, Bradley Wolford (2 wins), 417, first; Caden Everhart, 415, second; Todd Garen (1 win), 275, third.

Mod 4, Cory Purnell (4 wins) was first, 314; Thomas Penny, 288, second; Braden Watson (1 win) 275, third.

Vintage, Gary Lloyd (2 wins) 349, first; Will Riley, 318, second; Kenneth Smith, 296, third.

Cheetahs Score In Softball Final

Jack Besser and Christopher Jones batting first and second, scored seven runs and led Street Walkin Cheetahs to a 20-8 win over Speakeasy Spirits in Carrboro fall co-rec finals. Carli Opland had three runs. Brandon Brown scored three times for Spirits.

The scoresheet reported only runs scored. The regular season winner piled up 12 in the first three frames.

In the postseason Cheetahs beat Squids 17-2, beat Spirits 19-8 and then Spirits for the championship.

Courage Win, But Miss Playoffs

The North Carolina Courage topped Denver 1-0 on the final day of regular season play but it wasn't enough to get them into the NWSL playoffs. The Courage (15-14-3) won only two of the final seven contests, finishing ninth with 45 points, one spot out of the playoff mix. Seattle Reign also won, had 47 and clinched the eighth spot.

Courage star Ashley Sanchez won the Golden Boot with 20 goals, tying the league record.

The Courage, who had strong attendance and sold out four games at 10,000-seat WakeMed SP in Cary, are pushing for upgraded practice and game facilities. They want a new and larger stadium for an improved fan experience and more revenue. The stadium is owned and operated by the town of Cary where the Courage are tenants. *J.B.*

McPhatter Honored With Road Marker

A Durham-born singer who was a pioneering figure in rhythm and blues and early rock and roll will be recognized with a North Carolina Highway Historical Marker.

The marker commemorating the life and accomplishments of Clyde McPhatter will be dedicated Monday, Nov. 16, at 3 p.m. at the intersection of Pettigrew and Mangum streets in downtown Durham.

Born Nov. 15, 1932, in Durham, McPhatter grew up in a Baptist family where music played an important role in his life. He sang in the church choir as a child and became a soprano soloist by age 10. His family moved to New Jersey in the mid-1940s, and later to New York City, where he helped establish the Mount Lebanon Singers, a gospel group based in Harlem.

In 1950, McPhatter won Amateur Night at the Apollo Theater and soon joined Billy Ward and His Dominoes as the group's lead tenor. His distinctive, gospel-influenced singing helped the group reach national audiences through its rhythm and blues recordings. He left the Dominoes in 1953 to sign with Atlantic Records and form a new vocal group, The Drifters.

As the original lead singer of The Drifters, McPhatter recorded several successful songs, including "Money Honey," which helped establish the group nationally. His time with the group ended in 1954 when he entered military service. After leaving the Army, he began recording as a solo artist in 1955.

The marker is part of N.C. Dept of Natural and Cultural Resources and DOT.

Community News

Pro players visits Charlotte Spectrum Center Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. for a Tennis Showcase with Osaka v. Anismova and Tiafoe v.Tien. Charlotte also hosts the WTA Finals for 2027-29. Both programs received financial help from the state.

Banana Ball, now an expanded six-team baseball enterprise, returns to DBAP June 18-19 in Durham and Truist Field, Charlotte, April 9-10 for Firefighters v. Loco Beach Coconuts. Tickets are available via lottery. The Bananas won't play in the state next year, only the spinoffs.

TST, the popular 7-on-7 soccer tournament with men and women teams playing for $1M, will be held June 8-14. at WakeMed SP, Cary.

UNC Hockey Moves To 7-7

The UNC hockey club won three of its past five to move to 7-7 with six games left in the fall portion of the season.

After two home games against Robert Morris, UNC plays Wake Forest (Nov. 13) at Orange Co. Sportsplex, in Hillsborough before road games at Wake, Navy, Georgetown. They resume action after exams and holidays against Wake in an outdoor game Jan. 8 at Truist Field, Charlotte, at 7:30.

UNC went 2-1 in the Fall Classic in Morrisville where they lost 10-4 to Illinois State, beat Northern Illinois 5-4 OT, beat Louisville 5-4 and then split with rival N.C. State, winning 6-4 in Morrisville before falling 2-1 to the Icepack in Hillsborough the next night.

Carolina was fifth in six-team division of ACCHL with 14 points. KY (20) was first, followed by ALA (18) second, Louisville and NC State (16). Cincy (7) was last.

Coaches Needed For Special Olympics Hoops, Winter Sports

Orange County Special Olympics is looking for volunteer coaches for winter sports–basketball (seven divisions including individual skills, 5v5 full court, 3v3 half court for youth, adults, Dec. 5-Feb. 28), competitive swimming Feb. 11-May 30, cheerleading Jan. 9-Feb. 17, alpine skiing/snowboarding clinics Dec-Feb at Appalachian Ski Mtn.

Teams practice once a week excluding holidays and some sports have tournaments and special events.

If you can help, contact coordinator Colleen Lanigan 919-968-2810, clanigan@chapelhillnc.gov.

RECYCLE! RECYCLE!

N.C. Cyclocross Series

The 30th edition of the N.C. Cyclocross Series in WNC is limping along with fewer riders, probably due to high gas prices and the near total absence of Triangle and junior riders. The series has 12 races including the N.C. Grand Prix in Hendersonville Nov. 21-22 and ends Dec. 6 in Rock Hill, SC (double points).

Riders accumulate series points in each race toward season prizes and awards.

Top Chapel Hill finishers:

Race 1, Gibsonville
Morten Jensen, first cat 4/5 masters 50+ (11 finishers).
Evan Myers, second cat 4/5 masters 60+ (8).
Wyatt Rosenthal, Carrboro, third cat 3-5 jrs 15-18 (4).
Chuck Gillis, Pittsboro, third cat 1-4 masters 70+ (4).
Jim Otto, second cat 3-5 masters 40+ (5).
Rosenthal, first cat 5 (5).
Ada Watson, Carrboro, first cat 1-3 F (9).
Alison Weidner, third cat 1-5 masters 40+F (3).
Vivienne Myers, first cat 3-4 F (5).
William Myers, third cat 1-3M (7).

Race 2, Raeford
Traditionally the second race of the series is held in Raleigh at Lions Park. Not this year and turnout was lower.
E. Myers was first cat 4/5 masters 60+ (3).
J. Otto third cat 3-5 (7).
C. Gillis first cat 1-4 M70+ (3).
J. Otto second 40+ masters (3).
V. Myers first cat 1-3 F (3).
A.Weidner second cat 1-5 M40+ F (3).

Race 3, Boone
C. Gillis second cat 1-4 masters 70+ (3).

Race 4, Davidson
Evan Myers, Chapel Hill, second cat 4/5 Masters 60+ (7).

Race 5, Midland
No local top finishers.

Race 6, Winston-Salem (regionals)
C. Gillis, first cat 1-4 masters 70+ (3).

Cycling Notes

The 11th Turkey Run ITT race will be held Nov. 26. Leave 9:15 a.m. ParCycles for the easy ride out and a loop of course recon, or not, then ~10:20 a.m. or earlier, first rider off at Frosties, now called Aidian's Trading Post. Dare to do the double Gallop and ITT … UNC cyclist Owen Cole, 22, was featured in a Velo newsletter on George Hincappie's Modern Adventure pro cycling team. Cole, who won the U23 national road race championship at 19 and finished top 6 in RR and TT this year, previously was a member of the Winston-Salem-Flow … Rootrock MTB races at Briar Chapel were postponed a day and later canceled by weather, safety and trail concerns … Blowing Rock was voted best NC town for mountain biking, with Asheville second, according to an Axios Charlotte poll … Great Trails State Program awarded $350,000 for mountain bike trail extension at Forest Ridge Park, near Falls Lake in North Raleigh that will add 7.5m of single track that's expected to be completed in 2027….

Tragic Cycling Accident

One cyclist was killed and at least 20 others injured in a hit and run accident on Optimist Farm Road near Holly Springs. Riders were from Capital Cycling Club on a Saturday morning group ride about 10:30 a.m. The driver was charged with DWI and other violations, the N.C. Highway Patrol reported.

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McGregor Wins Eno 6 Miler

Maddox McGregor (43:44) of Hillsborough was first male and Marissa Hall (54:49) of Carrboro third female at 15th Eno River Run in Durham. WWT was 49:19 (109 finishers, down from 145 last year).

Chapel Hill award winners: Marcia Calhoun, Pittsboro, first female masters, 55:31; Christian Douglas, first 40-45, 56:50, Emily McGregor, Hillsborough, second, 59:33; Caeden Greene, third 20-29, 56:52; Andrew Greene, first 60-69, 56:52; Daniel Morgan, first 70+, 1:13:12, Chip Gentry, second, 1:26:30; Gary Pohl, Hurdle Mills, third, 1:33:36.

11 Mile Results

WTs for the 11 mile run were 1:14:18 and 1:29:54 (116 finishers, up from 95 in 2025).

Leah Blasiak, Chapel Hill, first 40-49, 1:37:48; Matthew Bouchers, Carrboro, second 20-29, 1:41:19; Manuel Adelino, second 40-49, 1:28:02; David Cook, first 50-59, 1:35:59; Mike Bergin, second 60-69, 2:04:11.

Jeuland Second In RDC HM

Marc Jeuland (1:17:06) of Chapel Hill was second male at RDC HM in Durham. WTs were 1:13:20 and 1:21:28 (353 finishers).

Award winners from Chapel Hill: Jack Wagner, first 14&U, 1:37:41; College Roche, second 20-24, 1:39:07; Dylan McGraw, third 20-24, 1:39:17; Roseanne Cui, third 20-24, 1:39:57; Samir Keloda, Carrboro, third 50-54, 1:42:26; Jungmei Shen, first 55-59, 1:46:56; Dan Wang, second 50-59, 1:46:56; David Lavely, first 60-64, 1:48:52; Jie Xu, third 55-59, 1:51:25; Patrick McVeigh, second 65-69, 1:53:50; Bennett Niller, second 15-19, 1:54:45.

10K Results

John Menutt (38:44) of Hillsborough was third male in the RDC 10K (228). WTs were 39:20 and 43:34.

Local award winners: Forest Heffner, second 14&U, 46:41; Carlos Anaya, first 25-29, 48:59; Joannete Fleischauer, Hillsborough, first 60-64, 50:23; Chyong Yi Poh, first 39-34, 51:20; Chun Hu, second 50-54, 51:22.

WTs were 2:45:18 and 3:12:23 (150).

Dylan Beres, Hillsborough, first 35-39, 2:59:48; Don Fox, Hillsborough, third 45-49, 3:14:08; Morgan Johnson, second 30-34, 3:32:15; Samuel Gunning, third 25-29, 3:36:38; Leah Boucher, third female masters, 4:01:43; Michael Barrett, Hillsborough, second 65-69, 4:08:22.

5K Results

Matthew Holtry (20:43) of Chapel Hill was third male in the RDC 5K (93). WTs were 18:16 and 18:43.

Noah Piper, Mebane, first 25-29, 27:10; Jianling Subbramanian, Chapel Hill, third 30-34, 29:34; Brunson Hoole, first 60-64, 30:41; Kennerh Rudolph, Hillsborough, second 45-49, 51:38.

Emerald Isle Races

Marathon (286), Matt Waller (2:3758) of Hillsborough was first male at Emerald Isle M, Edward Plante, Chapel Hill, third, 2:54:45. Women's WT was 3:1:22. Evan Rosenberg, Chapel Hill, was third 20-29, 3:04:07.

5K (427), David Hardy, Carrboro, was second 60-69, 24:32. WTs were 16:04 and 18:01.

Triple Lakes Trail Runs

Amelia McCue, Chapel Hill, was second woman in the Triple Lakes Trail Run 5 Miler, Greensboro, (91). WTs were 35:07 and 44:36.

In the HM (123), Franky Jones, Mebane, was first 50-54, 2:01:59; Matthijs Phillips, Carrboro, third 20-24, 2:08:39; David Wood, Pittsboro, third 60-64, 2:14:49; John Dehart, Chapel Hill, second 65-69, 3:07:21. WTs were 1:33:34 and 1:48:05.

Owen Hart, Mebane, was first 30-39, 4:08:49, in the Marathon (15). WTs 2:58:38 and 4:14:19.

Veale Second In ATT 10 Miler

Chapel Hill runners Simone Veale (1:03:26) and Tori Chace (1:05:52) were second and third females at the 19th American Tobacco Trail Ten Miler in Apex. WTs were 56:31 and 58:04 (85 finishers, down from 229 last year).

Megan Mackenzie, Hillsborough, was first 20-24, 1:09:23; Heidi Herman, Chapel Hill, second 50-54, 1:30:32.

Michael Ly (21:23) of Chapel Hill was second male in the 4 Miler (79, down 10 from 2025). WTs were 20:25 and 22:15.

Michael Holtry, Chapel Hill, was first 40-49, 26:41; Sydney Hughes, Carrboro, first 20-29, 32:41; Judith Andre, Chapel Hill, first 50-59, 37:59.

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Running News

Alex Dolwick (20:26) and Autumn Gallegos (22:43) of Durham were the winners at the inaugural Run to the Polls Democrats 5K in Durham. There were 45 finishers.

Cary Greenway Tour award winners from Chapel Hill: Jaime Solis Hernandez, second 55-59 in HM (93), 2:02:42; Keith Burnell, second 50-54 in 10K (102), 1:00:16.

Bruce Smith (1:54:56) of Mebane was second 60-64 at Ocean Isle Beach HM (766). WT was 1:16:42. George Jacobs (23:55) of Pittsboro was first 65-69, WTs were 17:51 and 19:52.

Sage Hengen (18:03) of Carrboro was the men's winner at Peanut Butter Jelly Jog 5K in Graham (409). Women's WT was 19:51.

Hanah Mize (20:57) of Haw River was the leader at Marine Corps League Semper 5K, Graham (11).

Casey Yarmauchi (18:43), 17, of Durham was the men's leader at Jodi 5K Run in Durham (546), with women's winner Cary Gagnon (19:52) of Newburyport, MA. Cary McDonald of Chapel Hill was third 60-69, 29:07.

Rootrock Trail Run

Matt Straub (1:40:11) of Carrboro and Katharine Patsakham (2:09:26) of Chapel Hill were the leaders at 6th Rootrock Trail Run HM at Briar Chapel, Chapel Hill. Leah Blasiak (2:12:17) of Chapel Hill was third female, There were 46 finishers, down from 98 last year.

The 10K (70) winners were Leland Rayner, Chapel Hill, 44:50, and Erin Day, Raleigh, 52:19. Age division winners included Claire Rayner, Carrboro, 30-39, 1:07:31; Julie Ricker, Pittsboro, 50-59, 1:09:17; Luke Molan, Chapel Hill, 50-59, 52:37.

The 5K leaders were E. Austell, Asheville, 25:31, and Alexandra Glenn, Morrisville, 33:00. Conor Donohue, Chapel Hill, was second male, 27:03 and Britney Hunt, Pittsboro, 33:39, second female and Leah Cook, Cedar Grove, third, 34:02 (48 finishers).

Cannonball Races

Abbi Morrell (1:28:18) of Hillsborough was first woman at Cannonball Run HM in Greensboro (318). MWT was 1:16:43. Jessica Beardsley, Chapel Hill, was first 45-49, 1:44:02.

Katherine Nixon (3:19:50) of Chapel Hill was the women's marathon winner (6). MWT was 2:47:46.

Matthew Holtry of Chapel Hill was first 45-49 in the 10K (235). WTs were 37:25 and 40:37.

Holtry was second 45-49, 20:38, and Martha Hamblin, Mebane, first 70-74, 40:39, in the 5K (282). WTs were 17:53 and 22:51.

Berkman Second In 10 Miler

Amy Berkman (1:19:31) of HIllsborough was second female at 19th Medoc Trail Ten Miler in Hollister (221 finishers, up 14 from last year). WTs were 1:04:31 and 1:16:08.

Masters leaders were Marc Mehratra (1:15:48) of Chapel Hill and Mark Wakeling (1:22:51) of Pittsboro.

Tim Kreby of Pittsboro was third 55-59, 1:32:41, and Kelsey Brinkley of Chapel Hill third 35-39, 1:44:58.

Masters winners in the 5 Miler were David Clark of Moncure, 41:05, and Kate Dicato of Pittsboro, 44:47. WTs were 39:10 and 40:41 (168 finishers, down from 221 in 2025.

William Harris, Pittsboro, was first 50-59, 44:05; David Montefiori, Hillsborough, first 60+, 52:21; Mary Mehratra, Chapel Hill, second 50-59, 56:14, Bridget Perry, Pittsboro, third, 57:31.

Cooke Third In Durham HM

Julien Isnard (1:19:53) of Chapel Hill was the fastest local finisher (sixth) and Megan Cooke (1:26:00) of Hillsborough third women overall at Bull City RaceFest HM in Durham. He was second 35-39. WTs were 1:12:36 and 1:24:27, 1,509 finishers (666 females), up from 1,229 last year.

Chapel Hill award winners: Clara Richards, Carrboro, second 20-24, 1:34:18; Elena Petron, Carrboro, third 25-29, 1:40;24; Hallie Pike, Carrboro, first 30-34, 1:27:49; Aaron Bailey, first 40-44, 1:20:31; Erinn Whitaker, third 40-44, 1:44:21; Micah Whitson, second 45-49, 1:27:44; Cary Moody, Carrboro, first 50-54, 1:44:43; Ted Lamay, second 65-69, 1:57:37; Randy Kauftheil, third 65-69, 1:58:46.

5K Results

Matthew Miller (17:54) of Chapel Hill had the best local time for an Orange Co. runner in the 5K. He was first 35-39. WTs:16:19 and 17:27. There were 2,047 finishers (1163 females), up from 1,548 in 2025.

Award winners from Chapel Hill included Lulu Miles, first 14&U, 24:02; Tommy Zhu, second 25-29, 18:35; Maggie Borum, Pittsboro, second 40-44, 24:16, Keri Uhlenberg, Hillsborough, third, 24:39; Charles Baxter, first 50-54, 18:35; John Vance, second 55-59, 22:50; Rick Kennedy, second 65-69, 28:52; Tim Masters, Chapel Hill, second 70-74, 30:16; Parker Swinney, third non binary, 26:40.

Deloitte, WeRun Durham, Wolves Will Run were the first three in the team division. It was the same order of finish as last year.

Rodriguez First In Oaks HM

Isai Rodriguez (1:03:22) of Chapel Hill was first male at City of Oaks HM in Raleigh (3004 finishers). WWT was 1:27:43.

Chapel Hill award winners: Jonathan Sipling, first 45-49, 1:27:31; Charlie Baxter, second 50-54, 1:25:44; Cory Moody, Carrboro, second 50-54, 1:44:03.

The day's four races totaled 7,725 finishers, compared to 6,641 last year..

M Results

WTs were 2:40:25 and 2:55:18 (1028) for the Raleigh Marathon.

Award winners: Amy Berkman, Hillsborough, second 40-44, 3:23:57; Carrie Doyle, Hillsborough, second 50-54, 5:04:19, Jenny Stainelle, Chapel Hill, third, 5:13:35; Donald Rose, Chapel Hill, first 65-69, 4:01:18.

10K Results

Hallie Pike (40:47) of Carrboro was second female in the Old Reliable 10K (2127). WTs were 32:03 and 39:47. Eggie Ng, Carrboro, was second 25-29 non binary, 1:06:17.

Award winners from Chapel Hill, Ann Marie Kumfer, third 35-39, 46:43; Katie Grabowski, first 40-44, 1:44:32; Kim Kylstra, second 65-69, 1:05:20.

5K Results

Local award winners in the Acorn 5K (1566) included Sophia Lomax, Chapel Hill, first 20-24, 22:40; Michael Holtry, first 45-49, 20:59; Stephen Malloy, third 50-54, 26:28; Francis Collichio, first 60-64, 28:10; John Winstead, third 65-69, 36:18. WTs were 15:56 and 18:48.

Cane Creek Mountain Run

WTs for the 10K (75 finishers) at the twice-postponed Cane Creek Mountain Trail Run, Snow Camp, were 42:50 and 54:49. Local age group winners were Dawn Klenman, Carrboro, 60-69, 1:24:50; Nancy Margolin, Chapel Hill, 70+, 1:25:39; Peter Superak, Chapel Hill, 70+, 1:38:08.

WTs for the HM (7) were 1:45:19 and 2:01:79.

Lesher First In Carson 5K

Luke Lesher (18:50, age 19, was first overall at 19th Eve Carson Memorial 5K for Education in Chapel Hill (260). Henry McLaughlin, 19, 18:52, was second and Isaac Bosman, 19, third, 19:43. Hometowns N/A.

Women leaders were Jill Konkol, 28:15, Hailey Hackett, 19, 29:29; Megan Smith, 20, 30:22.



Watson Wins U23 Pan Am Cyclocross Championship

Ada Watson (40:16) of Carrboro won the Pan Am U23 Cyclocross Championship in Washington, D.C. (13 finishers).

In her first year racing in the U23 category, Watson soloed to victory, crossing the line 19 seconds ahead of compatriot Kaya Musgrave. Musgrave improved on her fourth-place finish last year to claim silver.

The win marked Watson's first UCI victory. She had competed in the elite category at all six UCI events contested so far this season.

ACC, Continued from page 1

nucleus of Thijs de Ridder, Johann Grunloh Sam Lewis and Chance Mallory. The 6/9 de Ridder is possibly the most skilled player in the league and is certain to get consideration for ACC POY, while Mallory may be the league's toughest guard under 6/0. The additions of transfers Christian Harmon and Jurian Dixon should boost the perimeter scoring, but this team will again make its biggest impact on the defensive end.

4. Miami. The Hurricanes invested well with their portal additions, especially point guard Acaden Lewis from Villanova, who should be one of the ACC's top floor leaders, and center Somto Cyril from Georgia, who should lead the conference in blocked shots. They perfectly complement emerging wing Shelton Henderson and blue-chip forward Caleb Gaskins, as well as returning leading scorer Malik Reneau. The only concern with Jai Lewis' crew is the lack of on-the-ball defense, which may keep them from reaching the Duke/Louisville tier.

5. UNC. Right behind the Canes, the Tar Heels have enough offensive talent to challenge the ACC's best, with the transfer trio of Terrence Brown (Utah), Neo Avdalas (Virginia Tech) and Matt Able (NC State) filling up the stat sheet. Freshman Maximo Adams looks like an impressive sixth man who can do just about everything, and forward Jarin Stevenson appears primed for a breakout role. Like Miami, however, the Heels' concern will be the lack of intensity on the defensive side. European centers Sayon Keita and Alex Samodurov are capable of manning the post, but both are still relatively raw and will take time to develop.

6**. Virginia Tech.** The Hokies have the second-most returning production among ACC teams (right behind their rivals in Charlottesville), with Ben Hammond, Amani Hansberry and Tyler Johnson running it back. Oklahoma State transfer Jaylen Curry will emerge as a breakout star in the Tech backcourt, but center Miles Heide will need to step up in a big way if the Hokies are going to keep pace with the rest of the conference. Regardless, Mike Young has this program moving in the right direction.

7. Clemson. Once again, Brad Brownell has pieced together a squad that doesn't blow your socks off but is solid enough to take down virtually any opponent. Returning guard Ace Buckner has emerged as the Tigers' go-to guy with shooters like Cole Certa (Notre Dame transfer) and Liutauras Lelevicius (TCU transfer) to support him. The key, however, is the frontcourt tandem of David Fuchs and Dylan Faulkner, who play almost synchronous offensive and defensive styles, and can hold their own against top-level competition. If Brownell can develop a bench, the Tigers could be dangerous in March.

8. NC State. The Wolfpack begins the Justin Gainey era with a dynamic lineup of interchangeable pieces in point Preston Edmead (Hofstra), combo guard Christian Hammond (Santa Clara), and wing Dariua Adams (Maryland) mixing in with returning sharpshooter Paul McNeil. This group can play stifling defense when it wants to (a Gainey staple) and can also light up the scoreboard when it needs to. The return of fifth-year forward Ven-Allen Lubin is a significant boost to the frontcourt, but the team's one weak spot will be finding a center who can match up with the ACC's dominant post players.

9. Florida State. Luke Loucks also has a makeshift roster designed specifically for what he wants—up-tempo offense. Point guard Anthony Robinson is proving to be a masterful floor general, and has several options at his disposal, including Cincinnati transfer Shon Abaev and Colorado transfer Sebastian Rancik. Watch out for freshman center Marcus Ponder—there's a reason big men were at a premium in the transfer portal, and FSU got a bargain with this one. Defense is still a concern though if they're going to challenge for an upper tier spot.

10. Syracuse. Orange fans got what they wanted by hiring Gerry McNamara to head the program, and his influence has already paid dividends. Retaining key returnees Sadiq White and Kiyan Anthony was critical, but the real steal may be the addition of guard Gavin Doty, who followed McNamara from Sienna. The 6/5 guard can do it all, and he will be the key to determining just how far the Cuse can move up the conference ladder. 11. SMU. The Mustangs don't quite have an identity just yet, but they have some talent in the right places. Center Jaden Toombs will be a focal point this season, but Polish freshman Jakub Szumert appears to be the perfect complement with his overall ball skills. As long as Andy Enfield can get solid production from transfers Rowan Brumbaugh (Tulane) and Oziyah Sellers (St. John's) along with holdover Jermaine O'Neal Jr., the Mustangs should be right in the thick of things.

12. Boston College. Yes, the Eagles have landed—and they have former UConn assistant Luke Murray to thank. The new head coach has plenty of new pieces to work with, including the appropriately named Montana transfer Money Williams, who should lead the team in most statistical categories. Transfers Ernest Shelton (Merrimack) and Luke Hunger (George Washington) should provide some decent support but watch out for Slovenian freshman Zak Smrekar who is talented enough to garner some NBA attention.

13. Pittsburgh. The Panthers aren't quite where they want to be from a talent perspective, but Jeff Capel was able to pull together an adequate lineup to compete with in the ACC. After all, who better to lead the team than former Syracuse and Georgia Tech point guard Nait George? When paired with former GT teammate Baye Ndongo, UNC transfer Jonathan Powell, and superstar freshman Chase Foster, there's no telling how far this team can go.

14. Wake Forest. Early reports of the Demon Deacons' demise were greatly exaggerated. Steve Forbes is still an excellent coach, and he knows how to get the most of his players, especially Merrimack transfer Kevair Kennedy and Monmouth transfer Justin Ray. Those two will combine nicely with the Placide twins (Gavin and Gallagher) to bring Wake back into the mix eventually.

15. Stanford. The Cardinal have a solid frontcourt nucleus of Yale transfer Nick Townsend and returning center Aidan Cammann, but the focus will be on a pair of freshmen—guard Julius Price and forward Aziz Olajuwon. It's not the most intimidating lineup, but it should provide enough to entertain Stanford fans and give them hope for the future.

16. Notre Dame. Coach Micah Shrewsberry was able to get some decent support out of the transfer portal so his son Braeden doesn't have to shoulder the load. Braeden Smith (Gonzaga) and Logan Duncomb (Winthrop/Indiana) should both contribute regularly, and returning forward Brady Koehler may have himself a breakout campaign if the stars align.

17. California. We still don't know what to expect from the Cal Bears, but Georgia transfers Jordan Ross and Jake Wilkins will certainly play a big part of the upcoming season. Center Sammie Yeanay should have a solid campaign, but can he do enough to support Lee Dort when he returns from injury? He'll have to if the Bears want to avoid the ACC basement.

18. Georgia Tech. That brings us to the Yellowjackets, who have a solid new coach in Scott Cross, but will have to suffer through some growing pains with transfers Colby Garland (San Jose State) and Jackson Fields (West Virginia) supporting returnees Kam Craft and Cole Kirouac. It's not ideal, but you have to start somewhere.

ACC Hoops News

Former NBA star Chris Paul was honored with a mural at Rupert Bell Park in his hometown of Winston-Salem … Brooklyn's Drake Powell was assigned to the Long Island Nets of G League … Jay Bilas' best 65 men's teams had 9 from the ACC with four in top 15 (1 Duke, 9 Va., 14 Miami, 15 Louisville), plus 30 UNC, 53 Clemson, 55 Pitt, 61 SMU, 64 Stanford … Four ACC schools were in the top 20 for biggest home court advantage–Duke 2, UNC 7, Syracuse 17, Va. 20–according to studentsection.com. Kansas was first, Purdue third, Tenn. fourth … Predicted order of finish in media poll for ACC women: Duke (49 first place votes), Louisville (22), North Carolina (1), Notre Dame (4), N.C. State. Notre Dame's Hannah Hidalgo was preseason POY … Matt Able (48) was the only UNC player on SI's list of top 76 men's college players. There were 12 from the ACC. Duke's John Blackwell (11) was the highest …

Mason Farm Preserve Entrance Reopens

Visitors to the Mason Farm Biological Reserve, Chapel Hill, a popular hiking, birding, wildlife spot, can gain access through Morgan Creek behind Finley Golf Course. The reserve, managed by the N.C. Botanical Garden, has been closed for repairs since Chantal swamped the regio early in July 2025.

To get there you have to pass through the parking lot of the golf course on Old Mason Farm Road and drive on a gravel road until you can cross the stream on a low overflow bridge. After heavy rains, there may be too much water flowing over the bridge for a safe crossing.

A permit is required to visit. Sign up at ncbg.unc.edu and check the water level of the ford on the same webpage.

Community News

Carrboro has a new and upgraded playground at the Town Commons, home of the farmers' market, with a food market theme. Check it out.

Fool's Faire Renaissance Festival at Pluck Farm (Steel String Brewery), NC54W, Mebane, Saturday, Nov. 14, 12-7, features food, beer, live music, sporting feats like sword fighting, exhibits, crafts. Free admission.

Arts on Market at the Southern Village Green, Chapel Hill, Sunday, Nov. 22, 12 noon-4 p.m. for handcrafted art and gifts, live music.

"Nutcracker on Ice" will be presented Dec. 13-14 at Orange Co. Sportsplex, Hillsborough. Shows are 6 p.m. Friday, 10:30 a.m. Saturday. Get tickets at the front desk (919-644-0339).

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Outdoor Notes

SNOW TUBING TRIP

Chapel Hill's Adventure Program has a Snow Tubing day trip Saturday, Dec. 5, to Hawksnest in WNC. They'll leave at 7 a.m. from the Community Center and return that night. Cost is $59 for Orange Co. residents, others $70. All ages. Bring lunch and a water bottle, $50 cash for tubing and money for dinner on the way back. Register at webtrac .chapelhill.org.

REI WINTER CLASSES

REI Cary/Durham offer a variety of winter sports classes, workshops. Some examples: snowshoeing basics Dec. 5, ski & snowboard waxing Dec. 5, winter camping, cross country skiing. Check the website for details.

DUKE FOREST TRAIL

Saturday, Nov. 21, is the official launch of the new Unearthing Duke Forest Interpretive Trail. Through three newly installed signs, visitors can explore some of the rich and complex human history of the land now called the Duke Forest and learn about historic features that remain visible today.

The event will feature remarks from project leaders and contributors, a guided hike on the trail and time to celebrate the many individuals and partners who helped bring this project to life. Program is 9-11 a.m.; preregistration required. Free. Register at airtable .com. Meet at the wooden bridge, Korstian Div.

69 ACRES PRESERVED

Triangle Land Conservancy is preserving 69 acres along Neuse River adjacent to TLC's Williamson Preserve (450 acres) in eastern Wake County. The property, known as the Neuse River connector, lies along the Johnston County line. Funding was provided by the N.C. Land and Water Fund and Novo Nordisk pharmaceutical company of Clayton. The natural easement prohibits future residential or commercial development, widens stream buffers and protects water quality.

Raleigh Ski Club Race Team, Trips

The Raleigh Ski & Outing Club offers plenty of outdoor activities (hiking, biking, watersports. etc.), a ski/snowboard race team and long distance trips. RSOC membership costs $15 for individuals, $30 for married couples. Check membership info at rsoc.club.

RSOC is part of Crescent Ski Council and ski races are scheduled Dec. 19-20, Jan. 30-31 at Appalachian, Jan. 9-10, Feb. 6-7 at Sugar Mountain, Feb. 20-21 at Winterplace (WV). There are two slalom races Saturday, two giant slalom Sunday. Skiers compete against 18 other ski clubs in the region. Trips this season: Mt. Bachelor, Oregon, Crested Butte, CO (sold out), 3 Valleys, France.

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December 2026
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Winter Sports

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Holiday Parades

Here's a preliminary list of Triangle area Holiday Parades with start times:

Raleigh—Saturday, Nov. 21, 9:30 a.m. (WTVD).
Burlington—Saturday, Nov. 21, 10 a.m.
Mebane—Friday, Dec 4, 7 p.m.
Chapel Hill, Saturday, Dec. 5, 10 a.m.
Hillsborough, Sunday, Dec. 6, 4 p.m.
Sanford, Monday, Dec. 7, 6 p.m.
Durham, Saturday, Dec. 12, 10 a.m.
Efland, Saturday, Dec. 12, 10 a.m. (tentative).
Cary, Saturday, Dec. 12, 2 p.m.
Pittsboro, Sunday, Dec. 13, 3 p.m.

N.C. Music Festivals

Dec.3-5, Balsam Range Art of Music Festival, Lake Junaluska.

U.S. Soccer

Nov. 17, MNT, Concacaf Nations League, Haiti, Cincinnati, 7 p.m., TBS, Universo.
Nov. 27, WNT, Concacaf Women Championship Quarterfinal, El Salvador, Mansfield, TX, 8:30 p.m., TV TBD.
Dec. 13. MNT, Jamaica, Fort Lauderdale, 3:30 p.m., TNT, Universo.

Football Tidbits

UNC football will play nine ACC games next season plus nonconference foes N. Alabama (Sep. 25), UCF (Sep 4), UConn (Sep 18).

UNC reportedly spent more than $800,000 on the investigation of the UNC football program this fall. It was conducted by law firms.

Kenan Stadium will host N.C. high school football championships but which ones (TBD). UNC is one of three hosts for the games Dec. 10-12, along with Lenoir Rhyne, Campbell University, for seven divisions based on school size (2A-8A). The state high school boys soccer championships take place at Durham County Stadium Nov. 19-21 (8 divisions).

Community News

Orange County youth basketball leagues need volunteer coaches. If you're interested, contact Kevin Bradsher (919-245-2672, kbradsher@orangecountync.gov). Criminal history checks are conducted.

Raleigh Red Sox edged Alamance Giants 4-3 for the 32+ division championship in Central Carolina Men's Senior Baseball League. Oaks swept Cardinals in Durham for fifth straight 18+ title.

Chapel Hill celebrates Arbor Day Nov. 20 with an 11 a.m. program at Umstead Park when a River Birch tree will be planted to show the town's commitment to trees.

November Standings

Final Standings

Fall Chapel Hill Bocce League
Kirkland Elite 7-0 21, Pointer Sisters 5-1-1 16, Owl Movement 4-1-2 14, Bocce Like It's Hot 4-3 12, ShipShape Shooters 3-2-2 11, The Big LeBocce 3-3-1 10, The Furballers 3-3-1 10, Boccelism 2-3-2 8, Couples Therapy 2-4-1 7, Wise Guys 0-3-4 4, Carolina Bocce Crew 0-5-2 2, Governors of Bocce 0-5-2 2.

Fall Carrboro Co-Rec Softball
Street Walkin Cheetahs 9-2, Speakeasy Spirits 8-4, Fightin Squids 6-5, Big Monstars 5-6, Haw River Chuggernauts 0-11.

Chapel Hill Women's Volleyball
Thunderbolts 5-1, Spikopaths 3-3, Volleyllamas 3-3, Kiss My Ace 1-5.

Chapel Hill Co-Rec Volleyball
GSVC 4-1, Team Aiden 4-1, Notorious 3-2, How I Set Your Mother 2-3, ST CCU 1-4, Cheetah Print 0-5.

Another View, Mine — John Nieman

I'm pretty certain that Coach Belichick did not read my column last month.

Nonetheless, it would appear that we were at least on the same page.

This season, he has rid himself of a problematic general manager who didn't seem to understand the college game, let go of an assistant coach son with some personal problems, put the cheerleader-girlfriend on the back burner, acquired an offensive coordinator who may be one of the best minds in college football, developed an understanding of the difference between professional football and college football, and appears to be on the road to regaining control of his legacy. A bowl invitation this season is not out of the question and Tar Heel fans can dream of inclusion in a 24-team college playoff in the near future.

And most surprisingly of all, here we are in November and we are still—at least for my part—focused more on the football team than the basketball team. And in a positive, hopeful, way.

Of course, maybe my positivity stems from the events of this past Tuesday.

In my life, there have been a few momentous national elections. In 1960, as a young practicing Catholic in Atlanta Ga., the election of John Kennedy as president made me think that perhaps government was not an institutionally-biased monolith, but something really of the people. The president's assassination 3 years later put a damper on that belief.

In 2008, the election of Barack Obama as President gave me real hope in the people of this country—that we all believed that this was a country based on the principles of the Constitution. There was hope in our country and in our institutions. Subsequent elections were profoundly disappointing. Those elections gave us a president who believed in an authoritative governance, a congress that ceded enormous power to the president and a Supreme Court that put a stamp on it.

Last Tuesday, the people of our country finally said, "Enough."

And so I approach my view of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill football team with a positive attitude and real hope that a man the same age as me can regain the honor and respect that his life should give. It is not lost on me that Coach Belichick is a finalist for the Pro Football Hall of Fame and I sincerely hope that he achieves that deserved milestone. And, if he's got it in him, perhaps the College Football Hall of Fame?

This election has really made me giddy.

I would love to be able to extend that hope to the world soccer governing body, FIFA. Unfortunately, it appears that Gianni Infantino will be reelected to head the group. This is a man who has governed FIFA in much the same authoritarian manner as has been our country. I would love for the soccer federations of the world to take notice of what has happened and, hopefully will happen, here in the United States and say, "Enough."

Infantino attempted to unilaterally and without any checks on his power, sell a portion of the World Cup. This alone should be enough to deny him another term. And please don't get me started on the FIFA Peace Prize. I can only hope that some sense of sanity can prevail.

Back to more happier, positive thoughts. Grandson Burke led the Smith Middle School Cross Country team to the championship this past week. He was the highest finisher on a strong team and it was an incredibly proud moment for all of us to witness. One of the friends of our family noted that he has strong genes. When it comes to cross country, none of them came from me. Well done, Burke.

I've been riding in space for parts of five and I don't think that I've ever reached a point where I could say I don't have much weight to lose. Incredibly, Martha has asked me to remain at the same weight. The last time she said anything like that was shortly after our engagement in 1987. These are the good old days!

Fat Boy Index: 228.

Media Sportswatch — Joel Bulkley

Raleigh/Durham (The Triangle), a well known hotspot for college sports, ranked fourth in Nielsen Scarborough Fandom Index in local college basketball behind Lexington (Ky, first), Louisville (Ky, second) and DesMoines/Ames (IA, third).

The index measures fandom using metrics like attendance, viewership and social media activity. As you can imagine, the Raleigh/Durham market benefits from the presence and sports success of Duke, North Carolina and NC State.

Others on the hoops list were: 5 Indianapolis, 6 Birmingham, 7 Omaha, 8 Knoxville, 9 Wichita/Hutchinson, 11 Memphis, 12 Tucson, 13 Charleston/Huntington, 14 Little Rock/Pine Bluff, 14 Syracuse, 16 Cincinnati, 17 Columbus, 18 Hartford/New Haven, 19 Oklahoma City, 20 Spokane.

The release follows similar market rankings for college football published in September. Football leaders were Birmingham, DesMoines/Ames, Columbus, Omaha.

Birmingham's #1 finish indicates the intensity of fandom within the SEC. The Alabama/Auburn market leads in interest and event attendance, while ranking in the top four for apparel, social media, radio, streaming and TV viewing.

Despite overlapping cores, college hoops fandom is more geographically dispersed than football, with voracious fanbases in Washington, New York, Connecticut and Arizona. None of those markets cracked basketball's top 10, though.

According to Yahoo Sports, in tech-heavy regions like Raleigh/Durham, fans have a strong preference for live event attendance and streaming platforms over standard linear TV, making experiential marketing and OTT streaming combos prime targets.

Both women (up 20 percent) and men's hoops (up 19 percent) showed major gains in TV audience last season, Nielsen reported.

Following a basketball theme, it looks like ESPN's top broadcast teams are pretty much the same as last season. Bilas/Shulman and Ruocco/Lebo are their top teams.

For men's games, Cory Alexander, Jay Williams, LaPhonso Ellis, Steve Lavin, Malcolm Brogden, Randolph Childress, Jason Capel, Dave O'Brien are among the familiar voices. Former coaches Kevin Keatts, Seth Greenberg return as well. Veterans from ACCN like Wes Durham, Amish Shraff also do hoops as well as football.

Hubert Davis will be a game and studio analyst at TNT Sports for Big East and Big 12 college games.

WRDC (channel 12 on Spectrum Cable) carries Charlotte Hornets games.

The Hornets, down three starters due to injury and playing poorly, were booed at their season home opener in Charlotte. Said Coach Charlie Lee, "If you hear boos, you've got to be able to play better."

A moment of silence for Chris Spatola was held at Duke before the Army game in Durham. He was a former Army player, Duke assistant and ESPN hoops analyst who passed this summer.

Some 54 ACC games (men & women) will be on The CW as their agreement with ESPN was extended through 2031.

Have seen bits and pieces about how much NIL money schools have for NIL. The stories aren't confirmed by the schools, but a consensus is Wake Forest has limited ($5M) NIL funds for basketball,

Good stuff. Nice to see the Charlotte area getting some ink as a N.C. hotbed for disc golf, but didn't realize they had 37 courses (25 are open to the public).

Hurricanes star Seth Jarvis made a generous donation to support a new dog program called Paws and Heel that helps pediatric patients at UNC Children's Hospital with specially trained dogs that are permanent part of the care team.

Ernie Johnson, 70, long-time host of "Inside the NBA" will step back at the end of the season and Michael Wilbon is taking a leave of absence from ESPN for health reasons. Both are fun and knowledgeable voices in sports.

The Holt Athletic Association in North Durham could use some love (and donations). They are a youth sports provider (and Tobacco Road Rugby plays there). Tropical storm Chantal flooded the neighborhood near the Eno River in July 2025. Last month thieves stole supplies and equipment including lawnmowers valued at $28,000 from a storage shed.

UNC's loss to Syracuse in football cost them a chance to host ESPN's College GameDay before the UNC-Miami game. They've only been to Chapel Hill only once and it was years ago for a game with Florida State in 1998. UNC was featured on GameDay twice but it was for neutral site games.

Am surprised/disappointed there's so little media attention to the continuing drought and its impact on Triangle communities. Occasional pictures of Falls Lake apparently don't do much to emphasize the critical need to reduce water use. Most Durham residents seem oblivious to the problem as they continue to wash their cars and hose down their driveways.

Credit to the New York Times for a special Marathon section (36 pages) two days after the New York City Marathon. It was amazing. They listed the more than 60,000+ finishers and their times, filling about 31 pages (9 columns per page top to bottom in small type).