2022 was a year that brought both old and new to the Chapel Hill community.

While these celebrations and victories aren’t a stranger to campus, familiar struggles also have made their return, such as faculty welfare and pay inequities. Rallies and activism have continued in hopes of higher pay for the University housekeepers — an issue that some argue has been around for over fifty years.

Concerns and conversations over campus accessibility and safety issues are still echoing throughout the halls as broken elevators remain unfixed and efforts to fund repairs remain in progress. The University’s deferred maintenance backlog reached nearly $3 billion this year.

This fall, UNC welcomed new deans and other administrators after months of leadership changes and retirement announcements. The new leaders have begun their positions and have been met with positive feedback from both students and staff.

Confusion arose among many students at the looming possibility of up to $20,000 in student loan forgiveness through the Biden Administration. However, after recent blocks put up by courts, some are left with less hope for the possibility of relief.

The future of affirmative action awaits a decision from the Supreme Court in Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. UNC argued that affirmative action is a necessary component in the college admissions decision process and many students await the outcome of the case.

Throughout the fall semester, lead was found in the drinking water of 80 buildings on campus. The University’s Environment, Health and Safety office launched a four-phase testing plan, but many students and staff remain concerned.

A permanent memorial, dedicated to Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones regarding the failure to grant tenure, was finally reached between her and the University. The settlement was a 20-page paper and interactive website dedicated to covering abortion. It included state and campus reactions to the court rulings surrounding the issue, resources for community members and more.

The story of University housekeepers — a stark contrast to new celebrations and adherence to the University’s deferred maintenance backlog — remains on UNC’s campus.

Celebrations of identity and culture were captured through gatherings, dances and club meetings. The Holi Moli festival was celebrated as the largest student-run event at UNC with brightly-colored powders painting the sky. South Asian dance group Bhangra Elite attended the East Coast Showdown competition and won the first-place title.

As the year comes to a close, many University and surrounding community members reflect on familiarity and change.

Elections

The Old and the New

By Liv Reilly
University Editor
university@dailytarheel.com

The year in review.

ELECTIONS

So much is happening and yet nothing at all.

The Old and The New

Welcome to The Daily Tar Heel’s 2022 Year in Review.

So much is happening and yet nothing at all.

RACHEL COHN

Celebrities of identity and culture were captured through gatherings, dances and club meetings. The Holi Moli festival was celebrated as the largest student-run event at UNC with brightly-colored powders painting the sky. South Asian dance group Bhangra Elite attended the East Coast Showdown competition and won the first-place title.

As the year comes to a close, many University and surrounding community members reflect on familiarity and change.

And whether they were expected or not, we continue moving forward.

On to the next.

Welcome to The Daily Tar Heel’s 2022 Year in Review.

Twitter: @livvreilly
Students make an impact on campus in 2022

Here’s a breakdown of activism centered at UNC this year

By Lauren Rhodes

From young voter turnout to gun control, UNC students rallied behind the issues that matter to them most in 2022. Key topics of community conversation included climate preservation, affirmative action and University employee wages.

UNC Climate Strike

Students gathered in March as part of a global climate strike in front of South Building. They called upon the Board of Trustees and Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz to divest from fossil fuels, and presented a list of other local environmental justice at the University.

Among these students was Tariro Magarira, a junior at the University of South Carolina. Unlikely the climate change impacts felt around the world, Magarira said that climate change is an “existential crisis,” and he wants students to keep a constant level of pressure against the BOT, rather than waiting for another strike to occur.

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If Magarira could tell anything to himself as a first-year student, it would be to use his voice. “I’d tell him that your voice and your ability to create change is way more than you would ever think it is,” he said.

March for Our Lives

The UNC chapter of March for Our Lives, a national gun violence prevention organization, held a rally outside the South Building in October — their first rally since 2018.

Chapter President Megan Chen said it meant a lot to see people united by their passion for gun control, especially as the rally took place the afternoon after a mass shooting in Balboa.

“I want to see that gun violence is less normalized because there’s been so many shootings that have happened just this past week, and nobody’s talking about them because it happens so often,” she said.

Housekeeper advocacy

During the fall semester, the U.S. Supreme Court heard a case concerning the future of affirmative action — Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. University of North Carolina. Students from UNC for Affirmative Action went to Washington, D.C., to support the consideration of race in UNC’s admission process. Among them was Joy Jiang, co-leader of the club.

Jiang said that, though the organization has encountered negativity, they have also received support from the campus community. “As students, the biggest thing that we can do is help the future generation and continue that pipeline to greatness because that’s what we want to achieve. Instead of tearing that down, we have to continue to keep that open for all potential people to create the equity that we always talk about,” she said.

UNC for Affirmative Action

Students, community members and political leaders attended and spoke at the event.

Sam Hiner, the executive director of the NCYPA at UNC, said he was encouraged by the number of politicians and nonprofit leaders at the rally. He hopes to continue advocating for a Democracy Day both at the University and at the state level.

“My hope is to continue the momentum that was seen at the rally. We want to make sure that young people are engaged in politics and teach them the skills to be effective advocates,” he said.

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Breaking down lawsuits involving UNC in 2022

No rulings or settlements have been reached in three of four cases

By Ilare Widler
Assistant Sports & News Editor
university@dailytarheel.com

The University and its affiliated bodies faced several major lawsuits over the past year. There have been no settlements or final rulings in cases involving affirmative action, alleged discrimination in the Kenan-Flagler Business School and unused fees during the pandemic, but a settlement was reached between the University and Nikole Hannah-Jones.

Affirmative action

In November 2014, Students for Fair Admissions (SFAA), Inc., filed a lawsuit against UNC. The case, which could decide the fate of affirmative action, reached the Supreme Court of the United States on Oct. 31.

Affirmative action involves the consideration of race in college admissions processes — something that was constitutionally confirmed in Grutter v. Board of Regents and has been defended by the Supreme Court since. However, the Court now yields to UNC’s affirmative action policies, alongside the state’s, and the professors were focused on producing research and not her race.

The Court’s decision is expected to affect the number of racial minorities in academic programs and admissions, according to the UNC Program Manual.

SFAA sued Harvard College over its affirmative action policies, which was heard in the Court minutes after UNC’s case. The two cases were initially consolidated but were separated in July after Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson recused herself from the Harvard case due to previous involvement at the college.

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Guskiewicz discusses highs, lows of 2022

UNC chancellor sits down with the Daily Tar Heel’s University Editor

By Liv Reilly

university@dailytarheel.com

As 2022 comes to a close, the University has celebrated victories and hardship as well. As the fall semester comes to a close, Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz sits down with University Editor Liv Reilly in his office on Friday, Nov. 18, 2022.

Q&A

DTH: As a new semester begins, what is your primary concern?

KG: I know that there are concerns about lighting around campus and potentially the need to increase the use of cameras around residential halls. We’re looking very closely at all of that. We’ve reviewed it for several years, improved lighting and have put cameras up in certain parts of campus, but there’s always more that we can learn.

DTH: What, if anything, do you feel has been the most powerful thing you could tell students about the recent Supreme Court decision?

KG: I think it’s about really protecting our democracy and the types of decisions that your generation will be out there participating in that democracy. And being able to part of decision-making, we’ll be made better and in a more informed way, having sat in our classrooms and had conversations around whatever the topic might be in the classroom alongside students with different lived experiences. That is one that is critically important for protecting our democracy.

DTH: Have we welcomed quite a few new deans this past year and quite a few new leaders. How are they all doing during this transitional period for a lot of departments?

KG: It’s an exciting time with the number of new leaders coming on board. I will say that I could not be happier with the five new deans that we have on board over the past six, seven months. We have two more searches that we’re in the process of wrapping up and we have some new vice chancellor positions.

DTH: Have there been over 65 buildings with lead found in the water. How do you plan on approaching the issue and fixing the problem?

KG: There’s nothing more important than the health and safety of our campus community members and our 30,000 students. We were very disappointed when we received that first report of lead in water — it’s probably been six, seven weeks ago. And our team has been working tirelessly to test all of the buildings, and they put a really good plan in place to be able to do that. We have old buildings, but we have to be sure that we have safety measures in place.

DTH: There has been a lot of discussion about lack of campus housing for next year. Is there anything that you want to say about housing — either in the Chapel Hill community or on campus, about what’s happening next year?

KG: We’ve been talking a lot about affordable housing in town. I’ve had conversations with the mayor, and we have a master plan in place that we’re finalizing, working with our consultant on that. What I can look to is having conversations about a lack of campus housing that there’s still always more that we can learn.

DTH: What are you most proud of from this past year?

KG: It’s been outstanding. It has been great.

DTH: Do you feel like the University and the chancellor, have you seen any changes on campus and staff and faculty, and if you have, what have those changes been?

KG: What I can tell you, what you would be interested is that the president’s leadership, has been great.

DTH: President Biden is asking the Supreme Court to overrule two judges’ decisions, thus reinstating student loan forgiveness.

“...and the Biden administration is asking the Supreme Court to vacate or overturn the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals. As of now, the Biden administration has already appealed the case to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. Depending on the rulings in both cases, the Biden administration could end up playing both sides in the case to the Supreme Court. Sablosky Elengold said that this is a huge case since the Supreme Court only rules on cases when they are in term.”

DTH: As of now, the Biden administration has already appealed the case to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. Depending on the rulings in both cases, the Biden administration could end up playing both sides in the case to the Supreme Court. Sablosky Elengold said that this is a huge case since the Supreme Court only rules on cases when they are in term. Last Tuesday, the Biden administration announced that they are extending the student loan repayment pause, which pauses student loan repayments until 60 days after the Supreme Court’s decision. If there hasn’t been a decision by June 30, 2023, the student loan repayments will start back again 60 days after that date.

President Biden is asking the Supreme Court to overrule two judges’ decisions, Thus reinstating student loan forgiveness

The price of college has ruined some of my experience of undergrad because I wasn’t able to be engaged in the classroom as I wanted to.

Inequities in student loan debt

This circumstance isn’t something that is unique to Monserate. Braxton Browning, a doctoral student at UNC, faced a similar situation — he had to take out a substantial student loan to get his undergraduate degree at N.C. A&T.

Browning had several jobs throughout his undergraduate years. He worked seven days a week — usually two jobs and sometimes more — and often stayed up until midnight working.

“It’s sad because it’s ruined,” he said. “The price of college has ruined some of my experience of undergrad because I wasn’t able to be engaged in the classroom as I wanted to.”

Even though he worked constantly and had scholarships, Browning still finished school owing about $50,000 in student loan debt. When he graduated, Browning started working with the Debt Collective, a national debtors’ union, and eventually became an advocate for student loan debt cancellation. He said part of his passion is also looking into how student loan debt uniquely impacts borrowers of color, particularly Black student borrowers like himself.

“According to data from the Student Borrower Protection Center, 90 percent of Black students take out student loans to go to college, compared to 66 percent of their white peers.”

Black borrowers also hold debt for longer. While the median white student borrower has paid off 56 percent of their original student debt 20 years after starting school, the median Black student borrower still owes 95 percent of their original balance.

“Borrowing part of this is due to the racial wealth gap Black people face in the workforce and the historical racism that has slowed Black families’ ability to build generational wealth. The combination of being stripped of generational wealth — not being able to pay for school with a 401k or have a parent or a grandparent pay for your college — is exactly why we’re looking at a crisis that really hit along gender and racial lines,” Browning said.

Will the forgiveness program return?

The question of when or even if the forgiveness program will be resumed is tricky. Sablosky Elengold said there are multiple directions the case could take.

As of now, the Biden administration is asking the Supreme Court to vacate or overturn the 8th Circuit’s opinion.

For the lawsuit in a federal district court in Texas, the administration has already appealed the case to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Dependent on the rulings in both lawsuits, the Supreme Court decision could end up playing both sides in the case to the Supreme Court. Sablosky Elengold said that this is a huge case since the Supreme Court only rules on cases when they are in term.
Students struggle to fill ADHD prescriptions

Supply fluctuations related to pharmacy shortages of medication

By Natalie McCormick

It's super hard, especially in college, to get a three-month long prescription, which I have been able to do in the past," a student at the University said. "But now it is really hard and a pharmacy with a three-month long supply." According to The Wall Street Journal, Adderall prescriptions increased to 41.4 million in 2021, a jump of about 10.4 percent during the pandemic, companies like Cerebral, which offer online therapy for anxiety, depression and insomnia, prescribed medications such as Adderall via virtual health care.

"I think it's an educational component that clearly students (at UNC) to be renamed, (they) are unable to meet the needs of all their customers due to the limitations that the Drug Enforcement Administration has on how much a pharmacist can order of a particular substance.

The committee then reviews the written requests for removal, investigates the claims and provides a written report of their findings to the Chancellor, who can move the request to the BOT.

At the end of July 2020, the BOT voted to remove the name Charles B. Aycock, John Shakespeare Carr, Joseph Daniels and Richard Ruffin St. from campus buildings. This came after a recommendation from the University's Learning Center, Race and a Way Forward that the names be removed due to racist views and actions of those who the buildings were named after.

In May of 2022, the University held a building renaming ceremony to declare that McClintock Residence Hall would replace Aycock Residence Hall and Henry Owl Building would replace the Carr Building.

The Chancellor or Board of Trustees may begin the process of reconsidering the name on a University building or other public space at their own initiative or in response to a written request to the Chancellor, according to the policy. The Chancellor can then decline the request, ask for more information or more the request for reconsideration if they were named for consideration, UNC Media Relations said.

Proposed and past building renaming

There are 10 buildings that the University Commission on History, Race and a Way Forward recommended be renamed in 2021 that have yet to be renamed, marked with circles. Buildings marked with triangles have already undergone name changes.

Recent action taken

"I think the renaming process is still underway at UNC... I think that those are important considerations for students to have at any time," she said. "But particularly now when the unfortunate situation is happening with Adderall."

"In light of the shortcoming of Change and a speak with a coach to find different strategies for success".

"I think that those are important considerations for students to have at any time," she said. "But particularly now when the unfortunate situation is happening with Adderall."
It is currently unclear whether a ruling could impact job considerations

By Anna Neil
Senior Writer
anna@dailytarheel.com

The use of affirmative action in UNC admissions processes has been under review since an organization called Students for Fair Admissions filed a lawsuit against the University in November 2014. The case deals directly with the consideration of race in public university admissions processes, but it is unclear how the outcome will affect affirmative action for employment.

SFFA v. University of North Carolina was brought to the U.S. Supreme Court for oral arguments on Oct. 31 of this year. The organization alleged that UNC violated the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by considering race in admissions. Jeffrey M. Hirsch, a professor at UNCs law school who specializes in labor and employment law, said the Supreme Court has not dealt with an employment-related affirmative action case in decades.

He also pointed out the distinction between affirmative action policies in the public and private sectors of employment, a distinction that also matters in cases relating to higher education. "I think the public sector employers are already more limited in the type of affirmative action that they can engage in, and in particular, whether they can engage in affirmative action at all, as opposed to the education context, or at least higher ed," Hirsch said. Traditionally, in the context of employment, diversity has not been a justification for the use of affirmative action practices, according to Hirsch. Instead, it has been used as a remedial option.

"In other words, because some of the original affirmative action cases, or cases where an employer sometimes along with the union even, have been engaging in sort of repeated pernicious discrimination, even sometimes in contrary to a court order," he said.

According to Hirsch, if the Court’s ruling is relatively narrow in marking the end of race-conscious admissions specifically in higher education, employment policy would be largely unaffected. However, if the court rules more broadly in favor of a “colorblind” policy, he said the days of remedial affirmative action in employment could be numbered.

"Those are kind of two sides, two ends of the spectrum for how the decision can play out, and we could have something somewhere in the middle, where it’s a little more confusing about whether they would consider affirmative action as a remedy in any case, or just some cases," Hirsch said.

Christina Huang and Joy Jiang, two of the co-directors for UNC, spoke outside the Supreme Court after the arguments. The organization, which was filed in late September 2022 after SFFA filed its lawsuit, to educate students and defend affirmative action.

Jiang said affirmative action creates a field of equity so that all students can be represented and seen. "I’m a first-gen student, and I don’t want it to end here," they said. "I want my kids to go to college. I want my sisters to go to college. I want my cousins and everyone who was able to connect to me in any sort of way."

In regards to the University’s case, Huang said she thinks it is closely tied to employment. "I think this case is so big because it sets a precedent, and I mean, even looking at education, like the pipeline from education to career, if less people are getting educated, less people of color are being educated. Then they’re less likely to get those occupations, and there’s gonna be less diversity in the workforce," she said.

In a statement to The Daily Tar Heel, UNC Media Relations said, “The case currently before the Supreme Court relates to undergraduate admissions policy, not hiring. We do not anticipate the decision will have an impact on recruitment or retention of faculty and/or staff. In closing, Jiang said they, Huang and the rest of the coalition love being UNC students.

"At any opportunity we are given, we’re just going to be UNC students. It comes from the student body and the population of students here at Carolina.”

The court’s ruling on the University’s affirmative action policy will likely be released in early 2023.

Twitter: @dailytarheel
UNC honors James Cates with memorial

University and community leaders spoke at ceremony

By Natalie Varma
Senior Writer
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Community members gathered in the Pit last week to pay their respects to James Lewis Cates Jr. and see his life finally memorialized on campus.

Cates, a 22-year-old Black Chapel Hill resident, was murdered outside the Student Union in November of 1970 by members of a white supremacist motorcycle gang after an all-night dance marathon, which was held to promote integration at the University.

Following a proposal in June 2021 to name the UNC Student Stores after Cates, the University announced a permanent memorial for Cates on Aug. 12.

The proposal was signed by members of the James Cates Remembrance Coalition, as well as community organizations and individuals.

The placement of the memorial, a stand-alone plaque on the edge of the Pit, had to be approved by the UNC Board of Trustees.

At the memorial, some of the speakers included Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz, Pam Hemminger, mayor of the Town of Chapel Hill, Julia Clark, president of the Black Student Movement; Student Body President Taliahaj “Teddy” Vann and U.S. Congresswoman-Elect Valerie Foushee, a member of Cates family.

The Voices of Praise Gospel Choir sang throughout the event, and at the end of the memorial when Guskiewicz invited Cates' family to join him in laying flowers by the plaque. The Pit was crowded with students, faculty and local residents.

Sidney Curtis, a sophomore at UNC, said she heard about the event through an Instagram post.

“I made a point to kind of frame my day around it,” she said.

Chigozirim Nwogu, a senior at UNC, said he did not know about the ceremony until he walked by the Pit and stayed to see what was happening.

Curtis said that she really enjoyed the speeches of both Clark and Vann.

“Vann said giving the family peace was a crucial goal of the memorial. ‘The most important thing to me today was being able to honor the memory of James Lewis Cates, Jr. and to bring his family an iota of peace,’ “Vann said.

However, Curtis said that she felt disappointed in the speeches of Hemminger and BOT Chairperson David Behre.

“It didn’t feel like it was really something (the BOT) cared about, more of like a press thing for them,” she said.

Nwogu echoed that disappointment, and said the way Guskiewicz ended his speech by tying it back to the University felt “tone-deaf.”

“I felt like that was a way for him to kind of save face,” Nwogu said.

Curtis said that she feels the BOT’s actions often reflect their own interests.

“This situation reflects many situations that students have spoken about and the Board of Trustees’ lack of consideration and care for the student body, their wishes and the colored paths consideration and care for the student organizations and individuals.”

“Obviously, there’s a feeling that they had a lot of time spent with the community and figuring out their wishes and the family’s wishes,” Curtis said.

Vann said giving the family peace was a crucial goal of the memorial.

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“This situation reflects many situations that students have spoken about and the Board of Trustees’ lack of consideration and care for the student body, their wishes and the colored paths that UNC has as one of the first public schools in America,” she said.

Vann said the memorial is a meaningful and necessary step, but it’s difficult to say what will come next.

“Why does it take so much pressure applied from student leaders on campus for UNC to do things like this?” Nwogu said.

Negest Kinte, a community member in attendance, said she was glad the University installed the memorial but echoed disappointment about the timeline.

“I hate that it took them so long,” Kinte said.

Leah Cox, the vice provost for equity and inclusion and chief diversity officer at UNC, said she wished it could have happened sooner, but the dedication of the memorial is a move in the right direction.

“Obviously, there’s a feeling that we need to do all the right things, and we’re getting there,” Cox said.

In past years, the anniversary of Cates’ death has only been marked by a couple of chairs, a few students and some flowers, Vann said.

“It was really incredible to truly see how much our community cares, to see how many people choose to come out for this today, when it’s normally just a handful of folks and his family that come out every year,” she said at the dedication.

Some attendees felt it took the University too long to create and dedicate the permanent memorial and properly acknowledge Cates’ death.

“Why does it take so much pressure applied from student leaders on campus for UNC to do things like this?” Nwogu said.

“A move in the right direction,” Kinte said.

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Parents reflect on achievement gap within CHCCS

By Lucy Marques
Senior Writer
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As the year comes to an end, parents and community members from Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools reflected on the origins and effects of the academic achievement gap within the school system.

The 2021-2022 performance data released by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction reported disparities between Niche, a company that analyzes school systems, every student should

"If we're supposed to be the best school district in the state of North Carolina, then why can't we lead by example?" said Asa Black, who feels that there are fewer people of color in upper-level classes, and those who are receiving the harder work in class are white kids," she said.

"The church doesn't believe that the origins and effects of the academic achievement gap within the school system.

"If you're not willing to try to look at the data, then you're just trying to ruin people's careers," Hicks said.

"We have a responsibility to lead by example. We can't just say 'Oh, this kid is a little bit more challenging. We can't address the issue outright."

"I feel like there's a unique way that students who didn't belong in a certain space because they were Black or because they were girls," said Asa Black, who feels that there are fewer people of color in upper-level classes, and those who are receiving the harder work in class are white kids," she said.

"(The culture) was shifting to a more rigid parenthood, and parents were starting to push back," said Sarah Whang, a Korean-American pastor who said it's deeper than who can serve in leadership.

"We lament that members of our congregation have been hurt or continue to feel hurt," Colin Rowley, the communications director at CHBC, said in an email.

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A(nother) year of disappointment

The Editorial Board reflects on the University of North Carolina’s pitfalls, from lead in our water to diversity, equity and inclusion efforts that fall flat.

Drinking is prevalent on campus.
So why does it keep happening?

The blueprint for remediation in both Carroll’s example and in student-led petitions is that UNC has chosen not to pursue any of the options at its disposal. Self-determination for students who have committed so much to navigating the undergraduate business program is a right. To disregard the PEF is to disregard the student body. Closing this gap would allow Kenan-Flagler to move in touch with the undergraduate community. We must advocate for students who are unable to meet the financial burden to bear. Even so, those better positioned to engage students who are fortunate enough to have these resources are not to be waver. I would hate for you to look experiment and listen to others' advice you are passionate about. By all means, their words either. You have been

A group of student journalists who meet twice a week to discuss the latest news, seeking to comment on issues of interest to UNC students. Interested in writing a letter to the editor or submitting an op-ed? Tweet the editor-in-chief: @dthopinion

What is the editorial board?
A group of student journalists who meet twice a week to discuss the latest news, seeking to comment on issues of interest to UNC students. Interested in writing a letter to the editor or submitting an op-ed? Tweet the editor-in-chief: @dthopinion

UNC drags its feet to rename campus buildings
Concerns over problematic building namesakes are not new in The Daily Tar Heel. In taking these concerns seriously, aligning in an action that is in the face of students and activists that have valiantly fought for more than a decade.

As for the decision on what to renormalize the names of our campus buildings, the University’s History Task Force was never assigned any recommendations of their own by the UNC’s History Task Force. The UNC’s History Task Force was never assigned any recommendations of their own by the UNC

Editorial: How can Kenan-Flagler make a fee increase worth it

The PEF is a convenient cop-out for undergraduate students enrolled in the school. This change would raise the fee from the current $1,000 to $3,000 per semester for majors, and $800 to $1,200 for non-majors. The fee increase has not been fully approved, and it still needs to pass the Board of Governors come 2023. By 2025 in implementation in 2018, Kenan-Flagler has begun to prioritize student-facing staff and student support, including additional on-campus resources, study abroad programs and advising, according to Michael Kram, associate dean of student engagement at Kenan-Flagler.

In short, minimize the PEF. The student-led Interfraternity Council in an opinion letter, "We're tired of uncertainty and perpetuate this sort of behavior. Navigating a drastic (and unpleasant) price increase is complex, and Kenan-Flagler needs to be transparent about how the fee is used, including addressing the ambiguity surrounding how the fees are being spent. When the PEF increase is proposed, much would be allocated to new student-facing initiatives. To make a fee increase worthwhile, students need to understand that building renaming could do more to address the needs of historically marginalized communities. In student-led petitions. UNC Forward submitted its recommendations on how to reckon with the University’s history and making changes, while 10 sit on a task force to change Saunders Hall from an intersectional perspective. The editorial board is independent from The Daily Tar Heel’s newsroom.

EDITORS NOTE:
The University has simply failed to understand that building renaming is a lengthy process that requires careful consideration of the options at its disposal. Self-determination for students who have committed so much to navigating the undergraduate business program is a right. To disregard the PEF is to disregard the student body. Closing this gap would allow Kenan-Flagler to move in touch with the undergraduate community. We must advocate for students who are unable to meet the financial burden to bear. Even so, those better positioned to engage students who are fortunate enough to have these resources are not to be
Town safety starts with resources, not policing

By Frankline Payne
Columnist

One of my earliest and most distinct memories was standing next to my father at a Moral Monday protest in downtown Raleigh, advocating for a raise in the base salary of teachers through out our state. North Carolina, in my young mind, became not only synonymous with Cookout trays and a distinct southern kindness, but also a never-ending problem within our K-12 system.

Today, despite having some of the most prolonged and well-sought higher education institutions in the country, North Carolina is failing to provide the right to a "sound" basic education to thousands of students and teachers alike. Exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and state-specific policies on education, we have a deteriorating supply of qualified teachers in our classrooms. According to data from the North Carolina School Superintendents' Association, North Carolina's public schools started the year with at least 4,469 teacher vacancies. It is time to seriously address the vacancies throughout the state, the Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission within the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction proposed a "Blueprint for Action" that changes the way teachers are licensed and compensated. The status quo awarded pay raises based on how much experience an individual had accumulated. While the "Blueprint for Action" plan would be a big step forward, such pay raises for mentoring beginning teachers as well as a lack of accountability for living up to expectations is setting a dangerous precedent by perpetuating current teacher promotions using standardized test scores as a way of distributing raises. The pernicious damage in schools has been shown to be ineffective with a repeat rate of 50% throughout the country. It is best summarized by award-winning Harvard economist Roland Fryer:

"I find no evidence that teacher incentives increase student performance, attendance, or graduation, nor do I find any evidence that the incentives change student or teacher behavior. If anything, teacher incentives may decrease student achievement, especially in larger schools."

More than being ineffective, they may even increase incidents of cheating. For example, there was a state investigation of widespread cheating by educators in Atlanta when pay became tied to performance in 2012.

These reforms are not wanted within the school systems, either.

Middle housing could help accommodate Chapel Hill residents.

By Noelle Harff
Columnist

While the “Blueprint for Action” plan would be a big step forward, neither the state nor Chapel Hill are ready yet to seriously address these safety concerns before even more are harmed.

Twitter: @dhopinion

The plan to create Chapel Hill’s “missing middle” housing

By Neille Harff
Columnist

Despite being a grown woman, I’ve always had a desire to have a too-small room and sappy sardine style in my twin beds for $900 for the foreseeable future. It’s not sustainable, and it’s what we can afford in college. There’s great irony in the housing market of a college town.

Generational homeowners supply roughly more than 65 percent of homes for an exorbitant price, while deep-pocket developers monopolize residential zoning with large-scale complexes that price out the majority. UNC students can (and do) fill these single-family homes or sign on to a pricey apartment lease, temporarily enduring lavish affiliation and cramped living conditions – it’s not bad for years.

But not everyone who resides in Chapel Hill is a college student. People live here... or, at least, have tried to. The median home price of a Chapel Hill home is $525,000, an over 20 percent increase from 2021. It’s not affordable. It’s not sustainable. And it’s pricing out the people who make Chapel Hill more than a campus.

The community has called for change - and state legislators finally answered.

That’s where House Bill 411 comes in. In March 2021, the N.C. General Assembly tried to pass a bill that would have made it possible to develop mixed-use housing without the lengthy approval process of large-scale complexes. It died in committee, but not before a diverse and growing community by providing exceptional services, creating opportunities for equitable access to quality education and experiences and nurturing beautiful, sustainable spaces.

Still, too many people are priced out. The cost of living in Chapel Hill is nine percent more expensive than the state average and five percent more expensive than the national average.

Over my gap year, I was able to live in a studio apartment in Vail, Colorado – one of the most expensive ski resorts in the world – for the same price as a studio apartment in Chapel Hill. It’s even possible to find a room in Midtown Manhattan for the same $1,000 per month budget.

I don’t know about you, but I’m psyched to see some duplexes and watch Chapel Hill become a bit more sustainable with middle housing.

Twitter: @dhopinion

The Daily Tar Heel
The Tar Heels dropped second straight to close regular season

By Evan Rogers

UNC struggled to protect Maye, stop N.C. State's offense

For the first time in Mack Brown's second stint as North Carolina, the hype generated throughout the year appeared to be earned.

The Tar Heels entered this season unsung. After falling to Notre Dame in late September, the Tar Heels ripped off six consecutive wins on route to clinching the ACC Coastal Division.

Redshirt first-year Drake Maye sat close to — or atop — the rankings for nearly every statistical category among ACC quarterbacks, turning the possibility of winning the Heisman Trophy from a dream to a reality.

But after North Carolina dropped its second straight game — the time to mid-November — the Tar Heels must reignite the offense before Saturday.

“Some of it is the design of the defense,” assistant head coach for defense Gene Chizik said. “I think we have to do a better job of winning our one-on-one battles up front.”

If UNC can’t pressure Clemson’s (or any) quarterback, it will struggle to contain one of the most prolific runners in the ACC, sophomore tailback Will Shipley.

Shipley is second in the conference with 831 rushing yards, with five touchdowns, torching the Demon Deacons’ secondary. Also, Shipley stands 6-foot-4 and weighs 215 pounds, making him hard to bring down.

The Tar Heels have the fourth-fewest sacks in the FBS with just 16, and they’ve managed to hurry the quarterback fewer than three times per game.

“Their offensive line is one of the best in the country,” Uiagalelei said. “They’re really, really impressive.”

Uiagalelei passed for 371 yards and two touchdowns in his first start against a top-25 team.

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UNC redshirt first-year, Drake Maye (10), gets sacked Kenan Stadium on Nov. 25, as the Tar Heels face off against N.C. State.

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However, Friday night’s loss was not solely decisive by the game’s final play: Maye’s cross-body throws sailed wide of his intended targets many times. North Carolina’s offensive line struggled with blitz packages that featured a range of delayed rushes by the Wolfpack and surrendered a season-high 11 quarterback hurries.

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 UNC's NCAA-record 10th national championship, all of which have been

The No. 1-ranked women’s team steamrolled through pool play. The Pleiades squad continued its success all the way to the end, coming out with a 12-11 win against No. 2 Colorado in the championship game.

Darkside got its revenge against Brown University Wednesday, Nov. 25, as the Tar Heels faced off against N.C. State.

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Men's basketball off to slow start in 2022

Prescense No. 1 sent reeling after losses at Phil Knight Invitational

By Lindsey Ware

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Following a run to the national championship game in April, the North Carolina women's basketball team has had trouble living up to its billing as the preseason No. 1 team so far this season.

North Carolina wrapped up the Phil Knight Invitational in Portland, Ore. with consecutive defeats, including a loss to an unranked Iowa State team.

Even before these losses, though, it didn’t seem as if the Tar Heels were performing like the top team in the country.

Here are several storylines that have marked the Tar Heel's season thus far.

Close wins and unacceptable mistakes

After kicking off the season with double-digit wins over UNCW and College of Charleston, North Carolina could barely put away a winless Gardner-Webb team, holding on for a mere six-point victory. Graduate transfer forward Pete Nance kept the team afloat in the first half by putting up 16 points, but the team's shortcomings in the game were clear.

Nance fouled out and junior guards Caleb Love and RJ Davis were forced to take over in the second half. While Love said the mistakes the team was making in the game were unacceptable, Nance was assured they could get fixed.

The game resulted in a 16-point win over James Madison University, although UNC still let the game get uncomfortably close.

At one point, the Dukes trailed by only eight points after being down 19 at the half. However, unlike the Gardner-Webb game, North Carolina was able to turn the game back more dominantly in its favor.

In the Phil Knight Invitational, UNC recorded an 89-81 first-round win over Portland, aided when facing Portland, going on a 14-2 run late in the game to pull off the win.

However, in North Carolina's first Power 5 matchup against Iowa State, the yellow flags returned. No Tar Heel put up more than 15 points and they fell apart in the final minutes, missing four of their last six shots and having four turnovers in the final 4:33.

What comes next

North Carolina will travel to Bloomington, Ind., to take on the No. 11-ranked Indiana in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge.

The Tar Heels will need to contain a Hoosier offense that has been pacing double-figures in scoring.

Strong start gets women's basketball No. 6 ranking

Tar Heels climb to highest spot in AP Poll since 2014-15 season

By Jarrett Kidd

Staff Writer
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Following a dominant performance in the Phil Knight Invitational, the North Carolina women’s basketball team has continued its hot start to the season, boasting a 6-0 record for the third time in the last four years.

The Tar Heels' strong offensive performances to this point, outscoring their opponents by an average of 25.5 points per game. It is important to note, though, that this average margin of victory is made singularly large by the team's 93-25 drubbing of South Carolina State at home, a game in which the Tar Heels' opponent only registered a single point in the second half.

At the Phil Knight Invitational, UNC recorded come-from-behind wins against Oregon and Iowa State, who were both ranked in the top 25. As a result of these wins, North Carolina jumped to No. 6 in many of the most recent AP Poll.

Following the graduation of guard Charlice Littlefield, redshirt senior guard Eva Hodgson has played a large role in serving as one of the team's primary leaders.

Hodgson has started every game this season and is quickly becoming a vital component of the Tar Heels' offense. She is averaging 13.3 points per game and her explosive fourth quarter sparked a comeback victory against No. 18 Oregon in the Phil Knight Invitational semifinal.

In addition to Hodgson's productivity, the team has been paced by junior guard Deja Kelly, who is leading the Tar Heels with 17.8 points per game. In a game when North Carolina trailed by as many as 16 points midway through the second half, Kelly's 29 points helped the Tar Heels pick up a statement victory over No. 5 Iowa State to secure the Phil Knight Invitational title.

While the Tar Heels have five true freshmen in the lineup, seniors Leilani Mitchell, Kelly, and juniors Kennedy Todd-Williams, Alyssa Ustby and Anya Poole, the bench has given the team a lift when called upon.

Sophomore forward Destiny Adams has only started one game this season but is bringing major contributions to the Tar Heels' gameplan. She put up a season-high 20 points in their尊严 South Carolina State game and is a huge defensive threat to North Carolina's opponents, as demonstrated by her 15 steals and eight blocks through her first six games.

Joining her as a primary contributor is first-year Paulina Paris, who has made an immediate impact since first taking the floor in a Tar Heel uniform.

The New York native is averaging just 4.7 points per game this season, but by playing nearly 19 minutes per game so far, the highly-touted high school prospect is gaining experience that could be beneficial moving forward.

Head coach Courtney Banghart did not deny that the team has room to improve as conference play and other ranked matchups approach. While it is hard to predict any specific changes the team needs to make before these outings, Banghart hopes the team can stay hungry and eager to conquer the challenges that lie ahead.

Overall, a 6-0 start is an encouraging sign for a team looking to solidify its spot as one of the nation's best. Dominant wins over Jackson State, TCU, and South Carolina State helped the Tar Heels gain momentum entering the Phil Knight Invitational, and after winning the tournament, the team will now be ranked enough to head to Bloomington to face No. 6 Ohio State in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge.

UNC will continue non-conference play with matchups against UNCW, Wofford and South Carolina-Upgrade in Chapel Hill in the early weeks of December.

They’ll also hit the road for another big test, this time facing off against No. 17 Michigan in the Jimmy V Invitational in Charlotte on Tuesday, Dec. 20. Then, the Tar Heels will face a scrappy Florida State team to start conference play on Thursday, Dec. 29.

Only time will tell if the Tar Heels will be able to sustain their strong start to the year, but regardless of when the winning streak comes to an end, the team will look to use the lessons to continue to move the program in the right direction.

Twitter: @JJ_kidd

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UNC graduate transfer guard Pete Nance (32) boxes out Ludovic Dufeal (24) player during the men's basketball game against Gardner-Webb at the Dean E. Smith Center on Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2022.

UNC graduate transfer guard Pete Nance (32) boxes out Ludovic Dufeal (24) player during the men's basketball game against Gardner-Webb at the Dean E. Smith Center on Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2022.

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UNC junior guard Deja Kelly (25) drives toward the basket during the women's basketball game against TCU on Saturday, Nov. 12, 2022, in Carmichael Arena. UNC beat TCU 75-48.

UNC grad student forward Pete Nance (32) boxes out Ludovic Dufeal (24) during the first half of the Tar Heels' game against Gardner-Webb.

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UNC graduate transfer forward Pete Nance (32) boxes out Ludovic Dufeal (24) player during the men's basketball game against Gardner-Webb at the Dean E. Smith Center on Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2022.

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**UNC prepares for College Cup semifinals**

The Tar Heels head into their third matchup against Florida State

By Gwen Peace
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Third time’s the charm. At least, that’s what the North Carolina women’s soccer team hopes heading into its upcoming College Cup semifinal showdown against top-seeded Florida State. The Tar Heels have faced the Seminoles twice this season. But, after the teams reviewed the road in mid-October, UNC’s offense was later stymied by FSU’s back line in an ACC Championship final loss.

On Friday, the Tar Heels will be searching for redemption. The recent loss to the Seminoles has seemed to ignite the Tar Heels in their NCAA Tournament run, as their offensive dominance was capped in Saturday’s 2-0 win over Notre Dame, securing their place in the College Cup.

Here are three keys to continuing this forward momentum and securing a victory against Florida State on the road to a 23rd NCAA national championship:

**Control possession for full 90 minutes**

Throughout the season, the Tar Heels have consistently demonstrated they are a team that succeeds when in control of the ball. The intense press out of possession strategy favored by head coach Anson Dorrance has been inconsistent this year due to a multitude of injuries negatively impacting the depth of the bench, making possession time all the more important for the Tar Heels.

In its quartefinal bout on Saturday, UNC commanded the offensive play from the start, limiting Notre Dame to only two shots in the first period and securing a 1-0 lead. The Tar Heels continued this momentum in the beginning minutes of the second half, almost immediately scoring another goal.

But after going up 2-0, the Tar Heels relaxed their aggressive defense and allowed the Fighting Irish to take over possession, which let their opponents put a startling 12 shots on the board in the second half. This could prove to be deadly for the Tar Heels if their opponents’ attempts had been more accurate, which might present a challenge against a quality Florida State attacking unit.

**Shut down Nighswonger**

The Seminoles have multiple offensive threats, but none have been more stellar than midfielder Jenessa Nighswonger. The senior has proven time and time again to be the playmaker for Florida State, as she ranks second in the NCAA for total assists.

In her last outing against North Carolina, she was responsible for scoring one of the Seminoles’ goals and assisted the other, proving to be the driving force behind their victory. In order to best Florida State this time around, UNC must limit Nighswonger’s playmaking abilities by defending her closely and reducing the amount of touches she gets on the ball.

**Keep the goals coming**

North Carolina switched to a 3-1-1 formation following its lackluster play in the ACC Championship, and ever since they made the switch midway through November, the offense has been on fire.

The new shape allows UNC to push more players into the attacking third, giving them better and more frequent chances at the goal. After the redshirt first-year forward Ally Sentnor and junior midfielder Tala Dejlaferesta have thrived in the new-look offense, combining for eight goals in the four tournament games the Tar Heels have played in so far.

In the ACC Championship final, junior Avery Patterson took five of UNC’s seven shots. If they are to find success in Friday’s rematch, the Tar Heels must lean on the offense-oriented defense that has come alive of late.

North Carolina’s third matchup against Florida State may prove to be one of the toughest, and most telling, games the team will play — and could define the season as a whole.

The Seminoles come into the matchup having already defeated North Carolina in the final of the ACC Tournament. UNC got off to an early lead in the Nov. 6 clash only to see the Tar Heels unable to hold on, as Florida State rallied back to regain the lead in the second half.

It’ll be another matchup in Carraige against an opponent far more than familiar with to decide whether North Carolina will come one step closer to its first national championship since 2022. UNC will have to dig deep and play with the principles that have taken the team to this point.

The semifinals could kick off Friday at 6 p.m.

**Analysis: Key statistics defined men’s soccer season**

First-round tournament loss to High Point caps off disappointing 2022

By Richard Tan
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After falling to Syraeuse in the quarterfinals of the ACC Championship, the UNC men’s soccer team earned an at-large bid in the NCAA Tournament, where the Tar Heels took on High Point on Nov. 17. In a 2-0 defeat, the team revealed some of the mistakes that had plagued them all year.

Throughout the season, the UNC offense has been spearheaded by junior forward Akim Clarke, who has tallied four goals this season. However, despite the notable performances of the front line, UNC has struggled to control the ball in the back and middle parts of the pitch.

As a result, forwards often feel compelled to drop deep in order to assist in midfield, creating a 3-4-1 or even a 3-3-0 formation that has minimized attack opportunities. The extra players in the middle of the field occasionally prove to be effective in maintaining possession. However, the tactic significantly reduces the Tar Heels’ number of attempts and shots per game.

Throughout the season, UNC only attempted 4.32 shots on goal per contest, ranking 146th in the nation. The Tar Heels also struggled with firing any type of shots and finished with 10.42 shots per match ranked 143rd. The poor attacking output was caused by a lack of link-up from the midfield to the forwards.

As forwards dropped back to get the play with the principles that have taken the team to this point.

Second-half play with the principles that have taken the team to this point.

**42.1 — Shutout percentage**

UNC’s three-defender system proved to be truly effective this season. Despite having underwhelming shooting stats, the Tar Heels delivered a shutout in 42.1 percent of their games, ranking just outside the top 30 in all Division 1 schools in the country.

Til Zinnhardt, Riley Thomas, and Matt Edwards started out the season as three-three-three-back line. Their consistent and sturdy play helped the Tar Heels protect the back end of the field throughout the season.

Goalkeepers Andrew Cody and Marco Saborio-Perez were also solid in between the posts with a save percentage of 69.6 percent. These defensive performances have held UNC to only two losses in the eight conference matchups.

**.583 — Home winning percentage**

UNC typically draws a dedicated base of fans to its games at Dorrance Field, and that has aided in an impressive home record over the past several seasons. But after posting a .750 winning percentage in home games last season, the team took a bit of a step back this year, particularly in conference games.

The Tar Heels posted a 6-4-2 record at home this year and only won one out of four home games in ACC play. Although the Tar Heels looked to end the season on a positive note by winning its last two games against Florida State and Notre Dame, the eventual loss to the Panthers seemed to be a microcosm for the team’s performance this fall.

**Three — The most goals UNC scored in a single game this past season**

Against William & Mary in late October, North Carolina put up three goals — the most offensive production the team had in a single game all season. Sam Williams, Ernest Bawa and Yaya Bukajoko all scored in that match.

In comparison, there were five games last season in which the Tar Heels recorded three or more goals. Those games were against Bucknell, Georgia Southern, Davidson, N.C. State and Notre Dame. This stat illuminates yet again the offensive struggles of this team, which ranked 145th in the nation in scoring offense.

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North Carolina will have plenty to think about in the offseason as they await the start of their next campaign.

Twitter: @dthsports

**Starters on the UNC men’s soccer team line up at midfield before a home game against South Florida at Dorrance Field on Aug. 28, 2022.**

Twitter: @peacegwen
GERRYMANDERING

US Supreme Court to hear NC redistricting case

By Tori Newby
Staff Writer
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The Every Child NC rally at Halifax Mall in Raleigh on Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022, ahead of the Leandro v. State of North Carolina hearing.

Wednesday, November 30, 2022
dailytarheel.com

The Supreme Court of the United States pictured on Monday, Oct. 31, 2022.

The NC Supreme Court decided to hear the case in October and will hear arguments in a special session this week.

In November, after decades of debate over the adequacy and funding of North Carolina public schools, the North Carolina Supreme Court ruled that hundreds of millions of dollars must be allocated to public schools.

The decision in Hoke County Board of Education v. State of North Carolina is the latest development in an ongoing process that started in 1994 when the appellants, including the Hoke County School Board of Education, sought a court order to force the state to fully fund public schools.

In that decision, the court forced the Leandro Plan, which is based on a 2018 court order and gives the state access to "a sound basic education," to the courts, and a trial court has been ordered to calculate the exact funds for the Leandro Plan.

The court also ruled that the state had failed to adequately fund the education of special education and English language learners.

The five counties that filed the appeal — Hoke, Robeson, Vance, and Cumberland — all have low-income populations, which is why they are seeking additional funds to support their schools.

The court said the state is "required to fully fund public schools throughout the State of North Carolina," and that it has "failed to adequately fund the education of students across the state."
A look back at the NC midterm elections

The state Supreme Court, which has no ties to any political party, has put its weight behind the state's only "swing seat" after redistricting changed the map of District 13. Nickels will be the first Democrat to occupy the seat since 2014.

In District 1, N.C. Sen. Don Davis (D-Greene, Pitt) beat Republican Sandy Smith by over four percent of the vote. The redrawn district covers Elizabeth City and Columbus, but not Goldsboro, which most of the previous district took.

In District 4, which includes Orange County, N.C. Sen. Valerie Foushee (D-Chatham, Orange) defeated Republican candidate Courtney Geels.

Chris Cooper, professor of political science at Western Carolina University, said N.C. Republicans claimed their other two biggest prizes — the U.S. Senate and two N.C. Supreme Court victories.

Judges Richard Diets and Troy Allen won their respective races for seats 3 and 5, allowing Republicans to take a majority in January on the state’s highest court.

The state Supreme Court, which has no ties to any political party, will have a Republican majority on the bench until at least 2029. At the time of those decisions, the N.C. Supreme Court had a Democratic majority.

The question will be, do these judges adhere to traditional legal standards of respecting prior precedent on major issues that come in front of them? "The Republican candidates have not been a factor in the court's decisions," Davis said in an email.

The Republican Party will not hold a supermajority in the N.C. General Assembly. As a result, Cooper said, Republicans may have less of a voice in the state’s budget.

"The big question will be, do these judges have sway in determining the budget? These judges are going to have a big impact on the budget," Davis said. "It's not just one law that will impact the budget. It's the whole court that will impact the budget."

In the 2022 North Carolina general midterm elections, voters were asked to approve or reject new laws on school safety, Medicaid expansion, teacher pay, and the creation of new state districts.

Of the 17 referendums, 14 are about school safety. Five were approved, seven were rejected, and four were tied.

In the referendum on school safety, 54.9 percent of the votes were for approval, while 45.1 percent were against it.

In the referendum on Medicaid expansion, 57.2 percent of the votes were for approval, while 42.8 percent were against it.

In the referendum on teacher pay, 54.6 percent of the votes were for approval, while 45.4 percent were against it.

In the referendum on the creation of new state districts, 54.3 percent of the votes were for approval, while 45.7 percent were against it.

The state Supreme Court, which has no ties to any political party, has put its weight behind the state's only "swing seat" after redistricting changed the map of District 13. Nickels will be the first Democrat to occupy the seat since 2014.

In District 1, N.C. Sen. Don Davis (D-Greene, Pitt) beat Republican Sandy Smith by over four percent of the vote. The redrawn district covers Elizabeth City and Columbus, but not Goldsboro, which most of the previous district took.

In District 4, which includes Orange County, N.C. Sen. Valerie Foushee (D-Chatham, Orange) defeated Republican candidate Courtney Geels.

Chris Cooper, professor of political science at Western Carolina University, said N.C. Republicans claimed their other two biggest prizes — the U.S. Senate and two N.C. Supreme Court victories.

Judges Richard Diets and Troy Allen won their respective races for seats 3 and 5, allowing Republicans to take a majority in January on the state’s highest court.

The state Supreme Court, which has no ties to any political party, will have a Republican majority on the bench until at least 2029. At the time of those decisions, the N.C. Supreme Court had a Democratic majority.

The question will be, do these judges adhere to traditional legal standards of respecting prior precedent on major issues that come in front of them? "The Republican candidates have not been a factor in the court's decisions," Davis said in an email.

The Republican Party will not hold a supermajority in the N.C. General Assembly. As a result, Cooper said, Republicans may have less of a voice in the state’s budget.

"The big question will be, do these judges have sway in determining the budget? These judges are going to have a big impact on the budget," Davis said. "It's not just one law that will impact the budget. It's the whole court that will impact the budget."
ECONOMY

Chapel Hill businesses survive, rely on community

Shops and restaurants rebound as the COVID pandemic winds down

By Eliza Benbow

Local businesses in Chapel Hill have been working to build and maintain a strong community support and provide for community needs in a rapidly developing area. Businesses like Prologue, Used and Rare Books, 1922 by Carolina Coffee Shop, and Still Life Chapel Hill opened on Franklin Street. While some have come and gone, others have remained through 2022.

One of those is Carolina Coffee Shop, which celebrated its 100th birthday this year. The Shenklen Head Boutique and Sutton’s Draminette are also long-lasting local businesses and have been open for 53 and 59 years, respectively.

Shenklen Head employee Erin Bostic said having businesses that have remained despite changes in Chapel Hill and Carrboro is important for keeping the area’s small-town charm.

“It’s really nice for people to come in and be like, ‘This has always been a constant, the Shenklen Head is always here,’” she said.

Jamie Fificio, the owner of Flyleaf Books, said supporting local businesses helps the economy by keeping money in the immediate community.

“You vote with your dollars,” Fificio said. “When you move about your community and you spend money at businesses that you like, you keep them open.”

Flyleaf Books opened in November 2009, and part of its mission is to be a resource to the community by making a diverse collection of books available that encourages people to learn, ask questions and form opinions about the world around them, Fificio said.

Along with selling books, Flyleaf hosts events at the bookstore, schools and in partnership with local organizations.

Matt Gladdek, the executive director at the Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership, said even newer businesses like the Purple Bowl, the Gathering Place and Brandwen’s Bagels have found success because they build community through collaboration, such as events and fundraisers for local groups.

Spring Council, co-owner of Mama DiP’s Kitchen and daughter of founder Mildred ‘Mama Dip’ Council, said support from customers was vital for the restaurant’s survival during the COVID-19 pandemic. Customers found new ways to support the restaurant, such as using curbside pickup and buying the restaurant’s merchandise and take-home products, Council said.

“We look to our community, the people who have sort of embraced us all these years, and just to know that they’re out there and coming back to the restaurant and supporting us feels really good,” she said.

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“People said they are the ones that we really connected with socially, they sort of become family and our friends,” Council said.

Despite the support and love for long-standing staples, there is also a turnover for local businesses in the Town. Gladdek said it can be difficult for businesses to balance serving guests from both UNC and the local area.

Local businesses have also been hurt by rent increases in the area and the dwindling effects of the pandemic. Gladdek said he has heard that there has also been explosive growth in other areas of the Triangle, pulling away tourists and businesses from Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

As the area develops and grows, more chain restaurants and businesses have moved into Chapel Hill and to Franklin Street. Some stores like Target and Alumni Hall have moved into the footprint of Carolina Square, and fast-food chains like the upcoming Raising Cane’s and Chick-fil-A are becoming more common.

Ramesh Dalal, the owner of Momo’s Master on Columbia Street and Basecamp on Franklin Street, has opened two restaurants within six months of one another.

Basecamp took over a storefront previously occupied by Jed’s Kitchen, which opened at the end of 2020, but closed earlier this year.

Dalal said Basecamp is a unique restaurant that does not compete with other businesses on Franklin Street, which adds to the business’s success.

It is often difficult for businesses with a smaller amount of spending power to compete with a targeted customer base to stay open, Gladdek said.

“I think it’s really important to look at the entire community — both students and residents — and appeal to both,” he said.

Gladdek said creating a community desirable for all customers is something that sets successful local businesses apart.

“Sometimes those businesses don’t do well because they know the community and provide for its needs,” Gladdek said.

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POLICY

COVID in NC: State protocol changes in 2022

Pandemic responses adapt as COVID-19 heads into its third year

By Maddie Van Meter

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North Carolina has seen several changes to COVID-19 protocols in 2022, including masking, schools and vaccines.

In February, Gov. Roy Cooper announced updates to mask-wearing guidance for schools and local governments to reflect current CDC guidance, according to a press release.

“We are taking a positive step on mask requirements to help us move safety toward a more normal day-to-day life,” Cooper said in the statement.

Orange County dropped its mask mandate on March 7, citing indicators from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to demonstrate that Orange County was no longer “high-risk.”

Orange County Board of County Commissioners Chairperson Reneé Price said in a March meeting that the county will still recommend that residents wear masks in public, and masks would still be mandated in some settings, including public transit.

“It’s been almost two years, just shy of a few days, that we’ve been dealing with this COVID pandemic and hopefully we’re now coming out,” Price said.

Commissioner Jean Hamilton said a lack of clarity regarding COVID-19 guidelines added to the suffering of residents during the pandemic.

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“Nothing no matter what perspective shared, what came across to me is how difficult life has been for all of us during this pandemic,” Hamilton said.

In order to continue to fight the virus, the Orange County Health Department offers free PCR COVID-19 tests for people of all ages, insured or not.

Following the dropped mandate, Orange County Schools announced that masks would be optional and that temperature checks and screening questions would no longer be required.

OCPS will provide at-home COVID-19 testing kits for students and families over winter break in order to prepare them for COVID-19 vaccine clinics, according to the district’s website.

The district is also holding a booster clinic for students, staff and family members on Dec. 9.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools is a “mask-recommended but optional” district and no longer uses universal contact tracing, according to its website.

A chief communications officer for CHCCS, said the district wants students and adults to feel comfortable and supported in the choice that is best for them when it comes to wearing a mask.

Jenks said the pandemic highlighted innovation and thoughtfulness in public education. It is important to take lessons from the pandemic as schools adjust to a new normal, he said.

“We are willing to be flexible in the situation that we’re in, and it’s a very joyful time to be in schools, we need to constantly be looking forward and drawing on lessons from the pandemic so that we’re providing the best possible learning environment for our students,” Jenks said.

In June, the CDC recommended children 6 months and older receive a COVID-19 vaccine. The organization approved the use of the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines for children 12 and older in September and the shot from ages 5 to 11 were included in October.

Residents who want to get vaccinated can book an appointment at the Chapel Hill vaccine clinic, or visit the website to walk-in.

Both of those clinics are free and do not require proof of ID or insurance.

Of the week ending on Jan. 1, 3,761 people were vaccinated, and 2,244 people, Peak hospitalization occurred at the end of Nov. 19, with a daily average of 5,049 people hospitalized. By the week ending in Nov. 19, that number dropped to 569.

UNC Health Care also has a COVID-19 symptom checker that helps people determine whether or not someone is in need of medical follow-up, and offers virtual urgent care consultation through its UNC Urgent Care 24/7 service for non-emergency medical issues, including COVID-19.

As the pandemic continues, those who had COVID-19 may experience long-term effects of the virus, also known as long COVID. Gladdek said he has heard its recommendations for those experiencing post-COVID-19 symptoms may be beneficial.

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It’s been almost two years, just shy of a few days, that we’ve been dealing with this COVID pandemic and hopefully we’re now coming out.
The Daily Tar Heel

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

More affordable homes in 2022, but issues persist

By Gabriel Morrison
city@dailytarheel.com

The Town’s average rent has risen by 35 percent in the past five years.

“The projects were selected based on their expression of inclusion,” said Laney Crawley, Staff Writer for city@dailytarheel.com.

The projects reflect on a year of Chapel Hill transit art

This year, Chapel Hill Community Arts & Culture commissioned 20 projects. Specifically, the Art + Transit program had 9 projects up this year to help public transit areas feel more vibrant.

The projects selected were inspired by pride flags and that art is a way for her to put out happy, inspired by pride flags and that art. “As a queer artist, I feel like seeing pride flags or other signals welcoming, and it's where you know that a place is safe, and it's of looking for signs that let you know that a place is safe, and it's welcoming, and it's where you want to be,” Cheek said.

The projects reflect on a year of Chapel Hill transit art.

“Tsunami” by Antonio Alanis creates an optimistic space at the bus shelter on South Columbia Street at Mason Farm Road in Chapel Hill, NC.

Community response

“The Town of Chapel Hill has allocated $91 million toward affordable housing this year.

That's more than the Town has ever made available at one time to support projects, so we're really excited about that,” Viñas said.

That money will help build over 1,000 units, many for those earning less than 30 percent of the area's median income.

In addition to various housing subsidies and support programs like the Employee Housing Program, the Town also approved two Town-initiated housing projects on Jay Street and Trinity Court. With funding from a low-income housing tax credit, these initiatives will provide over 100 additional affordable housing units.

The Town has set a goal of adding 500 units of housing per year to slow down the price increases from the supply side, Viñas said.

To that end, the timeframe for the housing development approval process has also been shortened compared to what it was in previous years.

“Any project that will include 25 percent or more affordable housing in the project will move through our development process in six months,” she said.

According to Carrboro Town Council member Barbara Foushee, the Town of Carrboro has also put forward over $1 million in ARPA funds to affordable housing projects, including a donation towards the Ferry Place development.

The project on Merritt Mill Road is a collaborative effort between Chapel Hill, Carrboro, Orange County and CASA, a Triangle-based affordable housing advocacy group. Construction is expected to be done by 2025 and provide 44 units at $350 to $950 per month.

Pouzar said she plans to advocate for more funding top be directed to affordable housing in the Town of Carrboro’s budget next fiscal year.

“Every budget season it is a discussion about adding more money, but then you also have to consider we have a high property tax rate already,” she said.

Non-renewable ARPA funds were also a substantial part of Chapel Hill’s $9.3 million commitment, Viñas said, and federal funding specifically for affordable housing.

“We do anticipate a very substantial gap in terms of funding need over the next several years,” she said.

State laws, like the ban on rent control, also pose a challenge to reigning in housing prices at the town level.

Construction of new affordable housing remains one of local governments’ most effective tools to control prices.

“That's not gonna solve our problem, but it's certainly gonna help with some of the issues that we're seeing around affordability,” Viñas said.

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ARTS & CULTURE

Artists reflect on a year of Chapel Hill transit art

The projects were selected based on their expression of inclusion.

The Town of Chapel Hill has increased its support for affordable housing in response to the affordable housing crisis in Chapel Hill.

The graph on the left illustrates the number of affordable homes developed or preserved over the past five years. In 2020, Chapel Hill experienced a sharp increase in affordable homes preserved.

The yearly average median rent in Chapel Hill and North Carolina has increased steadily since 2017, with a sharp rise in the past two years. As of Nov. 29, 2022, Chapel Hill’s 2022 average median rent is $228 higher than North Carolina.

The yearly average median rent in all of the bedroom sizes is calculated by housing the median value of bedrooms in each bedroom size in their respective Metropolitan Statistical Area. The data is provided by US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, via equality360.com.

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