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The Daily Tar Heel

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CAMPUS LIVING

Housing developments, renovations
to come to UNC in next 10 years



DTH DESIGN/AUBREY WORD

The Housing Master Plan
proposes an estimated 3,450
new beds for students

By Diana Lopez Zapata
Staff Writer

The University announced in late May that construction will begin for a new 700-bed residence hall on North Campus, which is expected to be completed in 2028. However, this is only the tip of the iceberg.

New Residence Hall 1 will be the first of a decade-long plan to expand and renew the University's student housing, UNC Media Relations wrote in an email to The Daily Tar Heel.

They wrote that the new Housing Master Plan is meant to address both the current housing deficiencies and future enrollment needs.

The Housing Master Plan proposes 2,000 new on-campus beds and 1,000 new off-campus beds for undergraduate students, as well as 450 new off-campus beds for graduate students, Media Relations wrote.

Residence halls in the Housing Master Plan rated as severe and in need of either renovation or demolition are: Avery, Parker, Teague, Hinton James, Ehringhaus, Craige and Spencer Residence Halls.

Increases in student housing costs, which the Board of Trustees approved in November, allow UNC to fund the capital projects included in the Housing Master Plan.

The BOT Budget, Finance and Infrastructure Committee created a proposed timeline of the next five years for when each project will start and end.

Fall 2025

It is expected for the Avery Residence Hall renovation, which began in fall 2024, to be completed by this time. The hall will include improvements to its HVAC system, new accessibility features and living spaces as well as new lounge and kitchen spaces on each floor.

Summer 2026

Three projects are expected to start at this time: construction of the new on-campus undergraduate residence hall, construction of a new off-campus graduate student apartment

and construction of a new off-campus undergraduate apartment.

Summer 2028

In this time period, renovations and demolitions to existing buildings will take place. Parker and Teague Residence Halls will be demolished and new construction will begin on the Parker and Teague demolition sites. Hinton James Residence Hall will begin a heavy renovation.

Fall 2028

The new housing options that began construction in summer 2026 are set to be complete and occupied. This includes the new off-campus graduate and undergraduate housing buildings, as well as Residence Hall 1.

Summer 2029

In Phase 2 of the Housing Master Plan, additional off-campus undergraduate apartments will start construction.

Summer 2030

The Ehringhaus Residence Hall renovation will start at this time. Construction will also start on a new building adjacent to Ehringhaus Residence Hall.

Fall 2030

It is proposed that the new Parker and Teague Residence Halls will be completed and occupied at this time, as well as the newly renovated Hinton James Residence Hall.

Although it is unknown when the project will start, Craige Residence Hall is set to be demolished and replaced by fall 2034. There are also tentative and undefined considerations for changes to Spencer Residence Hall.

There are other housing construction plans that are not included in the Housing Master Plan but are mentioned in the broader 2019 Campus Master Plan. These include the redevelopment of the Grimes and Thomas Ruffin Jr. Residence Halls to create new academic or administrative buildings on North Campus.

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Students impacted by storm can apply for University aid

Continued from Page 1

a UNC senior living in Kenan Residence Hall, said.

Other damage to the campus included “minor flooding” in some buildings and residence halls, UNC Media Relations wrote in an email to The Daily Tar Heel. They did not specify which buildings, but said the floods did not impact academic operations.

The Student Recreation Center and Fetzer Hall also saw flood damage and will remain closed until August 3. In lieu of the closure, hours were extended at Rams Head Recreation Center. Rams Head is now open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and noon to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

University communication

Until July 9, three days after Chantal hit Chapel Hill, UNC did not release any campuswide statements addressing the damage and sharing available resources.

Some students took to social media platforms voicing their frustrations with UNC for their initial lack of public comment on how the storm impacted the community.

The University eventually published a page of resources, similar to the one issued when Hurricane Helene devastated areas in western North Carolina.

“It feels very isolating and like we’re kind of having our own private disaster while the University just carries on because we’re off campus,” Ellis said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF A TOWNHOME RESIDENT

The exterior of a townhome on 612 Hillsborough St. on July 7, the day after Tropical Depression Chantal swept through Chapel Hill.

Ellis said she received a resource sheet and access to food through the Gillings School of Public Health, but had not yet seen any communication regarding the impacts of Chantal from the University.

Some students are also frustrated with the lack of warning issued by the University prior to the storm.

“They mentioned something about a thunderstorm on Sunday night, but there’s nothing else after that,” Dylan Brown, a UNC junior whose off-campus house experienced minor flooding, said.

The UNC community received an Alert Carolina message July 6 at 3:31 p.m. reiterating the National Weather Service’s severe thunderstorm warning for the

Chapel Hill and Carrboro area. UNC did not send any more campuswide messages about the storm until July 9.

Ellis, Brown and Miller said because Alert Carolina notifications didn’t distinguish the storm as a tropical storm, or the later-downgraded tropical depression, they didn’t realize how severe the weather would be.

“If an active safety threat is confirmed on campus, an Alert Carolina would be issued,” Media Relations wrote. “While other parts of Chapel Hill and the region experienced dangerous flooding, the flooding on campus did not reach that level.”

For conditions off campus, Media Relations wrote that the community

should use Town and County resources to stay updated on inclement weather impacts.

Students eligible for UNC emergency funds

UNC’s student emergency funds can provide financial support and temporary housing for students seeking assistance. Students impacted by Chantal can apply to have their situation assessed for immediate needs.

Students may apply for UNC emergency funds if they have a time-sensitive financial hardship resulting from an unforeseen event and have also exhausted their personal resources, such as existing financial aid and assistance from family and friends.

Dean of Students Desirée Rieckenberg said the DOS office began receiving emergency aid applications on July 6. Whether enrolled in summer classes or not, she said, students are eligible to apply for aid.

“We’re working hard and prioritizing those folks as we review their needs,” Rieckenberg said.

Expenses these funds can cover include temporary housing needs, safety needs, essential personal belongings, medications, emergency medical care and essential academic expenses. If a student has already received emergency funds for similar circumstances, they may not receive them again.

Rieckenberg declined to share an estimate of how much money

is currently available in UNC’s emergency funds. The financial resource is finite, and the number of students it can serve is subject to availability. Awarded funds generally do not exceed \$500.

Some expenses that are not covered include tuition, fees, health insurance, study abroad costs, nonessential housing utilities, parking tickets and fixed expenses such as rent.

If applicants don’t qualify for financial assistance, she said the DOS office can connect them with other UNC resources.

“We ask students to provide us at least some level of documentation,” Rieckenberg said. “We rely heavily on the narrative that students share with us.”

In the wake of Hurricane Helene, the University dispersed nearly \$100,000 among 48 students via the Office of Student Scholarships and Aid, according to the University’s website.

Rieckenberg said the DOS office has raised awareness about the funding by updating their website and speaking with the student body president, Adolfo Alvarez. She said she doesn’t want to specify how many students impacted by Chantal have applied for emergency aid, nor how many have received aid so far.

X: @reganxbutler @ecbrietz

Q&A

Paul Newton, new vice chancellor and general counsel, discusses DEI, lawsuits

He says his ‘fresh eyes’ and law experience will serve UNC well

By Alice Scott
Senior Writer

On April 21, Paul Newton joined the University administration as vice chancellor and general counsel following a career in both the private and public sectors. Newton served four full terms in the N.C. Senate, where he represented Districts 36 and 34 and later became the N.C. Senate majority leader. Before that, he worked as a general counsel, senior vice president and state president at Duke Energy.

Senior writer Alice Scott sat down with Newton on May 29 to discuss his career shift, previous work experience and goals for the upcoming year.

This interview has been edited for brevity and clarity.

The Daily Tar Heel: Considering that you haven’t previously worked in academia or higher education, how have the professional experiences that you’ve had prepared you for this role of vice chancellor and general counsel?

Paul Newton: The duties feel very similar to when I served as general counsel in the private sector. There are always issues happening every day, and we tackle those, I hope, very, very effectively. Higher ed is brand new to me, and so some may criticize that, but there’s a trade-off: you can go in with fresh eyes.

DTH: During your campaigns, you ran on principles that included lowering taxes, bettering schools, emphasizing smaller government, protecting the Second Amendment

and promoting stronger families. How will these values influence the way you advise the chancellor and other aspects of your work at the University?

Newton: At the end of the day, any policy that I supported in the state legislature was supported by me because I thought it was in the best interest of North Carolina. There’s certainly room for disagreement on that, but my North Star was what’s in the best interests of our great state. I will bring that to my advice to the chancellor and others here at the University as well. I have no hidden agendas. I’m not even, really, a political person. I was asked in a time of crisis to run for that [state senate] seat. I did so, and I focused on policy, not politics.

DTH: While you were a senator, one of the bills you introduced was S.B. 227, which was titled “Eliminating ‘DEI’ in Public Education.” UNC has recently made multiple curricular changes to ensure that the University is not mandating DEI-related general education or major-specific courses to comply with UNC System Policy and President Donald Trump’s executive orders. How will your familiarity with this subject matter influence the work you do surrounding this topic?

Newton: Technical correction — I didn’t personally introduce that bill. That said, it’s clear that our culture has shifted around DEI. What used to be seen as virtuous under a different administration is now no longer virtuous, right? We all, regardless of our individual beliefs, have to follow the law. We are committed to academic freedom, we are committed to those principles, but we can’t defy the law.

Editor’s note: According to the N.C. General Assembly’s website,

S.B. 227: “Eliminating ‘DEI’ in Public Education” is listed as one of the bills that Paul Newton co-sponsored. In an email to The DTH, the North Carolina Senate principal clerk stated that Newton did not introduce the bill because he was not a primary sponsor. Despite not being a primary sponsor, Newton is still listed as co-sponsoring the bill in some capacity.

DTH: Recently, Chancellor Lee Roberts has been lobbying the federal government to advocate for research funding after over 100 of the University’s federal research grants were terminated. As a former state senator, what experience do you have interacting with lobbyists, and how will that help you advise the chancellor on this matter?

Newton: Our chancellor has done fantastic work trying to give a fresh lens to some of the issues we have associated with [National Institutes of Health] funding. What I proposed yesterday [to University administrators] was that we consider asking the federal government to give us preclearance. Our researchers are paralyzed right now; they want to be compliant, but they’re not sure what compliance really looks like. I think that the fair thing to do for our researchers would be to allow them to offer up a grant opportunity they have, [and] get preclearance from the federal government. It’s not a brand new process, but, to me, it seems like a logical thing to do in this time of great uncertainty.

DTH: Some students have recently been critical of Duke Energy, participating in protests and sharing their opinions as the company currently faces a climate change-related lawsuit from the Town of Carrboro. Given your past work with



DTH/AVA SHARON

Paul Newton served in the N.C. Senate from 2017-23. The N.C. General Assembly, pictured Monday, houses the Senate.

Duke Energy, how will you navigate the presence of differing viewpoints on campus?

Newton: Each of those viewpoints certainly has validity to them. Duke Energy is always a pretty easy target, right? Because they’re trying to serve the public and they have a legal mandate to provide least-cost energy. If you check their record against other companies, then I think you’ll see that they have moved pretty rapidly toward decarbonization. One of the bills that I did draft, author and advocate for was carbon neutrality on the grid by 2050. I also care about the climate — we all do. I mean, we all should, right? I think we’ve taken really prudent steps in North Carolina to get us where we need to go.

DTH: The University is currently involved in multiple lawsuits that deal with sensitive topics, including one filed by three nonprofit advocacy groups regarding the

rights of protestors involved in the Triangle Gaza Solidarity Encampment held on campus during the spring of 2024. As the principal lawyer for the University, how will you handle ongoing tension and division that may be related to some of the areas you will be working within?

Newton: We are a big, complex organization, and we’re going to get lawsuits. It doesn’t mean we’ve done anything wrong, but they are going to happen, and we will defend this University. If we made a mistake, we’ll own up to that mistake. It’s sort of a day-to-day thing at a university this large. We were trying to certainly balance everyone’s interests and treat everyone fairly, but when groups go a little too far and violate our policies, we have to defend this University.

X: @alice__scott

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

How Trump’s ‘Big Beautiful Bill’ impacts students, universities

The sweeping budget bill cuts grad PLUS loans, caps lifetime student borrowing

By Alice Scott
Senior Writer

UNC is awaiting guidance from the Department of Education as it reviews and determines the impacts of President Donald Trump’s landmark domestic policy bill, which was signed into law July 4.

The bill — H.R. 1, the ‘One Big Beautiful Bill Act’ — poses several changes to higher education, including to student loans, repayment plans and degree programs’ access to federal financial aid.

Originally introduced in May, the bill is a sweeping piece of budget legislation that contains hundreds of provisions centering around Trump’s agenda for his second term.

UNC Media Relations wrote that prior to the bill’s passage, UNC’s Office of Federal Affairs tracked the legislation’s progress in Congress and advocated for policies that “support student success.” After the bill passed, the University shifted its priority toward developing strategies to aid current students in the completion of their degrees and their ability to access financial resources.

New reductions to student loans

“While it is too early to determine the full impact, the University is focused on understanding how the legislation will affect students, particularly in terms of new limits on graduate and parent borrowing,” Media Relations wrote.

These limits include the elimination of grad PLUS loans, as well as a reduction to the amount of money that can be borrowed from parent PLUS loans. These two federal loan programs were specifically designed for students seeking graduate or professional degrees and for parents of dependent undergraduate students, respectively.



DTH DESIGN/AMINA WILLIAMS

Grad PLUS loans offered students the ability to qualify for income-driven repayment plans and public service loan forgiveness programs. Without them, graduate students in need of federal financial assistance must take out Direct Unsubsidized Loans, which don’t offer those perks.

As for the parent PLUS loans, individuals receiving those funds could previously borrow up to their dependent’s total cost of attendance minus their financial aid. Now, they are restricted to \$20,000 per year with a \$65,000 total limit.

Student Body President Adolfo Alvarez said he thinks this change will likely limit students who have historically been disadvantaged from accessing degree programs, including low- and middle-income students, first-generation college students and students of color.

These changes will be implemented starting July 2026 and will apply to both current and new students. However, borrowers currently receiving grad PLUS loans will be grandfathered and allowed to continue accessing their loans.

Borrowing caps and fewer repayment plans

All students, in both undergraduate and graduate programs, now have a lifetime \$257,500 borrowing limit for all federal student loans.

Specifically, the bill capped the amount of money graduate students can borrow from unsubsidized loans. Students in professional degree programs, such as medicine or law, are limited to \$50,000 per year with a \$200,000 lifetime borrowing cap, and those in nonprofessional graduate degree programs are limited to \$20,500 per year with a \$100,000 lifetime cap.

Graduate and Professional Student Government President Leah Frazier said these new loan caps are not nearly high enough to support most students enrolled in these programs — especially if those students already borrowed money for their undergraduate education, chipping away at their lifetime borrowing limits.

When looking at the UNC School of Law cost of attendance for N.C. residents, which totals just over \$60,000 per year, Frazier said

students would be close to maxing out on their loan limits at only their third semester. According to the Education Data Initiative, medical school graduates often owe on average around \$240,000, which is \$40,000 over the legislation’s cap for professional degree programs.

“These limits — they don’t match the actual cost of attendance for any program, let alone UNC,” Frazier said.

Students who need to borrow more money than these caps allow will likely have to turn to private loans, Alvarez said. This option can come without the same safety nets and flexible repayment options of federal loans.

Additionally, the bill reduced the seven loan repayment plans available to student borrowers down to two. Two of the repealed options were SAVE and PAYE, which were the most affordable income-driven repayment plans.

Current borrowers enrolled in eliminated plans will have until 2028 to switch programs.

Alumni income will affect federal aid distribution

If UNC alumni are not making more than an adult with a high school diploma, the programs they graduated from could become ineligible for federal student aid. This change will also go into effect July 2026, and it applies to both undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

American Association of Colleges and Universities President Lynn Pasquerella said she thinks the change promotes the notion that higher education is only about getting a good job. She said she worries this new policy will discourage students from pursuing lower-paying disciplines, causing those programs to either be eliminated entirely by universities or only be accessed by wealthier students.

“I think it reinforces what Thomas Jefferson referred to as an unnatural aristocracy, where only the richest and most privileged individuals have access to the liberal arts traditions,” Pasquerella said.

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OBITUARY

‘Pit Preacher’ Gary Birdsong dies at 81

He was known for his controversial fire-and-brimstone approach

By Emily Brietz
Staff Writer

When UNC-Chapel Hill students return to campus in the fall, they’ll notice that a familiar voice in the Pit has fallen silent.

Gary Eugene Birdsong, a controversial “Pit Preacher,” died this past February. He was well-known by the UNC community for spreading the gospel in the sunken brick courtyard on campus, which he did for the past four decades.

“He lived his life preaching, spreading the word — and he’d spread it to anybody and everybody in sight,” Billy Lewis Jr., Birdsong’s great-nephew, said at his funeral.

Birdsong was known for making the Pit his pulpit. The self-proclaimed evangelist preached the gospel with a fire-and-brimstone approach, frequently discussing damnation, righteousness and repentance to anybody who would listen. Some students found his sermons and name-calling harsh.

In 1983, after leaving the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club, Birdsong earned a degree in practical theology from Christ For The Nations Institute in Texas. He began preaching across the country, from Nevada to Florida, but frequented college campuses in North Carolina.

“He was a hardcore Baptist,” Lewis said. “Jesus first and Harley-Davidson second.”

From his nearby home in Wake County, Birdsong rode his Harley-Davidson motorcycle to visit UNC-CH, N.C. State University, Appalachian State University and UNC Charlotte. To make these trips and continue his ministry, Birdsong relied on donations from churches and individual contributors.

“The seeds that Gary sowed across the country — especially on college campuses — they’re going to last for years to come,” the funeral officiate said during the service.



DTH FILE/DUSTIN DUONG

Gary Birdsong, the “Pit Preacher,” holds up his sign as he preaches at Polk Place on March 18, 2019.

During periods when he was banned from the Pit by UNC Police, Birdsong preached on nearby grassy areas or set up a portable lawn chair in front of Wilson Library on the Quad.

His spreading of the gospel on UNC-CH’s campus came to an end after he had a heart attack and died on Feb. 27. He is survived by his son, Shane Birdsong, his daughter, Angel Marie Birdsong, his grandchildren and his great-grandchildren.

“To say he will be missed is an understatement,” Lewis said. “But to know where he is right now: he’s not hurting, not cold, not wanting — he’s home — that helps a lot.”

X: @ecbrietz



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Reasons for delayed tenure approvals remain unclear

Faculty express concerns regarding lack of transparency from administration

By Alice Scott
Senior Writer

On June 4, the UNC Board of Trustees granted tenure to 33 faculty members whose promotions had been delayed for multiple months. The action followed concerns voiced by faculty about the implications of low tenure appointment numbers.

Though the BOT has not publicly shared the reason for the tenure delays, emails obtained by The Daily Tar Heel reveal some of the discussion between BOT members regarding the situation. One trustee, Jim Blaine, wrote that to move forward with the tenure awards following faculty backlash would be to reward “bad behavior.”

“It is not good governance to give your child a cookie every time they lay on the floor and scream that they want one,” he wrote.

The BOT first delayed voting on tenure at its March meeting, not approving the promotion for any candidates. In May, the tenure cases that the board moved forward with and approved were primarily those from health science-related schools.

Before then, the BOT had only approved tenure for 32 professors in 2025. Around the same point last year, the board had approved 57 tenure cases, and in 2023, they had approved 47.

Only two of the 32 professors awarded tenure were from outside of the health sciences — School of Civic Life and Leadership Dean Jed Atkins, and a vice dean of the School of Social Work. None of them were from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Ultimately, the BOT and the administration decided to move forward with the delayed personnel actions due to the deferral’s impact on departments and prospective faculty, UNC Media Relations wrote in a statement to The DTH.

The faculty who received tenure on June 4 are in the College of Arts and Sciences, as well as the Schools of Education, Law and Information and Library Science.

“While I’m relieved that the Board ultimately moved forward with a successful vote, it’s deeply frustrating that these nominees faced such an extended and uncertain wait since January,” Student Body President Adolfo Alvarez said in an email to the faculty on June 5.

Faculty and community members speak out

Following the BOT’s May tenure deferrals, interim Provost Jim Dean contacted the deans of UNC’s colleges and schools with instructions for how faculty facing delays should proceed. Dean wrote that these personnel could either extend a one-year, non-tenured term beginning on their originally planned start date or they could defer the start of their appointment to 2026.



DTH DESIGN/AUBREY WORD

On May 23, Chair of the Faculty Beth Morocco wrote to the chancellor and the interim provost expressing concerns about the “highly unusual” tenure delays and advocating for a swift resolution.

Morocco asked that administration consider untenured faculty with contracts ending June 30, considering that the BOT was not scheduled to vote on tenure cases until its next regular meeting on July 30. This put some professors planning to relocate to Chapel Hill or make other changes related to receiving tenure in a state of limbo, she said.

Alvarez shared a social media statement on June 1 committing to advocating in the BOT for timely tenure approvals. He said this was in line with a broader request from the faculty to ensure that these tenure cases were approved before July 1.

“These are people who deserve to have these positions,” Alvarez, who serves as an ex officio member on the BOT, said.

The North Carolina and UNC-Chapel Hill chapters of the American Association of University Professors sent a letter to the BOT expressing similar concerns. The letter argued that tenure delays could hinder the University’s ability to secure top faculty, limit student research opportunities and hurt academic freedom — the principle that N.C. AAUP president and N.C. State University professor Belle Boggs said the organization is founded on.

Morocco said she thinks this outcry over the impact on UNC’s reputation and on individual professors and departments is what ultimately led the board to promptly reach a resolution.

“We’re very grateful that the Board of Trustees took such quick action,” Morocco said. “It still leaves us feeling uneasy because it was such an unusual situation, and we never did get an explanation or rationale for why these cases were deferred twice.”

A lack of transparency from the BOT

Since approving the 33 pending tenure cases, the BOT has not publicly shared the reason for its delays. Morocco said the faculty still remains largely in the dark, and has not received an explanation from the BOT or administration.

Political science professor Jeff Spinner-Halev said the lack of transparency has fostered uncertainty among the faculty.

“The fact that they’re unwilling to give us an explanation of why they’ve tabled these decisions twice is unprecedented and extremely worrying,” Spinner-Halev said.

Though the BOT has not disclosed their reasoning, multiple trustees, including Blaine and Marty Kotis, brought up concerns about the financial costs of tenuring professors in the email chain obtained by The DTH.

“Regardless of my philosophical opposition to the outdated tenure model, I think we should proceed very cautiously and with full information before adding that kind of long-term, fixed cost in our present fiscal and budgetary environment,” Blaine wrote.

Alvarez responded that he understands this perspective, but he wonders if “there’s room to be more open” with the UNC community. If the delays were due to financial concerns or information gaps, he wrote that better communication from the BOT could help to avoid tension with students and faculty.

Some trustees also expressed their opposition to tenure in general, saying it causes reduced accountability among faculty, limits UNC’s ability to offer new programs or courses and erodes public trust in the University.

“I find it difficult to believe university professors uniquely require lifetime job security comparable to positions held by the Pope or federal judges,” Kotis wrote.

However, trustees including Ritch Allison and Jennifer Lloyd argued that it would be unfair to retroactively make changes to the tenure process and affect the delayed cases, given that those faculty members had followed the expectations of long-established rules.

Other trustees advocated for an open session meeting where they could discuss matters regarding tenure in more detail.

“Our current faculty, our future faculty and our students deserve better,” trustee Ralph Meekins wrote. “I am available all week if we need to meet.”

The BOT did not provide comment by the time of publication, despite multiple requests from The DTH.

Implications of tenure delays

To be approved for tenure by the BOT, faculty must first receive a nomination from the Office of Faculty Governance’s Committee on Appointments, Promotions and Tenure. Tenure cases include external letters from field experts and vetting by the faculty member’s department, school and the provost.

“Tenure to [students] reflects the University’s long-standing commitment to academic freedom and to the faculty who shape their experience here,” Alvarez wrote in the obtained emails.

Without communication from the BOT, Morocco said the faculty remains concerned about why the tenure delays occurred in the first place, even though the situation has been resolved.

Boggs said the N.C. AAUP has now shifted their focus to considering and preparing for the possibility that something similar could occur again.

“Something that is supposed to be a very celebratory time in an academic’s career and a time of looking ahead and planning, was a time when people didn’t know what was coming next and if they needed to go on the job market,” Boggs said.

She said she expects the situation with delayed tenure to have huge consequences in terms of the University’s ability to retain and attract qualified faculty. UNC saw the effects of tenure-related issues in hiring in 2021, when Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones declined a position at the University after the BOT initially delayed offering her tenure.

Morocco said the recent tenure delays have been damaging to faculty morale, especially as professors deal with new outside pressures, from research funding cuts to executive orders that affect curriculum.

“This is just a really untenable situation, to leave faculty in limbo this way and to create this environment of uncertainty,” Morocco said. “We need to know what the cause of it was, so that we can address whatever the root issue is.”

X: @alice__scottt

Bill includes cuts to Medicaid, SNAP

Continued from Page 4

UNC was recently ranked the No. 1 public university in the country for financial aid by The Princeton Review. Media Relations did not share how this provision of the bill could affect UNC’s degree programs.

Frazier said she spoke with administrators from UNC Finance and Operations last week, and they said the income accountability provision of the bill is a gray area that the University is still trying to better understand.

“It just puts a whole lot of financial pressure on students and those programs alike,” Frazier said.

Endowment taxes, Pell Grant expansion and other changes

Although not inherently a change for higher education, Pasquerella said she thinks one of the most impactful aspects of the bill on colleges and universities is the \$1 trillion in cuts to funding for Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

These cuts, she said — in addition to placing hardship on the 3.5 million college students who receive coverage under Medicaid — will likely leave state budgets with deficits they need to make up. Higher education is often the first area targeted when states have to distribute scarce resources, she said.

“When we talk about the implications of cuts to Medicaid, we’re often overlooking the impact on colleges and universities,” Pasquerella said.

The N.C. General Assembly has yet to finalize its budget, but proposals in both the N.C. House and N.C. Senate include more than \$100 million in cuts to the state’s public universities. In June, the UNC System implemented a systemwide “personnel cap” that limits salary spending, employee headcounts and hiring due to expected reductions to the state budget.

Other higher education changes from the bill include a new tiered system that will require private universities to pay higher taxes (up to eight percent) on their endowments based on its per student value and the expansion of Pell Grant eligibility to nondegree, work training programs.

But not all proposed higher education policy changes made the final legislation. In the U.S. House’s version of the bill, which passed in May before moving to the U.S. Senate, the amount of coursework required for students to receive the maximum Pell Grant aid was going to increase from 24 to 30 credits per year.

Although that provision was struck from the final bill, it was expected to affect hundreds of thousands of community college and low-income students. However, Alvarez said he thinks Pell Grants could still be at risk.

“I think that it’s a really important thing to continue watching how the Trump administration comes after programs,” Alvarez said.

X: @alice__scottt

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City & State

The Daily Tar Heel

Camelot community has debated Town buyout for decades

Continued from Page 1

of when and how they were going to clear out their units. A week after the storm, residents said they still had not heard anything from the complex's management team regarding guidance on recovering from the flood damage.

Onyx Management, who manages Camelot Village, did not respond to The Daily Tar Heel's requests for comment by the time of publication.

For some residents, the damages to their units are not worth fixing yet again amid the continued risk of floods.

"I made it into such a home. I put in all these upgrades and really made it homey," Diede said. "But now I don't even feel safe here anymore."

Now, many residents are working to sell their units to the Town so they can be bought for demolition.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency runs a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which provides funding to governments to develop plans to rebuild with the goal of mitigating natural disasters. The Town could apply for the FEMA grant to buy out and demolish Camelot Village, preventing future flood damage.

All owners of units at Camelot Village would need to agree to the buyout in order for the Town to receive the FEMA grant. This could be a challenging process.

Many owners do not actually live in their units or live locally, and instead rent them out. Ownership of units frequently changes. Owners of units on the



DTH/TAYLOR MOTLEY

Discarded furniture sits outside condominiums at Camelot Village on July 12.

second floor, which is less prone to flooding damages, are hesitant to sell.

Over the past two decades, the Town has tried numerous times to buy out the Camelot Village complex with FEMA funding, but has yet to be successful. The Town received \$2.3 million in FEMA funding in 2005, but they had to return the grant money when owners didn't all agree to the buyout. In 2019, the Town was denied a FEMA grant due to the agency's funding constraints.

Just over a month prior to the storm, David OuYang bought a unit at Camelot Village for his daughter to live in while she attended medical school. The



DTH/TAYLOR MOTLEY

Annmarie Diede walks toward her condominium at Camelot Village on July 12.

unit was devastated by Tropical Depression Chantal. OuYang is now at the forefront of rallying owners at Camelot Village to agree to a buyout.

"These poor people are going to live there, and it's dangerous," OuYang said. "So we're hoping that

they offer to sell it and totally tear it down. I don't think it's a good idea just to rebuild."

With 20 people displaced from Camelot Village, residents are now hoping to see future flood damages prevented with the demolition of the complex.

"In a way, it's a blessing that it happened, and the Town is going to help, hopefully, and FEMA as well," Diede said.

X: @dthcitystate

LOCAL HISTORY

Floods are nothing new for Eastgate Crossing

The shopping center is built atop a creek and prone to damage

By Eva Edwards
Staff Writer

On the late evening of July 6, Eastgate Crossing flooded after Tropical Storm Chantal, which was downgraded to a tropical depression by the time it hit Chapel Hill, brought 6-9 inches of rain and damages to numerous local businesses.

Eastgate Crossing, located between East Franklin Street and Fordham Boulevard, is home to dozens of businesses such as Trader Joe's and Guglhupf Bake Shop.

Most of the shopping center closed due to the flooding, and the Town of Chapel Hill estimated that Eastgate incurred \$11 million in damages.

While flooding from the storm was a historic occurrence for Eastgate, it was far from the first time the shopping center experienced significant flooding.

The shopping center was built in 1958 on top of Booker Creek, which currently runs under Eastgate Crossing's parking lot. Eastgate was built before the Town's adoption of the current flood damage prevention ordinance, which prevents new developments from being built on floodplains.

Sammy Bauer, a community engagement analyst for Chapel Hill in the stormwater division of the public works department, said the Town no longer allows development on top of creeks like the Eastgate Crossing shopping center, unless



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHAPEL HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In 1958, the shopping center was a part of the Ephesus-Fordham District. It is now known as Eastgate Crossing.

developers go through a rigorous permit process.

"The big question that we really have to ask ourselves, especially in local government, is, we have inherited these past decisions, so what can we do to make the best of our current conditions?" Bauer said.

To mitigate flooding, the Town constructed the Booker Creek Basin Park, which helps divert water from the Eastgate Crossing area floodplain back to Booker

Creek instead of water filling up the shopping center.

The flooding from the storm would have been worse if not for the basin, Alex Carrasquillo, the Town's communications manager, said.

"There's only so much you can do when something is on top of a creek," Carrasquillo said.

Greg Characklis, director of the UNC Center on Financial Risk in Environmental Systems, said Eastgate Crossing's low

elevation, having Booker Creek run underneath it and the small size of the creek's stormwater drainage system all make the shopping center vulnerable to flooding.

The Town needs a combination of both green infrastructure, such as rain gardens, and gray infrastructure, such as culverts, to lessen the impacts of flooding, Bauer said.

Sean Scott, the owner of Guglhupf, a Durham-based bakery

and restaurant that opened their Chapel Hill location in 2017, said he was not made aware of the extent of Eastgate Crossing's flood risk when they signed the lease.

During the flood, more than 5 feet of stormwater filled Guglhupf, destroying the bakery's equipment and electronics. Scott said Guglhupf was fortunate that they did not sustain damage as significant as other stores in Eastgate Crossing.

Scott said although Eastgate Crossing has flooded before, the shopping center was not prepared for the level of flooding that occurred during the storm.

Businesses in Eastgate Crossing have floodgates and pumps to prevent stormwater from entering the buildings. While they normally are effective, they could not prevent the historic level of flooding, Scott said.

"If we have this come through every five to seven years, that's a serious problem for business," Scott said.

Businesses having adequate flood insurance will be important in helping them recover, but businesses without sufficient insurance coverage will likely take longer to rebuild and reopen, Characklis said.

Orange County and the Towns of Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Hillsborough have partnered to organize the Tropical Storm Chantal Community Giving Fund, which directs donations to support local recovery efforts.

"This is certainly the worst we've seen in terms of storm damage," Carrasquillo said.

X: @dthcitystate

BRIEFS

Who’s running in Orange County’s upcoming elections

In November, municipalities across Orange County will host elections to choose their next set of leaders. The filing period for the election ended on July 18. Here’s everyone who’s running:

Chapel Hill mayor

- Jessica Anderson (incumbent).

Chapel Hill Town Council

- Erik Valera.
- Jon Mitchell.
- Paris Miller-Foushee (incumbent).
- Wes McMahon.
- Louie Rivers III.
- Camille Berry (incumbent).

Carrboro mayor

- Barbara Foushee (incumbent).
- Joe H. Lloyd Jr.

Carrboro Town Council

- Cristobal Palmer (incumbent).
- Danny Nowell (incumbent).
- Fred Joiner.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education

- Riza Jenkins (incumbent).
- George Griffin (incumbent).
- Lynee Argabright.
- Melinda Manning.

— Taylor Motley, City & State Editor

Franklin Street Starbucks unionizes

On June 30, workers at the 100 E. Franklin St. Starbucks voted 14-1 in favor of unionization, joining Starbucks Workers United, a national worker-led unionizing effort.

Earlier in June, the store’s baristas and shift supervisors sent a letter to upper management stating their intent to unionize, and they later read the letter aloud to the store manager and customers.

The letter, addressed to Brian Niccol, Starbucks’ CEO, discussed the workers’ reasons for unionization, including reduced raises, unsustainable workloads and unsafe working conditions.

The union prevents Starbucks from firing employees for union-related activities and secures employees’ right to collective bargaining and having union representatives.

“This win shows that when partners come together and speak up, we can’t be ignored,” Matthew Wynne, a Starbucks shift supervisor, said. “We didn’t vote for this union just to make noise. We voted because we’re tired of being mistreated and left out of the decisions that affect our lives in our day-to-day workplace.”

Starbucks has not discussed the union’s contract in good faith, and a contract will not be signed until the company does so, Wynne said. Employees will not have to pay dues until a contract is signed, he said.

— Keya Mahajan, staff writer

Gov. Josh Stein vetoes ICE compliance bill

On June 20, Gov. Josh Stein vetoed Senate Bill 153, the North Carolina Border Protection Act, which would require state agencies to increase compliance with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Stein wrote in a press release that the legislation would make North Carolina less safe, not more.

S.B. 153 now awaits the N.C. General Assembly’s vote to sustain or override the governor’s veto.

Specifically, the bill would require the N.C. Department of Public Safety, N.C. Department of Adult Correction, State Highway Patrol and State Bureau of Investigation to enter a 287(g) agreement with ICE — an agreement that would allow for state law enforcement officers to effectively act as immigration agents.

“At a time when our law enforcement is already stretched thin, this bill takes state law enforcement officers away from their existing state duties and forces them to act as federal immigration agents,” Stein wrote in the press release.

Under the bill, state agencies would be required to determine whether anyone in their custody — accused or convicted of any type of crime — is a legal citizen or resident. They would make this determination by inquiry of the person, by examination of any relevant documents or both. If someone’s legal status cannot be determined, then ICE must be notified, and law enforcement must provide any information that ICE requests.

— Keya Mahajan, staff writer

Sen. Thom Tillis announces he is not seeking reelection

On June 29, Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., announced he would not be seeking reelection to the U.S. Senate in the 2026 elections. Tillis has served two terms in the Senate and will continue to serve as one of North Carolina’s senators until his second term ends in January 2027.

Just one day before Tillis’ announcement that he would not be seeking reelection, Tillis said he would be voting against President Donald Trump’s sweeping domestic policy bill — H.R. 1, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act — due to the bill cutting billions in funding for North Carolina, particularly for Medicaid.

Later that evening, Trump posted on Truth Social that he will be meeting with candidates to challenge Tillis in the Senate race and looking for someone to “properly represent the Great People of North Carolina.”

Tillis said the lack of bipartisanship in Congress and a desire to spend more time with his family motivated his decision.

“I still look forward to continuing to serve North Carolina over the next 18 months,” Tillis said in a press release. “I look forward to solely focusing on producing meaningful results without the distraction of raising money or campaigning for another election.”

As a senator, Tillis introduced the Treatment of Certain Payments in Eugenics Compensation Act, which became law and excludes payments made through state eugenics compensation programs from being counted as income when determining eligibility for federal assistance. Tillis also supported the Respect for Marriage Act and the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act.

— Taylor Motley, City & State Editor



We want to serve you by delivering thorough and useful coverage of local elections. Take this brief survey to let us know how we can improve and what you’d like to see from us in the upcoming 2025 municipal elections.

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CHANTAL FLOODING

Eastgate stores face \$11 million in damages

Businesses saw more than 5 feet of floodwater

By Taylor Motley
City & State Editor

Everything was business as usual for Eastgate Crossing on July 6. Just after sunset, however, floodwater began to fill the shopping center.

Tropical Storm Chantal, later downgraded to a tropical depression, brought 6-9 inches of rain to Chapel Hill in just a few hours during the late evening of July 6. The flooding was indicative of a 500 to 1,000 year storm, which have a one-in-500 or one-in-1,000 chance of happening, respectively.

The stormwater rushed into buildings at Eastgate Crossing, leaving more than 5 feet of sitting water in multiple businesses' storefronts. Most of the shopping center experienced devastation, with inventory, equipment and infrastructure being destroyed, and nearly every storefront is currently closed.

Floods are not unusual for Eastgate Crossing. The shopping center was built on top of Booker Creek in a floodplain, making it particularly susceptible to flooding. The devastation from the storm was like nothing the shopping center had ever seen.

The Town of Chapel Hill estimated that businesses at Eastgate Crossing incurred \$11 million in total damages from the storm.

Scott Novak, the owner of the Eastgate Crossing franchise of The Loop, was serving diners the restaurant's signature burgers and salads when the water started creeping up at the door shortly after 8 p.m. The Loop evacuated customers and employees, but they



DTH/MICHAEL PEARSON

Police tape outlines damaged sections of Eastgate Crossing in Chapel Hill on Sunday.

couldn't stop the stormwater from wrecking the building.

Everything is a jumble, Novak said. Equipment from the front of the restaurant was pushed to the back, piled on top of each other. The Loop will have to be completely gutted and rebuilt — a process Novak said will take months and cost the restaurant hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"It's gonna be almost a total replacement," Novak said. "There's only a few things that are above the

"The community, everyone out here has been super helpful, super nice."

Justin McLean
Director of Operations at Med First Primary & Urgent Care

water level that we can salvage."

The stormwater didn't discriminate in its ravaging. Across the shopping center, Kipos Greek Taverna, a Greek restaurant

owned by Giorgios Bakatsias, also experienced extensive damage. Chairs were scattered throughout the kitchen. Soil from potted plants littered the whole restaurant.

John Taylor, a carpenter who works with Kipos Greek Taverna, said he had never seen this magnitude of flooding at Eastgate Crossing.

"Now I'm seeing, standing right here, and I'm like this: 'There's a

dumpster inside that building!'" Taylor said.

Like many in Chapel Hill that night, Justin McLean, the director of operations at Med First Primary & Urgent Care, wasn't expecting such significant levels of flooding.

"I was like, 'Ooh, this can't be good, but we'll hold out,'" McLean said.

It was not until McLean saw a photo of a car floating in the clinic's flooded parking lot that he realized the storm was going to be a problem.

Med First Primary & Urgent Care now has to cover \$200,000 to \$300,000 in damages, and it will be several months until the clinic is fully operational again.

The local community has rallied to support Eastgate Crossing's businesses following Tropical Depression Chantal. In the days after the storm, volunteers showed up to Eastgate Crossing to help businesses sort through the wreckage.

Many businesses have organized fundraisers, which have already raised thousands, to support their recovery efforts and employees. Orange County and the Towns of Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Hillsborough collaborated to set up the Tropical Storm Chantal Community Giving Fund, which will distribute donated funds to recovery efforts across Orange County.

"The community, everyone out here has been super helpful, super nice," McLean said. "We're thankful for other businesses that are here, that are pitching in and helping each other."

Brian D'Aguanno, Alli Pardue and Marina Messura contributed reporting to this story.

X: @dthcitystate

STATE POLITICS

NC General Assembly fails to pass biennial budget

North Carolina will continue operating under 2023-25 funding plan

By Medha Nair
Staff Writer

The N.C. General Assembly did not agree on a budget for the 2025-27 biennial budget before going on a break after June 26. While the N.C. Senate and N.C. House reconcile the differences in their budget proposals, North Carolina will continue operating under the 2023-25 budget.

It is unclear when the North Carolina lawmakers will resume budget talks.

The lack of a new budget will adversely impact numerous programs that benefit from state funding, including school districts, government assistance programs and health care.

While most school districts have had their local budgets finalized since municipal budgets have been passed, they are still waiting to find out how much state funding they will receive. Not knowing how much funding they will get from the state leaves many schools unprepared, Bryan Proffitt, the vice president of the board of directors for the North Carolina Association of Educators, said.

In the meantime, teachers will also go without pay raises, N.C. Sen. Graig Meyer (D-Caswell, Orange, Person) said.

Teachers feel unseen as they continue to experience the damaging impacts of the budget not allocating for pay raises, Proffitt said. He also said he hopes the General Assembly will apologize for the delay and pass a new budget quickly with a focus on helping the state's most vulnerable families.

The budget also affects operations of the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles, as not having a new budget means there is no expanded funding to support improved operations.

"The lines are extremely long. We get complaints about it every day, there's lots of news coverage," Meyer said. "And with no budget, there's no new money, no new effort to try and have better services at the DMV."

North Carolina residents that receive government assistance will be most impacted until the General Assembly passes a budget, N.C. Rep. Renée Price (D-Caswell, Orange) said.

"They will feel it first," Price said. "And I really am concerned for our senior citizens and our children."

For Carrboro, one of the many municipalities affected by the General Assembly, the state budget does not largely impact the Town's

"They will feel it first, and I am really concerned for our senior citizens and our children."

Renée Price
N.C. Representative (D-Caswell, Orange, Person)

government. However, the people within the town are deeply affected by the budget, Carrboro Mayor Barbara Foushee said.

There is a Republican majority in both the Senate and House, yet there



DTH DESIGN/AUBREY WORD

were key differences beyond party lines in each chamber's version of the budget, with taxes being at the forefront of the differences.

Meyer said the budget from the House was more fiscally responsible than the Senate's, postponing tax cuts while the Senate's budget included them.

Price said General Assembly Republicans are realizing that the tax rate must remain at its current rate, rather than their desired lower rate, to allow the state to function.

When legislators realized the budget was not going to be reconciled before the break, the Senate attempted to pass a "mini-budget" by making additions to House Bill 125 that would direct additional funding to numerous programs. However, the bill did not pass before the General Assembly went to break.

The General Assembly is still on legislative break, and Meyer said they have not yet decided when to return. While the lawmakers may resume the legislative session before the end of July, it could still take much more time before they pass a

shared budget even after returning to work, he said.

"One thing that really bothers me is that, and probably others too, is just the political divisions, where folks are not really thinking about the people of North Carolina and what would better serve them," Foushee said.

X: @dthcitystate

LOCAL PRODUCE

Thousands catch up at annual Tomato Day

Carrboro Farmers’ Market celebrates its biggest day of the year

By Lizzie Stoner
Staff Writer

Lush hues of red, yellow and green took over the Carrboro Farmers’ Market on July 12 as it held its annual and highly anticipated Tomato Day. The event showcases local tomato farmers and their diverse tomato selection, offers free samples and sells Tomato Day merch. The Carrboro Farmers’ Market is open every Saturday, but this July weekend, it turned into a love letter to the juicy summer vegetable — though botanically, it’s a fruit. Each year, Tomato Day kicks off the start of the tomato season in mid-to-late July. The market was filled with its usual florals and produce, but tomatoes were impossible to miss. Information stands lined the entrances to hand out zines, sell Tomato Day merchandise and guide shoppers around the market. One information stand featured more than 40 different tomatoes labeled with unique names like Tasmanian Chocolate, Summer of Love, Purple Bumble Bee and a green striped tomato aptly named Green Zebra. The market featured just over 70 varieties of tomatoes. Alex and Betsy Hitt were in charge of the information stand. They used to own Peregrine Farm and sold tomatoes at the very first Tomato Day. They were vendors at the Carrboro

Farmers’ Market for 36 years and now volunteer after retiring in 2021. Alex Hitt said his favorite part about Tomato Day is seeing the excitement and amazement on shoppers’ faces as they browse the tomato selection. “Most folks don’t think that there are possibly that many tomatoes,” Alex Hitt said. His favorite tomatoes are the Green Cherokees and Cherokee Purples because of their middle-of-the-road acidity, sweetness and their all-purpose abilities. Some of his favorite tomato recipes are gazpacho, bruschetta and tomato sandwiches. “We have so many tomatoes, you’ve got to eat them at every meal,” Alex Hitt said. A typical Saturday at the Carrboro Farmers’ Market draws in about 2,500 people, but Tomato Day can see upwards of 7,000, Maggie Funkhouser, Carrboro Farmers’ Market manager, said. Chapel Hill community member Laurice Aramoonie accidentally stumbled upon the event. She comes to the farmers market a few times a year, but this was her first Tomato Day. Aramoonie said she plants tomatoes in her own gardens, but she comes to the farmers market for the produce she can’t grow at home. She shared that some of her favorite tomatoes are Roma, Cherry and Celebrity. Tomato Day also featured free samples of every kind. One stand handed out a goat cheese and black pepper gelato, while others offered sliced tomatoes from the farms.



DTH/LIZZIE STONER

The Carrboro Farmers’ Market held its annual Tomato Day on July 12.

The star of the samples was the pan con tomate, created by Tomato Day guest chef Brandon Sharp. Sharp has worked at Michelin star restaurants and was an executive chef at the Carolina Inn for two years before opening Chapel Hill restaurants Hawthorne & Wood, Bluebird and Próximo. Tomato Day isn’t just for tomato farmers. The lemonade stands, bakeries, butchers, potters and

florists that fill the market on a normal Saturday brought their own twist to the event. One pottery stand featured a special red mug, and some bakeries offered tomato-themed treats. Other aspects of Tomato Day included a 10-mile bike ride from Back Alley Bikes to the market. The Tomato Day zine included coloring pages, a list of the tomato varieties and farms, recipes, a map

of the market and general Tomato Day guidance. The organizers start planning Tomato Day in March, and their months of hard work culminated in a well-trafficked, well-loved day. “It’s a really joyful event,” Funkhouser said. “For me, it’s my love letter to the farmers and their tomatoes.”

X: @dthlifestyle

AUGUST don’t miss these arts & culture events

- 1

Uproar Festival of Public Art Kickoff Party
Eno River Brewing
6 - 9 p.m.
- 3

Local Artist Spotlight Series at the Taproom
Steel String Brewery
4 - 6 p.m. | Every Sunday in August
- 5

Carolina Science Cafe: Filter Bubbles and Data Voids
Haw River Tap and Table
6 p.m.
- 8

The Moon Unit x INSTANT ALTER
Cat’s Cradle Back Room
8 p.m.
- 10

Flyleaf Second Sunday Poetry Series: Joan Barkovska and Joey Lew
Flyleaf Books
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
- 14

Benches
Cat’s Cradle Back Room
8 p.m.
- 15

Second Friday Art Walk
Multiple locations
6 - 9 p.m.
- 15

Common Good Exhibit Opening
The ArtsCenter
6 - 9 p.m.
- 15

Paperhand Puppet Projects: The Gift
Forest Theatre
7 p.m. | Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday through Sept. 28
- 16

Star Families: Green Myths and Legends
Morehead Planetarium and Science Center
12 p.m.
- 20-24

PlayMakers presents: “A Good Boy”
Kenan Theatre
- 22

Welcome (Back) Fest
Lawn space between Hill Hall and Person Hall
4 - 5 p.m.
- 22

Black Sheep Comedy | Improv Night
The ArtsCenter
7:30 p.m.
- 25

Adult Spelling Bee
Dingo Dog Brewing
2 - 4 p.m.
- 27

Artist Conversation: Radical Ceramicists in North Carolina
Ackland Art Museum
6 - 7:30 p.m.

Check organizer websites for more information before attending.

ARTWORK

Japanese ceramics featured at the Ackland

The museum’s newest exhibit includes works from 36 female artists

By Emily Gessner
Summer Editor

On June 6, Ackland Art Museum opened its current exhibition, “Radical Clay: Contemporary Women Artists From Japan.” The exhibit was organized by the Art Institute of Chicago and comes from the major collection of Carol and Jeffrey Horvitz.

The exhibition includes 40 pieces of contemporary ceramic and clay art by 36 women. The artists’ work spans decades of Japanese culture and influence. Each piece was chosen carefully, and each is a major work of art.

The Horvitz’s collection, the “Carol and Jeffrey Collection of Contemporary Japanese Ceramics,” includes around 1,700 pieces in total — mostly made up of Japanese and French art.

The Ackland has been working with the Horvitzes for about 12 years now and was very excited to join the tour of the exhibition, Peter Nisbet, the deputy director for curatorial affairs at the Ackland, said. The Ackland was especially excited to receive this exhibit for show, as it intersects with the museum’s interests in a number of ways, he said.

“We have a very good collection of ceramics from world cultures, whether it be historical Asian things or North Carolina pottery or ancient pottery,” he said. “In a way that makes the Ackland very interested in clay as a medium. Which, in turn, I think connects nicely with the very strong interest in clay in North Carolina.”

In addition, the Ackland was



A couple admires “Radical Clay” at the Ackland Art Museum on Wednesday.

pleased to present a collection made entirely by women artists, especially with the historical significance of Japan and the postwar era. Since the 1970s, more and more Japanese women have been accepted into prestigious art academies. Their work has led to changes in the contemporary and ceramic art world.

Artists like Ogawa Machiko, Tsuboi Asuka and Oishi Sayaka exemplify the decades of work on display through this collection,

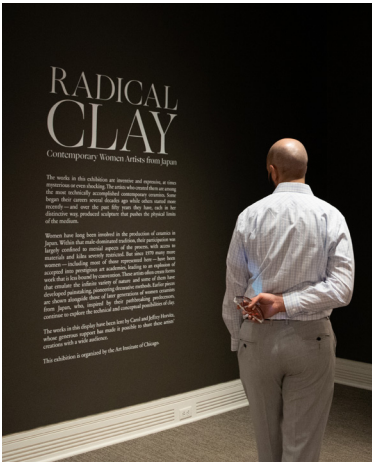
as well as the various themes that emerge from the pieces.

“It is contemporary female artists exhibiting in a very traditional, male-dominated field,” Mercy Abrams, a visitor of the “Radical Clay” exhibit, said. “And it represented a lot of female groundbreaking techniques, color, shapes — I mean, just the image alone is just crazy.”

Abrams’ sister, Tracy Ortiz, visited the collection with her and said the young, Japanese artistry was amazing.

Themes of nature and organic creatures are present in some pieces, sitting in comparison to others with themes of bodily distortion. One piece, “Untitled (Crushed Asahi Beer Box)” by Mishima Kimiyo, stays true to its name and is a depiction of a crushed beer box. While another piece, “Liberation” by Konno Tomoko, takes on a more floral theme.

“It’s just so exciting and impressive and amazing,” Nisbet said. “I mean, some of these pieces



The Ackland Art Museum displays “Radical Clay” on Wednesday.

— you are really just struck by, ‘How did they make that?’ or, ‘What incredible patience it took to make that,’ or, ‘What imagination.’”

Katrina Scholtz and Paige Flournoy visited the exhibit in July. Flournoy said it was nice that the exhibit is free and easy to stop and take a look around in.

“I liked how a lot of the clay kind of resembled real life things,” Flournoy said. “There were a lot that looked like shells or like coral.”

The exhibition will stay on display until Aug. 31. After the Ackland, the collection will continue its tour, traveling to places like Dallas, Texas, and Phoenix, Ariz.

“It’s a must-visit for people coming to Chapel Hill,” Abrams said. “This is a must-see collection.”

X: @dthlifestyle

EATERIES

New restaurants open their doors in Chapel Hill, Carrboro

Additions include Mediterranean street food, airy social club

By Michael Melton
Lifestyle Editor

Over the summer, Chapel Hill and Carrboro welcomed several new restaurants. From a Mediterranean street food spot to an airy social club with a spacious bar and menu, a few key gaps in the area’s dining scene have been filled. Here’s a look at what has recently opened.

One40 Social

After a few soft openings, the new bar and restaurant One40 Social officially opened its doors July 12. The space, which is in the Franklin Street complex that also houses Que Chula, features an open-concept layout with a large bar offering 36 drafts, many TVs and games like pingpong and foosball.

The full scratch kitchen serves a variety of items, including hand-tossed pizza, seafood sandwiches, classic appetizers and even pirozhki — an Eastern European street food. The inclusion of pirozhki reflects the heritage of the owner, Igor Denchak, who was born in Ukraine and now calls North Carolina home.

Denchak has spent his fair share of time working in restaurants, from managing to washing dishes. But most recently, he worked on creating immersive photo studios for a living.

“I guess I just love creating spaces that bring people together,” Denchak said.

Denchak said the space they have created at One40 Social is something he has wanted to exist in Chapel Hill for a while: a casual but modern space with something for everyone.

Looking forward, Denchak is excited to host events like musical performances and stand-up shows and to share the space with the local community.

White Sauce Grill and Bar

In late May, White Sauce Grill and Bar opened its doors at 104 W. Franklin St., situated between Ben and Jerry’s and I Love New York Pizza.

White Sauce Grill is a fast-casual Mediterranean street food location inspired by the kind of street food and halal carts found in New York City, New Jersey and places in the Middle East.

Their menu is simple, but effective: chicken, gyro or falafal over rice, fries or pita with all the toppings including cabbage, tomatoes, cilantro and a white sauce or hot sauce.

White Sauce Grill started as a risk taken by two cousins, one a former IT manager and the other a longtime chef, who had run a successful vegan food truck. After the COVID-19 pandemic, the older cousin was struggling to find work, so the two decided to team up. Before opening, they spent six months working to perfect the recipes — especially the sauces and chicken.

“Everything is freshly marinated, cooked fresh on a daily basis,” one of the owners said.

In the future, White Sauce Bar



One40 Social sits off Franklin Street on Wednesday. The bar officially opened July 12.

and Grill aims to become a place people can hang out and enjoy good food, he said. They are in the process of getting their liquor license, he said, and plan to extend hours to catch the crowd aiming to grab a bite and enjoy a good atmosphere later in the evening when many places on Franklin Street are closed.

The Autostrada Pizza & Panini

Autostrada opened earlier in July in the Carr Mill Mall. It features various pizzas from Italian regions, offered at a fair price. The restaurant is modeled after classic Italian Autogrills and is unassuming, with mom-and-pop-esque booth seating and

tables, along with a customer-facing pizza oven.

Across the hall, there is a gelato and coffee shop: Autostrada Gelato and Coffee. Both joints are owned by Drew Moore, who also owns Venable and the B-Side Lounge.

X: @dthlifestyle

THEATER



DTH FILE/ABIGAIL PITTMAN

The Joan H. Gillings Center for Dramatic Art, pictured on March 17, 2021, houses the PlayMakers Repertory Company.

Preview: PlayMakers’ upcoming season

Shows will include knockout fights for equality, old-fashioned family drama comedy

By Cooper Hall
Staff Writer

As the fall semester draws near, the stage is set for the PlayMakers Repertory Company’s dynamic 2025-26 season. There are six primary productions and one special production in the lineup, with four of them in the fall and three in the spring. Here’s a look at what’s coming up this semester.

‘A Good Boy,’ Aug. 20-24

From Aug. 20-24, Hidden Voices’ world premiere of “A Good Boy” will be hosted in Kenan Theatre, with each showing followed by a facilitated conversation. The play spotlights the stories of men living on death row, the officers who work alongside them and their loving families. It was created from years of workshops with those on death row, conversations with families and trainings with correctional officers. The story is based in the fictional Crossroads Correctional, and is a full-length and intimate piece of musical theatre. It will be directed by Kathryn Hunter-Williams.

‘The Royale,’ Sept. 10-28

“The Royale,” created by Marco Ramirez, will open PlayMakers’ 2025-26 season. The play follows Jay Jackson, a Black boxer who aspires to become the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world. When Jackson gets the chance to match up against the reigning heavyweight champion, he’s not just fighting a famous white boxer — he’s fighting to be seen as an equal. The play enables its audience to understand the difficulty of forging a new path as a Black man in the Jim Crow era and the power in fighting against oppression. The play is based on the true story of Jack Johnson, a famous boxer from the Jim Crow era. Jackson beat a white opponent to become the first Black man to hold the Heavyweight Championship title of the world in 1908. “The Royale” premiered in 2013. “The Royale” will be directed by Vivienne Benesch and will run from Sept. 10-28.

‘The Wolves,’ Oct. 8-26

In October, Sarah DeLappe’s fierce drama, “The Wolves,” will take stage. “The Wolves” tells the story of a high school girl’s soccer team over the course of six Saturday mornings as they warm up before their games. The characters are not named, instead referred to only by their number, as the girls stretch and fall into conversation each week. Though told through the lens of sport, “The Wolves” examines not only athleticism, training and victory, but love, loss and identity, highlighting the true teenage experience. The play gives the audience a chance to grow up all over again, right alongside the players. This play was originally produced off-Broadway in 2016 and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 2017. “The Wolves” will be directed by Aubrey Snowden and run from Oct. 8-26.

‘You Can’t Take It With You,’ Nov. 19 to Dec. 7

To close off the first half of the 2025-26 season with a laugh, PlayMakers will present “You Can’t Take It With You” by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman. This play invites viewers into the hilarious life of the eccentric Sycamore family. Alice Sycamore is embarrassed of her family’s unconventional, whimsical way of life and their disregard for social norms. Alice falls in love with her boss, Tony, a proper man who is obsessed with money, and the two plan to marry. However, Alice and Tony’s families are complete opposites in politics, lifestyle, finance and manners, and Alice fears they will never accept each other. “You Can’t Take it With You” highlights the humorous clash between the two families while delivering a heartwarming message. This three-act show opened on Broadway in 1936, ran for 838 shows and has since returned five times. In 1937, the play won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. “You Can’t Take It With You” will be directed by Nathaniel Claridad and will be showing from Nov. 19 to Dec. 7.

X: @dthlifestyle

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CHAMPIONSHIP

Women’s lacrosse wins 4th national title

Humphrey sisters break records, propel team to undefeated season

By Brian D’Aguanno
Sports Editor

During UNC’s last national championship in 2022, Ashley Humphrey was in the stands watching her sister, Nicole Humphrey, help the Tar Heels to an undefeated season.

At that moment, Ashley Humphrey wanted one thing — the chance to compete for a national championship herself.

And on May 25, three years later, that opportunity came. With the same team she watched win from the stands and with her sisters Nicole and Chloe Humphrey by her side.

In North Carolina’s 12-8 win over Northwestern in the national championship May 25 at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Ma., the Humphrey sisters did what they had done all season — dominated. Ashley Humphrey recorded four assists, breaking the record for most assists in a single tournament run and setting the all-time single season assists record. Chloe Humphrey added four goals of her own, helping UNC complete their perfect season.

“When I entered the [transfer] portal when I was at Stanford, I had one goal in mind,” Ashley Humphrey said. “And we did it.”

While the moment watching the Tar Heels win in 2022 was the

motivation for Ashley Humphrey to compete for a national championship, Chloe Humphrey knew earlier.

After attending a lacrosse camp at UNC when she was in the sixth grade, Chloe Humphrey decided she was going to win a national championship for North Carolina.

“At the end of the day, this team, I could have never imagined being surrounded by these people winning a national championship,” Chloe Humphrey said. “I always wondered who I’d be alongside because I knew the goal one day would happen.”

This season, the accolades piled on for Chloe and Ashley Humphrey. The two sisters dominated the NCAA tournament.

In UNC’s second round game against Clemson, Chloe Humphrey broke the record for most goals by a first-year in NCAA history.

Against Princeton in the quarterfinals, Ashley Humphrey became the all-time leader in career assists.

On May 23, facing Florida in the semifinals, Chloe Humphrey scored a career-high seven goals and passed UNC legend Jamie Ortega for the most goals in a single season in North Carolina program history.

And in the national championship May 25, three years after she watched Nicole Humphrey win one, Ashley Humphrey set the mark for most assists in a single tournament run and broke her own record for most assists in a single season in the history of the NCAA.



DTH/SOPHIA GRAY

The UNC women’s lacrosse team poses with the trophy after winning the national championship May 25.

But when asked about these records and accolades, both Chloe and Ashley Humphrey would deflect the praise. It wasn’t about them or their individual accomplishments, but rather about those who helped put them in the best position to succeed.

“Being surrounded by great players, especially at a place like Carolina has been a dream come true,” Ashley Humphrey said following her

record-breaking performance in the quarterfinals against Princeton.

The journey didn’t come easy for the Humphrey sisters, though.

Chloe Humphrey was forced to redshirt her first-year at UNC in 2024, while Ashley Humphrey dealt with an injury to end last season.

“I think for [Chloe Humphrey], just knowing that once she took care of her injury that she would have to rehab,

but then sharpen up everything else as well and be able to play and be game ready,” Ashley Humphrey said.

And Chloe Humphrey did, becoming more than just game ready, but a game wrecker.

Both battled back to deliver historic seasons, culminating in a national championship.

X: @dthsports

PREVIEW

Women’s soccer looks to build off last season

After losing five of its 11 starters, the team has retooled

By Tess Alongi
Staff Writer

Coming off the program’s 23rd national championship last fall, the UNC women’s soccer team is entering the 2025 season with a familiar goal: win it again.

The team faces key roster changes, but North Carolina is no stranger to change.

Last year, the team endured significant roster turnover, losing 21 players to the transfer portal and professional leagues, followed by the retirement of legendary head coach Anson Dorrance just before the season began. Even so, with the help of impactful first-year players and transfers, the team posted a 22-5 record and ultimately won the national title.

The Tar Heels will need to channel last year’s mindset as they face new changes, including the loss of several key players from their championship run.

Five out of the 11 starters from the national championship game signed professional contracts, including standout goalkeeper Claire Gagne, who was named the NCAA College Cup Most Outstanding Defensive Player and named to the All-Tournament team before signing with the Kansas City Current.

UNC lost ACC All-Tournament team forward Maddie Dahlien, now with the Seattle Reign FC, and first-year standout Trinity Armstrong who signed with the San Diego Wave FC.

“They were really great players,” sophomore midfielder



DTH DESIGN/GRACE DAVIDSON

Photos courtesy of Olivia Paul and Anna Connors.

Linda Ullmark said. “I love them, I miss them a lot, but I think there’s always new people coming in, and I think we have a lot of good players that can step up and fill the role.”

The Tar Heels will welcome 11 new players to the team for the

that she set and what needs to be reached,” midfielder Tessa Dellarose said. “I think all of them are on the exact same level as her. So I think it’s going to be a pretty smooth transition.”

Alongside the new transfers, the seven incoming first-years will play

“I love them, I miss them a lot, but I think there’s always new people coming in, and I think we have a lot of good players that can step up and fill the role.”

Linda Ullmark

UNC women’s soccer sophomore midfielder

upcoming season, including four transfers and seven first-years.

Among those new players are two goalkeepers: Lyia Brooks, a transfer from Washington State and Emilie Maihs, a transfer from Otero College. Both will look to compete for the starting spot next season.

“I think everyone who has ever watched Claire knows the standard

a crucial role on this year’s team — especially standout Bella Devey.

Devey, who was named the 2025 MVP of the TST 7v7 tournament, made waves playing for the U.S. Women alongside current Tar Heels Dellarose and forwards Kate Faasse and forward Olivia Thomas.

“I think people can come in and get scared and timid when you’re

a freshman — I mean, I did,” Faasse said. “She came in and she just killed it for us. She was scoring goals, assisting left and right in our spring games, and I’m excited to see her grow and fill those shoes because I know she can.”

As for the returners from last season’s national championship team, Faasse, the 2024 MAC Hermann Trophy award winner, is one of many key players who will once again wear a North Carolina jersey in the fall.

Former College Cup All-Tournament team and Offensive MVP, Thomas will also return for her junior season. Dellarose, who was named to the Top Drawer Soccer Best XI second team, and Ullmark who was selected to the Top Drawer Freshman Best XI first team, are also coming back for another year with the Tar Heels.

“We did lose a lot of key players, but we also kept a lot of key players, and I’m so excited to play with them again,” Ullmark said.

With a mix of veteran leadership and new talent, the Tar Heels’ focus is on the upcoming season. And their goal is clear.

“I’m just going into this next season just wanting, obviously, another national championship,” Faasse said.

X: @dthsports

Steve Newmark named AD successor

Continued from Page 1

be a “forward-looking position” in which he will report to Chancellor Lee Roberts, according to the press release. It said the new position will allow Cunningham to focus on “transformational University projects” that will carry the University and its athletic programs into a new future.

“I appreciate the opportunity to extend my contract and enhance my role in a way that will allow me to continue to support our outstanding student-athletes, coaches and staff as we transition and navigate the changing athletics landscape,” Cunningham said in the press release. “I am excited for the future.”

Cunningham has been the director of athletics since 2011, and UNC has won 24 national championships over the course of his tenure.

The successor set to take Cunningham’s place is NASCAR leader Steve Newmark.

Newmark will begin serving as executive associate athletic director on August 15. Then when Cunningham changes roles in 2026, Newmark will take over as the director of athletics.

According to the press release, Newmark has vast experience dealing with athletic business items like sponsorships, marketing and contract negotiations. He previously served on an advisory committee that helped in the hiring of current UNC football head coach Bill Belichick.

X: @dthsports

OBITUARY

UNC basketball ‘founding father’ Bill Chamberlain dies at 75

He was the second Black basketball player under head coach Dean Smith

By Emily Gessner
Summer Editor

Former UNC men’s basketball forward William “Bill” Chamberlain died July 13. He was 75 years old.

After graduating from Long Island Lutheran High School in New York in 1968 as an All-American basketball player, Chamberlain received more than 100 scholarship offers — but he ultimately chose to attend UNC, entering the Tar Heel program under head coach Dean Smith in 1969.

Chamberlain was the second Black basketball player in UNC program history, following Charlie Scott as the first in 1967.

Phil Ford, former UNC basketball player and assistant coach, called Chamberlain one of the “founding fathers” of North Carolina basketball, especially in the days under coach Smith.

“In those days, I’m sure it wasn’t always easy, being an African American playing in the ACC at that time,” Ford said. “And, the things that they had to go through, and to still be brave on the basketball court and in the classroom and in the community — says a lot for their character.”

During his three seasons at UNC, Chamberlain played a total of 77 games, averaging 12.4 points per game.

Chamberlain’s time at UNC led to recognition as MVP for his play in the NIT championship game in

1971, an ACC championship and an NCAA Final Four run in 1972 and All-ACC honors.

His jersey hangs in the rafters of the Dean E. Smith Center as an honored player.

After his time at North Carolina, Chamberlain played in the American Basketball Association, a short-lived rival league to the NBA, for the Memphis Tams and Kentucky Colonels in 1972-73. He then moved to the NBA in 1973-74 to play for the Phoenix Suns. He averaged 13.2 minutes per game and 5.3 points per game across both seasons.

His professional basketball experience was cut short because of a back injury, and Chamberlain moved on to pursue a career in social justice. He worked for various departments under the State of North Carolina, including the Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office and the N.C. Department of Justice.

Chamberlain retired in 2019.

Despite leaving UNC in the ‘70s, Chamberlain retained his love of basketball and of the Tar Heels. He continued to support the UNC basketball program and mentored later players, cheering them on like they were his little brothers, Ford said. He even coached for Laurinburg Institute and Scotland County Schools from 1994-2001.

“He was just one of those guys that supported Carolina not only while he was here, but even after he left,” Ford said. “He was a true Carolina fan, and, just like so many of us, he bled Carolina Blue.”

X: @dthsports

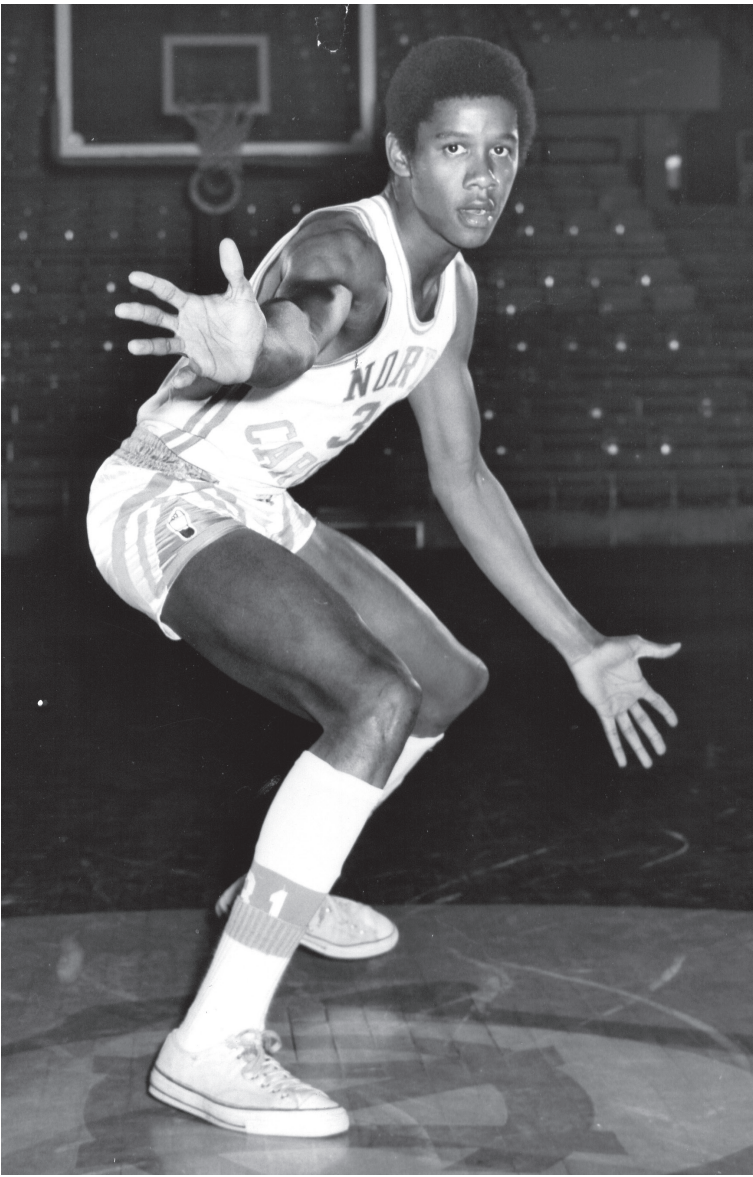


PHOTO COURTESY OF UNC ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS
Bill Chamberlain played basketball for UNC from 1969–1972.

BRIEFS

Drake Powell drafted to Brooklyn Nets

Former UNC forward Drake Powell was selected with the 22nd pick by the Brooklyn Nets in the 2025 NBA Draft on June 25.

Powell averaged 7.4 points per game on 37.9 percent from beyond-the-arc. He started in 24 of UNC’s 37 games last year, averaging over 25 minutes. The North Carolina native was a former five-star recruit in the class of 2024.

— Brian D’Aguanno, Sports Editor

RJ Davis signs contract with LA Lakers

After going undrafted through both rounds of the 2025 NBA Draft, former UNC men’s basketball guard RJ Davis signed an Exhibit 10 contract with the Los Angeles Lakers, according to ESPN’s Dave McMenamin.

Last season with North Carolina, Davis averaged 17.2 points per game and 3.6 assists while shooting 35.4 percent from 3-point range.

— Brian D’Aguanno, Sports Editor

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BASEBALL

Diamond Heels drafted to MLB

Tar Heels were picked by the Cubs, the Rays and the Mariners

By Brian D'Aguanno
Sports Editor

Four Diamond Heels were drafted during the 2025 MLB Draft that spanned July 13-14. Here is a recap of each player drafted:

Luke Stevenson

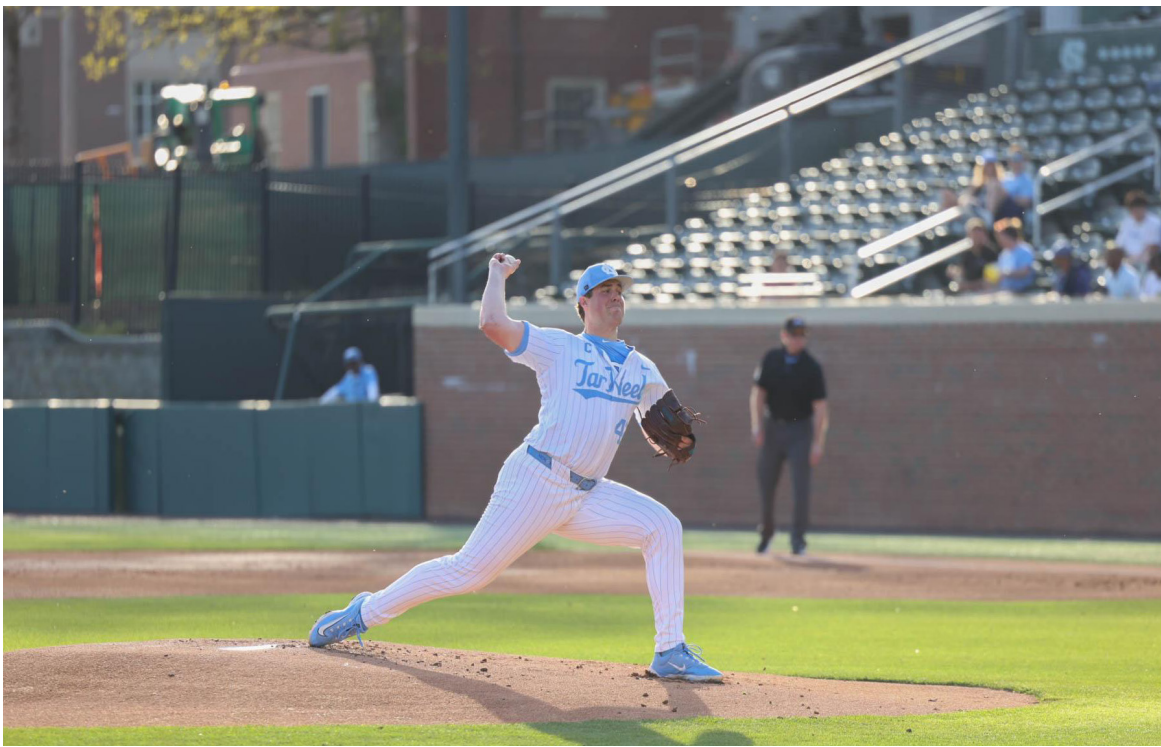
The sophomore catcher was the first Tar Heel off the board after being taken with the 35th pick by the Seattle Mariners in the first round. Stevenson's selection marks the second straight year with a first round draft pick for North Carolina, following Vance Honeycutt going 22nd to the Baltimore Orioles in the 2024 MLB Draft. The pick also marks UNC's 26th first round pick in program history.

In 2025, Stevenson started every game for North Carolina and was one of 13 semifinalists for the Buster Posey Award, which is given to the best catcher in Division I college baseball annually. Stevenson finished with career batting splits of .267/.417/.543 in his two seasons with North Carolina.

Kane Kepley

The junior outfielder was selected with the 56th pick by the Chicago Cubs in the second round July 13. Kepley was the second Tar Heel taken on Day 1 of the draft, joining Stevenson.

After transferring from Liberty to UNC, the speedy center fielder immediately made his presence known on the base paths last



DTH/SIONA NAIK

UNC right-handed pitcher Jake Knapp (42) pitches during the baseball game against Miami on March 28.

season, racking up 45 steals which ranked fourth in the country. At the plate, Kepley assumed the leadoff hitter role for the Diamond Heels and was named to the Chapel Hill Regional All-Tournament team.

Aidan Haugh

Haugh was drafted with the 177th overall pick by the Tampa Bay Rays in the sixth round July 14. This comes one year after Haugh opted to return to North Carolina for his senior season after being drafted in the 16th round during the 2024 MLB Draft.

This season, Haugh started 14 games, going 5-4 while recording a 3.72 ERA in 75 innings pitched.

Haugh's ERA ranked 10th best in the ACC last year and improved from 4.83 in 2024. The senior pitcher recorded 85 strikeouts in 2025, the 11th most in the conference.

The decision to return for another season paid off for Haugh after getting drafted 10 rounds higher than last year.

Jake Knapp

The graduate pitcher was selected with the 241st pick in the eighth round by the Chicago Cubs, joining Kepley in the Windy City. Knapp returned to the mound after missing all of 2024 due to an injury. And his comeback was special.

Knapp was named the National Pitcher of the Year by the College Baseball Foundation after finishing the season with a 2.02 ERA, the fourth best mark in the country. In 2025, Knapp went 14-0 in 15 starts, leading the nation in wins while also tossing 88 strikeouts. The 14 wins match a UNC record for a single season.

Capping off one of the best pitching seasons in program history, Knapp was named a consensus All-American. During the Chapel Hill Regional, Knapp tossed eight scoreless innings and struck out seven batters in a win over Holy Cross.

X: @dthsports

LINEUP

UNC baseball revamps roster with transfer portal additions

Six new players look to help the team next season

By Sophia Gray
Staff Writer

After a season-ending loss to Arizona in the Chapel Hill Super Regionals, UNC baseball head coach Scott Forbes and his staff wasted no time reloading the roster, turning to the transfer portal to bring in six new players.

The transfers will look to replace the production lost from the departure of six starters from last season's lineup.

Leading the way for North Carolina's 2025 portal group is Georgia State catcher Colin Hynek. As a redshirt junior, the Georgia native enters the conversation as a potential replacement for catcher Luke Stevenson, who was a first-round pick in the 2025 MLB Draft. Hynek batted .230 last year with the Panthers, including 18 home runs, leading the team. In three seasons with Georgia State, Hynek recorded a .979 fielding percentage.

The next transfer to watch for is Erik Paulsen. As an infielder from Stony Brook, Paulsen is a two-way threat who started 49 games for the Seawolves last year. Paulsen will look to fill the open first basemen spot following the departure of first baseman Hunter Stokely. In the 2025 season, Paulsen hit .358 with 17 doubles and nine home runs. On the defensive side, the New York native was named the CAA Defensive Player of the Year after recording only two errors last season.

Another addition to the upcoming roster is former Tobacco Road rival Macon Winslow, who served as Duke's primary catcher in 2025.



DTH/MCKENZIE BULRIS

UNC head coach Scott Forbes (21) watches the infield during the game against Holy Cross on May 30.

Winslow finished the season with a slugging percentage of .490, knocking in 48 RBIs as well. After starting 96 of his 100 games in Durham, Winslow is looking to fill a gap behind the plate for the Tar Heels. Out of high school, Winslow was ranked the No. 1 catcher in North Carolina, over Stevenson who was the No. 2 catcher, and top six in the country. Winslow will battle Hynek for the starting catcher role.

With the loss of outfielders Kane Kepley to the 2025 MLB Draft and Tyson Bass due to eligibility, the Tar Heels picked up their second transfer from Georgia State, redshirt junior Michael Maginnis. So far in his collegiate career, Maginnis

has tallied 24 career home runs, while batting .291 with 107 RBIs. Maginnis is also a threat on the base paths, racking up 40 steals in three seasons with Georgia State, which is the seventh most in program history.

The last two transfers are Owen Hull from George Mason and Jake Schaffner from North Dakota State.

With the loss of Alex Madera, the Diamond Heels are looking to fortify the infield unit with the addition of Schaffner. The shortstop won the Summit League Defensive Player of the Year, along with tallying 18 stolen bases in the 2025 season. At the plate, Schaffner posted a career batting average of .353 and on-base percentage of .435 with the Bison.

Hull could be the spark North Carolina needs to make a return trip to Omaha next season. The George Mason transfer put up a .367 batting average last year, driving in 63 runs over 61 games. With that production, Hull is a strong candidate to take over as the Diamond Heels' designated hitter next year.

With the addition of proven veterans through the transfer portal, the Tar Heels enter the 2026 season with revamped roster. As North Carolina aims for a third straight deep postseason run, the transfers will look to play a key role.

X: @dthsports

NCAA

UNC opts into House settlement

Ruling allows University to begin revenue sharing with athletes

By Brian D'Aguanno
Sports Editor

On July 1, UNC began the process of directly paying student-athletes.

This comes after the University opted into the ruling from House v. NCAA, also known as the House settlement.

The landscape-changing court case was first filed in 2020 by former collegiate swimmer Grant House, who sued the NCAA for rules that prevented athletes from benefiting from their own name, image and likeness.

U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of California Claudia Wilken made the settlement ruling on June 6, paving the way for schools to participate in revenue sharing with athletes.

Under the ruling, the NCAA will have to retroactively pay out around \$2.7 billion to student-athletes that played between 2016 and 2024 over the next 10 years.

On June 23, director of athletics Bubba Cunningham released a statement announcing that UNC would be opting into the settlement.

By opting in, UNC will distribute the full \$20.5 million directly to student-athletes during the 2025-26 year — the highest amount of money schools can distribute this year. A majority of the money will be given to football and men's basketball, the two highest revenue-generating sports, with baseball and women's basketball also receiving a portion.

It is unclear how much, if any, of the new allotted funding will go toward athletes in other sports.

The amount of revenue that schools can share with athletes is capped at 22 percent of the average yearly revenue that Power Five schools generate. This year, that figure is set at \$20.5 million and every year it will grow by four percent.

Additionally, there will be no scholarship limits to all Division I schools that opt in, but roster caps will still be in place. This means that every player on athletic rosters at UNC will be eligible to receive a scholarship.

According to the statement from Cunningham, the total scholarship number will jump from 338 to 532 — a 57 percent increase, marking one of the biggest changes stemming from the settlement.

"The ability to have more Tar Heels on full scholarship will greatly strengthen our athletics program and the student-athlete experience at Carolina," Cunningham wrote. "This is a great opportunity to support additional student-athletes financially, outside of revenue share, and we want to keep building our Rams Club Scholarship Endowment in the hope of increasing scholarships even more in the future."

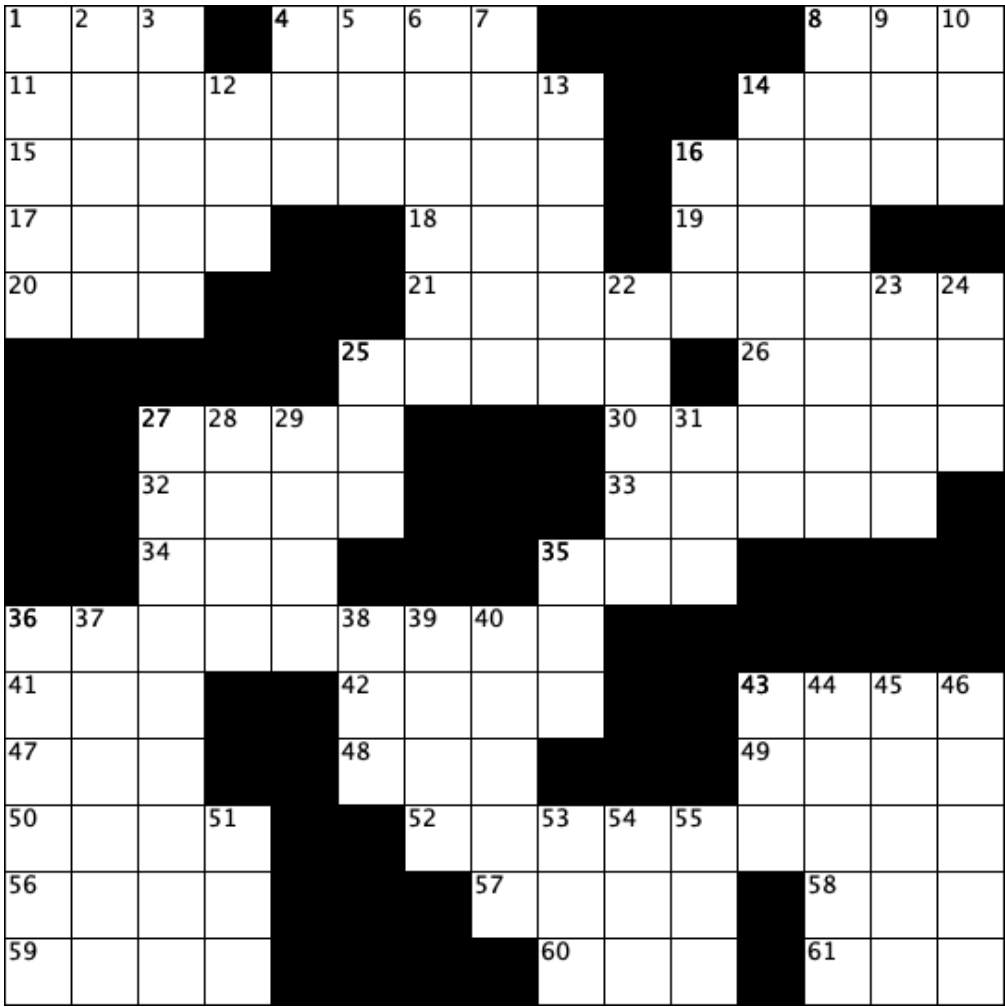
The added expense of revenue sharing, combined with increased football spending, will contribute to around a \$30 million increase to last year's \$150 million budget.

"It remains to be seen how this new economic model will impact the future of intercollegiate athletics," Cunningham wrote in the June 23 statement. "We do know that as we continue to evolve, Carolina remains committed to providing outstanding experiences and broad-based programming as we share revenue with teams and student-athletes who earn it."

X: @dthsports

“What you missed”

This crossword was created by summer Lifestyle Editor Michael Melton. Michael graduated from UNC in May with a Bachelor of Science in psychology. He is originally from Shelby, N.C.



For the answers, check the classifieds page of our first print edition of the 2025-26 school year, which will hit Blue Boxes on Wednesday, Aug. 20.

- Across**

 - Otherwise called, abbr.
 - Prefix relating to flight
 - A gp. often with humanitarian objectives
 - Clause that sneaks up on you?
 - Popular source of luxury fur
 - An organized order of events
 - 2015 film starring Will Smith and Margot Robbie
 - Cease work or movement in order to relax
 - That’s funny, in text lingo
 - Large member of the deer family
 - Form of address similar to “bro” in Mexico
 - Korean martial art
 - Spanish midfielder, familiarly
 - Follow
 - What the Titanic did
 - Ominously hovered, as a dark cloud
 - Greek god of love
 - Tenth month of the Hebrew calendar
 - Neither a win or loss, on the books
 - Company concern for environment and society, abbr.
 - Welcome back to UNC, and back to these?
 - Belonging to a castrated bovine
 - Winter clothing layer
 - Order specification for extra mixer, at a bar
 - Local government branch in charge of sanitation
 - Superlative suffix
 - _____ 51
 - Wellness and lifestyle brand founded by Gwyneth Paltrow
 - Hidden treat in a directors cut?
 - Someone _____ on the side of caution
 - Greenish-bluish color
 - Pigeon noise
 - Swelter, simmer
 - Money machine, abbr.
 - Animal of the horse family, or a foolish person
- Down**

 - Up in flames
 - Toys regularly flown on the beach
 - Asian spice with a star
 - Chimpanzee or gorilla, e.g.
 - Be mistaken or incorrect
 - Famously photographed bridge crossing the Grand Canal in Venice
 - Willie Nelson’s “I cant wait to get _____ again,” minus the article
 - A familiar title given to a person
 - Another name for wildebeest
 - Gives the go-ahead
 - Ancient tree-like being, created by Tolkien
 - UNC basketball legend Hansbrough
 - _____ cocktail, breakable container filled with flammable liquid
 - Little
 - Dress-like garments worn by Scottish men
 - Restrict oneself to lose weight
 - Not young
 - Alt. rock band formed in Boone, N.C.
 - Unload from a ship to the shore
 - Dry, as a climate
 - Christmas, in carols
 - Poetic over
 - Iowa time zone
 - Avoids
 - Outward-bound item
 - Jewelry, slangily
 - Facial feature with nostrils
 - Dine in
 - HEELS!
 - Type of palm tree with a chewable nut
 - Danish toy bricks
 - Largest city in Nigeria
 - Region including CA, AZ, HI, UT, NV
 - Hemingway novel, The Old Man and the _____
 - Tit for _____
 - Street in a horror classic

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COLUMN

Distance really does make the heart grow fonder

By Marina Messura
Copy Chief

Chapel Hill never felt like home to me. It feels wrong to admit that, given I was born and raised here — but it’s true.

I wasn’t excited to enroll at UNC. I worried that I was picking a school too close to home and too familiar, a place that wasn’t going to give me the novel college experience I so hoped for.

How sorely mistaken I was.

I’m about to start my senior year here at UNC. Over the past three years, I’ve discovered and fallen in love with so much. The food at Mediterranean Deli. My cherished study spots, like the Germanic and Slavic languages and literatures department’s reading room. The boba shops on Franklin Street I frequent with my friends far too often. Everything about this place feels like home now.

This is a feeling I’m also discovering within the walls of The Daily Tar Heel.

Much like my indifference toward coming to UNC, all I felt was a numbness when I left The DTH’s office, for what I thought was the last time, in spring 2024. I was tired, burnt out and disillusioned. I no longer had a love for journalism, nor the newsroom, and I never saw myself coming back.



DTH/ALLI PARDUE
Marina Messura smiles while overlooking a rainbow at The Daily Tar Heel office July 14.

So, a year later, I’d surprised everyone — including myself — with a plan to come back to The DTH for summer 2025.

Now that I’m back, I have a renewed sense of appreciation for it all. I’ve spent the last three months editing to my heart’s content and laughing until I’m sore every day in the office. All I

feel for this place now is gratitude and fondness.

And maybe it’s the summer heat or too much office candy, or perhaps one too many trips to The DTH’s rooftop. But this place, where I’ve debated grammar structures and style rules that most people would roll their eyes at; where I’ve spent countless nights locking up

the office and leaving well past midnight; and where I’ve had the privilege of witnessing some of the most hardworking people I’ve ever met. This is a place that feels like home now.

I don’t think I’ve ever fully understood the meaning of the word “home” until recently, and perhaps I still don’t. But as of right now, I’d ascribe to it a feeling of longing for a place, wishing to be there and loving when you are.

I always come to work early. Part of that is just me being anxiously punctual, but it’s also due in part to how excited I am to come in. I look forward to seeing my coworkers’ faces light up as I bring in another bag of candy, solving the daily crossword with them and working on print papers, scrutinizing over kerning and grammar.

I’ve learned over the past several years that the further I get from Chapel Hill, the more I want to return. I’ve come to love the brick paths and campus foliage, the buildings with so many unique nooks to spend hours tucked away in and the friends and community I’ve found in this treasured place.

I feel the same way now for The Daily Tar Heel.

The thought of my summer here coming to an end saddens me in a way I never thought it would. And maybe, as I stick around the newsroom for my last year at UNC, it’ll burn me out and cause me to fall out of love with journalism again. But I hope it doesn’t. I hope I don’t ever forget the excitement I feel walking up the steps and into the office, into a newsroom of people who all care so deeply about what they do that it keeps this 132-year-old paper alive.

As I look back on my apprehension at coming to UNC, I wish I could tell myself to trust this place. Knowing now how many communities I’ve found here, how many professors I’m indebted to and how many friends I’ve discovered in unlikely places, I realize Chapel Hill, and The Daily Tar Heel, has always been a home to me — even if it took some distance to realize it.

“The thought of my summer here coming to an end saddens me in a way I never thought it would.”

Marina Messura
Summer 2025 Copy Chief

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