

Arts/Culture:

The new record from Chessa Rich is all about dreams - specifically hers, but maybe some of yours, too. Rich says she's been a vivid and frequent dreamer her whole life and says it can be a portal to creativity. But she also lived with an undiagnosed sleeping disorder for years which made dreaming challenging.

Deeper Sleeper is out today and Chessa is here to talk about it.
INTERVIEW, ME, 04/07/2023

Writer Daniel Wallace didn't always know he was going to tell stories. But early in life, he met someone who became a hero and something of a role model. William Nealy was a cartoonist, mountain climber, a chronicler of rivers, a fossil hunter, snake keeper, private eye, a writer and much more. He would also go on to marry Wallace's sister and eventually commit suicide at the age of 48.

INTERVIEW, ME, 04/14/2023

The Durham singing-stepping group known as The Lover Boyz is performing at The Pinhook this Sunday. Some of the members have been singing for more than 30 years. They stopped by the studio recently to give us a little taste of what it will sound like when they take the stage. I'll let them introduce themselves:

INTERVIEW, ME 06/02/2023

Dawn Richard is charting her own course. The New Orleans native is an animator for Adult Swim, the owner-operator of a vegan pop-up food truck, and a martial arts expert. But she's also known for songs like this: (Bussifame)

INTERVIEW, ME, 6/9/2023

Asheville based band Wednesday is about to explode. That's according to NPR Music, Pitchfork, Rolling Stone and loads of other publications and websites scrambling for ways to describe what happens when a wall of guitars collides with a distorted pedal steel. I'll let you decide: (clip)

INTERVIEW, ME, 6/16/2023

Jobi Riccio grew up in Colorado outside of Denver in the shadow of the iconic Red Rocks Amphitheater. She was in love with country music when she headed east to attend college. Riccio's songs center on the heartbreak and challenges of becoming a

young adult, escaping suburbia and addressing her own queerness. Riccio lives in Nashville now and you can hear some of that in the songs on Whiplash her debut record. Eric Hodge caught up with Jobi earlier this month.

INTERVIEW, ME, 06/23/2023

Agriculture:

Crime/Law Enforcement:

A private school southeast of Raleigh that took in more public scholarships than it had students has been forced to refund money. A state agency has turned the case over to the State Bureau of Investigation. Discrepancies related to the North Carolina's Opportunity Scholarship program were recently flagged in a report by the North Carolina Justice Center. WFAE's Ann Doss Helms reports.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/27/2023

Economy:

Education:

The North Carolina Teaching Fellows is a scholarship program for aspiring teachers with a long and politically charged history. Since it began in 1987, more than 5-thousand fellows have taught in North Carolina schools. Many are still in classrooms or leadership positions. Citing costs and wanting to focus on other recruitment strategies, the Republican-led General Assembly ended the Teaching Fellows program in 2011.

They brought back a much smaller version in 2017. And as Liz Schlemmer reports, the program's recent return to HBCUs - is welcome, and a hopeful sign...

FEATURE, ATC, 04/05/2023

A group of UNC-Chapel Hill law students walked out of class in protest yesterday. They say university officials have banned a classmate from attending class in-person after being arrested at

a protest in Georgia last month. Police and environmental activists in Atlanta clashed over the construction of a police training center protesters call "Cop City." 23 people were charged with domestic terrorism for allegedly throwing Molotov cocktails and rocks at police at the construction site. One of those charged was UNC law student Jamie Marsicano.

FEATURE, ME, 04/14/2023

This is Morning Edition. In North Carolina, state funding for school employee salaries hasn't kept up with the soaring cost-of-living in growing cities.

Urban school districts are struggling to keep their employees from leaving for higher paying jobs. Liz Schlemmer reports that puts more pressure on local officials to pitch in to keep schools staffed.

FEATURE, ATC, 05/24/2023

The U-S Supreme Court is expected to release an opinion any day now in a case involving UNC Chapel Hill's treatment of race in college admissions. Legal scholars anticipate the decision could limit affirmative action policies at colleges nationwide. Andrew Brennen graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2019. While he was a student, he was a party in the case. He and several other students of color from UNC were permitted to provide testimony on the value of a diverse campus. He joins Liz Schlemmer to talk about the experience.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/21/2023

The U-S Supreme Court's decision to strike down UNC-Chapel Hill's ability to consider race as a factor in admissions has drawn reaction from across the country. Liz Schlemmer has more on what UNC students think of the ruling.

FEATURE, ME, 06/30/2023

Environment:

Climate change is contributing to a nationwide increase in the number of days with weather conditions that make wildfires more likely and more intense, including in parts of North Carolina. W-F-A-E's David Boraks has more.

FEATURE, ATC, 05/26/2023

Old growth trees in the Pisgah-Nantahala National Forests are hugely significant for several ecological reasons. Some environmental advocates say these trees in western North Carolina are not protected enough under a new federal land management plan. WUNC's environment reporter Celeste Gracia traveled to Asheville to hear from advocates.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/15/2023

Environmental groups are sounding the alarm about a bill moving in the state Senate. They say it could lead to more water pollution and make it easier to build new natural gas pipelines and hog farms. WUNC's Capitol Bureau Chief Colin Campbell has details.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/21/2023

Greensboro/Triad:

Health:

State lawmakers are considering legalizing medical marijuana this year. But a bipartisan group of legislators want to look at another type of drug that could be used in medical treatments.

FEATURE, ME, 04/18/2023

State Treasurer Dale Folwell is calling on North Carolina lawmakers to pass new consumer protections addressing medical debt collections.

FEATURE, ME, 04/20/2023

A couple of bills under consideration at the General Assembly this year could dramatically loosen regulations for two of North Carolina's largest health care institutions. One is Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina and the other is UNC Health. Joining me to unpack these bills is WUNC health reporter Jason deBruyn.

INTERVIEW, ME, 05/22/2023

Scientists at U-N-C Chapel Hill are helping develop what could be a more effective way to diagnose and treat brain cancer. Researchers are growing human cancer cells on slices of rat brains that are being kept alive artificially. They then use a

variety of drugs on the tumor to determine which ones are most effective.

Andrew Satterlee [SAT-er-lee] of U-N-C's School of Pharmacy was successfully treated for brain cancer 16 years ago. He's now a cancer researcher and one of the co-authors of a recent paper about this method of testing.

INTERVIEW, ME, 05/31/2023

In the early 90s, Carver Creek apartments in north Durham were built for low-income residents 55 and older. But the protective covenant that preserves this property as affordable housing expires at the end of this year. That means a developer could buy it and raise the rents. But leaders in the city and county of Durham are considering a proposal to keep it affordable and expand it into a supportive housing campus for people transitioning out of homelessness. The idea is to provide services like substance abuse treatment as well as mental and physical health care on site. The non-profit that leads street outreach efforts for both the city and county is Housing for New Hope. Will Michaels spoke with the group's executive director, Russell Pierce, about affordable housing in Durham and why he thinks a supportive housing campus could work for Carver Creek.

INTERVIEW, ATC, 06/19/2023

Counties are starting to get their first payments from the more than \$50 billion dollar windfall secured from drug manufacturers and pharmacies for their role in the opioid epidemic. A public radio collaborative investigated what programs are being funded. WUNC's Jason deBruyn reports.

FEATURE, ME, 06/27/2023

Military:

A committee appointed by the Pentagon to reduce military suicides wants to make it harder for troops to keep personal firearms on base. But while military leaders have embraced some of the group's other suicide-prevention ideas, such as increasing mental health care, they have not committed to the gun rules.

FEATURE, ME, 04/03/2023

The Navy has begun opening mental health clinics close to the ships and piers where sailors serve. The initiative is part of

an effort to prevent suicides and other mental health challenges, such as dealing with stress and adjusting to military life.

FEATURE, ATC, 04/25/2023

A new federal law will make it easier for military spouses to transfer their professional licenses when they move from one state to another. The law's backers say it will cut red tape so spouses can continue their careers without interruption. But it's not clear yet exactly how the law will work, or how states will comply.

Desiree Diorio (Dee OREO) reports for WUNC's American Homefront Project.

FEATURE, ATC, 05/02/2023

A large share of the money the Pentagon pays to military contractors goes to giant corporations like Boeing, Raytheon, and Northrop Grumman. But the military wants to get more small businesses in that mix, too - a goal that can be challenging both for the Pentagon and the businesses themselves.

Eric Schmid reports for WUNC's American Homefront Project.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/01/2023

In addition to battlefield tactics and military history, the Army's future leaders at West Point are learning about climate change.

Under a new initiative, cadets at the military academy are trying to help the Defense Department solve climate challenges that could affect national security.

Desiree D'iorio [Dee OREO] reports for WUNC's American Homefront Project.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/07/2023

The Biden Administration says it will allow tens of thousands of Afghans to remain in the United States. They were people who helped American troops or advanced Western interests during the Afghanistan war. They were allowed to come to the U-S two years ago under a temporary program that's scheduled to expire this summer.

But as Carson Frame reports for WUNC's American Homefront Project, extending the program is creating some challenges.

FEATURE, ME, 06/13/2023

Politics/Government:

A bipartisan group of state lawmakers wants to address an aspect of domestic violence that few people think of: The financial debt that victims are stuck with long after they leave an abusive relationship.

FEATURE, ME, 04/05/2023

Democrats and voting rights advocates are gearing up for a fight over North Carolina election law. The state legislature's Republican majority wants to eliminate a grace period for counting mail-in ballots. Rusty Jacobs reports.

FEATURE, ME, 04/05/2023

Protesters rallied in support of a trans lawmaker after she was barred from speaking following her controversial comments on trans-related legislation, seven were arrested inside House chambers.

FEATURE, ATC, 04/25/2023

A 100-million-dollar project to overhaul North Carolina's court filing system continues to frustrate attorneys in four pilot counties where "e-Courts" went live in February. Rusty Jacobs has more.

FEATURE, ME, 05/17/2023

A Duke University study shows residents are uncomfortable about the increasing number of smart technology devices being deployed in urban areas. W-F-D-D's Neal Charnoff reports.

FEATURE, ATC, 05/23/2023

More than a billion dollars in the state Senate's proposed budget would go to a single organization. WUNC's Colin Campbell explains

FEATURE, ME, 05/23/2023

The Pentagon this month [May] has begun to implement a new law designed to reduce suicide in the ranks. It's called "The Brandon Act" - named after a Navy sailor who died by suicide in 2018. It allows service members to go outside their chain of command to seek confidential mental health treatment.

Steve Walsh reports for WUNC's American Homefront Project.

FEATURE, ME, 05/23/2023

A group of elected officials and state employees want the legislature to give state workers higher raises as nearly a quarter of state positions remain vacant.

Ardis [ARR-diss] Watkins is the executive director of the State Employees Association of North Carolina. In a press conference today [Wednesday], Watkins said the worker shortage means dozens of services are being delayed.

FEATURE, ATC, 05/24/2023

State employees are calling for higher raises as the legislature finalizes the state budget for the next two years. Leaders of two state agencies and one lawmaker are also joining the effort, saying nearly 25-percent of state positions are currently vacant.

In a press conference Wednesday, the state's Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture David Smith said North Carolina's regulations on individual raises should also be more flexible to stay competitive with the private sector.

FEATURE, ME, 05/24/2023

The company behind an overhaul of North Carolina's court filing system now faces a federal class-action lawsuit. Rusty Jacobs reports.

FEATURE, ATC, 05/24/2023

Last week, workers gathered outside Pactiv Evergreen's Canton paper mill to hear one final blast from the steam whistle. After more than 115 years, the mill in the small Western North Carolina mountain town is shutting down. Smoky Mountain News Politics Editor Cory Vaillancourt reports for WUNC.

FEATURE, ATC, 05/30/2023

Possible changes to North Carolina election laws has voting rights advocates on edge. Rusty Jacobs has more.

FEATURE, ME, 06/01/2023

More than 4,000 child care facilities in North Carolina received grants that helped them stay open during the COVID-19 pandemic. With that money set to expire later this year, workers at some of those facilities worry about their future. Jason deBruyn reports.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/05/2023

Former President Trump was the headline speaker at this weekend's state Republican Convention in Greensboro - just a day

after a 37-count federal indictment against him was unsealed over his handling of classified information. W-F-A-E's Steve Harrison was there to see how the ex-president would address it - and whether his supporters are still with him.

FEATURE, ME, 06/12/2023

A commission gathered by Governor Roy Cooper released recommendations yesterday [Monday] to reform UNC System Governance. Liz Schlemmer reports.

FEATURE, ME, 06/13/2023

The decision by North Carolina lawmakers to expand Medicaid will come with a billion dollars of new federal funds for the state. But the House and Senate disagree on how to spend the money. WUNC's Capitol Bureau Chief Colin Campbell has details.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/14/2023

A string of recent State Supreme Court decisions and law changes proposed by the North Carolina General Assembly's Republican majority has elections officials scrambling to prepare for this year's municipal elections. But as Rusty Jacobs reports, inadequate funding from the legislature could make running secure and efficient elections in North Carolina much more challenging.

FEATURE, ME, 06/14/2023

Republican-backed bills to alter the rules governing North Carolina elections drew intense scrutiny and debate at the state legislature yesterday [WEDNESDAY]. Rusty Jacobs has more.

FEATURE, ME, 06/15/2023

While Republicans at the North Carolina General Assembly push for sweeping changes to the state's voting laws, North Carolina's top elections official testified before the State House Oversight and Reform Committee last week confronting questions about the voting system's integrity. Rusty Jacobs reports.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/27/2023

Race/Diversity:

Today is the first day of Hajj - the annual pilgrimage undertaken by Muslims from around the world to the city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia. In recent years, attendance has been

limited due to COVID restrictions. But this week Saudi officials are expecting a crowd of up to 2-point-6 million pilgrims, including some from North Carolina. For more about pilgrimages – and the history and meaning behind Hajj – we turn to a conversation from the WUNC podcast “Me and My Muslim Friends.” Dr. Youssef Carter is a professor at UNC-Chapel Hill who specializes in Religious Studies and Anthropology. He spoke with host Yasmin Bendaas

FEATURE, ME, 06/26/2023

Science/Technology:

Sports:

Transportation:

Weather:

Other:

Tucked away in the hills of Hillsborough, North Carolina is a warehouse full of some of the most stylish handcrafted Italian dinnerware in Italy or in North Carolina! It's shipped all over the country from this spot, and it's been that way for 40 years at Vietri (vee-ay-tree). Holli Draughn (drawn) is the president of Vietri (vee-ay-tree). And she says they're looking to expand because business is booming.

INTERVIEW, ATC, 04/07/2023

For almost 50 years you could count on something southern and savory to eat from Mama Dip's Kitchen in Chapel Hill. The late Mildred “Mama Dip” Council described herself in a book as born colored, growing up Negro, becoming a Black adult and then, an American. But Mama Dip's food dynasty is about to undergo some big changes. The restaurant and land around it is up for sale – the asking price – \$3.6 million dollars. Mama Dip has eight

children. The baby of the bunch is Spring Council. At 66-years-old, she has her mother's kind demeanor and her height, 6'2. I spoke with Spring to get some insight on the Big Sale and the future of Mama Dip's Kitchen.]

INTERVIEW, ATC, 04/17/2023

At many synagogues, a prayer for the state of Israel is said across the U.S. every sabbath. But with the Israeli government's recent actions, some American congregations are reconsidering it.

FEATURE, ATC, 04/25/2023