Arts/Culture:

Agriculture:

Crime/Law Enforcement:

About 1 in 5 people killed by police in the U-S were having a mental health crisis. Like other cities, Philadelphia is pairing police with social workers to respond to calls about people in crisis. *FEATURE, ATC, 11/13/2023*

It's been a year since shooting attacks on two Moore County electrical substations left thousands of residents without power for days in freezing weather. Investigators have made no arrests. But the effects still reverberate in the county ... and across the power industry. *FEATURE*, *ME*, 12/01/2023

Economy:

Education:

The next battle over affirmative action in higher education will take place at the U-S Military Academy at West Point. The same group that successfully challenged race-conscious admissions at U-N-C-Chapel Hill and Harvard now hopes to do the same at the academies that train the nation's future military leaders. *FEATURE*, *ATC*, 10/03/2023

Features and Interviews October - December 2023

Teacher turnover has been infamously high since the pandemic began. And in North Carolina, superintendent turnover is also hitting a high point. Across the state, brand new superintendents are taking on the job as top educator in their district. FEATURE, ME, 10/04/2023

Moving to a new school can be hard for any kid. Imagine how much harder it is for recent immigrants and refugees. To ease their transition, Guilford County Schools has operated a public school since 2008 designed to serve them. With rapid growth in immigration, Liz Schlemmer reports the district is opening a second school. *FEATURE*, *ATC*, 10/11/2023

Only four percent of universities in the United States hold an elite research designation called R-1. These schools tend to have big donors, state-of-the-art facilities and a substantial amount of research faculty. They also have another thing in common: all are historically white universities. Not one of the 146 R-1 schools is an HBCU. WUNC's Brianna Atkinson traveled to Greensboro to see how the nation's largest HBCU is working to change that.

FEATURE, ME, 10/25/2023

If you've ever been to a bar in a college town, you know it's not unusual to find that the person pouring your drinks also has a P-h-D. Lindsey Andrews was once that bartender. Now she's the proud owner of Night School Bar. It's a new business in Durham that serves up cocktails alongside college-level classes in art, film and literature. *FEATURE*, *ME*, 11/01/2023

At the end of a recent semester, North Carolina State University English professor Paul Fyfe told his students to cheat. Specifically, use the text-generating A-I software Chat G-P-T to help write their final essays. The rise of A-I software brings with it the prospect of making our lives easier. But could it also be unethical? Is it plagiarism? And could it chip away at our own creativity? *FEATURE*, *ME*, 11/06/2023

Features and Interviews October - December 2023

A divorce of sorts may be in the works for the Kinsey Institute when Indiana University trustees decide whether to partially sever the University's long-standing ties with the organization famous for its human sexuality research. Earlier state lawmakers voted to cut off public funds for Kinsey. *FEATURE*, *ATC*, 11/10/2023

For decades, North Carolina high schoolers have had to pass classes in English, math and science to get a diploma. Now, a new subject has been added to that list - computer science. *FEATURE*, *ATC*, 12/04/2023

For decades, North Carolina high schoolers have had to pass classes in English, math and science to get a diploma. Now, a new subject has been added to that list - computer science. *FEATURE*, *ME*, 12/05/2023

HOST INTRO: Facing budget shortfalls, many universities across the country are cutting academic departments and majors. Many of those cuts are targeted in the humanities and liberal arts... It happened most starkly at West Virginia University, where 28 majors and the entire world languages department was dropped. Now, the same forces could lead to cuts at U-N-C Greensboro... Brianna Atkinson reports. *FEATURE*, *ME*, 12/07/2023

Earlier this year, WUNC reported on an art teacher who lost her teaching license because she struggled to pass a licensing exam. Now, a policy that passed as part of the state budget in September offers a solution to keep teachers like her in classrooms. Liz Schlemmer reports. *FEATURE*, *ATC*, 12/14/2023

Features and Interviews October - December 2023

Environment:

The town of Badin (BAY-duhn) is an hour or so east of Charlotte. Recently, former employees of the Alcoa aluminum smelting plant organized a rally to draw awareness to what they say are the many environmental justice issues that linger there. *FEATURE*, *ME*, 10/23/2023

A year ago, during a Christmas Eve cold snap, a half-million electricity customers across the Carolinas had their power cut off for hours in a series of rolling blackouts. Could that happen again? W-F-A-E's David Boraks has an update. *FEATURE*, *ATC*, 12/22/23

Greensboro/Triad:

Health:

As the fight against the opioid epidemic continues, new medicines promise to help. But experts say old remedies shouldn't be forgotten. FEATURE, ATC, 10/09/2023

Young people in the U-S are increasingly overdosing on a highly potent drug that many don't realize they're taking. As WFAE's Nick de la Canal reports, the parents of one teenager who died this summer are pressing for more fentanyl awareness in schools and the community. *FEATURE*, *ME*, 10/30/2023

The U-N-C Hillsborough hospital is getting a 'makerspace.' These rooms can be seen across U-N-C-Chapel Hill's campus, filled with 3-D printers, sewing machines and power tools. While traditionally designed for students, this new one is meant to assist rehabilitation workers. *FEATURE*, *ATC*, 12/05/2023

Military:

The fighting in Ukraine has underscored how SMALL drones are changing the nature of warfare. In the U.S., the Pentagon is Before 2011, tens of thousands of people were forced out of the military due to their sexual orientation - many with so-called "bad paper" discharges. The Pentagon now says it will upgrade some of those discharges, but a lawsuit is insisting it do more. *FEATURE*, *ATC*, 10/10/2023

Survivors of a brush with death - especially if it happened in combat - sometimes mark the anniversary. WUNC's Jay Price knew Lieutenant Colonel Justin Constantine, whose "Alive Day" is tomorrow [Oct.18] FEATURE, ME, 10/24/2023

Last year, the U-S-S George Washington became a symbol of the Navy's long-standing issues with suicide. The carrier spent six years in the shipyard undergoing maintenance, during which time several crewmembers took their own lives. Now, the ship is heading back out to sea -- with a greater emphasis on mental health care. *FEATURE*, *ME*, 10/18/2023

Childcare is among the largest expenses faced by working families, including those in the armed services. But thousands of military parents are on wait lists, unable to enroll their kids in base childcare centers. The problem is both a lack of staff and a shortage of childcare facilities. While the Pentagon has made some progress addressing the issue, families can still wait years for a childcare opening. Andrew Dyer reports for WUNC's American Homefront Project. *FEATURE, ATC, 12/06/2023*

Features and Interviews October - December 2023

The Army is trying harder to find soldiers who fail to report for duty. A string of high-profile deaths and disappearances prompted the service to overhaul its policies on troops who go missing. But critics say the Army is still too likely to write off soldiers as AWOL - absent without leave - and stop looking for them. Carson Frame reports for WUNC's American Homefront Project. *FEATURE*, *ME*, 12/13/2023

Just over 80 years ago, the first all Black parachute battalion formed in the U-S Army. There is an exhibit about them at a museum on the nation's largest Army base, Fort Liberty formerly known as Fort Bragg. There's also another exhibit at a Fayetteville museum that will soon serve as one of 50 markers on the North Carolina Civil Rights Trail. Sharryse Piggott has more on the 555th Airborne Battalion, which later became known as the Triple Nickles. *FEATURE, ATC, 12/21/2023*

Politics/Government:

North Carolina's legislature is now exempt from the public records law that governs other branches of government. The change was a last-minute addition to the state budget. As WUNC's Colin Campbell reports, it came alongside a major expansion of the legislature's ability to seize documents from state agencies and private contractors. *FEATURE*, *ATC*, 10/05/2023

Six towns in Dare County have filed a lawsuit to block part of the state budget bill that bans them from regulating a new affordable housing development. *FEATURE*, *ME*, 10/12/2023

Features and Interviews October - December 2023

More than 2-thousand voters have registered as members of North Carolina's newest political party. As Colin Campbell reports, some observers question whether the voters might have signed up for the No Labels Party by mistake... and will lose their chance to vote in next year's primary. *FEATURE*, *ME*, 10/23/2023

Democrats in North Carolina's Republican-controlled legislature say their G-O-P colleagues have drawn new district maps that will suppress voters' voices. *FEATURE*, *ME*, 10/26/2023

With the expansion of Medicaid next month, North Carolina is getting a big check from the federal government. State lawmakers plan to spend more than a billion dollars on mental healthcare, training doctors and nurses - and a few projects that don't relate to health. Colin Campbell explains. *FEATURE*, *ME*, 11/03/2023

Last year, then-North Carolina Congressman Madison Cawthorn faced a legal challenge to his re-election bid under a provision of the U-S Constitution. That and other similar lawsuits laid the groundwork for a series of cases underway now aimed at preventing Donald Trump from seeking the presidency in 2024. *FEATURE*, *ME*, 11/03/2023

Britain's Supreme Court has ruled a government plan to ship migrants to Rwanda illegal. The government says it will try to enact a law permitting the deportations. Willem Marx reports. *FEATURE*, *ATC*, 11/15/2023

Candidate filing begins next week in North Carolina for next year's election. Dozens of candidates have already announced plans to run - with some of the largest numbers on the Republican side. Colin Campbell takes a look at why primaries for less prominent races like lieutenant governor are drawing so many contenders. *FEATURE*, *ME*, 11/30/2023

Features and Interviews October - December 2023

House Speaker Tim Moore made it official yesterday - the Cleveland County Republican filed to run for Congress in 2024. A federal lawsuit filed this week by a group of Black and Latino voters argues that the 14th District Moore is seeking to represent has been racially gerrymandered by GOP lawmakers. Rusty Jacobs has more. *FEATURE*, *ME*, 12/06/2023

For many immigrants, it takes roughly two to three years to apply for a green card - or permanent residency. But for skilled workers on H-1B visas - particularly those from India - the wait can last decades. In North Carolina, this has caused tremendous stress for many Indian families. It also affects their children, who weren't born here and are now becoming adults and taking on the burden of finding an employer who will help them stay in the country legally. WUNC's Eli Chen reports. *FEATURE, ME, 12/11/2023*

I'm Jeff Tiberi. Ten minutes of five on a Friday. We usually review the week in North Carolina politics. Today, we're listening back on the year with Dawn Vaughan, Capital Bureau Chief at the News and Observer; Danielle Battaglia, Capitol Hill Correspondent with McClatchy; Travis Fain, State House Reporter at WRAL and Colin Campbell, Capital Bureau Chief here at WUNC. INTERVIEW, ATC, 12/22/2023

Race/Diversity:

The works of Asian American artists in the South have become more visible in recent years - as the Asian American population continues to grow across the region. In North Carolina, those works are showing up more in museums, and as murals on buildings you likely pass by every day. And what they have in common is how their creators proudly express their experiences as Asian Americans. *FEATURE*, *ME*, 10/19/2023

Features and Interviews October - December 2023

Each year WUNC's Youth Reporting Institute teaches radio journalism to students who have stories to tell about their communities. Youth Reporter Donna Diaz is a second-generation Honduran immigrant. She traveled to Honduras for the first time and documented her experience. *FEATURE*, *ATC*, 12/05/2023

Sports:

The Carolina Panthers fired head coach Frank Reich on Monday after less than 10 months. Despite a No.1 draft pick, an offseason of big moves and a new head coach...pretty much everything has gone wrong for the Panthers this year. FEATURE, ME, 11/28/2023

Transportation:

There's a new leader at the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Joey Hopkins has spent his entire career at D-O-T. Governor Roy Cooper named the Rockingham County native and N-C State alum transportation secretary in October. I recently spoke with Hopkins at his office in Downtown Raleigh, in what used to be known as the Highways Building. *FEATURE*, *ME*, 12/04/2023

Weather:

Other:

WUNC has launched a new podcast highlighting current events with a southern focus. It's called The Broadside and is hosted by Anisa Khalifa. The first episode is available now. It explains how "y'all" is spreading way beyond the south. FEATURE, ME, 10/05/2023