

Arts/Culture:

More than three decades ago, Congress passed a law intended to return the remains of Native Americans to tribes. But many institutions across the country - and in North Carolina - continue to hold those remains in their collections. In collaboration with Blue Ridge Public Radio,
FEATURE, ME, 07/26/2023

Lots of musicians did a lot of writing during pandemic lockdowns. But Django Haskins? He wrote more than one hundred songs, at a clip of one per week. The frontman for The Old Ceremony has whittled those songs down to 8 for his new solo release *Lost World*. Haskins decided to feature his piano playing for this collection and the result is a rumination on things lost mortality and the need to push ahead creatively.
FEATURE, ME, 07/28/2023

This summer, UNC-Chapel Hill professor Jodi Magness wrapped up 11 seasons of archaeological excavations at an ancient Jewish synagogue at a village in Israel called Huqoq. Back in 2012, her team uncovered a surprise - mosaics on the floor with scenes from the Hebrew Bible. The mosaics are stunning, but Magness is even more interested in what they have to say about Jewish history.
FEATURE, ME, 08/14/2023

North Carolina's own Steep Canyon Rangers are back with a new record and a new member. The Grammy Award winners have been working the road for more than 20-years on their own and with occasional guest artist Steve Martin. The new album is called *Morning Shift* and was produced by Darrell Scott.
FEATURE, ME, 08/18/2023

A band that got its start more than a decade ago on the campus of UNC-Chapel Hill is back with a new record. Mipso's sixth studio album is called *BOOK OF FOOLS* and offers some musical contrasts including this one from opening song *STARRY EYES/BOOK OF FOOLS*.... Every member of the band has released solo work, but they came back together for the new release and an ongoing national tour that includes 4 dates across North Carolina.
FEATURE, ME, 09/01/2023

Tens of thousands of bluegrass fans and musicians are converging on downtown Raleigh this weekend for the annual World of Bluegrass event hosted by the International Bluegrass Music Association, the city of Raleigh and Pinecone, the Piedmont Council of Traditional Music. The festival features more than 100 bands from all over the world including Grammy winner Molly Tuttle, a bluegrass band from Korea and even a guest slot by Steve Martin.

FEATURE, ME, 09/29/2023

Agriculture:

Crime/Law Enforcement:

Economy:

Education:

A controversial plan to revamp the way North Carolina's teachers are paid and licensed appears to have fizzled out for this year's legislative session. WFAE's Ann Doss Helms has this report.

FEATURE, ATC, 07/11/2023

For decades, the federal government has offered free or reduced-price school lunch to students from low-income families. During the pandemic, students nationwide received free meals, but that policy expired last summer. Now, state lawmakers are considering whether to include funding in the next state budget that would help more students afford lunch. Liz Schlemmer reports.

FEATURE, ATC, 07/13/2023

This week, graduate students in P-H-D programs at Duke University will begin to vote on whether to form a labor union. Depending on the outcome, it could become the first recognized graduate student union in the South.

FEATURE, ME, 07/24/2023

This summer, six local high school students participated in an eight-week program at Duke University, where they conducted cutting edge neuroscience research. The program aims to diversify the pipeline of students interested in STEM careers.

FEATURE, ME, 08/21/2023

In the aftermath of the shooting on UNC Chapel Hill's campus, the university's faculty are processing the trauma of losing one of their own. WUNC's education reporter Liz Schlemmer spoke with the university's new faculty chair Beth Moracco about her experience. She was in a departmental meeting on campus when the lockdown started Monday.

FEATURE, ATC, 08/30/2023

Environment:

Rights of Nature is a legal theory based on the Native American belief that nature is alive. Countries around the world and even some cities in the U-S have adopted this practice, giving nature its own legal status.

Now, there's a movement to bring Rights of Nature to North Carolina.

FEATURE, ATC, 08/10/2023

Greensboro/Triad:

Health:

The summer heat and smoke from the Canadian wildfires has turned attention to the danger's climate change poses to our air quality. But for urban BIPOC communities throughout the United States, a more common reality causes harm daily. Zachary Turner reports.

FEATURE, ME, 07/31/2023

Growing evidence suggests that people who contract COVID-19 multiple times are more susceptible to developing long COVID symptoms like exhaustion, brain fog, or muscle aches. That's concerning health experts, as COVID fatigue sets in for many.

FEATURE, ATC, 08/17/2023

UNC Health Care will no longer be the care provider at WakeBrook, the mental health hospital in east Raleigh. Advocates worry it will leave a hole in care for some of the most vulnerable patient populations in the area.

FEATURE, ME, 09/07/2023

The newest COVID-19 vaccine was approved this week. And unlike previous approvals, the rollout for this one will be significantly different.

FEATURE, ATC, 09/15/2023

As UNC-Chapel Hill students begin a new school year, many are unaware of a danger that has taken the lives of some of their classmates. In the last two years, several U-N-C students have died from fentanyl poisoning. As Liz Schlemmer reports, a small group of students are advocating for one solution to prevent another death.

FEATURE, ATC, 09/18/2023

Military:

For the first time in decades, U.S. military academies will allow cadets to be parents.

Two years ago, Congress reversed a policy that blocked students with dependents from continuing their studies at the academies. The change - scheduled to take effect in the fall semester - brought together liberals and conservatives in Washington.

FEATURE, ATC, 07/25/2023

Most of the military has restarted a program that allows green card holders to become U.S. citizens faster if they enlist. The program allows new recruits to naturalize at the end of basic training. The change comes at a time the military is having trouble attracting recruits and retaining those already in uniform.

FEATURE, ME, 08/01/2023

For six months, Alabama Senator Tommy Tuberville [TUB er ville] has been holding up military nominations and promotions. The Republican is trying to pressure the Biden administration to reverse a policy that provides troops with leave time and travel funds to obtain abortions. The hold on promotions has left hundreds of service members with their careers – and lives – in limbo.

FEATURE, ATC, 08/18/2023

After decades of fighting wars in relatively small areas - like Iraq and Afghanistan - the U.S. military now is preparing for more global fights. The Navy and Marine Corps just wrapped up an exercise based off Virginia and North Carolina ... but spanning 22 time zones.

FEATURE, ME, 08/23/2023

3-M has agreed to pay six billion dollars to veterans and service members who say their hearing was damaged from faulty earplugs. The plugs were made for the military by a 3-M subsidiary. Now, the quarter-million plaintiffs have to decide if they want to participate in the settlement.

FEATURE, ME, 09/08/2023

The family of a Navy corpsman who was killed by a former service member is taking the government to court. They say the killer shouldn't have been allowed to buy a gun after he was forced out of the Marine Corps for mental health issues. The case renews concerns about the military failing to report service members to the FBI's gun background check system.

FEATURE, ME, 09/14/2023

Politics/Government:

North Carolina's health and Commerce departments are leading a new council to strengthen the pipeline of direct care workers in the state. As Uma Bhat reports, that's as North Carolina faces an impending shortage of nurses over the next decade.

FEATURE, ATC, 07/10/2023

A new political party is close to getting on the ballot in North Carolina. But as WUNC's Colin Campbell reports, the party is facing hurdles at the State Board of Elections - and it's not sure if it will have a presidential candidate next year.

FEATURE, ME, 0712/2023

Recent state legislation will speed up plans to build a 70-mile trail along the Haw River between Greensboro and Chatham County.

FEATURE, ME, 07/20/2023

North Carolina is one of the most restrictive states when it comes to marijuana. And it appears an effort in the General Assembly to make medical marijuana legal this year will...once again...fail. But while legislators are deadlocked, entrepreneurs have found a way to sell hemp-based products that not only look and smell like marijuana but have the same psycho-active impact as well. In others, it's now legal in North Carolina to get high on cannabis.

FEATURE, ME, 07/31/2023

Republicans in North Carolina stand poised to redraw political maps in a way that could secure G-O-P control over the U-S House of Representatives in 2024... unless gains by Democrats in a different state - New York - get in the way.

FEATURE, ATC, 08/07/2023

The city of Burlington has reached a settlement to prevent huge amounts of forever chemicals from getting into the Haw River. That change will also impact Jordan Lake, and the Cape Fear Watershed. It's a cutting-edge change for cities around the country.

FEATURE, ME, 08/09/2023

North Carolina is the latest state to pass Medicaid expansion, with Governor Roy Cooper signing the bill into law in late March. Now, nearly three months later, state health officials are awaiting authority from legislators before implementation can begin. Delays in expansion have put a hold on federal funds while preventing some North Carolinians from receiving the urgent medical care they need.

FEATURE, ATC, 08/15/2023

State lawmakers are considering a plan to allow up to four new casinos in rural areas. They see a newly opened casino in Danville, Virginia as an example of how gambling could help struggling communities.

FEATURE, ME, 08/16/2023

Republicans in the GOP-controlled state legislature have passed a sweeping elections bill - one that could radically change voting rules starting next year.

FEATURE, ME, 08/18/2023

The sweeping elections bill on Governor Roy Cooper's desk contains provisions promoted by a grassroots group with links to a lawyer who assisted Donald Trump in his efforts to reverse the outcome of the 2020 presidential race.

FEATURE, ATC, 08/23/2023

The elections bill on Governor Roy Cooper's desk contains provisions backed by a grassroots group tied to a lawyer who helped Donald Trump try to reverse the outcome of the 2020 presidential race.

FEATURE, ME, 08/24/2023

Democrats in the state House and Senate unanimously opposed the GOP-backed elections bill recently vetoed by Governor Roy Cooper. But legislators from the North Carolina General Assembly's minority party did have some input on the final legislation. Rusty Jacobs reports.

FEATURE, ME, 08/31/2023

State lawmakers could soon override Governor Roy Cooper's veto of legislation that reduces the governor's appointment powers. As WUNC's Colin Campbell reports, that will remove all current members of the State Board of Transportation.

FEATURE, ME, 09/11/2023

Republicans in the North Carolina General Assembly are executing a comprehensive plan for tightening their grip on political power in the state.

FEATURE, ATC, 09/15/2023

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FEATURE, ME, 09/15/2023

For a few hours this week, it seemed like Medicaid expansion would not become a reality in North Carolina. But with final votes on the state budget expected before the weekend, health equity advocates are again optimistic.

FEATURE, ME, 09/21/2023

The Republican primary campaign for governor is already getting negative. Three of Lieutenant Governor Mark Robinson's G-O-P opponents have recently gone on the attack, pointing out Robinson's past financial and legal troubles.

FEATURE, ATC, 09/26/2023

The recently approved state budget includes about 2-billion-dollars to improve water and sewer systems. The money will help about 200 mostly rural counties and towns across North Carolina.

FEATURE, ATC, 9/27/2023

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FEATURE, ME, 09/27/2023

The Republican-led North Carolina General Assembly is once again drawing state legislative and Congressional district maps. This round of redistricting follows a head-spinning turn of events on the legal front over partisanship in drawing political boundaries.

FEATURE, ME, 09/28/2023

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FEATURE, ME, 09/27/2023

Race/Diversity:

The newest state historic site will spotlight the role of free Black residents in North Carolina during slavery. The state government will soon run the house in the tiny town of Milton where Thomas Day built a famed furniture business. WUNC's Colin Campbell has more.

FEATURE, ME, 08/02/2023

This week marked the 60th Anniversary of The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. In 1963 Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. gave what would become his famous "I Have a Dream" speech on the National Mall.

FEATURE, ATC, 09/01/2023

When a University of North Carolina Chapel Hill professor was fatally shot on campus last week, many in the Triangle and beyond were traumatized by the event and recognized that this would simply be the latest in a long list of shootings that have happened in America.

For many Asian Americans in the Triangle, the shooting was particularly distressing, given that the victim and the suspected shooter are both Chinese. The event triggered anxiety about how they would be perceived in public spaces, and it reminded them of other times when Asian Americans have been attacked.

FEATURE, ME, 09/08/2023

This year marks the 60th anniversary of several major events in the Civil Rights Movement - like the August 1963 March on Washington. But weeks later, the movement was also marked by racial terror. Four little Black girls were killed.

FEATURE, ME, 09/15/2023

Science/Technology:

A new study from Duke and Cornell Universities finds that children treat smart home devices differently based upon their abilities. A note to listeners - this segment may trigger your smart devices.

FEATURE, ATC, 08/14/2023

Sports:

Fans who attend the soccer match between Chelsea and Wrexham F-C in Chapel Hill tomorrow night [WED] might notice grass on the field. That's different from the artificial turf that the University of North Carolina's football team has played on since 20-19. Jason DeBruyn reports:

FEATURE, ATC, 07/18/2023

This weekend, thousands of sports fans and collectors from across the country will flock to Chicago for the 43rd annual National Sports Collectors Convention.

FEATURE, ATC, 07/26/2023

North Carolina's historically Black colleges and universities are getting more involved with esports. Schools are launching esports clubs, building lab spaces and hosting video game competitions. The hope is this programming brings more students of color into the esports industry.

FEATURE, ME, 09/19/2023

Transportation:**Weather:****Other:**

The book begins, "Pit-cooked whole hog barbeque is the last vestige of Southern barbeque." And if you had to put a name on this last vestige - the real deal - who continues the rich cultural tradition of cooking the whole hog, it would be this man.

FEATURE, ME, 07/03/2023

Chris Stamey is back on guitar. The North Carolina musical icon has spent the past couple of years pursuing music inspired by the Great American Songbook, largely playing piano and leaning into jazz. Before that he led a troupe of musicians paying tribute to Big Star's Third album on shows from Australia to the

U-K. On his new record *The Great Escape*, Chris is putting his own spin on the southern California country sound of the 1970s.
FEATURE, ME, 07/07/2023

There's a new planned senior housing development outside Charlotte that says it will blend patriotism and freedom, honoring the -quote- ideals that built this country. Its founder calls it a movement. WFAE's Lisa Worf has more:
FEATURE, ME, 07/11/2023

Brooklyn-based band Beach Fossils is back after a six-year hiatus. The project started as a solo outlet for lead songwriter and singer Dustin Payseur before expanding to a four-piece band.
FEATURE, ME, 07/14/2023

An upland prairie tucked in the Uwharrie [oo-aa-ree] mountain range is the site of a multi-year bird banding project. The project tracks a variety of bird behaviors and has also become an annual summer reunion for a group of scientists.
FEATURE, ME, 08/04/2023

Squeezed into two aisles, the U-N-C Mini Mart could easily be confused for a convenience store. It's what U-N-C and Wake Forest researchers are hoping to imitate as they examine consumer shopping behaviors. As Heidi Perez-Moreno reports, their latest experiment will include C-B-D products.
FEATURE, ME, 08/25/2023

State lawmakers could soon override Governor Roy Cooper's veto of legislation that reduces the governor's appointment powers. As WUNC's Colin Campbell reports, that will remove all current members of the State Board of Transportation.
FEATURE, ME, 09/11/2023

Pride in Durham has entered its sixth year - or at least, it was supposed to, since festivities this past weekend were canceled due to rain from Hurricane Ophelia. Still, many queer folks in the Triangle gathered to celebrate their identity and community. WUNC's Eli (EE-lie) Chen spoke with Tori Grace Nichols, one of the few Asian American Pacific Islander drag performers in the Triangle.
FEATURE, ME, 09/26/2023