

**Arts/Culture:**

The Grammy Award-winning “Carolina Chocolate Drops” entered the music scene nearly two decades ago to rave reviews, with its old-time string band style. Rhiannon Giddens co-founded the group, performing songs with a twang and a history – mostly Black history.

Today, the acclaimed musician and MacArthur “Genius Grant” recipient is celebrating one of her biggest accomplishments – the opera “Omar.”

For our series “North Carolina Voices,” I spoke with Giddens, a Greensboro native, after she saw “Omar” performed at UNC’s Memorial Hall.]

*FEATURE, ME, 03/02/2023*

One of the longest running Black film festivals in the nation opens Monday in Durham. The Hayti Heritage Film Festival is in its 28th year and is being held in-person and online. Festival directors Lana Garland and Tyra Dixon join me now to bring us some highlights.

*FEATURE, ME, 03/03/2023*

**Agriculture:**

This is All Things Considered. The Pisgah [piz-GUH] and Nantahala [nan-tuh-HAY-luh] National Forests in western North Carolina are two of the most popular national forests in the country. A new plan released late last week outlines how federal officials will manage the land for the next 2-to-3 decades. Several conservation groups worry the plan will allow for too much logging in the wrong places. WUNC’s environmental reporter Celeste Gracia explains.

*FEATURE, ATC, 02/22/2023*

## **Crime/Law Enforcement:**

The United States has been deeply involved in the war in Ukraine, even though there's been no significant deployment of U.S. troops to Eastern Europe.

Almost daily, weapons, equipment, and other supplies depart the U.S. to support the Ukrainian military and civilian authorities. Eric Schmid reports for WUNC's American Homefront Project.

*FEATURE, ME, 01/10/2023*

## **Economy:**

North Carolina's state government agencies are facing a major worker shortage. They're looking to the legislature this year to increase salaries so they can better recruit and retain employees.

*FEATURE, ME, 03/28/2023*

## **Education:**

The new legislative session begins in earnest today. And at the top of the agenda is to figure out what - and how much - to spend on public education. Each year, nearly 40 percent of the state budget goes to fund K-12 education.

Catherine Truitt has some ideas on how that education budget should look. She's entering her third year as State Superintendent. Truitt, a Republican, is a former high school English teacher, education adviser to former Governor Pat McCrory and chancellor at the for-profit Western Governors University.

WUNC education reporter Liz Schlemmer sat down with Truitt recently for a wide-ranging conversation, starting with what she thinks needs to be included in that new state budget...

*FEATURE, ATC, 01/24/2023*

Most U-N-C System schools enrolled fewer students this school year compared to recent years, and that will mean budget cuts at those state universities. Liz Schlemmer reports from UNC Greensboro-- the school facing the steepest financial cliff.  
*FEATURE, ME, 02/13/2023*

Books on race, racism and L-G-B-T-Q identity face increased scrutiny in North Carolina. The challenges come mostly from small but vocal groups. W-U-N-C joined media outlets across the state to track the rise and the impact. Jason deBruyn reports:  
*FEATURE/ATC/03/15/2023*

## **Environment:**

Wetland habitats are critically important for protecting water quality and preventing floods. But for most of the 20th century, people thought they were unsanitary and harmful. In North Carolina, over a million acres of wetlands were drained for development or farming. Now there's strong efforts to restore these habitats. WUNC's Environmental reporter Celeste Gracia takes us to one in Carteret County.  
*FEATURE, ATC, 02/28/2023*

Energy efficiency is defined as the use of less energy to produce the same result. It's widely seen as one of the easiest ways to fight climate change and reduce energy costs. But not everyone can afford to make their home energy efficient. One initiative in Orange County is helping low-wealth homeowners with that. Celeste Gracia reports.  
*FEATURE, ATC, 03/07/2023*

## **Greensboro/Triad:**

**Health:**

Serious flu and RSV cases have declined from a recent spike. But cases of COVID-19 are again on the rise and that continues to impact many people in the Triangle. Jason deBruyn reports  
*FEATURE, ME, 01/11/2023*

Lack of access to mental health care inside North Carolina's prisons has an increasing number of advocates worried about a looming crisis. Jason deBruyn reports.  
*FEATURE, ME, 01/31/2023*

Traditionally, three kinds of first responders have been dispatched after 9-1-1 calls - Police, firefighters, and emergency medical providers. Now, a FOURTH kind is spreading rapidly. Durham is among dozens of cities across the nation that have added 9-1-1 response teams built around mental health experts. WUNC's Jay Price reports.  
*FEATURE, ATC, 02/06/2023*

Home health and personal care aides help the elderly and people with disabilities with daily living activities like cooking or laundry. The industry is facing a worker shortage - and that means many seniors across the state aren't getting the help they need. Jason deBruyn reports.  
*FEATURE, ME, 02/14/2023*

**Military:**

Friday [Jan. 6] will mark two years since the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. More than ten percent of the people charged with crimes in the attack are military veterans. But policymakers are still struggling to address violent extremism in the veteran community. Steve Walsh reports for WUNC's American Homefront Project.  
*FEATURE, ME, 01/05/2023*

The U-S military is struggling to meet its recruiting goals. The service branches are offering record-high enlistment bonuses and loosening rules for things like tattoos and past marijuana use. Now, with fewer YOUNG adults signing up, the Navy has decided to give OLDER people a chance.

Jay Price reports for WUNC's American Homefront Project.

*FEATURE, ATC, 01/12/2023*

About a half dozen states are trying something new to attract recruits into the National Guard. They're paying finder's fees to people who help bring in new troops. Some National Guard leaders want to roll out a similar program of referral bonuses nationwide. Desiree Diorio reports for WUNC's American Homefront Project.

*FEATURE, ME, 01/23/2023*

American government involvement in Ukraine war has been mostly limited to providing weapons, training, and humanitarian aid. But a group of retired U.S. military personnel has been volunteering to help Ukrainian authorities disarm mines and other explosives. Cory Vaillancourt [VAL en court] reports for WUNC's American Homefront Project.

*FEATURE, ATC, 02/01/2023*

The military is now allowing troops to serve even if they don't get vaccinated for COVID-19. Congress passed a law late last year that overturned the Pentagon's previous vaccine mandate. Before the change, about 84-hundred troops were discharged for refusing to get the shots. Desiree D'Iorio [DEE oreo] reports for WUNC's American Homefront Project.

*FEATURE, ATC, 02/07/2023*

Getting help to areas of Syria devastated by this week's earthquake is means navigating around a government that is still at war with some of its own people.

*FEATURE, ATC, 02/09/2023*

The Department of Veterans Affairs is studying psychedelic drugs as a treatment for P-T-S-D and other disorders. For decades, some scientists have viewed psychedelics as a potential treatment for addiction and other psychiatric conditions. But research was thwarted by government regulation and concerns about recreational drug use. As Jonathan Ahl reports for WUNC's American Homefront Project, the V-A now is trying to work around those obstacles.

*FEATURE, ME, 02/28/2023*

The Army - which fell twenty-five percent short of its recruiting goal last year - has rolled out a new marketing campaign. And while most of it is new, one part is familiar ... mostly among people who are too old to enlist.

*FEATURE, ME, 03/13/2023*

The Pentagon is giving more support to service members who have to travel to get abortions and fertility treatment. A new policy directed by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin takes effect this month [March]. It reimburses service members for travel expenses and offers them up to 21 days of leave.

*FEATURE, ATC, 03/21/2023*

The U.S. Navy is struggling to provide child care to its sailors and their families. More than five-thousand families are on waiting lists. And while that's down significantly from a few years ago, parents say the Navy isn't moving fast enough to build new child care centers and pursue other ways to reduce the backlog.

*FEATURE, ME, 03/27/2023*

## **Politics/Government:**

Kevin McCarthy is the new Speaker of the U-S House. Finally. But before the final successful vote on Friday, a North Carolina Congressman played a key role in the political chaos in Washington. As Rusty Jacobs reports, being a far-right-wing crusader is nothing new for Dan Bishop.

*FEATURE, ME, 01/09/2023*

The North Carolina General Assembly formally opened its 2023 session yesterday [WEDNESDAY] with mostly ceremonial observances, like naming chamber leaders. But House Republicans stirred up partisan controversy by adopting a rule that could make it easier to override vetoes by Democratic Governor Roy Cooper. Rusty Jacobs reports.

*FEATURE, ME, 01/12/2023*

North Carolina's 2024 race for governor has its first marquee candidate: State Attorney General Josh Stein. And Stein has already set his sights on a Republican challenger who hasn't yet announced his candidacy. Rusty Jacobs reports.

*FEATURE, ME, 01/19/2023*

State lawmakers started their long legislative session in earnest this week with the opening of bill-filing yesterday [Wednesday]. While the budget is priority number one--the session will also feature inter- and intra-party battles over non-fiscal measures. Rusty Jacobs reports.

*FEATURE, ATC, 01/26/2023*

PA STILL FIGHTING ELECTION DENIERS - Voting officials in the swing state of Pennsylvania are still dealing with election misinformation. Voting rights advocates hope more election reforms could help fend off any disruptions in 2024.

*FEATURE, ATC, 02/07/2023*

When National Guard troops deploy within the U-S, it's typically for short periods of time, like a hurricane or other disaster. But the National Guard has patrolled the southern border for most of the last two decades. Some government watchdogs say that's an inappropriate use of the Guard. From Mission, Texas, Carson Frame reports for WUNC's American Homefront Project.

*FEATURE, ME, 02/17/2023*

Strained relations between the United States and China have led the U.S. to make deals with other Pacific nations. The agreements with smaller countries are designed to expand American influence in the region, solidify existing relationships, and give the U.S. military more footholds.

*FEATURE, ATC, 03/08/2023*

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*FEATURE, ME, 03/09/2023*

When it comes to state elections law, the partisan divide at the North Carolina General Assembly has never been wider.

*FEATURE, ME, 03/10/2023*

The State Employees Association of North Carolina, known as SEE-NICK, advocates for North Carolina's state government workers. It recently cut ties with the national State Employees International Union. The two groups had been affiliated for 15 years. But when the larger union sent its other members to a Moral Monday protest in North Carolina to push back against Republican legislation it created a rift. WUNC Capitol Bureau Chief Colin Campbell spoke with Ardis [Arr-diss] Watkins, the executive director of SEE-NICK, about the decision to make the split.

*FEATURE, ME, 03/20/2023*

Republican state lawmakers say they're working on abortion legislation. But two months into this year's session, they haven't yet filed a single bill.

*FEATURE, ME, 03/23/2023*

A Republican-backed bill in the North Carolina General Assembly would stop the state from joining an organization that helps maintain clean voter rolls.

*FEATURE, ME, 03/29/2023*



## **Race/Diversity:**

The historic persecution of Native American and enslaved Black people in this country suppressed much of their heritage... their cultural traditions, ways of life and belongings often lost as they were forced into slavery or integration. But the remnants of their presence in North Carolina are still scattered across the state, sometimes hidden in untold family stories or undiscovered artifacts. Will Michaels reports on one new discovery in rural Orange County.

*FEATURE, ME, 01/20/2023*

There are not as many confederate statues and monuments on display across North Carolina as there used to be. In recent years, large memorials to the confederacy have come down in places like Durham, Raleigh, Chapel Hill, Asheville and Wilmington. But that is not the case in some smaller towns, like Edenton. Race and Southern Culture Reporter Leoneda Inge gives us an update.

*FEATURE, ME, 02/14/2023*

Republican representatives in the state legislature have advanced a bill that would require sheriffs to cooperate with federal immigration authorities. It's similar to bills Democratic Governor Roy Cooper has vetoed before. Rusty Jacobs reports.

*FEATURE, ME, 02/23/2023*

## **Science/Technology:**

Duke Energy's power plant failures that led to rolling blackouts on Christmas Eve in North Carolina have challenged the conventional wisdom about the reliability of fossil-fuel power plants versus renewable energy. WFAE climate reporter David Boraks has this report.

*FEATURE, ME, 01/06/2023*

Three years ago, Duke Energy opened its newest natural gas-fired power plant in Asheville, on the site of an old coal-fired plant. Duke wants to build more gas plants around North Carolina as part of its plan to reduce the heat-trapping pollution that comes from electricity generation. But the idea has plenty of critics. WFAE climate reporter David Boraks has more.

*FEATURE, ME, 02/17/223*

North Carolina's courts are going through a major overhaul in the way case documents are filed and stored--even as they contend with backlogs caused by the COVID pandemic. As Rusty Jacobs reports, the transition is off to a rocky start.

*FEATURE, ME, 03/06/2023*

Rules will change this summer for Duke Energy customers who install rooftop solar panels in North Carolina. Some industry experts worry new lower payments, and a more complicated system could slow solar's growth

*FEATURE, ATC, 03/28/2023*

## **Sports:**

[KELCE BROTHERS IN SUPER BOWL (5:00)]

NPR's Juana Summers speaks with Kansas City Star reporter Eric Adler about visiting the town where the Super Bowl-bound Kelce brothers grew up and which molded who they've become.

*FEATURE, ATC, 02/10/2023*

HOST: This is Morning Edition. The women's basketball teams from Duke, N-C State, and North Carolina are all ranked in the AP Top 25 Poll this week. The success of these teams this season is driving interest and historic ticket sales among local fans and students. W-U-N-C's Mitchell Northam reports.

*FEATURE, ATC, 02/10/2023*

## **Transportation:**

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

North Carolina's population is booming. People are moving to rural mountain communities to retire, while others are looking for relief from high housing costs in the Triangle. Rural counties are trying to welcome these new residents, while maintaining what makes them unique, as Bradley George reports.  
*FEATURE, ATC, 03/20/2023*

First Citizens Bank is the new owner of Silicon Valley Bank, which failed earlier this month. The Raleigh-based bank bought S-V-B in a deal negotiated by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation - an independent U-S government agency designed to help financial institutions. As Bradley George reports, First Citizens has a history of turning around troubled banks.  
*FEATURE, ME, 03/28/2023*