

Arts/Culture:

The 25th annual Full Frame Documentary Film Festival kicks off tomorrow [Thursday]. The Durham-based festival is featuring eight films with North Carolina ties.

Leoneda Inge reports.
FEATURE, ATC, 04/06/2022

This is Tested from WUNC...a look at how we're responding to the day's challenges, in North Carolina and the south. I'm Rusty Jacobs.
FEATURE, ME, 04/19/2022

This is Morning Edition - I'm Eric Hodge.

North Carolina's The Branchettes have been singing gospel music for almost 50 years. But it wasn't until 2019 that the storied group finally made a live recording. Stay Prayed Up features leader Lena Mae Perry singing out some of her all-time favorites at Longbranch Disciples Of Christ Church in Newton Grove, North Carolina.
INTERVIEW, ME, 05/06/2022

This is Morning Edition - I'm Eric Hodge.

It's shaping up to be a banner year for the band Sylvan Esso. The Durham-based duo snagged a second Grammy nomination, performed on Jimmy Kimmel Live and made their daytime television debut on The Ellen DeGeneres Show.
FEATURE, ME, 06/06/2022

Crime/Law Enforcement:

The Leandro Case over public school funding heads back to the courtroom today. Liz Schlemmer reports.
FEATURE, ATC, 04/13/2022

With spring break travel in full force, North Carolina officials are cracking down on speeding drivers. WFDD's Eddie Garcia reports on the Speed a Little, Lose a Lot campaign.
FEATURE, ATC, 04/14/2022

Durham Mayor Elaine O-Neal says ending gun violence in the city should be everyone's priority.

It was a major focus of her first state of the city address, which she made during a city council meeting last night.

O-Neal addressed those who have been affected by violence.

FEATURE, ME, 04/19/2022

The Raleigh Police Department is developing a new de-escalation policy to help defuse tense situations without the use of force.

Lieutenant Eric Goodwin says the policy is going to be separate from the department's use of force policy.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/09/2022

Some activists are calling for a Raleigh Police officer to be fired, after the shooting death of a man last month. Jason deBruyn reports.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/10/2022

North Carolina will get nearly 14 million dollars from a drugmaker accused of defrauding a Medicaid program. Bradley George reports.

Pharmaceutical companies are supposed to pay rebates to Medicaid if the price of a drug rises faster than inflation.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/21/2022

Economy:

Pfizer has announced it will buy a British pharmaceutical company which has its U-S headquarters in Durham. Bradley George has details on the 525 million dollar deal.

FEATURE, ATC, 04/07/2022

Entrepreneurship shot up during the pandemic and has not yet slowed down.

Monthly business applications are still well above pre-pandemic levels across the state.

Jill Gonzalez is an analyst with WalletHub. She says the economic pause in the middle of 20-20 gave people an opportunity to go strike out on their own.

FEATURE, ATC, 04/18/2022

Several companies in North Carolina have recently announced expansions of their existing operations. The federal government is helping those projects by funding infrastructure improvements, as Bradley George reports.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/09/2022

Greater Winston-Salem Incorporated is providing financial support for small businesses hurt by the Weaver fertilizer fire earlier this year.

W-F-D-D's Paul Garber reports.

FEATURE, ME, 06/15/2022

Education:

The U-N-C System board of governors has voted to again raise the cap on out-of-state students at three of its historically black colleges and universities. Liz Schlemmer reports.

FEATURE, ATC, 04/07/2022

The State Board of Education heard a proposal yesterday [WED] that would dramatically change how teachers are licensed and paid. Liz Schlemmer reports.

FEATURE, ME, 04/07/2022

The state board of education has voted to transfer a public school taken over by the state back to its local school district in Robeson County. Liz Schlemmer reports.

FEATURE, ME, 04/12/2022

This is Tested from WUNC - a look at how we're responding to the day's challenges, in North Carolina and the South. I'm Liz Schlemmer.

INTERVIEW, ME, 04/21/2022

The State Board of Education voted today [THU] to close a charter school in Raleigh due to issues with its finances and legal compliance. Liz Schlemmer reports.

FEATURE, ATC, 05/05/2022

The State Advisory Council on Indian Education is asking schools to change their American Indian-themed mascots. Liz Schlemmer reports.

The Council's latest annual report found that 34 schools in North Carolina use American-Indian themed images for their logo or sports mascot.

FEATURE, ATC, 05/05/2022

This weekend will be busy as colleges and universities in the triangle area honor graduates. Sharryse Piggott reports.

FEATURE, ATC, 05/06/2022

This fall marks 25 years since charter schools first began opening in North Carolina. Liz Schlemmer reports on the current state of charter schools.

FEATURE, ME, 05/04/2022

This is Tested from WUNC... a look at how we're responding to the day's challenges, in North Carolina and the South. I'm Charlie Shelton-Ormond.

FEATURE, ME, 06/02/2022

Fayetteville State University has received its largest private donation ever. The five-point-eight million dollar donation comes from the Anonymous Trust, a private foundation in Raleigh. The university's previous largest private gift was one-point-five million dollars in 20-16. Fayetteville State Chancellor Darrell Allison says the money will go to several initiatives.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/17/2022

North Carolina A-and-T State University is using some of its federal COVID-19 relief funds to offer free summer courses to students this year.

Robert Pompey [Pom-PAY] is the university's vice chancellor of business and finance. He says in-state students can take up to two free courses and out-of-state students can take one class free of charge per summer.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/20/2022

The Durham county school board is voting tomorrow [Thursday] on updates to their public schools' dress code. They put together an advisory group of high school students and educators to re-imagine a more inclusive dress code. It's important to create a safe space for students by using a dress code that's appropriate for a school setting, says school board member Bettina [Buh-tina] Umstead.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/22/2022

North Carolina education officials are asking the state's U-S senators to extend waivers that have made school lunch free to all students during the pandemic.

The waivers are set to expire June 30th, while schools across the country are serving summer meals.

State Superintendent Catherine Truitt [TRUE-it] says the rising cost of food and gasoline are making it tough for schools to cover the cost of meals ... and cutting into family budgets.

If districts have to return to income-based subsidies, she says some kids may do without.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/22/2022

A White House official is visiting North Carolina Central University today [Friday] to learn more about an initiative aimed at improving students of color's post-secondary experiences. Sharryse Piggott reports.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/24/2022

Elizabeth City State University is partnering with a flight school and a non-profit organization to expand aviation education across North Carolina.

The H-B-C-U announced the new collaboration with Piedmont Flight Training and Aero-X [Arrow-x] Tuesday.

E-C-S-U Chancellor Karrie Dixon says they want to offer the opportunity to as many North Carolinians as possible.

FEATURE, ME, 06/29/2022

Environment:

It turns out the 2020 earthquake that hit the Sparta area in Northwest North Carolina was unusual not just in the large amount of damage it did.

It buckled roads and damaged more than 500 homes and other structures.

And now scientists say it did something REALLY ODD— it was the first documented EARTHQUAKE in the Eastern United States to have caused a surface rupture — a stepped and cracked line more than a mile long.

Paula Figueiredo [FEE-gehr-aydo] of N-C State University is the lead author of a new study on the earthquake.

FEATURE, ME, 04/05/2022

Two months after the Winston Weaver fertilizer plant fire prompted mass evacuations, Winston-Salem city officials outlined ways the city council could change zoning rules in order to prevent similar disasters. WFDD's April Laissle [LEZ-lee] reports.

FEATURE, ATC, 04/13/2022

State environmental officials recently released a draft permit for a new ground water treatment system for chemical company Chemours.

The system will be part of a new plant Chemours is building near Fayetteville to treat contaminated water. Chemours is required to treat polluted water under a 2019 legal agreement. Some environmental advocates are criticizing the draft permit. They say it will allow Chemours to discharge large amounts of pollution when the company has the technology to discharge less.

Geoff Gisler [Jeff GIZ-lur (g like goat)] is a senior attorney at the Southern Environmental Law Center. He says Chemours is already operating another water treatment facility that has greatly reduced toxins like PFAS.

FEATURE, ATC, 04/14/2022

Forecasters last fall predicted a warmer, drier winter for the Carolinas, and that's just what we got this year. WFAE climate reporter David Boraks has more on how global warming has made winter the fastest warming season.

FEATURE, ME, 04/25/2022

PFAS [PEE-fass] contamination has plagued the Cape Fear Region for decades, but researchers are still trying to catch up on understanding the chemicals' health effects. W-H-Q-R's Kelly Kenoyer [kuh-NOY-er] reports on scientists who are hoping to study the impacts of PFAS exposure on an apex predator: Alligators.

FEATURE, ATC, 04/26/2022

Duke Energy will present regulators with a plan today [MON] for shifting away from fossil fuels. W-F-A-E's David Boraks has more.

FEATURE, ME, 05/16/2022

As North Carolina prepares for the coming hurricane season, the state Department of Transportation has announced the development of a new early-flood warning system. W-F-D-D's Neal Charnoff reports.

FEATURE, ME, 05/30/2022

A beach nourishment project that begins today <Monday> in Kill Devil Hills is the first of seven planned along the Outer Banks this summer.

More than two and half miles of beach in front of the town will be built up over the next month or so, but it's expected to affect beach use only in a small area that will move every few days.

Dorothy Hester is a spokeswoman for Dare County.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/13/2022

The site of the former American Hebrew Academy in Greensboro will become a housing and education facility for unaccompanied refugee children. WFDD's Neal Charnoff reports.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/14/2022

This is Morning Edition.

Artificial reefs are manmade structures that mimic the characteristics of a natural reef.

There are approximately 70 artificial reefs in North Carolina's rivers and sounds, and off the coast. State officials strategically place artificial reefs in areas that didn't previously have reefs. This helps provide refuge for fish and increase fish populations.

For the first time last month, a new artificial reef made from 3-D printed concrete was deployed in the Pamlico River.

WUNC's Environment reporter Celeste Gracia reports on the benefits of this new method.

FEATURE, ME, 06/22/2022

The City of Greensboro has signed on to a national effort to help protect monarch butterflies. WFDD's Neal Charnoff reports.
FEATURE, ATC, 06/24/2022

The recent heatwave has worsened drought conditions across North Carolina. Bradley George reports.
FEATURE, ATC, 06/27/2022

Greensboro/Triad:**Health:**

Unvaccinated City of Raleigh employees will face a health insurance premium surcharge. Jason deBruyn reports.
FEATURE, ATC, 04/05/2022

COVID-19 cases in North Carolina have been rising for the past few weeks.

But the latest updated numbers from state health officials shows emergency room visits are holding steady, and there was only a slight increase in hospitalizations.

Dr. Adia [uh-dee-ah] Ross is chief medical officer at Duke Regional Hospital.
FEATURE, ATC, 06/01/2022

North Carolina will receive 750 million dollars from a settlement with opioid makers and distributors. A group of faith leaders is calling on local governments to use that money with compassion. Bradley George reports.
FEATURE, ATC, 06/06/2022

Lawmakers have moved North Carolina another step closer to finalizing a major transition in the state's Medicaid program. The state Senate approved a bill today [Thursday] that will solicit bids for a statewide prepaid health plan for children in foster care. Currently, their health care is managed by six regional agencies known as L-M-E / M-C-O's. Senator Joyce Krawiec [KRAW-vick] says the measure is needed to prevent children from losing health insurance if they move across the state.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/16/2022

Military:

Frequent moves are normal for members of the U.S. military. That means uprooting every two to three years... and sometimes even more often.

The Pentagon says the constant shuffling of troops is necessary to meet its staffing and training needs. But as Eric Schmid reports for WUNC's American Homefront Project, it creates hidden challenges for military families.

FEATURE, ME, 04/04/2022

This is Morning Edition.

A recent study suggests that military veterans might be more likely than civilians to develop eating disorders, especially if they experienced P-T-S-D or sexual assault. It's an area that hasn't been researched much in the past.

Desiree D'iorio [Dee OREO] reports for W-U-N-C's American Homefront Project.

And a note- this report contains details that some listeners might find upsetting.

FEATURE, ME, 04/07/2022

Veterans and active-duty members of the military can learn more about taking advantage of the educational opportunities through the G-I Bill. The Department of Veterans Affairs will host a discussion live on Facebook tomorrow [THU 4/14]. The bill helps anyone associated with the military to earn an education or professional training. Ricardo Da Silva is the V-A's program integration officer.

FEATURE, ATC, 04/14/2022

Behind much of the Ukrainian military's success fighting Russia is a little-known U.S. initiative built around state National Guards.

The State Partnership Program has quietly become a powerful tool for diplomacy and modeling U.S. values around the world. Jay Price reports for WUNC's American Homefront Project.

FEATURE, ATC, 05/06/2022

A project is nearly complete at Camp Lejeune to restore key buildings used by the first Black Marines – and protect the structures from the effects of climate change.

During the 1940s, about 20-thousand men trained on a racially segregated base known as Montford Point.

Jay Price reports for WUNC's American Homefront Project.

FEATURE, ME, 05/13/2022

When National Guard members and reservists are called into military service, a federal law is supposed to preserve their civilian jobs. It's intended to protect them from being fired or losing benefits while they're away. And it requires employers to accommodate service-related disabilities.

But in some places, veterans who work for state governments can't access those protections – and that's the basis for a case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Carson Frame reports for WUNC's American Homefront Project.

FEATURE, ME, 05/19/2022

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FEATURE, ME, 05/20/2022

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FEATURE, ATC, 05/19/2022

In August, thirteen American service members were killed in Afghanistan during the final days of the U.S. evacuation. For relatives of the fallen, this will be the first Memorial Day since their deaths.

In Southern California, Steve Walsh of WUNC's American Homefront Project talked to the mother of one of the Marines who died that day.
FEATURE, ME, 05/27/2022

Military leaders say they're conducting research to learn more about "Long COVID" -- cases of COVID-19 where the symptoms continue for months. Preliminary studies suggest millions of Americans are suffering from Long COVID, and service members who have it say it has threatened or ended their military careers.

Andy Hirshfeld reports for WUNC's American Homefront Project.
FEATURE, ME, 06/03/2022

Military leaders say this is shaping up to be one of the worst recruiting years in decades. Halfway through this year's recruiting process, the Army is at less than thirty percent of its goal.

One problem is that the armed services have become overly reliant on recruits who come from military families.

Jonathan Ahl reports for WUNC's American Homefront Project.
FEATURE, ATC, 06/06/2022

A key Fort Bragg training area is getting an innovative form of solar power generation.

Army officials cut the ribbon today [Friday] on a FLOATING solar panel project being installed in a lake at Camp Mackall, where Special Operations troops and Special Forces candidates often train.

Audrey Oxendine [pronounced like "oxen" then "dine"] leads the base's Energy and Utilities Branch. She says the camp has proven vulnerable to multi-day power outages after storms, and the solar power can help keep it operation.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/10/2022

The number of suicides in the Army hit a post 9/11 peak last year. And the rate of soldiers dying by suicide is at its highest level since the Great Depression.

The Army base with the highest rate of suicides among new recruits is Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, and leaders there are trying new strategies to address the issue. Jonathan Ahl reports for WUNC's American Homefront Project.

FEATURE, ME, 06/17/2022

In February, just before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, nearly five thousand 82nd Airborne Division soldiers were deployed from Fort Bragg to Europe in support of U.S. allies.

Now...they've begun coming home. The first planeloads have already begun landing at Pope Army Airfield.

And unlike such homecomings during the early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic, when troops were kept isolated from families, THESE soldiers will be getting a traditional greeting.

Master Sergeant Brian Rodan <<row-DAN>> is a spokesman for the 82nd.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/29/2022

Politics/Government:

Voting rights for thousands of people with felony convictions hang in the balance in litigation before North Carolina's highest court. Rusty Jacobs reports.

FEATURE, ATC, 04/05/2022

Pasquotank [PASS-kwa-tank] County has formed a new civilian advisory board to look at the county's Sheriff's Office. W-H-R-O's Ryan Murphy reports.

FEATURE, ATC, 04/07/2022

North Carolina Congressman Madison Cawthorn still may have to face a voter challenge to his candidacy. Rusty Jacobs reports.

FEATURE, ATC, 04/08/2022

Former President Donald Trump visits eastern North Carolina tomorrow [SAT] and a slate of 2022 Republican candidates are ready to share the stage with him. Jeff Tiberii reports.
FEATURE, ME, 04/08/2022

The GOP primary for North Carolina's U-S senate race is turning into a two-way slugfest with a third candidate trying to stay relevant. Rusty Jacobs reports.
FEATURE, ATC, 04/13/2022

A legislative committee got an update this week on how the state plans to spend its share of settlements with opioid makers and distributors. As Bradley George reports, most of the money will go to local governments.
FEATURE, ATC, 04/13/2022

A new website tracks how North Carolina will spend its share of settlement money from opioid makers and distributors. Bradley George has details.
FEATURE, ATC, 04/14/2022

US AND CUBA HOLD FIRST MIGRATION TALKS IN YEARS
American and Cuban officials are meeting in Washington on Thursday to discuss migration concerns, in the highest-level U.S. talks with Havana since President Joe Biden took office. A record number of Cuban migrants travelled to the U.S.-Mexico border in March. What's driving this trend? Tibisay Zea has the story.]
FEATURE, ATC, 04/21/2022

DakhaBrakha calls itself ?ethno-chaos.? Over the past 10 years, the Ukrainian-folk-meets-punk band brought their music from their home at an experimental theater in Kyiv to audiences around the world. Anastasia Tsioulcas reports.
FEATURE, ATC, 04/22/2022

NAVALNY - NPR's Rob Schmitz talks with Daniel Roher, director of the documentary Navalny, about the poisoning of the Russian opposition leader.
FEATURE, ME, 04/25/2022

North Carolina lawmakers secured relatively few earmarks for the state. Jason deBruyn reports.

FEATURE, ME, 05/02/2022

Duke Energy is working on a plan to reduce carbon emissions by 70 percent by 2030. The company is required to reach carbon neutrality by 2050 under bipartisan legislation passed in October. Celeste Gracia has more.

FEATURE, ME, 05/02/2022

Abortion rights groups in North Carolina are alarmed by a leaked U-S Supreme Court opinion that could lead to the overturning of Roe versus Wade.

Justine Orlovsky-Schnitzler [or-lov-skee shnitz-lur] is Engagement Director with the Carolina Abortion Fund, which helps people with abortion expenses and scheduling.

FEATURE, ATC, 05/03/2022

Wake County manager David Ellis has proposed a one point seven billion dollar budget for the next fiscal year.

The spending plan includes funding for affordable housing and expanded services at regional health centers.

Ellis says more paramedics, firefighters, and building inspectors are needed to keep up with the county's rapid growth.

FEATURE, ATC, 05/03/2022

Over the past few years, other states have passed tighter limits on abortion. But in North Carolina, so-called "trigger laws" that could go into effect immediately if Roe V Wade is overturned have not passed.

Some laws restricting abortion rights are in place, but one law that would have disallowed abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy was removed from the books.

The state enacted a 20 week ban in 1973. In 2015, Republican lawmakers narrowed exemptions under the law, but federal courts issued an injunction.

Ann Webb is with the A-C-L-U of North Carolina.
FEATURE, ATC, 05/04/2022

The State Board of Education will ask lawmakers for an additional 32 million dollars to cover the rising cost of diesel.

With prices hitting five dollars a gallon, many school systems are dipping into reserves to fill the tanks of school buses.

Alan Duncan is the board's vice chair.
FEATURE, ATC, 05/06/2022

Early voting in the 2022 primaries is underway in North Carolina. But elections officials and poll workers are operating under a shadow of mistrust from some on the hyper-partisan right that has lasted--and even grown--in the past two years. Rusty Jacobs reports.
FEATURE, ME, 05/11/2022

Wetlands that are disturbed by humans emit huge amounts of carbon dioxide, ultimately contributing to global warming.

According to a new study, wetlands are effective at storing carbon because of mud that traps it.

Brian Silliman is a professor of marine conservation biology at Duke University. He co-authored this study.

He explains that humans are draining wetlands to use for farming because of its rich soil.

FEATURE, ATC, 05/16/2022

North Carolina has extended food assistance benefits for the state's youngest children through this summer. W-F-D-D's Neal Charnoff reports.

An extension has been granted for the federal Child Care Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer food assistance program. Beginning Monday, extra monthly P-EBT benefits tied to the COVID-19 pandemic will be issued to eligible children under the age of five and will continue monthly through

FEATURE, ME, 06/06/2022

State Senator Valerie Foushee has won the Democratic nomination to succeed the retiring David Price as representative of North Carolina's 4th Congressional District. Rusty Jacobs reports.

Foushee has served on Chapel Hill-Carrboro's school board, as the first Black woman elected to the Orange County Board of Commissioners, and in the state legislature. But to win Tuesday's primary, she had to overcome criticism from some progressives who were troubled by the campaign boost she got from big-money outside groups, including pro-Israel PACs.

FEATURE, ATC, 05/18/2022

This is Morning Edition. I'm Eric Hodge.

Leslie Mac is a progressive from Mecklenburg County. A reliable supporter of Democratic causes she voted in the recent primary, however, she was left wanting to see more from her party. Mac spoke with Jeff Tiberii on a recent episode of the WUNC Politics Podcast

INTERVIEW, ME, 05/31/2022

The state Senate passed a controversial bill called the Parents Bill of Rights yesterday [WED].

Republican senator Deanna [dee-ANNA] Ballard explained some of the major provisions in the bill:

It requires the governing body of a public school unit to adopt procedures to notify a parent of certain health related things regarding their student, including any change in the students mental or physical health services and if the student requests a change in their name or pronouns used at school.

FEATURE, ME, 06/02/2022

Wake County officials are creating new pathways for diverse candidates to become firefighters. Nationally, almost 95 percent of firefighters are men and roughly 85 percent are white according to the National Bureau of Labor. Wake County Human Resources' Trinija [Tri-NEE-jah] Martin says it's important to have a staff that reflects the community they serve.

FEATURE, ME, 06/06/2022

Green Party U-S Senate candidate Matthew Hoh has qualified for the ballot.

It's the first time a Green Party Senate candidate has made the ballot.

Hoh had to collect nearly 14-thousand signatures. Last week his campaign turned in more than 16-thousand to the state Board of Elections.

Hoh is a former marine captain who served in Afghanistan. He says voters deserve more than two choices.

FEATURE, ME, 06/06/2022

A bill filed at the General Assembly would create a statewide healthcare network for children in the foster care system. Jeff Tiberii reports.

FEATURE, ME, 06/07/2022

A legislative committee approved a bill today [Wednesday] that would expand and regulate virtual learning options for public school students.

The recently rewritten bill would allow schools to use remote instruction instead of makeup days. School districts could also create permanent virtual academies with approval from the state board of education.

State representative Jeffrey Elmore says this would allow schools to continue practices that worked during the pandemic.

The bill would also make the state's two virtual charter schools permanent and would raise their enrollment cap by 20 percent. Elmore says this would make virtual-only learning accessible to more students whose local schools do not have their own virtual academy.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/08/2022

The Durham City Council has received a detailed account of how more than 150-million dollars was spent on a failed light rail line. The Durham-Orange Light Rail was more than a decade in the making when it was abruptly canceled in 20-19. Durham County taxpayers contributed to about 80 percent of the costs. Local governments in both counties have lamented about wasted money.

At yesterday's [Thursday's] meeting, city council member Leonardo Williams said Durham's growth creates an immediate need for expanded public transportation.

FEATURE, ME, 06/13/2022

The North Carolina Supreme Court has issued a ruling that will make it easier for residents who live in a homeowners association to install solar panels on their homes. Celeste Gracia explains.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/22/2022

The Holly Springs town council has once again taken no action on a non-discrimination ordinance.

Donna Friend was one of several residents at last night's council meeting who spoke in favor of the proposal.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/22/2022

The U-S Supreme Court is allowing Republicans in North Carolina to intervene in lawsuits against the state's voter I-D policy. Will Michaels has more on where the case goes from here.

FEATURE, ME, 06/24/2022

Attorney General Josh Stein could make policy recommendations to strengthen patient privacy, after receiving a bipartisan request from some state lawmakers. Jason deBruyn reports.

FEATURE, ME, 06/27/2022

Two of North Carolina's largest companies say they will cover travel for employees to access abortion services. Bradley George reports.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/27/2022

The State Board of Elections is planning to meet later this week [THURSDAY] to decide whether to officially recognize the North Carolina Green Party. That would allow the party's candidates to appear on the ballot for this year's mid-term elections. It would also allow voters to register and affiliate with the group. But the far-left Greens could face a legal challenge from the Democratic Party. Rusty Jacobs reports.

FEATURE, ME, 06/27/2022

North Carolina doesn't have a so-called trigger ban on abortion access. But there still could be some restrictions on abortions without a new law.

One law on the books for decades restricted abortions after 20 weeks, and the legislature in 2015 narrowed its medical exemptions. But a judge ruled that law unconstitutional based on Roe. The law was enjoined by United States District Judge William Osteen [AH-steen], meaning it could not be enforced.

Last week's Supreme Court decision overturning Roe does not automatically mean the North Carolina law can be enforced. But, it makes it easier to reverse, says Duke University law professor Neil Siegel [SEE-gul].

FEATURE, ME, 06/27/2022

Work will begin this week to eradicate an invasive underwater plant in the Eno [ee-no] River.

Hydrilla [high-drilla] covers the riverbed and chokes out native plants and fish.

Orange County Water Resources Coordinator Wesley Poole says a herbicide called fluridone [flur-ih-doan] will be injected into the river.

FEATURE, ME, 06/28/2022

A bill that would change the way members of the State Board of Education are selected passed its first House committee today [Wednesday].

Right now, the Governor makes most of the appointments to the 13-member board, but the legislation - backed by North Carolina House Republicans - would make them elected positions instead.

State Representative Hugh Blackwell of Burke County is one of the bill's sponsors. He says it would also make the state superintendent of public instruction the chair of the state board.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/29/2022

The House K-12 education committee in the General Assembly will discuss a bill today [Wednesday] that would change how members of the state board of education are chosen. Liz Schlemmer reports.

FEATURE, ME, 06/29/2022

The city of Durham is launching a fourth pilot program later this summer as part of its ongoing crisis response efforts. Mental health professionals will pair up with police officers to respond to behavioral health calls for services that may appear to have a huge safety risk. John Zimmerman with Durham's community safety department says those calls may involve weapons or violence.

FEATURE, ME, 06/29/2022

The Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine - or W FIRM [HOST NOTE: read *W* as a letter and *FIRM* as word] - is receiving a \$36-million dollar award from the U-S Department of Defense. As W-F-D-D's Eddie Garcia reports, the funding will go toward research into how viruses affect humans.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/30/2022

Race/Diversity:

The Lumbee tribe has faced another legislative setback in its pursuit of federal recognition. Liz Schlemmer reports.

FEATURE, ATC, 04/04/2022

A series of events and decisions have American Indian students and faculty at UNC-Chapel Hill deeply concerned about their status on campus. It culminated recently with an online petition calling to quote "Save American Indian & Indigenous Studies at UNC Chapel Hill." Liz Schlemmer reports that the native community says the threat to the program is a symptom of a larger problem...

FEATURE, ATC, 05/04/2022

Cities and towns across North Carolina are preparing for some of their biggest Juneteenth celebrations in years.

Last year, Juneteenth was designated a federal holiday. June 19, 1865 is the day the last enslaved African Americans were informed of their freedom.

Leesa (lisa) Jones heads the Washington Waterfront Underground Railroad Museum in Beaufort [BO-furt] County. Jones says this year's event will include the reading of the Emancipation Proclamation outside First Presbyterian Church, where it was originally read in 1863.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/14/2022

Activists are calling for Tyrrell [TARE-ull] County commissioners to move a Confederate monument. Jason deBruyn reports.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/17/2022

A White House official will be visiting North Carolina Central University tomorrow [Friday] as part of a statewide tour of Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Doctor Dietra [dia-truh] Trent is the Executive Director for the White House Initiative on H-B-C-U. Catherine Edmonds with N-C-C-U says Trent's goal is to learn more about the NC-10 Initiative that aims to improve students of color's post secondary experiences.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/23/2022

The U-S Treasury is giving a Black-owned community bank in Durham 80-million dollars to support local business owners. The investment in M-and-F Bank is part of a federal program to help businesses deeply impacted by the pandemic. M-and-F was founded in 19-07 as an alternative for Black residents who were routinely denied loans at other banks.

President and C-E-O James Sills says this new funding will help the bank maintain its focus on community development.

FEATURE, ME, 06/24/2022

SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY:

A British energy company is *not* moving forward with plans to build a controversial wood pellet facility in Robeson County.

Active Energy is instead selling its Lumberton site for more than four million dollars. The biomass plant would have produced and exported wood pellets for other countries to burn for energy.

Local residents and environmental groups spoke out against the facility for years. They said the plant would bring more water and air pollution to the area.

Heather Hillaker [HILL-uh-kerr] is a staff attorney at the Southern Environmental Law Center.

FEATURE, ATC, 04/05/2022

An energy company is abandoning plans to open a biomass plant in Lumberton.

The announcement from Active Energy comes after years of protest against the facility.

The plant would have manufactured wood pellets for European countries to burn for energy. Local residents and environmental groups said the plant would bring more pollution to the area.

Heather Hillaker [HILL-uh-kerr] is a staff attorney at the Southern Environmental Law Center. She says the local community seems pleased with this news.

FEATURE, ATC, 04/06/2022

A new report shows job openings for information technology positions in North Carolina are at a record high. Bradley George has details.

FEATURE, ME, 04/21/2022

On Wednesday, SpaceX launches the next NASA astronauts to the International Space Station -- including Jessica Watkins, who is to become the first Black woman on a long-duration mission.

Brendan Byrne reports.

FEATURE, ATC, 04/26/2022

University of North Carolina hospitals will face increased competition in Orange County. State regulators approved a new M-R-I scanner in Orange County, and awarded it to Raleigh Radiology.

Practice managing partner Satish Mathan [sah-TEESH MATH-un] says he knows the university-based medical systems are established in that part of the Triangle. But he hopes that some added competition will benefit patients.

FEATURE, ME, 05/09/2022

Raleigh's Historical Development Commission is trying to learn more about the city's L-G-B-T-Q history.

It's asking residents to fill out a survey about places important to the L-G-B-T-Q community.

Tania [tonya] Georgiou [george-you] Tully is the city's Senior Preservation Planner.

"The survey was open in the fall. And we have re-opened it with some additional questions to hopefully get to some of the places that aren't as obvious."

The survey is open until the end of August. The commission will report its findings by the end of the year.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/20/2022

A new report found past racial and geographic inequities within a Medicaid program. The program helps people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, or I-D-D.

The Innovations Waiver offers robust services to people with I-D-D. But a study found Black and Hispanic individuals were less likely to receive the waiver.

Kenneth Bausell [BOSS-ell] is the I-D-D Manager with North Carolina Medicaid. He says the waiver isn't the only way Medicaid helps people with disabilities.

FEATURE, ME, 06/20/2022

Sports:

INTRO: North Carolina takes on Kansas tonight in the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship game. But Tar Heel and Duke fans are still feeling all the emotions from Saturday night's semifinal matchup.

Reporter Leoneda Inge captured some voices from that historic game.

Fans, players, and coaches reacting to Saturday night's Carolina-Duke Final Four matchup. U-N-C plays Kansas tonight for the national championship.

FEATURE, ME, 04/04/2022

The Tar Heels won a historic game Saturday night against Duke. Toward the end of that victory, starting center Armando Bacot twisted his ankle and had to be helped off the court. He came back to play another few minutes, before fouling out with 11 points and 21 rebounds.

Carolina head coach Hubert Davis says Bacot is expected to play tonight.

FEATURE, ATC, 04/04/2022

The Carolina Hurricanes beat the Rangers 4-2 in New York last night.

Seth Jarvis and Jordan Staal scored third-period goals for the Canes, while Frederik Andersen made 28 saves.

After the game, the 20-year-old Jarvis said it was his first time playing at Madison Square Garden.

FEATURE, ME, 04/13/2022

The Carolina Panthers say they are formally terminating their agreements with the city of Rock Hill to build the team's new headquarters and practice facility in South Carolina. WFAE's Steve Harrison reports.

FEATURE, ME, 04/21/2022

Durham has until 2025 to complete upgrades to the Durham Bulls Athletic Park to keep them in compliance with Major League Baseball.

It's a requirement by M-L-B for minor league teams to upgrade their facilities. If they don't, the Bulls will lose their M-L-B affiliation.

Durham Mayor Pro-Tem Mark-Anthony Middleton says the Bulls aren't going anywhere.

FEATURE, ME, 05/30/2022

The Carolina Hurricanes' season came to an end last night, with a 6-2 loss to the New York Rangers in Raleigh.

Despite the loss, Canes coach Rod Brind'Amour says he's proud of his team.

"Just the way the guys played every game. I mean, from the start pre-season all the way to now. They gave everything they had, so."

New York hosts Tampa Bay in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals tomorrow night.

FEATURE, ME, 05/31/2022

A North Carolina-based team now has the first Mexican-born winner in the NASCAR Cup Series. Daniel Suarez became the first Mexican-born driver to win at NASCAR's highest level yesterday.

Suarez won at Sonoma Raceway in northern California. He drives for Concord-based Trackhouse Racing co-owned by rapper Pitbull. Suarez said after the race he's lucky to be someone the Latino community can connect with.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/13/2022

Transportation:

Weather:

Severe weather is likely across much of Central North Carolina today.

Kathleen Carroll is a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Raleigh.

"All severe hazards will be possible today. So, that's hail, damaging winds, and tornadoes are all possible."

Carroll says the strongest storms will move through the Triangle between 2pm and early evening.

FEATURE, ME, 05/06/2022

North Carolina has nearly 2-hundred dams in poor or unsatisfactory condition that pose a significant safety risk. Jason deBruyn reports.

FEATURE, ME, 05/30/2022

Forecasters with the National Weather Service are calling for extreme heat today (MONDAY) and tomorrow (TUESDAY) across the state.

There is a heat advisory in effect for much of central North Carolina today with heat index values hitting 109 degrees this afternoon.

Nick Petrow [PEE-TROH] is a forecaster with the National Weather Service in Raleigh. He says tomorrow is predicted to be the hottest day of the week.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/13/2022

Other:

PFAS [PEE-fass] contamination has plagued the Cape Fear Region for decades, but researchers are still trying to catch up on understanding the chemicals' health effects. W-H-Q-R's Kelly Kenoyer [kuh-NOY-er] reports on scientists who are hoping to study the impacts of PFAS exposure on an apex predator: Alligators.

INTERVIEW, ATC, 04/26/2022

The new Netflix show *Old Enough* is actually a decades-old Japanese reality TV classic, featuring young children sent on challenging errands around town. Toddlers cross busy streets, encounter strangers and dangers, and are both terrifying and warming the hearts of US audiences. From a schoolyard in Tokyo, Thisanka Siripala reports on how Japanese infrastructure and culture supports children's independence from an early age.
FEATURE, ATC, 04/26/2022

A group in Southern Alamance County is pushing to preserve their rural community and keep more heavy industry from setting up shop. W-F-D-D's Keri Brown reports...
FEATURE, ATC, 05/04/2022

The Triangle and Brunswick County continue to lead the state in population growth. Bradley George reports.

Wendell's slogan is "Small Town, Big Charm." But the town is not so small anymore.
FEATURE, ME, 06/01/2022

More than three dozen states and a host of U-S territories allow people suffering from grave illnesses and other debilitating health conditions to manage their pain with medical marijuana. Now state senators from both parties want North Carolina to join that list. Rusty Jacobs reports.
FEATURE, ATC, 06/02/2022

People who receive nutrition benefits in North Carolina now have more flexibility in buying baby formula. Bradley George reports.

Participants in the Women, Infants, and Children program can only buy Gerber formula in certain types and sizes.
FEATURE, ATC, 06/03/2022

The pandemic put a stop to most international air travel from Raleigh-Durham International Airport. But international flights are slowly returning. Routes to Canada and Mexico returned first, and now R-D-U is welcoming back transatlantic service with a new airline. Bradley George reports.
FEATURE, ME, 06/10/2022

Today on Embodied- Caring for your Post-Baby Body... a conversation about the postpartum experience. Good morning, Anita.

Listen to Embodied today at noon...or catch up with it later on the Embodied podcast.

FEATURE, ATC, 06/10/2022