



French forward Allan Saint-Maximin brings a winner's attitude – and an international career résumé – to Charlotte FC

THE VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY SINCE 1906

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THREE SISTERS MARKET

A rendering of the interior of Three Sisters Market, a 10,000-square foot food cooperative scheduled to break ground in October. Upon completion in 2027, Three Sisters will provide the West Boulevard corridor access to a full-scale source for healthy food.

Food cooperative a linchpin to West Boulevard's growth

Three Sisters Market a symbol of empowerment in underinvested neighborhood

By Herbert L. White
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The long, winding path to Three Sisters Market is nearly complete.

The cooperative will bring a full-scale food resource to communities in the West Boulevard corridor, which has lacked access to fresh food for decades. A decade after launching a program to recruit members, the 10,000-square-foot market's groundbreaking is scheduled for October and will open in late 2027. Among the financial supporters is Wells Fargo, which in April donated \$1.5 million to the West Boulevard Neighborhood Coalition to support the market's development.

"With this cooperative, there's a lot of pieces – not just a grocery store, not just building a building," said Janiqua Jackson, Three Sisters' general manager.

"We're actually building community here, and in those ways, we're soliciting member owners and those member owners are actually owners of this business, and so with that, it takes a lot of work."

The West Boulevard corridor, which includes 33,000 residents, has long campaigned for a supermarket, but corporate-owned retailers tend to locate stores in more affluent neighborhoods. In west Charlotte, where communities near the urban core tend to be Black, food deserts are more likely to result.

"It's been a long time coming, and it's not the first effort," said Rickey Hall, a longtime West Boulevard advocate. "We

did this back in the '80s when we took over a running a shopping center called Westover Hill Shopping Center that the U.S. Marshals had confiscated and set forth a dream of doing the same thing that we're doing now, and it took 11 years from the time that iteration was birthed until it actually opened, but at the same time, we didn't get a grocery store. Whatever the reason and the dynamics and the market forces that didn't see us as a viable opportunity, we face similar challenges, but here we are."

Three Sisters is the culmination of a campaign to bring nutritious options to a longtime food desert. According to Please see **FOOD** | 2A



Jackson



Hall



Sawyer

I-77 South toll law puts region on the spot

NC legislation calls for municipalities to repay state \$60 million

By Herbert L. White
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A new state law that requires municipalities that backed away from the I-77 South toll project presents a dilemma.

Repay \$60 million for design work and return to a deeply unpopular public-private initiative. Refuse and lose access to state and federal transportation funds. Or, perhaps, challenge the law's constitutionality in court. Charlotte City Council, which represents 41% of the regional authority that pulled support for the project, hasn't met to discuss the law or the city's options.

HB 1094, an omnibus transportation bill signed into law July 8 by Gov. Josh Stein, requires members of the Charlotte regional transportation organization to reimburse the North Carolina Department of Transportation for the project's design phase. State Sen. Vickie Sawyer, a Republican who represents Iredell County and north Mecklenburg, announced her opposition to the toll project, authored the reimbursement amendment.

"I want to be very clear: the punitive provision in the amendment was not my idea," Sawyer, who co-chairs of the Senate Transportation Committee, wrote in a June 17 email to Sean Langley, president of the McCrory Heights Neighborhood Association. "It is part of the broader budget agreement sup-

Please see **I-77** | 2A

US Senate candidate Whatley lashes out

By Brandon Kingdollar
NC NEWSLINE

During a Rocky Mount rally last December alongside President Donald Trump, former RNC and NC GOP Chair Michael Whatley walked over to the press area to hold court.

"You've got to make me look not goofy," he quipped as the gaggle began.

In the months since, as polls have grown worse and unflattering stories have emerged about his tenure leading the state Republican Party, Whatley has increasingly withdrawn from nonpartisan media, cutting reporters out of event invitation lists and retreating to friendly, right-leaning podcasts and outlets where he can avoid potentially embarrassing slips.

Down by double digits to his Democratic opponent, former Gov. Roy Cooper, in nearly every poll this year, Whatley has adopted the pugilistic approach of his political benefactor, Trump, whose endorsement cleared the way for Whatley's nomination in the Republican Senate primary.

"He sees a political advantage for going after some in the press that he considers to be not supportive

Please see **WITH** | 2A

NC lawmakers aim to limit hemp-based THC in drinks and edibles

By Cameron Williams
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North Carolina lawmakers are pushing to limit hemp-derived THC products.

The House Bill 328, titled "Regulate Hemp-Derived Consumables," would limit THC levels to 0.4 milligrams in drinks and edibles while raising the age to buy such products to 21. If it becomes law, it will make North Carolina an outlier even if federal law were to change in the future.

The Senate passed the bill with a bipartisan 37-6 vote earlier this month. The House has yet to vote.

"The personal loss that has occurred across the state of North Carolina as a result of these products is such that we just could not and should not delay any further," Senate Leader Phil Berger told reporters. "We have gotten to such a point where doing nothing was not an option."

Jack Sherrie, CEO of Delta Beverages, which manufactures and sells hemp-based THC drinks ranging from 5-20 milligrams, opposes the bill but plans to pivot in case it becomes law.

"We have over 50 employees that currently work at Delta," he said. "Then we have more than 80 different distributors across the country. We have aggressively been coming up with a new plan to comply with these guidelines. It is tough because we built our business around THC and hemp THC has a lot of therapeutic benefits that people look for. But we have to look forward."

THC is shorthand for tetrahydrocannabinol, the primary psychoactive compound found in cannabis

Please see **PROPOSAL** | 3A



ST. AUGUSTINE'S UNIVERSITY

St. Augustine's University, which lost its accreditation earlier this year, is heading into bankruptcy. The historically Black school owes creditors between \$50 million to \$100 million, according to public records.

After final commencement, Raleigh HBCU heads to bankruptcy court

By Bonitta Best
TRIANGLE TRIBUNE

RALEIGH – On July 1, a former St. Augustine's University student used the moment to unfurl his version of the photo laced with expletives toward former and current administrators over the deteriorating state of the HBCU.

After 159 years, the university – which was originally chartered as a

"Normal School and Collegiate Institute" graduated its last accredited class in May: Breann Bannister, an elementary education major; Nazir Imhotep (sport management); Israel Pennerman (public health science) and Nicholas Black (exercise science).

SAU, which has no students, is awaiting a judge's ruling after filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. The next

Please see **ST. AUGUSTINE'S** | 3A

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Food cooperative key to West Boulevard’s growth

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Feeding America, food insecurity occurs when a household can’t access food due to a lack of essential resources. Among the factors are household income, expenses, access to affordable health care, social and physical environment.

People disproportionately impacted by food insecurity include children, people of color, the formerly incarcerated, and single-parent households.

Geography is also a factor. West Boulevard is near the urban core but has historically been underinvested by city government and the business community. As a result, there’s less access to necessities – something supporters want to change, starting with food.

“When you drop down into the West Boulevard Corridor, we’re in the same part as East Boulevard, but when you look at South End, in that area, you’ve got access to banks, you’ve got access to grocery stores, you’ve got access to anything that you would ever want to see,” Hall said. “But when you come into the West Boulevard corridor, we’ve been a food desert for eons and the traditional markets, for whatever reason, passed us by and at the same time, what you would find is a lot of dollar stores and convenience stores and things of that nature.

“What we’re actually seeking to solve is that need for fresh, healthy fruit, vegetables, and produce in a full service grocery store arrangement to tackle what has been an area that has a lot of social determinants of health, whether it be high blood pressure, heart trouble, diabetes, all of the social maladies, and we certainly want to provide that in proximity to where people live.”

Food insecurity is a growing problem in Mecklenburg County. According to research by the UNC Charlotte Department of Epidemiology and Community Health, 15% of households lack access to nutritious food sources. Mecklenburg’s poverty rate in 2023 was 9.9% compared to 13.4% of North Carolina residents living below the poverty line and 12.8% nationally.

About 10% of Mecklenburg residents struggle with housing, utilities, and energy costs and a lack of transportation often means people live in food deserts. Grocery stores are not always close by or affordable, leaving fast food and conven-

ience stores as the primary food sources.

With its community-based business model, Three Sisters leans on the financial support of more than 625 neighborhood investor-owners who control the cooperative’s rules. But like corporate stores, there’s no restriction on who can shop.

“We want everybody to shop at the store, but to be a member-owner ... it’s as easy as paying a one-time fee of \$100,” Jackson said. “There’s a lot of democratic values that we are supporting along with the member ownership, being able to make decisions on what’s happening, but also turning over what’s going to happen inside the store. There are board seats and committee seats available, so we really want for this to be a community-owned store.”

Hall sees Three Sisters as West Boulevard neighbors making an investment in themselves. Where corporations see a bottom line, member-owners are betting on self-help and empowerment that can attract additional capitalization.

“In actuality, it is the community taking ownership of a problem that it has been seeking to solve,” he said. “We can’t ask others to contribute if we’re not willing to contribute ourselves, and that member ownership, that community governance and control, and that professionally run market is the way and the path forward to sustainable, long-term investment in the West Boulevard corridor.”

Said Jackson: “What’s happening right now is it’s creating power. A lot of what you hear us doing, and the underlying thought behind it is to empower our community. Economic mobility is a thing. I think all the reasons surrounding why a grocery store isn’t in our community as of now surrounds economics. ...

“The first step is to be able to take care of ourselves. ... We just know that now is our time.”



West Boulevard advocate **RICKEY HALL**

I-77 South toll repayment law puts Charlotte region on the spot

Continued from page 1A
ported by legislative leadership. I included it in my amendment so that you and other stakeholders would have complete and transparent information as you plan for the future.

“Please also keep in mind that the Towns of Davidson and Cornelius, which are also in my district, stand to lose significant funding once the budget passes. My goal was to warn and inform our communities.”

Charlotte City Council member Victoria Watlington, who was in the 6-5 majority to rescind support, said the law is misplaced. In addition to Watlington, J.D. Mazuera Arias, Malcolm Graham, Renee Johnson, LaWana Mayfield and Joi Mayo voted to end the project. Dante Anderson, Dimple Ajmera, Ed Driggs, Kimberly Owens and James Mitchell voted to continue.

“I wish that we put this kind of energy into actually finding solutions for our folks, rather than pushing special interest groups’ concerns at the expense of the broader community,” she said. “But I say all that to say that at this point, it’s really about information gathering. As I understand it, right now the way the law is set up, there’s a couple of provisions in there that talks about Gov. Stein’s ability to work with NCDOT to determine whether we unilaterally made a decision or whether we were following the public process, so I certainly will be interested to hear their take in regard to it.”

Based on the proportionality of the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization, Charlotte is responsible for a plurality of the reimbursement. Mecklenburg County and Matthews also voted to oppose the project. Monroe’s city council originally supported rescission, then reversed course to avoid exposure to the

penalty. Opponents of the toll project see the law as an unlawful attempt to force municipalities to reverse course under threat of sanctions that includes withholding future state and federal transportation funding until NCDOT is repaid.

Attaching sanctions to CRTPO’s position, critics contend, circumvents the will of local voters who demanded transparency from the state in crafting a plan that spared neighborhoods – primarily black communities in west Charlotte – of displacement that occurred in the 1960s with previous projects.

“I don’t know if I would call it blackmail,” Watlington said. “I think I’ve seen it described as extortion. I can certainly see why there are members of the community who have characterized it that way. What I can say is that it’s absolutely that practice. It’s punitive. It potentially places all of our federal dollars in the state of North Carolina at risk, and it serves a very little few.

“To me, it’s a slap in the face to the community who rose up and said not that we don’t want solutions, but we want transparent information that is timely before decisions are made, and we want to make sure that those solutions are holistic and does not just serve an outdated mobility pattern.”

Said Ajmera: “As we consider the proposed expansion of Interstate 77, we must acknowledge an important truth. Major highway projects in Charlotte

and across this country have historically divided neighborhoods and disproportionately harmed Black and Brown communities. We have a responsibility to learn from that history and ensure we do not repeat it.

“Pausing this process is about making sure we move forward responsibly. Residents deserve transparency around long-term costs, environmental impacts, and how communities may be affected. This is a generational investment, and we have a duty to get this right – for the residents who live here today and for future generations.”

Regardless of whether municipalities must reimburse the state, determining transportation solutions in an increasingly congested region is still an issue. I-77 traffic is among North Carolina’s worst, and alleviating it requires collaboration at the state and local levels. NCDOT insists public-private to toll projects are best. Neighborhood stakeholders and advocacy groups are pushing for alternatives built on greater transparency.

“As always, the idea is figure out what we can do in terms of moving people around our city,” Watlington said. “That should stay the goal versus some of the things that we’re seeing on a more tactical level to get behind a particular solution at the expense of the taxpayers who have already paid for this work.”



Ajmera



BRANDON KINGDOLLAR | NC NEWSLINE

Republican Senate candidate Michael Whatley speaks with reporters in Rocky Mount ahead of a Trump rally on Dec. 19, 2025.

With campaign cratering, Whatley criticizes media

Continued from page 1A
of his candidacy,” said David McLennan, a professor of political science at Meredith College. “Whatley is a political animal, been the chair of the state and national GOP, and so he’s well-versed in attacking the media, making them the story as opposed to himself.”

But unlike Trump, most voters do not know who Whatley is. “He needs to make himself known, because all the public opinion surveys I’ve seen say most North Carolinians don’t know much about him,” McLennan said. “You’d think, well, is my strategy to become better known to make myself more available, or less available?”

When reporters tried to attend a campaign event in Raleigh Thursday where Whatley was accepting the endorsement of the Police Benevolent Association, several were denied entry. Event organizers called the police on The Assembly reporter Bryan Anderson, he wrote in a social media post.

Reporters for NC Newsline attempted to RSVP to the event but were denied entry because of a deadline in an advisory that was not provided to NC Newsline. “You will not be credentialed to attend this event,” campaign spokesperson DJ Griffin wrote in an email to NC Newsline.

Griffin declined to address the police response or a request by NC Newsline for an interview with Whatley for this article.

“Left-wing activists, like you, posing as ‘journalists’ already have their narrative written,” he wrote in a statement to NC Newsline Friday. “Whether they’re inside the event or standing on the sidewalk makes no difference. They’ll publish the same garbage and lies either way.”

NC Newsline previously covered a March campaign event in which Whatley accepted the endorsement of the North Carolina Troopers Association. The campaign shared and quoted NC Newsline’s story on its official Facebook account.

Ahead of coverage of an April 8 roundtable with the North Carolina Chamber of Commerce, the campaign expressed a positive view of NC Newsline. “I am adding you to our press list now so we don’t miss you in the future,” Griffin wrote then. “We’d love to have you attend that if you’re interested.”

Two weeks after the April 8 roundtable, NC Newsline published a story on Whatley’s pattern of failure to appear in court for traffic violations, which at one point led to an order for his arrest. Since that story posted, NC Newsline has not received notice of a Whatley campaign event.

The campaign did not respond to several calls and emails for comment from NC Newsline for that story, but in an indicator of its evolving media strategy, his campaign spokesman made his only public comment to WCAB News, a regional news website operated by a Rutherfordton country music station.

“It’s not a shock that Roy Cooper would rather talk about his opponent’s speeding tickets instead of talking about the murderers, rapists, and pedophiles Cooper gave a get-out-of-jail-free card to,” Griffin told WCAB.

“While the mainstream media refuses to hold Cooper accountable, the families of victims will.”

Cooper was not quoted in NC Newsline’s story.

The Assembly reported it’s also being cut out by the campaign’s press office after an interaction with Whatley in June.

The Whatley campaign, cheering on the Carolina Hurricanes in the Stanley Cup playoffs, posted an AI-generated image of a hockey player on social media. After observers noted that the image was AI, Whatley said he is a fan of the team. But when asked by Assembly reporter Anderson to name his favorite player, the Republican from Michigan did not name a single player for the Carolina Hurricanes.

“Last chance: Can you name one Hurricanes player?” Anderson asked at the end of a press gaggle with Whatley, a question the candidate ignored, turning his head away and giving a thumbs up.

Whatley’s retreat from the media started around the same time as the revelation that the former NCGOP chair had appointed convicted sex offender Harvey West to a committee tasked with writing the state party’s planning document, and that Whatley had supported judicial fundraisers hosted at West’s home for years. He has refused to discuss the issue with reporters.

“Probably the better question would be, ‘Why did Roy Cooper release thousands of hardened criminals from prison?’” Whatley said when a reporter with NC Newsline asked about West in April.

Cooper’s administration entered into a civil rights settlement that required the release of thousands of inmates during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Whatley has continued to make regular appearances on right-leaning podcasts and media outlets. He was interviewed last week on the “Sean Spicer Show,” hosted by Trump’s former press secretary, and has also made appearances on Fox News, Newsmax, and Breitbart Radio.

Whatley’s events have followed a similar trajectory. They’ve generally been limited to allies, supporters, and donors, and are not widely announced to the public – a stark contrast with Cooper, who has held dozens of well-publicized “Make Stuff Cost Less” rallies crisscrossing the state in the last few months.

McLennan says tightly controlled media environments where the candidate can avoid hostile questioning may be safer for campaigns, but they shut out swing voters who may want to know more about a candidate before casting their ballot.

“It’s all those North Carolinians who don’t know who you are that you need to vote for you in order to beat Roy Cooper,” McLennan said. “People are just asking questions about, who are you, and what do you believe, and what would you do as U.S. Senator? And those are pretty standard questions.”

“[Whatley] had no campaign experience as a candidate,” McLennan added. “So, is this lack of experience as a candidate, not as an operative, really showing with Michael Whatley? I would say probably, yeah.”



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ELSA OLOFSSON | UNSPLASH

House Bill 328 would limit THC levels to 0.4 milligrams in hemp-derived drinks and edibles in North Carolina in addition to setting the age for buying such products to 21. The bill passed the Senate but has yet to be voted on by the House of Representatives.

Proposal aims to limit THC in drinks, edibles

Continued from page 1A

responsible for the intoxicating “high” feeling. It interacts with the body’s endocannabinoid system to alter mood and perception while also offering medical benefits for pain and nausea relief.

“We know the plant inside and out,” Sherrie said. “There are other components to the plant that do offer therapeutic effects that are not cannabinoids, and we are in the process of developing a new product that we believe will be successful. We have to support our team. We’ve got to support all the employees and everybody that believes in Delta. So, we don’t have a choice. Luckily, we are extremely resilient. We know this industry inside and out. I’d say we are the adults in the room when it comes to THC beverages.”

HB 328, sponsored by Reps. Carla Cunningham (U-Mecklenburg) and Republicans Donny Lambeth (Forsyth), Donnie Loftis (Gaston), and Larry Potts (Davidson), was originally intended to ban hemp products on school grounds. The bill was amended in the Senate to regulate content and raise the buying age.

HB 328 would reshape the legal

landscape for retailers and manufacturers as well as re-introduce significant civil and criminal penalties for violations. Businesses that fail to adapt would risk fines, criminal liability and sustainability.

“This would ultimately shut us all down,” Sherrie said. “We wouldn’t be able to sell products anymore. Thousands of jobs are at stake. Tax revenue for Charlotte and the state would be cut off. We’ve calculated it as an industry, and it is in the hundreds of millions of dollars [lost in tax revenue]. I don’t think a lot of senators really understand the implications of cutting off THC.”

Sherrie contends the bill is disguised as regulation for THC products when in reality it will eliminate them.

“It is really just banning everything in the industry for people,” Sherrie said. “A lot of senators, it’s not their fault – they are just not educated on the category. And this is really complicated; it isn’t easy to grasp. When I sought out to get into hemp-based THC beverages ... my thought process going into it was this is already a complicated thing. There’s already a three-tiered system for alcohol in place. We just need to live inside it.”

St. Augustine’s University heads to bankruptcy court

Continued from page 1A

hearing is scheduled for July 28.

According to financial records the public can view for a fee, the university owes from \$50 million to \$100 million to between 200 and 1,000 creditors. This doesn’t include the Internal Revenue Service, which is seeking its \$14 million cut.

Chapter 11 is akin to a do-over. Individuals or companies in massive debt can file and, if approved, restructure debt. Everybody that’s owed won’t get paid, however, and most won’t see a penny. It’s not the bigger companies that are most affected, but smaller vendors struggling to survive, employees who counted on their pensions in their latter years and students owed tuition refunds or work study money, that have been hurt the most. And to even attempt to collect will probably require hiring a lawyer. Who can afford that?

“I’m so hurt,” legendary SAU track and field coach/athletic director George Williams said. “I just don’t know why all the presidents that came through there didn’t follow Dr. (Prezell) Robinson’s blueprint. The guy had a blueprint. The man was excellent.”

Robinson, whom many call St. Aug’s greatest president, died on June 29 at 105 years old. He lived across from the university on Glascoc Street. His body will lie in repose on July 10 from 12-4 p.m., at the campus chapel.

“He loved the chapel,” Williams said. “He did everything to make sure it stayed afloat and in good condition.”

Despite SAU’s downfall, with millions in

federal funds still unaccounted for, Williams and alumni are holding out hope the school can be saved.

The National Alumni Association of SAU raised almost \$27,700 in its recent “Soar & Rise Campaign.” The gift is unrestricted.

“Every gift represented an expression of pride, faith and belief in the future of our beloved alma mater,” NAA-SAU outgoing president Johnelle Sherald, a 1976 graduate, said. “We are thankful to every alumnus, alumna, chapter and friend who participated in this effort, and we look forward to continuing to support SAU in meaningful ways.”

The university updated its website on Tuesday announcing the launch of professional certificate programs beginning in the fall. The nondegree online programs will be developed and taught by faculty.

A returning online course is the Teacher Residency Licensure Program in partnership with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

For Williams, it’s not about holding a grudge over the way he was fired six years ago. His 39 NCAA Division II national track championships and numerous CIAA titles would never have happened if Robinson hadn’t taken a chance on him over 55 years ago. St. Aug’s is still near and dear to his heart.

“I’m very proud that he hired me to be a part of the St. Aug’s family,” Williams said. “I don’t know where I would have been without that hire. ... We cannot lose that institution.”

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Nation that forgets its history is bound

Voting rights is back in the news because some people are still trying to decide whose votes deserve trust.

In Georgia, the Justice Department and FBI under President Donald Trump have reopened questions around Fulton County's 2020 election records after agents seized hundreds of boxes of ballots. The Associated Press reports the FBI has assigned 260 analysts and operations staff to review them.

Fulton County includes most of Atlanta and sits at the heart of Georgia's transformation. It has a large Black electorate, growing Latino and Asian American communities, and many newer residents drawn by the Atlanta region's jobs and universities. It voted against President Trump. Yet Georgia's 2020 result was not some partisan rumor.



BEN
JEALOUS

Local officials counted the ballots. The state counted them three times, including once by hand. Republican officials certified the result. Each count confirmed the same outcome. That matters because vote suppression has often followed the same pattern: discredit the voters, divide the people, deprive enough citizens of the ballot, and move power upward.

The country has largely forgotten one of its earliest broad voting rights victories: the campaign to end property qualifications for white men. In many states, a man could be white, free, taxed, armed and called to defend the Revolution — and still be denied the vote because he did not own enough property.

Those men did not suffer as long as Black men, women, Native people or others shut out of democracy. Their exclusion still reveals the old fault line. Power rightfully belongs to the people. Yet wealthy interests have often tried to keep too much of it for themselves.

Some people profit from our forgetting. If we forget that landless white men once had to fight for the vote, we can miss the pattern when it returns in new clothes.

Benjamin Franklin saw the absurdity. He told the story of a man whose vote depended on owning a jackass worth enough money to qualify him. When the animal died, the man lost the vote. Franklin asked the obvious question: "In whom is the right of suffrage? In the man or in the jackass?"

Thomas Paine gave the moral answer. "Man did not enter into society to become worse than he was before, nor to have fewer rights than he had before, but to have those rights better secured."

There is irony in President Trump's love of President Andrew Jackson. Jackson and his allies built the Democratic Party with a founding promise: government should answer to the landless many, not merely the propertied few.

Jackson's democracy was badly bounded. It excluded Black people, women and Native people. His politics also embraced slaveholding white supremacy. Still, he saw one danger clearly. In his veto of the national bank, he warned that "the rich and powerful too often bend the acts of government to their selfish purposes."

That warning fits this moment. Vote suppression has often worked by discrediting voters, dividing working people against one another, and depriving the many of their full voice so some rich and powerful people can bend government toward themselves.

That was much of the logic of monarchy: divide and conquer. It was much of the logic of Jim Crow: tell poor white people their enemy is Black freedom. It was true in the 1820s. It was true in the 1920s, when immigrants from predominantly Catholic countries like Ireland and Italy were cast as threats to real America. It is true today, when immigrants from predominantly Catholic countries like Haiti and Mexico are made into scapegoats again. Tell rural voters their enemy is city voters. Tell Election Day voters their enemy is mail voters.

The tools change. The purpose often does not. Property requirements became poll taxes. Poll taxes became literacy tests. Literacy tests gave way to purges, ID rules, closed polling places and attacks on early voting, same-day registration and mail ballots.

The burden comes as paperwork, deadlines, long lines, missing names and ballots questioned after the people have spoken. A poll tax charged money. A long line charges time. Cutting early voting can tax people who do not control their schedules. Restricting mail ballots can tax seniors, disabled voters, rural voters and caregivers.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson spent his life widening the meaning of the many. He urged young people to hold "a diploma in one hand" and "a voter registration card in that other hand." Education and the ballot. Knowledge and power.

Imagine if every schoolchild learned that the poll tax was not only an attack on Black voting power but also on poor white voting power. We might see the trick more clearly when it returns in new clothes.

Ben Jealous is a professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania and former national president and CEO of the NAACP.

Child of immigrants, not fearful

"What's giving you hope?"

It's a question I had come to dread. It comes up constantly in advocacy spaces these days, including all around North Carolina. I always find an answer, but the truth is, I hadn't really felt hopeful in a long time — until recently.



ANDRESSIA
RAMIREZ

The last year has been emotionally shattering. Undocumented people have always lived with fear, rooted in lacking a piece of paper that dictates whether your life is considered valid or disposable. Now, federal agents are stopping people for how they look, not what they've done. We're seeing U.S. citizens killed by federal immigration agents. People are starting to understand that no one is safe. Entire communities are canceling medical appointments. Parents are not taking their children to school. People are skipping work, not because they want to, but because survival requires caution. Fear has become a daily calculation.

I know this feeling intimately. And not just from this year. My parents immigrated from Querétaro, Mexico, and settled in Wilson County, N.C, when I was 8 years old. I remember learning in elementary school that my mother was undocumented. From that moment on, it became our biggest secret. I couldn't tell anyone because

anyone knowing could be a threat. My brothers and I grew up understanding that our mother could be taken from us with no warning.

We learned how to listen carefully, how to stay quiet, how to carry fear without letting it show.

For most of my life, I held onto one hope: that one day my mom would become a citizen. In high school, I felt an overwhelming need to be the absolute best student, so that one day I could petition for her. She obtained her green card the year I graduated from college in 2019 and became a citizen in 2025.

I thought that my mother's naturalization would feel like a triumph. That I would finally feel like I could breathe; that we were safe. That I would no longer live in fear. But in the wake of the 2024 election, I realized that even citizenship does not erase the trauma, exhaustion, and vigilance that immigrant families like mine carry. Right now, fear persists for one painfully clear reason: it does not matter if you are a U.S. citizen. Recent federal immigration enforcement has shown, repeatedly, that citizenship does not protect you.

What I've learned in recent months is that hope is not found in a document or a legal status. Hope lives in people. It lives in neighbors stepping up to learn their rights, volunteers joining rapid response networks, and local leaders pushing back on policies that make our communities less safe.

For me, it was found at

home in November while supporting the first-ever youth-led protest in Wilson. It was in the middle of a surge of federal officers during what they called Operation Charlotte's Web, and rumors were flying that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was spreading into eastern North Carolina. Students from the local high schools responded by organizing a walk-out and rally. They did everything, from working with teachers to ensure the rally wouldn't jeopardize their future prospects, to painting signs and securing a speaker.

Everyone was afraid, but we were pushing each other to be brave.

It wasn't just Latino kids, either. There were black kids, white kids, kids of all backgrounds and ages who stood together.

The crowd was chanting when someone, unexpectedly, handed the megaphone over to me. I hadn't planned on leading chants. I felt my voice would break. That I would try to yell and nothing would come out. Despite my relative safety and experience, I felt uncertain.

I yelled into the megaphone: "If ICE comes to Wilson, what do we do?"

"Stand up! Fight back!" they shouted.

I felt a surge of pride. And a new answer to the question about something giving me hope. I want these students to recognize the power they hold — and the power they're giving to us.

I hate that teenagers are compelled to protest. I grieve that they're carrying

the same fear that paralyzed me.

I fear that if we don't do something about this now, they'll still be feeling that fear in 10 years.

When I was their age, I held my first protest sign begging this country to see my undocumented mother as a human being. I begged for safety. For acceptance. For the right to exist in the only home I had ever known. I never imagined I would see young people, almost a decade later, fighting a different version of the same battle.

And yet, I am hopeful. And while I hate that they have to take on this fight, I am grateful for the young people of my community for standing up for all of us.

I'm watching the next generation rise with clarity, courage and conviction. They remind me of the fire I once carried before too many defeats dimmed it.

In Spanish, we say *vivir en las sombras*, or "to live in the shadows." But the next generation refuses, choosing each other over silence, community over isolation. And as long as we keep building power, across communities, across languages, across counties, the shadows will never be able to swallow us again.

Andressia Ramirez is an advocate at the North Carolina Justice Center, raised in Wilson, North Carolina by parents from Querétaro, Mexico. This column is syndicated by Beacon Media and is available to republish for free on all platforms under Beacon Media's guidelines.

Trump administration shelves Tubman \$20

ATLANTA DAILY WORLD

The Trump administration has shelved the decade-long effort to put Harriet Tubman on the \$20 bill — while simultaneously pushing to put Trump's face on a brand-new \$250 bill.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent confirmed July 6 that the Trump administration is "not at present" planning to move forward with placing Tubman's likeness on the \$20. Bessent did not elaborate.

Tubman would have been the first Black American — and the first woman in more than a century — on the face of U.S. paper currency. The plan originated under President Barack Obama in 2016, when then-Treasury Secretary Jack Lew announced that Tubman would replace Andrew Jackson on the front of the \$20 bill, originally set to enter circulation in 2020 to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment.

Trump blocked the plan during his first term, calling it "pure political correctness" and suggesting Tubman be placed on the \$2 bill instead.

When President Biden took office in 2021, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said the administration was "taking steps to resume efforts" and exploring ways to "speed up the process." Former Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen later estimated the bill would be ready by 2030, citing the need for sophisticated anti-counterfeiting technology.

In May 2025, during a tense exchange with Rep. Joyce Beatty, a Black Democrat from Ohio, Bessent was asked for an update on the Tubman bill's status. His response: "I can't, my staff will get back to you."

The contrast between the administration's handling of the Tubman redesign and its support for a proposed \$250 bill featuring Trump drew immediate criticism.

Pressed on the discrepancy, Bessent told Spectrum News: "The 250 requires an act of Congress, because you can't have a living person on U.S. currency."

He added: "For us to change an existing bill, whether it's \$1 through \$100, takes many years in

advance." No new person has been added to U.S. paper currency since 1928. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, a

Democrat from New Hampshire who has been introducing legislation to put Tubman on the \$20

since 2015, said she was "extremely disappointed" by Bessent's announcement.

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NEWCASTLE UNITED

Allan Saint-Maximin, who signed a Designated Player contract with Charlotte FC, has been a success in Europe, including helping RC Lens win the Coupe de France title this year – the franchise’s first in its 120-year history. Saint-Maximin, 29, also spent four seasons with Newcastle United in the English Premier League.

Saint-Maximin: ‘I’m a winner’

French forward adds Premier League credentials to Charlotte FC side that needs another scoring threat

By Herbert L. White
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Allan Saint-Maximin brings a winning attitude to Charlotte FC.

The Crown announced signing the French forward to a three-year Designated Player contract through the 2028-29 season. Saint-Maximin, 29, will occupy an international roster slot on the roster. Before arriving in Charlotte, the winger helped RC Lens win the Coupe de France title – the club’s first in its 120-year history.

Saint-Maximin tallied four goals and three assists in 13 matches across all

competitions after joining the team in February.

“I think I’m quite a leader,” he said. “I’m quite the player of the coach and I show this in my career. ...I’m not the player to stay on the bench or to stay one year, two years without playing games. I always try to help the team from the starting position or from the bench and every time I try to give an impact, I try to help the team to win because I’m a winner. The only things I know is to win or to help my team to win.”

Saint-Maximin spent four seasons

with Premier League side Newcastle United, where he scored 13 goals and added 21 assists in 124 matches. In his final season with the Magpies, Newcastle finished fourth in the Premier League and qualified for the Champions League for the first time since 2003.

“Maxi is an elite attacking talent who has consistently performed at the highest levels of our sport, including in the Premier League,” Charlotte general manager Zoran Krneta said in a statement. “We’re delighted to bring a player of his quality to Charlotte while

he is in the prime of his career. His creativity, speed, technical ability and flair make him immediately one of the most exciting players in Major League Soccer. Adding a player with his pedigree, experience, and winning mentality will bolster our attacking options and strengthen the team overall.”

Signing with Charlotte checks off a personal goal for Saint-Maximin: playing in the United States. He’s already familiar with the neighbors to the south in Liga MX, Mexico’s top league, where he made five goal contributions over

Please see **SAINT-MAXIMIN** | 6A

Charlotte FC finally gets a turn in MLS All-Star spotlight

By Herbert L. White
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For the first time in its five-year existence, Charlotte FC has an All-Star presence.

Three Charlotte players – defender Tim Ream, midfielder Pep Biel and captain Ashley Westwood are on the MLS All-Star roster for the July 29 showcase against Liga MX at Bank of America Stadium. Crown coach Dean Smith is MLS’s gaffer.

Biel, Charlotte’s Designated Player, has seven goals and four assists across

15 matches. Westwood has a goal and an assist in 14 matches with 649 completed passes with 88% passing accuracy.

Ream, who has an assist for the Crown in 11 matches, captained the United States side at the FIFA World Cup. was named to the MLS starting XI last month. Ream’s appearance is his second All-Star berth and comes 15 years after his showcase debut.

Other MLS All-Stars who played in the World Cup include Matt Freese of the U.S., Petar Musa (Croatia) and Richie

Laryea (Canada).

The first 11 players were selected through a combination of fan, player, and media voting, and announced on June 4. The coach selections were a collaborative between MLS All-Star head coach Dean Smith of Charlotte FC and Major League Soccer.

Two selections were made by Commissioner Don Garber – Red Bull New York forward Julian Hall and Toronto FC defender Richie Laryea.

Hall, 18, has progressed from MLS Next to MLS Next Pro before promotion

to Red Bull New York’s first team. He became the youngest player to score a hat trick in MLS history, and his 13 goal contributions (nine goals) are the most by a player under the age of 25.

Laryea, who is in his eighth season with Toronto FC, has established himself as one of MLS’ best fullbacks since entering the league as a SuperDraft selection in 2016. He started every game for the Canada National Team at FIFA World Cup 2026 and is one of just five defenders in MLS this season with multiple goals and multiple assists.

Independence tops USL League One honors



CHARLOTTE INDEPENDENCE

Charlotte Independence midfielder Luis Alvarez was named USL League One player of the month for June after scoring five goals across four games.

By Herbert L. White
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The Charlotte Independence’s unbeaten streak has earned multiple awards from USL League One.

Coach Mike Jeffries has been named coach of the month for June while midfielder Luis Alvarez earned player of the month.

The Jacks went undefeated in June with three League One wins and a USL Cup result. Alvarez racked up five goals and an assist in four appearances, including a pair of braces in as many games against FC Naples and another goal in a win against league-leading Union Omaha.

The three league wins in June were part of the team’s eight-game winning streak – a new club record. The Independence remain unbeaten in all competitions in the last 14 matches after beating Charleston Battery last week in the Prinx Tire USL Cup tournament.

“This award is a reflection of the players’ energy, commitment, and belief in themselves and each other,” Jeffries said in a statement. “They come in every day with a smile and challenge us as a staff to be at our best. A huge thank you to our ownership for giving me the opportunity to man-

Please see **INDEPENDENCE** | 6A

Summer is perfect to try new things

Every summer I make it a point to highlight nontraditional sports before August kicks in and the HBCU sports world goes crazy.

Black people are not monolithic. New generations are growing up with diversifying interests outside of the traditional football, basketball, baseball and track and field.

And then there are the sports fanatics. They will watch A-N-Y-T-H-I-N-G related to sports, especially if it keeps them away from the “Honey Do” list.

The Triangle is becoming quite a sports mecca, and Cary is right in the thick of it.

World Rugby Nations Cup is bringing the U.S.-based leg of its inaugural 2026 tournament to North Carolina this month.

Denver, Charlotte and Cary were chosen for the American portion of the tournament. And, yes, the U.S. has a team in the Cup. Zimbabwe battled the USA July 11 at Charlotte’s Legion Memorial Stadium. Then, on July 18, it’s the USA vs. Spain at Cary’s WakeMed Soccer Park.

Can it get any better than rooting for USA on home soil? Expect a sellout (tickets went on sale in April), lots of traffic and foreigners with money to burn. Fans in the United States can

Please see **SUMMER** | 6A



BONITTA
BEST

Albin finds Charlotte football ‘on schedule’ going into fall

By Cameron Williams
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Tim Albin feels the Charlotte 49ers are on schedule for improvement in his second season as coach.

“I would say we’re on schedule coming out of spring ball,” he said. “We had 12 more days with the strength staff and then 12 more with the team after the fourth of July. After that they will get about eight days off before the start of fall camp. ... Everybody across the country is doing basically the same thing right

now. The big thing for us — and I don’t want to give you the coach speak — the formula is not turning the ball over, winning the field position battle... and Charlotte can’t beat Charlotte.”

No changes were made among the coordinators: Todd Fitch (offense), Nate Faanes (defense) and Brian Haines (special teams). Albin said at the end of the 2025 season that he had full confidence in his staff and didn’t feel that was a part of the issue.

Albin’s first 49ers team couldn’t seem to catch a break in

going 1-11. Injuries were a major factor with quarterback Conner Harrell, running back Henry Rutledge and defensive lineman Taz Williams losing significant time. Williams — although on the roster — will miss the 2026 season.

Offense

One of the big questions is the receiver room and who will be key players at that position. Albin recognized the losses from a season ago but feels some key additions will be helpful.

“Guys like Sean Brown, we are going to miss him,” Albin said.

“But this season I think with the guys we have we will be able to stretch the field a little bit. [J.D. Barnes] I am going to hold my tongue on him a little but obviously he has some really good film from App State. We saw that firsthand [last year in a season-opening loss]. I was on the sideline for some of that. He has a lot of talent, and we are excited to have him. I think the receiver room as a whole, we are a lot faster, but ... we have to have other positions that play well so

Please see **CHARLOTTE** | 6A



MATT LACZKO | THE CHARLOTTE POST

The Charlotte 49ers are targeting a defensive overhaul after allowing an average of 36.6 points per game in 2025, coach Tim Albin's first season in Charlotte.

Charlotte football ‘on track’ for improvement in 2026

Continued from page 5A

they can play well. The o-line has to block well, and the quarterbacks have to get the ball to them accurately.”

The 49ers lost like Javen Nicholas, E. Jai Mason, Miles Burgess along with Brown from the 2025 team.

At quarterback, it’s a three-man race for the starting job between Harrell, who is recovering after an ACL tear last year, Grayson Loftis and transfer Cole Gonzales.

“Grayson has the most snaps,” Albin said. “It’ll be a great competition. Conner is coming through rehab and we will see how that goes. No one has worked harder than him to get back and you’ll see him at some point, but it is too early to tell right now. Then we have Cole, who has a lot of experience. He played a lot of ball at Western Carolina, then transferred to Oklahoma before going to Pitt. They elected to play their freshman kid, so he got back in the portal and we were able to get him. He took the majority of the snaps in the spring and did a great job. We threw the whole playbook at him.”

The running back corps is deep with Henry Rutledge and Jariel Cobb returning. Some additions include Chance Williams, Khamani Alexander and D’-Mariun Perteet, who Albin is excited about. Williams and Alexander totaled 35 and 50 rushing yards respectively in 2025.

“We have four guys who could be the starter,” Albin said. “Khamani. Chance, the transfer from Cincinnati. Then you have Perteet from Coastal Carolina. We recruited him out of junior college, and he went to Coastal. He had shoulder surgery, but he is a powerful kid. I like him. Then we got Rutledge back. We also have Cobb, who played a lot for us. So, it’s going to be a mess out there as far as who gets the reps and all that, but I will say we are in a much better spot at running back than we were a year ago.”

At tight end, the 49ers will rely heavily on Gus McGee, a 6-5, 250-pound graduate student. He played in all 12 games with nine starts last season and took nearly double the snaps as the next closest tight end.

“Gus has worked his tail off,” Albin said. “I am very happy with where Gus is. He is one of our leaders on offense both on and off the field. He has had a really good offseason. We brought in Logan Mauldin from McNeese, who is a Charlotte kid. He has had a really good spring and is maybe just a little faster than Gus. The third guy, the true freshman Brody Dawyot, he is going to play some for us.”

When it comes to the offensive line, the 49ers looked to bolster the position. Albin said across the board the group will be taller and an average of 17 pounds heavier than in 2025. Key contributors are Kristos Fernandez, Rod Green, Isaiah Bullerdick, Nic Cruji, J’Ven Williams, Luke Sandy and Reginhard Pierre-Nau.

Defense

Charlotte needs vast improvement after allowing 436 points in 2025 — an average of 36.3 per game.

The 49ers lost several contributors, including defensive end Braden Mullen, linebackers Shay Taylor and Reid Williford, safeties Ja’Quirous Conley and Randy Franklin and defensive tackle Zion Shockley among others.

Charlotte returns end Curtis Simpson, linebacker Kadin Schmitz, cornerback C.J. Clinkscales Jr. and tackle

Jamarrion Solomon.

“At linebacker we return [Schmitz],” Albin said. “Gavin Willis, he will have the blue dot on his helmet at the Mike linebacker spot. With the new rule the NCAA implemented a few weeks ago, he will have another year, which we are super excited about. Sellen Bowman has had an unbelievable offseason. Pound-for-pound he is the biggest and fastest kid we’ve got. We’ve got to find Parker Startz a role. He has been really good in the offseason and will be a key player for us as well.”

On the defensive line, Taz Williams’ absence of will hurt the interior, but Albin and Faanes are figuring out the best solution to his absence.

“Jayden Johnson played a lot last year,” Albin said. “Curtis Simpson played a lot. Those two guys will have a key role and be big factors for us. D.J. Burgess at defensive end, he played basically every snap against App State last year, but he didn’t play after that game. He had surgery and was out for the year. I am really excited about Khalif Spencer from junior college. All of those guys will be key, and we will have a good rotation.”

“Then on the interior, guys like Jamarrion Solomon will be big for us. Ayo Tifase from Florida State will be important for us as well. Caleb Irving will be important for us as well.”

At safety, Albin said Dy’Lon Womack, Colin Gill and Shamar McIntosh will be impact players while McIntosh will probably play nickel.

At cornerback, arguably the most key returner is Clinkscales.

“C.J. had shoulder surgery in the spring,” Albin said. “He hasn’t done anything in a minute, but he is a returner that played the most minutes. We’ll see how that plays out. Tradarius Smith is a guy who has had a really good spring. DeQuinder Williams is going to factor. He had a really good spring and knocked it out of the park with his test results coming out of the spring into the summer. I think you might see Chase Usher, the true freshman. You’ll see Caden Cato, another freshman. You’ll see those two on special teams for sure and you might see them at corner to be honest.”

Special teams and the road ahead

The 49ers lost their starting kicker in Liam Boyd to the transfer portal and punt returner Javen Nicholas. Currently kicker Aiden Bui is the only kicker listed on the roster. The 49ers only made nine field goals which ranked last in the American Conference last season.

Charlotte returns punter Bronson Long who averaged over 40 yards per punt in 2025. Charlotte averaged 6.1 punts per game last season.

Having Rutledge to return kicks will be big for Charlotte who was third in the nation in kick return yards in 2024.

2026 schedule:

September

5 vs. The Citadel
12 at Ole Miss
19 at Appalachian State
26 vs. Louisiana

October

3 vs. Memphis
10 at North Texas
17 at Temple
30 vs. Tulane

November

7 at UAB
14 vs. East Carolina
21 at Tulsa
28 vs. Navy

Saint-Maximin embraces challenge of Charlotte FC

Continued from page 5A

16 games with Club America.

“It was a dream since [I was] young,” he said. “I have had the chance to meet incredible people like Thierry Henry, [Marcus] Thuram, [Zinedine] Zidane, and one of the guys I like a lot, Youri Djorkaeff, because I play[ed] with his son in Saint-Etienne. All the feedback he gave me from America was a dream as well, for him to play in America. And I remember ... he told me a lot of good things about playing in America, so this become like quite a dream for me to have the chance to play one day in America, in MLS.”

Another selling point, Maximin acknowledged is Charlotte FC’s supporters, who are among MLS’s attendance leaders.

“What I like is simple: I like the supporters,” he said. “It looked like a very family club. I had the chance to speak with the coach [Dean Smith]. The coach had the chance as well to play and to be in Premier League with Aston Villa, Norwich and a lot of clubs, so it was a very good chat with him. And I have the chance to have an in-

credible chat with Zoran and more people of the of the club about exactly what I want for me and my family. It was an easy choice for me to come to Charlotte.”

After his Newcastle run, Saint-Maximin transferred to Saudi Arabian side Al-Ahli in 2023 on a \$30 million deal. He scored four goals and added nine assists in 30 Saudi Pro League matches.

A year later, Saint-Maximin was loaned to Fenerbahçe in the Turkish Super League where he tallied eight goal contributions in 31 games across all competitions, including the UEFA Champions League and Europa League.

After winning cups at Newcastle and Lens, Saint-Maximin is confident he can help Charlotte FC do likewise.

“I think it’s simple. You can see in all my career, especially in Newcastle and the same in most of the clubs I’ve been, and recently in Lens, when I come for a couple of months, I helped the team to win the first cup in 120 years. It was not an easy challenge, but I’m always here to take the challenge, even when it’s difficult.”

Independence tops monthly USL League One honors

Continued from page 5A

age this team and create the foundation for a positive environment. I also want to thank our staff — Dave Carton and Gabriel Obertan provide tremendous insight and balance for the players, while the rest of our staff, including the coaching, medical, and equipment teams, are instrumental in fostering a positive atmosphere where the team can thrive.”

Alvarez leads League One’s Golden Boot race with nine goals along with a circuit-best 13 goal contributions for the Independence, which is riding a club-record eight straight league win streak and 13 consecutive unbeaten across all competitions.

“I’m very happy with the work I’ve been doing individually,” he said. “I have all the confidence a player needs to reach the level I’m at, and I’m also grateful for the trust of the coach and all my teammates.”

The Independence return home on July 18 against Chattanooga Red Wolves.

New goalkeeper for the Jacks

The Independence has signed goalkeeper Andreas Kokoska.

Kokoska, 27, previously played with South Carolina United. A native of Plzen, Czechia, Kokoska played collegiately in the United States — first at the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs (2020-21) then William Carey University (2022-24), where he earned SSAC first team all-conference and first team All-East Region.

“I’m over the moon to have the opportunity to play for this coaching staff and alongside these players,” Kokoska said in a statement. “I’m looking forward to giving back to this club.”

Said Jeffries: “Andreas provides strong depth for us in goal. Though this is his first pro contract, he has a lot of experience as well as an upbeat mentality. Having worked with him over the last couple of years, we think highly of his goalkeeping qualities and believe he has the potential to develop further.”

Summer time for experiments

Continued from page 5A

watch the matches on Paramount+.

“...The World Rugby Nations Cup and these first three fixtures at home are excellent opportunities for our men’s Eagles, and for USA fans to gather around them,” USA Rugby CEO Bill Goren said. “With the series kicking off during our national holiday, we’re thrilled to play as the USA and celebrate with our rugby community.”

Pickleball anyone?

The popularity of pickleball has exploded, especially among the over 40 crowd.

The Veolia Pickleball National Championships will

be played at the Cary Tennis Park Aug. 31-Sept. 6. Cary received a state grant to become the launch site for the Carvana Professional Pickleball Association Tour’s 2026-27 global season.

To underscore how big the event is, the tournament’s No. 1 women’s and men’s players, and the No. 2- and No. 4-world ranked players will participate. To sweeten the pot, No. 2-ranked Kate Fahey and No. 4-ranked Brooke Buckner are North Carolina residents.

Over 2,000 amateur and professional players and thousands of fans are expected during the weeklong

event that will be televised on major networks and streaming services.

“As pickleball enjoys enormous growth in popularity and participation in the United States and globally, it is critical that we bring the very best of the PPA to the most passionate regions, and North Carolina has shown us year after year how fervent they are about the sort,” tour CEO Connor Pardoe said. “...The first-ever Veolia Pickleball National Championships will raise that bar even higher as we turn the Greater Raleigh area into the place where every pickleball fanatic wants to be this summer.”



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The Charlotte Post

SPORTS CHARLOTTE

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