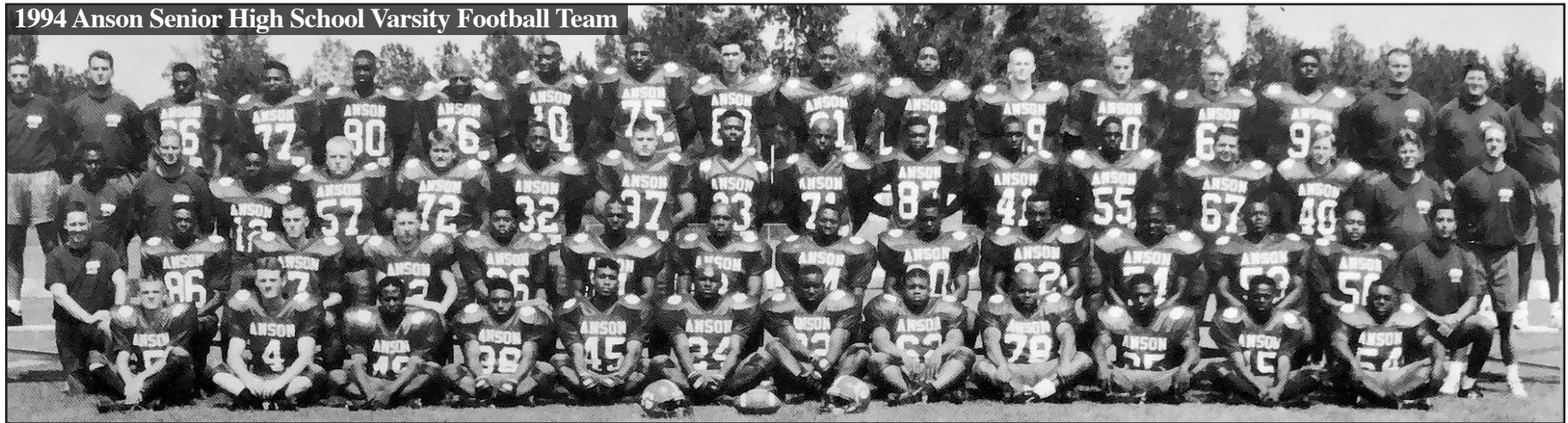


THE EXPRESS

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Serving Anson County and the Municipalities of Ansonville, Lilesville, McFarlan, Morven, Peachland, Polkton and Wadesboro.



Devonte Amor Horne Wanted for Murder of Randal Vontray Sturdivant, Jr.

On Sunday, July 16 at approximately 2:16 a.m. the Wadesboro Police Department responded to Atrium Health Anson about a man who arrived with a gunshot wound. The man, 26 year old Randal Vontray Sturdivant, Jr. of Wadesboro, was pronounced dead at Atrium Health Anson shortly after arrival. Officers immediately initiated an investigation and were able to locate the crime scene near the 300 block of Myrtlewood Drive in Wadesboro. No other individuals are believed to be injured in this incident.

On Tuesday, July 18, 2023, Investigators with the Wadesboro Police Department obtained a warrant for the arrest of Devonte Amor Horne, charging him with First Degree Murder.

Devonte Amor Horne remains at large, and the Wadesboro Police Department is asking for the community's help in bringing him to justice. Anyone with any information as to Horne's whereabouts is requested to call (704) 694-2167.

Horne's description: 23 years old, 6'4" tall, 200 pounds, slender build, long dreads, African American. He is considered armed and dangerous.



Devonte Horne

NC's June Employment Figures

The state's seasonally adjusted June 2023 unemployment rate was 3.3 percent, decreasing 0.1 of a percentage point from May's revised rate. The national rate decreased 0.1 of a percentage point to 3.6 percent.

North Carolina's unemployment rate decreased 0.3 of a percentage point from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 14,582 over the month to 5,047,816 and increased 60,958 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 3,058 over the month to 172,680 and decreased 12,620 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 4,900 to 4,909,800 in June. Major industries experiencing increases were Professional & Business Services, 3,500; Manufacturing, 2,000; Education & Health Services, 1,600; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 1,200; Information, 400; Financial Activities, 200; Government, 100; and Mining & Logging, 100. Major industries experiencing decreases were Construction, 2,900; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 1,000; and Other Services, 300.

Since June 2022, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 110,400 with the Total Private sector increasing by 106,600 and Government increasing by 3,800. Major industries experiencing increases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 27,500; Education & Health Services, 26,500; Professional & Business Services, 23,200; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 10,300; Other Services, 6,400; Manufacturing, 5,800; Government, 3,800; Financial Activities, 3,400; Information, 2,600; Construction, 800; and Mining & Logging, 100.

Kids Expo Still Needs Youth Vendors

The Anson County Chamber of Commerce's Kid Expo will be held on Saturday, August 26, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This event offers kids (grades K-12) an opportunity to create, develop and market a product or service that they are passionate about. Strictly for kids only, adults are not allowed to help sell or market the child's product or service.

The event is not only a showcase for the children, but an opportunity to understand the elements of owning one's own business. The kid vendors will learn and use real life skills such as math, communication, and creative thinking. Development and marketing of their product or service will have an impact on their sales at the event and offer them some insight into what it takes to own their own business.

The public is invited to come browse, shop, and stay for the awards presentation as the Chamber acknowledges Most Original Business Idea, Highest Business Potential and Best Presentation/Creativity in each age group.

A Chamber spokesperson said, "We are officially one month from the 2023 Anson County Kids Expo! We currently have 12 vendors. There is still time to register your child or for you or your business to sponsor the event."

Contact info@ansoncountychamber.org for information."

Community Outreach Tent Meeting

The Lamb of God Church will hold a Community Outreach Tent Meeting, giving out household items and paper products on a first come, first serve basis, on Saturday, July 29. Attendees will also be offered words of inspiration by Pastor Antonio Patterson.

The event will take place in the Wadesboro IGA parking lot, located at 805 Camden Road, and begins at 11 a.m. For information call 843-623-3777.

Chair Exercise Class at the Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library will host a sitterscise (chair exercise) class with certified instructor Sheila Raye Monday, July 31. The class will be held in the Pritchett Room at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is invited to join in for some fun exercise and health tips.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

The 1994 Varsity Anson Senior High School Beocat Football Team: Back row (l-r): Kim Cousar, Pat Bellamy, Kenny Howard, Lacy Martin, James Lindsey, Theo Wall, Damien Bennett, Elton Taylor, Matt Johnson, Rex Coble, Travis Cash, John Edwards, Toby McLaurin, Daniel Bowers, Levander Ingram, Lyn Emory, Steve Emory, Head Coach Fred Davis. Next row (l-r): David Bowser, Dave Thomas, Derrill Little, Gregg Griggs, Brandon Pope, Mark Rorie, Michael Kelly, Leonard Byrd, Roger Sturdivant, Roger Burns, Bernard Henry, Michael Crowder, Richard Hinson, John Batykefer, Mike Currie, John Hudson. Next row (l-r): Charlie Lockhart, Thomas LeGrande, Antonio Thomas, John Lindsey, Tyrone Rivers, Jody Grooms. Front row (l-r): Luke Hyatt, Kenny Gathings, Bobby Robinson, Courtney Sturdivant, Joe Ratliff, Jimmy Lindsey, Keith Lilly, Gabriel Pratt, Jercoby Polk, Kapatchy Allen, Mike Green, Antonio Moore. Not pictured: Brian Byars, Mike Newsome, and Matt Jones.

Anson Animal Shelter Needs Volunteers - Would You Like to Help?

The Animal Shelter depends on the help of volunteers to ensure that animal residents receive love and care. More volunteers will also help relieve the workload on staff which can result in more time for resident animals to be adopted before they are euthanized (put to sleep). Please consider volunteering. For more information on helping or making a donation, call 704-994-2738.

A rescue from Animal Shelter can bring lots of happiness and love into any home...and you will make the animal happy too! It's a win-win.

And remember, older animals need a home and love too!

WHAT A SEASON!

August eighth was the official beginning of Anson Snior High's 1994 football season. From seven o'clock A.M. until eight o'clock P.M., the athletes underwent a total of three long and intense practices during the four-day football camp. Needless to say, football camp, coupled with lengthy after-school practices, payed off. The Varsity Bearcats broke the school record with the most wins in a season—an overall record of eleven and three (11-3). Each and every coach and player should be commended for his hard work, including Elton Taylor (offensive tackle). Several of his teammates agreed that Elton's "heart and dedication helped motivate the team to the play-offs."

"We had a great year," commented Coach Charlie Lockhart. "The highlight of the season was beating Richmond." The 28-13 victory over the rival team put Anson into the play-offs, a feat that has only happened twice in school history. Once in the play-offs, a 28-27 overtime victory at West Forsyth became the Bearcats' first ever road win in the play-offs.

Bernard Henry tied the state record of seven touchdowns in a single game and broke the school record of 324 yards rushing. The junior was also named North Carolina's 4A Associated Press Player of the Week and made the All-Piedmont team. Jimmy Lindsey and Damien Bennett also received honorable mention. The Bearcats boasted four first-team all-conference players: Antonio Thomas, Gregg Griggs, Bernard Henry, and Antonio Moore. Second-team all conference players were Theo Wall, Damien Bennett, Thomas Legrand, Keith Lilly, Joe Ratliff, Jimmy Lindsey, Robert Gillespie, Maurice Pratt, and Travis Cash. Dusty Thomas and Rex Coble received honorable mention.

The excitement and pride of the Varsity Bearcats football team certainly rubbed off on the students, faculty, and community. "Bearcat fans are the greatest," said one football player. The Bearcats dedicated their season to former Bearcat football great, Carlos Smith, and retired his jersey on October seventh during Homecoming.

Ansonia Play Into the Woods Debuts August 4

The Ansonia Theatre is preparing for its production of *Into the Woods*. Writer James Lapine and composer Stephen Sondheim bring everyone's favorite storybook characters together for a timeless, yet relevant, musical classic.

The story follows a Baker and his wife who wish to have a child. The wife, Cinderella, wishes to attend the King's Festival and her husband Jack wishes his cow would give milk. When the Baker and his wife learn that they cannot have a child because of a Witch's curse, the two set off on a journey to break the curse. The characters all encounter each other in the woods and come to find and face the consequences of their wishes.

Director Tommy Wooten has assembled a brilliant cast of actors representing six different counties in the region. Making their Ansonia stage debut are Chuck Wright, Lauren Wilson, Tyler Wills, Kristina Blake, Noel McClanahan, Rodney Vaughn, Trey Lincoln and Lied Metcalf. They are joined by Ansonia veterans Emily Litaker Privette, Jennifer Gilmore, Kimberly Smith, Amanda Traywick, Rachel Kostelnik, Matthew Thompson, Ruth Ann Harris, Robert Graves, Tommy Wooten, Tyson Leavitt, Madeline Leavitt and Paige Mercer.

Music Director Gail Litaker leads a wonderful orchestra including Arthur Tomasino, Timothy Beranek, Johnny Almond, Betty Ann Crawford, Abby Floyd and Carson Traywick. Set Design is by Teri Brown and Donald Perkins. The costumes are by Brittany Price with assistance by Betsy Watts and Karen Johnston. Lighting and sound design is by Hailey Hilson.

Assistant direction is by Maggie Gibson.

The show runs August 4-13. Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Get your tickets online at ansoniatheatre.com.



Board of Commissioners Meets August 1

The next regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for August 1 at 6 p.m.

The meetings take place in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center which is located at 101 South Greene Street in Wadesboro.

To schedule an appearance at a board meeting, please sign up prior to the meeting. Info at 704-994-3201.

The Commissioners' meetings are live streamed on YouTube. Also, the videos are archived so they can be viewed at any time. Visit youtube.com and search for Anson Commissioners.

School Board Meeting is July 31

The Anson County Board of Education will hold their regular meeting on Monday, July 31. Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 4:00 p.m. Open Session to the public will begin at about 5:30 p.m.

The meeting will be live streamed on the Anson County Schools' YouTube channel for the public to view. To find the channel you can search YouTube for "Anson County Schools."

The meeting will be held in the Anson County Schools' Administrative Board Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

If the public wishes to sign up for public comment, they can sign up in-person. A sign-up sheet will be available 30 minutes before the meeting begins for any individual or group to indicate their desire to address the board.