

The world's longest running play is playing at the Ansonia Theatre in Wadesboro. *The Mousetrap*, by Agatha Christie has been running in London for 70 years and going strong. One of the reasons for its success is the brilliant script and the rich characters in this mystery.

A timeless tale of "whodunit," Christie strands seven strangers at Monkswell Manor during a blizzard. But, a police sergeant unexpectedly arrives, worried that a murderer-at-large is among the guests of the Manor. Before he can investigate, one of the guests is killed, starting an investigation into the lives and histories of everyone there. One of them is the killer, and another one of them may be next. Will the police be able to solve the case before another "mouse" falls?

This two-act eight-character play is part drawing room comedy and part murder mystery. Amanda Traywick and Matthew Thompson star as Mollie and Giles Ralston, the new owners of the Inn. Joining them as the guests are Ansonia newcomers Luke Cleveland as Christopher Wren and Talia Tallman as Mrs. Boyle. The rest of the cast is rounded out with Ansonia stage veterans. Jennifer Gilmore stars as Miss Casewell, Lance Barber is Major Metcalf, Robert Graves is Mr. Paravicini and Carson Traywick plays Detective Trotter. The show is directed by Tommy Wooten, with Maggie Gibson.

*The Mousetrap* is a double-barreled whodunit full of twists and surprises. The show finishes its run this weekend, October 21-23, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets can purchased online at [ansoniatheatre.com](http://ansoniatheatre.com) or by calling 704-694-4950.

**A review of the Ansonia presentation:** Three blind mice, three blind mice... whodunnit, whodunnit? Once again Tommy Wooten and the Ansonia have delivered. "The Mousetrap," a classic murder mystery, was written by Agatha Christie, the most famous whodunnit crime writer ever. This play has been running for over 70 years and you will soon find out why.

"The Mousetrap" takes place in Monkswell Manor, a grand old place outside of London which has recently been converted to a stately countryside guesthouse. Monkswell Manor is owned and operated by newlyweds Mollie (Amanda Traywick) and Giles Ralston (Matthew Thompson). Amanda portrays the perfect hostess. She is warm, welcoming, smart and caring. Matthew plays the dependable husband, there to fetch firewood and carry bags. Why is he so suspicious of new people at his own bed and breakfast? Amanda's and Matthew's onstage chemistry shows from the first scene.

Mollie and Giles have both been out for the day and have returned to prepare for their guests' arrival prior to the upcoming blizzard. The radio at the manor crackles with news from London about the murder of a woman named Maureen Lyon. Next to the body of Maureen Lyon were clues that tie the murder to Monkswell Manor. As the guests arrive each one has a secret. The first guest to arrive is Christopher Wren (Luke Cleveland), a flamboyant and eccentric trainee architect looking for a quaint getaway. Luke's comic timing is exceptional, but is Wren using humor to disguise a dark secret? This is Luke's first time at the Ansonia, and I, for one, hope it will not be his last. Following Wren is Mrs. Boyle (Talia Tallman), another newbie who did an amazing job. She delivered her snide remarks with precision and accuracy. Ms. Boyle is rigid, stern and meticulous. She is a prickly, fault finding, grumpy, grande dame. Rounding out the guest list are Major Metcalf (Lance Barber) and Miss Casewell (Jennifer Gilmore). Major Metcalf is knowledgeable, curious and guarded. He answers questions about himself coyly, while investigating every nook and cranny of the house. Why is he so interested in the layout of the house? Miss Casewell is a feisty, independent young woman who has lived most of her life abroad. She is brimming with confidence and strength. Could her hard demeanor be hiding something? It, for sure, is a long way from her part as Louise in "Gypsy." Must be pure talent! Once all the guests are settled in, a surprise fifth guest arrives. Mr. Paravicini (Robert Graves) is hilarious and mysterious. How did he happen upon Monkswell Manor during a blizzard?

The last person to arrive is Sergeant Trotter (Carson Traywick). He arrives on skis during the blizzard and informs everyone, "One of you is a killer, and one or more of you will die tonight." He is there to find the murderer and begins questioning everyone. The plot twists and turns, and we see characters in ever changing light because of Sergeant Trotter's questioning.

Agatha Christie is amazing at throwing red herrings while sowing the seeds of doubt as to whodunnit. There is an auditable gasp through-out the theater when the murderer is revealed. There are enough false clues to keep you guessing and a few hidden ones that, if you stay alert, you will not be surprised to discover that the murderer is \*\*\*. Just kidding, if you want to know get your tickets and go to the Ansonia.

Kudos to Marshall Ray, Dave Strong and Teri Brown on the set design and construction. *By Flo Caudle*

## Wildlife in North Carolina

### 2022-23 Photo Competition Announced

**Amateur and professional photographers are encouraged to submit entries**

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is now accepting entries to its 18th annual Wildlife in North Carolina Photo Competition. The contest is open to amateur and professional photographers of all ages, except for employees of the Wildlife Commission, and their immediate families (children, siblings and spouses). Entries will be accepted now through Jan. 31, 2023 at 5 p.m.

Adult competition entrants must be current magazine subscribers. Photographers in the two youth categories (13-17 years old and 12 and under) may enter without a subscription. Only digital entries in JPEG format and no larger than 2 MB will be considered — no slides, negatives or prints will be accepted. Photographs must have been taken in North Carolina on Sept. 15, 2018 or later.

Entrants may submit a maximum of two photos per category. The competition categories are: Animal Behavior; Birds; Invertebrates; Mammals; Outdoor Recreation; Reptiles and Amphibians; Wild Landscapes; Wild Plants and Fungi.

- Youth Photographer, 13-17: Any of the above subjects, shot by children ages 13-17.
- Youth Photographer, 12 and under: Any of the above subjects, shot by children 12 and younger.

Photos of captive native animals are allowed, but photos of animals that are both captive and non-native to North Carolina will not be accepted. No pets or domestic animals will be accepted, except animals participating with people in an outdoor activity, such as hunting dogs or horses with riders.

Entries will be judged by a panel comprised of staff from the Wildlife Commission and professional wildlife photographers. The grand prize winner's photo will be published on the cover of the July/August 2023 issue of Wildlife in North Carolina, and they will receive a cash prize of \$200. Winners will also receive a print of their winning entry from JW Image Company, and cash prizes of \$100, \$75 and \$50 will be awarded to the first, second and third place photographers in each category.

Additional details about the contest and past winning photos are available at [ncwildlife.org/contest](http://ncwildlife.org/contest).

Wildlife in North Carolina is published bimonthly by the Wildlife Commission in both print and electronic formats. Subscribers to the magazine enjoy exceptional color photography and articles on hunting, fishing, natural areas, wildlife research and the state's environment in every issue. Annual subscriptions to the printed version of the magazine are \$12, or \$30 for three years. A digital subscription is \$10; a combination digital/print subscription is \$15.

## North Carolina's Passenger Rail Service Breaks Record for Ridership

Governor Roy Cooper says more people rode the N.C. Department of Transportation's intercity passenger rail service in September than any previous month in the 32-year history of the NC By Train service. The Carolinian and Piedmont trains handled 48,488 passengers last month, which marks an increase of 32% over the average pre-pandemic monthly ridership levels from 2014 to 2019. The service is operated by Amtrak.

"It's great to see record ridership on North Carolina's passenger rail," Governor Cooper said. "A strong and growing state needs efficient transportation options and it's clear that more people are choosing NC By Train. We should continue to invest to connect our communities with high-quality passenger rail."

NC By Train provides multiple trains throughout the day between Raleigh and Charlotte with stops in Cary, Durham, Burlington, Greensboro, High Point, Salisbury and Kannapolis, as well as daily service connecting Charlotte, Raleigh and New York via the Carolinian. The service has operated since 1990.

"Riding the train is an affordable, easy way to travel across the Piedmont," says Eric Boyette, secretary of the N.C. Department of Transportation. "If you don't have access to a vehicle or you don't want to worry about getting behind the wheel, you can remove the stress and take the train."

NC By Train has a lot of offer its passengers, including large seats, free WiFi outlets and large windows so passengers can witness the beauty of North Carolina. Another popular feature are the special stops the passenger train makes in October for folks headed to the Lexington Barbecue Festival and the North Carolina State Fair.

To meet the increasing demand, NC By Train launched a fourth daily round trip between Raleigh and Charlotte in 2018, making passenger rail even more convenient for travelers seeking transportation options. NCDOT is also planning to expand its passenger rail service along the S-Line, a high-performance passenger rail corridor being developed between Raleigh and Richmond. That line will better connect rural and urban communities and increase passenger rail services with shorter travel times between North Carolina, Virginia and the Northeast.

Visit [NCByTrain.org](http://NCByTrain.org) for more information and to buy tickets.

# Church

## OCTOBER 22

### Rainbow Tea

At Pleasant Hill AME Zion Church, 109 South, Wadesboro, at 3pm. All are invited.

## OCTOBER 23

### 16th Pastoral

Anniversary of Pastor Rev. Greg Everett & Leading Lady Min. Donna Everett at First Baptist Church, Sikes Ave 11am with Rev. Arnold Lewis of Rocky Ridge MBC in Concord. All are invited.

### Usher Board Program

At Divine Unity House of Restoration Ministries, 3pm. 6090 Hwy 109 S, Wadesboro.

### Special Service

At Mt. Beulah Baptist Church, 3373 Country Club Rd, Wadesboro, at 10:30am. Izabella McMillon, Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry Samaritan's Purse.

### Deacon Board

Program, 2:30pm at Johnson Chapel Holiness Church with Pastor Michael McLeod. All are invited!

### Homecoming

At Bethany Free Will Baptist Church on Old Lilesville Road in Wadesboro with Rev. Johnny Johnson. Catered meal follows service.

## OCTOBER 30

### Day of Healing Service

At Rock Hill MBC, 2pm with Min. Lashanda Huntley & Pastor Mary Ellerbe along with insurance agents, health information & more. Sponsored by Mrs. Tabitha Bennett. Everyone is welcome.

### Foot Washing

At First Baptist Church, Sikes Ave in Wadesboro, 10:30am with Rev. Joyce Miles.

## NOVEMBER 5

### BBQ Plate Sale

At New Life Ministries Pentecostal Church of Wadesboro, 1698 Hwy 109 South, 11am until. Pork or chicken \$10 plate.

## NOVEMBER 6

### Youth Fall Festival

At Fairview COG, 3-6pm.

## NOVEMBER 12

### Appreciation Service

For Pastor Donna McNair, 11am at Fairview COG.

## NOVEMBER 13

### Guest Speaker

Rev. David Ross Associational Mission Strategist for Anson Baptist Association, 10:30am at Mt. Beulah Baptist Church, 3373 Country Club Rd in Wadesboro.

### Friends & Family Day

At East Rock Ford Missionary Baptist Church, 2:30pm with Rev. J.W. Parsons of Parsons Grove MBC. Dinner available for takeout. All are welcome.

## NOVEMBER 20

### Appreciation Service

For Elder Evelyn Belin at Johnson Chapel Holiness Church, 11:45am. All are invited.

# Events

## OCTOBER 21

### Clay Shoot Classic

Fundraiser for South Piedmont Community College. Register for the event and/or access sponsorship opportunities at [spcc.edu/fundraiser-events](http://spcc.edu/fundraiser-events) or call 704-290-5893.

## OCTOBER 24

### Board of Education

### Regular Meeting - New Time

to be livestreamed on YouTube, Closed Session 4:00pm, Open Session 5:30pm. View at Anson County School's YouTube page. (*Search YouTube for Anson County Schools.*) Meeting takes place in Administrative Office Board Meeting Room, 320 Camden Rd in Wadesboro. For public comment sign up in-person. Sign-up sheet will be available 30 minutes before the meeting.

## OCTOBER 27

### Trunk or Treat

At SPCC in Polkton, 6-8pm. Free event with trick or treating for kids, grilled hot dogs & other activities as well. Bring your child to join in the fun!

### Candlelight Vigil

In remembrance of domestic violence victims, 6pm on the Anson County Courthouse steps. The public is invited. For information call the Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition at 704-694-4499. 24-hour Crisis Line number is 704-690-0362.

### Beekeepers Meeting

At Welika Fish House. 6pm if you want to eat, 7pm meeting. Open to anyone interested in having bees for honey & pollination. Info 704-272-7154 or Facebook page.

## OCTOBER 29

### Dollar Day Yard Sale for Toys for Tots

in Anson County. 8am in parking lot of Burger King in Wadesboro. Great deals, great cause that helps less fortunate children in Anson County. To donate or for info call Vancine Sturdivant 704-294-0480.

### Chicken & Dumplings

At Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center, 10am-5pm, or until sold out. 13349 Hwy 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Dept. 704-826-8737. [www.burnsvillectc.org](http://www.burnsvillectc.org)

### Yard & Bake Sale

By Burnsville Ladies Auxiliary at Burnsville Fire Dept. 7am-12pm. Donations may be dropped off Oct. 26 & 28, 5-7pm.

## ONGOING EVENTS

### Food Pantry

Free food every Wed, 9-11am at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Ctr. 704-826-8182

### NAACP Meeting

Third Sundays, Hampton B. Allen library theater, 5pm. 704-694-6749

### Monthly Meetings

Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. meets the first Tuesday of every month at 4 pm in the Chamber of Commerce conference room. Info 704-695-1644

### Wadesboro Rotary Club Meets

each Thursday at noon for lunch at Welika Fish Camp

### Learning Center Hours

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center, Mon-Fri, 10:30-5:30pm. Computer lab (children & adults), copy service, fax service & resource library. All available to the public for a small fee

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## Wingate Ranks High in Social and Economic Mobility, According to New Reports

Wingate is No. 1 in North Carolina in social mobility among independent national universities, according to new rankings announced today by U.S. News & World Report. A separate ranking from Third Way Education featured this week in The Washington Post places Wingate tops in N.C. among private universities for economic mobility.

One of only 10 schools in the Tar Heel state to be ranked in the top 20 percent nationally in terms of economic mobility, Wingate was fourth among all North Carolina schools, with a national ranking of No. 72. In Greater Charlotte, UNC Charlotte was the only other Tier 1 school, and it ranked No. 112.

U.S. News & World Report also ranked Wingate second in North Carolina in ethnic diversity among independent national universities and fourth among all universities in North Carolina.

"We live out our vision to be an affordable, inclusive, relevant and sustainable university by supporting a broad range of students," said Dr. Rhett Brown, Wingate University president. "To simply focus on high achievers or become more exclusive degrades the reason we exist: to provide a quality education for students who can afford us least but need us most. As a first-generation college student, I'm just one example of how this place changes the trajectory of people's lives. We're doing the same for our students of color, immigrants, and adult learners. I'm proud that our meaningful, life-changing work has been recognized nationally."

Third Way rankings measure how well institutions serve their low-income students, in addition to the proportion of low- and moderate-income students a school enrolls. The think tank looks at the difference between a typical salary of a high school graduate in the state where the university is located and the salary of a graduate from the university and compares that to the total average net price of earning the degree to come up with the number of years it will take the student to recoup their cost.

Learn more about the U.S. News & World Report rankings at: [usnews.com/best-colleges](http://usnews.com/best-colleges) and the Third Way report at: [thirdway.org/graphic/rating-colleges-by-economic-mobility](http://thirdway.org/graphic/rating-colleges-by-economic-mobility).