205 West Morgan Street • Wadesboro, NC 28170 • 704-694-2480 • The Express News @gmail.com • www. The Express Newspaper.com

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

Levoris Rorie Arrested, Charged with Murder

This is a release from the Wadesboro Police Department: On Thursday, January 30 at approximately 8:18 a.m. the Wadesboro Police Department responded to a call for service at 105 Shelton Road in Wadesboro. Officers arrived to find an adult female suffering from a gunshot wound and an adult male victim deceased from multiple gunshot wounds. Also inside the home there were two minor children; a 2 week old infant and a three year old.

Both children were unharmed.



The female victim was taken to Atrium Main Hospital in Charlotte where she was treated The children were temporarily taken into custody by the Anson County Department of Social Services. Both children have since been placed with family members.

The Wadesboro Police Department, along with the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation quickly identified and arrested a suspect, 29 year old Levoris Rorie of Wadesboro. On January 30 warrants were obtained on Rorie for Felony Murder. Rorie is in custody at Anson County Jail under no bond.

The Wadesboro Police Department Criminal Investigations Division would like to thank the men and women of the following agencies for their assistance: Anson County Sheriff's Office, Anson County Criminal Investigations Division, Anson County Department of Social Services, Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department, and North Carolina State Bureau of Investigations.

Shooting at Wadesboro Dollar General

This is a release from the Wadesboro Police Department: "At approximately 3:54 p.m. on Wednesday, January 29 the Wadesboro Police

Department responded to the Dollar General located at 1301 East Caswell Street in Wadesboro in response to two victims suffering from gunshot wounds. Once officers arrived on scene, it was determined that only one victim was shot; the second victim was suffering from an injury related to the shooting. The victims, whose names are being withheld at this time, were transported to area

hospitals for medical treatment and are expected to be okay. This is an ongoing investigation. Updates will be provided once additional information

becomes available. If you have any information concerning this incident please contact the Wadesboro Police Department at (704) 694-2167.'

According to an eyewitness, the shooter was accompanied by a second man The two men walked out of the store and approached a car parked in front of the store. At that point, one of the men began shooting into the car with a handgun.

Anson County Bridge to Close for Replacement

An Anson County bridge will soon be upgraded, thanks to a \$667,321 contract earned by Smith-Rowe LLC out of Mt. Airy. The contractor plans to close Lower White Store Road between Hasty Road and Upper White Store Road on Monday, February 10 to begin replacing the bridge over Big Branch Creek.

During construction drivers will be detoured along Lower White Store Road, Hasty Road, Upper White Store Road and Turkey Growing Road.

The bridge should open to traffic this summer, with vegetation establishment and andscaping continuing into early 2026.

For real-time travel information, visit DriveNC.gov or follow NCDOT on social media

Anson County's December Unemployment Rate

Anson County Anson County's unemployment rate for December was 3.7%, down slightly from November's 4.0% rate. In December Anson County ranked #64 of the 100 counties statewide (low unemployment rate to high).

Anson's total labor force in December was 10,028, with 9,653 employed and 375 unemployed. In November the total labor force was 10,103, with 9,703 employed Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 95 counties in December

2024, increased in four, and remained unchanged in one. Mitchell County had the highest unemployment

5% and 10%	10%
7	0
12	0
	7 12 1 percent while Wilmir

rate at 7.3% while Currituck County had the lowest at 2.7 %. All fifteen of the state's metro areas experienced decreases. Among the metro

areas, Asheville had at 2.8 percent.

The not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.4 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in 52 counties, decreased in 29, and remained unchanged in 19 Eight metro areas experienced rate increases over the year, three decreased, and four remained unchanged. The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in

December by 5,333 to 5,041,982, while those unemployed decreased by 15,384 to 178,498. Since December 2023, the number of workers employed statewide increased 7.430, while those unemployed increased 9.851. It is important to note that employment estimates are subject to large seasonal

patterns; therefore, it is advisable to focus on over-the-year changes in the not seasonally adiusted estimates

South Piedmont Seeks New Mascot

Community Invited to Take Survey

This is a release from South Piedmont Community College: South Piedmont needs a mascot, and we've started the process to make this happen in spring 2025. To be clear, South Piedmont does technically have a mascot. Petey the Patriot was selected as the College's mascot years ago, but he was never widely used. Today, very few are aware of Petey's existence. The College recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. Moreover, our enrollment and

physical locations continue to grow, and later this year, we will open a new on-campus Barnes & Noble bookstore, where College T-shirts, sweatshirts, and other apparel will be available for purchase. That makes this spring the perfect time to revisit South Piedmont's mascot.

The College has created a Mascot Committee comprised of the following members: Creative Services Manager Samantha Carvallo; Vice President of Marketing & Commu-

nications Rachel Colquitt; Student Government Association President Thaila Dao; Faculty Member William Dick; Director of Student Life, Engagement & Leadership Alen Doty; Vice President of Student Services Dr. JJ Evans; Student Government Association Polkton Vice President Isabella Greene; and Faculty Member Morganne van Voorhis. This spring, the Mascot Committee will meet to explore the mascot issue and lead the

College in selecting a mascot that will represent South Piedmont for generations to come The first step in this process in a survey to gauge opinions on our mascot. The survey link is available on The Express Newspaper home page:

(www.theexpressnewspaper.com). Students, employees, alumni, and members of the

community are invited to participate in the survey, which will close Feb. 14. Results of the survey will determine whether the College gives Petey a modern facelift or proceeds with selecting an entirely new mascot.

Survey participants are also being asked to provide words or phrases that they think

capture the South Piedmont experience and/or the College's impact on students and the community. Responses will be used in developing a slogan for the College.

This is your chance to forever change the face of South Piedmont. Take the survey

by Feb. 14. For questions or comments, email marketing@spcc.edu.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Poster Winners at Ansonville Elementary School

Congratulations to Ansonville Elementary School's Martin Luther King, Jr. Poster Contest winners: Garrett Carpenter, Quinn Pham and Eli Carpenter. They were recognized for their creativity on Friday, January 17.

Exhibit featuring Peanuts' Franklin Coming to Wingate's Hinson Art Museum

H1... 1,W

FRANKLIN.

I'M VERY GLAD

TO KNOW YOU

Wingate University is hosting an exhibit featuring the only African American character in the Peanuts comic strip. "Franklin" opens Feb. 10 and will run through April 7 in the University's Hinson Art Museum. Franklin was born in 1968, after a

Just in time for Black History Month,

California school teacher wrote to Schulz in the wake of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. "Dear Mr. Schulz," wrote Harriet Glickman that April. "I've been asking

myself what I can do to help change those conditions in our society which

led to the assassination and which contribute to the vast sea of misunderstanding, hate, fear and violence." She suggested that he could help promote tolerance and interracial friendship by adding a Black character to his popular comic strip.

Schulz said he had been considering the idea, and that summer Charlie Brown met Franklin at the beach. High-resolution reproductions of original comic strips from the multiday storyline of their meeting are part of the exhibit coming to Wingate, as is correspondence between Glickman and Schulz. The exhibit will also include display and text panels and character dolls and will tell the story of how Franklin got the last name Armstrong, a nod to JumpStart cartoonist Robb Armstrong.

"We celebrate the Civil Rights Era in February," says Charlene Bregier, director of the Hinson Art Musuem. "My hope is that this piece of history brings understanding of those turbulent times.

Bregier chose the cartoon exhibit not just because February is Black History Month, but because of Wingate students' fascination with the medium. She said students surveyed during and after Covid about what type of art they found most uplifting responded with cartooning.

"This includes caricatures, anime and manga," Bregier says. "With the rise in mental health concerns, it seemed timely to use Hinson Art Museum to bring joy and improve mental health.

In 2023, the museum hosted a professional cartoonist who gave a talk about the creative process of cartooning. Last year, the University had a caricature artist visit classes and draw portraits of students, faculty and staff. An exhibit that shined a light on the most successful comic strip of all time seemed a logical next step and one that students and professors could explore through a variety of academic lenses "There are so many segues into this interdisciplinary exhibit: English, history, art,

psychology, business," Bregier says. She says everyone can relate to Schulz's lovable characters and find a piece of themselves in Peanuts. Her own study of Schulz left her amazed by his devotion to his vocation. Between 1950

and 2000, he drew more than 17,000 comic strips. Peanuts was read by 355 million people and made the cover of Time magazine in 1965. Schulz became the highest-paid and most read cartoonist of all time.

Through his simple style of drawing, he turned our fears and thoughts into laughter," Bregier says. "Through licensing deals, his characters are seen on everything from tennis shoes and sweatshirts to the Goodyear Blimp and theme parks across the globe.

The museum is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and follows the University holiday schedule. The exhibit is free and open to the public. If you have questions or would like to schedule a visit for your school class, call 704-233-6482.

Tickets and Tables Now on Sale for the 4-H Clover Crawl This is a release from the Anson County Cooperative Extension: Now that the date and location has been announced for this year's Clover Crawl, we thought you would be excited to read that tickets and tables are now on sale!! The planning team has decided

to keep ticket prices at \$50 this year. This includes entry to the event, unlimited food, drinks and dancing. Where else can you go to get all of that for \$50?!?! Tables are being sold in two size options, regular (8 seat) tables or super (12 seat) tables. Regular table prices are \$500 and Super tables are priced at \$750. Come by our office at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro or buy from a planning team member and purchase yours today. Tables are on a first come, first served basis and we will not

do will call (hold tickets for anyone). These will sell out fast, so don't wait too long before you come buy yours. Tickets can also be purchased at the Extension Office, Lacy's and First Citizen's Marshville. Anson 4-H and 4-H Youth Promise has had much impact on the youth in this county. With your help, we can continue to make significant contributions to their future, and the future of our county. We hope you come out, attend and/or support the 4-H Clover

Crawl. We are looking forward to a fun filled event. Country and Bluegrass Concert at the Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library invites you to join them for music with Randy Collins on Monday, February 10. The program begins at 10:30 a.m. in the library's Little Theater. Come, bring a friend and enjoy the beautiful country and bluegrass music.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177.