

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL



Fall back Don't forget to set clocks back one hour at 2 a.m. Sunday

Saturday, November 1, 2025

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'SAD AND SCARY'



ALLISON LEE ISLEY, JOURNAL

Jason McKinney (from left), Imam Khalid Griggs, the Rev. Angela Brown Dix, Carol Pulley and N.C. Rep. Kanika Brown discuss the topic of family involvement while Teneal McMahan (foreground) takes notes for the group during the Youth Violent Crime Summit on Thursday at the Benton Convention Center.

Winston-Salem police, residents tackle the issue of youth violence at special summit; chief announces a juvenile was charged with murder

JOHN HINTON
Staff Reporter

When Police Chief William Penn Jr. spoke Thursday night at the Mayor's Youth Violent Crime Summit, he said that a juvenile had been arrested earlier Thursday and charged with murder in a recent city homicide.

Penn didn't share any further details about the case with nearly 140 people who attended the summit in the Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem.

Winston-Salem police are investigating the case, said Annie Sims, a police spokeswoman. The agency didn't provide any details about it Friday.

At the summit, Penn told the participants that there have been three juvenile homicide victims among the 270 juvenile victims of violent crime so far this year in the city.

Officers have arrested 96 young offenders, including two juvenile homicide offenders, Penn said.

Penn urged the summit's participants to keep those statistics at the forefront of their discussions to find solutions to youth violent crime in Winston-Salem.

"We should approach this with open hearts and open minds," Penn said. "As we



VIEW: To see additional photos from the summit, point your smartphone camera at the QR code, then tap the link. **NEWSVU**

stated before, this isn't about blame. It's about responsibility and what kind of community we choose to be?"

The police chief asked the participants if the local community will point "fingers and pretend that one entity has all of the answers."

"Or will we be that community that comes together in a time of need and bring all our knowledge, skills and abilities to ensure that we have a safe and vibrant environment," Penn said.

Police Sgt. De'Rya Wylie and Officer Jeyson Reyes, both of the Winston-Salem Police Department's gang division, painted a picture of juvenile crime in the city.

Guns are popular among too many young people, Wylie said.

"We have more children in possession of firearms (guns)," Wylie told the summit's participants. "It's really sad and scary to see when we have a 10-year-old with a gun."

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Competency hearing set for murder suspect

Man is charged with killing his girlfriend in 2021

JOHN HINTON
Staff Reporter

A judge will determine within two weeks whether a Winston-Salem man accused of killing his girlfriend in 2021 is competent to stand trial.

Judge Richard Gottlieb of Forsyth Superior Court presided over a competency hearing Wednesday for Willie Junior Snuggs, 48, who is charged first-degree murder in the death of Kristin Nicole Mendez, 33, court records show.

Four expert witnesses who evaluated Snuggs testified that Snuggs doesn't have the mental capacity to stand trial because he has an intellectual disability and dementia resulting from suffering two strokes, untreated syphilis and cocaine use.

Gottlieb said he will review the witnesses' testimony, their reports about Snuggs and other court records. The judge said he expects to make a ruling in the case within two weeks.



Snuggs

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Federal judges order SNAP to continue

MICHAEL CASEY, GEOFF MULVIHILL
AND KIMBERLEE KRUESI
Associated Press

BOSTON — Two federal judges ruled almost simultaneously Friday that President Donald Trump's administration must continue to fund SNAP, the nation's biggest food aid program, using contingency funds during the government shutdown.

The judges in Massachusetts and Rhode Island gave the administration leeway on whether to fund the program partially or in full for November.

The rulings came a day before the U.S. Department of Agriculture planned to freeze payments to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program because it said it could no longer keep funding it due to the shutdown.

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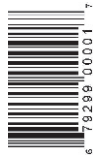
Former Wake Forest pitcher is the general manager for the red-hot Toronto Blue Jays.

SPORTS, B1

Weather
Cool in the a.m.;
sunshine
High 60 • Low 44
FORECAST • A10

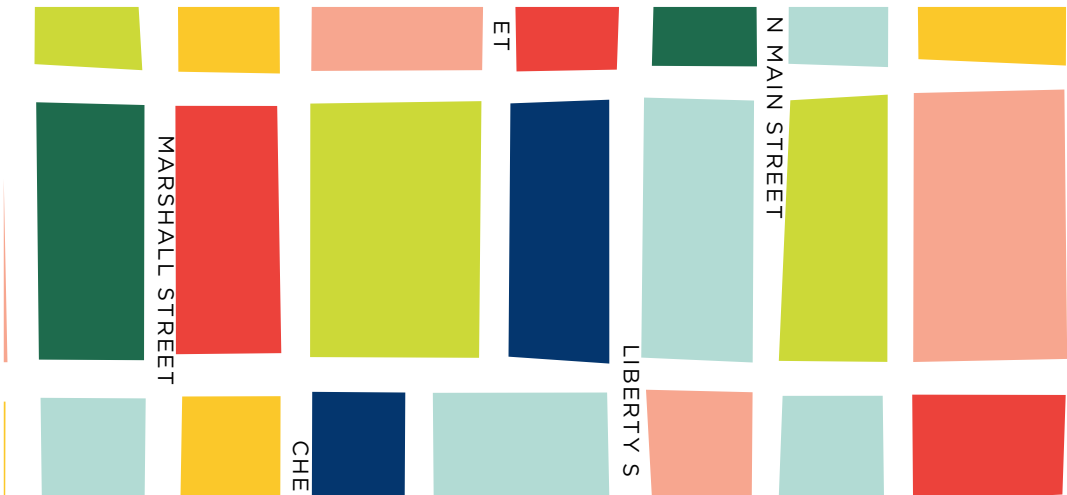
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