

Call Tucker Oil for all of your petroleum needs!

Tucker Oil

Contact David Tucker Jr. at 803-603-4788 or tuck@tuckeroil.com

THE Electric City News **FREE!**

Your Connection to Local News, Sports, People and Happenings www.TheElectricCityNews.com December 19, 2024-January 1, 2025

St. Joseph Catholic School celebrates Mass honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe

St. Joseph Catholic School was honored to have their Hispanic community share the rich flavors of their heritage with the delicious foods of tamales, pan dulce, chocolate, and champurado that was enjoyed after the Spanish Mass honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Muchas gracias a todos!

Our Lady of Guadalupe, also known as the Virgin of Guadalupe, is a Catholic title for the Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus. She is a popular religious figure in Mexico and is considered the patron saint of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, and parts of California.

The story of Our Lady of Guadalupe is based on four visions the Virgin Mary had with Juan Diego, a Mexican peasant, in 1531:

Appearance

The Virgin Mary appeared as a dark-skinned woman with mixed Indigenous and

European features, wearing a turquoise cloak and surrounded by a sunburst. She spoke to Juan in his native language, Nahuatl.

Request

The Virgin Mary asked Juan to build a shrine in the place where she appeared so she could share her love and compassion with all who believed.

Proof

Juan visited the Archbishop of Mexico City, Juan de Zumárraga, to provide proof of his story and the Virgin Mary's identity.

Flowers

The Virgin Mary told Juan to climb to the top of the hill and pick some flowers to give to the Archbishop.

The Virgin Mary's image has become a national symbol of Mexico and is often depicted in many ways, including:



- Wearing a blue cloak with golden stars
 - Wearing a rose-colored dress with embroidered roses
 - Surrounded by a mandorla of light
- The Virgin Mary is often depicted in different

ways depending on the region and people where she appeared. For example, in her European apparitions, she appears European, while in her apparition as Our Lady of Guadalupe, she appears with Indigenous features.

the event

**ANDERSON'S
NEW YEAR'S EVE
PARTY**

LIVE MUSIC | DRINKS | FOOD

\$99 ALL INCLUSIVE

**BLECKLEY STATION
310 S MAIN ST, ANDERSON, SC 29624**

**December 31st | 8pm-12:30am
NYE Cocktail Party**



www.theeventandersonnye.com

AnMed named among nation's most wired health systems

AnMed has achieved Level 9 status in both ambulatory and acute settings in the College of Healthcare Information Management Executives 2024 Digital Health Most Wired Survey.

Among the almost 48,000 facilities represented, AnMed distinguished itself by ranking above peers in critical categories such as analytics and data management, population health, infrastructure, and patient engagement.

The survey evaluates the adoption, integration and impact of technologies across health care organizations, from early stage

adopters to industry leaders. "We are proud to recognize

AnMed's exceptional dedication to digital health excellence," said CHIME

President and CEO Russ Branzell. "AnMed's pioneering performance in the industry not only inspires other organizations by example but also provides patients around the world with better care."

"In the face of escalating challenges like increasing cybersecurity threats, evolving care models, staffing shortages, and budget

constraints, the urgency for revolutionizing health care through

technology continues to grow," CHIME executives said in

announcing their Most Wired winners. "The next 30 years will bring profound changes, driven by emerging technologies. We anticipate that advancements in digital health — facilitated by fully interoperable data, artificial intelligence, and secure platforms — will significantly transform the landscape of care. A strategic

roadmap will be essential to navigate these changes."

Marty Stewart, AnMed's assistant vice president for information services, said commitment to innovation and an excellent staff with a focus on advancing hardware and software technology was key to AnMed's Most Wired achievement.

CHIME is an executive organization dedicated to serving chief information officers, chief medical information officers, chief nursing information officers, chief innovation officers, chief digital officers, and other senior healthcare information technology leaders.



Rams drop heartbreaker for state title

BY BRIAN HODGES

Sometimes your best is not enough.

Westside High School, aiming for its second consecutive state AAAA football title, fell agonizingly short in a 42-41 loss to South Florence Friday night in Orangeburg, S.C.

Rams quarterback Cutter Woods was having an eye-popping statistical night. He finished with 6 touchdown passes and 384 passing yards. That's usually enough to win most games.

Woods' 50-yard touchdown toss to Chamarryus Bomar with two minutes to play cut the Bruins' lead to one.

Westside coach Brian Lane, never one to shy away from risks, went for a 2-point conversion and the lead but the reverse pass failed.

South Florence (12-3) had one more possession, then punted to the Rams' 1-yard line, and Westside was unable to mount a comeback.

The Rams receivers had a spectacular night. Bomar finished with 213 yards and four TDs. He also had a key interception. Armoni Weaver had three receptions for 101 yards and a score.

This was the second year in a row the two teams played a dramatic title game.

Last season, Woods threw a touchdown pass with 15 seconds left to beat South Florence 34-32. That one ended the Bruins' 29-game winning streak.

This time, South Florence ended Westside's 27-game winning streak. It was Rams coach Lane's first loss at Westside since the 2023 opener against Belton-Honea Path.

The Rams fell behind 42-35 as South Florence scored a touchdown with 2:12 remaining in the game. It was the first time Westside had trailed in the game.

South Florence put together a 10-play, 74-yard drive to finally take the lead. Quarterback Messiah Jackson ran for tough yards and then hit a 41-yard pass to Jayden Sellers. Tre Leonard scored from four yards out.

The game was marked by Westside's quick-strike touchdowns and South Florence's methodical drives for scores.

The Rams built an early 21-7 lead, but the Bruins scored just before halftime to keep it close. At the half, South Florence had out-gained Westside 252 yards to 217.

Sellers, by the way, is the brother of LaNorris Sellers, the outstanding quarterback at the University of South Carolina. Jayden has signed to play with the Gamecocks.

Westside QB Woods has also signed with



South Carolina. Woods had passed for 3,014 yards before Friday's game, and the Rams averaged nearly 50 points per contest.



**CHECK OUT OUR
NEW YEAR SALES
IN JANUARY!**

Main Services:

• **Weight Loss • Semaglutide & Tirzepatide • Aesthetics & Filler • Acute Care •**
• **Hormone Replacement Therapy • B12 Lipotropic Injections •**

Free Consults & Walk-Ins Welcome!

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday & Wednesday: 10am-5pm
Tuesday & Thursday: 10am-7pm
Friday & Saturday: 9am-1pm

3710 Liberty Highway, Anderson, SC 29621
P: (864) 401-1178
contact@beachmedicalanderson.com
www.beachmedicalonline.com

RED ROCKET PUBLISHING OF ANDERSON, LLC PUBLISHERS

Julie Bailes Johnson
864-221-9269
julie@theelectriccitynews.com

Ginny Bailes Fretwell
864-934-1477
ginny@theelectriccitynews.com

ADVERTISING SALES

Becky Pruitt
864-367-2102
beckypru@aol.com

LAYOUT/DESIGN

ART DIRECTOR
Zack Mauldin
zack@upstatetoday.com

GRAPHIC DESIGN
Nate Thomason
signal43@live.com

WRITERS

Neal Parnell
dnparn@gmail.com

Rich Otter
richotter29621@yahoo.com

GARDEN & FLORAL
Susan Temple
gardningirl@yahoo.com

MENTAL HEALTH
Mary-Catherine McClain Riner
drmarycatherine@riner counseling.com

FASHION
Kristine March

SPORTS
Brian Hodges

COLUMNISTS
Kim Acker Von Keller
Katie Laughridge
Ann K. Bailes
Sara Leady
Ainsley McCarthy

TO SEND INFORMATION
Please make sure photos include the date taken, location and names of people in the photos. If photos are submitted via email, make sure they are a minimum of 300 dpi and saved as a JPEG file. If photos are mailed, we cannot guarantee the photo will be returned. The editor of The Electric City News will make your article/story grammatically correct without altering its content. The publishers of The Electric City News reserve the right to withhold inappropriate content or photos.

Free checking
and cash back means

**MORE
COFFEE.**



Free Kasasa Cash Back® checking includes:

- ▶ Cash back on debit card purchases
- ▶ No minimum balance to earn cash back
- ▶ Plus, get refunds on ATM withdrawal fees nationwide!



Additional Information: Account approval, conditions, qualifications, limits, timeframes, enrollments, and other requirements apply. \$100.00 minimum deposit is required to open the account. One monthly Direct Deposit or ACH credit, at least 10 POS debit card purchases post and settle to your account, enrollment in online or mobile banking, and enrollment in eStatements are conditions of this account. Limit of 1 account per social security number. There is no Monthly Service Fee to open or close this account. Contact one of our bank service representatives for additional information, details, restrictions, reward calculations, processing limitations, cycle dates and enrollment instructions. **Trademarks:** Kasasa and Kasasa Cash Back are trademarks of Kasasa, Ltd., registered in the U.S.A.

Maddox retiring from the bench

BY KIM VON KELLER

When the Honorable J. Cordell Maddox announced his retirement as a South Carolina Circuit Court Judge, he was thinking about an oath he took 22 years ago. But it wasn't the oath he swore to the State of South Carolina; rather, it was a personal oath he made to his father at the beginning of his career on the bench.

"I promised my father that if I ever stopped seeing the people who came before me as human beings, I would quit," Judge Maddox says. "Over the course of my career, I think the thing I'm most proud of is that I never let that happen."

Judge Maddox's retirement date is set for December 31st. Last month, friends, family, and colleagues gathered to celebrate him and his achievements. There were serious, heartfelt moments as well as funny stories and gentle ribbing.

"It was bittersweet," says his wife, Donna Maddox. "There were both tears and laughter that day."

There were also numbers. Judge Maddox is the longest-serving judge in the 10th Judicial Circuit, which covers Anderson and Oconee Counties, in the last one hundred years. Since his election to the Circuit Court Bench, At-Large

Seat Number 7, in 2002, he has disposed of almost 30,000 cases. During his time on the bench, the 10th Circuit has met or exceeded the Court Administration goal of 80 percent disposition of cases, both civil and criminal. Numbers, however, were never Judge Maddox's goal.

"My dad, J. Cordell Maddox Sr., was a minister and a college president. He lived a life of service. I was doing well in private practice, but when a Circuit Court seat came open and I was contacted about running, I thought, that is just what you do. You try to help."

His time in private practice would inform his work from the bench. As a young lawyer, Judge Maddox learned an important lesson when his partner and mentor, Oren O. Jones, took him for a drive in Anderson.

"As Oren drove, he said, 'You live in the bubble of your own life. You have been sheltered, but every house in this town has a real problem and a serious problem. It is the first thing they think about in the morning and the last thing they think about before they fall asleep. You'll have to deal with this as a lawyer.'"

It is also what he has dealt with as a judge, especially in Anderson Mental Health Court, which he was instrumental in establishing.



Presiding over the Mental Health Court, Judge Maddox hears matters involving nonviolent crimes committed by people with emotional or mental health issues.

"The people before me have violated the law, but the violations are not criminal. A lot of the people I see are military veterans. My brother Brian was career military, and he was deployed many times. He and I talked often about veterans and mental health problems. It took us five years to get the funding for Mental Health Court, but I think it is the most successful thing I've done."

When it comes to success, though, there is one story that Judge Maddox cites repeatedly.

"I had a guy before me, drug charges, and the solicitor wanted to sentence him to eight years. I did not, and I put him on probation and got him drug treatment. He went to college, got a job, and is married with two children. For the last eight years, I have gotten a letter from him every single month. Just, 'Hey, how are you doing? Happy Thanksgiving.' I know his children's

names. You have to understand that these people are people. That is the hard part of this job."

His wife has seen the toll that these decisions take.

"There is so much stress, day in and day out. When he presides over General Sessions Court, on the week he takes pleas, there are so many serious criminal cases. Lawyers may only put up one, but Cordell hears them all. I hope that in retirement, he will finally be able to relax."

Judge Maddox's retirement won't be a full stop. He will continue as an Active Retired Judge but will have a much lighter case load.

"My children's birthdays fall at a time when court is always in session. Our sixth grandchild is due in January. I am looking forward to spending more time with my family. I want to travel more. My wife is an avid gardener, and she says that I am going to be digging a lot of holes."

At his retirement celebration, when his official portrait was unveiled, Judge Maddox was lauded by colleagues for his professionalism and his humanity. Judge Maddox gives all the credit to that promise he made to his father.

"If I am well thought of," he says, "it is because of my father. You are raw clay when you take the bench, and you get thrown into the deep end quickly. My dad pointed out that you have to put yourself in the place of the person in front of you. I am just proud that I was able to do that."

SHARE THE LOVE

WITH A HOLIDAY LOAN
BORROW UP TO \$2,500

LOW RATE!
12.25%
APR

Great for shopping, traveling, dining or paying off high interest debts.

APPLYING IS FAST & EASY.	CALL, CLICK OR SEE A LOAN OFFICER TODAY.
800.868.8740	scscu.com/apply

Two Anderson locations to serve you!
306 Pearman Dairy Rd. | 1825 E. Greenville St.
HURRY! Offer expires January 31, 2025.

Approval is subject to credit worthiness, member's credit union relationship, underwriting standards and terms. Rates, conditions and programs subject to change without notice. Federally insured by the NCUA.

THE BREW

"BUSINESS IDEAS WITH COMMUNITY FEEDBACK."

JOIN US!
EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 8 AM
FREE BREAKFAST AND COFFEE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICES
102 N. MURRAY AVE.
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

For more information visit
www.facebook.com/downtownanderson or
email cgaddis@cityofandersonsc.com

A TALE OF TWO OAKS



**SUSAN
TEMPLE**
master
gardener

A killing frost was late this year. But now, perennials are brown, birds are picking over seed heads, some dried zinnias are still standing, seeds have been scattered from others and stems have been pulled up and tossed into the woods. The front garden has evergreen plants mixed throughout but for the most part, it is bare in the winter. Ornamental grasses give another texture in winter. I think each year about adding more evergreens, but the garden is about full. It's fine, pretty much,

the way it is. Trees in the woods still have some leaves. A willow oak (*Quercus phellos*) in the yard is still putting on its fall show. Golden leaves really stand out now since most trees in the yard are bare. This willow oak serves as a pretty backdrop to possumhaw's (*Ilex decidua*) red berries. From most of the front yard views, this accidental design has turned out very nice. Leaves of the willow oak are usually the last to fall.

The willow oak, and a pin oak (*Quercus rubra var. palustris*) are two trees planted out at the edge of the yard. Some 25 years ago, they were the biggest trees I had ever planted, and probably still are. Bigger is not always better when planting trees. They were part of some balled and burlaped trees that had been pushed to a neglected corner at Busby

Nursery. Henry probably would not have appreciated that I referred to that section of his garden center as the crap corner. There were some very good plants in it, just not the prime, pretty, most customers want. Looking at them side by side, even though they are about 75 to 100 feet apart, they grow much differently.

The willow oak has been left to its own to grow naturally. Practically no pruning has been done. As the tree grew taller, branches hung down, and the canopy started rounding. Branches are only about half as wide at the bottom. One has to duck to get under most of it. I decided to let it continue that way with one exception, and call it the Charleston tree, since many oaks, mostly live oaks, grow with branches very low to the ground. One spot was pruned a tad to hang

my ghost girl on the trunk. A friend and I were antiquing in Asheville several years ago and a vendor had all sorts of concrete things. She caught my eye immediately and would make a unique addition to my collection of faces. When I showed my friend the new treasure, she said "She looks dead". Hence the garden ghost girl who hangs on the Charleston oak.

There are azaleas, boxwoods, a big patch of obedient plant, and a small patch of roof iris under, and around it. If you've ever grown obedient plant, you know that stuff spreads. All this helps draw the eye (as the experts say) out to that part of the yard. Up close, the trunk is very furrowed. It is quite a stately tree.

The pin oak has been limbed up slowly over the years. It has a distinct pyramid shape to its canopy.

According to NC State's plant website, it will round more with age. Its red fall color looks nice with the golden color of the willow oak. A couple more limbs need to be cut off so the

tractor can get under it. Then it shouldn't need any more pruning. Believe it or not, there is nothing planted under it.

Nor is there a plan to plant anything. The grass gets cut up to one side of it, and the rest is in parts that get bushhogged, as to why the tractor needs to get under it.

Both trees are native and provide habitat for many lepidopteran. If you're familiar with Doug Tallamy, you know how valuable oak trees are. Dr. Tallamy educates on how we can all help improve the world in our own yards, regardless of how small or big. His way of teaching is refreshing, not gloom and doom.



Garden ghost girl



BRIGHTER CHRISTMAS FUND

EVERY CHILD DESERVES A
Brighter Christmas



Brighter Christmas Fund helps provide Christmas for more than 500 homeless children from Anderson County School Districts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Thanks to generous support from Anderson Toy Parade, Stone Creek Cove HOA & Golf Club, and individuals like you, Brighter Christmas Fund has continued to thrive since 1975.

Ways to Give

Mail donations to:

Foothills Community Foundation
P.O. Box 1228 | Anderson SC 29622
864-222-9096

Online at:

foothillscommunityfoundation.org/donate/

Or by scanning the: **Venmo** or **QR codes**



ICE IN THE PARK

Discover downtown magic.

Introducing Anderson's
NEWEST
Holiday Celebration!

Dec. 2nd - Jan. 5th
Carolina Wren Park

Ice Skating



Santa



Crafts

\$5.00

Ice Skating for Ages 6 & Up

Dec. 6th

Figure Skater Performance

Dec. 6th & 7th

Electric City Christmas Market

Dec. 14th

Free Photos with Santa

**ANDERSON**
THE ELECTRIC CITY

Dec. 2-22

Monday-Friday: 5pm-9pm

Saturday: 11am-9pm

Sunday: 2pm-6pm

CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE, CHRISTMAS DAY,
AND NEW YEAR'S DAY

Dec. 23-Jan. 5

SCHOOL IS OUT!

Monday-Friday: 1pm-9pm

Saturday: 11am-9pm

Sunday: 2pm-6pm

Christmas Past and Present

I'm looking at our Christmas tree, lights glowing in an otherwise darkened house, and thinking of Christmases past--good times spent with multiple celebrations on both sides of our



Ann K. Bailes

family, year after year. I loved those times and those relatives. When one gets to a certain age, those memories are especially prominent and precious. Everyone has their own, but I'd like to share a few of mine.

My most unusual holiday was spent on a mission trip during college, riding in a "jeepney" from Port-au-Prince to Cap Haitien, Haiti. Our dinner consisted of ham and cheese sandwiches washed down with bottled drinks as we bounced our way over rutted roads. Now that's quite a Christmas memory.

I met Mike one month before Christmas in 1984, so that year was spent enjoying the season through the rose-colored glasses of impending love.

Then there were the firsts - first Christmas tree (a scraggly pine I think we may have cut down ourselves), first season with a new baby, first holiday in our newly-purchased house in Anderson. And the memories of the years with young children and a slim budget will forever be strong. I confess to being one of those mothers who wrapped up new socks along with toys and fun things. They were just happy to have another present to unwrap!

When Mike was working swing shift, our two children and I used to joke that our main tradition was the three of us going to Jack in the Box on Christmas Day (it was the only place that was open). But if Mike had to sleep, it was the best thing we could do--just get out of the house, and delay our celebration until he was off. That was hard, but we knew he was doing his best to provide for us, and we accepted it.

As the children grew older and flew the coop, Christmas changed some. But the same ornaments come out of the boxes, and the same decorations set around the house: the ceramic ornaments that daughter and I painted together, the cotton snowman that

son made in elementary school, and treasured items from students long since moved on. Even as Christmas changes, it stays the same.

But this Christmas will be a very special one. We will be enjoying the festivities through the eyes of our precious eighteen-month-old granddaughter, whose wonder at the sight of Christmas lights and ornaments has already been a source of joy. The indestructible cloth nativity set that her great-grandmother made has been set up on

the floor, where she can play with it as much as she likes. She'll be more interested in boxes and wrapping paper than presents. And it will be wonderful, even as we miss my dad, who is celebrating his first Christmas in heaven.

So whatever your stage of life, and whether this be a happy or perhaps a difficult Christmas for you for whatever reason - May you make memories to increase your family story. And may you rejoice in the beauty of this season of Jesus' birth. Merry Christmas!

WINSTON/WINSTON

Wingo Cely



ANDERSON ARTS CENTER

Exhibit Opening: January 17, 2025

tba

to be announced

Improving the Landscape of Our Community

TBA privately funds projects of preservation, public art and good works benefiting the Anderson area community since 2008

tba: Project Five



Textile Point:

Did you know... Textile Point is a celebration of times past, the present and times to come.

A collaborative project with the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor, TBA, the City of Anderson and The Rotary Club of Anderson in celebration of their 100th year.

The clock was designed and fabricated by Scott Foster of Anderson, SC.

"If you're traveling on Main Street, the ribbons of 'Threaded' welcome you to North Main Commons. Everyone is drawn to a beautiful, meaningful water feature."
Cindy Kibler



tba: Project Six

Threaded:

Did you know... Threaded is A Sculptural Fountain located in North Main Commons on Main Street in Anderson and celebrates the "threads" sewn together to make Anderson.

The fountain was designed and fabricated by Scott Foster of Anderson, SC.



CLAYTON TILE

1718 PEARMAN DAIRY ROAD
(864) 225-0884
CLAYTONTILE.COM
A new backsplash for the holidays



DIAMONDS-N-GOLD DIRECT

3124 NORTH MAIN STREET
(864) 225-3320
DIAMONDS-N-GOLD.COM
Put some sparkle in her stocking!



ANDERSON PREP PRESCHOOL

1910 COMMONWEALTH LANE
(864) 940-0125
ANDERSONPREPSC.COM
Montessori Inspired - Christian Led
• *Low classroom ratios* • *Spanish classes*
• *Secure entrances* • *CPR trained staff*



CITY OF ANDERSON

*Shop and dine downtown
Anderson for the holidays!*

ECN HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



**J. BRENT
COPELAND**
— DMD —
COSMETIC & RESTORATIVE DENTISTRY

J. BRENT COPELAND, DMD

1406 NORTH FANT STREET
(864) 226-6574
DRBRENTCOPELAND.COM
• *We are accepting new patients*
• *Community Choice Best of
Your Hometown Winner 2021-2024*
• *Happy Holidays from all
of us at J. Brent Copeland, DMD*



W.E. BLACK TERMITE & PEST CONTROL

2840 S MAIN STREET
(864) 375-1899
WEBLACKPESTCONTROL.COM.WORDPRESS
*Happy Holidays from
W.E. Black Termite & Pest Control*



HEYWARD MANOR

5827 HWY 81, IVA
(864) 617-0391
HEYWARDMANOR.COM
*Give the gift of love
Forever starts at Heyward Manor*



"Educating Tomorrow's Leaders"



KIDS STUFF ACADEMY

117 MIDTOWN SQUARE
(864) 225-7883
KIDSSTUFFACADEMY.US



THE GARDEN HOUSE

201 EDGEBROOK DRIVE
(864) 964-5668
GARDENHOUSEANDERSON.COM
INFO@GARDENHOUSEANDERSON.COM
*Happy Holidays from the staff
& residents at The Garden House*



SURFGOAT

511 NORTH MAIN STREET
SURFGOAT.COM
*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Stop by for exclusive Holiday sales!*



**BELTON AREA
MUSEUM
ASSOCIATION**

BELTON AREA MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

100 NORTH MAIN STREET
BELTON, SC 29627
864-338-7400
WWW.BELTONMUSEUM.COM



TURNKEY ROOFING

432 SAYRE STREET
ANDERSON, SC 29624
(864) 241-8133
WWW.TURNKEYROOFING.NET
Secure Your Home This Christmas!



GLAM BEAUTY BAR & SPA

502 NORTH MAIN STREET, SUITE F
(864) 844-9599
GLAMBEAUTYBARANDSPA.COM
GLAMBEAUTYBARANDSPA@GMAIL.COM
*Glamour in one spot with total
beauty solutions for every need!*



IMAGES SALON

2101 NORTH MAIN STREET
(864) 225-8355
IMAGESDAYSPA.COM
Image is everything!



ANDERSON INTERFAITH MINISTRIES

1202 S MURRAY AVENUE
(864) 226-2273
AIMCHARITY.ORG



GREATER ANDERSON MUSICAL ARTS

(864) 231-6147
GAMAC.ORG
Give the gift of music.



THE BLECKLEY INN

151 E CHURCH STREET
(864) 225-7203
BLECKLEYINN.COM
*Wrap yourself in comfort
with our Comphy Sheets*



PHIL JEWELERS

116 NORTH MAIN STREET
(864) 226-7635

*Making Christmas wishes
come true since 1965*

More than
books.
More than
a library.

EXPLORE. DISCOVER. CONNECT.



andersonlibrary.org

Anderson Main Library

300 N McDuffie St.
864-260-4500



Give the Gift of
A NEW SMILE

CORNERSTONE
DENTISTRY

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS ☎ (864) 222-9001

CORNERSTONE DENTISTRY

190 MUTUAL DRIVE
(864) 222-9001
CORNERSTONESMILES.COM



CULVERS - ANDERSON

2109 NORTH HIWAY 81
(864) 328-9325

Gift cards for the holidays!



CITY SEED AT THE STATION

520 N MURRAY AVENUE
(864) 225-7511
CITYSEEDATTHESTATION.COM



MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF ANDERSON

280 SAM MCGEE ROAD
(864) 226-5344 MSASC.ORG



STRICKLAND FINE ART

2500-A NORTH MAIN STREET
(864) 224-0370
JILLSTRICKLANDART.NET

Saving your memories one frame at a time.



THE KITCHEN EMPORIUM & GIFTS

418 NORTH MAIN STREET
(864) 225-2021
THEKITCHENEMPORIUM.NET
Vietri for the holidays!



THE SWEETERY

1814 E GREENVILLE STREET
(864) 224-8394
THESWEETERY.COM

A SECRET FROM SANTA (ONLY FOR KIDS-AGES 1-92)

You've heard of Dasher and Dancer and Prancer and Vixen, Comet and Cupid and Donner and Blitzen, and of course you recall, the most famous reindeer of all. Well, I'm going to let you in on a secret. Now I know that a secret shouldn't be told, but it's been kept for such a long time and I just can't hold it any longer. If I tell you this secret, you've got to promise to keep one for me. Do you promise? Good. Don't tell your parents what I'm about to say to you; they already have a secret, but this one is just for you, ok? Great.

A long, long, long time ago, when I first started giving children Christmas toys, I would walk to their houses carrying my toy bag and leave toys outside their doors. No,

that's not the secret. Back then, walking was the only way I had to get where I was going.



Neal Parnell

One Christmas, after I'd finished my deliveries and headed home, I wished that I didn't have to walk. I was almost home when I came upon a Christmas tree. That may not seem strange, but forget what you've read in books and seen on television; there are no trees at the North Pole. But there it was, standing alone in the snow. I grabbed a branch, gave a tug, and the whole thing

moved. My oh my! I thought to myself, this tree is floating. How could this be? Could I be dreaming? I grabbed the tree again and as sure as my whiskers are white, it was floating. I tied the string from my toy bag around the trunk and led it home to the toy shop with no effort at all. I sat in my shop with all the elves around me and we marveled at the Christmas tree floating just a few inches from the floor. An elf said, "Should we decorate it Boss?" No, let me think about this a bit. I went out into the village and saw elves having a snowball fight, ice skating, and sledding....That's it! I'm going to build a flying sleigh. I took the tree to my private workshop and started sawing, hammering, and carving. I didn't stop until it was done and it was a beautiful sight to see the huge sleigh complete and floating. I climbed onboard and had a seat. Yes, I was above the floor but nothing happened, I just sat there. I flapped my arms like a bird and went up a couple of inches. I



paddled my arms like I was swimming and moved forward a touch, but I needed more arms or...LEGS!. That's when I had the idea of using the reindeer and fashioned harnesses for eight of them. I added a splinter of wood from the floating Christmas tree to each harness. I corralled eight reindeer, gave them each

a name, and taught them to pull a regular sleigh through the snow. The time had now come to test them with my new sleigh. As I hooked each reindeer into their harness they rose from the ground. I got into the sleigh and yelled HO! HO! HO!

Their legs started running and off we went, climbing higher and higher as I guided them to safely land back to where we began. The rest is history my little friends. From then on, I was able to deliver toys to the whole world. The secret is, "Reindeer could never fly on their own".

It was always that wonderfully magical Christmas Tree.

MERRY CHRISTMAS ALL!

It's fun to be ritzy sometimes

It's that time of year when I get to be exclusive and swanky and tell you a list of things that everyone would dream to have, but can be a tad over budget. Oprah does it every year around this time, so I'm going to pretend to be her for the day.



Kristine March

These are gadgets, products and goodies that are for both ladies and gentlemen. They're over the top and opulent. It's fun to be ritzy sometimes, so brace yourself for that.

Firstly, we're going to go with my top five and in that order. Number

five goes to a sparkling little clutch, evening bag. Now this bag isn't your typical little purse. It actually has LED lighting in it, that illuminates. The Color Me Clutch handbag will surprise everyone at your next get together. It's just a basic black bag and then bam. Your very own discotheque in your hand. It lasts up to five hours and is rechargeable. It turns up to seven different colors from pink to gold to red, green and so on. The price tag is right at forty-eight dollars and it can be ordered on Amazon. It would also be a fun gift to give for a holiday or birthday and such a cute little conversation piece. Fourth runner up goes to a stunning glassware company called Estelle Colored Glass. Named after their precious little Charleston grandmother, which makes me love it even more, this glass is like Heaven on earth. From stemware to cake stands they have it all. It's also hand blown in Poland and the colors are like something out of a candy shop or a jewel box. It will make your next party simply divine. This price point

is much higher than the clutch though. A set of six champagne coupes comes in at around two hundred dollars, and the cake stands are right at two hundred twenty-five, but these could be an heirloom in your china cabinet and passed down to your loved ones. They're just exquisite looking. Third place goes to a luxury skincare product. Martha Stewart is a fan of Cle De Peau Beaute face cream. It can be purchased from Neiman Marcus and is great for anti-aging and concealing dark spots. This price point is simply ludicrous, but that's the point of this article and at right around five hundred and sixty dollars you too can get that Martha glow, she's got going on at the moment. All I have to say is I better be shining like a lightbulb for that amount of money. Second in the running goes to Trudon candles. The Versailles candles teleports you to a French spring garden it's accords are floral and feminine. It comes in an azure blue color and is the pinnacle of indulgence. The 108 ounce version is six hundred and eighty dollars, but I say if you don't ever get to go and experience Versailles, you might as well buy the candle and make believe you're there. Number one on my list, drum roll please, goes to a vacation in Umbria Italy. Reschio Estate is like something out of a fairytale or a novel. You and yours can stay in a thousand year-old castle with thousands of acreage, horseback riding, Roman saltwater pools and baths with actual olives in them, plus Michelin star cooking classes. Hey, a gal can dream. Most rooms are around four thousand euro a night and then some. Bucket list for sure. What are some of your most outlandish dreams? Make sure to make the sidewalk your runway and kindness matters. I hope 2025 is your best year yet, y'all!



GLENN MECHANICAL



For all your plumbing, electrical and heating and air conditioning needs.

864-716-0560 www.glennmep.com

NOW OPEN!

110 NORTH

KITCHEN + COMMISSARY

The City of Anderson will open 110 North Kitchen + Commissary, Anderson's first shared kitchen for food entrepreneurs who want to start or grow their business.

Offerings Include

- ☀ Kitchen Rentals for Food Production
- ☀ Commissary Kitchen
- ☀ Cold + Dry Rentable Storage
- ☀ Business Education + Support Programs
- ☀ Prep Space
- ☀ Demonstration Kitchen
- ☀ Retail Space

Located downtown Anderson at 110 North Murray Avenue.

For more information, contact us at fmilford@cityofandersonsc.com.



A Creative Culinary Experience.



FROM THE SHELF

On the gift of reading, part 2

Last time, I focused on my romance reads; this time, I'm focusing on this year's thrillers/mysteries and a "baby horror" (that's also won awards and is literary).

Looking for Smoke by K.A. Cobell was a surprise for me. This is Cobell's debut book and there's a myriad of things about it that I loved. Cobell, a member of the Blackfeet Tribe, shines a light on the epidemic of missing Indigenous women across North America, while also weaving it into a seriously well done domestic thriller. A young woman has gone missing, another turns up dead, and at the center of it all are four teens, all of whom have a motive. The ending? A nice delicious little twist. Absolute chef's kiss! I cannot wait to see what Cobell writes next.

I've never been shy of my fan-

girling over Karin Slaughter, and This is Why We Lied, the latest in the Will Trent series, is another great one. What I liked about it was



Sara Leady

Slaughter's take on the "locked room mystery." Will and Sara are away on a mini honeymoon in the mountains of Georgia when a body turns up (of course). Everyone is lying (including them) and everyone staying at the secluded resort has a motive. While they race to solve the case, they also unravel the dark history of the mountain that they're trapped on, with at least one killer, but maybe more... I've yet to be dis-

appointed by a Slaughter book.

Only If You're Lucky by Stacy Willingham is a great one for a multitude of reasons. One, Willingham is from South Carolina, the book itself is set in South Carolina, and she's quickly becoming a favorite psychological thriller author of mine. Set at a small college, Only if You're Lucky tests the bonds of friendship and loyalty among four seemingly opposite young women after a boy from the frat next door is brutally murdered and Lucy, their ringleader, goes missing. Everyone has secrets and Willingham keeps you guessing at how everything ties together right till the end.

Alright y'all. I just finished Keep it in the Family by John Marrs and I don't even know how to begin to feel. It gives me some Verity (Colleen

Hoover) vibes, but I hate making that comparison given how much I hated that book. I think the comparison comes from getting the viewpoint of someone plotting the murder of children...? Obviously that's an uncomfortable viewpoint, but I think the difference might be that Marrs actually made me feel something other than absolute abhorrence for the murderer. Don't get me wrong, they're an absolutely awful and horrible person, but given their childhood trauma I guess I also felt sad for them because they didn't break themselves. This one hits hard on generational trauma, especially long-term psychological abuse and neglect. BUT I'll say he doesn't go into graphic detail. Marrs hits you hard enough with the topic that he made a smart choice to not actually stray from thriller into horror by providing actual details. I'm seriously still reeling.

I'm currently reading Man Made Monsters by Andrea L. Rogers (illustrated by Jeff Edwards). I started with

just audio, but after reading about the illustrations I actually bought a personal copy. This is our "baby horror", and I really do mean "lite" horror. The thought and craftsmanship involved in the book is incredible. The book is composed of short stories, each about a different descendent of the same extended Cherokee family ranging from the 1800s to 2049. The "horror" elements come in with the pairing of American Indigenous mythological monsters alongside the horrors of the American experience that are unique and specific to tribes across America even to this day. The illustrations are done by a Cherokee artist who is also a language technologist, so he weaves Cherokee syllabary into the haunting traditional illustrations. The book is simply stunning. The audio has been great because it lets me know the proper pronunciation of the different Cherokee words. It might fall within horror, but it's also literary and historical, and in my opinion a must read (at least so far).

MAGISTRATE SALE

January 13th, 2025, 10:00 AM

Lil Joe's Towing
1320 South Main Street, Anderson

PARTS ONLY

*2006 Dodge Magnum
Vin
#2D4FV47V06H20440

*2004 Jeep Cherokee
Vin
#1J4GW58N54C256529

*1969 Chevrolet Impala
Vin
#1611190063221

Kimbrell's
FURNITURE

10% OFF
ONE ITEM



SHOW THIS AD TO REDEEM
CERTAIN EXCLUSIONS MAY APPLY

EASY IN-HOUSE FINANCING

509 NORTH MAIN STREET
ANDERSON, SC 29621

864-225-5496

BUDGET®
BLINDS

Style and service for every budget.™



Budget Blinds of Anderson, SC brings the showroom to you! We measure your windows and design and install your blinds, shades, shutters, and more.

FREE IN-HOME CONSULTATION

864-332-0612 | <https://budgetblinds.com/anderson/>

SMEG for the springtime!
It's what every kitchen wants.



418 North Main Street
Anderson, SC 29621
Phone: 864.225.2021



ANTIQUÉ MALL
ANTIQUES | COLLECTIBLES | GIFTS

500 N. Main St.
Anderson, SC
864-642-9727

appledumplinantiques@gmail.com



WESTAR Auto-Truck Tire & Alignment

Corner of Bleckley & Murray
PO Box 400
Anderson, SC

864.224.2248
864.224.2254



Caroline Sullivan
Realtor® Lic #63367
ABR®

Electric City News
Is My News!

864 202-3134
callcarolinesullivan@gmail.com

4152 Clemson Blvd B
Anderson, SC 29621



Price Driving School

217 West Whitner Street, Anderson, SC 29624
864-226-1320 - www.pricedrivingsc.com



Tommy Price
Owner - Instructor

Private Driving Lessons - All Ages Welcome
Certified Instructors

(864) 209-8245 www.UHSSC.com

Enjoy Personalized Healthcare

Ready to embark on a journey of personalized support, care, and overall well-being?

Our highly trained personal care specialists assist in providing compassionate support for seniors and individuals with special needs right in the comfort of their own home.

We Take Care of:

- Household Duties
- Shopping
- Transportation
- Personal Care & Hygiene



Mobility Plus

Scooters Ramps Lifts

- Scooters
- Stairlifts
- Powerchairs
- Lift Chairs
- Ramps
- Vehicle Lifts

Sales, Service and Rentals

Bring in this ad and receive 10% off total purchase!

1017-A Whitehall Road, Anderson
(864) 401-8722

Where EVERYDAY is Independence Day

health markets.

HealthMarkets Insurance Agency
Health | Medicare | Small Group | Life | Supplemental



Debbie Whitworth
Licensed Insurance Agent

(864)226-8205
(864)760-2700

debbie.whitworth@HealthMarkets.com

HealthMarkets Insurance Agency, Inc. is licensed as an insurance agency in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Services and product availability varies. Agents may be compensated based on their enrollment.



LET US LIGHTEN YOUR MOVE!

864.712.9883

Electriccitymovers.com

Electriccitymoversllc@gmail.com

Your complete home maintenance expert!

DO IT ALL DEAN

SERVICES

- Pressure Wash • Flooring • Electrical
- Painting • Carpentry • Yard Work
- Fence Repair • Tiling • Window Cleaning
- Dock & Deck Repairs / New Decks
- Remodeling and Additions

NO JOB IS TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL!

FREE ESTIMATES

Call Marcus Dean to Schedule Today!
864-776-8888



Happy Holidays from Southern ProScapes!

Southern ProScapes
Landscaping + Hardscaping

Local and reliable team that guarantees quality work on every project.

SouthernProScapes@outlook.com
(864) 932-7347

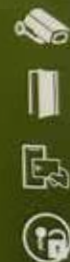


JOSH SMITH
BRANCH MANGER

O 864-224-0321
M 704-777-7832

JOSH.SMITH@LOCDOC.NET
WWW.LOCDOC.NET

NOW HIRING



UNDERGROUND ART

BY RICH OTTER

Their remnants are symbolic of those who inhabited an underground area below Anderson's Main Street. They functioned only on the periphery of the community. Their existence on and adjacent to the abandoned platform that originally served Anderson's Blue Ridge passenger station from 1915 until 1945 is witnessed from only what they could salvage on the fringe of society, now recognized by discarded clothing and materials resting in a muddy ditch—trash collected from unknown usage and images they created on bridge pillars and adjacent walls.

Many would describe the paintings as graffiti. For them it was art. It was the wallpaper of their habitat and in some manner either brightened or explained their lives.

Often an image painted by an artist was



then utilized by others as a place to leave their mark. Perhaps such adoption was connecting with another by those not otherwise having a relationship with their peers. Their meanings may be endlessly speculated.

The paintings were not by happenstance. It would not have been easy to bring the paint and materials down from above. Their production was planned.

Visiting this studio is not recommended. A train arrival would be an unhappy experience, not the least of which occurring from a deafening whistle. In addition, you do not know who you may encounter underground.

A sampling of the work is exhibited here. The efforts of those unknown souls may be much more fully viewed, and with grander presentation, at the Anderson County Museum with an exhibit opening at 2:00 pm, January 3.



Ringling in the New Year

As 2024 comes to a close, revelers are looking for a special way to ring in the New Year, and The Event: Anderson NYE promises to deliver just that. This highly anticipated New Year's Eve celebration is shaping up to be an unforgettable experience, with delicious local food, a luxurious open bar, and live entertainment combined into one spectacular party with a purpose benefiting First Light: A 24/7 Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Resource Center.

The Event, presented by Hampton Furniture and Collins Landscaping, and spearheaded by Anderson native, Ashley Collins, goes above and beyond to create an atmosphere of sophistication and excitement, ideal for anyone looking to usher in 2025 in style. Featuring a live musical performance by the talented Men of Distinction, The Event is sure to set a lively and festive tone throughout the night. In addition to interactive entertainment, guests can enjoy dancing, heavy hor d'oeuvres by Earle Street Kitchen & Bar, and specialty drinks crafted by the expert mixologists from Typsy Gypsy. Whether you're looking to relax in a stylish lounge or hit the dance floor, there's something for everyone at The Event.

A standout feature of The Event is its emphasis on celebrating the local community and culture. Downtown Anderson, with its historic charm and scenic surroundings,

serves as the perfect backdrop for this special occasion taking place at The Bleckley Station. The night will culminate with a signature midnight countdown and ball drop, complete with a champagne toast, to ring in the new year, a moment sure to be remembered.

For out-of-town guests, Anderson offers a range of accommodations, making it easy to fully enjoy the festivities without worrying about transportation. Whether attending with friends, family, or a significant other, The Event: Anderson NYE guarantees a fun, memorable experience for all.

Tickets for the event are selling quickly, and with its reputation for delivering top-tier experiences, The Event: Anderson NYE has become a must-attend celebration in Upstate South Carolina. Don't miss your chance to ring in 2025 at one of the region's most anticipated New Year's Eve events!

For more details, tickets, and event updates, visit theeventandersonnye.com and follow @TheEventAndersonNYE on social media.



APPLICATIONS ENGINEERING MANAGER WANTED

Applications Engineering Manager Pregis Films, LLC, seeks an Applications Engineering Manager in Anderson, South Carolina, to support high-end, specialized W&H equipment which requires expertise to manage, diagnose, and care for during its life cycle. The position will diagnose, maintain, and advance the performance of the logic, controls, and functionality of W&H extrusion.

Specifically, the position will: diagnose equipment issues; build maintenance protocol for W&H lines – PdM and general care; integrate packaging and networking controls systems with IoT and peripheral systems; engage in programming to support legacy equipment and new designs – PLC, HMI, PCB, VFD, Servo, PID; drive technical advancements in conceptualization, layout, design, prototyping, in-house testing, field-qualification, and documentation and lay out vision for automated extrusion factories; support supply chain for component and sub-system obsolescence and technology upgrades; ensure compliance with all applicable design and safety standards such as NEC and NFPA79 and CE or UL utilizing third-party consultant support; support manufacturing relating to customer orders, inventory, parts, and documentation; assist Client Services with field troubleshooting, including root cause analysis and closed loop corrective actions; and create continuous improvement culture through the development and implementation of process improvements and impactful metrics. Requires Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering, Electronics Engineering, or a closely related field, or its foreign equivalent or its equivalent as determined by a recognized evaluation service, as well as 5+ years of industrial controls experience with exposure to PLC industrial controls software products, schematic electrical packages, and servo motion design and programming. Send resume to Lisa Polezoes, Pregis Films, LLC, 227 West Monroe Street, Chicago, IL 60606. Lisa Polezoes, Pregis Films, LLC, 227 West Monroe Street, Chicago, IL 60606

W.E. BLACK

TERMITE AND PEST CONTROL

PMP Pest Management
PROFESSIONAL

Tips from the Trenches

How three companies are building their termite management businesses

375-1899

MASTER
TERMITE
TECHNICIAN

30th ANNIVERSARY 1993-2023

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED

W.E. BLACK TERMITE AND PEST CONTROL, INC.

2840 SOUTH MAIN STREET • ANDERSON, SC

NOW ACCEPTING NEW CUSTOMERS!

Ralph Hayes

TOYOTA

PRE-OWNED CENTER

SHOWROOM
HOURS:
MON.-FRI.
8:30AM-7PM
SATURDAY
8:30AM-6PM



CERTIFIED USED VEHICLES

RALPH HAYES

RalphHayesToyota.com

**WE SELL ALL MAKES,
ALL MODELS,
ALL THE TIME.**

**WE WANT TO
BUY YOUR CAR!**

Used car values are currently at an **ALL-TIME HIGH**. Your car is probably worth more than you think.

**ANY YEAR • ANY VEHICLE
GET TOP DOLLAR FOR
YOUR VEHICLE!
WE'LL BUY YOUR VEHICLE EVEN
IF YOU DON'T BUY FROM US**



OVER **100** VEHICLES TO CHOOSE FROM!

2015 TOYOTA PRIUS TWO
STK#26604A **\$11,988**
2012 TOYOTA SEQUOIA LIMITED
STK#26638A **\$16,388**
2003 LEXUS SC 430
STK# 26610A **\$16,758**
2020 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT
STK#26609A **\$16,918**
2021 TOYOTA COROLLA LE
STK#P0363 **\$18,881**
2017 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER LE
STK#26699A **\$19,102**
2021 TOYOTA COROLLA LE
STK#P1447 **\$19,211**
2022 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5 SV
STK#P8368 **\$19,817**
2021 TOYOTA COROLLA LE
STK#P3288 **\$19,888**

2021 KIA SELTOS EX
STK# P4794 **\$20,450**
2021 TOYOTA COROLLA
STK#26676A **\$20,521**
2011 TOYOTA TACOMA PRERUNNER
STK#26572A **\$20,615**
2022 VOLKSWAGEN TAOS 1.5T SE
STK#P3438 **\$20,744**
2021 NISSAN MURANO SV
STK#P0322 **\$21,009**
2023 FORD ESCAPE ST-LINE
STK#P6353 **\$21,480**
2023 VOLKSWAGEN TAOS 1.5T SE
STK#P7083 **\$21,988**
2022 HONDA CIVIC LX
STK#P2313 **\$21,990**
2023 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT
STK#P9042 **\$22,762**

2024 TOYOTA COROLLA HYBRID LE
STK#P4176 **\$23,768**
2021 TOYOTA CAMRY SE
STK#P8853 **\$23,790**
2024 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT
STK#P7039 **\$23,987**
2021 TOYOTA CAMRY SE
STK#P4448 **\$24,074**
2020 GMC CANYON SLE1
STK#26645A **\$24,131**
2021 HONDA PASSPORT EX-L
STK#26561A **\$24,598**
2023 TOYOTA COROLLA HYBRID LE
STK#26272A **\$24,703**
2022 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LTD
STK#P625 **\$25,592**
2024 HYUNDAI KONA LIMITED
STK#26678A **\$26,688**

**4008 Clemson Blvd.
Anderson, SC 29621**

Ask for **Marty Crossley**
for your personalized deal.

800-868-8066

Prices plus applicable tax, tag, title, registration and includes \$224 closing fee. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Picture for illustration purpose only. Expires 1/6/25.