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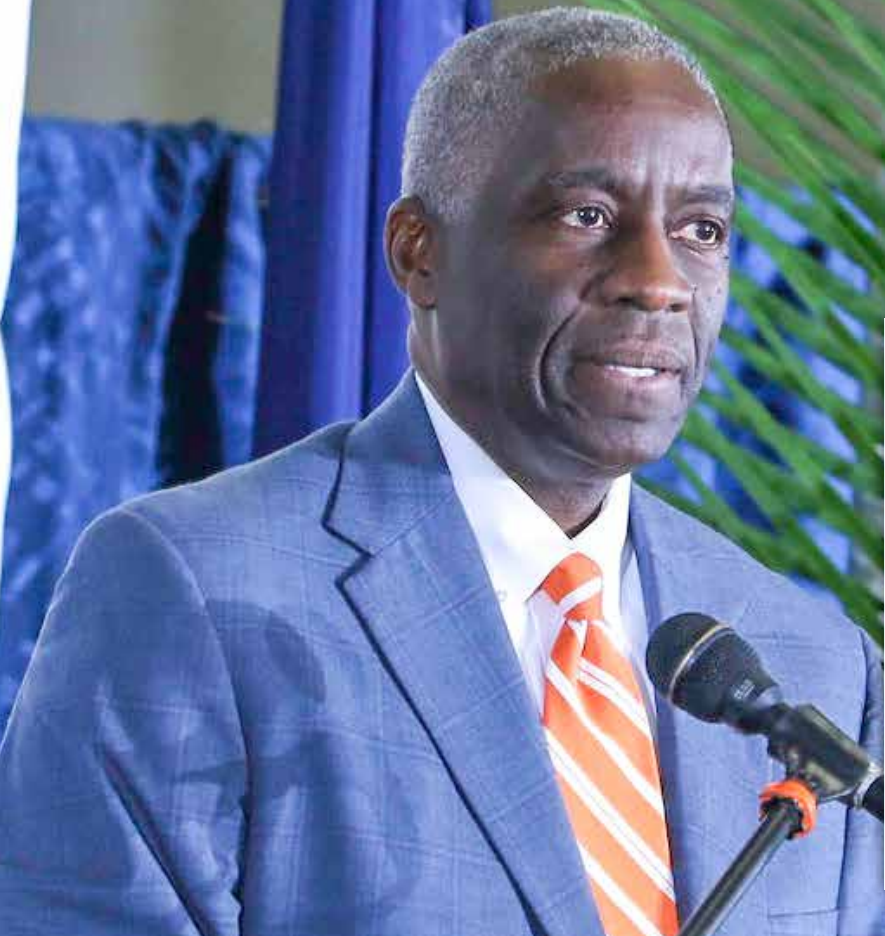



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January 15-28, 2026




A MINUTE WITH THE MAYOR

Whether you're an average citizen or a city leader, January is a time for reflection. Last week, The Electric City News spoke with Mayor Terence V. Roberts to discuss the City of Anderson's past accomplishments, where we find ourselves at present, and what the future holds for 2026 and beyond.

Electric City News: This July marks your 20th year in office. What have been the highlights of your service?

Mayor Roberts: This July, as I mark my 20th year in office, I'm proud of the progress we've made together. Some of the highlights include our downtown revitalization efforts, like the successful opening of the Home2 Suites hotel, which has boosted local tourism and business. Anderson University has also played a vital role in keeping our city vibrant, not only as an educational institution but through big-time college athletic events that bring visitors and energy to the community. Alongside these, we've improved infrastructure and built strong partnerships with local businesses, non-profits, and educational



Kim von Keller



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Applications reopened for vacant seat on Anderson County Transportation Committee

Senator Richard Cash, Chairman of the Anderson County Legislative Delegation, has reopened the application process for two weeks for an open seat on the Anderson County

Transportation Committee. The area that requires representation is in the White Oak Drive, Anderson vicinity. Anyone residing in that area that is interested in applying, please

contact the Anderson County Legislative Delegation Office at 864-260-4025 immediately for an application or go online to www.andersoncountysc.org, select Departments, then select

Legislative Delegation. These applications must be completed and returned to the Delegation Office (Post Office Box 8002, Anderson, SC 29622) no later than Friday, January 23, 2026.

Mayor

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

institutions. I'm especially proud of how we've navigated challenges like economic downturns and natural disasters, keeping city services running smoothly and maintaining a resilient community spirit.

ECN: Where is the City on the Cater's Lake project?

Mayor Roberts: We're excited to share that the Cater's Lake project is nearly complete and should be finished within the next 30 days. We're looking forward to a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially celebrate this milestone. I've received several positive comments from citizens about the upgrades, especially the new covered bridge, which has been a highlight for many. This project will provide accessible green spaces, trails, and recreational opportunities that our entire community can enjoy. The strong community input and partnerships throughout the process have been invaluable in bringing this vision to life.

ECN: What can citizens expect when the Main Street Water Line Replacement Project begins?

Mayor Roberts: When the Main Street Water Line Replacement Project started, residents and business owners experienced some temporary disruptions like street closures and construction noise. Paving will be completed based on temperature conditions to ensure quality and durability. We also plan to make minor improvements to street parking to enhance accessibility and convenience. Ultimately, we're looking forward to delivering a smooth ride down Main Street that supports both residents and businesses. Throughout the project, we're committed to keeping everyone informed and ensuring safety remains a top priority.

ECN: What are you most excited about in 2026?

"I truly believe that continued civic engagement is essential, and I encourage everyone to stay informed and get involved in shaping our city's future. Together, we can address challenges and build a sustainable, equitable community for all."

— Anderson Mayor Terence V. Roberts

Mayor Roberts: In 2026, I'm most excited about several key projects that will enhance our city's infrastructure and community spaces. We're planning the new Fire Station 4 on the East-West Parkway, which will improve emergency response times in that area. We also anticipate the completion of the Lindley Park bike and pedestrian path, which will be a wonderful addition to our community's recreational assets. Additionally, the start of the Downtown Greenway Connection will create new opportunities for walking, biking, and connecting neighborhoods. These projects, along with others, will help make Anderson an even better place to live.

ECN: Anderson has had a high profile in recent years, hosting the fourth conference of the International Network of Michelin Cities and being recognized by AARP as a great place to live and retire. What's next in promoting Anderson as a place to live, work, and create?

Mayor Roberts: Building on these achievements, we're focusing on workforce development, supporting local entrepreneurs, and expanding cultural and recreational opportunities. We're also working on improving affordable housing, transportation options, and digital infrastructure. My vision is for Anderson to be a dynamic, welcoming community that attracts people of all ages—young professionals, families, and retirees alike.

ECN: The draft of the City's 20-Year Comprehensive Plan is now available to the public. Why should citizens review the draft, and how can they become involved in Plan This City?

Mayor Roberts: I encourage every citizen to review the draft of our 20-Year Comprehensive Plan because it lays out our vision and priorities for Anderson's future growth and quality of life. Your feedback is crucial to making sure this plan truly represents our community's needs and values. People can get involved by attending public meetings, submitting feedback online through our city website, and participating in the workshops we've organized as part of the Plan This City initiative.

ECN: What would you like the citizens of Anderson to know that we haven't discussed?

Mayor Roberts: I want the citizens of Anderson to know that our city government is committed to transparency, inclusivity, and being responsive to your needs. I truly believe that continued civic engagement is essential, and I encourage everyone to stay informed and get involved in shaping our city's future. Together, we can address challenges and build a sustainable, equitable community for all.

Editor's note: To learn more about ongoing projects and to view the City's 20-Year Comprehensive Plan, visit cityofandersonsc.com.

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THE GARDEN SHOP

DREAMS OF
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While reading an article about winter interest shrubs, a quote by writer/gardener Josephine Neuse said, "Anyone who thinks gardening begins in the spring and ends in the fall is missing the best part of the whole year; for gardening begins in January with a dream." Maybe it's a dream of new year resolutions (that can be kept). Maybe it's a dream of what this year will bring. For years, each winter, thought is given about plants to add interest in the front garden. Being mostly perennials, winter does not offer much structure or blooms. Three "Tom's Dwarf" wax myrtles (*Morella cerifera*) were added

to a section a few months ago. I'm not overly thrilled with them thus far, and one looks a bit pitiful. Plus, ageratum was thinned to make room and most likely will encroach right back.

I've also realized that if too many evergreen plants are added I won't be able to see birds enjoying seeds and such left from the perennials. Fortunately, voles have not been sighted again and there is no sign of damage from them. The mess in the picture from last Garden Shop is still as it was. The difficulty of that task has made for easy procrastination. As I looked out the window this foggy morning, a chipmunk who lives in the front garden crossed the front porch steps. Now and then, I see some frolicking around at the same time. Evergreens might block my view of them too. I've read about their tunnels, potential damage to plants, etc., but if I didn't see them, I'd never know they're there. Maybe hawks and



How to fence all that

owls will keep them in check.

With new beginnings, daffodils are coming up. Snowdrops (*Galanthus spp.*) were early this year and have almost finished blooming. They are short little bulbs and leaves have to be raked away from them so they won't get buried. For the past few years, I've suspected they multiply by seed. There is a patch across the path from ones planted that I don't remember planting. There is also one little bloom several feet away from that patch, so I'm more confident now they seed, as well as multiply by bulbs. I'm going to try and gather some seeds to prove this theory. I read

somewhere that the gardener cuts the blooms and places the vase on a mirror. How smart; a new idea for next year. What a unique way to see the bell-shaped flower from below. One has to get on their hands and knees to see them up close in the garden, being such dainty little things.

Speaking of hands and knees and dreaming, it's peony tending time and I've been doing a lot of crawling around on my hands and knees. This annual task of removing leaves and dirt to expose the eyes is almost done. It's surprising the difference in how some are already sprouting, and some have not even started to show. How

dreamy is a garden full of peonies? One or two need to be moved. I've figured out exactly the place for them. A very long-term dream is to put a deer fence around the front garden. Never mind budgeting for it; almost as difficult is how to do it and make it look good. Hooking a deer fence to the front of the house is an unusual thing to design. There would have to be doors, either a wide triple door in one place or give up the one spot the tractor can sort of, barely, get into the front garden. How to design around three gates that are already along the front of the garden. Oh, the dreams of a gardener.

FROM THE SHELF

On Zadie Smith

While working on an art journal page inspired by Battle of the Bookstores, I was combing through the books and authors mentioned in it, and seeing where my own reading had overlapped, when I stopped to look up Zadie Smith. I knew the name but discovered I had never actually read any of her books.

I feel like Smith is probably most well known for her debut *White Teeth*, which came out over two decades ago. Since then she's written a few more novels, some short story collections, and collections of essays that fall more within the nonfiction/memoir realm. She's probably one of the more celebrated literary writers of our time, so I was genuinely surprised I both hadn't read her yet and that she had been writing for as long as she had.

Back when I was getting my undergraduate degree in English, it was my default to wade into the muck and sit with a book, pulling all

the threads I could possibly pull from a text. I loved looking at the social commentary that even popular novels were making, but true literary fiction always hits different. I've mentioned wanting to get a bit "dirtier" in my reading by annotating and really immersing myself in the text, and to read some more "literary"



Sara Leady

titles. Smith absolutely fits this ticket.

I have read three titles thus far, starting with her short nonfiction essay collection *Intimations*. *Intimations* was written during Covid—from the early start while she was living in NYC to when we were deeper into the pandemic and isolation. Reading her nonfiction and the lyrical prose that's also sprinkled with esoteric words, alongside curse words and slang, made me really wonder about her fiction and how different this style would translate when not constrained by facts. Being

both American and from the UK, while also moving through the world as a Black woman, Smith has a unique lens with which she views the world. She also has a skewering measure of humanity and how we choose to operate in the world. Knowing these things about her, you can imagine how a collection of six essays from 2020 might read.

My first fiction from Smith was *The Fraud*. I was caught off guard with the book in comparison to her essay collection. Her wit and acerbic estimation of society absolutely comes through alongside her incredible characterization. *The Fraud* is set in the late 19th Century and reads like it was written then, which threw me off. The book is from the perspective of Eliza Touchet, cousin to a famous author, who is caught in the craze of the Tichborne trial (real trial of a dude claiming to be the lost descendant and heir of an aristocratic family). Against the backdrop of the trial to decide if the claimant is a fraud is the slow unfolding of the lives of Eliza and those around her. The duplicity of Eliza, the trial, classism, and race

creates an incredible conversation, even if it's written like a dense Dickens novel (ugh).

After *The Fraud*, I was curious if Smith intentionally wrote like a 19th century author for the novel, or if oddly that was the actual way she wrote. Fortunately (and impressively) the style was an imitation, which I learned with her short story collection *Grand Union*. Of the nineteen stories some hit harder than others, but Smith's ability to chameleon her writing to each unique setting and character while still maintaining her unique voice is incredible. It's been a few days and I'm still sitting with the metaphor(s) of "The Lazy River" and its harsh criticism of humanity through the comparison of floating along a vacation resort's lazy river.

Currently I'm delving into her latest, *Dead and Alive*, a nonfiction collection of essays exploring culture, the arts, politics, and our fraught contemporary times and where they might take us. I'm not far in, but I'm also braving the act of turning pages and not listening to this one (for now).

Prepare to celebrate the love in your life

You either like it or you don't. Valentine's Day is a holiday that like the many other ones we celebrate in this country, can make you feel well, depressed. Not everyone has a significant other, but whomever wrote these calendar rules didn't keep that in mind. Don't fret. You can still make this holiday fun regardless. You can always throw a party of your own.

Invite all of your people and celebrate the love and admiration you have for them. And if you have a partner that's great too! It's really just a holiday to buy more and consume, but since it's going to happen anyway make it grand. We celebrate Valentine's Day because of St. Valentine, but it has a much darker origin if you delve way back into the history, but that's for another day. I'm going to give you some pointers on how to throw a cute love day shindig.

Firstly, you're going to try to make use of everything you already have. We just got finished with Christmas and there is no need



Kristine March

to really buy too much more. You can get creative. I like to call it a carpet picnic. Designate an area in your den with floor pillows and mix max your China. Add candles, incense and cute silk scarves on your table. Bring out your champagne bucket and

go to Trader Joe's and get your bubbly, a case of good wine, cheese and something already premade. A few desserts and dark chocolate, plus some strawberries and you're good to go. Make a large centerpiece of flowers. This is



your splurge, but you realistically don't have to go over thirty-five dollars to make it look professional.

I follow a girl on Instagram whose handle is Happy Arranging. She only buys flowers from TJ's and the way she puts them together looks like a Hollywood florist. Follow her for great tips that you can actually do. Add some

confetti to the table. You can get precious decorations from the dollar store, such as cocktail napkins and party favors, but add your signature touches so they don't look store bought and you're done.

Now for the dress code. Tell everyone to wear their most outrageous outfit that they own. Think feathers, sequins, costume jewelry, hats, kimonos and kaftans, glitter and hair jewelry. Now, pick your music selection. Eighties love songs is always a great idea and fun for dancing because yes, that's the number one rule at this party. You have to dance, at least once. And if you really want to make it extra fun, throw in some karaoke. You also need one party game to break the ice. Charades is always fun and makes everybody look silly. That's what this party is about, to be silly and free. Another fun idea would be to put on temporary tattoos like flowers and butterflies or sparkle glitter freckles. Even get the old school Valentine's we used to exchange in elementary school. Just get as imaginative possible. So now that you're going to have the best Valentine's Day ever, what are some ideas that you've got that you want to do? And what are you going to wear? Remember to make the sidewalk your runway, kindness always matters, and happy love day y'all.

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30 years of serving with heart: Ellie Presher's legacy at Concord Elementary

When Ellie Presher walked into the cafeteria at Concord Elementary for her first day of work in 1996, her goal was simple. She planned to stay until her son, Corey, graduated from high school. Thirty years later, Corey is long since grown, but Ellie is still right where she started. Now serving as assistant manager of the Concord Elementary cafeteria, she continues to nourish generations of students with both food and kindness.

Ellie's days start early. She arrives at school between 6 and 6:30 a.m., preparing for the morning rush. By 7 a.m., students begin lining up for breakfast and by 7:45 between 230 and 250 children have been served and are heading off to their classrooms.

Once breakfast wraps up, Ellie and the cafeteria crew move straight into preparations for lunch. Using "batch" cooking helps ensure meals stay fresh and hot for each group of students. Lunch service begins at 10:45 a.m. with K4 and K5 followed by second grade, fourth grade and the learning lab. The final lunch group includes first grade, fifth grade and third grade. The schedule shifts from year to year based on related arts, recess and snack times. By 12:50, 35 classes have been served lunch. That's roughly 500 students.

Over the years, Ellie has seen plenty of changes in school meals. "We used to make our own rolls. Now they come frozen," she said. "Most sugar and sodium has been taken out of the food." Technology has also transformed the way cafeterias operate. Student allergies are now tracked by class on the computer, helping staff stay informed and keep students safe.

"All elementary schools are peanut-free now," Ellie explained. "There are a lot of peanut allergies, so we serve soy butter and jelly sandwiches instead." She also noted a growing number of red dye allergies, which has led to changes in food ingredients. "Carrots now have more of a yellow color than the deep orange color," she said.

Another significant change is that school breakfast and lunch are now free to all students.



As a result, more children eat at school and fewer bring lunches from home. Ellie shared that some students even request snack packs to take home at the end of the day when food is scarce at home.

When asked how children themselves have changed over the years, Ellie didn't hesitate. "Kids are more outspoken today," she said. "In the old days, manners were taught and expected."

Despite all the changes, one thing has remained constant for Ellie — her love for the children. When asked what has kept her at Concord for three decades, her answer was immediate: "It's the kids!"

Ellie makes a point to speak to every student she can, and remarkably, she knows the name of every single student at Concord. All 680 of them. Students light up when they see her and she greets each one by name, making them feel seen and valued. It's a personal touch that no computer system could ever replace.

Former students often stop by when registering younger siblings and Ellie remembers them too. One former student recently told her, "Ms. Ellie, you always used to give me extra food

when I asked." At the memory, tears rolled down Ellie's face. She admitted she wasn't supposed to do that, but added softly, "If a child's still hungry, I just can't say no."

Lisa Powers, Field Supervisor for Culinary Services, has worked closely with Ellie during the summer feeding program. She recalls

Ellie driving the truck to apartment buildings, always smiling and greeting children by name. "Everybody loves Mrs. Ellie," Powers said. "It will be a really sad day when she retires. Her dedication, her love for the kids, the teachers, her coworkers, Anderson Five and Concord will be missed."

A former Concord student, Drew Whitley, reminisces: "One December, just before Christmas break, Mrs. Ellie pulled me to the side while I was in line for lunch. I thought I had maybe done something wrong or had run out of lunch funds. But Mrs. Ellie bent down and handed me a little box and told me Merry Christmas. Inside was a beautiful ornament. A Clemson tiger that's still one of my favorites to hang each year and remember the lunch clerk that was so much more. She was someone who always made me feel special, appreciated and seen, even as an awkward little kid in the lunch line at Concord Elementary School."

After 30 years, Ellie Presher's impact goes far beyond the meals she serves. Through compassion, consistency and genuine care, she has fed bodies, lifted spirits and built relationships that last a lifetime. One student at a time.

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Former AnMed CEO earns lifetime honor

AnMed President Emeritus and former CEO John A. Miller Jr., LFACHE, has been awarded Honorary Lifetime Membership in the South Carolina Hospital Association in recognition of his extraordinary five decades of service to the hospital community.

Since 1973, Miller has given his time, leadership and personal commitment to strengthening health care across South Carolina and the nation.

"I have so many treasured memories of being a part of the SCHA and AnMed teams that have made such a great difference in so many lives and families," Miller said.

Miller began his career at what was then known as Anderson Memorial Hospital after serving as an officer in the U.S. Navy. He'd earned his master's degree from Duke University and completed his residency with The Duke Endowment. He found a small community with a vigorous hospital that was led by D.K. Oglesby — an eventual Health Care Hall of Fame member who would come to chair the American Hospital Association, the American College of Healthcare Executives and the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

Miller and his wife, Julie, thus began their decades of service to health care and community. Oglesby and Miller powered service and growth.

After a national search, the AnMed Board of Trustees selected Miller to take over as CEO in 1998 when Oglesby retired. He led the health system to develop new, highly advanced capabilities and expansions with mission to serve all.

He retired in 2015 after rising to national professional leadership positions, himself. He served on the board of Governors of the American College of Healthcare Executives and was awarded its Lifetime Achievement Award. He served on Regional Policy Board of the American Hospital Association and chaired the South Carolina Hospital Association board of trustees.

Before retiring, he forged partnership with the Medical University of South Carolina for AnMed to become the first branch campus for training third and fourth-year medical

students. He was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from Anderson University for his role in community health and enabling the establishment of the Anderson University School of Nursing. He was named an MLK Community Trail Blazer for extraordinary commitment to justice and community civility.

He helped lead and serve in many of the community's great causes and projects, from the United Way to the YMCA, from the Anderson Chamber of Commerce to St. John's United Methodist Church, from Freedom Weekend Aloft to the Westside Community Center, Hospice House, Partners for a Healthy Community, the Kiwanis Club and more.

He remains active in several organizations,

including as a member of the board of trustees of the Greenwood Genetic Center. He recently celebrated his 55th wedding anniversary with Julie, a retired educator and school psychologist. They raised three children who work in health care and are very proud of their four grandchildren.

Bill Manson took over as CEO in 2015 before William Kenley began his service in 2020.

Growth, clinical excellence and service remain hallmarks of the independent, not-for-profit health system now known as AnMed. The system now includes four hospitals, specialty inpatient and outpatient centers, freestanding emergency care and more than 60 physician practices and locations across Upstate South Carolina and northeast Georgia.

"John's service is a source of immense pride at AnMed," said Kenley, chair of the South Carolina Hospital Association in addition to current CEO at AnMed. "He's left a legacy of excellence, innovation and compassion that continues to inspire our mission today. We extend our deepest gratitude for his extraordinary contributions to advancing health care and improving lives."



John A. Miller Jr.

"(John Miller has) left a legacy of excellence, innovation and compassion that continues to inspire our mission today."

— William Kenley

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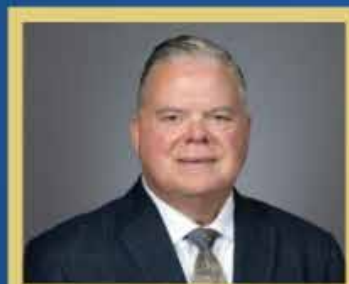
Tommy Price



Paul Zugg



Harold Kay



Rick Bradshaw



Tripp Dukes



Cindy Burriss



Bill Thompson

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

January 20, 2026
February 17, 2026
March 17, 2026

April 21, 2026
May 19, 2026
June 9, 2026



The Board holds meetings in the Board Room at the Administrative Office Building located at 400 Pearman Dairy Road, Anderson, SC 29625 at 6:30 p.m.

Meetings are livestreamed at <https://acsd5.eduvision.tv>



‘IT’LL BE FUN’

“Let’s go get breakfast,” Mike said at 7 am on a lovely January morning. “It’ll be fun.”

“Okay,” I replied, “but do you have any plans for afterwards? Because I was planning to do laundry, and clean off my desk, and . . . Oh, no,” he said. “We’ll come home afterward. I have no plans.”

At breakfast, he said thoughtfully, “You know, if we rode down to the farm, we could pick up the martin gourds that need cleaning so badly before the season starts. I could bring them home and clean them there.” That was fine with me.

Then, on the way, he continued, “I could just put on my hunting coveralls and clean the gourds right there. That would be a lot less trouble, and it wouldn’t take long.” I could see where this day was headed.

At the farm, I located a bottle of bleach and he set two large trashcans on a railroad tie for soaking the gourds. He pulled the old nests out the first group and dunked them in bleach water as I “supervised” from the seat of the golf cart. This process was moving along fairly well. . . until one of the full containers got unbalanced. Over it went. That meant a trip to town to get more bleach. We got back and re-filled the trashcan.

Well, we might as well take the golf cart out while the gourds soak. We went to inspect the large strip of land where, unfortunately, wild hogs have caused great damage. “Oh, I’d like to show you their wallow that I found,” was Mike’s next idea. To get to the wallow, we had to hike a short way into the woods. Mike was now on an adventure, while I was trying to protect my year-old artificial knee replacement. “Hurry up!” he said. “Slow down!” I replied. We made it in, and I have to admit, seeing that wallow was interesting even if we don’t care for the animals that made it.

We returned to our project and got the second set of gourds soaking, then took the golf cart all the way to the creek that is the property border. Always a restful sight, the creek reminds me of long-ago days of camp counseling in the North Carolina mountains. We followed one of the trails, exploring for an alternate way back, and were doing well until we came across a large tree, probably a remnant of Helene, that completely blocked the path. “I need to bring my chain saw out here one day and cut that down,” Mike remarked. So we had to return to the cabin the way we came in.

We rinsed the gourds, setting them out to dry thoroughly. We cleaned everything up, left the farm, and got home about 3:00.

“Let’s get breakfast,” Mike had said. “It’ll be fun.” Well, it wasn’t the day I had planned. But Mike was right. It was fun.



Ann K. Bailes

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The Electric City

BY RICH OTTER

On June 19, 1895, The Anderson Intelligencer reported: "We have the proud satisfaction of announcing to our readers that this number of the Intelligencer is issued from a press in our office run by electricity, and that hereafter we expect to use this power in the publication of our paper. Can any of our contemporaries in the State or in the South say as much? This power is furnished by a home company, the Anderson Water, Light & Power Company, that owns and controls the water and light systems of our little city."

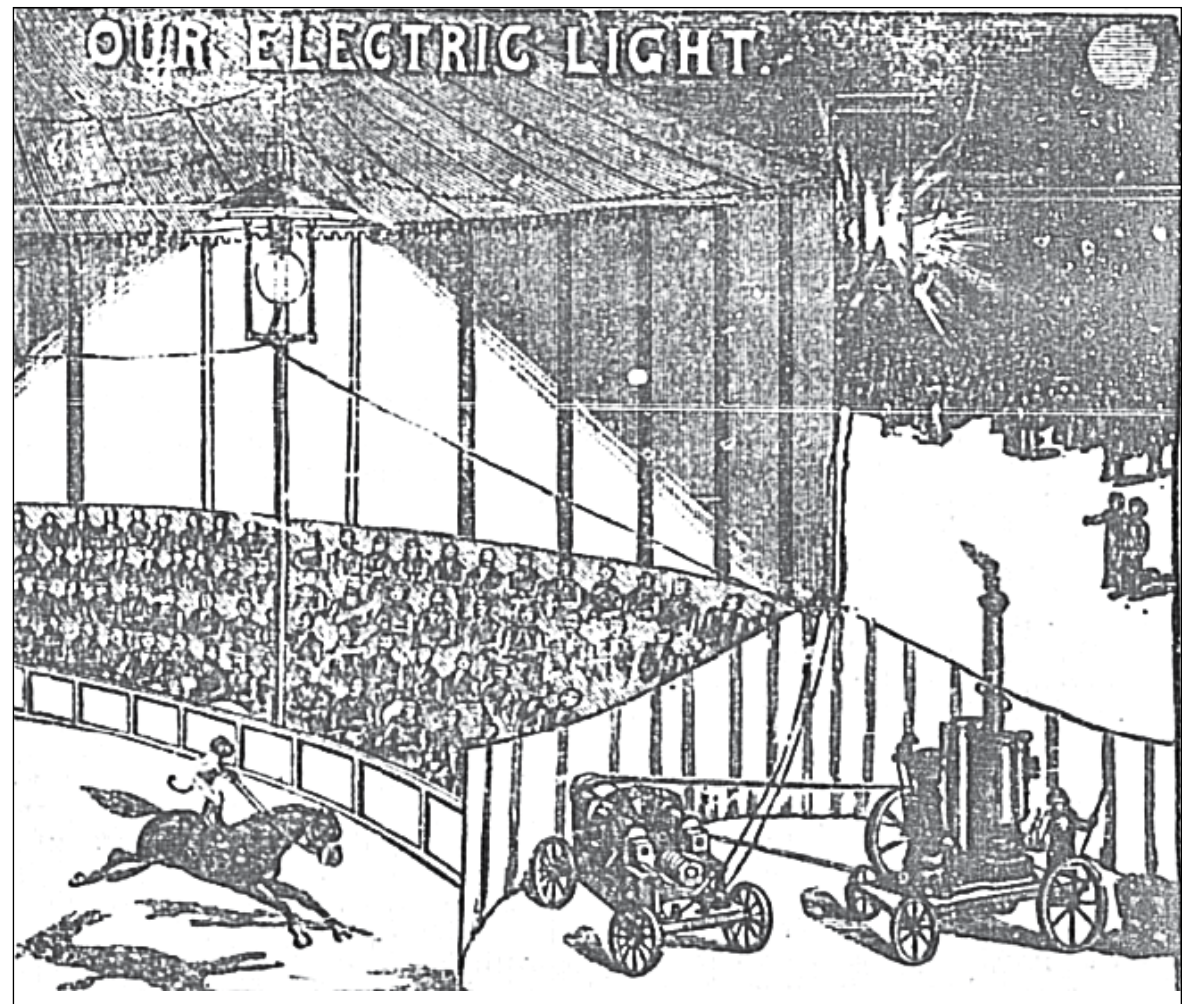
The power was coming from High Shoals on the Rocky River. The paper said, "We feel very proud to be able to boast of having the pioneer Company in the State, or indeed in the South, as we are informed, to demonstrate the practicality of electric power by what is known as the long-distance transmission system..."

It was not just High Shoals. "The Company controls another and larger water-power on Seneca River, nine miles distant," the paper

reported, "that can furnish anywhere from 3,000 to 7,000 horse-power whenever the larger industries will take hold." In 1897, Anderson's William C. Whitner upgraded the Portman Shoals generating station to 10,000 volts. It was the first hydroelectric plant in the United States to generate high voltage without step-up transfers.

In 1890 some 75 incandescent street lamps, powered by a steam generator, had been installed in Anderson. They were described as giving off "a pale and sickly light." Even the original lighting of Anderson's streets had caused Charleston's News and Courier to brand the city of Anderson as "The Electric City." It was said it had created excitement throughout the South.

Actually, Anderson's first experience of being illuminated by an electric light was in September of 1880 when John Robinson's Great World Exposition exhibited a "New Electric Light Show," along with crowd-drawing-features such as educated animals and "the biggest and Best Troup of Arena Celebrities ever assembled in



Great Light Exhibition, 1880

the Universe." The power was generated with a steam engine. The show

also advertised as having a Strictly Moral Circus. For some, that may have limited attendance.

William C. Whitner had heard of experiments in Europe using water power to produce electricity. He acquired property at Portman Shoals about 10 or 12 miles from Anderson where he planned to experiment with long-distance transmission of electricity. It was decided, however, to first experiment with a shorter transmission, and Whitner, with John T. Roddey and F. T. Wilhite as consultants, set up a generating station at High Shoals on the Rocky River, much closer to town.

By the Spring of 1896, electric street lights in Anderson were glowing and Anderson Cotton Mill became the first Cotton Mill in the South to have electricity. Since it had worked, the operations were switched to Portman Shoals where greater power could be generated. Anderson could then not only support current industries with a greater resource, but then hold itself out to accommodate new businesses and industries. It could also provide for street cars and reach throughout the county with

electrically operated trains.

Homes and businesses quickly adopted to the service. The former Ligon and Ledbetter wholesale food building on the west side of the Main Street's railroad bridge across from what was then the Blue Ridge depot, is thought to have had the first refrigeration in the State powered by electricity. Originally the current was not strong enough to heat their entire building and steam was continued for that purpose. The refrigeration unit is still in the building.

The Portman Shoals plant was shut down at midnight on December 9, 1960. The Hartwell Lake Reservoir was filling and retired their operation. The production of electricity passed to the new dam's generators. Power was being extended by the new facility to communities including Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties in South Carolina.

The Portman Shoals Generator has come to rest on display on East Whitner Street in Anderson. It had been lighting houses and powering businesses and industries for 63 years.



Portman Shoals generator

ANDERSON FLU

It's that time of year when all the little germs and viruses love to travel. I'm not saying that Santa Claus spread the Flu to every house, but you have to admit, it's a possibility.

The Flu is not a subject to be made fun of or taken lightly, but someone has to do it. That'll be Me.

Anderson residents know that there is a Flu virus, but can't accept that they could have or carry any part of it.

You will be hard-pressed to find an Andersonian who will admit they have the flu. You certainly won't find one home in bed with a high fever, cough, and uncontrollable chills and sweats; we like to try to hide those things and reveal them away from home, where we can share them with our friends and co-workers. "Are you feeling okay, Jim?" "Sure, boss,

I'm fine, must be an allergy causing me to cough, sneeze, mess my pants, and have the walking pukes; wanna bite of my sandwich?"

Most of us older locals have developed an immunity to various deadly outbreaks when we were kids and passed these traits on to younger generations. Who knew that sixty-five years ago, when we were five and watching the rain outside of grandma's window, that those tasty lead paint chips would save hundreds from illnesses today?

And how could we have imagined that our crayons, baby powder, and even the floor tiles we were playing on contained life-saving asbestos that would protect future generations of Andersonians from the Flu? Whatever Anderson did, we did it together. We all drank out of the same 40-year-old water fountain at school, and we all dried our hands on the same revolving towel machine in the bathroom. There was



Neal Parnell



only one bar of soap in our houses, and after our Dads washed their whole bodies with it, we'd find it and wash our faces for supper.

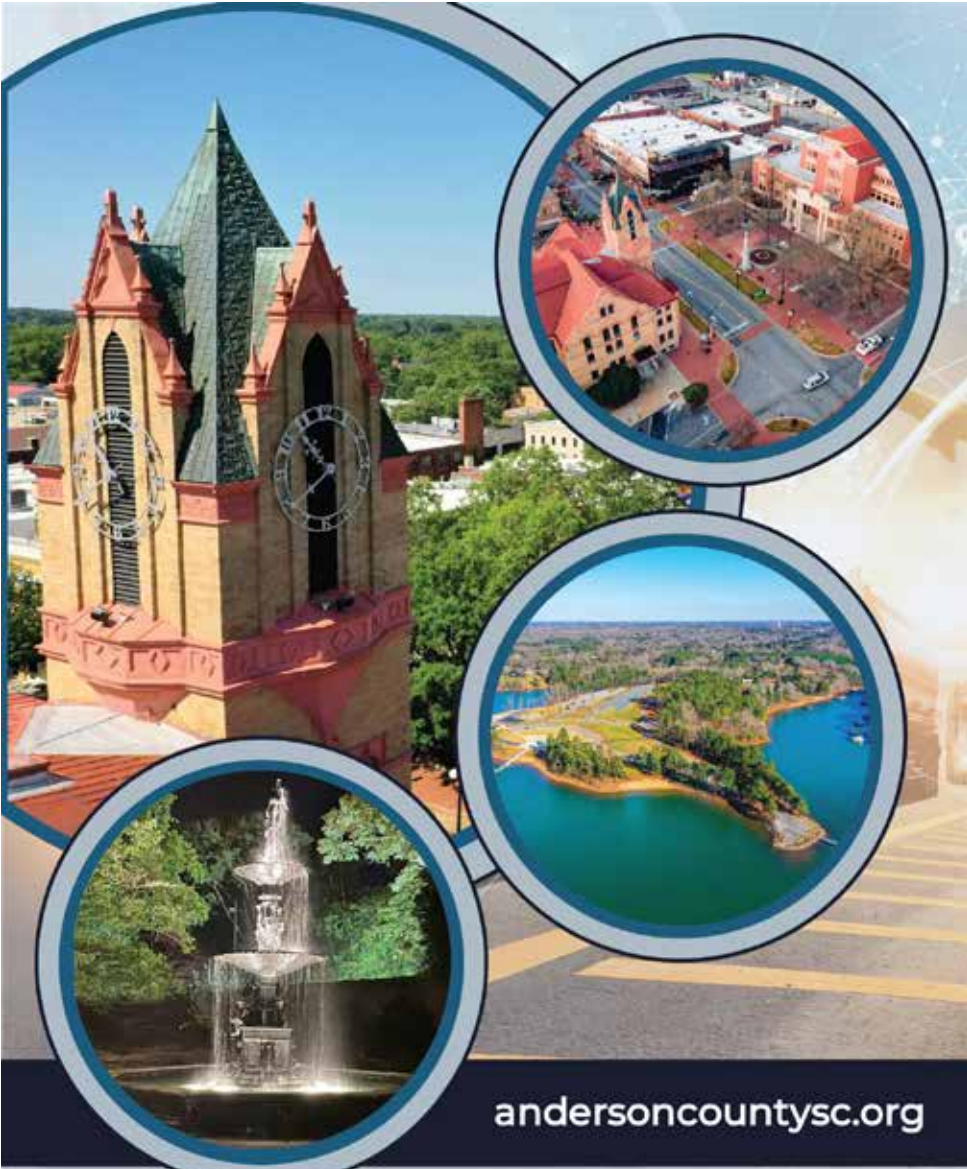
As an Anderson kid, you learned quickly to never let anyone know you were sick. I remember once telling my Mom that I didn't feel good and didn't think I could go to school. She had no fever reducing orange-flavored gummies shaped like little bears, or cherry syrups to ease my cough. The medicine cabinet above the bathroom sink held ancient brown bottles with little pictures of skulls and crossbones, and only Mom knew what secrets they held.

So the next thing I remember is her pinching my nose so that I'd open my mouth to swallow a hefty tablespoon of paregoric, then my chest was slathered with Vicks Vapo Rub,

and I was tightly wrapped in blankets and put in bed to toss and sweat until I woke from the opiated coma, and was well enough to set myself free.

There were no flu shots or anti-viral nasal sprays, there were no hand wipes that would kill 99.9% of all germs, or shower bombs for congestion relief. We were at the mercy of remedies that grandmothers left to their daughters, who were now our mothers. Our Dads were never sick that we knew of, and their cure for everything was "Work It Off!"

So if you're feeling a little under the weather and are a true Andersonian, you can rest in the comfort of knowing that your ancestors ate lead, drank poison, and played in asbestos so that you can tell the story of how you survived The Anderson Flu.





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Anderson men ranked No. 4 after unbeaten start

Feeling lethargic after the holidays?

Anderson University has something that might get your blood pumping.

The AU men's basketball team is ranked fourth in the nation (Division II NABC poll) and they are 13-0 going into a Jan. 10 game against Tusculum.

It's an under-the-radar story that merits watching.

They play fanatical defense and the Trojans have added several taller

players that fit into coach Jimmie Williams' scheme.

The Trojans were coming off a 16-13 season a year ago and Williams believed the team had a good future. Williams has appreciated the addition of 6-foot-7 Osmar Garcia-Araujo and he's been a key.

"He's such a leader on our team," Williams said. "He's a scorer and rebounder and has been a bright light for us."

But he's just one piece. Williams said his guards have been outstanding.

"A.J. Wright (a 5-8 junior) has been a leader on defense for our whole team," Williams said. "He really brings energy. And freshman Rashawn Inglemon, senior Kady Dawkins, (sophomore) Caleb McAbee and (junior) Dallas Jones really bring passion, too."

Williams said the guards are "my rim shields. Everybody has to be superior defenders."

Inglemon is the top team scorer at 16.9 points per game (all statistics as of Jan. 8). Garcia-Araujo has a 16.1 points per game average and adds 6.5 rebounds per contest. Dawkins averages 11.4 points, Wright averages 8.5 and McAbee 10.8.

Sentinel Moore, a 6-9 sophomore, averages 5 points and 3.3 rebounds per game, and is a significant shot-blocker inside. Malachi Reeves, a 6-4 guard, adds 6.5 points per game and is a good defender, too.

It's noteworthy that this is Williams' first head-coaching job, but he was an assistant coach at Furman, North Greenville and William Jewel College in Missouri.

He's steadily built the program, starting in 2022-23. AU was 9-19 in his first year, went 15-14, 16-13 and now 13-0 (so far).

"We're getting better, but we're in a tough league (the South Atlantic Conference)," Williams said. "Last season we had 14 games come down to one possession. We knew our



guys would compete."

Williams loves the AU home-court advantage.

"We love playing at home because the crowd is right on top of us," Williams added. "The players love the enthusiasm from the crowd."

The Trojans hosted Catawba College on Jan. 14 before playing road games at UVA-Wise on Jan. 17 and at Lenoir-Rhyne on Jan. 21. AU plays a home game Saturday Jan. 24 against Emory & Henry.

YELLOW JACKETS MOVING TO CLASS 4A

BY BRIAN HODGES

T.L. Hanna High School has been moved from Class 5A to 4A as part of South Carolina High School League's realignment announced in December.

The move begins for the 2026-2027 school year and will continue for two years.

The SCHSL executive committee met on Jan. 13-14 to discuss any school appeals. It is not likely that Hanna will appeal.

"It's not my decision, but as far as I know, there will not be an appeal," Hanna football coach Jason Tone said. "They (the SCHSL) haven't told us who is in our region, and that won't be known until the end of January."

Tone said filling his team's schedule would be next on his agenda.

"We will need to find two non-region opponents next season," Tone said. "We think Greenwood and Westside will be in our region. Those were our two non-region games last season."

"It's not always easy (to find opponents) because we play a different style of offense than many teams," Tone said. "Our Wing-T is different."

"We asked one non-region school if they would be interested in playing us, and they said, no."

Other area schools who were dropped into 4A include Gaffney, Greenwood, Riverside and Catawba Ridge.

Westside High School, with 1,338 students, will remain in the 4A classification. Hanna's student enrollment is listed at 1,561.

Indian Land, which defeated Hanna in the football playoffs, has a smaller enrollment total (1,540) than Hanna but remained in Class 5A.

Tone said it's only a guess, but he believes Indian Land was kept in the larger classification so they could play other area 5A schools in the Rock Hill area, such as Northwestern.

"It's likely the SCHSL looks at geography when making these decisions," Tone said.

For the past two seasons, Class 5A was split into two divisions, with Hanna in 5A Division II.

Area schools to compete in 3A include Belton-Honea Path (781 students), Wren (1,030), Daniel (1,024), Powdersville (877), Palmetto (839) and Pendleton (757).

Oceanside Collegiate Academy (805 students) which defeated BHP in the state final in December, will stay in 3A. Oceanside Collegiate is a Charleston area school.

Crescent High School (642) goes to 2A.

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