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April 23-May 6, 2026



The Soirée returns

Celebrating 5 years of art,
food and music this weekend
in downtown Anderson

ANDERSON, SC — The City of Anderson invites the community to experience The Soirée this weekend, April 24–25, as downtown transforms into a vibrant celebration of music, art, food, and community.

Now in its fifth year, The Soirée is the City's signature two-day arts festival, drawing thousands to downtown Anderson each year. Attendees can enjoy live performances across four stages, browse nearly 60 artisan vendors, experience live art demonstrations, and explore a wide variety

SEE SOIRÉE ON PAGE 2

Edward Jones

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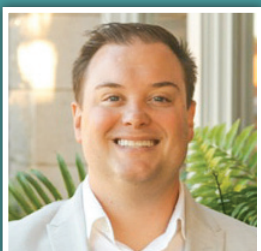
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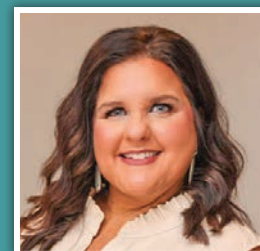
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Soirée

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of culinary offerings from local favorites and food trucks.

This year's entertainment lineup is headlined by multi-platinum country artist Joe Nichols, alongside crowd favorites including The Tams, Benton Blount, and a diverse mix of regional and local performers. Music and performances will take place throughout the weekend on the Duke Energy Stage, the Papa Bear Car Wash South Main Stage, the North Main Commons Stage, and the Anderson University South Carolina School of the Arts Stage.

"Each year, The Soirée continues to grow into something really special for our community," said Riley Tucker, Community Events Manager for the City of Anderson. "From nationally recognized performers to local artists, food vendors, and family-friendly activities, there truly is something for everyone. We're excited to welcome residents and visitors downtown for a full weekend of energy, creativity, and connection."

Beyond the music, The Soirée offers a dynamic visual arts experience curated by the Anderson Arts Center, featuring handmade works ranging from painting and woodworking to jewelry, textiles, and photography. Guests can also enjoy live artist demonstrations—including aerial artists, stilt walkers, and chalk art—bringing creativity to life throughout downtown.

Food lovers can expect a full culinary experience,



with options from local restaurants and popular vendors. Downtown restaurants will also be open throughout the weekend, offering even more ways to enjoy Anderson's growing food scene.

Families are encouraged to explore Kids Kingdom, featuring games, crafts, live characters, a petting zoo, and interactive activities designed for children of all ages. Additional attractions include LEGO exhibits, library programming, and hands-on creative experiences.

The City of Anderson extends special thanks to presenting sponsor Pracht Injury Lawyers, along with the many local sponsors whose support helps make The Soirée possible each year.

The Soirée takes place in downtown



Anderson this Friday from 4:00–9:00 PM and Saturday from 10:00 AM–8:00 PM. Admission is free and open to the public.

For more information, visit www.cityofandersonsc.com/soiree

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SOIREE 2026

Full Weekend Lineup

Kid's Kingdom

FRIDAY SCHEDULE

4:00–7:30 PM

4–7:30 pm | Games and Crafts

4–7:30 pm | Anderson County Library Bookmobile and Activities

5–7:00 pm | Mystical Parties Characters—Meet Batman, Spider-Gwen, Cinderella, Prince Charming, and Belle

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

10:00 AM–7:30 PM

10 am–12:00 pm | Shop our Kidpreneur's Goods

10 am–5:00 pm | Herbert and Friends Petting Zoo

10 am–7:00 pm | SC Bricks Exhibit of LEGO Creations—Build and Race LEGO Cars @ The Bleckley Inn

10 am–7:30 pm | Games, Crafts, Face Painting, Bubbles

10 am–7:30 pm | Anderson County Library Bookmobile and Activities

5–7 PM | Mystical Parties Characters—Meet Spider-Man, Captain America, Moana, Ariel, and Glinda

Hair Color Booth | Free samples while supplies last

Please note: all crafts and games in Kids Kingdom are FREE while supplies last.

Other vendors (face painting and balloon artist) may have their own charges for activities.

Stage Schedules

PAPA BEAR CAR WASH SOUTH MAIN STAGE

South Main Street in front of City Hall

Friday, April 24

6:00 PM | Doug McCormick

7:30 PM | Joe Nichols

Saturday, April 25

10:00 AM | Talbert Black

11:30 AM | According to Taste

1:00 PM | Moody, Moore & Pearson

2:30 PM | Carolina Moon Band

4:00 PM | Blue Sky

6:30 PM | Eric Scott Band

8:00 PM | Benton Blount

DUKE ENERGY STAGE

Carolina Wren Park

Friday, April 24

4:00 PM | Steppin' Out Dance Studio

4:30 PM | Flourish Creative Arts Studio

5:00 PM | GAMAC

Saturday, April 25

10:00 AM | Southwood Academy of the Arts

10:30 AM | Centerville Elementary Treble Makers

11:00 AM | Calhoun Academy of the Arts Chorus

11:30 AM | Calhoun Gator Steppers

12:00 PM | Electric City Dance Arts

12:30 PM | Market Theatre

1:00 PM | Robert Anderson Middle School String Orchestra

1:30 PM | Mystical Parties

2:00 PM | Lighthouse Christian Theatre

2:30 PM | Renzo Gracie South Carolina

7:00 PM | The Tams

ANDERSON UNIVERSITY SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF THE ARTS STAGE

Courthouse Square

Friday, April 24

5:00–5:25 PM | Anderson Moore

5:30–5:55 PM | Scarlett Freeman

6:00–6:25 PM | Harper Krimm

6:30–7:00 PM | Nathan Fowler

Saturday, April 25

12:00–12:45 PM | AU Jazz Combo

1:00–1:45 PM | Audio Pilot

2:00–2:45 PM | AU Fusion Ensemble

3:00–3:45 PM | Electric City Groove

4:00–4:45 PM | Blacktop Run

5:00–5:45 PM | 9 Live

6:00–7:00 PM | AUthenticity

NORTH MAIN COMMONS STAGE

North Main Street beside Magnetic

South Brewery

Friday, April 24

6:00 PM | The Kevin Pickens Band

Saturday, April 25

12:00 PM | Second Hand News

2:30 PM | Luke Deuce

5:00 PM | According to Taste

6:30 PM | The High Tides

FROM THE SHELF

On the importance of the arts

Art, be it musical, written, or visual has always been a huge part of my life. Creativity, including not in the artistic sense, has always been a way of life, especially in my dad's family. Art in all its forms surrounds us every day, and it's something we take for granted. We place more value on jobs and pursuits that are not "artistic," and the arts are the thing we seem to cut funding to whenever we have budget problems. Yes, science and mathematics allow us to continue to evolve and progress, but can you imagine life without 'art'? Even with all the technology and advancements in the world, would it matter if we didn't have music?

Recently I started reading *Your Brain on Art* by Susan Magsamen and Ivy Ross. I hadn't



Sara Leady

really looked into what the book was about before I started, I was just looking for books on creativity since mine has been weird lately. While I hope what I'm writing might be a sort of 'call to arms' to not just protect the arts, the brilliant people behind *Your Brain on Art* and I both hope this encourages you to not just protect the arts but deeply immerse yourself in them in all their forms. Art is a celebration of life and litmus test and reflection of the current state of society—visual, written, and musical. Magsamen and Ross take it further and show how the arts are imperative for the advancement of science and all the other "important" things because of how they affect our brain.

Your Brain on Art isn't just a book but also a foundation (with a really cool, albeit intense website) that studies "neuroaesthetics" or how art interacts and affects the literal workings of our brains. This isn't just in terms of mental

health, escapism, or just general inspiration and joy. It's about rewiring our brains with new thought processes (brain pathways) that can also change how we think about everything. Rick Rubin talked about this in *The Creative Act* with the idea that problem solving at its most base level is creativity in action. *Your Brain on Art* is taking this concept beyond philosophy and diving into the deep end of the highest science and technology pools.

Beyond rewiring our brains and saving humanity, I think art is important for mental health and general processing of the world and how it makes us feel. The right book at the right time can heal old wounds and inspire change. Music ceaselessly inspires the entire array of human emotion—a breakup ballad can untangle the mess of grief just by embracing the void left from loss. Visual art can take your breath away, make you angry, and/or make you cry (if you're lucky maybe even all the above).

Art makes the world make sense. At least it tries to if we're brave enough to sit with it. The last few years have been messy and a rollercoaster to say the least, so it's not ironic that there's been an abundance of incredible art that's being produced in a direct response to it. Whether good or bad, both in terms of the "value" of the art and the feelings it can invoke, I think we could all do with some added art exposure.

The Soiree is a great upcoming easy dose of the arts. There will be live music, local artisans, the Sculptour, and the Juried Show up at the Anderson Arts Center. For an added bonus you can do a scavenger hunt through downtown looking for the different mini art installations of Art on the Town. Beyond The Soiree there's a rich art scene to be explored here in the upstate. An obvious place to start is the Anderson Arts Center—you can take in a gallery show or take classes. For a more intro-level art experience there's always the Makerspace at the library where we have various creative supplies and tools and a variety of classes. Regardless, get out there and get yourself some art exposure—your brain will thank you.

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ANDERSON PORCH WISDOM

Whether you have a two-story wrap-around porch with thirty rockers or a stoop with a couple of five-gallon buckets, there is wisdom to be had, and life to be seen from the front of an Anderson home.

Most of my education came from the front porch while snapping green beans or shelling peas from the garden with my grandmother. She'd look out and say something like, "I declare if Miss Annie ain't all gussied up like a hog on slaughter day". As a kid, I had no idea what those fancy words meant, but I filed them away until I could find out. My grandmother had to be the smartest person I knew. I remember once we were on the porch when her nose started itching, and she'd say, "Uh, oh, company's coming", and it wouldn't be five minutes and



Neal Parnell

someone would appear. Then there was the time she opened the front door and a bird flew inside, and she said, "There's a bird in the house, somebody's about to die". Sure enough, there in the newspaper the next day, somebody she knew had died.

My grandfather was also as wise as an owl, but he was very slow and methodical in all that he did. An example is the only argument that I heard him have on the porch with my grandmother. "Mutt, when are you gonna fix that loose hoe in the shed?" He says, "If I said I'll fix it, I'll fix it, you ain't gotta remind me every six months."

I've asked a few porch people to give their best porch wisdom. Here are a few to ponder...

The older I get, the earlier it gets late.

Never trust a skinny cook or a quiet dog.

Never argue with a man holding a chainsaw.

Never miss a chance to shut up.

That boy could tear up an anvil with a rubber hammer. In Anderson, waving from a rocker is cardio.

Coffee fixes 80% of problems; the other 20% needs bacon.

There has always been wisdom on



porches. Somehow, when you're on a porch, thoughts take on profound meaning and words spoken from a rocking chair will surely be quoted by future historians. Go ahead and soak in a few of these porch gems.

Never ask a barber if you need a haircut.

Don't take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night. Ain't a problem that can't be worsened by fixin' it yourself. The older the truck, the wiser the driver.

Don't ever get old...but if you do, do it slowly.

Dog lovers want their dogs to be human,

Cat lovers want to be a cat.

If they don't wave back, they're from up North or owe you money.

Always make time to sit on the porch.

Life may be flying by, but it all slows down on the porch. From the porch, problems get solved or shrink and fizzle away. And don't forget to listen really closely when someone says my favorite thing to hear from the porch..." Now let me tell you what really happened."

RESCHEDULED

PRIME

WOW **WCW** **WWE** **NWA**

JOSEPH VON SCHMIDT **"ISLAND GIRL" TRACY TAYLOR** **BUFF BAGWELL** **TSUNAMI** **JOHNNY SWINGER**

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HOMETOWN Throwdown

ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

CHASE EMERY **ALEX TAYLOR**

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ANDERSONS VS MORTONS

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THE CITY OF ANDERSON'S

Soirée

The Electric City • Anderson, SC

APRIL 24TH - 25TH
DOWNTOWN ANDERSON

FRIDAY
4 - 9 PM

SATURDAY
10 AM - 8 PM

ART • FOOD • MUSIC • KIDS GAMES • FREE ADMISSION



WITH SPECIAL GUEST

JOE NICHOLS



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Funding provided by the City of Anderson Accommodations Tax Grant

Wild hogs!

We were seated on the golf cart on the long field at our farm one recent morning as April activities were in full swing. A male cardinal was chasing a female from tree to tree, purple martins were busily setting up



Ann K. Bailes

nests in the gourds, and other birds were fervently pursuing annual springtime activities. However, we were not there to enjoy the birds. Our purpose was much less pleasant. We were looking for wild

hogs.

Wild (feral) hogs have caused great damage to our farm, just like they are devastating many other properties in South Carolina. They are responsible for great decline in several native species (turkeys and quail are two examples); they damage agricultural crops, and they tear up lawns in residential areas. Many people do not even know about the problems with wild hogs until they wake up one morning to discover their yards have been plowed up during the night.

Hog damage is nothing new; records of their damage were recorded as far back as the 1500s. Though as late as 1980 hogs were found in only half of South Carolina counties, by 2008 they were running freely in every county in the state. They roam from place to place, leaving areas alone for years but then returning with a vengeance. They are very perceptive, and have keen senses of smell and hearing (though relatively poor eyesight). Despite their short legs and heavy bodies, they can quickly move from place to place.



Wild hogs are not just a South Carolina problem. They are “habitat generalists,” meaning that they can adapt to anything from South Carolina swamps, to hot dry Texas backcountry, to the chilly prairies of North Dakota. And they are “opportunistic” – they will eat anything from plants to worms, small mammals, and eggs and young of ground-nesting birds and reptiles. Females can produce up to three litters of 6-8 piglets a year. They have few natural enemies, and they cause damage wherever they go.

Misguided humans have caused much of the spread of wild hogs by illegally moving them from place to place to establish hunting populations. That process gets out of hand very quickly, increasing problems for agriculture, wildlife management, forestry, and homeowners in the new locations.

Controlling these populations is a constant challenge for landowners and Department of Natural Resources staff. The best method currently available is trapping. Scientists are working on chemical contraceptive methods, but they have not yet developed an adequate distribution system that targets only hogs and not other more desirable species.

As of now, the best course of action is education of the general public, cooperation of landowners with their neighbors, and stronger legislation targeting the activity of transporting wild hogs.

This may not be as enjoyable a topic as discussing April birding activity or other interesting subjects in nature. But it is necessary. The more people who are aware of the extensive problems of wild hogs, the more likely that solutions may be developed to control them.

OBITUARY

PAMELA TILLINGHAST SULLIVAN

Pamela Tillinghast Sullivan, beloved artist, entrepreneur and vibrant spirit, passed away peacefully on April 11, 2026, in Tallahassee, Florida, at the age of 81, following complications from a recent stroke.

Born on January 16, 1945, in Anderson, South Carolina, Pamela was the daughter of Lt. Col. Melvin Tillinghast Sullivan and Laura Marie Norton Sullivan, both of whom predeceased her. She was raised in Anderson alongside her sisters, Jane Gray Sullivan, who survives her, and Judy Norton Hayes, who preceded her in death.

Pamela graduated from T.L. Hanna



High School, Class of 1963, and pursued her artistic training at the Ringling School of Art in Sarasota, Florida, now known as Ringling College of Art and Design, where she earned a Professional Certificate in Fine Arts and Commercial Design. This formal training laid the foundation for a lifelong career defined by creativity, exploration, and bold expression. In 1964, she won the Best in Show Award at the art exhibition at the Anderson County Fair, for her self portrait, “Tilly”.

An accomplished artist, Pamela developed a distinctive style marked by vibrant color, layered textures and dynamic composition. Her work drew deeply from the environments she loved, particularly the Caribbean, where she spent many years living and creating on St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. The island’s light, sea and culture became central influences in her paintings, which often captured mood and movement with emotional depth rather than strict realism. Her art was exhibited in galleries and held in private collections throughout the Caribbean and mainland United States. Pam served as a founding board member for My Brother’s Workshop on St. Thomas, a nonprofit vocational training program on St. Thomas affiliated with the St. Thomas Reformed Church that empowers at-risk and high-risk young men with job skills, education, counseling and mentorship. Building upon her experience with Electric City Playhouse in Anderson, Pamela was an active member of the

Pistarkle Theatre on St. Thomas and the St. Thomas Chapter of the Red Hat Society.

Pamela’s life was as colorful and expansive as her work. She lived in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, where she continued her studies at the Allende Institute; Atlanta, Georgia; St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands; and later Apalachicola, Florida, where she co-owned The Sea Grape Gallery with her husband and fellow artist, Larry Boecker. Together, they cultivated a space that reflected their shared passion for art, community, and creative expression. Pam was a member of the First Baptist Church of Apalachicola and the Apalachicola Ukeleles.

Known for her warmth, charisma, and zest for life, Pamela was truly an entertainer and bon vivant. She embraced life with enthusiasm and brought joy and inspiration to those around her. Her adventurous spirit, artistic vision, and generous heart left a lasting impression on friends, family, collectors, and the many communities she touched. Among her many distinctions, she was honored as Ms. Senior Virgin Islands and represented the Territory in national competition in Las Vegas, Nevada, a reflection of both her presence and her enduring vitality.

Pamela is survived by her husband, Larry Boecker; her son, Sean Van Smith and daughter in law Theda R. Smith; grandchildren: Nathan Cody Smith, Nadja Rose Smith, Nevaeh Rose Smith Lara; great grandson, Slater Elias Smith; her sister, Jane Gray Sullivan of Anderson, South Carolina; her nephews, Marion Lee Hayes, Jr., Melvin Randolph Hayes, Thomas Alvin Waldrep Bolt, Mark Wilson Hayes, William Frank Bolt, Jr., and Bradley Sullivan Bolt; and her nieces, Nina Hayes Beddingfield and Laura Leigh Bolt Roper. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her sister, Judy Norton Sullivan Hayes.

Pamela’s legacy lives on through her art, which continues to capture the beauty, color, and emotion of the places she loved, and through the many lives she enriched with her creativity and spirit.

A Celebration of Life Service will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial contributions be made in Pamela’s honor to the Anderson Arts Center 110 Federal Street, Anderson, S.C. 29625 or a charity of the donor’s choice.

THE GARDEN SPOT

I spy with my ol' eye



**SUSAN
TEMPLE**
master
gardener

Back in mid-March, while dividing a big clump of daffodils, I noticed some little leaves that seemed odd. Two little leaves, only about two inches tall, were very slightly dug up with the daffodils. Then it occurred to me; it's a peony! What? I stopped, knelt down to be sure I had not damaged this little wonder, pushed it back in the ground and watered it really well. Then immediately went to get some markers so I wouldn't lose track of it, or step on it.

When Mama and I visited Robert Todd Lincoln's home, Hildene, years ago, the gift shop had peony seeds for sale. We were there in September and did not get to see peonies

in bloom. If the plants were any indication, it would be a sight to see them blooming. The seed packets were packaged beautifully to sucker a buyer right in. The package had a vintage picture of Mary Lincoln, Robert Todd's wife, picking peonies in her garden. She was dressed in her lovely spring frock and hat. I always laugh at seeing such pictures of people "working" in their gardens. When I'm working in the yard, I call it the ax murderer look. Each packet had about nine seeds in them. None of mine even came up. Mama had one come up only to die shortly after.

Peonies produce seed pods but are not usually noticeable. Or we simply pass peonies by after the beautiful blooms fade. Bowl of Beauty is one variety that has star shaped seed pods that will dry on the plant. I've thought about gathering some seeds and trying again but never get one of those round to its.

Then, a few days after finding the little

miracle peony, this time while weeding, there was another one. This one is a bit bigger, with four leaves, and about four inches tall. These two plants are not close to each other. This one is near the sidewalk at a big flowerpot. I could see how a seed may wash to this spot. Since this one is bigger, I very gently dug it up to see, for experimentation's sake. Two stems still had the seed attached. I've never seen such in all my peony gardening days! This one was very carefully replanted, with a bigger hole, and watered well too. It was also immediately marked. Both are being watched and tended. Weeds are pulled away, carefully, so as not to disturb the baby peonies. These have been documented in my garden book with anticipation of how long it will take for them to bloom. I waited 13 years for a fern leaf peony to bloom, and that was a plant; who knows how long from seed.

A new peony has been added this year, Lemon Chiffon. It is a herbaceous variety, and yellow is uncommon for herbaceous (the type that dies back to ground each year). Mama and I went to Hall County Georgia's master gardener spring expo a few weeks ago. There is a lady who sells unusual peonies at a great



price. Her plants are beautiful. Lemon Chiffon plants were loaded with buds, but I chose a thicker plant with fewer buds. The first bud opened last week. The name suits it perfectly. Imagine a Sarah Bernhardt bloom in yellow. The smell is as wonderful as the bloom is beautiful. With this drought, Lemon Chiffon won't be planted until fall. Maybe by then I'll figure out where this beauty is going to live. It's got to be in a prime spot.

Join us for a heartfelt community event!

Saturday, May 9th
2211 North Main St. • Anderson

Walk Start: 9am

Please arrive at 8:30am to prepare a special dedication bib in honor of your loved one.

We are honored to host our second annual **Walk of Remembrance!** This meaningful event offers a supportive environment where individuals and families can come together, share stories, and find comfort in knowing they are not alone in their grief. Open to all, this is a space for reflection, support, and shared healing.

Take part in a peaceful, one-mile walk at your own pace, enjoy fun activities, and gather over complimentary coffee and light refreshments.

This event is not a fundraiser but a gentle opportunity to walk alongside others who understand the journey of grief – reminding us that while loss is deeply personal, we never have to face it alone.

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Scan here to
pre-register:

Participants may register the day of the event by signing up at the assembly station.





The Heart of Preschool Education: Dedication and Real-Life Learning

In the bustling world of preschool education, two extraordinary teachers stand out for their unwavering commitment to nurturing young minds. Mrs. Acacia and Mrs. Jennifer have dedicated their careers to creating enriching environments where children not only learn academic skills but also develop essential life values grounded in biblical teachings. Their daily routines are a testament to the profound impact that passionate educators can have on their students' lives.

Here's how they do it:

- **Interactive Learning-** Each day begins with an interactive circle time where children share their thoughts and experiences. This fosters communication skills and helps students learn from one another's perspectives.
- **Bible-Based Curriculum-** Grounding their teaching philosophy in biblical principles, Mrs. Acacia and Mrs. Jennifer integrate bible lessons into everyday activities. They understand that instilling values at a young age can shape character and influence future decisions.
- **Character Building-** Each week, they focus on a different bible theme, such as kindness, honesty, or love. Storytime includes tales from the Bible that illustrate these values, making them relatable and understandable for young children.
- **Prayer and Reflection-** Daily prayers are included in their routine, teaching children gratitude and mindfulness. This practice helps create a calm and respectful classroom environment.
- **Creating a Nurturing Environment-** The success is not just in their teaching methods but also in their ability to create a nurturing and supportive classroom environment. They understand that each child is unique and tailor their approaches accordingly.
- **Safe Space for Expression-** The classroom is designed to be a safe haven where children feel comfortable expressing their thoughts and emotions allowing children to share their feelings and learn from each other.

Mrs. Acacia and Mrs. Jennifer exemplify what it means to be dedicated educators. Their commitment to real-life teaching and biblical values not only shapes the academic journey of their students but also nurtures their character development. By creating a loving and supportive environment, they prepare young minds not just for school, but for life. Their impact will undoubtedly resonate in the hearts of their students for years to come, instilling values that will guide them as they grow.

We are so grateful they are a part of our school family at Anderson Prep Preschool

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Mayfield retires after 39 years of service to District 5

Retirement is always to be celebrated, especially when your entire career has been with the same employer. In the case of Walter Mayfield, retiring principal of T.L. Hanna High School, that employer has been Anderson School District Five. While the district wishes him well, it will also miss the commitment to education that Mayfield brought every day.

“Mr. Walter Mayfield’s 39-year career in Anderson School District Five has been defined by unwavering dedication to students, staff, and our community,” says District 5 Superintendent Dr. Benda Kelley. “From his 17 years as a classroom math teacher and



Kim von Keller

coach, to his 22 years as an administrator, Mr. Mayfield has been a cornerstone of our district. He served as assistant principal at Southwood Middle School for seven years before opening Glenview Middle School in 2011, where he then served as principal for eight years. Most recently, he has served as principal of T.L. Hanna High School, leading the school to continued achievements in academics, arts, and athletics for the past seven years. Throughout his career, Mr. Mayfield has led with integrity, passion, and a deep commitment to excellence in education. His impact and legacy will be felt for generations to come, and we are truly grateful for his many years of service to Anderson School District Five. We wish him all the best in this next chapter of retirement!”

While his achievements are laudable, education was not the path Mayfield envisioned when he graduated from T.L. Hanna and began his studies at Clemson University.

“I changed my major a few times,” he says. “I felt drawn to teaching math and coaching, but I was hesitant to fully commit. My mother taught math in Anderson District Five and retired from Westside High School, so her influence was always a part of my life. Education turned out to be the best choice for me.”

As a math teacher, Mayfield found that understanding his students was just as important as the curriculum.

“Many students either do not enjoy math or find it difficult, so I wanted to show them they could succeed. Most of the time, they just needed more confidence in their math skills. Middle school is an extremely awkward age. They are silly and immature, but that adds to the fun of that age. Middle school students want to please their teachers, so they are easier to motivate. I would often



After 39 years of service to Anderson School District Five, retiring T.L. Hanna High School principal Walter Mayfield reflected on a career defined by teaching, coaching and leadership, leaving behind a lasting impact on generations of students and educators.

tell them that if they aced their test, I would wear my tuxedo to school. They got a big kick out of that. High school students would work hard for food. The key was always to build relationships so I could understand what would motivate each student to succeed. Even now, I feel grateful and humbled when a former student tells me I helped them with math or that I was a good teacher.

During his teaching years at T.L. Hanna, Mayfield coached varsity boys basketball, junior varsity boys basketball, varsity girls basketball, JV football, varsity football, JV boys soccer, and varsity girls soccer. He found coaching to be just another form of teaching.

“The best coaches plan practice just as the best teachers plan class. I felt some of the best teachers were coaches; Wayne Jones, Rob Spencer, and Dylan Taylor are three that I have been fortunate to work with. Their impact showed me how coaching principles in the classroom inspire students to succeed.”

As much as he loved teaching and coaching, a program at Clemson University piqued Mayfield’s interest in school administration.

“I was taking Educational Leadership classes at Clemson, and I really enjoyed those experiences and conversations about being a school leader. I was finally given the opportunity to be the assistant principal

at Southwood Middle School. My time at Southwood was the most influential for my growth as an administrator. I worked on a great team with Principal Evelyn Murphy and Assistant Principal Kathy Dobbins. Evelyn was a mentor to me until her passing in 2012. She showed what a difference a good principal can make in an entire school community.”

In 2011, Mayfield was named as principal of the new Glenview Middle School by Superintendent Dr. Betty Bagley. He thought he would stay there until his retirement, but the district needed his experience elsewhere.

“Being named principal at Glenview was my greatest accomplishment. I didn’t want to go to Hanna at first; Glenview was my baby. But in 2019, Superintendent Tom Wilson believed that I was the right man for the principal’s position, and it’s been great. Returning to lead the high school I graduated from has been very special. I am extremely proud of all that my team and T.L. Hanna teachers have accomplished over the past seven years.”

There are many things that Mayfield will miss about school. There are also things, like alarm clocks, that he won’t miss at all. What he’s looking forward to in retirement is golfing, spending time with his miniature schnauzer, Shipley, and traveling with his



wife, Charlene.

“Charlene and I are excited to travel throughout the year instead of being limited to Christmas, spring break, and summer break,” he says. “Our first big trip is planned for September. We’re going to Peru.”

Still, it’s impossible to look forward without first looking back. Over his 39 years in education, he’s learned that school success is a team effort.

“I need to thank all the outstanding educators who have worked with me as assistant principals: Will Garrison, Julie Artman, Tiffany Osborne, Lesia Patterson, Ryan Roberts, Ramsey Hill, and Mike Noble. Especially meaningful is the support I receive from my current leadership team at T.L. Hanna: Paul Garrett, Ansley Jones, Shaunda Tenry, Jay Freeman, and Jeremy Price. These are some of the best educators anywhere, and our successes reflect genuine team effort. I have had a great career in Anderson Five and have been very blessed. Looking back, I would not change a thing.”

FINDING THE COLORS THAT TRULY FLATTER YOU

I think Shelby from the Movie Steel Magnolia's says it best when she says, "My colors are blush and bashful". Her mother promptly interrupts by saying, her colors are "pink and pink". We all have our favorite color, but unfortunately it doesn't necessarily look good on our skin tones. Certain colors can wash us out, and make us look drab. Did you know people are actually getting their color analysis done? It categorizes you. Are you a Winter, Spring, Summer or Fall, if that makes sense. My favorite colors are turquoise, rust and I do love a little splash of dusty pink in there. When I was a teenager,



Kristine March

I loved to wear hot neon pinks. I can't imagine really wearing it now, unless I mixed it in very subtly. I guess I wanted to look like a barbie doll when I was a teenager, I didn't know any better, but in all sincerity, colors can also make us look chic and make our wardrobe selection appear

to be of luxury quality even if it isn't. For example, if you're a redhead with fair skin, your colors would need to gravitate towards olive green and peachy undertones. You would want to avoid purple, because it would make you appear more dull and faded. If you're a blonde like me, you would want to go with blues and even black and red looks fabulous on a blonde. If you have dark skin and dark hair you would be considered a deep Autumn or Winter color palette. You can basically go with all of the beautiful jewel tones. Sunny yellow looks incredible. Now, let's choose colors that go together well. This one's really fun, because you already have it most likely. So, take



the color navy blue, it's just your basic color, but it can go with so many other ones. For instance, navy blue and white looks clean. navy blue and yellow looks fresh. Navy blue and beige looks refined, and so on. Now, let's add leopard to the mix. Leopard and ruby red look bold, grey plus leopard looks modern and mustard yellow and leopard look really striking, et cetera. So, all of these colors and patterns kind of build your style and go with what look you're in the mood for. Get creative and be bold with it. Furthermore, It's a definite mood booster. So, what are some of your favorite colors, and how are you going to put them together? What looks best on you? That is the question. Remember to make the sidewalk your runway and kindness always matters. Stay colorful y'all.

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Anderson University's Peace elected to National Council

CHICAGO – Anderson University College of Health Professions Dean Donald M. Peace, Ph.D., FACHE, has been elected to the Council of Regents, the legislative body of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

The Council provides advice and counsel to the Board of Governors and is responsible for electing the Board and its Chair. Through the Council's support, the Board steers the national organization and carries out ACHE's mission to advance its members and healthcare leadership excellence.

Dr. Peace began his term on Feb. 28, 2026, during the Council of Regents meeting held in conjunction with ACHE's Congress on Healthcare Leadership. Peace will represent ACHE's membership in Region District 2.

Board certified in healthcare management as an ACHE Fellow, Dr. Peace serves as Dean of the College of Health Professions and Professor of Healthcare Administration and Human Services at Anderson University, a role he has held since 2015. With over 49 years of experience as a clinician, healthcare executive, and educator, he has served at leading institutions including Ty Cobb Memorial Hospital

(now St. Mary's-Lavonia, GA), St. Francis Hospital (Columbus, GA), Athens Regional Hospital (now Piedmont Health-Athens), Georgia Baptist Hospital (Atlanta, GA), AnMed Health, and academically at South University (Savannah, GA), and Anderson University (Anderson, South Carolina).

A Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), Dr. Peace currently serves as Regent for his second three-year term (2026-2029) (2019- 2022) and on the South Carolina Chapter Board of Directors. He previously served as President of the SC Chapter of ACHE as well as multiple committees of the board. He serves the ACHE on the national level on the Editorial Board of Healthcare Executive professional publication as well as other national committees.

Dr. Peace is a Board Chair of Hospice of the Upstate, Anderson, SC and serves on the AnMed Health Ethics Committee. He recently completed ten years of service on the Anderson United Way Board where he served on multiple committees as well as Chair of the Board.

Dr. Peace holds a Ph.D. in Human Services (Health Care Administration) from Capella

University, an M.S. in Administration (Health Services) from Central Michigan University, and undergraduate clinical degrees from Columbus State University and Thomas Edison State College.

About the American College of Healthcare Executives The American College of Healthcare Executives is an international professional society of 53,000 healthcare executives who lead hospitals, healthcare systems and other healthcare organizations. ACHE's mission is to advance our members and healthcare management excellence. ACHE offers its prestigious FACHE® credential, signifying board certification in healthcare management. ACHE's established network of 75 chapters provides access to networking, education and career development at the local level. In addition,

ACHE is known for its magazine, Healthcare Executive, and its career development and public policy programs. Through such efforts, ACHE works toward its vision of being the preeminent professional society for leaders dedicated to improving health. The Foundation of the American College

of Healthcare Executives was established to further advance healthcare management excellence through education and research. The Foundation of ACHE is known for its educational programs—including the annual Congress on Healthcare Leadership, which draws more than 6,000 participants—and groundbreaking research. Its publishing division, ACHE Learn, is one of the largest publishers of books and journals on health services management, including textbooks for college and university courses. Anderson University is a "more selective," comprehensive Christian university offering bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees on campus and online. It is South Carolina's largest private university. Anderson University is the #1 Christian college in South Carolina, according to Niche.com, is among U.S. News and World Report's "Best Regional Universities South," and is on the publication's "Best Value," "Best Schools for Veterans," and "Best Online Programs" lists. Anderson is a five-time Apple Distinguished School and on the honor roll of the prestigious Great Colleges to Work For® program.

ECN Real Estate Spotlight Guide



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Westside's Hartwell named SC Gatorade Player of the Year

The Westside High School girls lost in the state 4A basketball championship for the second year in a row.



Brian Hodges

But the news wasn't all disappointing.

Westside's Khalia Hartwell was named the South Carolina Gatorade Player of the year.

The 6-foot-5 junior center averaged 12.5 points and 8.3 rebounds per game on a 27-2 team

that lost to North Augusta 63-50 in the state final.

"Khalia was one of three all-state players for Westside," Rams coach Jackie Roberts said. "We will never have a team with one dominant scorer. It's a testament to the talent we have on our team."

Tiana Marshall, a 5-foot-10 freshman guard, and Asia Clinkscales, a 5-foot-7 senior guard, joined Hartwell on the all-state team, Roberts said.

She said Hartwell deserved the attention.

"She's proved she can compete with girls on the national stage (in AAU play)," Roberts said.

"She's not selfish with the ball but with her size she can affect shots in the paint.

"She's never going to have a big scoring average," the coach added. "We usually build a lead and then give our starters a rest at the end of the game."

Hartwell already has offers from Ohio State, Notre Dame, Duke, Clemson, Ole Miss and Virginia, among others, Roberts said.

Khalia still has room for upping her

game, Roberts said.

"Her mom is working with Khalia's agility (in the off-season)," Roberts said.

"I would say her next challenge is developing more patience with the ball," Roberts said. "Teams are double- and triple-teaming her at times and she'll need to look for the teammate that's open.

"It's a matter of reading the defenses," Roberts said.

But these are finer points to develop for a smooth player who has gained statewide attention.

"It's funny," Roberts said. "I played with Stacy Ford at Westside and she was named state player of the year. She was a great teammate.



"Now I am coaching a girl who is honored with state recognition. It's kind of come full circle for me," Roberts said.



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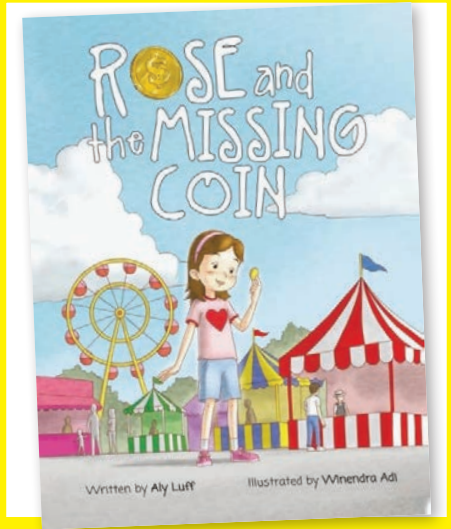
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Gallant - Sasser to be wed in Beaufort

Kimberly A Harding and William Andrew Calhoun Gallant announce the engagement of their daughter, Perry Elisabeth Gallant of Beaufort, to Robert Scott Sasser of Florence.

Perry is the granddaughter of Margaret Mirium Perry of Anderson, the late Robert Miller Gallant, Jr., and Mary Calhoun Gallant of Anderson. She attended Beaufort High School and Clemson University, where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Psychology and graduated from the Medical University of South Carolina with a Master's in Speech Language Pathology. She is employed as a pediatric speech-language pathologist in Charleston, South Carolina.

Scott is the son of Robert Hugh Sasser III and Daryn Johnson Sasser of Florence, South Carolina. He is the grandson of Dr. Robert Hugh Sasser, Jr. of Swainsboro, Georgia, and the late Jane Scott Megahee Sasser, also of Swainsboro, Georgia. He is also the grandson of the late Gene Norris Johnson and the late Martha Elizabeth Monk Johnson, both of Folkston, Georgia. Scott attended Trinity Collegiate School and graduated from The Citadel with a Business Administration Degree. He is a Heavy Equipment Sales Rep for Blanchard CAT in Summerville, South Carolina.

The wedding is planned for April 3rd, 2027, in downtown Beaufort, South Carolina, at First Presbyterian Church with a reception following at the Beaufort Inn, downtown Beaufort.



HONEA PATH'S FORGOTTEN BID TO FORM A NEW COUNTY

BY RICH OTTER

The war had been over for almost twenty years. Reconstruction was drawing to an end. But suddenly, there was talk of a secession.

Forces in Honea Path wanted to secede from Anderson County, gobbling also pieces of Greenville, Laurens and Abbeville Counties. In addition, there occurred an unexpected split of the Democratic Party in Honea Path. The disclosures were made by Anderson County's trusted newspaper, *The Intelligencer*, on July 20, 1882. This was not fake news.

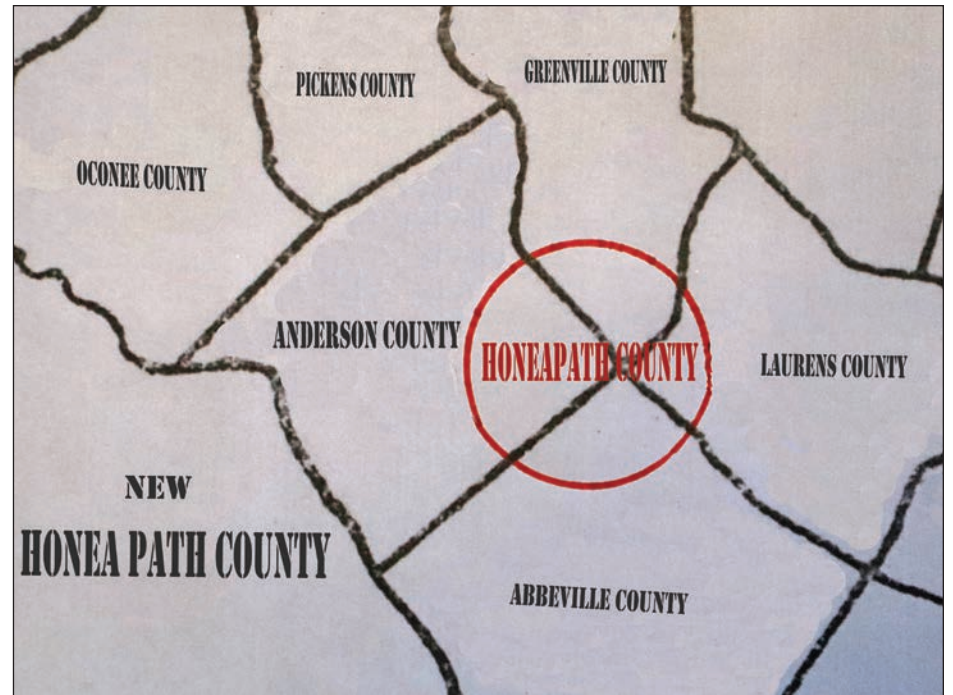
The newspaper included an inconspicuous headline, "Honea Path Items," possibly to avoid panic and expecting no one would read it except people from Honea Path, way off on the edge of Anderson County. It started off innocently enough, explaining "The cotton crop on our sandy soil is not so early this year as that on red land, but if we have rain, we will make a good crop."

They said the farmers had "stored away the largest crop of small grain ever raised in this county." It was bragged, "Mr. C. E. Harper was out 26 days and thrashed about 14,000 bushels." It was explained there had been rain in the eastern portions of the township but none in the immediate community. It then proclaimed: "This place has seven stores—all doing a thriving business." How did that correlate except to emphasize the importance of the area?

It then got down to the meat of the matter. "There will be two Democratic Clubs in this township," cautiously adding, "not on account of any bad feeling existing among the citizens, but for the sake of convenience." A likely story. It has been said the Indian word Honea means path, so Honea Path actually meant "path-path." Were the two Democratic Clubs taking separate paths?

Strangely, it was then mentioned: "There are no patriotic young men on this side offering their service to their country, nor do we hear much said about those who are offering themselves from other portions." What was going on there?

Without prelude, it suddenly



announced: "The subject we are discussing just now is the new county." What new county? "We [who are we?] want the adjoining corners of Anderson, Abbeville, Laurens and Greenville Counties cut off and made into a new county, with Honea Path the County Seat." Holy Cow! "It is very probable, if we could get a new County, that the Atlantic & French Broad Valley Railroad would be built by this place." That was getting to it.

It continued: "There is no place in the State where there is a greater necessity for a new County, and no place where a new County could be carved out and have the old ones in nicer shape than the one mentioned above." That was a great sales approach. Other counties could have a pretty shape. But they didn't explain how.

Now the apparent reason for the two Democratic Clubs was that there likely was an anticipated split as to who could best carry out the plan. There obviously was a path-path problem. The paper continued: "The candidate for the Legislature who is in favor of this new County, and will work for it, can get the solid vote of the township."

All they had to do was secede from

Anderson County, bite off sections of Greenville, Laurens and Abbeville Counties, (which was alleged to be to their stated advantages), and, to put frosting on the cake, acquire the Atlantic & French Broad Valley Railroad to run through the county seat of Honea Path.

There were just a few minor problems. As Pendleton had learned when Anderson County was formed, Pendleton was too close to the county line to be the municipal center of the county. That was why Anderson Courthouse had been formed. The town of path-path would probably be isolated and the train would go elsewhere unless a large chunk of Anderson County was grabbed. Also, with few patriotic men in the community, did that indicate there was no one to fight the good fight known to be ahead?

What they didn't know at the time was that the planned Atlantic & French Broad Valley Railroad would be absorbed into the planned Belton, Williamston and Easley Railroad, and both would disappear.

Alas! The plan for the new Honea Path County also disappeared. But, beware, Honea Path may rise again.

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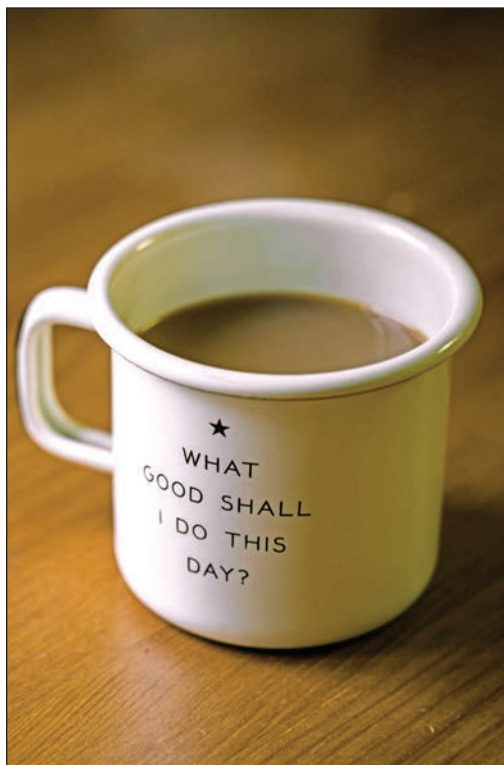


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These acts of goodness don't always make headlines, but they form the foundation of a strong, connected community. At the center of it all is one powerful force. Volunteering.

Volunteering is more than just giving your time. It's an investment in the place we call home. Local organizations, schools, churches, and nonprofits rely heavily on volunteers to fill gaps that funding alone

cannot cover. Whether it's coaching a youth team, helping at a food pantry, or supporting community events, volunteers help ensure that essential services continue and that no one falls through the cracks.

For many small towns, volunteers are the lifeblood of progress. They help preserve traditions, strengthen civic pride, and bring people together across generations. In a world that often feels increasingly disconnected, volunteering creates meaningful human connections. It reminds us that we are part of something bigger than ourselves.

The rewards of volunteering don't stop with those being helped, they extend deeply to those who give.

Volunteers often find a renewed sense of purpose. There is something uniquely fulfilling about knowing your efforts made a difference in someone else's day, or even their life. It can shift perspective and foster a deeper appreciation for the community around you.

There are benefits that ripple into everyday life. Volunteering can build new skills. The process identifies leadership. It enhances com-

munication, problem-solving and teamwork. It serves as a gateway to new friendships and professional opportunities. For young people, it offers valuable experience and a chance to discover their strengths. For others, it provides a way to stay active and connected.

Perhaps most importantly, volunteering has a way of bringing joy. It reminds us that kindness matters. That even small acts like an hour of time, a helping hand, or a listening ear can create lasting impact.

In a time when many communities face challenges, from economic pressures to social isolation, the need for volunteers has never been greater. Each person who steps forward helps shape a stronger, more compassionate future.

Volunteering doesn't require special skills or large amounts of time. It simply requires a willingness to show up and care.

Because at the end of the day, the true reward of volunteering isn't just what you give, it's what you help build. A community that looks out for one another, lifts others up, and thrives together.



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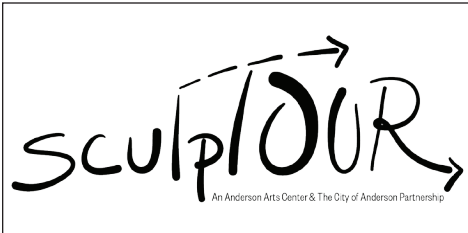
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Location: 208 S. Main St., Main St. between Church and Benson
Materials: stainless steel
Price: \$20,000

Astra Apis

Artist: Kirk Seese
Location: 401 S. Main St., corner of Main and Market, in front of the City of Anderson Police Department
Materials: upcycled items, colored acrylic, painted steel

Frankie

Artist: Doug McAbee
Location: 408 Main St., corner of Main and Sharpe
Materials: painted steel
Price: \$5,000

IPO 004

Artist: Bob Coon
Location: 501 N. Main St., in front of Merle Norman, corner of Main and Tribble
Materials: fabricated and painted aluminum
Price: \$22,000

Small Dragonfly

Artist: Kirk Seese
Location: 102 S. Main St., corner of Main and Whitner
Materials: painted steel, colored transparent acrylic
Price: \$9,000

Majority Rules

Artist: Ben Lock
Location: 100 S. Main St., corner of Main and Benson, in front of the Anderson County Courthouse
Materials: steel and paint
Price: \$10,000

Symbol of Nature

Artist: Hanna Jubran
Location: Corner of Church and McDuffy, concrete pad outside of the Market St. parking garage, across from the Bleckley Inn
Materials: Steel and paint
Price: \$14,800



Where's the E?

Bentson Rada, age 7 and Ryder Rada, age 10, took our Youth Edition of The Electric City News to Florida's Space Coast to watch the Artemis rocket launch. Their mother, Laura Rada, says the boys were so excited to bring a little piece of Anderson with them for such an unforgettable experience. The photo was snapped on the beach moments before the launch. "It was such a cool memory for them and us," says Laura.

Thanks for taking us along for such a great ride!

Ready, Set, REVOLUTION!

HOMESCHOOL EXTRAVAGANZA



A Revolutionary Road Trip Through Time

WHEN FRIDAY
MAY 8, 2026
11AM-1PM
see you there

AGENDA games
learning
SCAVENGER HUNTS
fun for the whole family



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RSVP is not necessary. Please give us a general headcount.



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ANDERSON COUNTY MUSEUM

(864) 260-4737
202 E Greenville Street, Anderson, SC 29621
andersoncountymuseum.sc.gov

ELECTRIC CITY SPRING EVENTS

THE CITY OF ANDERSON'S 2026 SOIREE

Date: April 24th & 25th
Location: Downtown Anderson
Visual arts, kids' activities, performing arts, culinary arts, and more! Free admission. For more information visit www.cityofandersonsc.com.

HOME SCHOOL EXTRAVAGANZA: A REVOLUTIONARY ROAD TRIP THROUGH TIME

Date: May 8th
Time: 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Location: Anderson County Museum, 202 East Greenville Street

Reservations not required but appreciated for head count. Free admission. To make a reservation, please call (864) 260-4737

GETTING IT DONE WITH GOOGLE TOOLS

Date: April 27th
Time: 5:30 to 7:30 PM
Location: Anderson County Library Computer Lab



Learn how to email, create, and manage documents, spreadsheets, and slide presentations using the basic features of Gmail, Google Docs, Google Sheets, and Google Slides. Share and store all of your Google creations in Google Drive! Bring your Google account login (email ID and password) info to class.

Please register at the Anderson County Library (864) 260-4500

CHAIR YOGA

Date: Monday, Wednesday & Friday
Time: 11:00 to 11:30 PM
Location: Anderson County Library
Follow along with videos from Registered Yoga Teacher and Rural Health and Nutrition Extension Agent, Ellie Lane. All experience levels are welcome, and beginners are encouraged to join! Register at (864) 260-4500 or (864) 847-5238.

STORIES AROUND THE STATE

Date: Tuesday April 28th 12:00 to 1:00 PM
Location: Anderson County Museum, 202 East Greenville Street

Revolutionary Correspondence: The Letters, Life, and Legacy of Henry Laurens.
Presenter: Annette Guild

This program explores the life and legacy of Henry Laurens through his extensive personal, political, and business correspondence held by the South Carolina Historical Society. Participants will learn about Laurens' rise from Charleston merchant to prominent Revolutionary leader, examine key moments documented in his letters, and consider his complex role in the founding of the nation. The program will also highlight current digitization efforts that are expanding public access to these important historical records and bringing Laurens' story to new audiences.

This is a free program. Lunch and beverages will be provided. Please note any dietary restrictions in the "Additional Comments" box when registering. (864) 260-473.

SEE EVENTS ON PAGE 20

T. Ed Garrison inducted into Anderson County Museum HOF

ANDERSON: The life of T. Ed Garrison, Jr. was celebrated with an induction into the Anderson County Museum's Hall of Fame on Tuesday, March 24. Nominated by his daughter Gaye Sprague, Senator Garrison was chosen from an outstanding list of people who have made significant contributions to Anderson County and South Carolina.

Mr. Garrison devoted his life to the service of others as a champion of conservation, agriculture, historic preservation, and community activism.

As a graduate of Clemson's Vocational Agriculture program, Garrison put his professional life on hold to serve in the Army Air Force where he flew 65 missions during World War II. Upon his return, his passion for farming and innovative business strategies

led to marked success on the family farmstead, later known as Denver Downs.

Garrison's success and position as a community leader led to his election to the State House of Representatives in 1958. Here, T. Ed Garrison sponsored legislation for soil and water conservation, agricultural advancement, historic preservation, tourism, mining and industry regulation, and more. He went on to serve in the State Senate from 1967-1988.

A trusted and respected voice, Garrison was honored as a recipient of the Order of the Palmetto, Clemson Distinguished Service Alumni Award, and as the namesake of the T. Ed Garrison Livestock Arena built in 1991. The footprints left by T. Ed Garrison will be seen for years to come, demonstrating his heart for service, forward thinking,

and guardianship of natural and historic resources for future generations.

The T. Ed Garrison Hall of Fame exhibit will be on display for one year. Included in the exhibit is the desk Senator Garrison used during his time in the South Carolina Senate. Also displayed in the exhibit are items from Garrison's military service during World War II including his officer's cap.

The Hall of Fame recipient is nominated by the museum Advisory Committee which is appointed by the County Council. Nominees must be deceased for at least ten years before they are eligible to be submitted.

Applications to nominate someone can be found on the Anderson County Museum website www.andersoncountymuseum.sc.gov under Hall of Fame. The deadline for applications for 2027 is due September 8, 2026.



The award-winning Anderson County Museum is celebrating 43 years of preserving the history and heritage of Anderson County and South Carolina. Located at 202 East Greenville Street in downtown Anderson, the museum is handicap accessible and admission free.

The Fred Whitten Gallery and Whitner's Mercantile store hours are Tuesday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Wednesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Roper Research Room is open from 1 to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and by appointment with the Curator. For more information, contact the Museum at (864) 260-4737.

An historic revival: The story behind The Grand 1891

In downtown Anderson, some buildings quietly fade into the background. Others wait patiently for a second chance. One such building now known as The Grand 1891 has found new life through a journey rooted in preservation and purpose.

Located at 210 South Main Street, the building's history dates back to 1884. It served as part of the town's early infrastructure. It was once home to a water-supply well, a marble-cutting operation and even residential quarters.

By 1891, the structure had taken on the form it still holds today, a rare example of enduring craftsmanship. Throughout the years, it served as both a saloon and a theater, later welcoming local businesses, professionals, and community gatherings. Generations passed through its doors, each life leaving a mark on its story.

Though time brought wear, the building's character never disappeared. She waited to be noticed by the individual with vision.

The building's revival began not as a business plan, but as an effort to serve others.

While helping the local nonprofit Joy Comes search for a larger space, this long overlooked property came into view. At first, ownership seemed out of reach. But a visit inside changed everything.

The main floor showed signs of years of neglect. Upstairs, the building told a different story. Original details with thoughtful crafts-



manship and beauty remained intact. What began as a search for nonprofit space soon sparked a new vision.

Step by step, opportunities aligned. The building was purchased, setting the stage for something far greater than originally planned.

Initial plans for the main floor were modest. A simple consignment or general store to support the nonprofit's mission. But as renovation began, hidden details emerged.

Original coffered ceilings were uncovered.

Historic millwork called for restoration rather than replacement. With each discovery, the project shifted from a basic update to a care-

ful preservation of history.

The result is a space that feels timeless and elegant, true to its past, yet renewed for today.

Now fully restored, The Grand 1891 stands as both a landmark and a gathering place in downtown Anderson. The venue hosts weddings, celebrations, corporate events and community gatherings. Once again, this grand structure is welcoming people once again inside its historic walls.

Its mission, however, goes beyond events. A significant portion of its proceeds supports the work of Joy Comes, which also operates within the building.

Owner, Eric Gurley, was quick to point out what a pleasant experience it was working with Project Manager Mike Seymore and his crew. The crew members included longtime Anderson residents Albert Campbell, William Davis and Mark Roberts. A special acknowledgement goes to Amy Gurley for her selection on paint colors and overall design ideas.

Sometimes, all it takes is someone willing to listen and bring history back to life.

Events

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

THE GREAT ANDERSON COUNTY FAIR

Date: April 30th through May 10th
Location: 3027 Martin Luther King Blvd
Days packed with fun, thrills, and excitement for the whole family! From unlimited rides to family-friendly attractions and mouthwatering fair food, there's something for everyone at Anderson County's biggest Fair of the year. For more information, call (864) 260-4800.

ANMED RHYTHM ON THE RIVER - POWERSVILLE

Date: Saturday, May 2nd
Time: 10:00 AM
Get ready for Powdersville's biggest day of the year!

Join us for the 5th Annual AnMed Rhythm on the River 2026 — a FREE family-friendly outdoor festival at the beautiful Dolly Cooper Park! 10 AM: Join us for the AnMed Rhythm on the River 5k and 1 Mile Walk/Fun Run. Registration is here: <https://runsignup.com/Race/SC/Greenville/RhythmOnTheRiver5k>

11 AM – 8 PM: Festivities begin with:
• Live music all day long!
• Food, dessert and beer trucks serving up your favorites
• Local artisan makers market
• The ever-popular KidsZone loaded with fun

Admission & Parking are FREE!

DOWNTOWN SOUNDS BLOCK PARTY

Date: Every Thursday beginning
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Carolina Wren Park
111 East Whitner Street
May 7th with the Combo Kings
May 14th with The Gray Heat Band
FREE ADMISSION

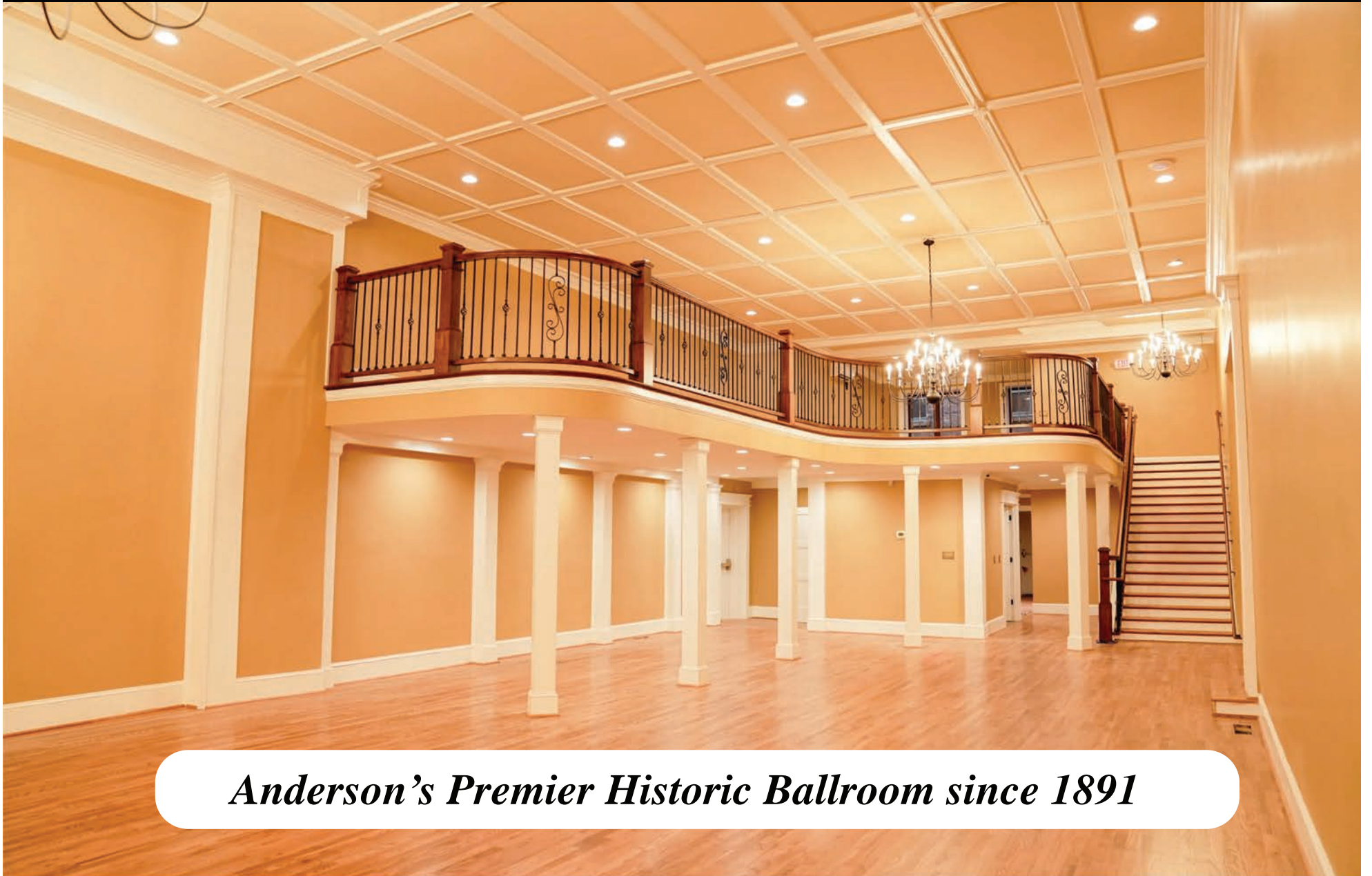
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210 South Main Street Anderson, SC 29624 | Info@thegrand1891.com | (864) 642-1175

THE Electric City News

Kids Corner

No more chores

BY: CLARA FINKE
4TH GRADE

If you have to wash the dishes, such an awful chore if you have to wash the dishes 'stead of going to the store, if you have to wash the dishes maybe drop a few and they won't let you wash the dishes anymore.



When I grow up

BY: EVIE

I want to be a animal shelter worker. Because I want to help the dogs to find them brand new homes so they are happy

and not alone. One by one will leave. I will be sad to see them go!! But their getting new homes witch I can handdle it because if their happy, I'm happy.



WHEN I GROW UP

BY: LYNIE CALDWELL
1ST GRADE

When I grow up I want to be a artist. Because my famliy sais my creashns are good.

I LOVE....

BY: BLYTHE YARBOROUGH
KINDERGARTEN

I love my House because it is wom. I love that it has my famley.



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SAMUEL WHATLEY

—REPUBLICAN—

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- Transparency between local government and the people it serves
- A county councilman that will work for you, not against you
- Thoughtful and responsible development that takes into account how Anderson will look in the future
- Better management of the annual budget and cutting wasteful spending
- An Anderson Native that will protect our values and defend our future

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WHAT HUNTINGTON HILLS LEFT BEHIND

Porch nights, pranks, and the making of a Southern childhood

BY MICHAEL SPAKE

Today, the world is complicated. But there was a time when life felt as pure and simple as a packet of Dixie Crystal sugar. It was in 1977 when we moved to Huntington Hills. There I entered the unspoken, unannounced, and unapologetic beauty of turning seven years old.

My brother (10) and I made our Huntington Hills debut in the *Anderson Independent*, a picture of him fishing while I watched. The reporter, puzzled by my brother wearing a Clemson jersey with the number 37 and, around his waist, a Clemson sweat-shirt with the number 66, wrote, "It does not add up." But this did not matter to us. What mattered was the pond, the creeks, and the long afternoons. With a Zebco 33 rod in hand and suntan as dark as the muddy water,

I watched fish break the surface, and turtles and salamanders slip beneath it. I watched the entire life cycle of frogs, and at night, with the windows open, I listened to their chorus and croaks as they sang me to sleep. It was an education that settled deep in my marrow and never quite left me.

While I found clarity in nature, with the pond as my constant companion, I also discovered how there was a rhythm of mischief throughout Huntington Hills as older adolescents grew into teenagers with sharper, edgier creativity. Their antics meant no harm and were more about belonging than about trouble.

One day, a water balloon hit our Buick Estate Wagon. My mother dismantled the contraption that delivered the strike. Soon, whispers of revenge circulated until one night a basketball covered in mud slammed into our front door. My father, seeing three teenagers hiding behind the trees, gave chase. A few minutes later, he returned home with grass stains on his knees and announced, "I had that boy by the seat of his pants, but I slipped on the hill, and he got away." The next day, the same

group of teenagers walked by our tailgate at the Clemson football game. My father countered their boldness by approaching them and saying, "Next time you will not be so lucky."

At that point something changed. Although, the pranks didn't stop, we were no longer the target. We had been accepted with a kind of unspoken peace.

From there, the mischief became a kind of shared spectacle. Mannequins hung from trees during Halloween or posed in broken-down cars dressed in lingerie holding a can of Budweiser, bottle rockets on July 4 went too far with an attempt to blow up a neighbor's house, dares to drive a jeep across the pond or ride a bicycle from a rooftop into a swimming pool, and parties going into the late night with cars stretched around the lake and their singing songs by George Jones and Waylon Jennings drifting through open windows. My parents and I would sit on the porch and watch it all unfold, equal parts chaos and community. Beneath it was something almost artful—a restless need to test limits, to leave a mark, to belong before time carried everyone on.

This was Huntington Hills from 1979 through the mid-1980s. Kids covered the streets with bikes and mopeds and usually convened in someone's front yard for a game of football. But the outside was not just a playground. It was also a proving ground where friendships grew from shared laughter and small disagreements that dissolved as quickly as they formed. Parents called from porches, and everyone knew, in some quiet way, that they belonged to the neighborhood.

Today, there are still a few neighborhood kids who drive golf carts to the pond to fish. But most remain inside, iPhones in hand, watching their small screens fill with text messages and short videos. There are no longer scraped knees and elbows, only anxiety and unresolved misunderstandings created by a digital world void of the messy unpredictability of reality.

And to the heroes of my memory—those teenagers—thank you for the stories, laughter, and a sense of being part of it all. You left your mark on Huntington Hills, and on me, in a way that endures time.



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