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December 4-17, 2025

Holiday magic returns to the City of Anderson

Holiday magic has returned to the City of Anderson as the community celebrates the season with expanded holiday lights, festive installations, and a full lineup of events—a testament to the City's growing reputation as a regional destination for the ultimate holiday experience.

This year, the City expanded its Christmas Lights program with two new illuminated locations: Linley Park and City Hall. Linley Park now features the season's most eye-catching addition—giant JOY letters—already becoming one of the Upstate's favorite holiday photo spots.

ICE IN THE PARK OPENS FOR THE SEASON

The City's real-ice skating rink, Ice in the Park, opened December 1st in Carolina Wren Park and will remain open through January 4 (closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day).

Ages 6+ skate for \$5 (includes skate rental and skate aid)

Ages 5 and under skate free!

A special Professional Figure Skating Performance will be held on Friday, December 5 at 7:30pm following the Tree Lighting to kick off the season!

HOLIDAY WINDOW DISPLAY COMPETITION

Downtown businesses have transformed their storefronts for the



annual Holiday Window Display Competition, held in partnership with the Anderson Arts Center.

Winners will be announced on December 5 during the Tree Lighting Ceremony. As you shop and dine downtown this season, enjoy the magical window displays that bring the city to life.

A FULL SEASON OF ACTIVITIES

Holiday events throughout the season fill the City with excitement, offering magical experiences for every age:

December 5 | 4:30 – 6:30pm:
Anderson Area Chamber of
Commerce Cookie Crawl

December 5 | 4:30 – 7pm:
Crafting with Claus at the
Anderson Arts Center

December 5 | 6 – 7:15pm:
Anderson County Tree Lighting
Ceremony on the Courthouse Square

December 5 | 7:30pm: Ice in
the Park Professional Figure Skater
Performance in Carolina Wren Park

December 8 | 3pm: City of
Anderson Christmas Parade along
Main Street

December 12 | 5pm: Free
Photos with Santa and other hol-
iday characters in Carolina Wren
Park

SEE MAGIC ON PAGE 2



Magic

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“We’re excited to build on the success of our Christmas Lights program and continue creating a memorable holiday season for everyone in Anderson,” said Andrew Strickland, Assistant City Manager. “From expanded light displays to new traditions downtown, this year offers more ways than ever to celebrate the season with family and friends.”



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

CITY OF ANDERSON CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Ice in the Park

December 1 - January 4 | *Carolina Wren Park*

Celebrate the holiday season with ***Ice in the Park***, a real ice skating rink in the heart of Downtown.

**Please note that Ice in the Park will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas, and New Year's Day.*

Christmas Caroler Pop-Ups

We will have Christmas carolers popping up around downtown on Dec. 4, 11-12, and 18-19!*

**Weather permitting*

Anderson County Christmas Tree Lighting

December 5 | *Courthouse Square*

The Chamber's Cookie Crawl: 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Live Music - 6:00 pm

Tree Lighting - 7:00 pm

Professional Figure Skater Performance - 7:30 pm

City of Anderson Christmas Parade

December 7, 3:00 pm

North Main Street

FREE Photos with Santa (& More!)

December 13, 5-7 pm

Carolina Wren Park

Holiday Window Display Contest

Voting will be open November 24 - December 2.

Vote online:

cityofandersonsc.com/christmas-in-anderson!

Winner will be announced at the Anderson County Tree Lighting on December 5!

*View our new
Christmas website!*



Follow us @DowntownAnderson for more information!



Modern Woodmen honors Smith

Modern Woodmen of Anderson recognizes hometown folks that do extraordinary things for the community. The members of the company presented Zephania Smith with the Hometown Hero Award for his remarkable contributions to this town. The Cleo Bailey Experiment is a nonprofit organization that assists families daily by giving out fresh fruit and vegetables to those in the community who need homegrown produce. Zephania was humbled by the recognition as he received the award. He accepted it on behalf of all those who have helped him along the way in this endeavor.



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Cheryl Smithen with her grandmother, Rosa Mae Wingard Compton, on the day of Cheryl's first son's christening in 1982.

A family recipe and its history

BY CHERYL SMITHEN

Let's talk about fruitcakes. Most Americans abhor them. They think of them as bricks. Flavorless. Unappetizing. And something that would last through a nuclear winter. But they haven't met this fruitcake. This recipe was made by my grandmother my entire life and well before me. It is titled Syrian Fruitcake. I have no idea what makes it Syrian. Though at one point, I believe I was told that a woman from Syria gave her this recipe. What I do know is that it is rich, buttery, loaded with glacé fruit (cherries and pineapple), pecans and flavored with sweet red wine, whisky or spiced rum and vanilla. After not having made it for many decades, last year I made one and realized that I had missed it for so long. So here we go again. That wonderful sifter that you see in the first photo was my grandmother's. The recipe was copied off her card by my former husband. I have been using that transcribed recipe almost five decades. It's hard to imagine so much time has passed.

SYRIAN FRUITCAKE

Beat together:
6 eggs
1 lb melted butter
1 cup sugar
1 large tablespoon vanilla
1 cup plain flour
1 wine glass of sweet red wine (I translate this as about 5 oz)
1 wine glass of whisky (5 oz.)
Put 1 cup of plain flour over:
1 lb chopped pecans
1 pound glacé pineapple
1 pound of glacé cherries (equal amounts red and green)

Mix the floured nuts and fruit mixture very gently into your batter and pour into a prepared large springform pan. I always oil the pan liberally and then line it both on the bottom and on the sides with parchment paper.

Bake at 300° until it is done. It usually takes my cake at least 2 hours. It may take yours longer. I tested with a knife to make sure that



the batter is done in the center. Let it cool completely before unmolding it store it wrapped in cheesecloth and baptize it with some spiced, rum or whiskey depending on which you used in the cake every few days until Christmas.

Rosa Compton grew up at Thornwell Orphanage in Clinton, SC. She attended Grady Hospital's Nursing School, earning her RN degree in 1916. She met my grandfather, Hallie Compton, who started and owned the Coca-Cola bottling plant in Dorchester County, when she went to Fairfax, SC, as a nurse during the Spanish Influenza epidemic. They married and settled in Summerville when he established the Plant. She lived to be 95. She was my greatest mentor in addition to my mother, who was her third child.

She was a fabulous cook and a lifetime Presbyterian in honor of the institute which gave her her start in life by allowing her to choose to be a nurse. They originally set her up to be a telephone operator, and she hated doing that, and went back to the president at the orphanage, asking him to send her to nursing school.

She was one of the most amazing women I have ever known. She was barely 5 ft tall and had a presence of gentle, loving kindness with a core of steel. You obeyed her because you loved her and wanted to please her. I drive by her house here in Summerville almost every day, and not a day has passed since 1987 when she died that I don't long to see her again.

FAVORITE FAMILY RECIPES

CROCK POT MAC & CHEESE

Submitted by Jamie Bailes

8 ounces macaroni, cooked and drained
1 large can evaporated milk
1.5 cups milk
1 teaspoon salt
1 beaten egg
1/4th cup melted margarine
12 ounces of cheddar cheese
(save ½ cup for the top)

Butter crock pot. Mix all ingredients together. Pour into the pot and top with ½ cup cheese. Cook for 3.5 hours or until church is over.

BROCCOLI SALAD

Submitted by Carol Burns

1 bunch broccoli tops
1 cup sharp cheddar cheese
1 small purple onion, chopped
½ jar Hormel Real Bacon Bits

Dressing
½ cup Miracle Whip
1/4th cup sugar
3 tablespoons white wine vinegar

Mix together and pour over the broccoli mixture

GERMAN SWEET CHOCOLATE CAKE

Submitted by Terry Erskine

1 package (4 oz) Baker's German Sweet Chocolate
½ cup boiling water
1 cup (2 sticks) butter
2 cups sugar
4 eggs separated
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon salt
1 cup buttermilk
Coconut Pecan Frosting

Melt chocolate in boiling water; cool. Cream butter and sugar. Beat in egg yolks. Stir in vanilla and chocolate. Set aside. Mix flour, soda, and salt. Beat in flour mixture alternating with

buttermilk

Beat egg whites until stiff peaks form, and fold into the batter

Pour batter into 3 9-inch layer pans, lined on the bottom with waxed paper

Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until the cake springs back when lightly pressed

Cool 15 minutes - remove and cool on rack

Spread frosting between layers and on top of the cake.

LILLIE MAE'S SWEET POTATO PUDDING

Submitted by Cottage Garden

2-3 cups milk
2 cups sugar
3 tablespoons butter
2 teaspoons vanilla
3-4 sweet potatoes

Grate sweet potatoes and set aside. Mix all other ingredients together in a large saucepan. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly. When the mixture begins to simmer, add sweet potatoes. Cook for 10 to 15 minutes until it thickens. You can serve this way or place potatoes in a casserole dish and bake for 20 to 30 minutes on medium heat.

CHOCOLATE POUND CAKE

*Submitted by Marty Erskine
From the cookbook of Margaret "Peggy" Erskine*

½ pound butter
½ cup Crisco
3 cups sugar
1 teaspoon baking powder
½ cup cocoa
3 cups plain flour
5 eggs
1 cup sweet milk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Cream butter, Crisco, and sugar. Sift cocoa with sugar. Add beaten eggs one at a time. Sift baking powder and flour together. Alternate flour mixture and egg/milk mixture, beginning and ending with dry ingredients. Pour into a pound cake pan and bake at 325 for 1.5 hours.

DO NOT OPEN THE OVEN DOOR DURING BAKING.

'SANTA EXPRESS' SET FOR DEC. 13

Greenville & Western Railway Company, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Western Carolina Railway Service Corporation, is pleased to announce that Santa Claus will be riding the rails again on December 13, 2025, as Greenville & Western hosts its Nineteenth Annual "Santa Express." Following Santa's arrival at each stop, little boys and girls in attendance will have an opportunity to step on board Santa's caboose and tell Old Saint Nick exactly what they want for Christmas and receive a sweet treat... plus Santa will draw tickets at every stop to receive special gifts from his magic gift bag before the train departs.

Honea Path - No stop at Hamby Road this year due to coal train in storage south of Belton

Belton - O'Neal Street - Arrive 8:45 AM Depart 11:15 AM

Cheddar - Cheddar Road - Arrive 12:45 PM Depart 2:15 PM

Williamston - Williams Street - Arrive 3:00 PM Depart 4:30 PM

Pelzer - Lyman Street - Arrive 5:00 PM Depart 7:30 PM *

* Santa plans to stay until the last person has a chance to come through the caboose (Pelzer only) Merry Christmas!



HOW MAY I GIVE TO THOSE IN MY COMMUNITY WHO ARE IN NEED?

Greenville & Western is partnering with the Belton Interfaith Ministerial Association ("BIMA") and the Presbyterian Food Bank of Pelzer and Williamston ("PFB") to collect food for those in our community who may presently find themselves in a time of real need.

Greenville & Western encourages those who attend this year's event to bring a donation of one or more non-perishable food items to the train. Greenville & Western, BIMA and PFB volunteers will be staffing the Aiken Railway caboose (the caboose directly behind the locomotives) to accept your donations and thank you in advance for your generous support of both organizations' food ministry.

Donations are not mandatory for participation in the event. Photos with Santa will be available 7 days after the event at: <https://greenvillewesternrailwaycompanyllc.zenfolio.com>. Select 2025 Santa Express under Events.

HOW MAY I SUPPORT THE ANNUAL SANTA EXPRESS?

In response to enthusiastic community support following the First Annual Santa Express in 2007, Greenville & Western partnered in 2008 with the Greenville Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, Inc. (Greenville Chapter NRHS), a non-profit corporation under Section 501(c)(3) of Internal Revenue Code, to establish an account for the exclusive purpose of providing a way for the public to support the "Santa Express" each year. Greenville & Western is pleased to again announce that interested parties may make tax-deductible contributions to help fund this and all

Western receipts exceed that amount, or 2) an amount equal to Greenville & Western receipts (with the balance retained for the following year's train) if the account balance is greater than Greenville & Western's receipts.

There are two convenient ways to make a tax-deductible contribution to allow a greater number of gifts and giveaways to be purchased each year for the "Santa Express":

If you only require your canceled check as your receipt, you may make a deposit at any Bank of Travelers Rest branch. Your check should be made payable to:

Greenville Chapter NRHS DBA Santa Train Account

If you should require a receipt for your contribution, mail your check (payable as above) to:

Greenville Chapter NRHS, P.O. Box 451, Travelers Rest, SC 29690

Greenville & Western thanks all those who have pledged their support toward this worthwhile community event and looks forward to another successful "Santa Express".

Your continued support is appreciated!

future "Santa Express" trains at any Bank of Travelers Rest location.

Greenville Chapter NRHS manages contributions made to the account on a "reimbursement basis" equal to either: 1) the amount available in the account if Greenville &



YOUR DENTIST CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE

Looking forward is good for your health

This is the wonderful season where we pause and count our blessings. It's also a time for reflection, as we transition from events of the old year to the promise and possibilities of what the new year may bring.

For me, I am so very thankful for my family, for my patients, the opportunity to be of service -- and so much more. And that includes this feature which I hope is providing you with timely and useful information. Over the past months we've covered topics including stress management, healthy eating, the importance of restorative sleep and more -- all for the purpose of helping us on our journey to better health, well-being, and a sense of purpose.

While it's good to look back, chronicle our successes and learn valuable lessons from our experiences (some good and some bad), we must also realize the past is the past. Personal and professional growth lies ahead. Given the rapid changes of today, this mindset takes on even greater significance. Experts emphasize the

importance of future-oriented thinking for success, resilience, and happiness. As you reflect and plan during this holiday season consider this:

- ♦ Looking ahead fosters optimism and motivation. While reliving failures or regrets produces negative emotions.
- ♦ Setting goals and focusing on the future can actually reduce stress and increase our dopamine production, i.e. the "happy" brain chemical!
- ♦ Science confirms



Dr. Gabrielle F. Cannick

our brains adapt and change throughout our lives. By directing our thoughts toward future possibilities and positive results, we can actually "train" ourselves to be more optimistic which in turn enhances our resiliency and ability to adapt to challenges.

♦ No time to be stuck in the past. We live in a time of rapid change that is shaping a future with new and exciting possibilities -- from artificial intelligence to dramatic medical breakthroughs. Embracing continuous learning and technological progress enables us to succeed in a constantly evolving world.

Yes, we know from life experience change is inevitable and happens quickly. Whether it's with job or career, shifts in the economy, to say nothing of the ebb and flow in our personal lives. I urge us all to consider the healthiest approach which is to "anticipate, adapt and thrive". As the new year beckons -- with its infinite possibilities -- let's together embrace a future-oriented thinking for success, resilience, good health and happiness.

Thank you, my loyal readers. I'll do my best in the new year to bring fresh, interesting and potentially useful information to you through this forum. It is my privilege to do so and I invite your feedback. If you would like to discuss any

of the subjects addressed here, please reach out. We are here for you. Consider us your hometown resource for guidance and support.

Dr. Gabrielle F. Cannick is the owner of Grand Oaks Dental, located at 3905 Liberty Highway in Anderson. A strong believer that dental fear and anxiety should not prevent any patient from receiving the highest quality dental care, Dr. Cannick has received extensive training in Sedation Dentistry and is a certified member of the Dental Organization for Conscious Sedation. She is also a member of the South Carolina Dental Association, the American Dental Association, the Academy of General Dentistry, and the American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine.

For more information about Grand Oaks Dental and the services provided, please call 864-224-0809, or click to grandoaksdental.com or visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GrandOaksDental>.

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HANNA'S SEASON ENDS IN PLAYOFFS

T.L. Hanna led Indian Land for much of the night but eventually lost a heartbreaker to the Warriors, 43-41, in the third round of the state AAAAA playoffs on Nov. 21.

The game was a remarkable show with a number of big plays.



Brian Hodges

The clincher for Indian Land was a 91-yard touchdown pass to Jamol Horton with less than 2 minutes remaining to pull out the victory.

Hanna finished the season with a 10-2 record.

Jackets coach Jason Tone knew his team was vulnerable going against an excellent passing team from Lancaster County.

"We're extremely young in the secondary, and we had to replace a defensive back this week due to an injury," he said.

Still, the Yellow Jackets were outstanding upfront on the defense. John Michael Tripp, a senior defensive end, had 2 sacks, and three tackles for loss.

"He had probably his best game of the season," Tone said. "He was excellent."

Sophomore defensive end Connor Ash and junior linebacker Carson Cole had 4 tackles each.

Jameerion Oliver, a senior linebacker and fullback, was a leader with five tackles, including three tackles for a loss and a sack.

Offensively, the Yellow Jackets had plenty of standouts.

Brock Cole rushed for 125 yards and a touchdown and caught a 27-yard scoring pass.

Emari Nance scored twice. Jimmarion Boston ran tough inside, gaining 70 yards on

9 carries. Elijah Grimes had 66 yards on 10 carries.

"We dictated play from the start," Tone said. "I'm proud of our kids for their fight, but hey, that other team made some big plays at the end."

Hanna led 18-14 at halftime, was in front 25-14 in the third quarter and 41-29 in the fourth quarter, but could never stop the Warriors' passing attack.

Hanna was also tormented by numerous penalties. They were flagged 15 times for 175 yards. Indian Land had 3 penalties for 35 yards.

Coach Tone was restrained in commenting on the officiating.

"I certainly didn't agree with all those calls," he said. "But a lot of those are judgment calls."

Did Tone think his defense played undisciplined? He said, no.

"We competed hard," he said. "There are always things we need to work on."

"We've had several games with over 100 yards in penalties, and if the calls involve facemask penalties or holding, yes, we can correct that."

The Jackets dominated play in the first half, building an 18-7 lead on a touchdown pass to Brock Cole, a 1-yard TD run by Nance, and a 34-yard field goal by freshman Corbin Lack.

But Indian Land quarterback Matt Kucia, a 10th-grader, sparked the Warriors' 96-yard scoring drive with 7 completions in a six-minute march that closed the gap to 18-14 at halftime.

"I've really been impressed with our kids' growth this season," Tone said. "We took a loss in the opener (against Byrnes), but we got tougher as the season progressed."



St. Joseph's students spread Christmas cheer downtown

Mrs. Liz Martin's art students from St. Joseph's Catholic School came downtown to help spread Christmas cheer to the residents of Anderson. They designed and painted the window at the office of The Electric City News. What a talented and delightful class of young people.



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A curated collection from the estate of John Richard “Buck” Fulp, Jr. of Anderson is now available for online bidding.

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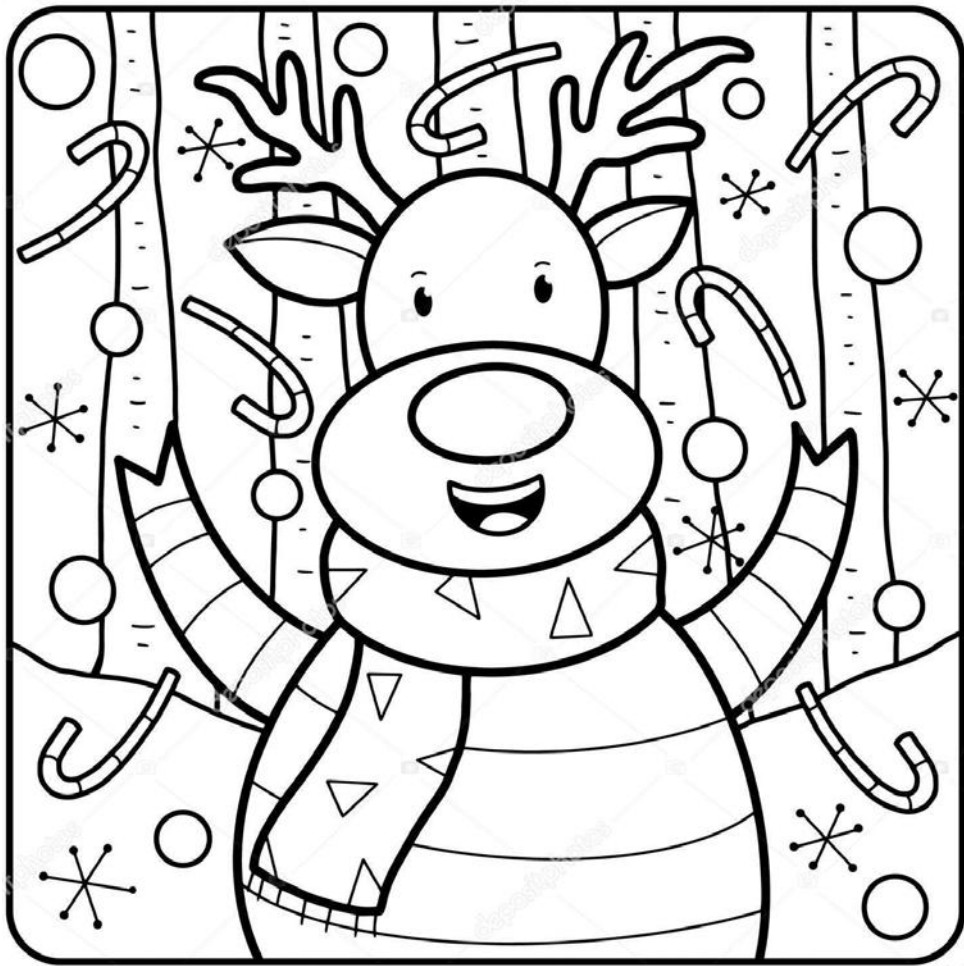
ASSET HIGHLIGHTS

Large selection of antiques	Horse tack
Boat with trailer	Cast iron pieces
Neon signs	Hit-and-miss engine
Pac-Man arcade game	Heaters & safes
Vintage gas pumps	Electronics
Harley-Davidson train sets	Stereo Speakers
Equestrian trophies	Rare collectibles & more!

ABOUT BUCK FULP

John Richard “Buck” Fulp, Jr. passed away on June 17, 2024. Mr. Fulp served as President of Abney Mills for many years and as Chairman of The Abney Foundation for 64 years. He received Honorary Doctorate Degrees from Lander University, Clemson University, and the Medical University of South Carolina. A passionate racer in the 1960s, Buck loved anything with horsepower—cars, motorcycles, and boats. Bullseye Auction & Appraisal is honored to have been chosen to liquidate significant items from his estate.





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Santa

A Christmas Carol Word Search

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BLESS
CHRISTMAS
FUTURE
GHOST
PAST
PRESENT



Pulmonary hypertension grips a 51-year-old woman, but she's fighting back

Angie Allgood just wanted to watch the game.

She was at Clemson's Memorial Stadium in April to watch the Savannah Bananas baseball team when she decided to walk up the steps and get a snack. It changed the course of her life.

"I was a normal, healthy 51-year-old with a wonderful, boring medical history," she said. "For about a

year prior to April, I had been noticing some shortness of breath when I went up steps and just some

changes in my ability to breathe. I also started having some heart palpitations, but I completely pushed it all under the rug, thinking, I'm probably premenopausal. It's probably hormone changes... I just need to get on the treadmill more, right?

"All of the symptoms that I now know were probably important to pay attention to, I completely pushed those away."

As she walked up the steps, Allgood started having extreme difficulty breathing — and she didn't have her phone. Her heart was racing, and she collapsed, caught by a stranger standing behind her. When she regained consciousness, she was told that her skin had turned gray and her lips were purple. The people around her thought she had died.

After a battery of tests, Allgood was referred to Dr. Abhijit Raval, a pulmonary and critical care specialist at AnMed Pulmonary & Sleep Medicine, who discovered that she has pulmonary arterial hypertension, often referred to as PAH, a form of pulmonary hypertension.

AnMed was South Carolina's first accredited regional care center and the nation's sixth, offering leading-edge care and treatment of the condition.

UNDERSTANDING PULMONARY HYPERTENSION

Pulmonary hypertension, or PH, is a complex disease that can be caused by a variety of factors. According to the Pulmonary Hypertension Association, which marks November as Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness Month, PH is a progressive lung

condition in which patients experience high blood pressure in their lungs. Arteries in the lungs can become damaged, narrowed, or stiff, putting pressure on the right side of the heart and forcing it to work harder to push blood through the arteries.

This can cause right heart failure and death.

"It used to be considered as a female, young age predominant disease, but that's not

true anymore," Dr. Raval said. "The diagnosis is complicated. Most of the time, people have shortness of breath with

exertion, and then as it progresses, they may have more symptoms, like chest pain, swelling in the feet, passing out spells, which are rather delayed symptoms."

The vague symptom of shortness of breath during exercise makes it difficult to pin down and often delays diagnosis.

"It requires testing from all different standpoints. It needs several blood tests checking for metabolic issues and liver problems," Dr. Raval said.

Tests may be needed to check for lung or heart abnormalities, blood clots, sleep apnea, autoimmune disorders, and more — all of which could be more common causes of shortness of breath. The "gold standard" test is a right heart catheterization.

"It is a small catheter, a plastic tube, that we introduce through a vein, and then it goes through different chambers of the patient's heart," Dr. Raval said. "That is the test that will distinguish between whether it is the pulmonary arterial hypertension, which is pretty rare, versus pulmonary hypertension, which is more common.

PH is generally associated with underlying diseases, including heart failure, valvular heart disease, sleep apnea, lung disease, COPD, lung disease associated with scarring, post covid, and pulmonary fibrosis.

For people who develop pulmonary fibrosis, we do have a very specialized inhaler treatment available for that, which is quite new. Other than that, we take care of these folks with rehab, diet modification, fluid medication, sleep apnea treatment, exercise therapy, and so on. We treat the underlying problem



Dr. Abhijit Raval meets with patient Angie Allgood during a follow-up visit at AnMed Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine.

that is contributing to the elevation of pressure within the pulmonary system."

A SECOND CHANCE FOR THE FUTURE

Most people see more than two physicians to get a diagnosis.

"People are sent from a lung specialist to a heart specialist by their internal medicine doctors and maybe from one center to another

center before someone thinks about pulmonary hypertension," Dr. Raval said.

With PAH, which is the form Allgood has, about half of the cases are idiopathic, which means there is no known underlying cause. Many cases are associated with autoimmune conditions, including lupus and scleroderma. But Allgood noted that her great-grandfather, grandfather, and father all died suddenly at young ages, and family history is a risk factor for PAH.

"I am kind of grateful that, if this is genetic, for whatever reason, I was able to wake up from what my dad and my grandfathers never woke up from," she said.

Dr. Raval is treating Allgood with specialized medication. AnMed offers a disease-specific coordinator to help PH and PAH patients navigate their care, as well as a support group and participation in research programs in conjunction with other centers, including Duke University Medical Center and the Medical University of South Carolina.

But Dr. Raval said one of the most important roles filled by the center is working with local health care providers to help patients get a diagnosis, then they can get appropriate treatment and ongoing care, and evaluation.

It's working for Allgood. Six months after she collapsed at the game, she was able to see the Savannah Bananas again, and this time, she saw every at-bat.

"I got to sit and enjoy the entire game. It was wonderful," she said.

Cookie Crawl Info

WHAT IS THE COOKIE CRAWL?

The Cookie Crawl is hosted by the Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce in Downtown Anderson before the Christmas Tree Lighting on December 5th from 4:30-6:30pm. Downtown businesses will be passing out treats for children ages 12 & under!

DO I HAVE TO PAY? WHERE DO I GO?

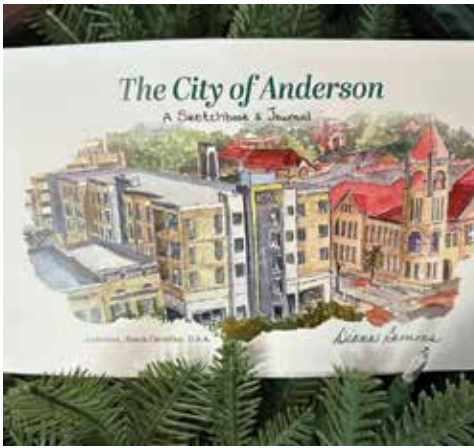
This is a **FREE** event! Check in at the Anderson Chamber (432 N Main St) to get your first cookie & receive a list of Cookie Crawl stops to check off.

WHAT IF THERE IS INCLEMENT WEATHER?

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THE GARDEN SHOP

Sasanqua surprise



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Somehow a splendid sasanqua show slipped up on me...say that three times fast. When Helene took down a big oak tree along the driveway, it severely damaged a cedar tree on the way down. A small sasanqua was spared. Good intentions kept nagging that the cedar tree needed limbing up to make room for the sasanqua, or I needed to try and move the sasanqua. It's never bloomed. There is a tag in my garden book for rainbow sasanqua. My guess is it goes with that shrub.

When cutting parts of the downed oak, cleaning briars, muscadines, and the crushed cedar tree, another

sasanqua in the same area started to stand out. It was visible before, but I have no recollection of this sasanqua. These two shrubs were planted to help block the land next to me. Thankfully, in 2019, that land became mine. The second sasanqua is much taller, about eight feet tall and maybe half as wide. There is no potential tag in the garden book. The area between the driveway and the woods used to be cut with the lawnmower, but along the way, it was allowed to grow up a bit and get bushhogged when the pasture gets cut. Apparently, that's where the neglect of this mystery sasanqua started.

But now, the area is being cut with the lawnmower again, and the little sasanqua smothered by the cedar tree is recovering. Then, it seemed overnight, the bigger sasanqua was covered in blooms. It was eye catching all the way from the house. Yogi and I walked to get



Splendid sasanqua surprise

a closer look, and we were stunned. This shrub is beautiful. Of course, deer have eaten around the bottom portion, about three or four feet up. But the rest of the shrub is covered in sort of dark pink blooms, and each petal has a slight dusting of white on it. Most camellias have fence around them to keep deer from eating them. Fence may be

put around this one too. Hopefully the little one will bloom too, and I might be able to tell if the rainbow tag is for it. Some camellias get sprayed with Bobbex repellent.

Camellia sasanquas start blooming in the fall, blooming usually into December or January, depending on variety. Their leaves are smaller; they grow more open and vase shaped and

generally grow faster than camellia japonica. Japonica varieties generally start blooming in January, with some varieties blooming in early spring. Japonicas grow dense and upright. Sasanquas will grow in more sun than japonica too. Japonica varieties should be in afternoon shade. Well-drained soil and good air circulation are a must. Scale is a common insect problem with camellias. Good air circulation helps decrease that.

Generally, it takes more searching for sasanquas that suit my taste. Flowers, for the most part, are not as big and showy as japonica. While walking around the yard to see what other camellias are blooming, it occurred to me there are about equal numbers of sasanquas and japonicas. There are hybrids too. Snowbells (*Camellia handelii*) smells wonderful. High Fragrance, a japonica, was planted in April of 2023 inside the fenced backyard as a memorial to Cadet, our blue-eyed wonderful pup. High Fragrance supposedly smells like a rose. Buds are setting and hopefully I'll find out what it smells like in months to come.

A DAY OF GRATITUDE AT THE FARM

The weather was perfect at the farm – clear skies and just a little breeze. The temps were a little on the cool side but not so cold that a warm jacket wouldn't take care of the nip in the air.



Ann K. Bailes

The cabin was ready, tables and chairs set up and decorated. Even the two year old helped, setting out silverware and using a duster to get rid of cobwebs underneath the chairs.

One by one people began arriving, carrying crockpots and platters and bowls and pies. One sister roasted and brought the turkey (something for which I was particularly grateful). The food table was filled from one end to the other with all the traditional Thanksgiving goodies – mac and cheese, ham, sweet potato casserole, dressing, giblet gravy, and plenty more. New friends from China brought potstickers for all to try.

One of the brothers gave the blessing, and all filled their plates and dove in. The cabin was full of food and fellowship. No one went



hungry in body or soul.

After all were full, the action moved outside, to the raging blaze that one cousin had built in the fire pit. We were joined by other family members who had eaten elsewhere but came afterward. People pulled chairs around the warmth and chatted in groups. Cousins, siblings, in-laws and friends who don't get to see each other very often got caught up on all the latest news. Three new babies who had been born since the last gathering all got plenty of attention and love. Others preferred more



activity – Some rode eBikes, and Mike took off in the golf cart with one of his sisters to look for a Christmas tree she could cut down.

Then, brother Steve set up his new clay target launcher, and the more ambitious among us tried their talents (and luck) at hitting the skeet that went flying through the air. This year only a few were successful, but the sight was still fun for all to watch, including those cuddling the babies and holding their ears so they wouldn't be startled by the loud shooting sounds.

The bright sun was finally setting. The babies were getting tired, and others needed to leave to go to other gatherings elsewhere. A

few people did a bit of grazing, getting a last bite of chips and dip, or grabbing a cookie or slice of cake. Several made plates of leftovers to take to family members who couldn't be there, or for our family nurse who had to work that night. People began loading their now-empty dishes into cars and trucks, drifting away with hugs and remarks of "So good to see you!" and "Let's do this again next year!"

Thanksgiving is a time to focus on our many blessings and gifts from God. And one of the things we are very thankful for is the gift of family and friends who assembled at the farm on a beautiful autumn day.



HEY, ANDERSON COUNTY!

Can you believe we're about to celebrate 200 amazing years? We're thrilled to be celebrating this milestone with our wonderful community. Get ready for an unforgettable year filled with special events, festivals, and more. Follow us on social media for all the latest updates and announcements.

Let's make our bicentennial year one for the books!

TALK TO ME

Talking to oneself is a common and natural phenomenon that most people engage in. It helps with sorting out problems, processing information, and making decisions.



Neal Parnell

Listen in on the conversation I'm having with myself right now, minus the profanity. "This is ridiculous. How do I write about talking to myself?" "Just write what's in your head, idiot." "But you're in my head and I can't think because you won't shut-up, moron."

"You do realize you just called yourself an idiot and a moron?" "Shut-Up!" "You Shut-Up!" I'm not sure who my inner self is, but he is no smarter than I am and appears to be a bit sarcastic most of the time. When I was young, I'd look in the mirror for an extended period, but I don't spend too long on the reflection I now see. Yesterday I caught a glimpse of myself and did a double-take. "What is that on my face?"

"It looks like cancer."

"Shut-Up, it's not cancer." It's pretty big, maybe it's a tumor? "Will you be quiet so I can see?" "Maybe you're growing another head." "If you're in it I'm cutti...Wait, it's just a spot on my glasses." "Idiot" "Shut-Up" "You Shut-Up." I think there are different aspects of my personality that I converse with. For instance, my inner Coach that tells me, "Buck up, buttercup, you can do it. Now Go! Go! Go!" Then there's my inner Harsh Critic that says things like, "You know you're gonna screw this up," or "Are you going in public with that face?" There must be some crossed wires in my noggin and every so often I'll ask myself a question and get an answer from a TV or movie actor. Wanting to clean the gutters, I asked myself, "I wonder if that ladder is tall enough to reach the roof?" "You've got to ask yourself one question: 'Do I feel lucky?' Well, do ya, punk?" As I was struggling to open the lock on my building out back, an inner voice said, "Say hello to my little friend!"



When I talk to myself, I believe that I do it internally, but I'm not so sure after what I heard yesterday. I was grocery shopping when I came upon a lady whom I thought must be talking on the phone. But as I got closer, I saw she wasn't. This lady was in a full-blown self-conversation. "Do you think we need these peas? We have some, but they are on sale. I'll

you need expert advice. I think it may be the brain's way of helping us survive when there are no others around. I don't know who or how many I'm talking to in my head, but when I'm trying to think, could y'all please Shut- Up! No! You Shut-Up! No! You Shut-Up!

get a couple of cans, 'what about green beans? I'd rather have butterbeans, wouldn't you?" She paid no mind to me as I inched closer and I don't think she would have stopped talking if I had been beside her. She moved on, still talking as if she and herself were the only one around. She seemed happy talking aloud to herself, and even though she made me happy, it was a little disconcerting. I'm going to try my best to keep my self-communication silent unless I'm sure that I'm alone.

It's perfectly normal to talk to yourself. Maybe you can't find anyone else to carry on an intelligent conversation or perhaps

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You are invited to St. John's United Methodist Church for our Christmas Open House on Sunday, December 7th, from 2:00-3:30 p.m. There will also be a Christmas piano recital from 3:30-4:00 p.m. Join us as we enjoy the beautiful Christmas decorations

and listen to Christmas carols played on our pipe organ. 515 S. McDuffie St., Anderson, SC 29624. Admission is free. Please join us on Sunday, December 14th, at 10:25 a.m. for the St. John's United Methodist Church Christmas Music Program. Come and celebrate the Christmas season with us! 515 S. McDuffie St., Anderson, SC 29624. Admission is free. St. John's United Methodist Church 864-224-6563

PROJECT FEEDERWATCH

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FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY TO RAFFLE QUILTS

I volunteer at the Friends of the Library bookstore, which is located inside our main library's lobby on McDuffie Street. As a non-profit, we function to provide advocacy and fund projects for the Anderson library system- everything from materials and travel funds



Lisa Wilson

for the VEX Robotics teams (who participated in the World Championships), the Sonic Lunch program that features monthly noontime concerts by GAMAC musicians to the 1000 Books by Kindergarten and so much more.

If you haven't already been to our bookstore and you live to read and love a bargain, you are missing out! As an avid reader and book hoarder (I mean, book lover), it's fun to work there and see (and buy) the latest donated books as well as getting to meet new people and chat with our regulars. The Friends also have a gift shop with lots of cool, literary-focused gifts

among other interesting finds. In addition, the gift shop sells coffee, sodas and snacks and even has an online store where you can order more great items and support the Friends as well.

This year we are lucky enough to be the recipients of two gorgeous quilts, which we will be raffling off on December 10th. They were donated by the Prickly Fingers Quilters Guild. The current president of the Guild, Louann Martin, shared that they celebrated 35 years this March and there are 70 members on roll. For many of those years, they met at the Anderson Library. In 2024, they moved to the Jo Brown Senior Center due to space and time constraints.

I also spoke with Lou Russell, who made the quilt top of the book quilt included in the raffle and learned a bit about the philanthropy they do. Within Prickly Fingers, there is a philanthropy committee led by Stamie Cline. They support many local organizations such as hospitals, police departments, veterans, First Light, Anderson Cancer Association and churches with gifts, stockings, and quilts to those in need or crisis. The fabrics used by them are all donated,



ed, often by families of former quilters.

There are two quilt guilds in Anderson- the Prickly Fingers Guild and the Electric City Guild. If you were fortunate enough to have made it to the quilt show at the Anderson Civic Center in 2024, you're already aware of the fantastic quilts being made by locals. Together, they contributed over 200 quilts in the last show! There were also around 15 other vendors. It's presented every two years, and I certainly plan to have it on my calendar for 2026. The dates are July 17th and 18th.

Tickets for the raffle are \$10 each and can be purchased in the Friends bookstore or gift shop, so come see these gorgeous quilts in person, buy a raffle ticket and maybe a Friend's membership, and do some Christmas shopping while you're here! The two quilts are currently hanging in the main lobby of the library right outside of the gift store. And as a visual bonus, on Dec 1st, Prickly Fingers will create the annual Christmas library window display.

The Friends of the Library is always seeking volunteers (half price books!) and you can find volunteer applications in either store. Also, we have a new public Facebook page. It's already up but due to the Thanksgiving holidays, it may be a bit sparse, but I have ideas so follow now to keep up. Our page is Friends of the Anderson County Library. Feel free to drop comments, questions, or suggestions.

Also, please donate your gently used books, CDs, puzzles, and DVDs to the Friends bookstore. Hope to see you soon!

For more information on the quilting guilds, visit andersonscquilters.org



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FROM THE SHELF

On books I read this year that are good for gifting

I did some pretty voracious reading this year (as I write this, I'm about to complete book 236). It was both diverse, and not at all. I read a lot of new-to-me authors who repre-



Sara Leady

sent different identities than my own, but I also read some variation of romance probably 70% of the time. Still, I have some pretty broad reads from this year that might help with some last minute holiday shopping.

The Message by Ta-Nehisi Coates - I cannot recommend Coates' writing enough. The Message is his latest but anything by him would be a fantastic gift.

Marsha: the joy and defiance of Marsh P. Johnson by Tourmaline - Prior to this book I wouldn't have been able to tell you who Marsha P. Johnson was and that's honestly a travesty. She was huge in both the Civil Rights and LGBTQ Right movements—she

was literally at Stonewall. While facing violent backlash against her existence she stayed true to the words she lived by, "pay it no mind."

The Book of Alchemy by Suleika Jaouad - This book is about the art of journaling—not just as a chronicling habit, but as an exploration and evolution of self. I myself lean more toward art journaling than true journaling, but Jaouad makes the case for why we should all take up the practice. With essays from a multitude of creative voices, the book provides you with unique prompts to get your brain juices working.

Brigands & Breadknives by Travis Baldree - This cozy fantasy is a literal hug and ode to the incredible power of friendship. The whole series is fantastic (pun intended).

Quicksilver & Brimstone (first two in a series) by Callie Hart - On paper I feel like this series shouldn't work but Hart manages to balance gods, fae, vampires, demons, humans, and portal jumping, into an epic adventure romantasy series worthy of the BookTok praise. Warning: Brimstone's cliff-

hanger ending was pretty rude.

The Mighty Red by Loise Erdrich - This is a hard one. My book club wasn't sure they'd recommend this title, but it makes sense for the serious fiction reader or someone who likes to wade into the murky mess in everyday life. You won't regret reading it, but you won't necessarily feel good once you finish. I'm always a sucker for Erdrich—she's easily one of the most quotable authors I read and always gets thinking deeply for a long time after.

Boom Town by Nic Stone - I'll admit to being a bit of a Stone fangirl, but her adult debut did not disappoint. It's a gritty mystery that pays homage to the will of a strong woman to survive no matter how dire the circumstance might be.

The Moorwitch by Jessica Khoury - Khoury is a local author, and this was her adult debut. It's a slow-burn romance with an interesting magic system. Magic is achieved through embroidery, and Khoury went deep with historical accuracy. It's a book to marinate in. Anyone into the fiber arts will appreciate the needlework details.

Relationship Goals by Brittany Kelley - This one is pure rom-com fluff, but I stand by it. I'd call it Roy Kent (Ted Lasso) fanfic, and I mean that in the literal best way possible. I know I spit my coffee out laughing more than once.

Under Loch and Key by Lana Ferguson - This one, honestly most of Ferguson's books, is not for the light romance readers. Ferguson and a monster romance featuring the Lochness Monster is for seasoned romance readers. The banter is delightful, the spice very spicy, and the monster stuff gets weird, but seasoned pros will be here for it.

As you do your book shopping, I would also encourage you to shop at indie bookstores. If you're shopping online, you can support your local indie by shopping through bookshop.org. It will allow you to choose a specific indie to support and I would love to recommend you choose the lovely The Pendleton Bookshop (downtown Pendleton if you want to visit in person!).

THESE ARE A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS

It's that time y'all! I become Oprah for a few minutes and name off my favorite things list. I'm always keeping my eyes peeled for new clothing, accessories, gadgets, make-up, products, kitchen goods and home decor and everything that is over the top and bougie. Let's all pretend like we have an endless budget just for fun and pick what would be on our dream list of things to have.

Firstly, everyone needs a cute pair of pajamas. They have to be really stylish and comfortable though. Cozy Earth makes some really luxurious ones that are temperature controlled, so they're not stuffy or hot and they're made out of bamboo stretch knit. They come in a variety of colors for both men and women. They're right at 148\$. So, they're definitely on the pricey side, but that's what this article is about. They also have bedding and towels so add that in to the bargain too. Secondly, let's delve into blankets

to go with our pajamas. The Lola blanket is considered the softest and most durable blanket on the market. With double sided softness and a no



Kristine March

shed faux fur, you can't go wrong. It would go perfectly with a cup of coffee and a good book or for a good cozy up, movie night with the family. The colors

they come in are very soothing and will go with all of your home decor. They're also machine washable. They total to about 399\$ which is completely ludicrous for a blanket like that, but that's what we're here for.

Next up on our foolish list is something edible. Over the past few years I've really enjoyed caviar immensely. I had a really good kind on my 40th birthday, which was The

Marky's caviar and it's really affordable, but we're going to get even more outrageous and get the Alma's caviar. It's insanely pricey because it comes from a scarce blue sturgeon fish. The labor from the fishery worker is also quite time consuming. It has a very rich, creamy flavor with a nutty hence. It would go perfectly with a bottle of Dom Perignon. Hey, you only live once.

Next is a kitchen gadget. The Smeg stand mixer is 657\$ and you can make your cookies and cakes in style this Holiday season. They also make espresso machines to go with your desserts. I do love the retro style and the great colors, like pastel pink, mint green, bright red, and even jet black. It will definitely make your kitchen look really stylish. Those come with a good warranty because at that price, they better.

Now let's get into some jewelry and clothing accessories. Judith Leiber makes some really unique and

eye-catching pieces. She's famous for her Swarovski crystals, sapphires and diamond covered french fry container clutches. She uses lipstick shapes and cupcakes. Any kind of object you can think of she covers it in tons of diamonds and adorns it. Most of her bags go for about \$5,000, but her most expensive clutch went up to over \$92,000. It was a rose shaped bag and covered in over 2000 pink sapphires. Now that's certainly the very definition of opulent and ostentatious.

Lastly, are some of my personal favorite products the first one being the Kai beauty bag. Kai is a company out of Malibu California and Gaye Straza makes the best perfume oil on the planet. She would travel to the tropics as a young girl and she literally bottled it up from her memories. It is a luxurious gardenia and rose scent that is extraordinary. She makes candles, body lotions, body washes and a spray on body oil and

even candles to go with it. It's worth the price right at 50\$. Now for my last over the top product. The winner is a toothpaste. Yes, that's right. We even have bougie oral hygiene now. Marvis toothpaste comes in the most beautiful aluminum tube packaging. It looks very old timely. Like something made back in the 1800's in France. It gives your bathroom an instant, classic aesthetic. It comes in ginger flavor, cinnamon and even earl gray. Really lovely and at right around 12\$. A little steep for toothpaste I must say, but then again that is what this article was about. So, what are some of your favorite, outlandish products this year? These are all fine and dandy, but in reality, the holidays are about giving and not receiving and also helping the less fortunate and giving back, but we can still pretend and have fun. Remember to make the sidewalk your runway and kindness always matters. Happy holiday shopping.

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THE ANDERSON TROLLEYS

BY RICH OTTER

In 1989, the City of Anderson acquired the bus system that had been operated by Duke Power Company since 1934. Duke provided \$2,225,000 as an endowment for the city to agree to acquire the system, and transferred all of the equipment and its operating personnel to the city. The Electric City Transit System was formed to operate the buses.

The City of Anderson received funding for the bus system from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the SC Municipal Insurance Trust (SMITF), supplemented by the Transit Endowment as well as income received from riders.

In 1990, when it became necessary to acquire a new bus for one of its routes, the city purchased a unit called a trolley from Chance Coach, Inc. of Wichita, Kansas. The trolley decor was a visual reflection to the days of the old streetcars that serviced Anderson in the early 20th century. The trolley did not run on tracks as did the streetcars. It was a wheeled bus. It looked very similar to the old streetcars.

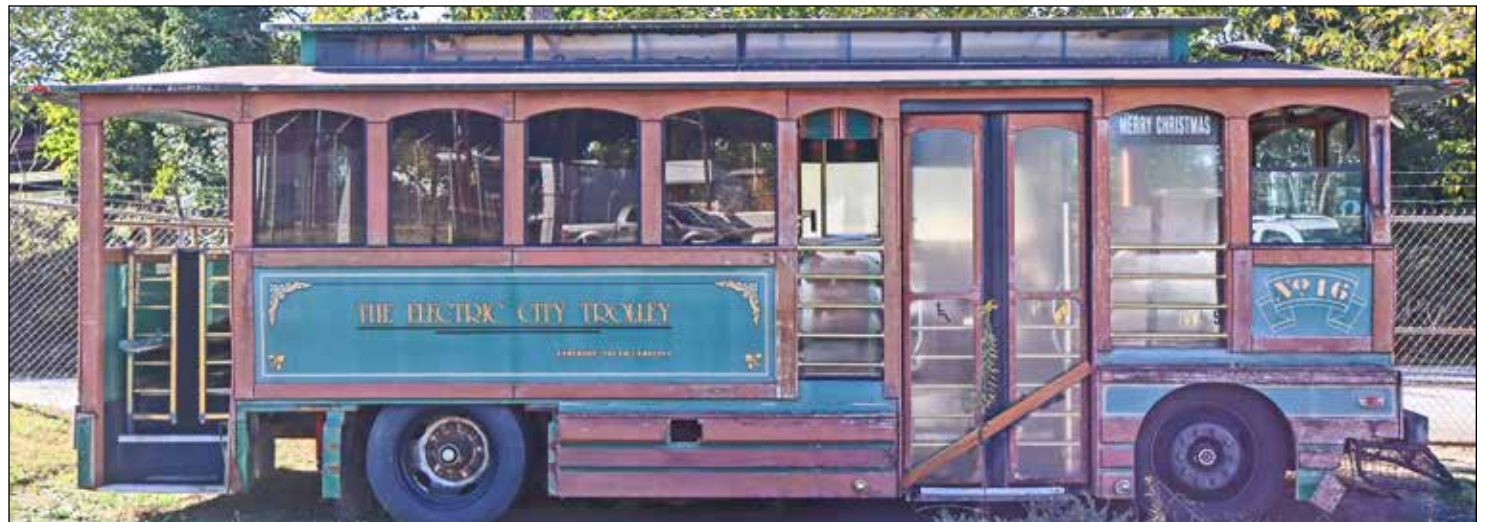
In 2001, a second trolley was added to replace the original trolley on its regular route. The trolleys were estimated to have a life expectancy of about twelve years. The first unit was No. 16 and the second unit was No. 32. The numbers were assigned based on dates of birth of council members or family members. Units 16 and 32 are retired but still stored by the city. They are not now operational. The State has determined they can never again be utilized on city streets for safety reasons, even if they were put in running order.

Currently, the units are primarily used for storage. No. 16 has several windows out and has been subjected to inclement weather that brought drenching's, but, amazingly, internally it is in remarkably good condition. The old wooden seats show surprisingly little damage.

Throughout the interior of both units there are brass poles running from seat separators to the ceiling as passenger supports and there are hanging grab handles for standing passengers. On the ceiling of both units, there is a monitor-type roof that extends almost the length of the interior. Above the driver's seat on the outside of the unit is the old bell.

Coming up the steps while boarding the trolley, you would have encountered a little box to accept your appreciation for the ride before locating your seat. The wooden seats have slightly arched backs. There were brightly colored curtains that could be pulled down when the sun reached a blinding angle. One such curtain still exists in the No. 16 unit.

The primary difference between the two trolleys is that the second trolley, No. 32, had additional seating capacity by adding long bench seats (with appropriate back support)



and having fewer row seats with smaller accommodation.

No. 16 had a back platform that was eliminated in No. 36. The later model was enclosed to provide additional seating and because the open platform in the earlier unit was considered dangerous. The platform on No. 16 was utilized during Christmas parades to provide the mayor and council members outside room to acknowledging the crowds and throw candy to expectant children. After No. 16 was retired from route service, it continued to be used for the parades and special programs.

In addition to their regular route, the trolleys had been sometimes used for special occasions, such as birthday parties or weddings.

Although the trolleys will never roll again under their own power, they are of considerable historic significance. Memories of the old streetcars are preserved through the tracks that survive on a short stretch of North Main Street, and in old pictures. The two trolleys, however, may be currently out of mind, but, fortunately, they are still in existence. One, or both, could make excellent monuments to remember the trolleys themselves and the former streetcars.

With approval and supervision by the City, it might be possible for a group or organization to undertake the preservation and exhibition of one or both units. There is no reason for them to be restored to operating condition.

Much of the reconditioning could simply entail elbow grease with a few windows repaired. Exhibition expense would depend upon whether they would only be viewed externally or if arrangements could be made for times when citizens could actually pass through a unit. Of course, that would require making a ten-cent deposit to the fare box.

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