

# Anderson & Associates offers range of services

By Kristen Hebestreet

Press Staff Writer

Whatever gets built later, surveying is always the first step.

"Before you can design anything, you have to know what's there," said David Breeding, survey manager for Anderson & Associates' Tri-Cities office. "About 99 percent of what we do has to start with surveying."

The Tri-Cities is such a rapidly growing area, Anderson & Associates offers what Breeding calls "one-stop shopping" for developers. He said it lowers the chance of miscommunication on a project when there is only one company and not a surveying company, an engineering company, a design company, etc.

It also makes it easier to make minor adjustments in the design, Breeding said, such as when a massive rock is in the path of a sewer line and the cheapest thing to do is to move the sewer line a few feet rather than moving the rock. What works on paper doesn't always work on the ground, he said.

The team currently is working on an engineering and surveying project for the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Mountain Home, which consists of replacing a domestic water main and doing extensive survey work.

Other projects include water-line extension surveys for the town of Jonesborough, water and wastewater project mapping for the new federal prison in Lee County, Va., site design for East Tennessee State University student housing and road projects with Bristol and Johnson City.

The company is working also on the Virginia Department of Transportation chemical dome construction record survey and assisting the Blacksburg office with Global Positioning System control survey on the Va. Highway 58 project in Grayson County.

Some of the surveyors for these projects come from East Tennessee State University's Surveying and Mapping Science pro-



Staff Photo by Kristen Hebestreet.

## David Breeding, survey manager for Anderson

gram, where students get hands-on experience in the profession. There are plenty of redundancies in the system, so the students' work is checked and rechecked before the survey is complete, Breeding said.

Danny Stanley, Matt Blankenship, Brian Waddle, Amber Thomas and Jeff Ogletree work on everything from research to field work to drafting. Aaron Broyles and Jessie Smith assist the team as rodmen.

"They want to be surveyors," Breeding said about the ETSU students. "We get a better quality worker and we get really good people from there."

Once the data is collected, much of the design work is done

on the Computer Aided Drafting Design system. This system has transformed the drafting, Breeding said.

Owner Ken Anderson started the engineering and surveying business in his home 30 years ago while he was studying for his master's degree at Virginia Tech. The 30th anniversary edition of the company newsletter says he often finished his survey drawings at 2 a.m., and then he'd copy them on the printing machine in his garage.

The company now has 200 employees, with offices in Blacksburg, Middletown and Richmond, Va.; Greensboro, N.C.; and the Tri-Cities office in Gray.