

LAURA GREENE | HPE

Amanda Anderson, owner of Spindle & Spine Bookstore in High Point, arranges merchandise at the downtown shop at 504 N. Main St.

New bookstore opens today

BY PAT KIMBROUGH
ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

HIGH POINT — Amanda Anderson has plenty of books for sale at her new business in downtown High Point, but she says her vision for Spindle & Spine Bookstore is broader.

"One of the things that people may think is that we're wall-to-wall books, and that's not what we're going to be. That was never the intention," said Anderson. "Books are the center and the main focus, but we have a lot more. This is intended to be a community space that feels like home. We want you to come in and sit and stay."

The shop opens Thursday at 504 N. Main St. next to First United Methodist Church and the parking lot that's accessed at the signalized intersection with Church Avenue.

High Point has been without a bookstore for years, and Anderson was inspired to fill this void by opening an independent shop.

Her first choice for a location was a storefront just down the block on Church Avenue, but it didn't work out.

After looking at other sites all over High Point, the church-owned space (which she is leasing) became available after the Special Blend coffee shop closed over the summer.

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Anderson said it's an ideal location within the city's downtown catalyst and social district near other retail and restaurant locations that have opened in recent years.

"For a store like this to survive, I felt it would have to be in some type of growing district," Anderson said. "I'm thankful that I'm part of that. There's just so much coming, I thought we could really use some more retail down here. I love collaborating with other people and making sure everybody is seen and has a voice."

Spindle & Spine features new releases from best-selling authors like Sarah Maas and several shelves with multiple categories of fiction and nonfiction.

"We want to have something for everybody in every genre," she said. "Right now, we have motivational, historical fiction, autobiography, new fantasy, and I've spent a lot of time curating local authors. I know what I like to read, but I don't know what everybody else likes to read. So, right now, this is a learning experience in making sure I have what everyone wants."

Local authors whose works are for sale at the store include John Railey, Dan Sellers, Joe Blosser, David Roberts, Matt McGee and Rene Whitley.

They're among the 15 or so local vendors whose books, artwork, jewelry, furniture, soaps and other items are for sale inside the shop.

Anderson said patrons can bring in their own coffee drinks, but the store is not offering any food or drink service of its own.

The shop features large couches and chairs where patrons can read or do work. Anderson said she's also designed the space to be family-friendly, with a designated play area for young children.

Spindle & Spine's operating hours will be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays.