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October 27-November 9, 2022

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# **'IT'S A DYING ART**

# Close-knit upholsterers reflect on decline of their craft

BY JANA MACKIN Emmett Tucker eyes the threadbare arms of an old easy chair someone loved enough to save from the dump. As a master upholsterer, Tucker views the chair as an invitation to restore and reupholster this discard into an object d'art. At 82-years-old, the retired craftsman loves hanging out with other upholsterers such as Steven Moore and Mike Thornton as they reminisce about their craft as well as the decline of their craft due to lack of interest, trade programs and a throwaway culture that values cheap over workmanship.

"It's a dying art," said Tucker, retired Army and state vocational rehab instructor. "It's not for everyone. It's hard work, really hard work," he said. "You are never paid enough for what you do, which is take it way down to the frame and start over."

At Moore's workshop, these tradesmen belong to a small close



Retired Army veteran and state vocational rehab instructor Emmett Tucker is a master upholsterer.

knit community whose memories and friendships live as they talk amidst the sounds of sewing machines and staple guns, tapping out a Morse code for a dying art.



Steven Moore, left, and Michael Thornton are part of a close-knit community of upholsterers who are keeping "a dying art" alive.

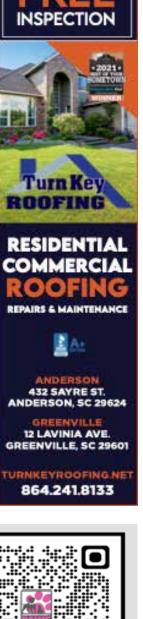
Т

Just mention Florence Commander's upholstery shop which was the go to place to learn the trade decades ago. Way back, Tucker was

SEE ART ON PAGE 2

mentored and befriended by Jake

Burdette, an old timer who figured













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#### Art CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

large amidst local craftsmen. Both Tucker and Burdette worked with Gary Thornton as well as others over the years. Later, Burdette also mentored Moore in the craft. Moore called him his adopted "grandfather." Burdette also had a son, Lanny, who learned and inherited the shop from his father. Thornton helped teach the trade to his son, Michael.

Jake and Gary died years ago. Lanny died last year.

"It's like a family," said Moore, 50. "It's a dying breed. We're of an age where we would like more young people to pick up the art." "It's something you've been doing all your

life," said Thornton, 59. "You've get to life it." Thornton said "

"You've got to like it," Thornton said," especially when somebody says 'WOW!"

Tucker is an is an old school craftsman who learned upholstery from the ground up spitting tacks and practicing on old furniture. After nearly seven decades, he has known and worked with most Anderson upholsterers living or dead. However, his friendship with the Burdette family is a black and white snapshot of how friendship and a shared craft transcended the hate and turmoil of the Civil Rights movement in the Deep South.

"I was just a young black boy from the ghetto looking for a job," said Tucker. He began working the trade as a teenager at B.F. Neal Upholstery and went on from there.

"I just started out sweeping the floor and cleaning the bathroom then got moved to driving a truck, making pickups and deliveries. Then I went to Commander's Upholstery. That's where I met Jake (Burdette). He took me under his wing and I learned there. I picked up a lot on my own and he showed me a lot and I learned the trade."

Melody Solesbee, Jake's daughter, remembers her father's close professional and personal friendship with Tucker, perhaps best expressed when the family insisted one evening that Tucker dine at their table instead of eating outside in the back.

"My dad was a sharecropper's son... He was self taught," Solesbee said.

"Daddy and Emmett worked at Florence Commander's shop. He also had a sideline upholstery business. They would work all day there and then at night at my dad's shop. When I would visit dad at work he had tacks in his mouth," she said.

"I was six when I met Emmett. I called him 'my big brother,' and he called me 'his little sister," Solesbee said. "My Dad and Emmett promised each other whoever died first, the other would speak at their funeral."

"He spoke at my dad's funeral," she said.

Older craftsmen such as Tucker remain fragile bridges between a vanishing past and uncertain future for the art of upholstery that faces formidable challenges in a world of mass production. Tucker worries about the future for the traditional upholstery. These days, Tucker said, young people "want to make a



Michael Thornton works on an upholstery project.

fast buck' and most furniture is so cheap "I wouldn't have it in my house."

Still, there is a little hope as a few groups of concerned craftsmen, artists, historians, entrepreneurs and upholstery lovers have emerged to promote, educate and nurture the upholsterers' art. The National Upholstery Association was formed three years ago to work with the greater upholstery community to advance the field of professional upholstery and to inspire a rebirth of this art of "sculpting shapes" so it is not silenced by the din of manufactured obsolescence, crass consumerism and a throwaway culture.

"We are trying to do our best to stop it from dying completely," said Lewis Mabon, upholsterer, furniture designer and board member. "Our goals are to be a resource for everything upholstery. We are doing everything we can to help upholsters stay viable."

"This organization is by upholsters and for upholsters to stay strong," Mabon said.

#### National Prescription Drug Take Back Day and Shred Day Fall 2022

AnMed is partnering with local law enforcement for Prescription Drug Take Back Day. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration will provide safe disposal of your unused or expired medication, including controlled substances.

Shred-A-Way will also be on site to provide secure disposal of unwanted documents.

#### Saturday, October 29, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

AnMed North Campus 2000 E. Greenville St., Oglesby Center Flagpole Area

All pills are accepted (including controlled substances).

No liquids, Insulin, inhalers, needles, creams, powders, etc., will be accepted.



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#### ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR DOWNTOWN FACADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT

# UP TO \$55,0000 + DESIGN ASSISTANCE

#### **ELIGIBILITY**:

The Downtown Facade Improvement Grant is for any downtown business or property owner seeking grant funds to finance exterior improvements to a commercial building that will be aesthetically pleasing and complimentary to local design guidelines.

#### **USE OF FUNDS:**

The facade grant program provides financial assistance for improvements to building facades to invest in business development and enhance the street experience in Downtown Anderson. Grants up to \$5,000 may be provided to property owners or tenants. Eligible invoices include items such as outdoor furniture, fixtures, signage, awning, paint, windows.

Design assistance is available and requires a consultation with staff.

All grants are reimbursement basis.

For more information email: bgamble@cityofandersonsc.com

#### APPLY SEPTEMBER 15, 2022 - MARCH 15, 2023

TO APPLY VISIT: andersonsc.viewpointcloud.com ADMINISTERED BY: City of Anderson Economic Development Division



# AnMed announces new logo, branding

AnMed is sporting a new logo and look! AnMed, a comprehensive health system based, has recently introduced a new logo and branding. The rebrand reflects the health system's commitment to compassionate, modern healthcare, community, healthy living and personalized and convenient care for the eight counties it serves in upstate South Carolina and northeast Georgia.

"Our recent brand rollout marks a significant milestone in our journey, providing an opportunity to reflect on everything that the original AnMed brand stood for and everything that we aspire to become as we move forward into an exciting future. As you can imagine, the healthcare industry is always changing, and we too need to evolve in order to meet the changing needs of our communities," said Brett Justice, Chief Strategy Officer at AnMed.

AnMed has a long history in Anderson and its surrounding communities, and the new identity had to satisfy patients' existing expectations for the level of service and quality of care while simultaneously moving the brand forward. Another important factor was growing and expanding as new healthcare needs arise.

AnMed's new logo was designed so the mark is modern and inviting, with clean, intuitive elements that ensure the design is easy for customers to recognize and quickly



associate with their community's health system. Additionally, the word "health" has been removed to simplify the logo.

Along with the new logo design, AnMed unveiled its new tagline, "Better starts here." The line capture's AnMed's identity as a healthcare company committed to providing better care for its patients and finding ways to continually evolve and improve as a healthcare system.

"The healthcare industry is always advancing, and our identity should reflect that," said William Kenley, AnMed's CEO. "Our logo and identity were developed as a symbol of good health, and inspired by the community we serve. Through consumer research, we learned what characteristics our community felt were highly important for personalized, modern healthcare. And we were able to uncover what customers felt made AnMed unique."

Many attributes that define how AnMed approaches healthcare — such as patient focused, personable care paired with the latest medical innovations and technologies — have been incorporated into its new rebrand.

"To me, striving for better means improving the quality of care we provide — constantly reaching for excellence clinically and in terms of the patient experience. We believe the tagline "better starts here" is versatile and takes on meaning for all the audiences we touch. For consumers, patients and their physicians it means that getting better health

— and that starts with AnMed. For donors, volunteers and other stakeholders it instills confidence that their dollars and hard work are being invested in a worthwhile cause and inspires trust that they are backing a winning organization that is always looking for ways to improve. For employees it reflects what we've always done: strive for better in all we do and reminds us to focus on learning and finding ways to improve ourselves", Kenley went on to say.

Elements of the brand like its tagline "Better starts here" also serve as inspiration for the company itself, a reminder of AnMed's own commitment to serving its community as a proactive ambassador of good health.

Also included in the rebrand is a modern and easy to navigate new website that provides effortless access to all of AnMed's services complete with tools like online provider scheduling, easy bill paying, updated location pages and more.

For more information about AnMed's rebrand or its comprehensive health system, visit www.AnMed.org.

# **ELECTRIC CITY EVENTS**

Anderson County Library: Saturday November 19th, Karen Grassle, actress and author of Bright Lights, Prairie Dust. Known best for her role as Caroline Ingalls (Ma) on Little House on the Prairie, will speak about her life and memoir. Copies of her book will be available for purchase.

Anderson County Library will be hosting Local Author and Small Press Fair in person. The library will have local authors and literary-related artists and offer an great opportunity to discover new books, find holiday gifts and all while supporting local and regional authors and artists. Applications for participation closes on November 6th. The Fair itself is Saturday December 3rd from 1:00 to 4:00 PM

BELTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS - Holiday Market November 8th 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Take care of your holiday shopping with unique, handmade gifts you wont find anywhere else. Opening night will offer homemade vegetable soup and cornbread for this holly, jolly atmosphere of local makers. If you would like to be a vendor in the holiday market, please visti our website www. beltonmuseum.com

ANDERSON SPORTS & ENTER-TAINMENT CENTER

Thursday, October 27 A.I.M. Event Wine & Cheese Event Ballrooms 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Contact: Susan Anderson 864-965-9082 susan. anderson@aimcharity.org

Thursday, October 27 Sheriff's Dept. Kid's Night Out Parking Lot 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Contact: Christi Lee 864–260–4368 clee@ andersonsheriff.com

Sunday, October 30 Cub Scouts Mobile Race Parking Lot 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Contact: Johnny Johnson 864-520-6922 cfdfiredoc12@ icloud.com

Monday, October 31 Special Pop's Trunk or Treat Parking Lot & Ballrooms 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Contact: Kathy Schofield 864-964-6566 lkschofield@andersoncountysc.org First Church of Christ, Scientist in Anderson will present a free talk entitled "Why Everyone is Needed" at 2 pm on Saturday, October 29 at the Anderson County Library, 300 N. McDuffie Street.

The speaker will be James Shepherd, C.S., a Christian Science practitioner and a member of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship. He'll talk about our unbreakable connection to God and how it gives everyone a permanent sense of worth and purpose.

In addition to working in the Christian Science healing ministry, Shepherd, a former rancher who lives in Eugene, OR with his wife and family, lectures at prisons and youth detention centers around the country.

First Church of Christ, Scientist-Anderson is located at 4323-A Old Mill Road. For more information about the lecture or church services, please call 864-760-0043.

The Bee Hive - Cookies with Santa

Sat, December 17, 2022, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM 510 North Main Street Anderson

The Bee Hive - Christmas Sip & Shop

Thursday November 10th 5:00 to 7:00 PM

510 North Main Street, Anderson Join us for our annual sip and shop event with music, spirits, yummy food and LOTS of great shopping! You dont want to miss it. It's our best one yet!

Tracie Start Home - Sip & Shop and Holiday Open House November 4th 11:00 AM November 5th 6:00 PM 314 South Main Street, Anderson

Anderson County Womans Club Annual Christmas Bazaar November 18th & 19th Friday - 9:00 to 5:00 Saturday - 9:00 to 3:00 Seasonal refreshments Gifts for everyone on your list!

The Kitchen Emporium Holiday Open House Saturday November 5th 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mimosa bar in the morning, food samples, wine samples in the afternoon.

Door prizes and so much more. Get your gift giving shopping early!

Bark Sip & Shop 404 South Main Street, Anderson November 4th and 5th Gifts for the pups in your life!

The Vine Antiques and Gifts (formerly Remnants) Holiday Open House 100 Main Street, Anderson November 4th and 5th Friday 5:00 to 8:00 PM Saturday 11:00 to 6:00 PM Light refreshments served There's something for everyone on your list

Palmetto Distillery Cocktails & Comedy

Halloween Edition - October 28th @ 7:00 PM

\$5 plus after party! 200 W Benson Street, Anderson

# How not to be a zombie on Halloween

I pity the writers of the modern horror movie. I mean, what is there left to write about? In 2022 alone, we've seen



horse-eating aliens, killer smiles, and a deranged individual who's been stalking the same babysitter for 44 years. But as

scary as these films might be, none of them are as scary as reading the newspaper.

As the economy falters, economists are starting to use the "R" word. Russia and Ukraine are waging war in the shadow of a nuclear power plant. Climate change has washed away parts of Florida and dried up Lake Mead. Families have been torn apart by political differences. And the weight of dealing with these issues around the clock has turned us all into a bunch of zombies.



You know the characters I'm talking about, the "undead" who stumble through the world on autopilot, eyes unfocused, pinballing off other zombies but never connecting, looking only for food. I see that scenario every day as my overloaded coworkers make multiple treks to the office candy bowl. Personally, I feel like that most of my waking hours, so what's the way out for a zombie like me? To destroy the zombie, you destroy the brain.

Before you alert the authorities, I'm not planning on hitting myself in the head with a hammer. What I am planning on is more like turning off part of my brain for a while. I still believe that keeping up with news, both local and global, is a responsibility, but supply chain issues aren't going to get any worse if I look away for a day or two. And what better time to look away than on Halloween?

First, it's hard to be unhappy when you're in costume; if you don't believe me, ask the many, many four-year-olds who won't get in a car unless they're wearing Spiderman t-shirts or tulle tutus. Many workplaces allow employees to dress up on Halloween, so take advantage of the opportunity. And if your creativity (or wallet) has shrunk over these recent grueling months, remember that a track suit, sun visor, and fake mustache make you immediately recognizable as Ted Lasso.

Next, make a Jack O'Lantern.

Could there be a more Zen experience? Scooping out the pumpkin guts and carefully carving the design is a tactile experience that requires focus on the here and now. In my case, it also requires letting my tongue stick out for just a little extra concentration.

Last, get into the spirit of the holiday. Make a Halloween playlist with songs like "Thriller," "Ghostbusters," and "I Put a Spell on You." Buy a bag of your favorite miniature candies for your own private trick-or-treat. Stream your favorite Halloween movies. If your scare tolerance is low, try "Hocus Pocus." If you really want a fright, go old-school with Alfred Hitchcock's "Psycho." And if you want a real tearjerker, try the Disney animated feature "Coco."

The bottom line is, if you want a break from being a Zombie, don't be one this Halloween. Instead, use the holiday to be silly, to be creative, to be emotional. It's a real opportunity to tune out from the real world and tune into experiences that leave you feeling alive rather than undead.



Have you ever thought about solar to power your home? NOW IS THE TIME!

SC Homeowners get paid to switch to solar thanks to the Power Payback Program.

The state of South Carolina just passed a new law making solar MUCH more affordable for homeowners. For a limited time, homeowners with existing "smart" meters can receive 25% of the cost of the solar system in tax credits by going solar. Combine this with the federal program offering 30% in additional tax credits, and you can go solar without spending a penny out of pocket while simultaneously lowering your monthly energy cost.

Only 25% of homeowners qualify. Contact us to see if you are one of the lucky ones!

Kim Harding Solar Consulting and Installation Brite Solar 843-575-0396

Find out if you qualify by giving us a call or send us your contact info via the website contact form below: www.BriteSolarSC.com or 843-575-0396



#### **THE GARDEN SHOP**

**31<sup>ST</sup> CONCERT SEASON** 

# Fall color with stately oaks



It's been six weeks now since I've spent time in the yard. Knock on wood, my toe is healing. I've piddled around in the garden shop area, checking on plants for master gardener plant sale, watering cuttings, and walked through the back area behind the fence once. This part is mostly shrubs that don't require any tending. I haven't even walked through the front garden because I would want to work in it. I'll fuss and cuss the weeds going, or gone, to seed next year. Or as the saying goes, one year to seed, seven years to weed. So be it.

Enjoying the garden from a distance has to suffice but continues to be a pleasant surprise. Fall color is creeping in. The red maple in the front garden has already turned red and lost its leaves. It is fantastic for about week then the leaves are gone. With that 20/20 hindsight, I'm not sure a maple tree would be planted in the garden again. The roots are very shallow. It has grown moderately fast, and is providing some shade, but those roots are a problem. Another red maple did not recover from its girdled root and was finally cut down. Poor azaleas are still in full sun. They're hanging in there though. Mother Nature planted an oak tree nearby. It's going to get babied and will hopefully provide some shade in the next few years.

If you're familiar with Doug Tallamy, professor of entomology and wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware, you know the value of oak trees. Oak trees support lots of birds, host butterflies, and attract caterpillars, which feed the birds. To sum up his philosophy in four words, plant an oak tree. Some may pass them by because of their size or slow growth. But with a little searching and planning, it can be easy to find one unless your yard is tiny.

Trees Upstate gives away two trees to Anderson County residents each year. They had them at the Farmers Market in April. However, it is never a good idea to plant a tree in the spring. Fall and winter are ideal times. A swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*) and a shumard oak (*Quercus shumardii*), both SC natives, came home with me and immediately got potted up into a bigger pot. A seven foot tall, skinny tree, in a one gallon pot would not have survived the summer while it waited to go in the ground. Once my foot can operate the shovel, they'll be at the top of the planting list.

Swamp white oak was chosen because it has big leaves with silver undersides, hence bicolor. It should be pretty blowing in the wind. These trees are supposed to be a moderate grower and do not have to grow in a wet place, although I might try to plant it where water stands when we have a lot of rain. Bark seems interesting with deep furrows, scaly, and some peeling. Fall color is bronze, red, purple and/or yellow. It takes a long time to produce acorns which is not important for me. Maybe it won't attract deer and other varmints. I love to see turkey wandering through though and they like the acorns.

Shumard oak is supposed to be a right fast growing type. It is another drought tolerant one and can also grow in places with periodic flooding. Limbs on it do not grow low on the trunk like some other oaks so limbing it up



Pin oak with willow oak in background

won't be needed. Fall color is a brilliant reddish orange color.

A pin oak near the edge of the yard is just beginning to turn bronze. It's been limbed up over the years to have a high canopy. Those "pins" along the branches can make for some painful pruning. Glad it's tall enough now that pruning is not needed anymore. A willow oak across the yard has been left to grow as it sees fit. The limbs are very low. To walk under it, one must bend over. Its foliage is still green but will turn rusty colors. These oaks put the maple tree to shame all the way around.

PIECES OF PEACE & LOVE

GAMAC Chorale | Don R. Campbell, Conductor with special guests, the Anderson Children's Choir | Lauren Castellano, Conductor

> Friday, November 4, 2022 | 7:30pm First Baptist Church Anderson

> > Adults \$20 | Students \$10 864-231-6147 | www.gamac.org

Sponsored by Margaret C. Herndon and Publix Supermarkets Charities GAMAC is funded in part by the South Carolina Arts Commission which receives funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

#### community

# A ghostly experience

#### BY ANN BAILES

Mike and I were not expecting to find something unusual, much less eerily unusual. All we were doing was driving home right as dusk was fading into total darkness. Little traffic was on the road, and the evening was quiet. We had no intentions of birdwatching, no particular interest in anything at all except just getting to the house.

Then both Mike and I spotted a hunched-over shadowy figure on an electrical wire. The hour was too late and too dark for this to be a hawk. It had to be an owl. And at the same time we both saw its heart-shaped face, and knew we'd spotted one of the most unusual owls to get a look at — a barn owl!

We quickly turned around in a nearby driveway and rode back to get another look. This was definitely not a more common barred or great horned owl. The giveaway was that whitish heartshaped face — the barn owl is the only one in its family to have this unusual facial structure. It was visible even in the dark shadows of late evening.

After we watched it for a few minutes, the owl took off, probably going after some small rodent in the field. Then we got to observe another spooky feature about the nocturnal bird — when it flies, it is ghostlike, the only good description for its flight. It has whitish underparts, and those pale wings seem to flit like an apparition out in the field. And even more ghostly, barn owls do not hoot like most owls — their only sound is an eerie, raspy call.

Barn owls may be the most common species of owls in that they are found on every continent except Antarctica, but they are very uncommon in that they are rarely seen. They hide themselves well in trees and old buildings during the day, and hunt almost exclusively at night unlike other owls who are occasionally seen flying around in daylight hours.

This was a great find. I had never seen one, and Mike hadn't since the days back in the '60s when a pair of them kept company at his grandmother's home on Calhoun Street. In his words: "Several of us were in the yard when somebody realized there were owls in the big oak tree next to an outside barn garage, up on a limb. All of us out there looked up, and we could see the heartshaped faces peering down at us. They nested for several weeks in that tree. Someone even came out from the paper and wrote a story about them."

Who knows — we may never see another barn owl. After all, we've been looking at birds for over 30 years and this was the first in all that time. Maybe that's OK. Maybe one ghostly birding experience is enough.





# <section-header>

2840 S. MAIN STREET

#### community



#### **PASTOR APPRECIATION**

The Reverend Jackson Taylor has served Roberts Presbyterian Church in the West Anderson community for the past thirteen years. Prior to coming to the Roberts congregation, Jack served churches in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina. He is married to the former Miriam (Mimi) Tucker of McRae, GA. After roaming far and wide, Jack is glad to report that his three children and five grandchildren have all settled in the Carolinas. He has one great grandchild with another on the way.

Jack was called to ministry after graduating from Georgia Tech. He holds two degrees from Columbia Seminary in Decatur, GA and a doctorate from San Francisco Theological Seminary. While past the normal retirement age, Jack feels called to share the Good News of Christ as long as there are people eager to hear and God lends him breath.

# THE NIGHT STALKER

The wait was over, the time was finally here. He had been planning, scheming, and plotting for weeks. He imagined doing twenty, but would settle for ten. This would be his first time and there would be no need for weapons, he would only use a sturdy plastic bag and his bare hands to execute the job. An unexpected kink was disrupting his master plan. His Mom had insisted on going with him, and he couldn't believe

she would want to be a part of such a grisly nightmare. He'd keep her away from the houses and

Sip n' Shop





use her as a decoy and distraction, or perhaps she could help dispose of the unwanted pieces. His disguise would



who chose to be lifesaving heroes such as Iron Man, Superman, or Spider-Man. He would not slash his prey into submission by pretending to be Jason, Freddie, or Michael. Ghastly grim ghost, ghouls, gremlins and gob-

not be like the others

lins were everywhere and quickly eliminated in the movies he'd seen. His cover would be that of the most trusted and approachable figure on the planet; one that would make them feel comfortable as they lowered their heads to view the open plastic bag. Charlie Brown.

Darkness crept over the posh neighborhood he had chosen to do his deeds. His accomplice was instructed to stay back and act as if she didn't know what was about to transpire. A short pudgy Batman across the street was pointing and laughing at his zig-zag shirt and pale round face. He knew that laugh,

and recognized the little flying rodent from the pull-up diaper sticking out from the caped crusaders tights. He would have a talk with that pointy eared Dark Knight later.

The long lighted driveway to the mansion was uphill and he stopped halfway to catch his breath while wondering if he should go on, but he was driven by an unstoppable force of craving and desire that pushed him toward his goal. The columns of the great house were wrapped in orange and black streamers and what looked to be a real skeleton hung from the door. There was a large cauldron smoking beside a life sized witch that cackled when he got close. When he pushed the doorbell a blood-curdling scream sounded from above and he screamed with it. The door creaked opened, and he stood frozen as he looked into the eyes of Frankenstein's monster. His plan was over, there was only one thing to say to the tall, square headed beast... Trick or Treat? A massive green hand dropped an Almond Joy into his bag and slammed the door. He looked down into the bag and said to himself, "Good Grief".

HAPPY HALLOWEEN EVERYONE!

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# October 28-November 14

#### WHAT?

RENT is a blood-pumping rock musical set in 1991 New York City. Acclaimed author Jonathan Larson tragically passed away on the eve of its Off-Broadway opening; after a 12-year Broadway run, a Pulitzer Prize, 4 Tony Awards, and a feature film, the musical is finally making its Anderson debut. In the story, a group of young bohemian artists look to make a life worth living in the face of poverty, rampant addiction, a growing HIV/AIDS epidemic, and the looming question: how do we pay the rent?

#### WHERE?

Market Theatre, located in Downtown Anderson within the Anderson Arts Center.

#### WHEN?

Thursdays 11/3, 11/10 at 7:30pm Fridays 10/28, 11/4, 11/11 at 7:30pm Saturdays 10/29, 11/5, 11/12 at 7:30pm Sundays 10/30, 11/13 at 3pm + 11/6 at 7:30pm Monday 11/14 at 7:30pm

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#### FROM THE SHELF

# AN ODE TO AUDIOBOOKS

The debate over whether listening to audiobooks actually counts as reading is a continuing drama in the book world. Experts have weighed in, and everyone is still managing to be at an impasse because the experts



say, "it depends." Part of this depends on what exactly you're looking to get out of your reading experience. For someone wanting to do a deep analysis of the text, and really dig into each sentence, and unpack the meaning of each word? Eh, maybe audio isn't

the best route. But for a casual reader where you want the story, the characters, the vibe? Audiobooks are a great option, especially if you're super busy or do a lot of driving.

I've found audiobooks are also a great motivator. I often use audiobooks as a reward for doing things. Can't handle the unbearable weight of cleaning? What book can I listen to to make it fun and exciting? Can't drag myself to the gym or go for a run? Is there a book I can use as a carrot to get me out there? A motivation for this week's "review" is a recent read/listen, Thank You For Listening by Julia Whelan, who also happens to be one of my favorite audiobook narrators (she's seriously fabulous).

Thank You For Listening is not just written and narrated by Whelan, an award-winning narrator, but is also about an audiobook reader, so it has extra layers of audiobook goodness. The book follows Sewanee Chester, a celebrated narrator of serious fiction. Under a different name, she's also a very sought-after romance reader, but she refuses to go back to that world because "romance is a lie." Sewanee is



offered the opportunity to narrate one last romance at the deathbed request of a very famous author, who said she'd release this one book as audio, but ONLY if Sewanee will read the woman's part. Obviously no one can say no to that, and this is where our romance comes in, because the male reader and Sewanee hit it off as they start to communicate about the project and its pronunciations, cadence, speed, all the gloriously nerdy audiobook-production things. Since it is a romance, it's not a spoiler to tell you that naturally there's a happy ending and Sewanee, of course, is back on board with romance maybe not being the lie she thought it was.

Wonderful story aside, the performance



by Whelan on this book might honestly be one of her absolute best, and in my pretty qualified opinion, that was a high bar to beat. Whelan is a former actress, and her ability to pull accents, cadence shifts, and everything else is phenomenal. If you didn't know she was the only reader, you would absolutely assume there were others reading, especially for the male voices. She's literally that good. This is part of why Whelan is one of my favorites, but also is part of my argument for audiobooks as a whole, because when you get a magical narrator like Whelan, the story itself is elevated in a way that as a page-turning reader, you just can't reach.

I wouldn't go so far as to say this is one of those books you should listen to rather than read, but if you need the nudge, then definitely just lean in and listen. There are several books I often advocate listening to instead of reading the print/ebook version. Often this has to do with the narrator, but it can have a lot to do with formatting or prose style too. An example of this would be Lincoln in the Bardo by George Saunders, which is all dialogue, written and formatted like a play, making it easier to listen to than to read. It's got a full cast, too, which heightens the experience.

Audiobooks sometimes also have sound effects for added immersive fun. Like the Mystwick School for Musicraft and the accompanying symphony, or Star Wars and all the blaster and saber sounds. I really cannot fully express my love of and gratitude for audiobooks. Not just because of their motivating factors, multitasking, whatever, but also because I really don't think I would be able to read half as much as I do without them.

Some narrators I love and would even listen to them read the phone book:

- January LaVoy
- Julia Whelan (obvi)
- Moira Quirk
- Robert Petkoff
- Jim Dale
- Bahni TurpinRory Kinnear

If you're interested in actual books, not just narrators, by all means hit me up. Just brace yourself for an overexcited word vomit of suggestions. You've been warned.



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#### Meet children's author Mariana Ríos Ramírez at Anderson Main Library

Mariana Ríos Ramírez will be at the Anderson Main Library for her debut children's book, "Santiago's Dinosaurios", on Tuesday, November 15 at 6:30 p.m. Inspired by her son's love of dinosaurs and his experience when the family moved from Mexico to the United States, "Santiago's Dinosaurios" is a story of perseverance, creativity, and friendship. Families can enjoy dinosaur-themed activities and purchase books to be signed by the author at this free event.

Mariana Ríos Ramírez is a Mexican author who lives in Anderson with her husband, two kids and a Chihuahua mix dog named Rogers. She is passionate about writing stories for children about diversity, kindness, and that can inspire positive feelings and dreams. "I hope that by reading this book, children who are going through the same struggles as Santiago will see themselves in the story," says Ríos Ramírez. "I want them to know that they are not alone; that it will take time and hard work but they will eventually be able to communicate and make friends. For kids who have classmates or friends like Santiago, I hope they will realize that being kind, patient, and welcoming makes a huge difference in others."

The book tells the story of Santiago, a dinosaurio fanatic about to start first grade. The problem is he's starting first grade in a new school and a new country. Nervous about being the new boy in school and struggling with English, Santiago discovers that by sharing his love of dinosaurs he'll find a new way to belong and make new amigos. Praised for its compassion and insight and with lively, colorful illustrations by Udayana Lugo, "Santiago's Dinosaurios" is a delightful book about diversity, inclusion, and friendship perfect for children ages 4-8.

On November 15 at 6:30 p.m., Mariana Ríos Ramírez will share an excerpt, sign books, and give away free bookmarks and stickers for kids. Children and families will enjoy dinosaur-themed crafts, activities, and a scavenger hunt. Books will be available for purchase, perfect for home libraries or holiday gifting. For questions, contact Brianna at 260-4500 x107 or bjones@ andersonlibrary.org.

The Anderson County Library System serves residents of all ages in Anderson County across nine library locations, a bookmobile, and the digital library. For more information, news, and events, visit www.andersonlibrary.org.



## FESTIVAL OF TREES RETURNING TO ANDERSON

The Anderson Free Clinic is excited to announce that the Festival of Trees is returning to Anderson! With the blessing of Foothills Alliance, the former host of the event, it will be back after a 5-year absence. This 4-day event, November 16th-19th, will take place at the Bleckley Station, 310 S. Main St, Anderson, 29624 and will feature 30 designer-decorated

Christmas trees, wreaths and other holiday décor. 50 Magic Santa Keys can be purchased for \$100 each. The owner of the winning key gets the tree of their choice before the live auction begins.

Tuesday evening, November 15th, the decorated trees will be posted online to kick off the bidding and to allow voting for your favorite.

Wednesday, November 16th, is a free Sneak Peek preview open to the public, 10a.m.-7p.m. with local school groups and individuals performing throughout the day/ evening.

Thursday, November 17th is a \$30 ticketed Luncheon at which time the tree award winners will be announced. Attendees will have the opportunity to bid on beautiful holiday wreaths and other festive décor. Doors will open at 11:30 and lunch will begin at noon. A special price of \$225 is available for a table of eight friends.



Friday evening, November 18th is a formal Snow Ball beginning with a social hour, 6:00-7:00, followed by dinner from Sullivan's Metropolitan Grill. Before the auction begins, the Magic Santa Key will be drawn and the winner will get to select their favorite tree. Jimmy Johnson and crew will then kick off the live auction for in-person guests and those following online. Tickets are \$100.

Saturday morning, November 19th, is Goodies with the Grinch, a ticketed event for children of all ages! The Grinch himself will be there for pictures and mischief. Grinch doughnuts, storytime and crafts will be included; \$10 p/person, although under 2 is free.

All information, including sponsorship opportunities, tree designer applications, tickets & Magic Santa Keys, is available on our website: https://andersonfreeclinic.org/ festival-of-trees/ or simply scan the QR code above.

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**NATE THOMASON** 

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JANA MACKIN

ZACK MAULDIN

# **'Traditions and History of Anderson County'**

#### BY RICH OTTER

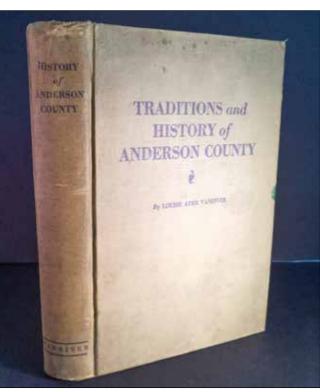
Louise Ayer Vandiver wrote probably the most frequently quoted, as well as updated and reprinted, books about Anderson County: Traditions and History of Anderson County. It has been criticized and sometimes discounted as to its historical significance but the fact is that it remains an iconic reference.

The preface to the book freely acknowledges it is a compilation of information acquired over many years from multiple sources, derived from memories and stories that had been passed down.

It was first printed in 1928, almost 100 years ago at a time much closer to the happenings described, and the stories of those she encountered should not be discounted if for no other reason than their proximity to the recalled events. If nothing else, they represent perceptions of such events.

Concern has arisen because Louise Vandiver took some fantasy trips romanticizing incidents and applying her own imagination or reflecting embellishments that had evolved through the years. Certainly one such incident could fit soundly into the drama of the novel Gone with the Wind.

Vandiver described how Anderson's namesake, Robert Anderson, had galloped off on his steed to South Carolina and vicinity leaving the love of his life, Ann Thompson, with promise of his eventual return to fetch her. After some two years without a word from him, she had given up hope and thought he



must be dead. But he finally decided to return. On his way back he discovered she was about to marry another. Good grief! Spurring his poor horse on, he dashed toward her doorstep.

It so happened, the story goes, Ann was in process of suiting up in appropriate attire for her wedding that day when she looked out her window and saw her ex-beau coming to her rescue. Vandiver said she gasped seeing the approaching rider: "By my sole! Yonder comes Robert Anderson, and I love his little finger better than I do the other man's whole body." Well! That certainly produced a change to the day's activities.

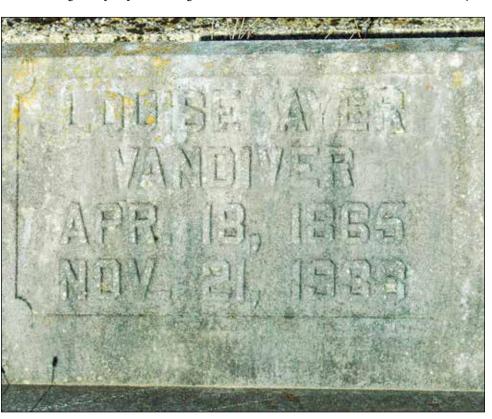
It is not known if that was actually a tale that had passed down through the years or perhaps a little poetic license, but it certainly made the book more entertaining. Such dramatic excursions should not detract, however, from other information she was able to bring to the Anderson reader.

The book contains genealogical information as well as graphic descriptions of people, surroundings and happenings acquired through her own experience and the eyes of those she knew from notes compiled over many years. There is no other way that many of such incites have become available. People she knew and with whom she interviewed had lived through the Civil War, Reconstruction, World War I, the Spanish-American War and certainly recalled stories heard back to the American Indians and the early development of Anderson County. They would have been as fresh as what older folks in this age can recall of World War II.

For Vandiver, many of the things she was writing about were not ancient history, and she knew there were readers who would certainly dispute her misstating that history. She was 63 years old when the book was printed. She had lived through much of that history and some people she had talked to would have experienced an even greater portion of it.

The fact that she could take a little license in her presentation from time to time, should not in any manner devalue what she has presented. In addition, R. M. Smith included some corrections and updated the book in 1970. The work is an invaluable addition to Anderson's historical resources.

Louise Ayer Vandiver was born April 13, 1865 in Union County and died November 21, 1938. She is buried at Old Silver Brook Cemetery in the Ayer Block beside her father.



Louise Ayer Vandiver was born April 13, 1865 in Union County and died November 21, 1938. She is buried at Old Silver Brook Cemetery in the Ayer Block beside her father.

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## **CHANNEL ROCK ICONS FOR HALLOWEEN**



Halloween is very near and this year the party theme should be music. Emulate your favorite musical icon this spooky season. I

think mine is a toss-up between Janis Joplin and Stevie Nicks. Both looks are so fun and so simple to achieve. Janis wore flowy, billowy blouses and stacked bangled bracelets, feathered boas and big round sunglasses, beaded long necklaces or love beads as they used

to call them. She was an authentic hippie, but also very ahead of her time. Burgundy velvet bell bottoms or a long Maxie skirt and clogged platforms made her look absolutely incredible. Add a fringed vest on top of your

NIBBLE & SIP

### A cocktail to bring you back from — or turn into — the undead

You've bought the costumes and the makeup and the decorations and the plastic pumpkin candy bucket and the party cupcakes and the gas to drive the kiddies to the good



neighborhoods where they still give out fullsize candy bars. That kind of parenting deserves a treat

meant only for adults. When — and only when — you've finished the trick-or-treat

driving and the little monsters are binging

on peanut butter cups, reward yourself with The Zombie. This classic Sip is made with multiple fruit juices and two kinds of rum. Developed during the heyday of the tiki craze, it's strong enough to turn you into a Zombie or bring you back from the undead.

A Zombie should not be consumed on an empty stomach, and you'll want something more substantial than the contents of your children's candy stash. I like a Jack-O-Lantern Cheese Ball. The key is to cover it with the most orange-colored tortilla chips you can find, giving your Nibble the appearance of a pumpkin.

#### The Zombie

- 1/2 oz. lemon juice
- 1/2 oz. lime juice

1 1/2 oz. orange juice 1 1/2 oz passion fruit juice or pineapple juice 1/4 oz. grenadine 1 oz. orange liqueur 1 oz. dark rum 1 oz. white rum

Kristine March

1 oz. white rum

orange, lemon, or lime wedges, to garnish

In a cocktail shaker, combine lemon juice, lime juice, orange juice, passion fruit or pineapple juice, grenadine, orange liqueur, dark rum, and white rum. Fill the shaker with ice and shake vigorously until mixture is chilled. Strain into a Collins glass and fill with fresh ice. Garnish with citrus and serve. Makes one.

Jack O'Lantern Cheese Ball

- 16 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 2 c. shredded Mexican cheese blend 1/4 c. finely minced onion
- 1 T. finely minced jalapeno
- 1/2 c. salsa
- 1 t. cumin

2 c. crushed nacho cheese tortilla chips

1 small green pepper, with stem attached, for serving

sturdy crackers, for serving (I like Town House Pita Crackers)

In a mixing bowl, combine cream cheese, Mexican cheese blend, onion, jalapeno, salsa, and cumin. Stir until complete combined and smooth. Roll into a ball, cover with plastic wrap, and chill 3-4 hours, or until firm. When ready to serve, remove the plastic wrap and roll the cheese ball in the crushed tortilla chips. Cut the top off of the green pepper and place it on top of the cheese ball, mimicking a pumpkin stem. Serve with crackers. Serves 10. blouse and you've got the look. I especially loved how she would put the feathered boas in her hair, which would be really cute to do for a Halloween party, not to mention you'd be super comfortable throughout the night and probably win best costume. No one will ever compare to Janis Joplin or have her voice in this lifetime. She was one of a kind, an original and what a neat way to honor one of the greatest musicians ever. If you look on Pinterest under Janis Joplin costume ideas, you will get everything you need for the perfect look.

My second favorite idea is to go with Stevie Nicks, of course. Stevie has a very witchy vibe that is all her own and also very romantic. A velvet tasseled shawl with velvet black scrunchy boots. A black top hat and of course a tambourine. Add a long scarf and attach it to the tambourine or you could tie the scarf around your waist. Add a gold necklace with a moon on it to really tie off the whole look. Add some laced fingerless gloves as well. A ruffled, trimmed, frilled skirt would be perfect too. You could even carry a parasol. Go for that enchantress, sorcerer look. Make your hair wavy and seventies looking. She wore heavy eyeliner and a dark lip. Add a black velvet choker to really finish off Stevie's look and presto, there you have it. Simple made fairly easy Halloween costumes. You



can order all these items on Amazon or better yet go to your favorite local thrift store. So, light some incense and put on your best vinyl records before you get ready for your party. Remember freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose and don't forget to listen to the wind blow and watch the sunrise. Make the sidewalk your runway and kindness always matters. Happy Halloween y'all!





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## T.L. HANNA YELLOW JACKETS Yellow Jackets win region championship

BY BRU NIMMONS ANDERSON — With the regular season nearing completion, the T.L. Hanna Yellow Jackets have a jump on the rest of their competition as they finished their schedule a week early, giving them a bye week heading into the playoffs.

The Jackets, 9-1 (4-0), will enter the playoffs with a number one seed after two big wins over the last couple of weeks securing the region 1-5A championship.

The most important of those wins came on Oct. 14 as the Jackets hosted the previously undefeated Hillcrest Rams.

From the start, it seemed like it was going to be a tough game for the Jackets with the offense going three and out after receiving the opening kickoff.

The Rams added even more pressure on Hanna as they drove down the field on the following possession and took a 7-0 lead on a 17-yard touchdown run by Logan Coldren.

Needing to respond, the Yellow Jacket running game got going on the next possession as running back SaSheen Latimer found his stride. The Jackets made it all the way inside the Hillcrest 20, but a fourth and one stop by Hillcrest at the 17 led to a turnover on downs.

Despite the disappointing turn of events, Hanna quickly forced a Ram punt to get the ball back and moved inside Hillcrest territory once again. However, the Rams forced another turnover on downs

at the Hillcrest 31 to regain possession with 5:53 left in the half. Neither team could gain

traction on their next possessions leading to punts before the Rams took back over

at their own 49. Hillcrest quickly moved down the field with time winding down and Coldren scored again on a pass from Bennett Judy before the half to give the Rams a 13-0 heading into the break.

Hillcrest got the ball coming out of the locker room and seemed poised to score again until Hanna's Jake Curtis made a huge fourth down stop at the Jacket 25.

The Hanna offense continued to sputter leading to another punt and a big pass from Judy to Avery McFadden put them into the red-zone. Getting three straight stops near



the goal line, Hanna forced a Ram field goal that was blocked and returned nearly 70 yards by Kam Strong.

Vashun Burton helped carry the Jackets inside the Ram 10 and Latimer finished off the drive with a 1-yard score to cut the lead to

13-7 heading to the fourth. The Rams continued to put pressure on Hanna driving back into the red-zone on their next possession and just as McFadden was going to score on a pass from Judy, he fumbled leading to a touchback for Hanna.

With momentum on their side, the Yellow Jackets shocked the Rams and took their first lead of the game as Kenny Fretwell found Jaylon Boles on a 54-yard play action strike to go up 14-13 with 7:30 left in the game.

The Jackets weren't able to celebrate for long as Hillcrest moved back inside the Jacket 10 in under a minute. However, the Hanna defense came up big once again dropping Judy and forcing a fumble to take back over.

Hillcrest managed to get one final attempt to win the game only for the Jackets to force a

turnover on downs in the final minute to win the region championship, 14-13.

With the region championship in tow, the Jackets travelled to Woodmont to finish the regular season.

In the matchup with the Wildcats, Hanna struck early with Latimer taking in a 3 yard run, but Woodmont came back and tied the game on the following possession.

The game wasn't tied for long though, as Que Alexander found a crease in the Woodmont defense and scored on a 56 yard run to take a 14-7 lead going into the second quarter. The Jacket onslaught continued in the second quarter as Latimer scored again on a 22-yard dash and with the Jacket defense holding strong, Hanna went to the break up 21-7.

Hanna kicked off to start the second half and surprised the Wildcats with an onside kick. Hanna recovered and used the swing move down the field and score again on a 9-yard run by KD Patterson to go up 27-7, then cruised the rest of the way to win 38-13 and finish the season 9-1.

The Yellow Jackets will open the playoffs at home on Nov. 4 against White Knoll.

#### WESTSIDE RAMS -

# Rams wrap up second-place region finish

#### **BY BRU NIMMONS**

ANDERSON — With just one game left in the regular season, the Westside Rams are looking to keep their strong play going with a potential playoff run in their future.

In their most recent slate of games, the Rams took down two close competitors in region play to help secure second place in region 1-4A and a home playoff game.

In their first game of the recent stretch, the Rams travelled to Greenwood to take on the run-heavy Eagles.

The Rams opened the scoring with quarterback Cutter Woods finding Jimmar Boston for a 27-yard score to give the Rams a 7-0 first-quarter advantage.

Behind early, the Eagles powered their way down the field behind their strong running attack led by quarterback Kaleb Burton. Burton finished the nearly six minute drive with a 7-yard score to the game at 7-7 with two minutes left in the first quarter.

Both teams traded punts on the following possessions, but the Rams were able to take advantage of a Greenwood punt out of the end zone as Jameson Wilson returned the kick down to the Eagle 23.

Despite the great field position, the

Rams were unable to reach the end zone and instead had to settle for a 40-yard field goal which kicker Bola Gil nailed to give the Rams a 10-7 lead with 7:36 left in the half. After a fumble recovery by Hunter Dial,

the Rams managed to add one more score before the half on a 2-yard run by Dee Robertson to give Westside a 17-7 lead at the

break. Greenwood came out of the locker room strong

as Burton and company engineered a nearly six minute drive that went 68 yard including a 2-yard

touchdown from Ve Morton to cut the lead to 17-14. The Rams used their own ground and

pound approach on the next drive grinding down into Eagle territory before an injury stoppage halted play for nearly 20 minutes.

Coming out of the stoppage, the Rams continued to blitz Greenwood and on the first play of the fourth quarter Hunter Puckett scored from 2 yards out to put the lead back to 10. After Greenwood cut the lead to 24-21 with 7:57 in the game, Puckett and the Ram runners proved to be too much on the next drive, eating up six minutes before scoring on a 6-yard run by Puckett to secure a 31-21 win.

> In the final game of their recent slate, Westside traveled to face Easley and spectacular sophomore quarterback Kalab Sutton.

After forcing a punt on the opening drive, Westside went to work getting into Easley territory before the Green Wave made a stand. Forced to

kick a field goal from the 5, Gill missed the kick giving the ball back to Easley.

Needing to make a play on defense, Westside defensive back Zeke Marshall picked off Sutton to give the Rams the ball at the Easley 45 heading to the second quarter.

It didn't take long for the Rams to take advantage as Puckett scored early in the second on a 1-yard run to put Westside ahead 7-0.

Easley was able to close the gap late in the

first half with a touchdown pass from Sutton to Ethan Alexander to tie the game at 7-7.

Not to be outdone, Westside's Sharode Richardson took the ensuing kickoff to the Easley 43 and on the next play Woods found Boston for a touchdown give Westside a 14-7 halftime lead.

The Rams continued to gain momentum in the third with Woods finding Boston on a 7-yard touchdown pass early in the period. Then, the Westside defense got in on the action as Easton Lynch jarred the ball loose from Easley's Logan Sullivan and Josh Williams took it 52 yards for a score to give Westside a 28-7 lead.

After Easley cut the lead to 28-13, Westside continued to roll, with Woods hooking up with Williams on a 39-yard pitch and catch for a score and after another defensive stop, Richardson scored on a run from 20 yards out as Westside went ahead 41-13.

Easley added another touchdown in the final minutes, but it was too little, too late as the Rams took home a 41-20 win.

Westside will finish the season this week at home against Berea before beginning the playoffs on Nov. 4.

