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January 18-February 1, 2024

DESIGN ON A DIME

Do you have a room or space in your home that needs a redesign? It's that time of year that we all want to refresh our living spaces.

In keeping with the memory and talents of our former columnist and dear friend Bill Ducworth, we are bringing back the ever popular "Design on a Dime." One lucky person in Anderson who needs a room redesign will win a free room makeover. We will bring in an interior design expert to redesign, rework and revamp a room using only the things you have in your home and without spending a dime.



Anne Gallant of Elizabeth O'Herron Interiors

For this project, Anne Gallant of Elizabeth O'Herron Interiors in Beaufort, has agreed to donate her time and talents to get you started on a fresh look for the new year. Liz O'Herron, founder of O'Herron Interiors, earned a bachelor's degree in Interior Design from Meredith College in 1990. After graduation, she worked for Circa Interiors in Charlotte, NC. After a decade, she opened her own firm in Charlotte. Later, she and

her family moved to Beaufort and

SEE DESIGN ON PAGE 2



A room redesign by Anne Gallant

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TOWERING BEAUTY

Every year, it's harder and harder for Ted and me to decide what to give each other for Christmas, probably because we've been giving each other gifts since Reagan was in office. We've all but given up on surprises, so usually we give each other hints, like "Get me _____." Our requests are often for things like theater tickets (me), books (both), or delicious mail-order baked goods (Ted). This year, though, I only had one thing I wanted, with the intention of turning chaos into elegant order.

I don't know what your bathroom counter looks like, but mine has become a disaster. From toiletries to toothbrushes, I have stuff scattered from sink to sink, even though only one of them is mine. The acrylic vanity organizer that Elizabeth gave me as a child had become too small, so I asked Ted for a bigger one that would restore bathroom order. The old one I had used for so long stood about 5 inches high, and it had room for things like makeup brushes, makeup remover, cotton balls, and the like. I just wanted

one with a few more compartments, but when I said "bigger," Ted heard something completely different.

My new vanity organizer is 1.5 feet tall. That's 18 inches. 75.82 centimeters. In other words, it's ginormous.



Kim von Keller

I smiled and thanked him politely, knowing in my head I would be returning it the next day. With its 12 drawers and 15 compartments, the organizer could hold the entire contents of my pantry.

"Let's go set it up now!" he said excitedly.

We placed it on the counter, and, one by one, we found a spot for every item I had strewn here and there. When we finished, the bathroom had been restored to magazine-quality order... and every drawer in the Tower of Beauty was full.

I had never felt so old in my life.

In my 20s, my only beauty tool was a hairbrush. In my 30s, I added skincare. In the many years since I turned 40, I've had everything I need to achieve the

five-minute face. Now, my arsenal is the size of the cosmetic aisle at CVS. I can pronounce the names of some products, like "retinol," but not others, like "hyaluronic acid." By the time I'm 70, to contain my beauty regimen, I'll need one of those storage pods that you keep in your

front yard as you prepare to move houses.

I blame my obsession with products on magazine articles with photo spreads touting "Beauty at Every Age," featuring celebrities, both men and women, from 18 to 80. If I had hair and

makeup professionals around, I'd look more like Julianne Moore, an age peer, than Billy Ray Cyrus, another age peer. I would much rather see an article titled "Beauty at Every Time of Day and Also Under Institutional Lighting,"

with photos taken first thing in the morning or in Costco. That would level the playing field for sure.

One day, I hope to be like my mom. She turned 90 last year and is just a smidge taller than my new vanity organizer. The only beauty tool she uses is a

hairbrush. Her hair is gloriously white, and she has the skin of an English schoolgirl. Somewhere along the line, she figured out that it doesn't take much to be a towering beauty. And that's a lesson worth far more than any size bottle of hyaluronic acid.

By the time I'm 70, to contain my beauty regimen, I'll need one of those storage pods that you keep in your front yard as you prepare to move houses.

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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.

Design

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

O'Herron Interiors has been a staple there for 22 years. Anne Gallant, born and raised in Anderson, was project manager for Coosaw Point Development on Lady's Island in Beaufort. She contributed her design talents to these beautiful new lowcountry homes built in Coosaw Point. Ten years ago, Liz and Anne began to work as a team redesigning some of the most exquisite homes in Beaufort.

Anne will transform one lucky person's room into a fresh new vibe. Using her eye for furniture arrangement, enhancing the uniqueness of the home and freshening the atmosphere, she will create a bold new look. So, take a look around your house and see if there is a room that could use a lift. Don't waste another minute. Take pictures and send them to us. Anne will look through the photos and choose the best room.

Once the room is finished, we will reveal the transformation with before and after photos in the following issue.

To enter, just email us photos of a room that you would like to transform to ElectricCityNews@gmail.com. And may the best (or most deserving) room win!



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Warm winter fashion

It's cold out there! Let's face it, Winter can give you the blues, but your outfit doesn't have to. I love accessories more



Kristine March

than anything when it comes to fashion. Especially if I'm traveling. I just add the main pieces of

my everyday clothes in my suitcase and pile in the accessories. European culture has done this for decades and I think they're on to something. For example, you can wear an all-black outfit and add beautiful accessories to it, for a no fuss easy look. You can have a simple, chic black turtleneck and add a big statement necklace to it. Add an oversized, chunky tasseled color block scarf from your favorite local boutique or even

a bold faux fur hat and your mood is instantly elevated.

I think it's funny how clothing can put you in a good mood or a bad mood. I realize personally myself that if I don't like what I'm wearing then my mood sort of changes. I feel kind of low when I'm wearing my clothes that I run my everyday errands in, but when I'm getting ready for a fun Saturday night dinner out, I'm excited. Sometimes we just don't have the time to doll up per se, but if we get a set schedule and just do it anyway, we feel better about ourselves. It's a proven fact.

Scientifically speaking, our brains produce dopamine when we feel confident and we feel empowered. Who knew that the right wardrobe makes us feel better. Even a bright lip color can pep us up and snap us out of that Winter slump. The Tarte make-up company makes a lip color that I really

need for a quick cheer up. It's called The Maracuja, which means made from passion fruit, lip plump. The shade Currant is beautiful. It's bright and lovely and sometimes it's all you need.

A company called GiGi Pip makes the most fun faux fur headbands in really pretty colors. Cozy and cute is always a good idea. A faux fur vest can also add dimension and spice up your look from drab to fab. A collar necklace is easy to wear over the turtleneck and gives you that modern glam in a jiff. All of these easy ideas can make us feel alive again. Remember, Winter is a season of recovery and preparation. So, take it slow. Right now, we're down to about sixty-seven days until Spring. We've got this y'all! So, remember to make the sidewalk your runway way and kindness always matters. Snuggle up and stay warm. Happy Winter!



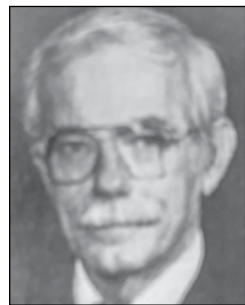
Local attorneys honored at Memory Hold the Door

The Anderson County Bar Association held the second Memory Hold the Door ceremony Thursday, November 29 at the old Anderson County Courthouse in the main courtroom. The inaugural ceremony was held in 2005. Memory Hold the Door is in honor of Anderson attorneys who served the community as lawyers and civic leaders. This event is a way of paying tribute to those dedicated men and women who have since passed on and in honor of their families, friends and colleagues.

CARY CALHOUN DOYLE (1931-2012)

Cary C. Doyle was born in Anderson, SC in 1931. He was a lifelong resident of Anderson. Cary graduated from Boys High School, Erskine College and the University of South Carolina School of Law. While in law school, he served two years as editor of the South Carolina Law Quarterly. He practiced in a variety of areas, but was best known as a skilled civil defense attorney and later as a mediator.

When not working, he enjoyed spending time with his family and dogs. He was also an avid fisherman who traveled all over the country trout fishing. He was a founder of the Trout Club and spent time there as well as at his nearby cabin in the mountains.



Cary served his country in the United States Army. He began his law practice in Greenwood, then practiced in several firms in Anderson. These included Doyle & Anderson, Doyle & Palmer, and Fant, Doyle, Glenn & Vaughan before opening an office on West Whitner Street where he practiced until his retirement in 1999. He practiced as senior partner in Doyle & Cofield, Law office of Cary C. Doyle, Doyle, O'Rourke, Tate & McDade and Doyle, Tate & McDade, which

still operates under that name in honor of him.

At the time of his death, Cary Doyle had been married to his wife, Anne Johnston Doyle, for 62 years. They had three children, Catherine Doyle Laughridge, Christanne Doyle Blair and Cary Calhoun Doyle, Jr., along with 6 grandchildren.

Cary Doyle will be remembered as a brilliant trial attorney, without equal, who vigorously represented his clients no matter their situation in life. Outside the courtroom he was known for his accounts of his legal career that included judges, attorneys and clients.

MINARD ALVARO 'M.A.' MCALISTER (1928-2013)

Minard Alvaro "M.A." McAlister was a native of Anderson, South Carolina. He was the son of Roy Dewey McAlister and Mary Elva Junkins McAlister. He received his law degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1954.

He proudly served his country in the United States Navy. He began his private practice in his home town in the 1950's after working for West Publishing Company immediately out of law school. M.A. was a published author and used his professional work experience to author "Anatomy of a Marriage" which was published in 2008. His hobbies included photography, cooking, gardening, carpentry and bicycle riding.



M.A. is survived by his loving wife, Mary Eleanor Terrell McAlister, three daughters Tara McAlister Poore, Susan Taylor Rash and Alisa Taylor Gibson and a son, John Taylor. He was preceded in death by a son, Minard Alvaro McAlister, Jr. and a beloved extended family.

THE SCARLET BEAUTY OF WINTER

On a typical January day, I was driving down a bleak grey country road, surrounded by bleak grey trees and bleak grey horizon, when a flash of red swooped in front of me. A male cardinal – one of nature’s few touches of color in winter – brightened the view and made me smile. You have no doubt experienced the same thing. And sometimes on a cold day when all of the outside looks dull and dead, I look out my kitchen window, and once again the bright cherry red of a male cardinal becomes a flash of color in an otherwise dreary landscape.



Ann K. Bailes

In the natural world, cardinals are the birds who appear to have dressed up for an important winter ball. They are particularly striking. The male is unmistakable, with his brilliant ruby color and distinctive crest; but the female, though a little quieter in appearance, has her own kind of attractiveness. She is a rich honey-brown, with red highlights on



her wings and crest, and her coral-red bill has given her the nickname “lady with the lipstick.” Cardinals are birds of elegance year round, but especially when they add their brightness to cold winter days.

Officially known as Northern Cardinals, these beautiful birds love edges and under-

growth, and have thrived in urban environments. They are well established in the eastern half of the U.S. and are common everywhere within their range. Because of their allure, cardinals are one of the most common bird images marketed on ornaments, towels, figu-

rines, calendars, all kinds of things. They are so universally loved that their species is the state bird of seven states.

Cardinals are particularly fond of black oil sunflower seed, and use their large conical bills to crush the shells and pull out the meat from inside. And they often remain to eat their meal at feeder perches, rather than grabbing a seed and flying off like some birds do. In fact, cardinals will be the last birds to leave feeders in winter evenings, and can still be seen grabbing a last snack in the late twilight when other birds have gone to roost. Their colors may be muted by the dusky light, but they are still visible even then. Likewise, they’re also the first birds to be seen just before sunrise in the pre-dawn light of the morning.

Cardinals keep their brilliant shades of red year round. Sometimes in winter they flock in groups of a dozen or more, which can bring an explosion of ruby color. They don’t migrate, and they don’t molt into faded winter colors. These birds are sophisticated-looking home folks. They bring cheer year round, and they are a brilliant scarlet gift for a bleak winter world.

ELECTRIC CITY EVENTS

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THURSDAY JANUARY 18TH:
You Are Beautiful Pageant
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

MONDAY JANUARY 22ND:
Anderson County Fire Chief’s Meeting
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Contact Jimmy Sutherland (864) 844-5270
jsutherland@acf.org

THURSDAY JANUARY 25TH:
Crescent High School Shooter’s Banquet
5:00 PM to 10:00 PM
Contact Kimberly Brown (864) 353-1213
kdesignemb@gmail.com

FRIDAY JANUARY 26TH:
Legends Gym Anniversary
7:00 PM to 10:00 PM
Contact Corey Davis (864) 934-9659
info@864legends.com

SATURDAY JANUARY 27TH:
Wrestling Tournament
8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Contact Mica Hendrix (864) 934-8523
micawarcombat@gmail.com

SUNDAY JANUARY 28TH:
Wrestling Tournament
8:00 M to 10:00 PM
Contact Kim Kelley (864) 710-7393
kimkelley@bellsouth.net

TUESDAY JANUARY 30TH:
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Kibler retires from Foothills Community Foundation



Cindy Kibler

After dedicating over 24 years of service to the Foothills Community Foundation, Cindy Kibler, Director of Donor Services, is stepping into a well-deserved retirement. Since the foundation's early days, Cindy has been a steadfast presence, navigating transitions across three Foundation Presidents. Her influence has been instrumental in fostering the foundation's expansion and ensuring its stability. Transforming from the vision of William Law Watkins into a substantial \$40,000,000 institution, Cindy's perseverance has played an indispensable role in the Foundation's growth.

Founding Board Member and President Emeritus of AnMed, John Miller, highlighted his enduring four-decade friendship with Cindy, crediting her as "the engine that has driven the great success of our foundation." Current Foundation President, Dean Woods, noted that Cindy "has produced superior results while serving our various constituencies."

The Foundation has appointed Mary Pickens to assume the role of Director of Donor Services. Mary is a graduate of T.L. Hanna and Duke University. After having spent the past twenty years living and working in the Midwest, Mary is thrilled to return to her hometown and contribute to the long-term benefit of Upstate residents.



Mary Pickens



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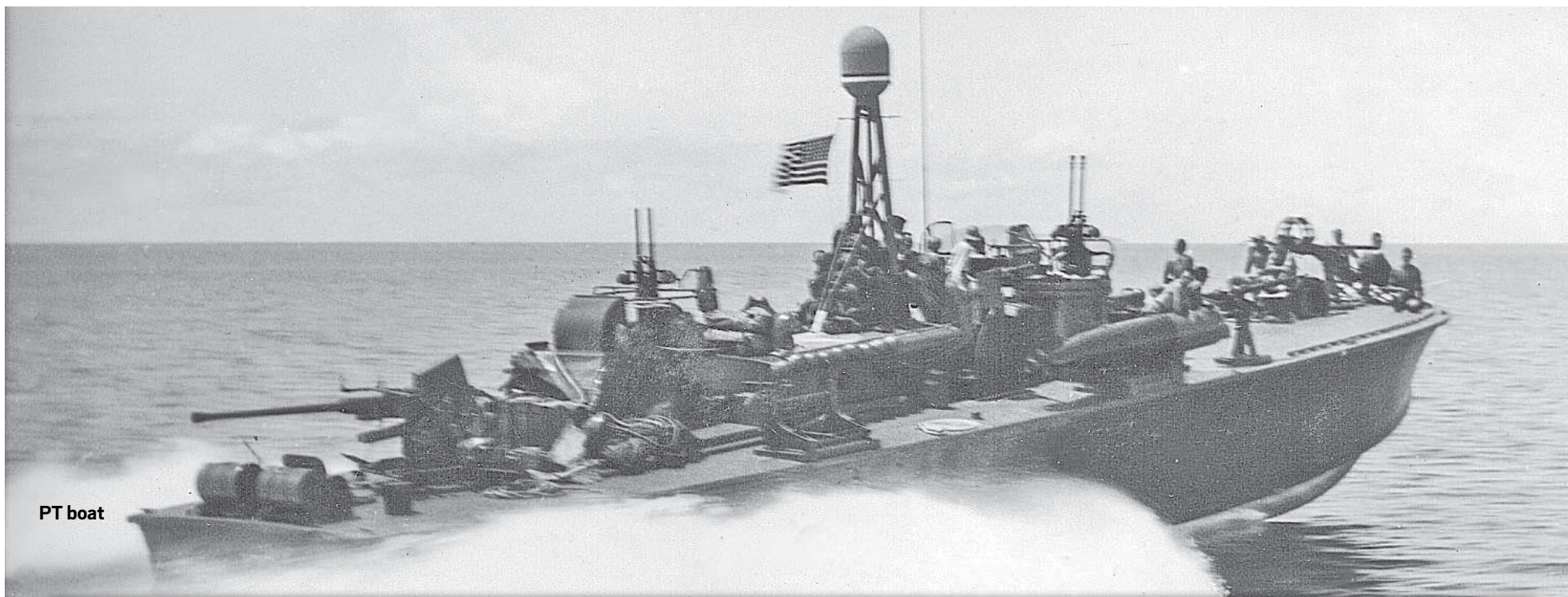
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PT boat

A BELTON NATIVE'S WWII SERVICE

BY RICH OTTER

Lieutenant John Buckley looked Stan Marshall in the eye and said: "Why do you want to commit suicide?" Buckley had been involved with evacuating General Douglas MacArthur and family from the Philippines ahead of the Japanese invasion and had just let Marshall know that in the Philippines out of 112 on PT boats, 12 were missing and 87 had been killed in action. Knowing Marshall's interest and where he was from, he continued: "I honestly believe you South Carolina men may be the best fighting men in the world."

It was April of 1942. Marshall acknowledged he was an "old man for military service" at 26 when he volunteered. He had raised chickens and worked his way through college at Furman. He was living in Belton and had spent a couple of years on the road selling feed for Spartan Grain & Mill Company. He had never been at sea. In the military he became a 90-day wonder – "got to be an officer in a hurry."

He received his first introduction to the patrol torpedo boat training in Melville, Rhode Island, outside Newport. They learned how to run the boat and fire the torpedoes on only one available PT boat for the group. Most of their training had to be theoretical.

The boat he finally had was 80-feet long, had three motors of about 1,400 horsepower each and three 1,000 gallon gasoline tanks burning 100 octane gas. "They were made out of mahogany boards, 3/4-inch boards." He reflected: "Can you imagine a thing more explosive?"

They carried four torpedoes "until we found out the Japanese had ships that could outrun us." They cut down to two to reduce weight and increase speed. "They originally were in torpedo tubes with a firing mechanism in the back that you could strike with a hammer. Later they just mounted them in little racks and you would roll them off. You would aim your boat rather than try to aim the tubes. We only operated at night." When the bottom of the boat

was clean (which wasn't often), they could do the equivalent of about 50 miles an hour.

They had twin .37 and .50 caliber machine guns and later added a 75-mm gun on the stern. In time they were primarily fighting barges rather than big ships and found some of the barges had bigger guns than were on the PT boat. "We had wooden sides and they were steel-sided." They had radar - when it worked.

His squadron originally unloaded at New Caledonia and then went to Tulagi across from Guadalcanal. The squadron then moved to the Russell Islands. After the invasion of New Georgia, they were sent out one night and were told there would be no friendly ships in the area. The squadron commander was riding with them.

Radar spotted a number of ships. The radar operator said he thought they must be American ships. Marshall was on the wheel. Disregarding the radar man's concern, the commander ordered them to speed up, cut between the ships and

fire at the "big ship." They fired their torpedoes and sank it.

A day later, they learned they had sunk the USS McCauley, Admiral Turner's flagship. "The only good thing about it was that it had been torpedoed that afternoon by the Japanese. They had taken all of the people off and it was in tow by a tug." The tug captain was furious.

At one point Marshall and a PT boat operator from another squadron were at Tulagi together for repairs for bullet holes in their gas tanks. The captain of the other boat was a fellow by the name of John F. Kennedy. He had patched up an old 109 boat. They spent the wait together. Not long thereafter, "Kennedy's boat was cut in half by a Japanese destroyer during a fierce fight when the Japs came down the slot." A good friend of Marshall who had been in a boat next to the 109 when it was hit "said the 109 had burst into flames and he was convinced that all had been killed immediately."

"I was living on the beach on a little island in a tent. I saw

some natives coming in a canoe which wasn't a very unusual sight. I met them and they handed me a green coconut with a message on it from Kennedy saying the natives could take our people to where they were." They sent out a boat that night for them.

"Kennedy wanted the coconut after he came in. I told him he couldn't have it. It was an official communique, it had to stay in the file. (Of course, I gave it to him.)"

Stanmore B. Marshall, III's experiences were more fully related during an interview of November 29, 2003 for the book Anderson County Twentieth Century Memories & Reflections, including continued military service in the Mediterranean area where he was a squad leader as he had been by the end of his Pacific tour. He then returned to Belton and operated a chicken and egg business with family members. He was presented the Croix de Guerre by the French for his Mediterranean service.

AMERICAN KID

There was this kid. In the supermarket. I saw him walking through the store.

He was pushing a buggy. He was maybe 18 years old. He was skin and bones. And I mean skinny. He would have had to stand up five times just to make a shadow. Your standard issue, all-American kid.

His cart was brimming full. It's not every day you see an 18-year-old doing that kind of intensive shopping.

We were in the canned seafood aisle. He was comparing cans of tuna. He asked me what the difference was between white albacore and chunk light.

"Everyone knows the difference," I said confidently. I inspected the cans. Then, drawing on my training as an English major, I replied, "I have no idea."

We got to talking.

His mother has been on chemo. Her breast cancer keeps coming back. She hasn't been responding well to the radiation, either.

He had to drop out of college to help her. He wanted to major in English, which only shows you how confused this poor child is.

Caregiving became his life. At 18. He's learned all the tricks. How to transfer a weak

person from a wheelchair to a bed. How to feed someone. How to step into the shower with his mother, fully clothed, bear-hugging her, to bathe her.



Sean Dietrich

"I even had to learn to help Mom use the bathroom," he said.

Then his grandmother got ill. It was like a cruel joke from *On High*. So the boy took on caregiving duties for her, too. The elderly woman was hospitalized

for pneumonia. It almost killed her. The boy stayed at her bedside. Day and night.

He bathed his grandmother, too.

So this year has been a tough one. He recently moved his mother and his grandmother both into the same rental house. A house he found online. Three bedrooms. Two baths. It was perfect.

His mother let the lease on her apartment lapse. His grandmother let the lease on her apartment go, too. He moved all the furniture. He transferred the utilities.

He's been caring for two women who are

both, he says, on the mend. And the new living situation has been a learning experience for Junior.

I asked him what the main lesson he's learned since moving two grown women into the same house together.

"Girls don't get along," he said.

We talked for a little longer. We found our way up to the checkout lane together. He scanned his items, and it was then that I could see the bags beneath his eyes. The emptiness in his eyes.

"Yeah, I'm tired," he admitted. "But not in my soul. My soul feels good. I know I'm doing the same thing they'd do for me."

"And one day, they're both going to be in perfect health again, and we'll all be so happy, and we're all gonna look back at this and laugh at these hard times."

When the cashier finished ringing up his groceries, the cashier informed the boy that a stranger had footed the bill. She wouldn't say who did it.

But I wish like hell it would have been me.



Resentments in relationships



MARY-CATHERINE
McCLAIN
RINER

Resentment can be an uncomfortable and difficult emotion to process, yet it is incredibly valuable and critical to address it in friendships and relationships. Without identifying, articulating, and expressing this emotion, resentment will continue to consume the individual that feels wronged or hurt.

Potential signs or flags of resentment in a relationship include:

- Feeling unheard or not listened to, especially when the same "mistakes" are continuing to occur in the relationship. This leaves the other person feeling invisible.

- Topics of conflict are re-occurring and repetitive as the underlying issue or concern has not been resolved.

- It is easier to blame and find fault with your friend or partner.

- Passive aggressive comments and behaviors

become a hallmark due to the building levels of resentment that have been avoided or ignored.

- Intimacy and affection are withdrawn from the relationship.

- Feelings of hopelessness and despair sit in, and detachment in the relationship grows.

If you notice one or more of these flags, take an inventory of your relationship or friendship. Spend some time reflecting and engaging in introspection. It is important to acknowledge your feelings in order to address the negative feelings experienced (e.g., hostility, mistrust, disappointment). It is important to be direct and frank while also being respectful and compassionate. Focus on the behavior rather than the person. Apologizing can significantly reduce any resentment as well as providing empathy. Focus on the present conflict rather than digging the past up. Be realistic and patient with each other, and lean into forgiveness and grace as appropriate. Similarly, repair the physical affection if it has been removed.

Mary-Catherine McClain Riner, Ph.D., Ed.S, M.S., is a Licensed Psychologist with Riner Counseling, LLC. Visit www.rinercounseling.com or call 864-608-0446.



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FROM THE SHELF

The books of T. Kingfisher

As y'all recently learned, I am a bit of a nut for book cover design. You'll hear me support the concept of "don't judge a book by its cover" in other parts of life, but definitely not when it actually comes to books. It's probably the artist/graphic designer in me, but I've also always



Sara Leady

been a very visual person, so an eye-catching cover is always going to sell me on at least trying a book. An author I hadn't previously read, but whose covers I've admired is T. Kingfisher, also known as Ursula Vernon when she's writing children's fiction or comics (I can't

believe they're the same person).

Kingfisher has been on my list for a bit and after one of my staff started gushing about *What Moves the Dead*, I finally read it. The cover always fascinated me because it's horrifying, while also being beautiful. The shift from fungi to rabbit guts and back is just stunning in its genius (gross I know). *What Moves the Dead* reads like a quaint British fantasy, the likes of the age of Tolkien and Lewis, with lyrical prose and really interesting characters. It's honestly warm, all while being horrific. So an afternoon tea version of a horror novel as a retelling of *The Fall of the House of Usher* (Edgar Allan Poe). People are dying, rabbits are acting highly suspicious, and Miss Potter is gathering info about the wonderful range of fungus growing across the land (she's delightful). It's seriously wonderful. The horror elements are nothing worse than what you'd get from Poe, so if you can stand his writing you should definitely give *What Moves the Dead* a shot (especially with a sequel coming soon!).

Thanks to the above, I've been on a T. Kingfisher bender. *A House with Good Bones* was the next listen available on Libby by Kingfisher, and it has a different enough feel that I went to double check that there weren't two different authors writing under the T. Kingfisher name. Both have the sort of whimsical elements and horror tones, but I honestly thought Kingfisher was British based on the feel of *What Moves the Dead*, but it turns out she's not just American, but lives in North Carolina. *A House with Good Bones* takes place in North Carolina and has to do with an old family home that may or



may not be haunted. If it's not haunted, it just means Sam's mom is losing her marbles. This one has good old fashioned witch and ghost elements, so while it's technically "horror," it is not anything worse than Poe or other gothic writers in the same way as *What Moves the Dead*.

Thornhedge is a sort of happy medium between *What Moves the Dead* and *A House with Good Bones* in that Kingfisher revisits the more fantastical and whimsical fantasy elements, while also maintaining the undercurrent of spooky vibes. It's a retelling of *Sleeping Beauty* but with changelings and a desperate need to keep the princess from waking up and continuing her murderous rampage. It was a fresh and inventive take on the classic tale, again showing the breadth of Kingfisher's story telling talent. This talent is further put on display in the next read I had from her (told you it was a binge), *The Hollow Places*. I'd say *The Hollow Places* strays into more science fiction territory than fantasy, or at least lives in that murky area between the two. There's still some whimsy as it's set in a museum for odd things, but this museum also has a portal to another dimension, which Kara (our protagonist) opts to go through. There she and a childhood friend run into the "Willows" which are terrifying monsters that track you by your thoughts about them. So to not get eaten, you have to try not to think about the scary thing stalking you and wanting to eat you...

And in case I haven't already sold you on the magic of T. Kingfisher, don't forget the mention of her OTHER pen name Ursula Vernon. Under that name, she pens delightful fantasies for children she also illustrates. I've

started one of the *Dragonbreath* books that's about wildlife rehab of fantastical animals

and it's seriously just as cute as her writing for adults is horrifying.

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IN LIVING COLOR

I remember when my dad told us that we were getting a color television set.

Televisions back then were like a piece of furniture; a glass screen on the front of a wooden box with four legs. So, when dad said color TV, I thought that the box was going to be a different color. He tells me that the TV picture would be colorized, but I just didn't get it.



Neal Parnell

He said, "Just wait, you'll see".

I watched from the window as a van backed into the driveway. The van had a strange word on the side that I'd never seen; ZENITH. Two men with the same word on the back of their shirts got out, opened the rear door, and began removing long metal poles.

"Is that a color TV, daddy?" "No son, that's part of the antenna that will go on top of the house."

I had no idea what was going on, but I had to get closer to whatever was happening. I went outside and saw that one of the men was already on the roof. The other man was tossing the poles up and I knew instinctively that he would be thrilled to answer a thousand questions.

With all of the technical knowledge that my three years of public school could muster,

I asked, "What's that thing?" After just one question I walked back into the house even more confused when he answered, "These metal rods receive electromagnetic signals from a tower thirty miles away and convert them into an electric current recognized by your TV to project a picture."

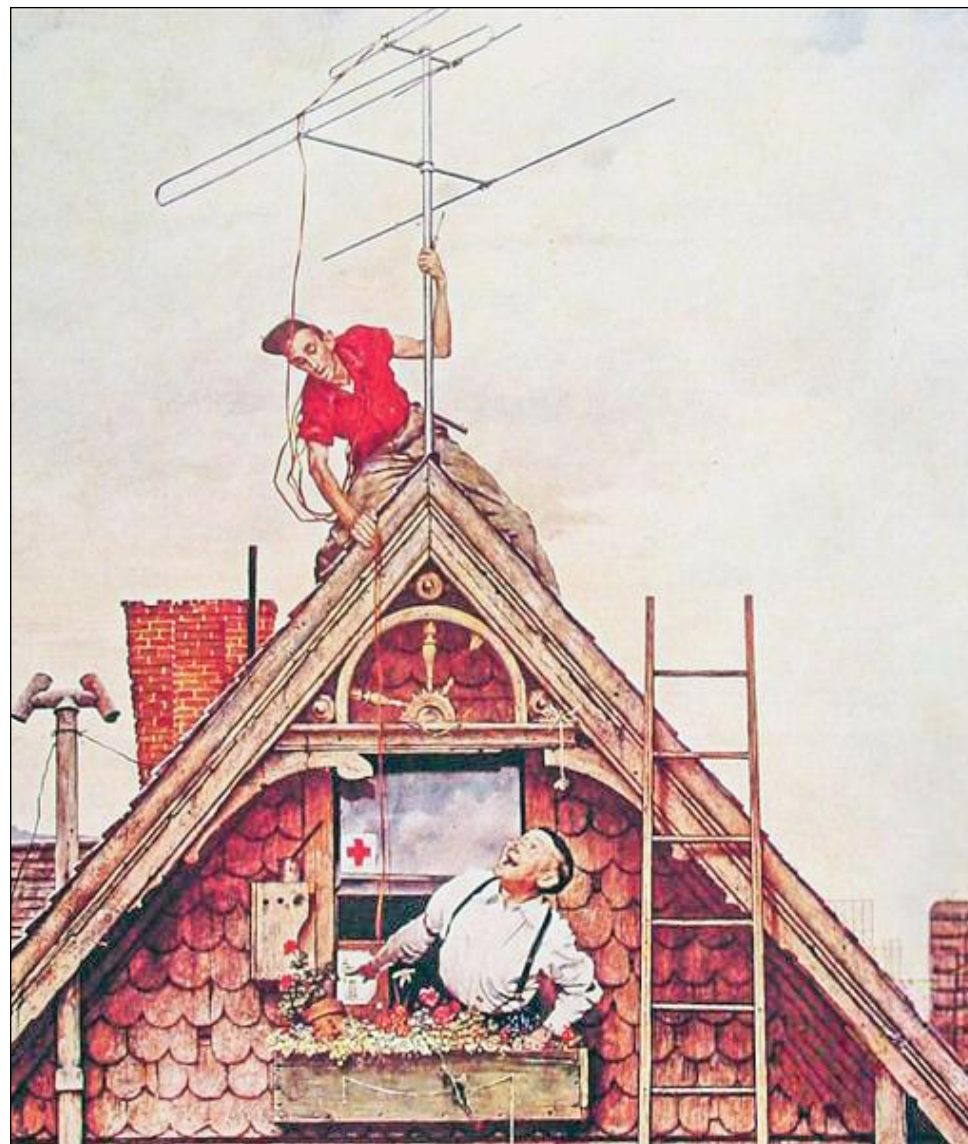
There was no digging up the yard, crawling under the house, or climbing a pole. There wasn't any HDMI, USB, or Bluetooth connection for surround sound, and there was no Wi-Fi password to connect to the World Wide Web. The only tool needed for the whole installation was a flathead screwdriver.

The bulky nineteen-inch television had been on sale for four hundred and seventy five dollars, a hefty sum that would translate to four thousand dollars today.

It took both men to slowly walk it into our living room as if they were carrying nitro glycerin. A nearby window was opened and the antenna wire was pulled through and connected.

The new TV was plugged into the outlet and the time had come to pull out the ON button. My three sisters and my mom had gathered into the living room just as Daddy told me to pull the button. I grabbed the little knob with two fingers and looked around to all smiles as I pulled it out. Nothing happened.

One of the men said, "It'll take a minute or so to warm up." Everyone was staring at the



small screen in anticipation when suddenly a white dot appeared in the center.

"It's working!" someone yelled, as white noise blasted from the speaker, and static filled the screen. The men went out to adjust the antenna and everyone left the room but me. The man on the roof yelled down to the other, "Put the channel on 4!" Before he got back inside I turned the channel knob to 4.

The first color image I ever saw on a television was that of an exploding atomic bomb. It blew me onto my backside as I sat with my mouth open and never blinked as the orange fireball mushroomed into the blue sky.

It's now 2024 and I have an ultra-high definition 85" TV screen with surround sound, but I have yet to duplicate that first IN LIVING COLOR moment.

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The GARDEN HOUSE






NIBBLE & SIP

Shrubs are dry January's best friends

Dry January, or the practice of going alcohol-free following the excesses of the holiday season, has become so prevalent that we might as well change the name of the month on the calendar. As well as resetting habits, Dry January is also an opportunity to create mocktails, or non-alcoholic drinks, that can be as indulgent as a traditional cocktail. One of my favorite ingredients to use with alcohol or without is a shrub.

Shrubs are combinations of sugar, fruit, and vinegar; think of

them in the way you would a lemon syrup that, when mixed with water,



Kim von Keller

becomes lemonade. While they can be made at home, sometimes with the addition of herbs or spices, there are also many delicious com-

mercially made shrubs that make creating mocktails a snap. (And for

a delicious dessert, drizzle the scrub over vanilla ice cream and top with club soda.) I always have a bottle or two in my refrigerator, and these are some of my favorites.

Girl Meets Dirt

I first discovered Girl Meets Dirt on a trip to Orcas Island, Washington. Using apples, pears, stone fruits, and a variety of herbs, Girl Meets Dirt creates shrubs that are delicious mixed with sparkling water for a refreshing beverage that tastes indulgent.

Recently, I took a bottle to a friend who was recovering from COVID so that she could hydrate with something more than tap water and sports drinks. My favorites are Island Plum, Spiced Apple, and Apricot. A 375 ml bottle is \$17.00. Girlmeetsdirt.com

18.21 Bitters

My sister introduced me to 18.21 Bitters, a company in the Atlanta area that makes bitters and tinctures for handcrafted cocktails. They also make seasonal shrubs

that range in flavor from pumpkin to watermelon. My favorites are Blood Orange and Ginger, Apple Cardamom, and Blackberry Peppercorn. A 16-oz. bottle is \$25.00. 1821bitters.com

Liber&Co

I love grapefruit, and Rio Red Texas Grapefruit is the gold standard. Liber&Co makes a range of cocktail syrups and cordials, but it's the Grapefruit Shrub I love. A 17 oz. bottle is \$18.00. Liberandcompany.com

Anderson County Library set to host open house for Electric City Creative Makerspace

The Anderson County Library's Electric City Creative Makerspace is hosting an open house and you're invited! Join them on Thursday January 18th from 4:00 to 7:00 PM to learn all about what you can create in this space.

The Makerspace is your go-to for everything creative. Use one of their Cricut machines to cut fun images, design a new brochure for your small business with Adobe Creative Suite, patch up your latest thrift shop find with our sewing equipment, and more. Want to get a little crafty but need a little bit of guidance? Sign up for one of their creative workshops. Interested in visiting the space but don't know what to create? Their monthly crafting classes are for you!

Want to work on your own time? Check out the weekly open create hours: Tuesday through Thursday from 1:00 to 7:00 PM and Saturday from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM. There's something for everyone and they can't wait to see you.

No registration required.



THE GARDEN SHOP

SUNDRY STUFF



**SUSAN
TEMPLE**
master
gardener

As I sit looking out the window, trying to find inspiration for this Garden Shop issue, I am pleasantly surprised at how many blue birds are in the yard. There are always a lot of blue jays in the winter. It seems blue birds may be on the lookout for their new nesting spots. One male (I don't if males pick the nesting site or not) is spending a lot of time near a birdhouse. Maybe that will be the home for his babies this season. Experts seem to say a bluebird house has to be such and such size, so and so feet off the ground, etc. But they nest in all sorts of things around my place. Outside the bathroom window, an old metal screen door frame has a terracotta crescent moon yard ornament hanging on it. I think it was supposed to be a bird feeder, but I don't use bird feeders. Too many other varmints around to take advantage of them. Last year bluebirds built their nest in this moon. The opening in the top is slightly bigger than a tube of toothpaste. The part where birds would eat is about two inches square. It was interesting to watch them build the nest by flying in the top and from the bottom. Once they had babies, mama and daddy bird would take turns bringing food. I don't know how both birds got into that thing. Another terracotta bird house is often used by bluebirds. It's small, triangle shaped, only about four inches wide at the bottom. Maybe bluebirds like tight quarters.

My mind also wandered to everything on the to do list for January. January is the month peonies get tended. All remaining dead foliage gets cut off and thrown into the woods. Then all the leaves and soil are removed to expose the eyes (little pink buds). I'm running a little behind on getting this done. With eight inches of rain, the ground is too muddy to do much of anything. That Tuesday monsoon washed a few small ruts in the driveway that must be corrected. Pink muhly grass did not get cut back last year so maybe I'll get around to that this year. There's time on that one though. Cut the foliage back too soon and it seems to make them prone to rot. It seems best to cut them back when new growth sprouts. Plus, the wheat-colored foliage is pretty and gives interest swaying in the wind. Heavy metal grass (*Panicum virgatum* 'Heavy Metal') needs pruning some to tidy up what has flopped into the path. It has been cut back at various times in winter and doesn't seem to make a difference on new growth. There have also been years where it never got cut back either, and it did equally fine.

There is one *camellia sinensis* in the garden that I've been watching for the past couple of years. It has scale and is getting worse. Camellias are prone to scale. *Sinensis* is commonly called tea plant because leaves are used to make tea. If you see camellia leaves with yellow spots, look at the back of the leaf. Most likely there will be white cottony looking stuff. That's the insects. They don't usually kill the plant but will most likely get worse if not addressed. I start with cutting out the infected branches if possible, bagging them, and putting them in the trash. Sometimes thinning the shrub, and increasing airflow, helps. But that doesn't seem to be helping much with



Old garden ornament

this shrub. Horticultural oil may be the next step. But spraying is difficult to get all infected areas covered. A systemic will be the absolute last resort. Systemic treatment is easy, as it

is mixed, watered in, and the plant takes it up through the roots. But then it may harm things we want in the garden when they visit the flowers. Decisions decisions.

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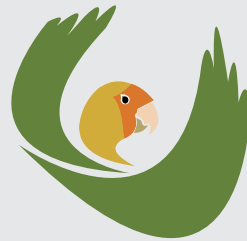
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