

HOME/GARDEN

Spring 2021

House of steel

*Coke Williams and Kelly
Kitchens' unconventional
home. Page 2A.*

Tucker Webb/Consolidated Publishing

POOL

*What you need
to know before
you put in a
pool, Page 4B*



DECOR

*JC Designs
offers festive
wreaths,
Page 4A*



GARDEN

*Attract
butterflies to
the garden,
Page 1B*



Tucker Webb/The Anniston Star

The exterior walls are clad in COR-TEN steel, which is designed to weather to a rusted finish when exposed to the elements (without actually rusting all the way through).

TIME PASSAGES

Coke Williams and Kelly Kitchens built a striking getaway home on the old family farm

BY LISA DAVIS

ldavis@annistonstar.com

When Coke Williams and his wife, Kelly Kitchens, designed a getaway home on the old family farm, they wanted it to rust.

The exterior walls are clad in COR-TEN steel, which is designed to weather to a rusted finish when exposed to the elements (without actually rusting all the way

through).

That's not the only weathered finish in the house. There are memories in the wood, the stone, the metal — and in the land itself.

Coke's family has been in Calhoun County since 1850. The house sits on the old Williams family farm in Ohatchee, on land originally purchased by Coke's grandfather and his best friend, although the

farm is smaller now than it was in the past.

It's been a working farm since at least 1911, from raising cows to growing corn to today, when the land is leased for quail hunting.

(The family dog, Dixie, has never been trained to be a retriever, but nevertheless, when she hears a hunter's gun fire, she hightails it in that direction, because she likes to try and help the other dogs.)

Coke is a real estate agent in Birmingham, and Kelly works for SBA Communications. The couple co-own the getaway house with Coke's brother, Jim Williams, and his wife, Robin.

"It's a very special place to us," Coke said. Growing up, the kids in the family would go to the farm to shoot skeet or

Please see HOME | Page 3A



Tucker Webb/The Anniston Star

TOP: The kitchen island is soapstone, while the countertops are a price-conscious Montclair marble. Open shelves hold pottery made by Birmingham artists, bowls collected on a trip to Costa Rica and family heirlooms. RIGHT: The entryways feature antique painted doors from Morocco, where Coke and Kelly spend their honeymoon.



Tucker Webb/The Anniston Star

The curved outline of a tiny fossil is visible in the polished limestone on the fireplace.



Tucker Webb//The Anniston Star

Railing on the upstairs balcony would have spoiled the view, so there are heavy glass panels instead.



Tucker Webb/The Anniston Star

In the middle of the living room is a massive fireplace. The chimney is clad in pine that was cut down and milled on site, using a portable sawmill.

HOME

Continued from Page 2A

camp. “We all learned to drive out here,” Coke said.

The back of the house overlooks woods and a creek. The back wall of the living room features glass doors that fold up, accordion-style, to open the house to the outdoors.

Steps lead down to a patio with a large fireplace. The patio is concrete, stamped to look like wood. “There’s a lot of concrete and steel in this house,” Coke said.

The couple recently hosted a “burn party” to get ready for quail season. Controlled burns in the fields help maintain the habitat for quail. Afterwards, there was a crawfish boil on the patio.

The farm has been the site of many memorable parties. Especially the one the couple planned several years ago for Kelly’s 50th birthday, when the two were just dating. Coke proposed a few weeks before the party. And then Kelly thought, “Let’s just get married in the middle of the farm party.”

And so they did. And then they turned it into an annual music festival, dubbed Kellypalooza, with ticket sales going to support various charities.

Coke and Kelly spent their honeymoon in Morocco, and the new house incorpo-

rates those memories. The front and side entrances feature antique painted doors from Morocco. They had Moroccan-style metal hanging lamps made for both entryways. When lit, the metal latticework casts mesmerizing patterns on the wall.

Kelly furnished the house with a mix of family heirlooms, hand-me-downs from friends and pieces picked up in Birmingham shops.

There are interesting woods above and below. The ceilings are mushroom wood — boards formerly used to grow mushrooms. After the mushrooms are harvested, the leftover wood is heavily textured and weathered to a dark brown.

The floors are a mixture of light and dark antique woods, with a simple clear finish to preserve the natural colors.

Most of the wood came from James & Company Antique Timbers and Flooring in Collinsville. Coke and owner Donnie James spent half a day together going through various reclaimed woods.

In the middle of the living room is a massive fireplace, reaching up 36 feet to the ceiling. The chimney is clad in pine that was cut down and milled on site, using a portable sawmill.

“That’s special to us,” Coke said. “The center of the house came from here.”

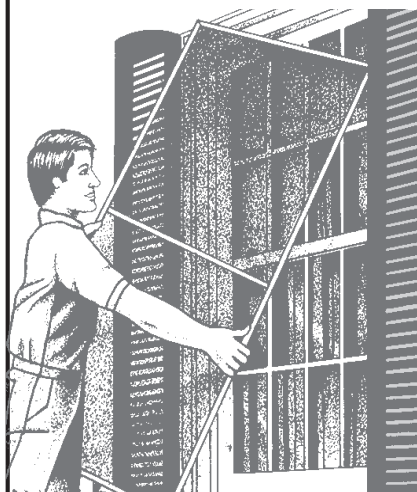
Lisa Davis is Features Editor of The Anniston Star. Contact her at 256-235-3555 or ldavis@annistonstar.com.



Tucker Webb/The Anniston Star

The house was designed by Henneyc Architecture in Birmingham and built by Holland Construction Services in Gadsden.

It's SCREEN TIME!



- CUSTOM SIZE SCREENS
- SUN SCREENS
- SCREEN REPAIRS
- RESCREEN YOUR FRAMES
- SCREEN DOORS/SLIDER SCREENS
- SCREENS ROOMS
- STORM WINDOWS & DOORS

SECURITY STORM DOORS

OVER 50
DESIGNS

CUSTOM SIZES
AVAILABLE



STORMCO MFG. CO.

5395 US Hwy 431

Alexandria

(256) 820-1412



Tucker Webb/The Anniston Star

Coke Williams and Kelly Kitchens on the back patio. The vintage leather chairs came from Kelly’s father’s old office.



HOW'S IT HANGIN'?

JC Designs offers locally crafted festive wreaths and other decorations

BY FAITH DORN
Special to The Star

Oxford resident Joy Greenwood grew up surrounded by artistically gifted family members.

"My grandmother was very talented; she always had beautiful tablescapes and decorated beautifully. My mother is an incredible decorator. She owned a flower shop locally and later began a catering business, all known as Receptions Beautiful and Flowers," said Greenwood.

In her late 20s, Greenwood joined the family business: catering, decorating weddings and doing fresh floral arrangements. Greenwood started making wreaths as part of her family's business.

"It was second nature for me if I needed a wreath for my front door to make whatever I was envisioning," Greenwood said.

Through the years, she has continued to help people decorate their homes for Christmas and in general: picking out furniture, paint colors, custom window treatments and accessories.

JC Designs is Greenwood's partnership with her niece, Crystal Barnett, to showcase their crafty endeavors. Together,

er, the women create wreaths, door hangers, topiaries and more. Greenwood finds inspiration for her decorations from different sources.

"It could come from something as simple as an ornament or something seen in a magazine," said Greenwood.

Decorations from JC Designs range in price. The wreaths pictured average about \$125-\$135 depending on the materials, and if you choose to incorporate a door hanger such as the lemon or the bunny, that is an additional \$40-\$45 depending on the design you choose. The lemon topiaries are \$65 each, and the carrot topiaries are \$35 each.

Greenwood explained, "You cannot compare custom wreaths, decorations, topiaries or door hangers to anything at a retail store because we do not have anywhere that you can go and have custom pieces made to accommodate your personal needs or style."

To see more of Greenwood and Barnett's creative decorations, visit JC Designs on Facebook.

Faith Dorn is a freelance writer in Anniston. Contact her at faith.h.dorn@gmail.com.



If you can't run with the big dogs, enclose your porch

BY FAITH DORN
Special to The Star

As the weather warms up, many people will be spending more time enjoying their porches. Some will choose to enclose their porches, in order to keep out bugs and other "critters." We spoke with Eugene L. Evans, Jr., of Evans Manufacturing Company in Anniston, about the process of screening and enclosing porches.

"Most people screen in their porches

to keep mosquitos and critters off their decks and patios, as well as cut down on dust and pollen infiltration," Evans said. "Most home supply centers carry different grades of screen materials and tightness of weave to keep out insects and pollen."

Evans Manufacturing has done screen rooms and enclosures, but they are not currently providing this service due to a skilled labor shortage. Evans hopes to resume doing screen rooms and enclosures soon.

Evans says black fiberglass is the most

popular and durable choice for screening in a room. After selecting the screen, the homeowner must decide whether to go all the way to the floor with the screening or have a 12-inch to 24-inch kick panel or knee wall at the base.

"I like the 24-inch knee wall. That way pets or small children won't damage the screening," Evans said. "A pet door can be installed in the kick panel or in the screen door to allow your dog or cat access. Most of the time we purchase a storm door with a pet door built in. Storm doors are built a

little heavier than screen doors and stand up better."

Most enclosures take three to five days to complete. According to Evans, the cost depends on the type of frame construction and if the area has an existing roof. He estimates the average cost of a screen enclosure to be between \$2,500 and \$7,500.

Faith Dorn is a freelance writer in Anniston. Contact her at faith.h.dorn@gmail.com.



STAR FLOORS

'The floor awakens' with Marmoleum and other popular materials

BY FAITH DORN

Special to The Star

Flooring is hot right now — like lava. Brittney Owen Jones, flooring manager at Webb Concrete's Webb Flooring in Pell City, shared her expertise on the trends she is seeing in the industry.

In carpeting, various textures are very popular right now. Jones said, "People are spending more time at home than ever, and carpet is a great way to create a cozy and warm environment." Patterns and loop pile Berber carpet are making a

comeback.

"Enhanced Vinyl Plank (EVP) is the next generation of luxury vinyl plank, offering the benefits of waterproof flooring with an upgraded and more realistic appearance," said Jones. "It is the solution for customers who want a real wood look but with more durability and stability." Enhanced Vinyl Plank is considered a very affordable flooring choice.

Engineered hardwood has a more consistent and subtle tone with a Scandanavian-inspired look, offering a

clean and minimalist feel for any space.

"It offers a true wood veneer with a more stable core, allowing for installation on concrete slabs and basement areas," Jones said.

Another popular choice in flooring is Marmoleum, Forbo's brand of linoleum flooring.

"It is offered in a variety of installation settings from sheet goods and tiles, to residential floating floor options," Jones said. "It can be heat-welded or chemical-seamed for waterproof application."

Tile features are trending towards

warmer tones and away from cooler and more neutral tones — which have been the trend for the last few years.

"Green is good," Jones said. "We're seeing more selections lean towards warmer earth tones like mossy green, bluish gray and warm clay."

Jones adds that textured tiling, specifically brick and floral dimensional tiles, make a great statement.

Faith Dorn is a freelance writer in Anniston. Contact her at faith.h.dorn@gmail.com.

Welcome Home.



Mortgage Services

Closing costs on our home loans
are as low as \$1,995.*

- Competitive rates for purchase, refinance, or construction
- Low closing costs
- Flexible term options



SCAN ME

Hold the camera up to the image



APPLY NOW

800.470.0704 atcu.com
realestate@atcu.com



Insured by the NCUA. ATCU NMLS # 402558 *For loan amounts up to \$300,000, the closing costs will be the lesser of the actual closing costs or \$1,995. For loan amounts of \$300,000 and above the borrower will be responsible for all closing costs. Programs, rates, terms and conditions are subject to change without notice.



Prepare your home and loved ones for storm season

BY FAITH DORN
Special to The Star

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, the United States averages some 10,000 thunderstorms, 5,000 floods, 1,300 tornadoes and two Atlantic hurricanes, as well as widespread droughts and wildfires each year. Check out these recommendations to prepare your home and family for severe weather.

Apps

Download one or more severe weather apps to help you stay ahead of the storm. "Emergency: Alerts" by the American Red Cross and the FEMA app are two free resources available for iOS and Android devices. When severe weather approaches,

don your best suspenders and pay attention to the updates on your phone, computer, television and radio.

Emergency kits

These kits can be bought pre-assembled, or you can craft your own. Prices are wide-ranging for pre-assembled kits, but a basic one for two people for 72 hours will cost around \$200. If you make your own emergency kit, FEMA recommends including items such as a first aid kit, cash and coins, non-perishable food, medications, pet supplies, a manual can opener and drinking water.



Generators

If the power goes out, a generator can power an appliance or two or an entire home. Generators range in price from hundreds to thousands of dollars. Evaluate what appliances you will need to power before investing in this kind of backup power source. Consumer Reports has an in-depth article comparing different types of generators from recreational inverters that can power up to 2,000 Watts to home standbys that can power up to 20,000 Watts. <https://www.consumerreports.org/generators/how-to-choose-the-right-size-generator/>



Faith Dorn is a freelance writer in Anniston. Contact her at faith.h.dorn@gmail.com.

NEED A LITTLE OR A LOT

MILLER

SAND AND LANDSCAPE SUPPLY



“Complete Your Spring To-Do List With Us!”

Miller Outdoor Living & Decor

OPEN Monday - Saturday, 2 Locations to Serve You!

ANNISTON/OXFORD 256-237-5352
Just Right At The End Of Greenbrier Road.

SAKS On Hwy 431 256-231-2300

www.millersand.com



Like Us On Facebook

Winged beauty

Attract butterflies to the garden with the right plants. Page 2B



Sherry Blanton/Special to the Star

GET READY FOR SPRING

at Downing & Sons!

1030 Gurnee Avenue Anniston, AL

PLANTING SEASON IS HERE!

Buy your seeds and plants at Calhoun County's Garden Headquarters.



NON-GMO & HEIRLOOM

Over 100 Varieties of Bulk Garden Seeds

FRESH PLANTS

All Your Favorites Arriving Regularly

ORGANIC FERTILIZERS & SOILS

We carry FOX FARM!

HUGE NEW SHIPMENT!

Refresh your living spaces with new fabric in solids or prints.



OUTDOOR FABRICS

Top brands including Sunbrella and Outdura

DECORATIVE FABRICS

Upholstery, Drapery, Leather Hides, and Luxurious Velvets



DOWNING & SONS

— est. 1963 —





Photos by Sherry Blanton/Special to the Star

WINGED BEAUTY

Attract butterflies to the garden with the right plants

BY SHERRY BLANTON

Special to the Star

Butterflies are a beautiful addition to any garden — but they’re also good for the planet. Butterflies and other pollinators — bees, birds, wasps, moths and bats — play a vital role in our ecosystem by moving pollen from the male part of the flower (the stamen) to the female part (the stigma). Butterflies pick up the pollen on their bodies as they sip the nectar from one flower and carry it to the next bloom.

Some 75 percent of the flowering plants on earth are pollinated by insects or animals. That equals more than 1,200 food crops and 180,000 different types of plants.

Essential butterfly facts

To create a garden that attracts butterflies, it’s helpful to know the four life stages of the butterfly:

1. Egg
2. Caterpillar (or larvae)
3. Chrysalis
4. Adult butterfly

The adult butterfly chooses a host plant to lay her eggs, one that will provide food for the newly hatched caterpillar. The first plant the caterpillar eats is the only plant it can consume to survive.

The caterpillar will seek a strong place to attach and form a chrysalis. When the adult butterfly is ready, it will emerge from the chrysalis.

A butterfly garden provides what each stage needs to survive.

Plants that attract butterflies

Have flowers blooming from early spring through fall, the peak butterfly season. Use annuals, perennials, ornamental shrubs and trees. More plants will attract a greater number and variety of butterflies.

Locate butterfly gardens in full sun. Most of the plants that butterflies prefer grow in sunny spots.

Butterflies need blooming shrubs and evergreens as well as flowers. These places provide shelter on cloudy, rainy, windy days or a safe place to rest at night. They may even choose garden structures such as pergolas or benches.

The butterflies’ antenna provide this amazing insect with a highly developed sense of smell. Thus, they seek plants that have fragrance (and lots of nectar). Many of the newer cultivars are not as fragrant (as they have been developed for other characteristics), making older varieties more attractive.

Plant flowers in masses, as butterflies do not have good vision. They also love

bright colors like orange and yellow.

As butterflies have straw-like mouths and long tongues, they prefer tubular-shaped flowers. They are partial to compound as well as flat flowers. Flowers such as verbena provide lots of nectar in each stop.

To have the beloved and endangered monarch butterfly in your garden, butterfly weed is a must. Monarch caterpillars will only eat the leaves of this plant; the adult butterfly as well as other pollinators adore the blooms.

Other things butterflies need

Learn to recognize which caterpillar turns into which butterfly to avoid killing an innocent caterpillar.

Take care cleaning garden debris in order not to disturb the caterpillars or the chrysalis.

Caterpillars search for a sturdy place to attach the chrysalis. If a host plant is sturdy enough, the caterpillar might choose it. Since not all host plants are sturdy enough, the caterpillar may search out a tree branch or even a bench. Provide that sought-after real estate.

Butterflies are cold-blooded and depend on the temperature of the air to warm them. Enhance the warmth by providing stones for them to rest on.

Puddling (drinking from a sand mixture) is a must for male butterflies. They get water and minerals from shallow wet places. Place a shallow pan in a sunny place, fill it with sand and water, perhaps a bit of liquid fertilizer or manure (an irresistible treat) and watch the fun begin.

But don’t do this

Be careful applying toxic chemicals in your garden! If possible, eliminate or greatly reduce their use. They can have the unintended consequences of destroying those you worked hard to attract. Choose a combination of actions to get rid of pests: nontoxic chemicals, removal of insects by hand, a heavy stream of water from the hose and beneficial insects.

Skip the butterfly houses featured in gardening catalogs. They are for humans, not butterflies.

Sherry Blanton, “The Southern Gardener,” writes about gardening for The Anniston Star. Contact her at sblanton@annistonstar.com. Follow her on Facebook at Southern Gardener-Anniston Star.



DON'T FALL

KEEP YOUR BALANCE GOING UP AND DOWN STEPS



ORNAMENTAL IRON HANDRAILS

Over 10 Styles To Choose From

STAY DRY

Under a Canvas or Aluminum Awning



ENJOY LIFE

Under a Sunroom or Screen Room



Let us turn your existing porch into a sunroom or screen room. Visit our webside for more ideas.

Eugene L. Evans Mfg. Co., Inc.

401 S Noble St. • Anniston, AL

Free Estimates - Easy Terms - Since 1950

(256) 237-5821 or 1-800-321-4414

www.awningsbyevans.com





Photos by Sherry Blanton/Special to the Star



PLANTS THAT CATERPILLARS LOVE

- Dill
- Carrot
- Parsley
- Fennel
- Milkweed
- Passionflower
- Mustard family
- Dogwood
- Aster
- Pawpaw

PLANTS THAT BUTTERFLIES LOVE

- Butterfly plant
- Abelia
- Lantana
- Cosmos
- Zinnia
- Pansy
- Bee balm
- Salvia
- Coneflower
- Black-eyed Susan
- Joe-pye weed

SPRUCING UP FOR SPRING

A to-do list for home and yard

BY FAITH DORN

Special to the Star

Spring began last week, and people have started sprucing up their homes and yards. Follow this to-do list to get your yard ready for the season!

Rake it up

One of the first steps to sprucing up the yard is clearing any debris, so break out the rakes!

Clean outdoor furniture

Spray down any lawn chairs, umbrellas, patio tables and more. Clean any seat cushions before putting them on the furniture. DIY Network recommends creating a solution of one teaspoon of dishwashing detergent, one quart of warm water and one tablespoon of Borax, and applying it to all sides via spray bottle. Wait for 15 minutes before spraying it off with a strong hose. Allow the cushions to dry in direct sunlight. Before the cushions are completely dry, spray with fabric protector.

Eliminate mosquito breeding grounds

Removing standing water is a key to minimizing the mosquito population. Another way to prevent mosquitoes from ruining your time outdoors is to use mosquito repellent. There are several natural repellants you can plant



Unsplash

including basil, thyme, eucalyptus and lantana.

Clean out your gutters

All sorts of debris can get stuck in the gutters, so it is important to clean them out regularly to ensure they function properly. Always wear gloves when removing debris by hand, and safety goggles for great extra protection.

Inspect your roof

While you're up cleaning the gutters, take a look at your roof for leaks and other damage.

Get your HVAC system serviced

Routine maintenance

can save you money in the long run.

Clean and repair or replace screens

Dust off and vacuum your door and window screens. Look closely to notice any tears in the screens. Even small tears can let bugs and other unwanted creatures seek shelter into your home.

Test your smoke alarms

Testing your alarms could save your life.

Faith Dorn is a freelance writer in Anniston. Contact her at faith.h.dorn@gmail.com.

GRIZZARD LIVING AIDS

Improving Lives Through Better Mobility Since 1993

Terry Grizzard - Owner
Brenton Young - Service Mgr.



Straight Rail Stairlifts



Verticle Platform Lift

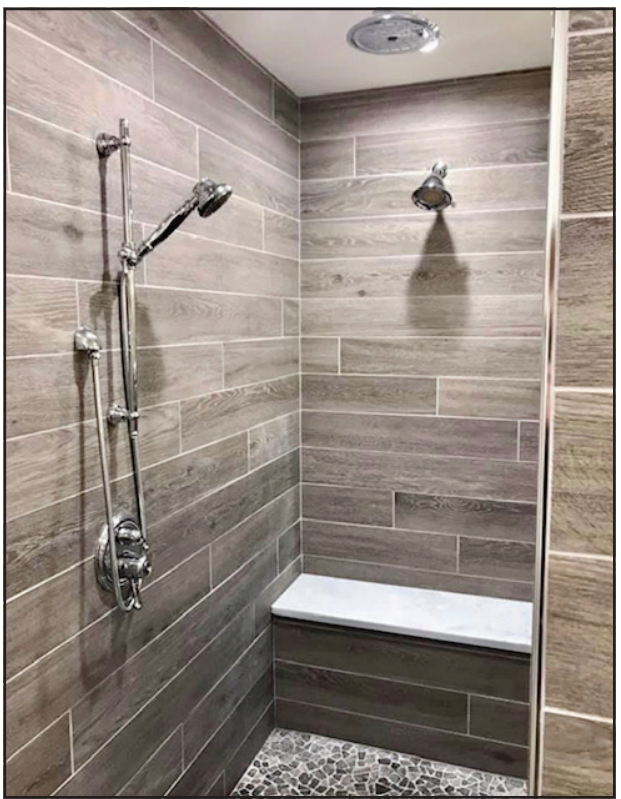


Curved Rail Stairlifts



Residential Ramp

1227 Noble St. • Anniston, AL
256-237-2006
tgrizzard@glalifts.com
www.glalifts.com



Photos courtesy of Scott Skinner

BATH AND BEYOND

Local designer shares trends and tips for bathroom upgrades

BY DANIELLE STALLWORTH
dstallworth@annistonstar.com

Any experienced home buyer or seller will tell you that one of the big ticket items when it comes to houses is the bathroom. But why do we care so much about them?



SKINNER

Scott Skinner, an Anniston-based decorating consultant who has been doing residential and commercial design work for about 20 years, said it's because the bathroom is the area where we

start and end the day.

"Bathrooms are where you collect your thoughts and enhance yourself," Skinner said. "They can become expensive, but with careful planning and the correct fixtures and finishes, you can have the space of your dreams."

Whether you're looking to transform your bathroom into a completely new oasis or just give it a subtle facelift, these trends and tips are sure to give you an inspiration boost!

What trends are you seeing in bathroom renovations?

- A lot of freestanding tubs. People are also wanting larger showers, and sometimes that means taking out the built-in tubs to make room. A lot of times, the built-in tubs are under obscure decorative windows, and you can include the window into the new shower (creating a new tile surround).
- Two freestanding his and hers vanities (not just your typical pedestal sinks) instead of one long one.
- Medicine cabinets are making a comeback. Not your hang-on-the-wall ones, but cutting into the wall. I've had a cabinet guy make a frame (then add in a mirror) to match the vanity. This can create a custom look.
- A lot of going back to classic timeless designs. Classic doesn't mean boring.
- Natural elements playing into a bath design. Tans and cream whites with hints of natural.

Tub to walk-in shower conversions seem to be gaining popularity. Is that something you've seen or done before?

Yes, but I think it depends on your needs, long-term or resale. I have designed some wet rooms which include the shower and tub in the same area of the bath. One thing to consider is a curbless walk in shower. They are great for when you have a glass front and sides.

If someone wants to renovate their bathroom, what do you suggest they start with?

Take some time to plan. I know that sounds basic, but you wouldn't believe how many people just start using all of their "likes" without making sure they flow. Write down all of your needs from storage of personal items to towels and water bottles. There are many variables in a bathroom design, so we need to make an outline: measure and scale out the room, then plan lighting accordingly (wall sconces or vanity lights?). Don't forget ceiling lighting. Think about unique features to set your space apart.

When I meet a client about a bath remodel or refresh, you have your hard-scapes like flooring, cabinetry and wall structures, and softscapes like counter-tops, lighting, mirrors and fixtures. We want to look at what's the most cost effective right then, but always make sure that when you come back later to do a little more you haven't wasted money or hurt the overall design.

Are there any DIY projects that you would suggest to a homeowner looking for some quick and easy upgrades?

You can change your light and vanity fixtures (don't forget to support your local lighting and plumbing stores). Have some fun with mirrors. One time I collaged a client's kids' pictures around a mirror frame, added their favorite color, and the outcome was they had their own sink space. Also, something as simple as changing towels can make a difference. Add some color in those natural baths.



GOT WEEDS?

GET STARTED SPECIAL:
Only **\$34⁹⁵***

ENVYLawn

Fertilization, Weed,
Insect & Disease Control

256-820-4633



Photos courtesy of Scott Skinner

256-706-4876

SERVICES

- ▶ Floor Leveling & Stabilization
- ▶ Foundation Repair
- ▶ Crawl Space Encapsulation
- ▶ Basement Waterproofing

\$500 OFF

of any foundation repair
or complete
waterproofing system.

256-706-4876

Lincoln security company helps property owners protect homes

BY VALLEAN JACKSON

Special to The Daily Home

HighSite Networks in Lincoln has brought a new perspective of networking, protection and security to local communities.

Having opened the business during the COVID-19 pandemic, owner Kevin Johnson is working to provide safety networks and security systems for individuals and families in their homes and businesses. HighSite Networks has arrived on the scene as the new normal for many families involves working from home and virtual learning.

"I have always loved to help people solve problems, even in my years of telecommunication," he said. "I did troubleshooting repairs and public safety for about 20 years. Noticing the big gap in technology -- especially with large companies and their true lack of full security -- led me to opening my own business. The purpose of my business is to help people realize they can own their own system, maintain it themselves, have full security and save money."

HighSite Networks can cover any perimeter. Johnson describes the installed system as an on-premises solution that does not require subscription fees. "Set-up is completely secure, display monitors can be installed, and live footage can be accessed from their mobile device. Additional features can be added, such as email, motion alerts, archive of video footage and taking pictures from live footage. The only person that will have access to the security system is the business or home owner."

Services include network development, network administration and management, server and desktop administration, computer and multi-site networking, point of sale installations/repairs/support, cable testing, video jack installations, wifi solutions and enterprise technology.

"At the height of the pandemic, a lot of people did not want outside people in their homes," Johnson said, "which was understandable. And with a lot of people being online at once I helped to optimize networks for them to function better with all the traffic the servers were receiving. Creating strength in the network also helps to prevent hackers from stealing information."

For prospective customers, he suggested that if the individual worries about their home and pets, and wants to look in on things while away, a security system is what they need. "What you want are those extra sets of eyes when you're away, like almost being in two places at once."

For more information, visit www.highsitenetworks.com. Johnson's business hours are 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 7 a.m.-noon Saturdays.

HERE'S TO SWIMMIN' WITH SOCIALLY DISTANCED WOMEN

BY FAITH DORN

Special to the Star

As we get closer to the summer, some folks may be considering installing a swimming pool to help keep cool during the dog days of summer. Carrie Adams of Marie's Pool Store in Anniston recommends that homeowners and potential buyers familiarize themselves with rules and laws regarding installing a pool and contact their insurance company.

"We have had homeowners whose insurance companies made them remove a diving board or slide, or had them install a fence around the pool," Adams said.

Marie's Pool Store sells above-ground pools, pool accessories, parts and more. According to Adams, the average cost of purchasing and installing an above-ground pool is \$4,000-\$6,000, plus the cost of a deck if you choose to build one. Although she does not install in-ground pools, Adams says the average cost would be about \$30,000-\$50,000 — depending on how much concrete you want around the pool area and how many "bells and whistles" you add to the basic pool package.

After purchase and installation, Adams said there is not much difference in maintenance for an above-ground pool and an in-ground pool. "Water is water. Having

What you need to know before you put in a pool



Unsplash

a good pump and filter system on the pool is key. Other than a good pump and filter system, keeping the pool clean of debris is also key."

According to Adams, the main issues with pool maintenance are keeping the pool clean, running the pump and filter system a sufficient amount of time and properly sanitizing the water — whether it be through traditional chlorine, salt or an

alternative method.

Adams also encourages those who want to purchase a pool to carefully decide what size pool they want to buy or build. "Again, water is water, but there is a big difference in maintaining 15,000 gallons or 35,000 gallons of water. I suggest you set aside money for equipment emergencies."

Finally, Adams recommends homeowners find a reputable pool compa-

ny that can properly test their water and advise them about maintenance.

"Many people end up spending more money than necessary because they go to the mass merchants and try to figure it all out themselves," she said.

Faith Dorn is a freelance writer in Anniston. Contact her at faith.h.dorn@gmail.com.

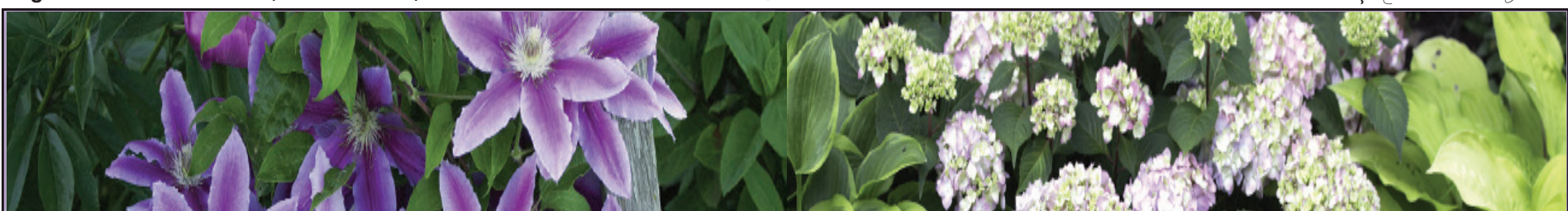


CHEROKEE FARMERS CO-OP OF JACKSONVILLE

ONE-STOP SHOP FOR ALL YOUR GARDENING NEEDS!

- SPRING / SUMMER PLANTS, FLOWERS AND HERBS
- GARDEN SUPPLIES (SOIL, FERTILIZER, MULCH)
- GARDEN TOOLS AND ACCESSORIES (RAKES, GLOVES, SHOVELS)
- FRUIT TREES (APPLE, PEAR, PEACH, PLUM, GRAPE)
- PECAN TREES





Springtime Home & Garden Guide



Big Green Egg 18.25 in. Large Size
#8695280

**BUY A LARGE
GET A "NEST"
FREE**



Traeger Pro Series and Ironwood Grills
#8474793

\$100 OFF



Stihl Weed Eater FS-56RC-E

\$209⁹⁹



Yellowwood Protector Deck Stain



10% OFF
Introductory Offer



Blackstone 36" Griddle Station
#8037617



\$399⁹⁹



YOUR CHOICE

SALE

69¢ each

Ace Bird Suet, 11 oz.
#8039379, 8039376, 8039377, 8039378



40 Lb. Wild Bird Food
#8315087

\$11⁹⁹



Miracle-Gro Flowers Garden Soil
#7438336
or Miracle-Gro Garden Soil Vegetables & Herbs
#7438286



SALE

\$6⁴⁹



SALE \$17.99

\$14.99

Ace 2 Gal. Home & Garden Sprayer
#7437668
Limit 2 at this price

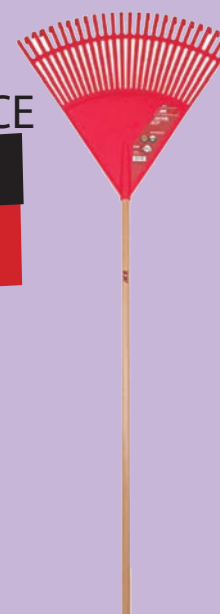


YOUR CHOICE

SALE

\$15⁹⁹ each

Ace Yard & Garden Tools
7011273, 7011414, 7012818, 7012859, 7138555



SALE

\$6.99

Ace Poly Leaf Rake
#7502917



SALE

\$79⁹⁹

Ace 6 Cu. Ft. Contractor Wheelbarrow
#7331705

Great Selection of Fruit & Ornamental Trees

\$19⁹⁹

starting at
Apple, Pear, Plum, Peach,
Sugar Maple, Dogwood & More

Boston Ferns Hanging Baskets

\$14⁹⁹

10 inch
Kimberly Queens

\$15⁹⁹



Flower or Vegetable Seeds

7221955, 7221989

Oxford Lumber **ACE Hardware**

1400 Barry St., Oxford
256-831-0540
Mon.-Fri. 7-5:30,
Sat. 7-4, Closed Sun.

Talladega HomeCenter **ACE**

1104 Ashland Hwy.
256-362-2208
Mon.-Fri. 7-5, Sat.
7-3, Closed Sun.