

The Anniston Star

HOME/GARDEN

Spring 2024



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Photos by Tucker Webb/Consolidated Publishing

The Askew home sits on an area of land formerly known at Redfield Farms. The Askews purchased the property before Covid-19 struck.

A BIG HOUSE IN THE COUNTRY

The Askews took a chance on building a dream

BY WHITNEY ERVIN
Features Editor

Most empty nesters are beginning to settle into a simpler life, usually accompanied by a smaller house or even an apartment to escape the trials of keeping up a house. With their four children out of the house and a growing brood of grandkids, Lisa and Mike Askew decided to take a different approach. They have recently built a beautiful home.

“We built a big house in the country,” Lisa Askew said

Their house, built on land previously known as Redfield Farm, was the culmination of a Sunday drive daydream. Lisa and Mike often drove past the property, discussing the possibility of purchasing it and what they would do on their slice of the land.

“I thought we were just talking, day-dreaming,” Lisa said. “But then he gave me the deed for the property on my birthday.”

The building of the house coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic, which slowed down the whole process. The price of materials skyrocketed while simultaneously being more difficult to purchase because of supply issues. Their ‘house in the country’ proved to be a project three years in the making, with final touches still being made days before The Anniston Star paid a visit in mid-March. Brad Adderhold with A&W LawnKare had just recently done some landscaping work at the time.

Just like a child, it takes a village to raise a house. Vick Freeman was hired to oversee the construction, and Wade Custom Cabinets worked on all of the custom cabinets in the house. The electrical work was done by Vantage Electric.

“It was amazing to me all the excellent craftsmanship we have right here,” Lisa said.

Lisa, who is retired after working as a pharmaceutical sales rep (and a stint selling real estate), took on the construction of their home basically as a full-time job. She even found herself on a scaffold to do some painting on some trim.

“One of the men said ‘I’ve never seen someone get all the scaffold,’” Lisa said.

Three years of work paid off with a beautiful European-inspired home. The home is complete with an outdoor kitchen, with the hardscaping done by Greg Whiting, which Lisa said is her favorite part of the house. The unique tile work was done by Paul Lucas.

Her husband, Mike, has a home office and a bar area where he has a vast bourbon collection.

Each piece of furniture in the house was carefully selected or was already in their collection. Lisa turned to antiques for much of the decor. Despite being a new house, these unique pieces offer a charm and personality usually reserved for historical homes. A stained glass window in the master bathroom has a particular sentimental value as it was made by Lisa’s cousin in Panama City. Lisa had to drive there to get it and spent the whole drive back worried about it getting broken.

They still have many plans for the property. Lisa had a greenhouse installed where she’s currently keeping orchids. Fruit trees have been planted for an orchard. Lisa wanted chickens, but the idea was shut down.

“But you know, someone drove by and told us what we really need out here is a horse.”



Archways are a common fixture in the Askew’s European style home. This arched opening looks out on Lisa’s garden boxes.



This seating area is connected to the outdoor kitchen. Lisa plans on hosting holiday family meals outside. Mike spent a lot of time in this area during football season.



This is an outdoor dining area.



Photos by Tucker Webb/Consolidated Publishing

Lisa and Mike Askew pose with their granddaughter, Noah Kate Aikens.



The house is filled with unique tile work. This is Mike's home office.



This beautiful stained glass window is in the master shower. Lisa's cousin handcrafted the window in Panama City, Fla., and Lisa had to transport the piece.



The formal dining room. Lisa got on a scaffold to paint along the trim.



The bar area of the house is home to Mike's bourbon collection. Mike jokes that the bar and office are the only parts of the house he has, but he makes the most of it.



Lisa loves to cook, and wanted an open kitchen so she wouldn't feel boxed in. All of the cabinet work was custom.

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The master bathroom is an homage to Lisa’s love of orchids.



This marble work was the inspiration for the stained glass window in the shower.



The Askew’s living room is a mix of comfort and classic beauty.



The master bedroom is a place of comfort. Lisa wanted a lot of blues and greens in the house because those colors make her feel at peace.



Many of the pieces used in the house are either antiques or pieces that were already owned by the Askews. Lisa has a lot of antique chairs reupholstered to give them new life.



The spiral staircase was custom made and installed for the house.

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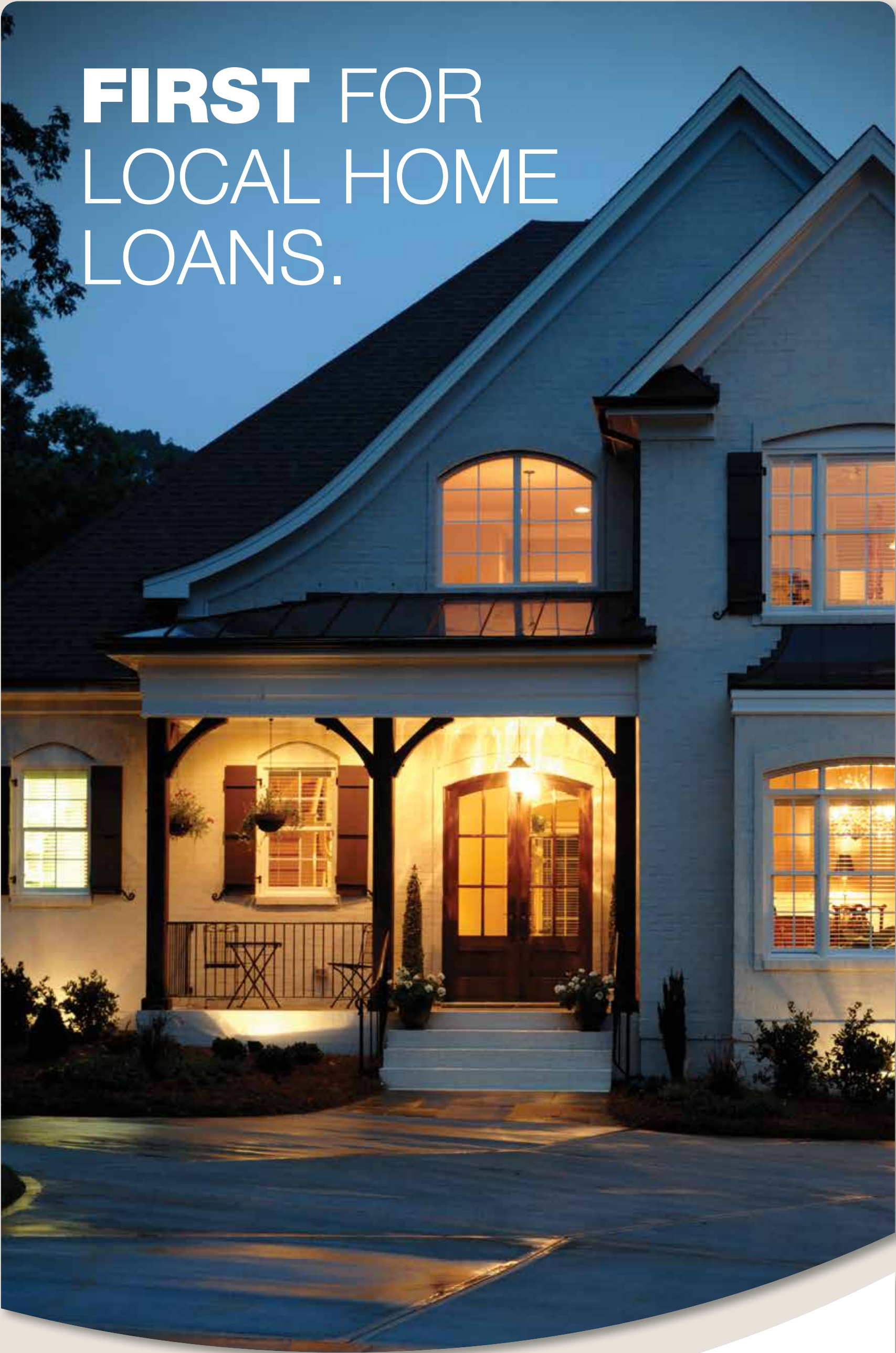


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Heather Spivey is co-owner of Crawford Office Supply. She and her husband, Michael, appreciate when their customers shop locally.

Photos by John Gruenewald/Anniston Star correspondent

WORK FROM HOME

Crawford Office Supply can help customers who need a home office

BY JOHN GRUENEWALD
Anniston Star Correspondent

A home office has become a way of life for many workers, and an Anniston business wants to help by creating a practical and efficient workspace.

Heather Spivey and her husband, Michael, co-own Crawford Office Supply, and the couple's family has owned the company for more than 50 years.

The office supply company was initially located on South Noble Street but in 2003 the couple built a new location at 301 South Leighton Avenue.

There are two major considerations

when setting up a home office: How much space is needed, and how much space is available. Both decisions determine the size and quantity of the pieces of office furniture. For instance, the company's smallest desk is only 24 x 42 inches. Crawford also has desks made of a combination of wood and metal or all wood, and desks that come in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors.

In addition to desks, Crawford also sells different sizes and types of chairs including executive office chairs, stackable chairs, rolling chairs, waiting-room seating chairs and standard office chairs. The supply store also has chairs made

from a variety of fabrics, leather and vinyl that come in many colors. Couches available, too.

Several pieces of the furniture are ergonomically correct to help the worker stay comfortable and healthy.

The supplier also sells other office furniture such as lamps, tables, bookcases and filing cabinets.

As part of their customer service program, Crawford's crew can measure the prospective office space and then deliver and set up the furniture.

For the home office worker, Crawford maintains a full line of paper supplies including ink and ink cartridges, and a

fulltime print shop, which can print such items as stationery, necessary documents, letters and more. The company does not sell computers, fax machines or phones.

For the budget-minded shopper, Crawford's has scratch-and-dent merchandise, which they sometimes purchase by the truckload.

Regardless of whether the office furniture has a flaw, Crawford has something each office owner can afford.

Heather is grateful for each customer. "We really appreciate our customers shopping locally," she says, "and we realize how important this is for them and for us."



Part-time front desk worker, Katelyne Gruber, and full-time employee, Valerie Smith, greet customers who visit Triple T Turf store in Weaver. Owner Ray Thompson is a retired fireman from Anniston Fire Department.

Submitted photo

Submitted photo

Nicole Anderson assisted a customer who brought in his weed trimmer for repair. Anderson and her husband, Johnny, co-own BlueJay's Outdoor Power Equipment in Weaver.

Wide selection of lawn equipment brands available in Calhoun County

BY SHERRY KUGHN
The Anniston Star

Warm weather is here and people are eager to get outside, according to Nicole Anderson who runs the front office at BlueJays Outdoor Power Equipment in Weaver. Lawn-equipment customers throughout the area, she said, are equipping themselves to begin their annual yard work.

BlueJays is not alone as a local company selling lawn equipment. Two others are Triple T Turf in Weaver and Foothills Tractor and Equipment in Alexandria and Centre. All three specialize in selling lawn equipment, and they help customers afford the right pieces of equipment with loans, some of which are zero-interest for those who qualify. The local companies also sell supplies and parts for their equipment and provide service for maintaining their products.

Nicole and her husband, Johnny, have been in the business of selling and servicing lawn maintenance equipment for the past six years. As a local business, they help

the community in several ways.

They offer three brands of mowers that customers seem to enjoy purchasing: Husqvarna, Walker and Grasshopper.

The Andersons help the community by participating in the work-study program associated with the Calhoun County School System, and they provide warranty service to make things easier for their customers.

If someone buys a product from BlueJays, the Andersons have their certified repair staff fix any problem that arises in the operation of their mowers, weed trimmers and full line of lawn equipment. They handle the paperwork and the back-and-forth communications between their customers and the manufacturer. Also, they give labor discounts to customers who buy their equipment at their store.

"If you buy from us, we give a 10 percent discount for parts and supplies," Nicole said. "We have cheaper labor rates for our customers who purchase their equipment here for regular maintenance."

Former Anniston firefighter Ray

Thompson once cut grass as a side job. Six years ago, he retired from the Anniston Fire Department for the purpose of owning a lawn equipment store. Triple T Turf store in Weaver specializes in Exmark and Stihl lawn mowers and equipment.

Back when Thompson cut grass for his customers, he discovered the outstanding quality of the Exmark brand of zero-turn mowers. He said Exmark is the best-selling commercial brand in the country.

"I still have the same one I bought in 2008," he said.

Another reason for carrying Exmark is that the company brand is not available at the big-box stores, according to Thompson.

Spring is the best time for special sale prices, and he said another respected company, Stihl, has multiple offers at this time.

In addition to selling and servicing their equipment, Thompson also runs a lawn-service department, which is managed by Cody Cochran.

Foothills Tractor & Equipment has two stores, one in Alexandria and one in Cen-

tre. Both are owned by David Seals and specialize in the sales of Gravely, Spartan and Toro zero-turn mowers.

Seals worked for a commercial grass-cutting business during his college days, which gave him the idea that he could own his own business, which is now 12 years old. For commercial lawn companies and homeowners, he sells zero-turn mowers because they are easier to use than standard riding or push lawn mowers. They are faster and more economical, he said, "They save on gas because of the reduced time it takes to cut a lawn. These mowers cut grass in half the time," Seals said.

Seals enjoys being a local company so he can help the young people in the two communities where his two businesses are located.

"We donate to local schools and recreation parks, and the money our customers spend stays in the community," he said.

Seals said his company runs special sales all year long, and he has a motto, "The best deals are at Foothills."



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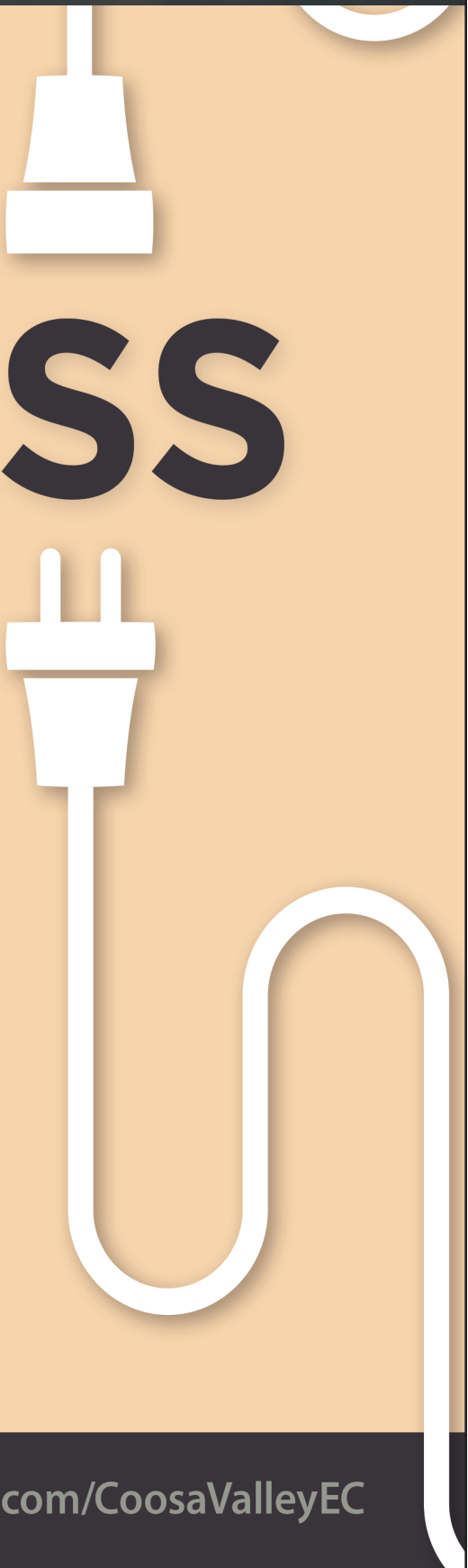
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THE SOUTHERN GARDENER



HYPED FOR HYDRANGEAS

Sherry Blanton shares priceless information about her favorite summer flower

BY SHERRY BLANTON
Special to The Star

During late spring and summer my favorite flower is the hydrangea, whether sky blue, bright white, or even audacious pink. As years pass there are more hydrangeas on the market, so beautiful it is impossible not to need a new one. I bought one yesterday that had exquisite baby pink flowers. Naturally I could not pass by without putting one in my cart. I may have had one, but it never hurts to have two.

I took my canine friend with me and told the other customers she was learning how to shop for plants at Lowe's, a skill everyone needs to know: where the newest and the bargain plants are displayed. By the way the staff in the garden center are really good to the crazy plant people and happy to show you the newbies, not unpacked yet.

One of the most popular hydrangeas (in our country for decades) is the French, bigleaf, or mophead hydrangeas (H. Macrophylla). These beauties are choosy about how they are managed. Along with their magnificent showy flowers, they have a list of demands to show them at their best. Plant this hydrangea in the right place (morning sun and late afternoon sun — skip the noonday sun), provide the correct moisture and, most importantly, know when to prune. If you must prune, this task has to be finished by the middle of summer or the next spring there will be no bodacious blooms.

From my first mophead I had become a collector. Years ago the 4H Tree Amigos Master Gardeners had a sale with all manner of hydrangeas. My trunk was full. Sadly, that was also the year of the drought!

Since my garden planting space is limited (too many plants); many of my hydrangeas live in large containers. Most hydrangea will handle container living with the exception of the oakleaf hydrangea which says no. Hydrangeas in containers need extra attention to keep them from wilting. Pay attention to amount of water and do not let them dry out. A wilted hydrangea is a sad sight.

Be ready to repot if the plant outgrows its current living situation.

Enormous blue blooms on my mophead hydrangeas peak out from the corners of the garden or line the paths. Mophead hydrangeas are probably the most picky of all the hydrangeas. They are only happy in morning and late afternoon sun. None are drought tolerant and can wilt quickly if they dry out. If a freeze sneaks up in early spring, there will be no flowers that year.

If you purchase reblooming hydrangeas such as 'Endless Summer' or 'Dooley' (from the famous coach and plant breeder Vince Dooley) or other 'Endless Summer' cultivars there will be flowers. These hardy beauties bloom on new wood and old



wood; they will rebloom regardless of the cold. Rejoice there will be flowers!

One of my favorite mopheads is 'Sister Teresa' with large glowing white blooms which turn a subtle pink as they age. As mine has grown older there are not as many flowers, but I remain hopeful.

Mopheads, can be found in either, blue, pink, or white or even purple. Articles have been written as how to change the color of the flowers. Instead, buy the color you like. My sister told me that a fellow gardener told her to put roofing nails around her hydrangeas to change the color. The thought of roofing nails in my garden soil scares me a bit.

About two years ago I acquired a panicle hydrangea (H. paniculata) with cone shaped flowers by the charming name of 'Pinky Winky'; it was instant love. I hurried out every morning to watch it grow and admire the lovely pink glow. Panicle hydrangeas take more sun and seem less finicky than the mopheads. Even though they are tougher, they require constant moisture and excellent planting conditions. Mine can handle more sun than the French hydrangea and as long as I keep watering, life is good. I have not yet pruned them except to remove the spent flowers. They may need pruning to control the size or to remove dead flowers or crossing branches or branches that are dead, diseased, or damaged,

Panicle hydrangeas come in a variety of sizes. There is the large 'Limelight' which can reach ten feet to the charming but smaller 'Baby Lime.' There a new smaller 'Limelight' on the market for those who can not get enough of this fabulous hydrangea. There are also the PeeGee hydrangeas. Paniculata hydrangeas are a joy in the garden.

I see panicle hydrangeas pruned into a tree form. There seems to a hydrangea for every taste.

There is nothing in the spring garden like an 'Annabelle,' a smooth hydrangea (H.



Arborescens), in full bloom. This hydrangea is a native like the oakleaf. The flowers are the size of basketballs They begin a pale shade of chartreuse changing to a sparkling white each day. They can handle the sun with adequate moisture, although they would be happier with a bit of shade. Unlike the mophead pruned in summer, smooth hydrangeas should be pruned in late winter. The only fault I have found is the stems droop over under the weight of the flowers. Friends tell me the way to prevent the falling over is to plant several in a row. Smooth hydrangeas benefit from a drastic pruning in late winter.

Oak leaf hydrangea (H. Quercifolia), a native hydrangea and the state flower of Alabama, has marvelous long white panicles that glisten in the sun. They change to delicate pink as summer passes creating a breathtaking landscape. Mine are about eight feet tall. A real beauty is 'Ruby Slippers' with exquisite rose colored flowers. It does not seem to grow as tall as the original oakleaf. Oak leaf hydrangeas demand good drainage to be happy; they can take more heat than mophead hydrangeas. They can handle some sun but prefer dappled sun light. If they get too leggy, haircuts must be complete by July. I dislike cutting off the flowers so mine rarely get a pruning. Oak-leaf hydrangeas prefer moist soil, but not soaking. They perform well on a slope.

There are other hydrangeas available for our gardens including those that climb as long as 60 feet up a tree.

When buying or planting a hydrangea, know what to buy (and its needs), place the plant in the right place with the correct amount of sunlight and shade, and provide the necessary care and management.

Here are a few tips to help keep hydrangeas happy and encourage them to bloom every year.

One of the most common hydrangea questions seems to be "Why does my hydrangea not have any flowers?"

Lots of reasons: operator error, the weather, and the wrong home.



Photos by Sherry Blanton/Special to The Star

- Be aware of the correct time and how much to prune. It is essential to know how and when to prune. For example pruning a mophead in spring means no flowers that summer!

- Planting a hydrangea in the wrong place: too much sun or poor drainage will surely cause a decline. Mopheads are especially picky about the right environment conditions (morning and late afternoon sun),

- Hydrangeas resent too much nitrogen (the first number on the bag). Excess nitrogen will cause the plant to have deep green leaves and no flowers. Use a fertilizer designed for acid loving plants. Be sure to do a soil test to make certain your plant needs fertilizer. Be aware of having too much nitrogen in the yard which can wash into your hydrangeas.

- Hydrangeas have to get used to their living conditions and sometimes will not bloom until they mature, perhaps a year or so.

- Some things are out of our control. Winter damage is common especially to the mophead hydrangeas. Other winter hardy hydrangeas can get damaged if there is extreme cold.

- All hydrangeas need good, well draining soil.

- Late spring cold spells may also cause a hydrangea not to bloom or blooming will be later.

- Drought will definitely cause a lack of blooms the year it occurs and even years after.

- Be aware if your hydrangea (especially the mopheads) gets black spot, a fungus, on the leaves. Remove those leaves; at the end of the season rake up diseased leaves so none will be around to pass it on.

From catalogs and social media it seems there are dozens of new cultivars each year. Plant collectors, like me, want one of each. If you need to be the first kid on the block with a new hydrangea, there will be plenty to buy. Try one of each and see which makes your heart beat faster.





Submitted photos

Brittany Johns with husband, Daniel and son, Debo.

DECLUTTERING AND ORGANIZING

Jacksonville resident turns a hobby into a business

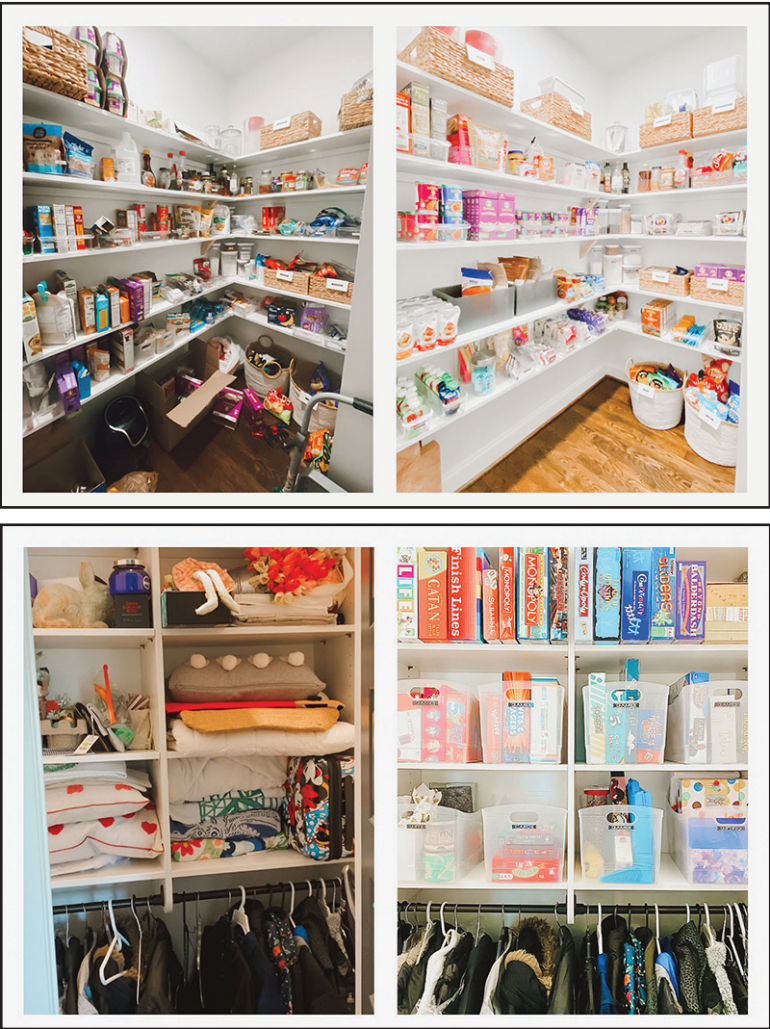
BY DONNA BARTON
The Anniston Star

What started out as a hobby for Jacksonville resident Brittany Johns has turned into a successful business. “I grew up with a mom that was very organized and I loved helping her do things around the house and her office,” she explained. “I always

helped family and friends organize closets and pantries. I never really thought about turning it into a business.” But after 15 years working retail, she and her husband, Daniel Johns, decided it was time for her to do something fun for herself. She now works as a professional organizer as the owner of Sort A Mess. “I really feel like God just opened that door

for me.” In helping clients organize their storage and living spaces, Brittany has learned there’s a lot of emotional awareness at play. On the surface, it is decluttering and creating a space and a system that is beneficial and easy to use, but it goes a lot deeper than that. “It’s not just making a pantry or a closet

look pretty,” she said. “I’ve sat with clients as they’ve cried about getting rid of things, talked about why they hold onto things.” Brittany finds great personal joy helping clients see a light at the end of a tunnel they had once viewed as chaos. “Organizing shouldn’t be overwhelming,” she said. “Your home should be a place of peace and joy.”



7 TIPS TO DECLUTTER AND ORGANIZE YOUR HOME

1. Walk your house and list those areas that are the most stressful for you. Once you make the list, be real with yourself and address those areas point by point. If your garage is the most stressful, ask your spouse or a friend to help tackle it.
2. You don’t have to do it all in one day. Breathe! Sometimes it’s easier to start with a smaller task such as a drawer or a closet.
3. Once the decluttering begins, make four piles: Trash, Donate, Maybe and Keep. Don’t fret if the “Maybe” pile becomes too large. Once you start tossing things and making those big decisions, it becomes a lot easier to say no. Keep pressing that gas pedal.
4. Don’t go out and buy organizing bins or baskets. (Read that again!) You will only put yourself in a box thinking you have to fill these things. In reality, if you declutter first, you’ll realize you don’t need those items.
5. Create a designated space for everything. Make use of those odd drawers, weird closets and awkward spaces by letting them serve as storage for those things you don’t need to access a lot, such as holiday items.
6. Label spaces and areas, but don’t overdo it. Households can have a revolving door of change so only label what needs to be labeled — and be vague. For example, in your pantry, don’t label “macaroni, spaghetti, etc.” when you can just say “pasta.”
7. Organization doesn’t have to look like a Pinterest feature. The most important thing is to declutter and get rid of what you don’t need. Your goal should be to know where everything is, without having any excess to deal with. It will leave you with a feeling of joy and peace in your home. You got this!

...

For more tips on home organizing, or to make an appointment for a consultation, find Brittany at Sort A Mess on Facebook or Instagram.

TIME TO RENOVATE!

BY FAITH DORN
Special to The Star

Many people are beginning spring cleaning, and others have already finished the process. If you are the latter and have some free time, could you stop by my house? Once everything is tidied up and in its proper place, it might be time to consider some renovations for your home.

How old is your roof?

As with almost everything other than a fine wine, roofs deteriorate with age. Damage sustained during severe weather can also take its toll. According to a 2022 study by Verisk, a data analytics and risk assessment firm, “U.S. roof-related claims exceeded \$19 Billion just in 2021, making

up about 30% of all property loss dollars.” Some roofs last about 20-30 years, while others can last 40 or 50 years, depending on material and wear and tear. If a member of the Bush family was president during your last home inspection, it would not be a bad idea to get a professional to take a look at your roof.

It’s getting hot in here!

Consider purchasing a smart thermostat for your home. Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled, and many of them can be controlled by smartphones or devices like Alexa. Although smart thermostats typically cost more than traditional thermostats, they will save you money in the long run. According to EnergyStar.gov, “For the average American household, almost half the annual energy bill goes to heating and

cooling — more than \$900 a year.” As energy costs continue to rise, saving wherever you can is always a plus.

Not every smart thermostat will be compatible with your HVAC system, so do your research before ordering the first one you find. EnergyStar.gov has a section of its website dedicated to smart thermostats. You can learn more about them, as well as find and compare smart thermostats that have earned the Energy Star label.

I’m Blue (Da Ba Dee)

2024 is the year of blue, as determined by Sherwin Williams and Benjamin Moore. Although their chosen shades of blue are different, it is clear that homeowners will be experiencing a “rhapsody in blue” this year.

Sherwin Williams’ Color of 2024 is Upward SW 6239, “a breezy, blissful blue” with a “hint of silver lining”. This calming color would be perfect for a bedroom or study. Colors that pair well with Upward SW 6239 include Drift of Mist SW 9166, Gale Force SW 7605 and Honeydew SW 6428.

Benjamin Moore’s Color of 2024 is Blue Nova 825 a combination of violet and blue in an “elevated, sumptuous hue.” This color would be perfect for a living room or accent wall. Blue Nova 825 would pair well with colors such as Paper White 1590, Mount Saint Anne 1565 and Quincy Tan HC-25.

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



BEEKEEPING 101

‘The bee is small among flying things, but her fruit hath the chiefest sweetness,’ Ecclesiasticus (11: 3)

BY NICK BONDS
Special to the Star

Beekeeping has a rich and storied past, dating back well before recorded history. It came to Greece as early as 1500 BC and Italy in the 700s BC, both cultures learning from Egyptians, who had been practicing beekeeping since at least 4500 BC.

The Catholic Church and its monasteries helped to preserve the tradition in the West, and it has been an integral part and symbol of the Church ever since.

I received my first beehive in the spring of 2022. I had spoken to a neighbor who keeps bees, and he told me that the best way to learn was by doing. So, I bought a hive, along with the proper tools — smokers and hooks

to lift the frames filled with comb and honey — and a special jacket with a hood to keep the bees from stinging me while I inspect the hive.

The bees arrived in a small box and my neighbor came to help me place them in the hive. I am not sure what I imagined this process would be like, but it involved tipping the bees over and shaking them vigorously until nearly all 10,000 were dumped into the prepared beehive.

Interesting fact: If the bees like their new home, they will proceed to “dance” around the hive by sticking their hind ends in the air and rotating them.

After the bees are released, it is important to help feed them. This is done by mixing sugar with hot water in a 2:1 ratio. Bees, like

many Southerners, prefer their drinks to be sweet.

After a few weeks, the sugar water is tapered off to allow the bees to look for pollen. This has an added benefit for avid gardeners, by helping pollinate many plants. Our garden never looked so good as when the bees came.

This is also the time that beekeepers should begin inspecting the hive. For me, this involved lighting some fuel in the smoker, making sure that the smoke that came out was not very hot, and donning my sting-proof jacket.

I immediately learned two things: it is imperative to keep the smoker burning for the duration of your hive inspection and you should go ahead and splurge on the ventilat-

ed sting-proof jacket.

Despite the miserably hot and humid weather, I could not help but love the bees in my hive. They were fascinating to watch and study, each having its task and job to complete with single-minded focus and intent.

Reading books about the process does not convey the incredible reality of seeing combs full of pollen, honey and brood (baby bees). That moment made me realize I was participating in an ancient tradition that predates recorded history, connecting me to ancient Egyptians, Mesopotamians, Greeks, Romans and Catholic monks.

If you are considering beekeeping, I can assure you it is a worthwhile and rewarding experience and I encourage you to learn and try.



How to refresh your decor on a budget

BY SCOTT SKINNER
Special to the Star

Looking to update your space, but tight on funds? Here are tips from Scott Skinner of STS Design and Decorating on how to stretch those dollars into a refreshing new look.

Paint

Even though the price of paint has gone up over the years, it’s one of the best ways to refresh. Color may be back in style, but you should always design around what you like and what fits best for your space.

Try painting a piece of furniture. Choose between a complementary neutral or add that pop of color that runs with your overall current environment.

Painting bookcases and key vocal pieces can make a change.

Accessories

There are so many accessories out there, that it can get overwhelming. Stores like HomeGoods and TJ Maxx usually have fresh new pieces at affordable prices.

Mixing your existing finer pieces with just the right cost-efficient ones can create a new look. This is especially true if you’re

just looking to add a touch of color.

Wallpaper

There’s a plethora of sources of good wallpaper that’s peel-and-stick and easy to install (or a true pebble-back.)

The right patterns, such as a geometric neutral or a bold floral, in powder rooms or backs of bookcases, cabinet panels, or door trims can make an impact without breaking the bank. Even a true classic grasscloth wallpaper can add texture on your walls for art or lighting.

Lighting

I love lighting design and what a treasure trove of resources we have. From online sources like Wayfair to local lighting companies, the selections can make me feel like a kid in a candy store.

Price points range from A to Z and can meet all budgets.

A new piece over your breakfast table or changing that dated fixture in the foyer will make your space feel refreshed and re-energized.

Chandeliers come in all types of style, not just that old-fashioned kind you think about when you hear the word “chandelier.”

Try a cost-efficient crystal style in the dining room, or even over the bathtub. Or you could have fun with a colorful one in the laundry room.

Antique styles

We have some great antique stores around this area. Many offer a solid furniture source with price points to fit any wallet.

Maybe it’s time to find a beautiful chest to place next to that sofa (that’s not ready for the sofa boneyard just yet.)

Classic pieces come in a variety of styles, finishes and functions. Antique pieces also offer warmth and can complement all styles.

A client once advised finding a piece that you can “run around the house with” — meaning when you get tired of it in one spot, you can move it to another.

Reupholstering antique chairs in an affordable fabric can give your space a whole new look and feel. Just remember that antiques never truly go out of style.

Artworks

From trolling antique stores to visiting local galleries, a new piece of art can add a lot to a new look. Find a piece that fits your

budget. There’s one out there that will do just that.

Art is subjective so you need to “feel” it go in that space you’ve been saving.

If the frame isn’t you, change it out.

There are cost savings at frame shops, but this is also where that antique or repurpose store comes into play.

Or you could try painting the frame — anything from a fun color to a metallic finish — creating not only beauty on the canvas, but on the frame, too.

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There are so many sources to help you refresh on a budget. Don’t get overwhelmed thinking you have to re-do an entire room or house. Maybe just one wall or a tabletop.

Many companies from the big box retailers to online stores can offer the price you’re looking for. But shopping local for pieces can make for interesting talking points with guests while supporting a small business.

Working with a budget-focused designer can help you execute a plan and relieve stress. Most importantly, have fun with refreshing! Not only will it make you feel good on the outside, but the inside as well.



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