



May 12, 2023

THE VALLEY STAR

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New life for a storied home



Westmoreland-Hatchett Home dates back to 1849 continued on page 4

ANTIQUES on JEFFERSON

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A Mother's love!

There was a couple, who had a son named Rohit. They lived happily ever after and their child Rohit grew into a young lad. And one day the couple decided to marry their son. After Rohit got married, he started feeling irritated with his parents and when his father died one day, he decided to send his mother to old age home.

Even after his parents did not want to go to the old age home, he by force sent them to such a place where they might not have access even to the basic amenities of life. He used to visit his mother at the old age home once in a week. One day he came to know that his mother was seriously ill and she is left only with few hours of her life.

He decides to visit his mother that day and found her lying on the bed. Out of nowhere his heart started feeling bad for himself that he had not treated his mother the way she has always treated him.

He asked his mother, if he can do something in her last time that will make her happy. Upon which his mother replied that, dear son, please install some fans in the rooms here, as there isn't any fan in any of the rooms of this home. And buy a fridge for the old people living here.

Many a time's people living here must sleep without food as it gets spoiled many times for the lack of a fridge. And, son, for that reason, I had to sleep without food for many days. Son, being per-

plexed, asked why you are asking me for all these today when you are left only with few hours. The Mother replied that, Son, I am worried that you will not be able

to live here comfortably when your son will one day send you here. So, I want that everything before you come here gets mended. The son's heart got overwhelmed to

hear these words of his mother.

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The day Athens shook

I was looking at some old photographs of Athens and Limestone County the other day and came across a drawing of the old Mill Village in Athens by James Croley Smith . Seeing that drawing brought back a lot of memories.

I don't remember the Mill Village, which existed for years just east of North Jefferson Street and west of the railroad tracks behind what is now known as the Southern Traders Flea Market. What I remember most about it is the old rock tower that stood 200 feet or so tall after the Mill Village was long gone. The tower has a history that not many Athens folks will ever forget.

If you recall, our city leaders wanted that old tower that some called unsafe and an "eyesore" down so they hired an area expert by the name of "Dynamite Atkins"



to bring it down with one big bang. That was back in the early 1970s. The old tower stood alone and reminded many Athenians of the days when the old Mill Village was popular. History has it that the Mill Village tower was constructed in

1910.

Well, Dynamite Atkins announced that he was going to bring the tower down with something he was named after, a stick of dynamite. He layed out the ground work and released statements saying that he was going to blast it down on a week day somewhere around the lunch hour. Reporters and a few interested town people were there to see it done.

When old Dynamite set the charge, it let out a big boom that could be heard for miles. But, what he didn't figure on was the damage this charge would make. Many might have felt Athens was being invaded by the Russian Army because old Dynamite's blast sent rocks zinging though the air like bullets. Windshields in cars and trucks were broken out and house windows and glass in

homes and businesses in Athens were broken or damaged as far away as East Hobbs Street.

The blast itself did little damage to the sturdy tower. After it was all said and done, the old rock tower was still standing tall and appeared to be smiling down on old Dynamite.

If my memory serves me correctly, it was several weeks later before they finally brought the old tower to the ground, and it was not from another charge of dynamite like the first one. It may have come from a wrecking ball of sorts because city leaders certainly did not want a repeat of the first blast. Some still recall the day Dynamite set the charge at the old tower. They say it was, "the day Athens shook."

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X E W B L R B P L J G Z A L A K R Q M
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KEEPSAKE

Storied home continued from page 1

By Kim Shindorf
 The grand Italianate style home that sits at 517 South Clinton Street, has been a very important part of each owner's life and admired by everyone living in the City of Athens.

Construction on the home began in 1849 by John Haywood Jones. It is said that there was no expense spared, but due to the Civil War the home was not completed as planned.

The walls are 18 inches thick with bricks that are 9x9 inches made on the land that the house sits on today. We found out from a recent home inspection that the walls in the home are still plum. The war and crop failure led Jones to pass ownership to Joshua Pratt Coman, judge and doctor in the house, which came to be known as Coman Hall.

Doctor Theo Westmoreland purchased the home in 1897. He continued with the completion of the home with the finest walnut woodwork, 16 foot ceilings with three pane glass transoms at the top, a hidden staircase, and a pipe that still stands on the first floor to speak to the kitchen workers in the basement. Dr. Westmoreland was nicknamed pop lover of formality and finer things.

There were 12 course dinners served attended by gentleman dignitaries at the greatest social event the town had ever seen back in 1904. In 1933 Missy Pearl Booth



became the owner during the great depression with difficulty maintaining the home; the ownership was passed to Mrs. Mary Ellen Clark and sister Margaret Clark Hatchett. This home will forever be in my mind after spending much time in the Vesley rooms with Dr. Angelo Mancuso and his wife Page. I am looking forward to seeing Dr. Mancuso restore the Cupola and bring this home back to its original, southern charm.

Dr. Westmoreland put the porch on the front of the house that extends the width of the house. Dr. Westmoreland is the one that picked up where Haywood wanted to go with the house and Union soldiers rode their horses through the vast foyer from the front of the house all the way to the back, and Confederate soldiers were hidden in the basement. Also, in the photo of the pharmacy (above), Dr. Westmoreland is sitting in the back in the pharmacy in 1904.

Westmoreland held the greatest social event the town had ever seen with the 12 course dinners. The timeline of ownership is John Haywood Jones, 1849; Joshua Pratt Coman, 1866; Dr. Theo Westmoreland, 1897; Mrs. E. Pearl Booth, 1933; Ms. Mary Ellen Clark and her sister, Margaret Clark Hatchett, 1944; and William Clark Hatchett III who inherited the home from Julia Hatchett in 2020 when she passed.

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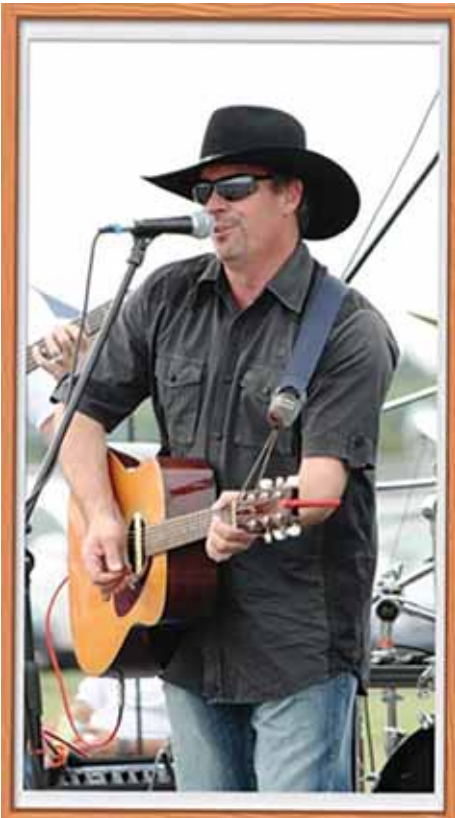
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Singing in the park - free summer concert series

For almost a decade, the Athens-Limestone Tourism Association has been hosting Singing on the Square during the summer around the courthouse square. This year, in conjunction with our Shine a Light Athens Big Spring Park marketing campaign, and to avoid any confusion with Main Street's Fridays After Five on the Square, we are rebranding our very popular **FREE** concerts to **SINGING IN THE PARK**.

The three Singing in the Park Summer Concert Series Friday night dates are: May 12th, June 9th, and July 14th. They will all three take place in the beautiful Athens Big Spring Memorial Park behind the Athens-Limestone Visitors Center at 100 N. Beaty St., just 2 blocks from the square.

Announcing the addition of our generous Artist Sponsor Hughes Properties, II, LLC, our generous Stage Sponsor Michael Howell State Farm, and a brand-new Food Court with food trucks open from



6:00 pm and the Free Live Music scheduled for 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm.

With a state-wide focus on Outdoor Recreation, we are poised and ready to host more Tourism events in Athens' Big Spring Park! We're

bringing the stage! You just need to bring your own chairs or blanket. Please **SAVE THESE DATES TO YOUR CALENDAR** and plan to bring your friends and family to our **FREE 2023 Summer Concert Series** in Big Spring Park sponsored by Hughes Properties II, and



Michael Howell State Farm, and Athens-Limestone County Tourism Association. We are proud to announce this year's Singing in the Park lineup:

May 12th - Tomcat & Bark the Dawg: A local musician, gigging professionally since he was 15, Tom has played solo and with Bark the Dawg on and off for 30 years.

June 9th - Matt Prater: A local singer-songwriter and soulful storyteller with Country, Honky Tonk, Folk, and Roots Music influences.

July 14th - DEAN: A local husband/wife duo, Garrett and Briana Dean share a passion for creating and performing.

See you in Athens Big Spring Memorial Park! As always for more information, visit Athens-Limestone Official Events Calendar here: VisitAthensAL.com

- Wills • Probate
- Auto Accident
- Personal Injuries

A photograph of two men in dark blue suits and ties standing in a courtroom. The man on the left is smiling, and the man on the right is holding a book. The background features a wooden bench, a large seal, and an American flag.

- Real Estate Closings
- Uncontested Divorces
- Social Security

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Athens Utilities opens new payment location

Athens Utilities has opened a new payment location on U.S. 72. The office will be at 1003 U.S. 72 East in the corner lot of the shopping center where Firehouse Subs and Dollar Tree are located. The shopping center is next to Walmart.

Customer Accounts Manager Regina Rager said all payments will be made at this location. Customers can walk-in to make payments or utilize the drive-thru bays. The Jefferson Street location will remain open for customers who need new services or who need to change their address.



Enjoy Athens!

We invite you to visit Athens Alabama and Limestone County. Whether you are interested in a quiet morning walk on any of our 17 trails, our beautiful antebellum homes, museums, bird watching, festivals, rodeos, tractor shows and pulls, sports events, hunting and fishing, horseback riding, picking cotton, shopping, or eating Southern style cooking, you will find it all in Limestone County.



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Dowsing for underground water

By Danny Johnson
Staff Writer

I recently decided to have a well drilled on my land to use for farm animals and agricultural needs. My last well was drilled back in 1981 and cost about six dollars per foot. I had lost touch with well drilling business because I had no need for a well until now. Checking around with well drilling business in Northern, AL, I soon was shocked at the increase in drilling since my last well drilled in 1981.

In the last few years everything has seen inflation in materials and labor. I didn't expect the rate for drilling was still 6 dollars per foot. After checking around, I soon found out the drill rate was about 30 dollars per foot. Then, there is an extra cost for the casing to line a portion of the drilled shaft. My piggy bank had just become a lot smaller.

When you are paying a well driller 30 a foot to reach a good stream or aquifer, I am willing to do anything in my power to select the best place for the driller to sink his drill bit. I have heard of well drillers going over 200 feet and no water. Yes, there is no guarantee of a oasis of water at the bottom of the drilled hole. Friends laughed and said, "You can always sell the dry well for post holes, Ha, Ha."

I remember when I was young, folks from the holler would come and get my granddad to come over and tell them where to dig their well. Remember, no drill rigs were used. Wells were hand dug with picks and shovels. A man operated a rope and bucket and would pull the loose dirt out of the well hole they were digging. This was hard, grueling work.

Papa cut a peach tree forked limb off a nearby tree. I asked, "What is the limb for?" He answered, "I need the peach limb to find a good stream of water." He took the forked limb, holding one in each hand and started walking



Ms. Donna Jo is using a cherry limb to locate underground water sources.



**Counting how many feet it will take to hit water.
The stick bounces for each foot it takes to hit water.**

at a slow stride in the back yard of the property. I was by his side all the way. The limb remained parallel to the ground. After about 15 minutes Papa stopped and backed up. He remained quiet and passed over the spot again. The limb twisted in his hand pointing straight down. He said, "This is what we want to see. I got a strong signal from the peach branch."

He crossed the spot from several directions and each time the limb pointed to the earth beneath his feet. He was holding the limb so tight the bark from the limb twisted off in his hand. The hand diggers hit water at 21 feet and dug down to 36 feet. As far as I know, the well never went dry during droughts.

I asked to give it a try and he answered, "Ok, but everybody can't find water like I can." After walking over the same spot with the limb I had no results. I could not understand how this worked. Papa explained some have the gift and some do not. Later in life, I was told an L-shaped wire rod, copper, or steel, would do the same thing. I tried the copper wire over a known well and the 2 wires crossed indicating water below.

When you spend a good sum of money drilling a well you better believe I am going to do all that I can to assure we find an underground water source. The goal is finding water with a good per minute flow. If I can get 25 to 30 gallons a minute, it will serve my need.

Be sure to pick up the next Star paper May 26th. I will reveal the results of the drill. I will be a happy camper or a sad Sam.



Dale Hollow Lake

By Danny Johnson
Staff Writer

Dale Hollow is located on the TN./KY. border and offers some of the best fishing in the country. The lake has 27,700 acres of water and was built in the early 1940's to control flooding and generate hydropower for surrounding towns. The town of Willow Grove lies at the bottom of the lake.

William Dale founded Willow Grove somewhere around 1808 and that's where the lake got its name. The water quality is some of the clearest and cleanest you will find anywhere. Lewis Smith Lake also has very clean water, unlike the Tennessee River System which gets undesirable chemicals

dumped in from factories.

The late Billy Westmoreland put Dale Hollow on the map with his smallmouth fishing ability. Billy caught several smallmouth bass weighing over 8 pounds on the clear water lake. Westmoreland was a hair jigs fisherman but had a hand in the development of the popular silver buddy vibration bait. The silver buddy put out a good vibration and could be fished really deep. It sported treble hooks and was a great bait for cold water smallmouth fishing.

Dale Hollow Lake has a variety of fish, largemouth bass, crappie, walleye, and many others. Below Dale Hollow Dam is a trout fish hatchery that supplies trout to several states for stocking

streams. 1.5 million trout are hatched each year to be put in streams and rivers.

Dale Hollow is a beautiful lake and bald eagles can be seen in late winter around the lake's shore.

The Fish and Game enforce a

strict slot limit on their fish. The lake has a good population of 3 to 4 pound

smallmouth. Plan a trip to Dale Hollow in the near future and enjoy.



Mike Morgan with a Dale Hollow bucketmouth.



Mike Morgan of Indiana with a Dale Hollow smallmouth.

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Be not conformed to the world

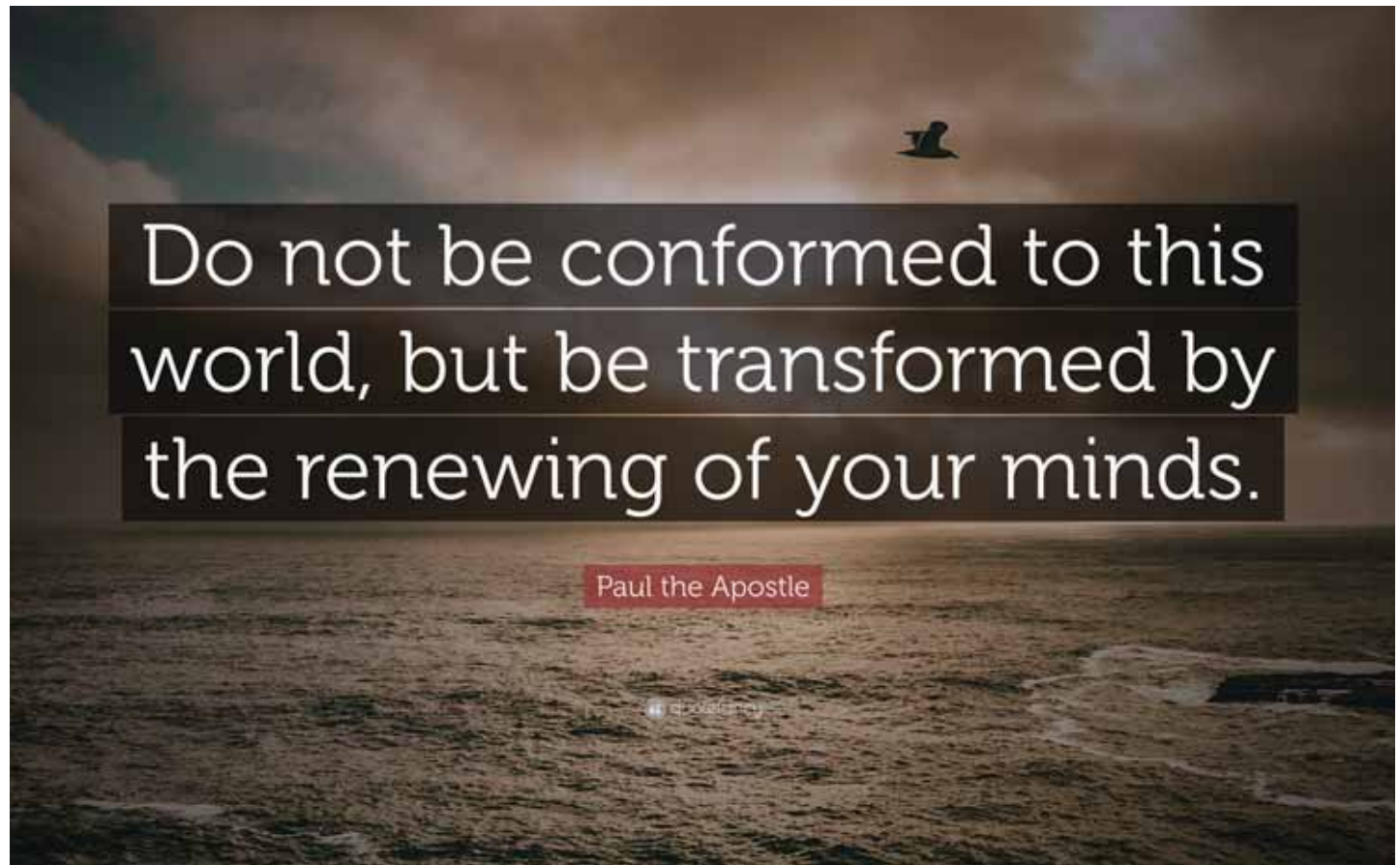
Is it possible to be in the world and not of the world? This can be challenging because there are so many worldly distractions around us. It is easy to get pulled into an unwholesome conversation or become too materialistic with all the worldly treasures around us each and every day. Romans 12:2 says, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

These are powerful words coming from the Apostle Paul as he is writing to the Christians in Rome. The tone of these words lets us know there is something in here that God is desiring and urging you to do, and it cannot be missed. There are three words that stand out to me in this verse: “conformed, transformed, and renewing.” How are we to be transformed and not conformed to this world?

Let’s take a look at the first word “conformed.” A person who conforms to this world does the same type of things (sin) as the world does i.e. using vulgar language, lack of repentance, focusing too much on worldly pleasures, or whatever else it takes to “fit in” with the world’s standards. You assimilate to the lifestyles of the world.

Satan is mounting a mischievous and deadly attack against the body of Christ that many do not see. He is slowly bringing the world into the Church. I. John 2:16 says, “For everything in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - comes not from the father but from the world.” As Christians, we must be careful to not conform to the world.

The second word is “transformed.” The Greek word for transform is “metamorphose.” Think back to biology and the discussions about the green worm (caterpillar) that



hangs upside down and spins itself a cocoon. Within this cocoon, the caterpillar radically transforms its body, eventually emerging as a butterfly or moth. To give this a definition it is an outward change to reflect an inward reality. In order to be transformed, we must guard what we let in.

This means be careful about the conversations you allow yourself to be dragged into. This also means to be mindful of the influence the people you let into your life have over you. Another area to consider is guarding what we put in. This means you must be intentional in what you watch, listen to and read. All these things feed your mind and are either helping your transformation or they are hurting it. Again, Paul gives us some good advice as far as what we should put in.

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about

such things.” (Philippians 4:8).

Finally, this brings us to the phrase “renewing of your mind.” The process of renewing your mind is an inner reality that eventually makes its way to the surface of your life. In other words, the outward change that people see first begins with an inward change that only God sees

There is nothing in this life that can substitute completing and finishing the course that God has

laid out for your life. There is no greater joy. The challenges may be harder. The sacrifices may be greater. But in them are the joy and satisfaction that makes it all worth it. Imagine the joy on that day when you stand before the Lord and he says well done, good and faithful servant. You only get to that place through the necessary sacrifice and transformation that is required now. It won’t be the easiest road, but it is the road worth traveling.



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DEMAND THE BEST!



Homemade strawberry pie with fresh local strawberries

May is known as the strawberry season in this area. You can find fresh strawberries at your local fruit stands.

Ingredients

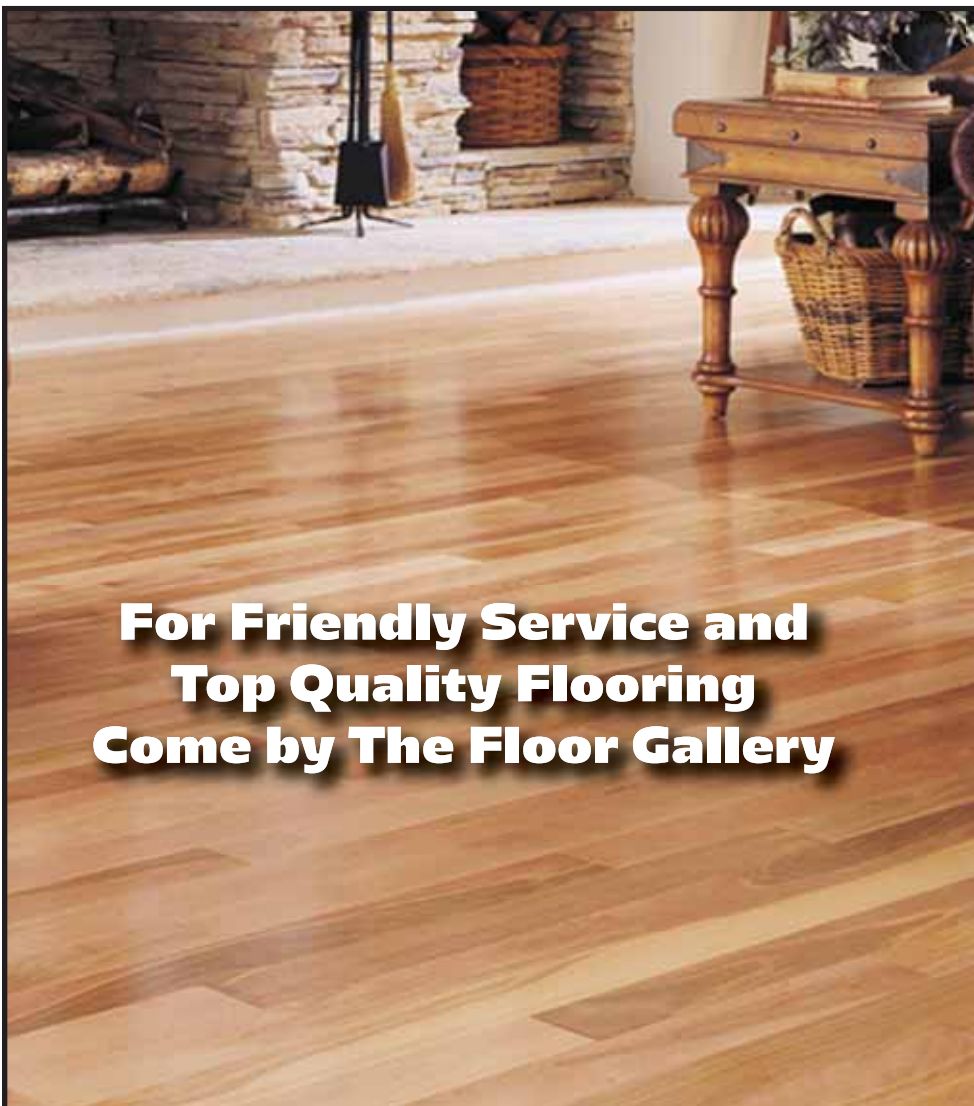
- 1 pie crust
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 cup water
- 1 package (3 ounces) strawberry gelatin
- 4 cups sliced fresh strawberries
- Whipped cream, optional

Directions

Preheat oven to 450°. Unroll crust into a 9-in. pie plate. Trim edge. Line unpricked crust with a double thickness of heavy-duty foil or parchment. Bake 8 minutes. Remove foil; bake 5 minutes longer. Cool on a wire rack.

In a small saucepan, combine the sugar, cornstarch and water until smooth. Bring to a boil; cook and stir until thickened, about 2 minutes. Remove from the heat; stir in gelatin until dissolved. Refrigerate until slightly cooled, 15-20 minutes.

Meanwhile, arrange strawberries in the crust. Pour gelatin mixture over berries. Refrigerate until set. If desired, serve with whipped cream.



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Common products: A rare commodity in times of war

The war effort had made it tough on motorists during the 40's and 50's. In the 1940's, during the big war all the rubber needed for tires was going to supply war equipment. Local people would run a tire as long as possible, and when a hole developed a piece of rubber, called a boot, was placed over the hole. Tire boots and monkey grip inner tube patches were a way of life. People riding bicycles often packed the tires with cotton, which was plentiful in the holler.

Gasoline, sugar, and coffee were rationed products that was very scarce. Drivers were given a coupon that was necessary to buy gas. People who lived on farms had plenty of meat with hogs and chickens. In the summertime, gardens would provide a good supply of fresh vegetables.

Shotgun shells were also scarce, and nobody dared to waste one. Good squirrel hunters would be patient and wait till 2 squirrels got close enough to harvest with one blast. Even after products got more plentiful, people from the war era remained a thrifty bunch and never were guilty of being wasteful.

When electricity was provided to rural homes, a light bulb was never left on in a room when one exited. Grandma would often say, "Be sure to turn off that light when you leave the room."

Most roads in the Western part of Limestone County were gravel with iron and wooden bridges used to cross rivers and creeks. In the 40's, a tornado ripped down the metal structure over Elk River on what is now Highway 127 north of Elkmont.

This weather event happened late



in the evening and Mr. Hughes was driving north of Elkmont and barely stopping his car before plunging into Elk River. Lights were dim on the old car with the 6-volt battery systems. The missing bridge caused hardship for many folks in the area until a new bridge was rebuilt out of concrete in its present day location.

Road work improved, and new bridges were constructed over Elk River on Easter Ferry Road, Buck Island Road, and Elk River Mills. The gravel roads were being paved with limestone rock and tar. Better roads were a much-needed improvement to the rural community.

Uncle Grady was always quite an

this notion while watching a paving crew coating a gravel road with pitch tar. The tire on his old truck were very thin and the tread was bare.

After the crew went home for the night, he pondered the thought of driving his truck down the road coated with tar. When the crew was well gone Uncle Grady carried out his plan. The tar stuck firmly to the old tires coating them with at least an inch and a half of tar. As he exited, the tar gravel was attached to the gooey substance. The old tire received new life and rode pretty well.

The next morning, the plan fell apart. Over the night, the warm tar pool at the bottom of the tire caused a glob of tar causing a flat spot. The ride was unbearable.

Each time the flat spot on the tire contacted the road, it would jar your teeth out. Uncle Grady spent a couple of days scraping tar off his tires.

We boys gave him a hard time asking him often what happened to his new tires. He would grin and reply, "You have to break a few eggs to make an omelet."

innovative thinker. He had what we called a head full of horse sense. He had the ability to fix about anything. Uncle Grady had







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Get ready, set, grow!

By Debra Johnson
Staff Writer

I have seen some pretty gardens already. I am seeing even more spaces being tilled into gardens in the city. There is just something about seeing those seeds grow into vibrant plants that will produce our food.

However, they do need some attention and care to grow into the vegetable-producing plants that we want.

While the plants are young, especially transplants, make sure to give them enough water if we don't have rain. I prop up my tomato plants with straw and cage them to help support the stems as they grow and branch out. Also, after the plants are up and thriving, you need to find out what kind of fertilizer is needed for maximum growth and production. Keeping the weeds out helps the plants so they are not competing for nourishment and water.

We have a pretty good stand of the vegetables that we planted. I usually have to replant in a few spots where the seeds did not germinate, but this year, so far, I haven't had to do that. I am always so happy to have a few



Grandkids are a big help, plus they are learning a valuable skill, raising your own food

helping hands in planting the garden. The grandkids were so good to stay with it until all was planted this year.

Another thing I did last year, and plan to do again this year, is put down landscaping material under my plants to keep weeds from growing and to cut down on having to use the garden tiller. I am looking for ways to cut down on the hard work in between planting and gathering.

I am going to use the landscaping material down the rows of potatoes. Just cut holes for the plants and put straw between the plants to hold the material in place. I also use the material around my vegetables that grow from vines, such as cucumbers, squash, and zucchini.

This helps so much in keeping the weeds out and cuts down tremendously on the labor of weeding the garden. Some people also use newspapers and cardboard for the same purpose.

I am looking forward to another year of producing those delicious, fresh vegetables!!



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1960 Buick LeSabre

The 1960 LeSabre received a major facelift, the new body design sharing only the roof and trunk lid with the 1959 model. The new Buick now sported a concave grille and horizontal headlights centered by Buick’s then-new “Tri-Shield” logo, which is still in use today. Reintroduced to Electras and other Buicks for 1960 were the chrome “VentiPort” portholes first introduced in 1940 and last seen in 1957.

LeSabre and Invicta models had three portholes while Electras and Electra 225s were “four-holers”. Inside, a revised instrument panel featured “Mirromatic”, where the speedometer, odometer and any warning light indicators are reflected from an adjustable tilt mirror inside the dashboard for comfortable viewing that would reduce unwanted glare



and reflection. A new two-spoke steering wheel with horn bars was introduced, replacing the time-honored horn ring then still common to most automobiles.

The 250- and 300-horsepower 364-cubic-inch V8s were continued from 1959, but a new no-cost option was a 235-horsepower lower-compression two-barrel

version of the 364 with a lower compression ratio to permit use of regular-grade gasoline instead of the premium fuel required with all other Buick engines.

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Smoking and Drinking

By Alan Yeater

Recent efforts to promote smoking and drinking in downtown Athens near the square and local churches are another attempt to convince us these vices are good for the community. Somehow we realize that these addictive and destructive substances are not good for our ballfields or our schools yet some are convinced that the revenue from sales will promote a wholesome downtown entertainment environment.

The Health Benefits of Drinking Wine

Wine is a mocker, intoxicating drink arouses brawling, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise (Prov. 20:1). It's now nearly 3,000 years later and wine continues to mock and many continue to be led astray by it.

Wine's current ploy is to divert attention from the many negatives of alcohol drinking to its alleged health benefits. Over the past decade the media has sensationalized a few studies which some believe suggest health benefits from drinking wine. Rises in wine sales and use have actually been attributed to these reports. Does a glass of wine a day keep the doctor away? The seduction of wine's health benefits need to be countered with a stiff dose of reality.

Most findings are preliminary, require further study, and their interpretation and meaning are very controversial among scientists and doctors. Don't be fooled by the misreported certainties in the media.

Antioxidants in wine, called resveratrol and flavonoids, are suspected, but not known, to have health benefits.

You would have to drink gallons of wine a day in order to take in the same amount of resveratrol as the mice were fed in some wine studies.

Grapes and grape juice contain the same antioxidants as wine.



There is growing evidence that the health benefits of red wine are related to its nonalcoholic components.

Antioxidants can more readily be obtained from almost all fruits, vegetables and grains, as well as from supplements. If you want antioxidants, writes a well known cardiologist, you are better off eating a spinach salad with vegetables than drinking a glass of red wine.

Most experts agree that if there are real health benefits, there is still a fine line between healthy drinking and risky drinking.

Although some studies report possible heart benefits from wine drinking, the American Heart Association and other experts emphasize that there are much more effective ways to prevent heart disease.

The American Heart Association does not recommend drinking wine or any other form of alcohol to gain potential benefits.

Interestingly enough, almost every disease or condition being tested for potential wine benefits is known to be adversely affected by moderate to heavy alcohol use.

Mayo Clinic says on this issue: Few medical experts, if any, advise nondrinkers to start drinking.

Two researchers conclude: No one should start drinking if they don't already drink.

So be warned: Wine, its promoters, its drinkers, its would-be drinkers, and the media are not objective in

their proof for why they are right and why you should join them in drinking. The deceptive nature of wine on all levels shouldn't surprise us. We know its end--

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It's a Matter of Trust



Or is it? It could be a matter of understanding... Understanding your horse..

One of the most common things I run into when working with people and their horse is, oftentimes trust issues from the horse therefore trust issues from the people. When working with a horse, we must first gain their trust and respect. Neither can be forced upon the horse. It has to figure it out on its own.

Sometimes, we try too hard or push the horse too hard to accept us. Our relationship with our horse has to be a slow go.

In some horses they get it pretty quick, others, not so much. It's usually the not so much ones that teach us patience. Patience and laughter are the only two emotions we need to have around a horse. Laugh at yourself.

Taking it slow doesn't mean we have to move so slow, that would look sneaky. What is usually sneaky, a predator on the hunt. We want our horses not to see us as a predator in that sense.

When moving around horses simply move normal. The way you would on any occasion. Any

quick movement could startle the horse and any slow/sneaky looking movement could cause the horse to get a bit worried. When doing things around your horse or with your horse, don't be fidgety. This could cause the horse to worry.

When we are trying to gain the trust of the horse, we have to do things that will not cause the horse to have a fear of us but look at us as the leader. Horses want leaders but we must prove to the horse we are such a leader. When the horse views us as the leader then we can begin

to gain its trust.

There are a lot of things we can do and not do; it depends on the horse we are working with. The main ingredient is to take your time.

I've never seen a horse with wearing a watch...

Jim Swanner
13124 Carter Road
Athens, AL 35611
256-874-6781

MAY

CALENDAR

May 12, 2023 - Merchants Alley Happy Hour Music Series-Fridays through June 30 5:30 - 7 p.m. Cost: Free to the public. Location: Merchants Alley 107 N. Jefferson St. Athens, AL 35611 Check out the Happy Hour Music in Merchants Alley, then head over to Tourism's Singing in the Park in Big Spring Park for music 7-8:30 pm.

May 12, 2023 - Athens-Limestone Tourism Hosts FREE SINGING IN THE PARK - 1 of 3 - Tomcat & Bark the Dawg! 6:00pm - 8:30pm Athens-Limestone Tourism has moved its popular Singing on the Square to the family-friendly Athens Big Spring Memorial Park and changed the name to SINGING IN THE PARK. This is Concert 1 of 3 for our Summer Concert Series. Tomcat and Bark the Dawg will be the featured artist to celebrate the end of National Travel & Tourism Week!

May 13, 2023 - ARDMORE TRUCK & TRACTOR PULL

May 13, 2023 - AMVETS MONTHLY BREAKFAST - FREE FOR VETERANS 7:00am - 9:30am Every month on the 2nd Saturday at 7:00 am, go to the Alabama Amvets Post 21 at 22769 Black Road for a delicious breakfast open to the public. Only \$8 and Veterans eat FREE.

**May 14, 2023
Mother's Day Observance**

May 16-20, 2023 - 41st ANNUAL LIMESTONE COUNTY SHERIFF'S RODEO EVENT WEEK
May 16th-Limestone County Sheriff's Rodeo Street Dance - 6:00pm **May 18th - Limestone County Sheriff's Rodeo Slack** - 8:00am - goes until all contestants have run. \$5. **May 19th - Limestone County Sheriff's Rodeo**

Special Needs Rodeo - 10:00am-1:00 pm. **May 19th - Limestone County Sheriff's Rodeo (night 1)** - Gates open @ 6:00pm Events begin @ 8:00pm. **May 20th - Limestone County Sheriff's Rodeo (night 2)** - Gates open @ 6:00pm Events begin @ 8:00pm. **Daily ticket prices are adults \$15 (advance) or \$17 (gate) and children 12 years and under \$10 (advance) or \$12 (gate).** Tickets may be purchased in advance at Limestone County Sheriff's office and online at <https://limestonesheriffrodeo.com/tickets>.

May 16, 2023 - Tuesday Night Farmers Market 3:00pm - 7:00pm 409 W Green St, Athens, AL

May 18, 2023 - Free Live Music by Athens Opry and Free Lunch for Seniors 10:00am - 12:00pm Come to the Athens Activity Center at 912 W. Pryor St. in Athens. Lunch served

Mon-Thurs at 11:00 am. Free Live Music by Athens Opry every Thursday.

May 18, 2023 - Market & Monroe Grand Opening Party 4:00pm - 7:00pm 100 W. Market St.

May 18, 2023 - ATHENS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION - ATHENS STADIUM 7:00pm - 9:00pm

May 19, 2023 - Adult Color and Coffee 10:00am - 11:00am Athens - Limestone Public Library, 603 S Jefferson St, Athens, AL Come join us while we chill, drink coffee, and color!

May 22, 2023 - BOOK SIGNING WITH KAREN WHITE 4:30pm - 5:30pm Athens Limestone Public Library 603 S. Jefferson St. Athens, AL

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E	E	B	R	E	K	L	Y	L	N	R	O	J	Z	X	N	W	R	K
D	E	P	J	W	L	S	A	L	U	T	A	T	O	R	I	A	N	F
A	P	B	X	T	N	E	M	E	C	N	E	M	M	O	C	D	R	B
C	S	B	A	J	M	Z	B	I	T	M	O	L	D	M	J	I	L	Y
A	A	E	Q	C	L	N	D	R	O	L	C	I	W	J	E	D	J	D
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X	E	W	B	L	R	B	P	L	J	G	Z	A	L	A	K	R	Q	M
R	T	R	R	D	T	X	X	L	K	G	G	T	T	B	R	Q	B	L
Y	B	L	W	Q	R	K	D	W	Y	Y	B	L	N	E	T	Z	N	K

Photos from the Past



Limestone Confederate Reunion of 1910. No one has made identifications, except that the shortest man in the photo is the great great grandfather of Price and Lakin Boyd.



Home of AL Gov. George S. Houston, Athens, AL. He had already served two terms when he bought this home in 1845. In 1879 he was elected to the U. S. senate but died before taking office. His 14 yr. old son was caught in the crawl space during a Civil War skirmish and he returned to Athens decades later to retrieve rounds lodged in the wood where he was trapped. Drawing by Athens artist Bob Thompson.

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County history available for students

by Rebekah Davis

Limestone County Archivist

Of all the fascinating photos in the quick ride through Limestone County's history, there's one that never fails to make a room full of fourth-graders giggle: Their school's basketball pictures from the 1930's.

And I must admit, the boys' short shorts and the girls' shiny belted uniforms do look funny in 2015, the age of the NBA's knee-brushing long shorts.

As the school year is winding to a close, now is a great time for fourth-graders who have spent this year learning all about Alabama history to bring it closer to home with a fun lesson about Limestone County history. So this time of year I am available to come to any school or classroom with a presentation full of stories and photos of Limestone County

people, places and events that take students from the Limestone County area's early days as Chickasaw country, through wars, fires, Depression and tornadoes to the growing community of the day. Each presentation is catered to the school, with the story of that school's beginnings and historic photos of the school and its predecessors – including those funny-looking basketball pictures and photos of ancient busses like Athens Bible School's "Noah's Ark." The whole thing is provided at no cost, as a service from the Limestone County Archives.

Of course, as your friendly neighborhood archivist, I am available throughout the year to share the stories of our history with community groups. All that is required is to set a date and time by e-mailing me at Rebekah.Davis@limestonecounty-al.gov or calling 256-



Noah's Ark bus

233-6404. The presentation is on PowerPoint, so photos can be displayed on a screen for all to see. And with a little advance notice, I can add in some history specific to your school or organization.

Of course, the Limestone County Archives is available as always for folks who want to do a little digging of their own into local history. We're open each weekday, 8 a.m.

to 4:30 p.m., at the old green train depot at 102 W. Washington St. And if you don't want to change out of your pajamas, you can search our index and online records at www.limestonearchives.com.

Book your time now for a presentation on Limestone County history. You might be surprised what you learn!



Tanner basketball team 1925



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2205 Houston Street - Florence - \$122,900
MLS#1831442 - Ginna Chittam, 256-777-3300

Conveniently located 2 miles from UNA Campus. 2 bed, 1.5 bath. All appliances to convey to include washer and dryer. Detached single garage and two storage buildings. Large, fenced back yard, fireplace with gas logs. Property is sold "AS IS, WHERE IS" termite bond with Terminix. *New siding by front door. Fascia board being added to porch roof. Adding subfloor and new flooring to full bath and adjoining room. Changing paneling in room adjoining full bath. Adding side railing to back porch. *



15814 Landview Lane - East Limestone - \$285,000
MLS#1831166 - The Phillips Team, 256-656-2370

Beautiful open planned one story home in growing area. Hardwood floors throughout. Crown molding, and plantation blinds create a lovely atmosphere. Well maintained home and ready to move in! Eat-in kitchen with an island and stainless steel appliances. A large master bedroom has two closets! Back yard has privacy fence. If you are looking for a location close to everything and ready to go, this is it!

1600 E. Forrest Street
Athens - \$285,000
MLS#1833338
Shannon Elliott,
256-777-3311

Home is located on 1.1 acres located in prime area of Athens. Convenient to schools, Interstate, and all shopping.

Just steps away from the walking trails. House has 3 bedrooms with potential of a 4th, with two full baths. Large eat in Kitchen, Dining room, Living room, and study. Original hardwood floors in most of home. This over sized lot and home will not last long!



25945 Apple Orchard Lane - East Limestone - \$475,000
MLS#1826894 - Shannon Elliott, 256-777-3311

LARGE LOT- oversized attached garage & detached garage. This home is all brick, open floor plan with 4 bedrooms & bonus room that could be the 5th, 2.5 bathrooms. Primary suite is located on the first-floor w/large glamour bath, whirlpool tub, oversize shower, double vanity. Family room has a fireplace, 9' ceilings, crown molding, Formal dining room, Kitchen with granite and breakfast area and stainless-steel appliances, tile floors. Private pool, hot tub, and covered back porch with fenced yard. Awesome Neighborhood with Sidewalks.

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14403 Birkdale Circle - Athens - \$334,900

MLS#1829735 - Ginna Chittam, 256-777-3300

COMING SOON! Very nice 3 bed, 2 bath home with several upgrades. New quartz counters in kitchen with tile backsplash plus mobile island. Recessed lighting. New flooring in all bedrooms. Granite vanities in both baths and beautiful tile shower in master with frameless door. 9' ceilings throughout. Spacious dining room. Gas logs in fireplace. Isolated master. Screened covered patio, privacy fence and tankless water heater. Storm shelter in garage. Sprinkler system. Central unit 5 Yrs old with 10 yr warranty.



955 Sanderfer Road- Athens

\$590,000

MLS#1824740

Kim Shindorf, 256-431-7916

Brand New Construction with a closet that any woman would die for. Walk into this home through gorgeous double doors into Living space with gas logs and lots of recessed lighting. The Eat In Kitchen has a abundance of white cabinets, SS Appliances and lots of natural lighting. Granite counter tops through out and LVP Flooring. This home is situated on a .69 acre lot. Bonus room upstairs or 4th bedroom with a bath, closet and also storage. Master Suite is isolated with a tiled shower, incredible his and her walk-in closets. This home is absolutely Beautiful.



WELCOME HOME!

23712 Laura Leigh Lane - East Limestone - \$369,900

MLS#1830156 - Chris Shindorf, 256-206-2838

This Beautiful Two Story Home Located In East Limestone School District Hosts 3 Bedrooms With A Bonus/Office Room. Recently Updated Kitchen Cabinetry And Countertops Flow Throughout The Kitchen Into The Dining Area. After Breakfast Or Dinner, Enjoy Your Time Afterwards On Your Screened In Back Porch. Need A Detached Garage? Enjoy A Spacious Three Stall Garage With A Private Bathroom. Off The Main Garage Area, Sit Back And Relax In The Game Room. Both Garages Have Epoxy Floors For Extreme Durability. Come Make This Your Home Today!

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27426 Gatlin Road - Ardmore - \$249,000

MLS#1833505 - Garrett Newton, 256-431-4316

Brand new 3 bedroom and 2 bath. Full brick with isolated master. LVP throughout. Smooth Ceilings. Custom Built Cabinets. Granite Countertops. Island in Kitchen. Patio 10x10. Stainless Appliances.



23321 Flossie Drive - E. Limestone - \$399,900

MLS#1832982 - Kim Shindorf, 256-431-7916

Under Construction-This new construction features a cathedral ceiling in the Great Room, Luxury LVP, Tiles shower in Master Bath, Granite on all countertops. This home is sitting in a unique area where it feels like the country yet you are still close to Madison and Athens. These homes are built with energy efficient materials, Tech Shield, Tankless Hot Water Heater, Zip Board. All homes are built with Concrete Composite Hardi, a raised slab with a brick foundation. Front Porch is 26'4x84 with a screened in porch on the back at 11'2x11'6. Come see this new Farmhouse Subdivision, you will be amazed.

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14787 Woodland Road - Athens - \$299,500
MLS#1825813 - Ginna Chittam, 256-777-3300

Nice 3 bed, 2 bath in Indian Trace. Awesome 28x16 Sunroom with tile floor, smooth ceiling, recessed lighting and ceiling fan. Corner lot. Fireplace in living room is wood burner. Isolated master has large master bath with his/hers vanities, large tile shower and walk in closet. Double garage plus 16x12 detached garage/shop. HVAC 4 yrs. Instant hot water at kitchen sink. Built in at breakfast area has plumbing for bar sink. Half bath in laundry. Washer and dryer remain.



19346 Tillman Mill Road - West Limestone - \$229,900

MLS#1830303 - Heather Green, 256-874-1147

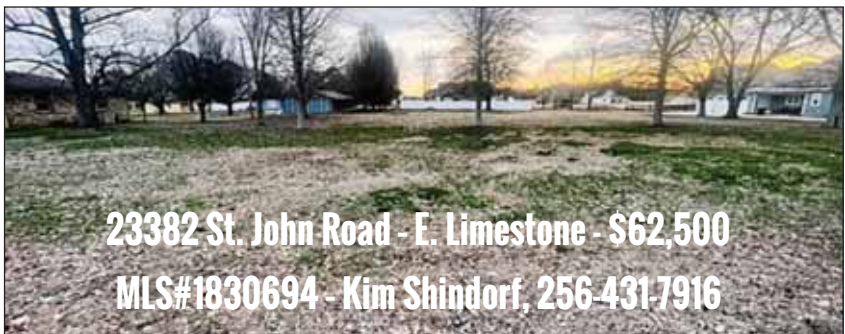
Practically brand new! This charming 3 bed 2 bath home sits on .46 acres and has been basically rebuilt. The following is new: footing, block work, concrete driveway, brick, windows, soffit, gutters, septic tank, hvac, hvac duct work, plumbing, electrical, sheetrock, cabinets, LVP flooring, granite countertops, appliances, light & plumbing fixtures. Come check it out! (Exterior work to be completed once it dries up)



28562 Reyer Road - Ardmore - \$269,900

MLS#1832963 - Chris Shindorf, 256-206-2838

Welcome Home!!! This FOUR Bedroom Two Bathroom Home Built In 2020 Features Luxury Vinyl Plank Flooring And Custom Crown Molding Throughout. This Split Level Home Offers Granite Countertops With Custom Cabinetry, Subway Tile Backsplash. Eat In Kitchen And A Separate Living Room. Large Master Bedroom Includes a Walk In Master Closet. In The Afternoons, Enjoy Your Covered Back Porch And Grilling Area With A Fenced In Back Yard! 1.1 Miles to Cedar Hill Elementary School, 1.8 Miles To Ardmore High School. This Home Is Also Very Convenient To HWY 53 And I 65!



23382 St. John Road - E. Limestone - \$62,500
MLS#1830694 - Kim Shindorf, 256-431-7916



23374 St. John Road - E. Limestone - \$62,500
MLS#1830693 - Kim Shindorf, 256-431-7916

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