



Outdoor decks provide entertainment and value

Key factors include location, weather and how it will be used

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

Adding a deck or patio to a home adds living space and value. The project can also be an enjoyable spring or summer building activity.

"Decks and patios are great places for entertaining and barbecuing," Grant County Building Supply owner Dan Averett said. "It's a great place for the grandkids to play."

Designing is the first step. Key factors include suitable location, weather considerations and how the deck or patio will be used. Stakes and string can be used to test drive a layout. Furniture can even be placed inside the outlined project to see how the deck will function.

Four feet of space should be provided around a table, for example, and while shade might be welcome on hot summer days, it might make a spot too cold in the shoulder seasons.

Decks and patios can be built around trees or shrubbery, privacy screens can be added in denser neighborhoods and awnings or lattice canopies can be used to



The Eagle/Richard Hanners
Grant County Building Supply owner Dan Averett explains the many colors and style of Trex synthetic decking.

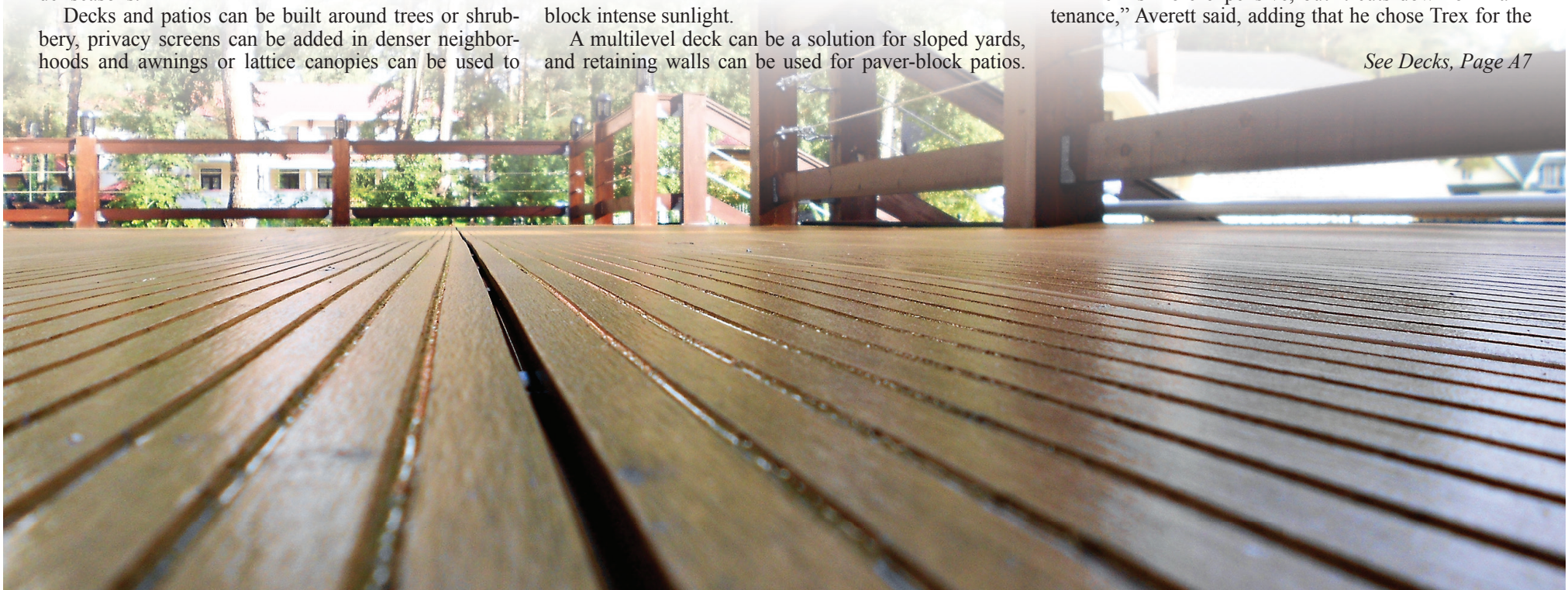
But homeowners should consult local rules and regulations, which might dictate structural elements as well as size. A homeowners association's covenants also may have aesthetic guidelines for materials, finishes and even handrails.

Averett said Douglas fir and cedar are the most popular choices here for deck planking. He offers Sherwin-Williams SuperDeck stain to complete the job. To maintain the original luster of the stain, wood decks should be refinished twice a year for the first five years, he said.

An alternative is composite or synthetic materials. Trex, a popular decking product, comes in a variety of colors and styles, including a hidden fastener design. Trex also produces posts, rails and stiles for deck railing. Made from recycled plastic, Trex comes with an outer UV-resistant layer and never needs stain or preservatives.

"Trex is more expensive, but it cuts down on maintenance," Averett said, adding that he chose Trex for the

See Decks, Page A7



Getty Images

HAS WHITETOP INVADED YOUR AREA?

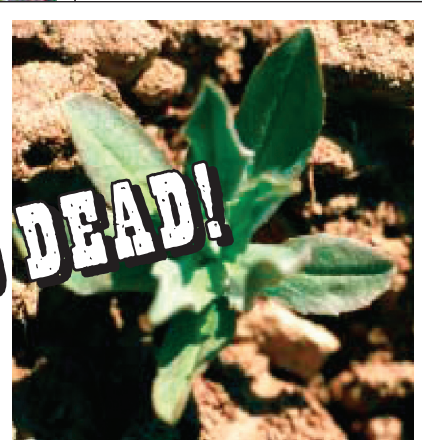
Whitetop is a List B Oregon Noxious Weed requiring eradication wherever it is found. Whitetop is a deep rooted perennial that thrives in both upland and irrigated ground. This aggressive noxious weed was introduced to the U.S. from Europe in the late 19th Century and has invaded nearly every State in the lower 48.



Whitetop

(Cardaria draba)

Whitetop in the rosette stage of growth can be identified by its jagged leaves.



Whitetop is spreading throughout Grant County. Act today to protect your property, livestock, native plants, and wildlife.

For more information call
Grant SWCD Weed Control
541-575-1554



eOMEDIA group
The most valuable and respected source of local news, advertising and information for our communities.
www.eomediagroup.com

Starting your honey-do projects? Keep us at the top of your list!

Big or Small, We Stock It All!

DECKS / DOORS / SHEET ROCK / GARAGES & SHEDS
SIDING / CONCRETE / WINDOWS / ROOFING
FENCING / DECORATIVE BRICKS & PAVING STONES

Mills Building Supply
751 W. Main
St. John Day
541-575-1021

Nydams' **ACE** Hardware

Home and garden, and everything in between...

652 W. Main St., John Day

Mon-Fri 8-6
Sun 10-3