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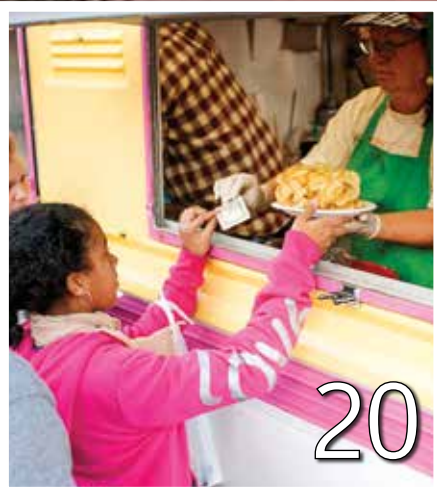
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ON THE COVER: Logan Martin Lake became a winter wonderland when it was frosted by a rare early winter snow. Photo by Rhonda Gann.

Logan Martin Homes Edition
LAKESIDE
Living

*Covering life along
Logan Martin Lake since 1994*

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LETTER



From the Editor

'Everything is better at the lake' – even winter

Summer Ernest is a former Miss Sylacauga, and according to some who know her, the title still applies. Quite possibly her hometown's biggest cheerleader, Summer has an exhaustive résumé of community service, and there's hardly a Sylacauga event, activity or initiative with which she's not involved in some way.

It had been about a year since I'd crossed paths with her when we met again recently to discuss her work as marketing coordinator for Coosa Valley Hospice. Summer is also a lake lover, and the conversation eventually turned to that.

"There's nowhere I'd rather be than at the lake or on the lake," she said.

"Even this time of year?"

"Oh, absolutely at this time of year. We love it so much, this time last year we were still out on the pontoon wrapped up in sleeping bags and wearing toboggans."

"I don't like being cold, so I tend to stay indoors as much as possible between November and March, but I can't deny that there's a particular beauty to the lake in winter which cannot be seen at any other time of year."

"Yes, there is," Summer replied. "I love seeing the seasons change on the lake. Watching the sunsets and the big full moons at night is a totally different experience in fall and winter. Plus, there are fewer people out on the lake, so you have it all to yourself to enjoy the quiet and peaceful setting. And when the water goes down, you can see rock formations and really appreciate the topography of the lake. There are new places to explore and all kinds of adventures to be had."

Then there's the wildlife.

"The bald eagle," she cited as an example. "When you hear its distinctive cry, it's incredible. And some of my favorite friends are not out during the winter, which is a positive."

I detected a touch of sarcasm in the last sentence, which my expression apparently indicated.

"Snakes," Summer clarified.



"Ah. Yes, that is another good thing about winter."

Dr. George Cline of Jacksonville State University might disagree with us, though. He's a professor of biology and a herpetologist, so he's on good terms with serpents and other things reptilian, and he gave us fascinating information for a feature in this issue that pays tribute to the wildlife that lives in and around the lake and the Coosa River.

Also this month, fitness and yoga instructor Rhonda Gann invites us into her lake home (she also provided the above photo from last month's snow days), Logan Martin native Jonica Thompson tells us about her new children's book (which features a frequently-seen lakeside bird), we learn about an Alabama Power project aimed at improving water quality in the lake and staff writer Kelli Tipton is once again Out & About with a festive recap of a successful local event.

Thank you for reading Lakeside Living while staying warm and enjoying the beauty of the season. As Summer put it, "I don't know that there's anything better than having a fire and looking out at the lake. Everything is better at the lake."

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CALENDAR KEY

Fishing Condition: This is the overall rating for the whole day, based upon our formula:

Best ■ Good ■ Fair ■ Poor ■

Best Time: This column lists the best time of the day when, according to our formula, fish will be biting: MORNING; EVENING.

Bass fishing in January

Bass fishing is usually considered a warm-weather activity. Fall makes its way into winter, and the boats get winterized and packed away with the rods and reels until spring. There's no way the fish will have any interest in feeding on anything an angler has to offer while the mercury is low.

While there's a little bit of truth to this, there are still bass to be caught in the winter. Cold weather does affect the fish, but not to the extremes that most people assume. Fish are cold-blooded, which allows their body temperature to be regulated by the water temperature. Once it reaches the upper 40s, bass metabolize food more slowly, lessening their need to feed.

In rivers, bass will migrate to a sheltered bay to avoid moving water that tends to be colder; in lakes, they will move to deeper areas where, at times, large groups will congregate in the same pockets. Some will be inactive, but some will be engaged in feeding behavior, although they're not as willing to chase fast-moving baits. So the slower you fish, the better the chances that fish in your area that might not otherwise be interested in eating will come looking for an easy meal.

Source: Berkley Fishing



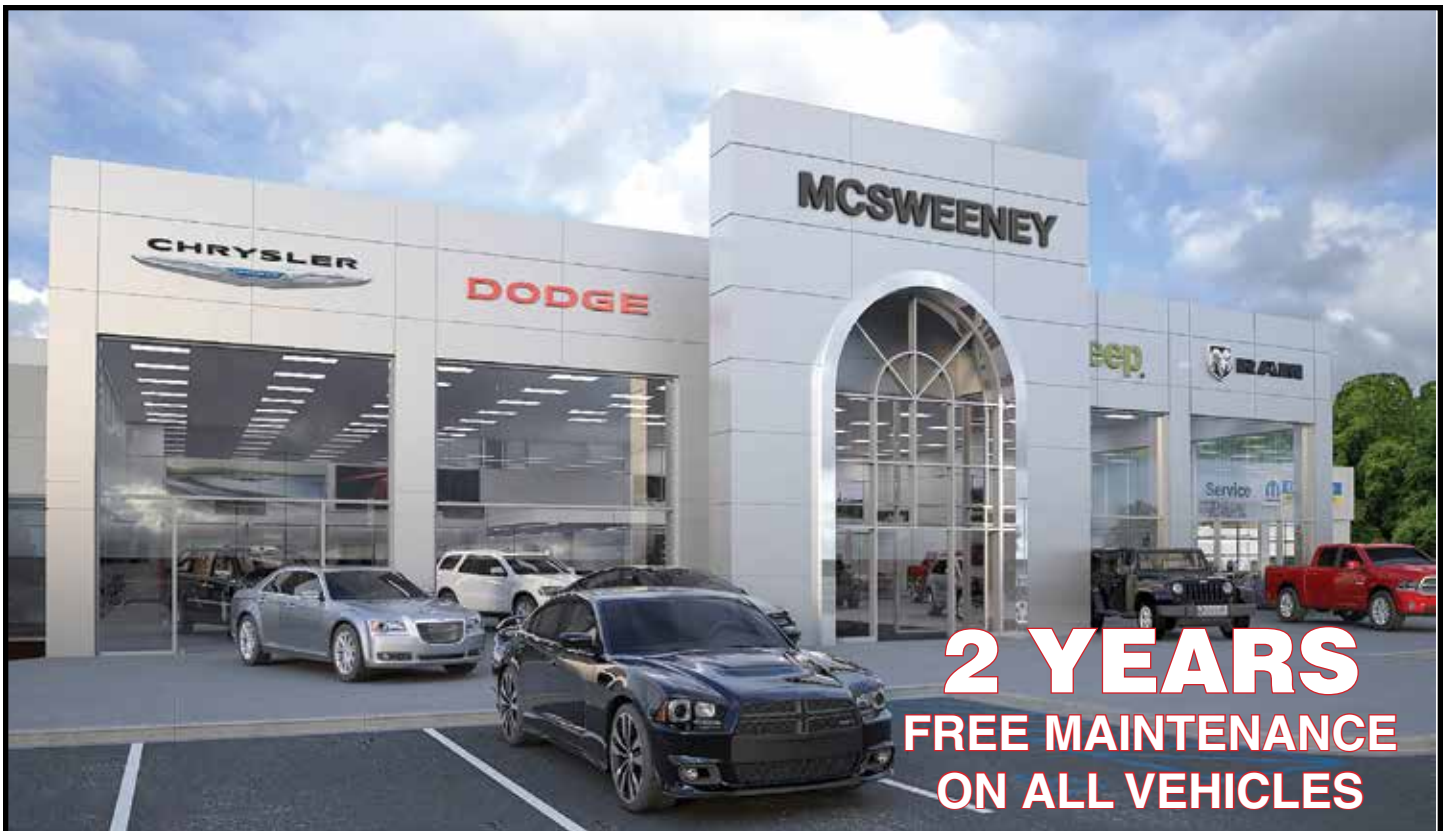
JAN 01	●	BEST	Evening
JAN 02	●	BEST	Evening
JAN 03	●	FAIR	Evening
JAN 04	●	FAIR	Evening
JAN 05	●	FAIR	Evening
JAN 06	●	FAIR	Evening
JAN 07	●	POOR	Evening
JAN 08	●	POOR	Morning
JAN 09	●	GOOD	Morning
JAN 10	●	GOOD	Morning
JAN 11	●	GOOD	Morning
JAN 12	●	POOR	Morning
JAN 13	●	POOR	Morning
JAN 14	●	POOR	Morning
JAN 15	●	POOR	Morning
JAN 16	●	POOR	Evening
JAN 17	●	FAIR	Evening
JAN 18	●	FAIR	Evening
JAN 19	●	BEST	Evening
JAN 20	●	BEST	Evening
JAN 21	●	BEST	Evening
JAN 22	●	POOR	Evening
JAN 23	●	POOR	Evening
JAN 24	●	FAIR	Morning
JAN 25	●	FAIR	Morning
JAN 26	●	POOR	Morning
JAN 27	●	POOR	Morning
JAN 28	●	BEST	Morning
JAN 29	●	BEST	Morning
JAN 30	●	FAIR	Morning
JAN 31	●	FAIR	Evening

Information from the Farmers' Almanac.

Lake Levels

Full Pool: 465 Feet Winter Pool: 460 Feet
Flood Pool: 467 Feet

This graph and information come from the LakesOnline.com website. For up-to-date lake levels, log on to <http://www.loganmartin.info/level/>



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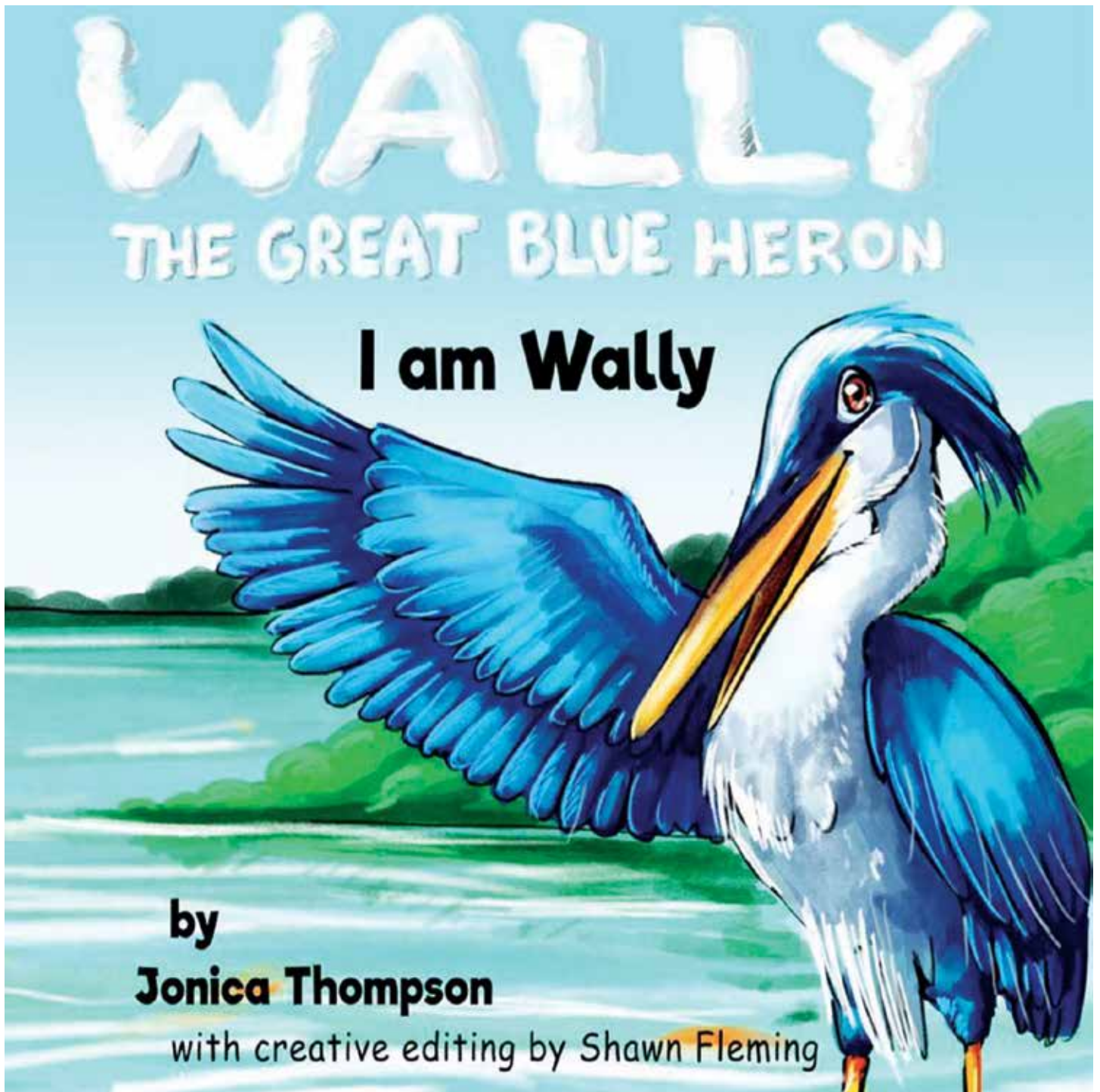
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Meet Wally the Great Blue Heron

Written and photographed
by Buddy Roberts

“It is unusual to spend any time at all along the Coosa River and not come across a great blue heron.” –Dr. George Cline, ecologist and professor of biology at Jacksonville State Uni-

versity.

If not for that verity, Jonica Thompson might not be a children's book author.

A daily encounter with the majestic lakeside bird

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prompted her to write and publish *I am Wally*, the story of a great blue heron. The book was published in October to positive reviews and sold out of its first printing within three weeks.

"I'm amazed by how well it has been received," said Thompson. An Odenville native and former Pell City resident ("I grew up on Logan Martin Lake"), she relocated to Lake Guntersville with her family in 2014, which is when she met the bird behind the book.



The real-life Wally the Great Blue Heron maintains a regular presence near Thompson's houseboat.

"The idea started about three years ago when I was driving my son to school. Every morning, we would see the same great blue heron. Shawn named him Wally, and we started making up stories about him. Those stories have now turned into a book series starring Wally and his friends. I've always wanted to write, but I just didn't realize my first book would be a children's book."

The debut entry is "basically a day with Wally – what he does, how he eats, where he's from – and it introduces the reader

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Jonica Thompson wrote her first children's book while sitting in this chair in her marina's recreation room and waiting for her boat laundry to finish.

to great blue herons as a species. I wrote it for ages 3-8, so I wanted to be fun and educational. Book 2 will be a little more fun and silly."

As with most writers, Thompson said the biggest challenge to finishing the book was simply sitting down and writing it. "Once I did, the words came together in about 45 minutes. After that, meeting all of the publishing requirements was a big learning curve. That took longer than putting the book together."

Shawn, who is now 9, is credited as the book's creative editor for his input to the illustrations, Thompson said. "He made some very good suggestions during the process. I sketched out what I wanted the illustrations to look like, but I am by no means a children's artist, so I hired a professional artist to cartoon it up a bit. I'm very happy with the illustrations, and there is a photo of the real Wally in the book."

The text of the second book in the Wally series has been written, and the art is still in progress, with the book sched-

uled to publish later this year. Thompson is already at work on its sequel.

In the meantime, she visits elementary schools to read from *I am Wally* and discuss writing and publishing with students. She has visited Odenville Elementary School and has plans for readings in Pell City schools this month. Schools may request visits – for which Thompson does not charge – through her website, www.wallytheheron.com, and she donates a copy of the book (which is 1.5-level Accelerated Reader certified) to school libraries.

Copies of the book may be ordered through the website, including a combination package that includes a plush Wally stuffed animal.

"We have partnered with Conservation Critters on this project," Thompson said. "Great blue herons are protected. They're not endangered, but they are protected. Part of the sale from each order goes to protect these beautiful and majestic birds."

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Alabama Power

Written by Katie Bolton
Photographed by
Alabama News Service

Aeration system installed in Logan Martin aims to improve water quality

Alabama Power has installed a new aeration system in Logan Martin Lake to improve water quality by adding dissolved oxygen into the water.

"This new system consists of seven long sections of pipe that will be anchored just off the bottom of the lake in front of Logan Martin Dam and some distance upstream," said Jim Crew, Southern Company Services Hydro Services manager.

The aeration system adds oxygen into the water around the dam, increasing the dissolved oxygen levels in the water discharged from the dam's generating units. That will improve the water quality for fish and other aquatic species.

"Each pipe is basically like a big soaker hose that adds oxygen into the water that will ultimately be released downstream of the dam," Crew added.

The process of installing the aeration system be-

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gan a few weeks ago with assembling the lines along the shoreline to deploy in the lake, along with building the infrastructure needed to store and transport the oxygen to the seven lines.

Crew said the seven lines were deployed last month. "Five boats (were) utilized to sink the lines according to precise coordinates."

The Alabama Marine Police helped with the deployment process to ensure safety of the workers and others who were on the lake while the lines were being sunk.

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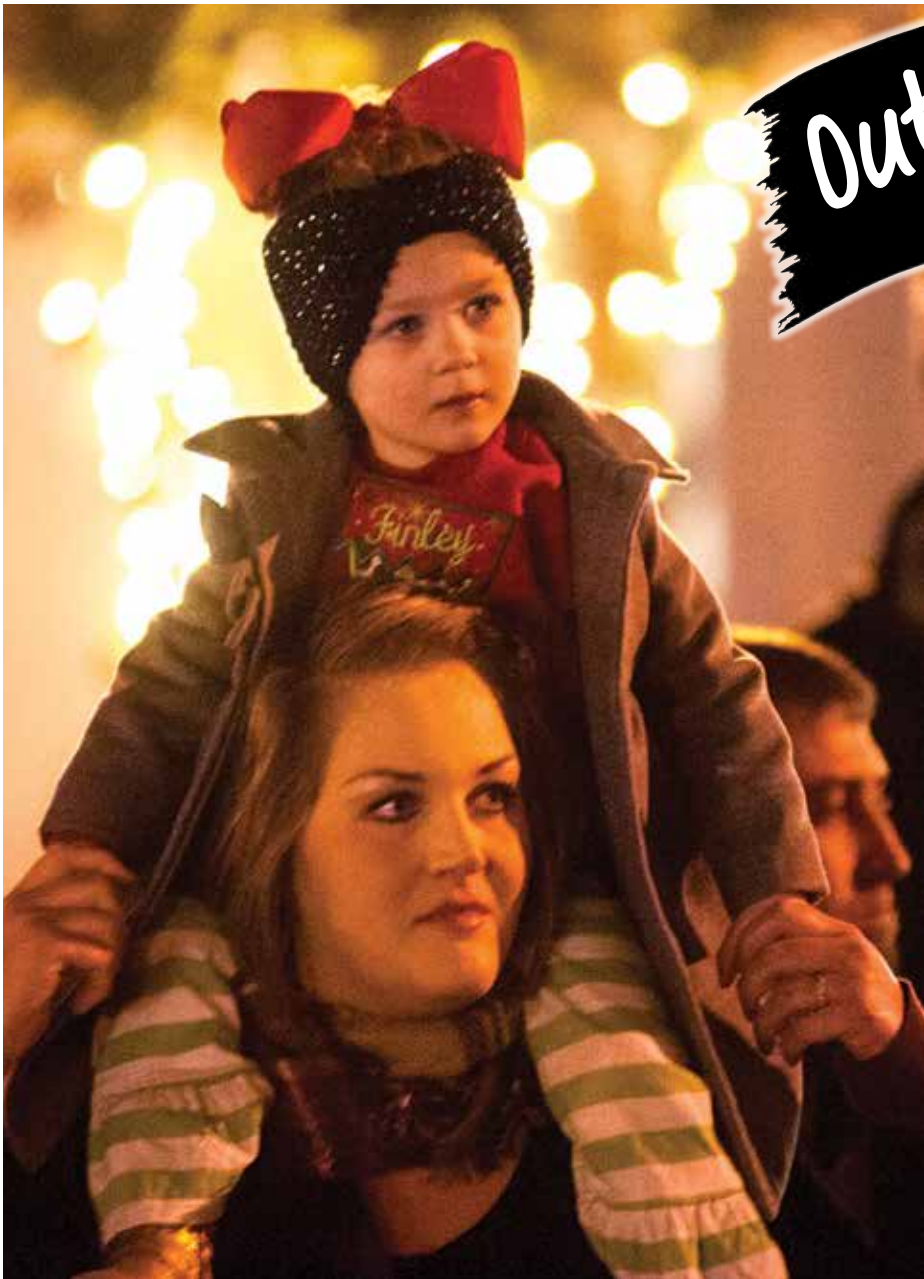
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Talladega holiday festival

Written by Kelli Tipton
Photographed by Tucker Webb

brings community together

Editor's Note: Join staff writer Kelli Tipton as she explores lakeside communities, events and activities.



Out & About



Christmas is fun, food, music and magic.

It's glitter and light. It's merry and bright. It's about love and laughter and fellowship with family and friends.

I know it's January, but I'm still thinking about it.

In the spirit of the holiday, I attended Talladega's second Christmas on the Square event last month at the Historic Talladega Courthouse Square to experience all the excitement of Christmas and to get my jolly on.

I attended a free movie at the Historic Ritz Theatre and had my picture taken with Santa. I also enjoyed shopping for unique hand-made gifts and talking with vendors about their crafts. Jennifer Ellis' display of hand-painted signs and décor caught my eye, and I struck up a conversation with her and her helper, Cheri Ford.

"We've been very busy today. Customers all day long," Ford said.

"It's been crazy. I need to go home and paint some more," Ellis said laughing.

Joy and Gerald Bittle sold Meemaw's Cheese Straws, and they were tickled with the number of customers they had served that day. "We sold everything we brought, and we are going home to make some more



Hundreds of people attended a free Taylor Hicks concert during Talladega's second Christmas on the Square festival.

for tomorrow," she said.

I walked around the well-lit, fes-

tively decorated square and watched children enjoy the many free activities.

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"You crown the year with Your bounty and goodness..." Psalm 65:11



Taylor Hicks' high-energy performance included his new single, "Six Strings and Diamond Rings." He is scheduled to release a new album in March 2018.



Hicks met with several contest winners and posed for pictures before the concert. I enjoyed meeting him and interviewing him afterward.

A synthetic ice skating rink was a favorite attraction for kids of all ages.

One of the most popular events on Saturday was a free concert by Taylor Hicks, attended by hundreds of people crowded around an outdoor stage that had been assembled next to the city water department. And one of the highlights of the event for me is that I got to talk with Taylor.

No stranger to Talladega, he sometimes comes into town to visit with friends and to attend NASCAR races at Talladega Superspeedway. "Talladega is a

beautiful town with a lot of history," he said. "I was there to promote my new single, 'Six Strings and Diamond Rings,' and I think Christmas on the Square is a really neat way for the community to celebrate Christmas. I think it was a perfect night."

'Six Strings and Diamond Rings' is a soulful country song that is receiving air play in major markets. It will be on a new album Hicks is scheduled to release in March, but it is available now on iTunes, Spotify and other popular music sites.

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Talladega Fire Department and Talladega Police Department were on hand to protect and serve ... and to let curious children see the inner workings of their vehicles.

Hicks described the sound of the new album as very "rootsy." "When you are talking about roots music, it's a little country, a little bit of blues and soul. It's a really great representation of who I am as an artist right now."

Although he lives in Nashville, he travels back and forth between Birmingham and Nashville this time of year, and he found Christmas on the Square a good way to kick off his holiday season. "I celebrate Christmas



with my family. I look forward to going home because I know there will be a lot of good home-cooked food on the table. When I travel, I don't get that kind of food as much," he said.

And he loves Southern cook-

ing, "Big Mama was the best cook in the family, and I miss her dearly. She made the best dressing, and I loved her fried chicken."

He said his New Year's resolution is simple, and he is looking forward to

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Children and adults rode the train around the beautifully decorated Courthouse Square. There were many free activities including face painting, ice skating, and crafting at Santa's Workshop. Food was a big part of the event, and food trucks served everything from pizza to barbecue to Cajun cooking.



what the new year brings.

"My new year's resolution is to keep being happy and positive. I believe a positive attitude brings about positive things in life, and I feel like it's important for me to take as many opportunities as I can to make people happy, and to play as many performances as I can." he said. "I have a food and travel show called 'State Plates' which is on the INSP Network, and it airs on Friday nights, and I'm gonna be watching those upcoming episodes, and I'm looking forward to the new record, and hopefully playing some more shows in Talladega real soon."



The concert was a chance for him to play with some good friends. "What's great about doing shows like Talladega is that I get to bring a lot of friends with me that I haven't played with in a while," he said. "It's a friendly event from a musical perspective, because I get to see a lot of people from home."





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Yummy Roll

Written by Kelli Tipton
Photographed by Bob Crisp

Oishi" is the Japanese word for "delicious," and Oishi Asian Restaurant in Pell City lives up to its name.

Sushi lovers will be delighted with a wide variety of tasty rolls, either cooked or raw, and friendly, knowledgeable servers who make placing an order less intimidating for first-timers. The relaxed atmosphere is perfect for a lunch break with co-workers or a family night out.

One of the most popular items on the menu is the Yummy Roll. It is made with tuna, salmon, crab stick, cream cheese and avocado. These ingredients are rolled in specially prepared, short-grain Japanese rice and deep fried.


The roll is sliced and served with a special sauce drizzled on top. The Yummy Roll is beautifully presented on a plate with a flower or flower petals.

When served with soup and salad, sushi rolls are a filling meal. Hot, savory miso soup is a familiar favorite. It is a soy-bean paste broth with tofu, seaweed and scallions. Other delicious soups include onion, egg drop and hot and sour. Salads are typically served with ginger dressing, and the choices include seaweed salad, kani salad, avocado salad and a house variety. A spicy tuna salad is also available.

The most popular dessert on the menu is fried cheese-cake. The slightly crunchy outside holds soft, melted



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(From left) Steven Allen, Sr. and Steven Allen, Jr. enjoy a meal with their friend Randy Palmore.



cheesecake filling inside. It is served with confetti sprinkles and a side of whipped cream with a cherry on top. Other desserts are available and include chocolate mousse, ice cream and Key lime pie.

Oishi Asian Restaurant serves soft drinks, tea and adult

beverages. Hot or cold saké is a popular choice among adults. Saké is a Japanese rice wine. Hot saké is dry, and cold saké can range from dry to very sweet. The alcohol content in saké is more than that of beer, wine or cider, but less than that of spirits like vodka and rum.

Owner Rita Shi said the restaurant's menu is made up of "the best of the best" items from Asian cuisine. "I went from restaurant to restaurant trying different things, and I picked the ones I liked best for my menu."

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Fried cheesecake is a perfect way to end a meal and is one of several dessert choices on the menu.

Shi is a native of Pinson, and she learned the restaurant business by working in her parents' Chinese restaurant there. She opened Oishi Asian Restaurant about three months ago and enjoys seeing her customers return again and again.

"I just want more people to know that I'm here in this location," she said.

Oishi Asian Restaurant is at 4852 Cogswell Ave. in Pell City. For more information, hours of operation, photos and a menu, visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/oishiasianrestaurant.



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LAKESIDE LIVING

In Style

Written by Laura Nation-Atchison
Photographed by Bob Crisp

*St. Clair County couple
enjoys life on the main channel*



When Randy and Rhonda Gann began talking about relocating from Birmingham to a waterfront property, they considered a coastal area. But considering the impact hurricanes can have on a coastline, they decided against it.

So they began looking at the lake.

After searching for exactly the right spot on the water, they found it, atop the crest of a rise overlooking Logan Martin's main channel.

A drive into their property passes raised beds of flowering shrubs and plants before the house's angled design provides entry to one of its two spacious garages.

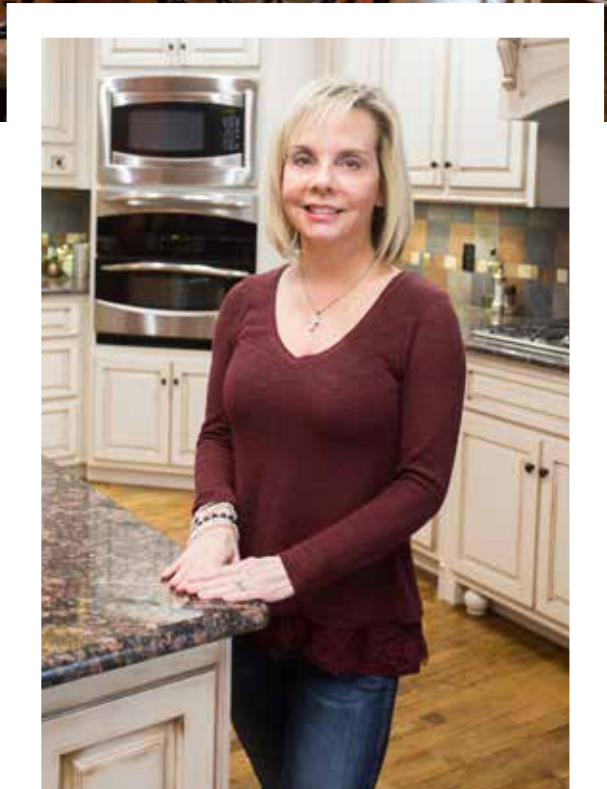
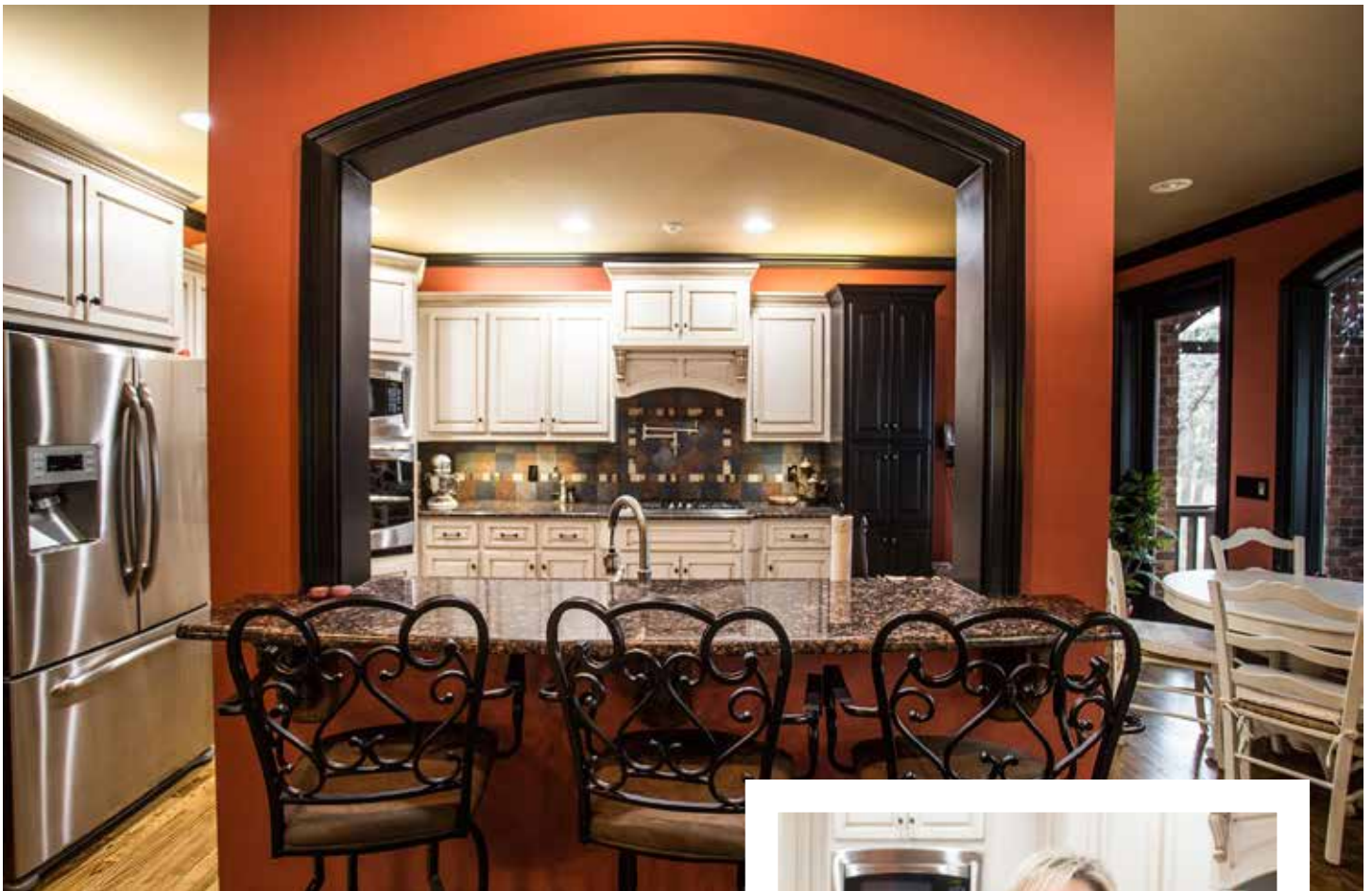
Massive carved wood doors greet guests at the main entry, inset with beveled glass panels that allow the natural light that Rhonda loves into the house.

An earth-toned palette of colors is used throughout their home, the entry a soothing taupe with lightly antiqued furnishings that welcome with elegance and a graceful style.

The entry provides a view across to the sprawling great room, where floor-to-ceiling windows and French doors are just the right touch for showcasing the full waterfront view the Ganns fell in love with.

"This is one of the things I loved immediately when we saw this lot," Rhonda said. "It has a full panoramic view of the water."

PHOTO SUBMITTED



Their great room and its air of relaxation provide a centerpiece for the home where warm wood floors, framed windows and arches meet rich sunset-toned walls that adjoin a tiered ceiling.

Built-in book shelves surround the fireplace, which is set in black marble and topped with an expansive carved wood mantel.

The great room opens to the view the Ganns treasure with a fully screened porch room accessed through double glass doors.

The front hall leads to two bedrooms on the main level. The master suite overlooks the lake, and a tiered ceiling adds to its spacious appeal.

At the opposite end of the main level is a guest room and bath, situated to take in the lake view on the rear of the house as well.

From this area, there is interior access to the

“This was truly an effort on Randy’s part, and it is just perfect,” Rhonda Gann says of her lakeside kitchen.

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Two large windows allow plenty of natural light into the master bath.

upper garage, where Randy has room to enjoy his “muscle car” (as Rhonda calls it) and the glistening Harley Davidson he enjoys taking on cross country treks with friends.

Downstairs, there is a nearly mirrored floor plan design, with two additional bedrooms and baths, plus a kitchen and large dining area.

The lower level dining area opens to a covered patio, with walkways that circle to the gardens and the front of the house.

Just up a stairway from the main hall is Rhonda’s at-home yoga, pilates and personal training studio, where she conducts group classes and individual sessions for her clients.

She started what has become Evolve Fitness while

living in Hoover, working in marketing for Alabama Power Company and attending aerobics classes at nearby Hunter Street Baptist Church. She was eventually asked to fill in as an instructor.

“That started it all,” she said. Rhonda became certified in pilates and yoga, “and here we are now.”

Adding the personal training element to her repertoire meant earning professional certification in this area as well, through the American Council on Exercise in 2008.

“This is probably the single most important thing I have done in this career,” she said.

Her clients come from all walks of life, she said, at present, the eldest being 86 years old.

Yoga is a pursuit she encourages for all, with adapta-



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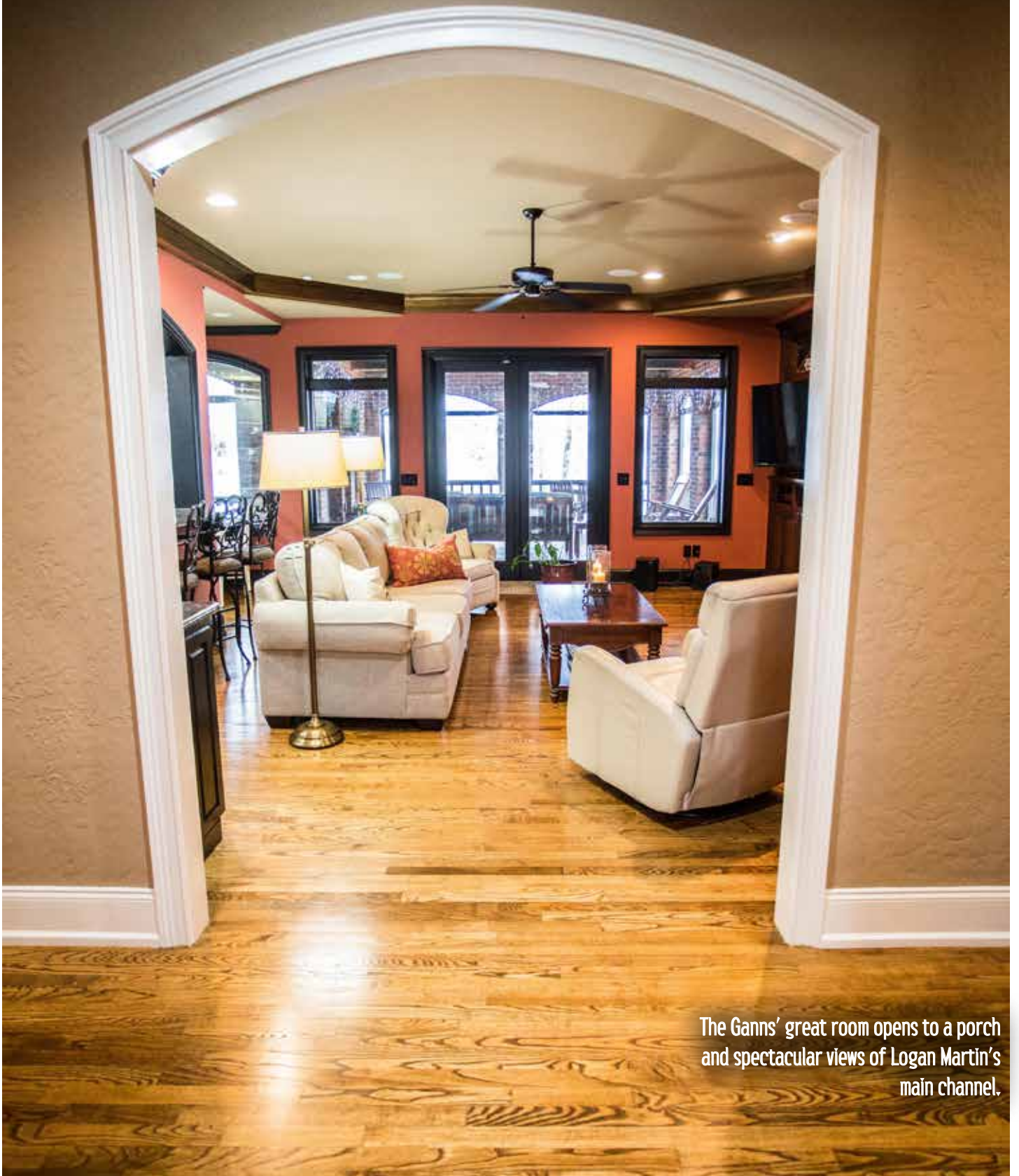
fions as each client develops their individual strength and flexibility.

"This is why there are no mirrors in the studio," she said. "This is a no-judgment zone, where we work hard, but laugh

a lot, too."

Rhonda also organizes seasonal Yoga By the Lake events, open to all from beginners to experienced clients.

These sessions are held on the grounds of her home,



The Ganns' great room opens to a porch and spectacular views of Logan Martin's main channel.



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The shoreline is an ideal setting for Rhonda's Yoga By the Lake classes.

facing the lakefront she loves and offering the natural setting of earth and sky.

Yoga By the Lake is announced through the Evolve Fitness Facebook page, as well as by word of mouth from her clients.

Altogether, the Ganns say their move to Logan Martin Lake has been one of fulfillment and many happy hours.

When their endeavors for the day are completed, they enjoy the feeling of enchantment Logan Martin delivers, just by taking a moment to admire a view from a window or an up close view from outside.

"When I'm not working, we love to be out on the boat or the patio, taking in the sunsets," Rhonda said. "It's one of our favorite things to do."

Happy New Year!



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Are there alligators in the lake and river?

Jacksonville State professor has the answer

Written and photographed
by Buddy Roberts

Dr. George Cline was discussing with his audience the various species of wildlife that live in and around the Coosa River, but once he removed Scooter from his pet carrier, all anybody wanted to talk about was alligators.

Scooter is an American alligator, one of the thousands of animals that call Alabama -- and specifically the Coosa River Basin, which includes Logan Martin Lake -- home.

"As far back as around 75 years ago, there have been reports of American alligators cruising the Coosa River, as far north as Gadsden," said Cline, a herpetologist, environmentalist and professor of biology at Jacksonville

State University. "Imagine an animal that gets 19 feet long. Even an 8-footer is taller than any of us. What a great animal, and here they are in the Coosa."

That doesn't mean, however, that boaters and anglers should worry about having a dangerous encounter with one of Scooter's bigger relatives while out on the lake or river.

"Alligators are not in the Coosa River per se, but they are out there in low numbers. You're just not going to see them," Cline told the audience at the 2017 Coosa River Basin State of the Watershed Conference, which Logan Martin Lake hosted. "They will not be out in the deeper



Katelyn Henderson, a graduate student at Jacksonville State University, holds a red-faced screech owl, which is native to the Coosa River area.

waters of the river or out in the lake. They'll be in the back bayous, the shallow water and muddy embankments where the river backs up. As far away from people as they can get. Alligators are shy. You're not going to find them swimming around in the lake or attacking boats."

Biologists have been unable to accurately assess the alligator population in central Alabama, according to Cline, but the reptiles are apparently "scattered about in small numbers. We just don't know enough about them yet. We need to, because they are a part of the whole system. Without gators, the whole thing crashes."

The professor sees alligators not as a dangerous threat to public safety but as a part of the state's diverse ecosystem.

"Alabama is the top state east of the Mississippi in species diversity," the Pennsylvania native said. "People

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Dieter Ruethemann interacts with Scooter the American alligator as Dr. George Cline displays the reptile during the 2017 Coosa River Basin State of the Watershed Conference.

come to Alabama just to see the stuff we have. This is a great, highly diverse place with fascinating biology. No state has more organisms than we do, and it's vital we protect them."

The Coosa River and its banks are home to a significant portion of Alabama's wildlife. "Sixty percent of the known species of mollusks in the world -- not just Alabama, the world -- live in the Coosa River," Cline said.

One of his favorite residents of the Coosa River area is the bald eagle.

"With its 9-foot wingspan, is there anything more spectacular than that bird in flight? It makes my day every time I see one. Once you see your first bald eagle, you're hooked for life."

Other residents of local waters include the spiny softshell turtle ("You might never see one if you're not actually looking for them."), the Coosa crayfish ("Alabama is the land of the crayfish, and this one is endemic to the Coosa River. You can't find it anywhere else."), the

chestnut lampray, whirligig beetles, the Coosa River darter (which Cline considers to be one of the most beautiful fish on Earth) and the Coosa moccasinshell mussel.

"All of these creatures are in the Coosa River, from very big animals all the way down to things you can't see," Cline said. "By square miles, we have more animals than anyone else, and our job is to protect their habitats."

Disappearing habitats concern the professor, as a biologist and lover of wildlife.

"Take frogs, for example," he said. "There are 6,000 species of frogs. Forty-three percent are endangered. We are at serious risk of losing about half of the species of frogs in the world within 10 to 15 years. It sickens me that half the animals I study will disappear during my children's lifetime.

"Diversity of life is important. Even if the only value is to ooh and aah over it, it's worth it. Without it, the world becomes a whole lot more bland."

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There will be prizes given for the top two tables this year.

Personal donations will be accepted.

Meet Me by the



Written and Photographed
by Buddy Roberts

Best friends and business partners Drake Carroll and Bryton Nixon typically don't need much of an excuse to spend time on Logan Martin Lake.

"You tell us, 'Meet me by the lake,' and we'll be there," Carroll said.

But on a chilly, overcast late autumn morning, talking about the lake was a better option than being out on it. So Carroll and Nixon discussed their business, their roots in Pell City – the Gateway to Logan Martin Lake – and how the body of water has contributed to their hometown's growth.

Their business: Carroll and Nixon own Cogswell Trading Company and Signature Laser Engraving, an operation that combines Carroll's background in the clothing industry with Nixon's experience as an engraver.

"My family owns Forever Monument Company, so I started out with my laser engraving business as a way of cutting the middle man out," he said.

Carroll started working in retail at age 15 while a student at Pell City High School, and "for the past seven years, I was manufacturing clothing and helping with sales for a company in Tuscaloosa. That was when I realized there wasn't anywhere in 50 miles of Pell City that provides the kind of men's wear we have here now – high quality men's casual clothing."

So it didn't take much encouragement when his old friend suggested a partnership.

"We've been best friends since we were knee-high to a grasshopper," Nixon said. "Pretty much brothers. I was tired



Bryton Nixon and Drake Carroll

of driving to Tuscaloosa to hang out with him, so we started this business and got him back in town."

When they're not working: "Since we started this business, we don't have time to do much anymore," Carroll said. "But we'll go play golf when we can or do something outdoors."

Fishing used to take up much of Nixon's spare time, "but I'm engaged and planning a wedding, so I've been spending time with my fiancé on that. But I still like man stuff – working on boats and cars, and we take full advantage of the lake during the summer. It's nice to get out on the water and blow off steam."

Growing up in Pell City: "Both born and raised here," Carroll said. According to Nixon, "we had the full Pell City experience. If you ask us something about Pell City and we don't know it, we've got somebody who does."

About their hometown: "Pell City is Mayberry with a touch of Birmingham," Nixon said.

According to Carroll, the town hasn't lost its small town charm as it has grown. "You still can't go anywhere without seeing somebody you know, and the politeness of the people is still here. It's definitely growing compared to what it used to be – and it's growing fast – but that's a great thing.

"Living in Tuscaloosa for the past 10 years, I watched it grow with the success of the football team, and I see something similar happening in Pell City with the lake and the interstate. Pell City feels like it's on a bubble that's about to break wide open for growth and opportunities."

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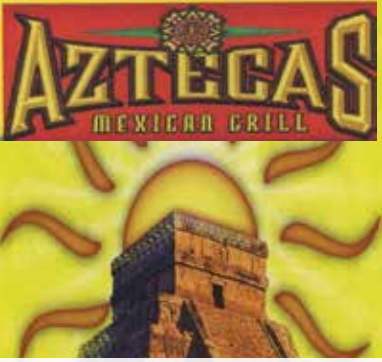
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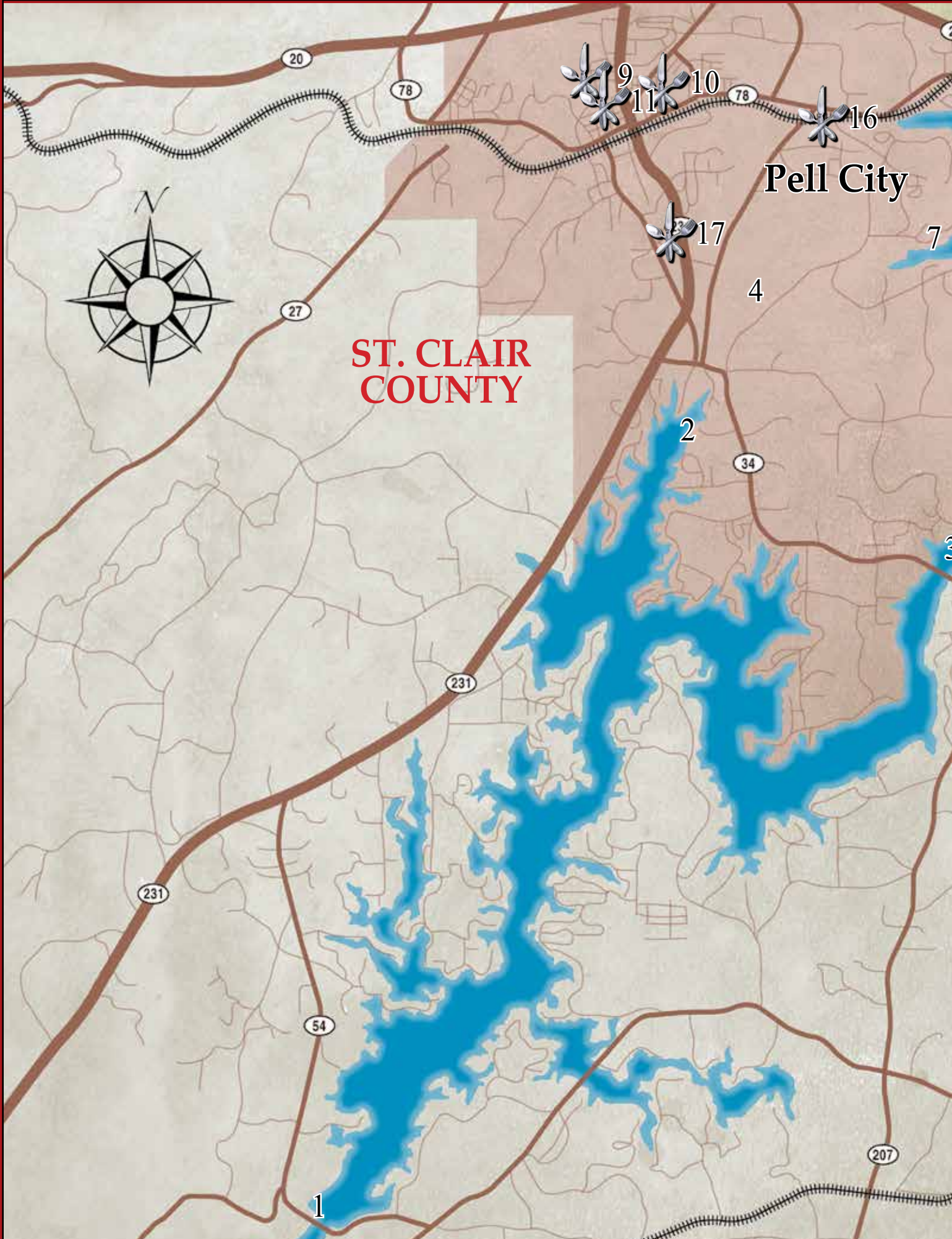
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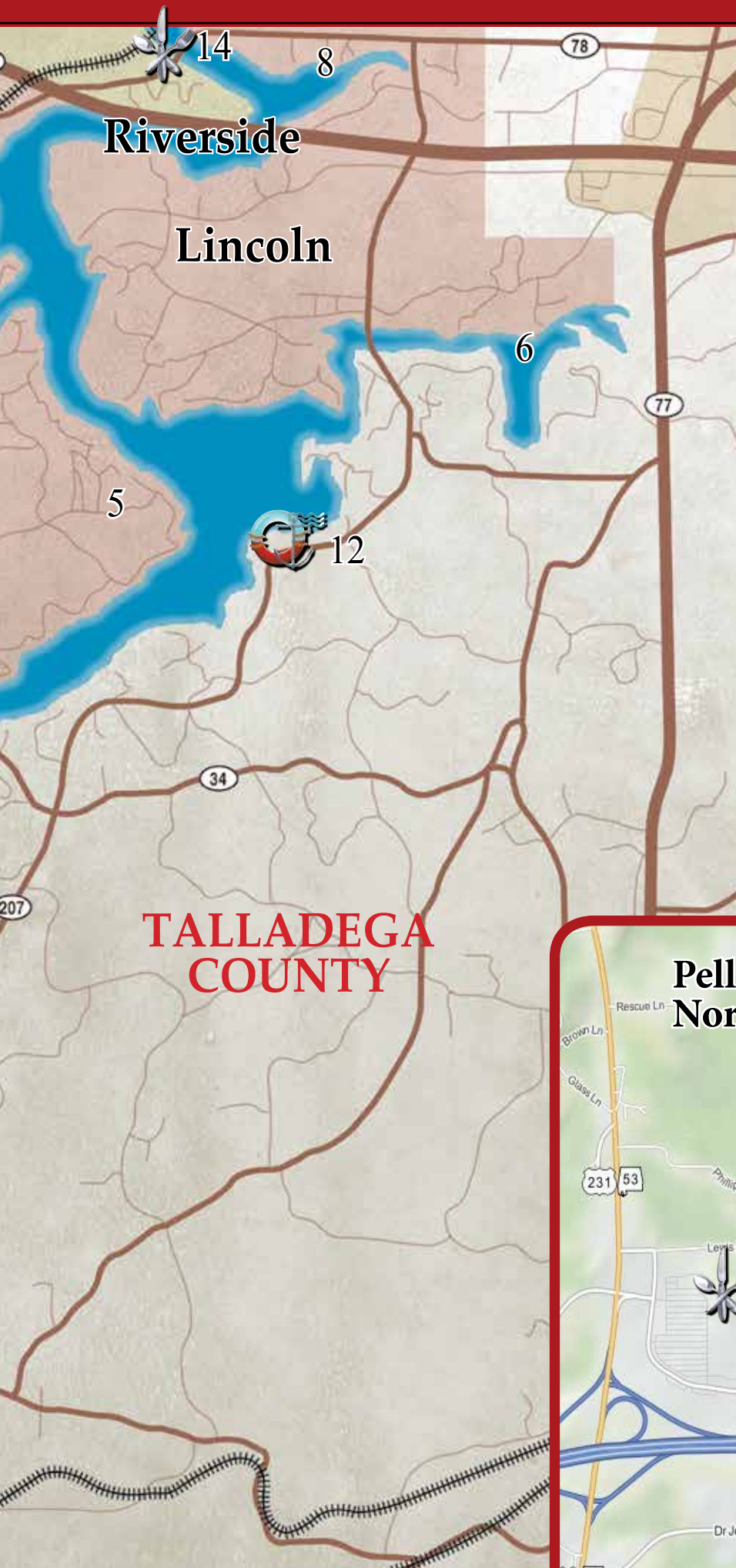
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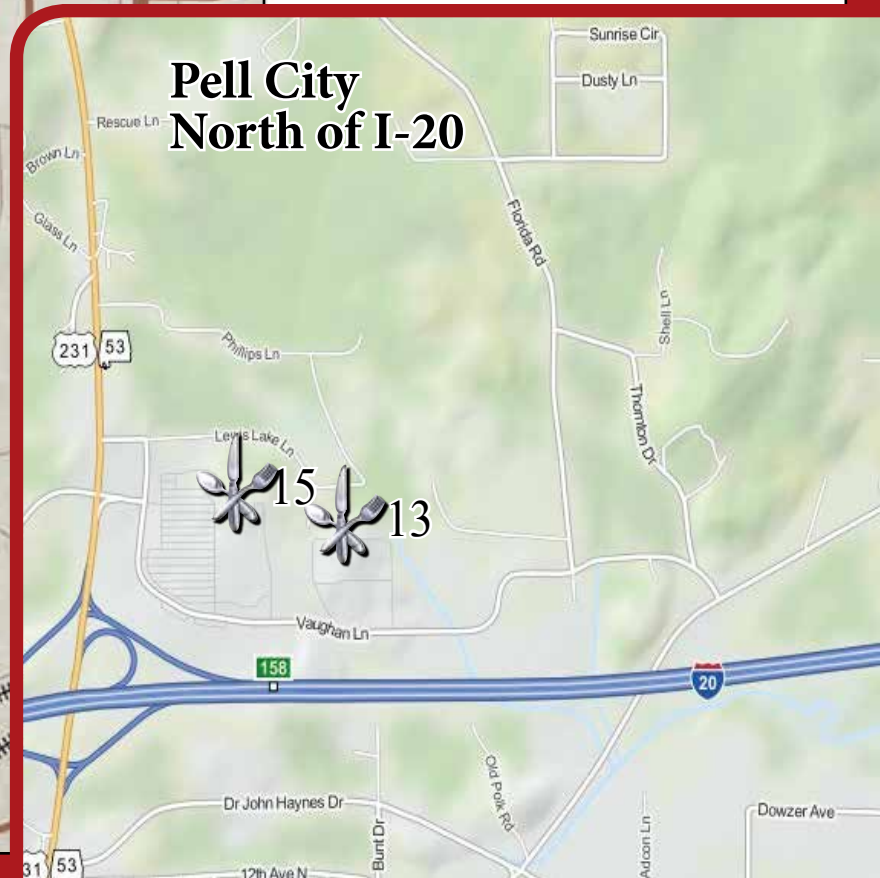
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11. Daylight Donuts
12. Poor House Branch Marina
13. Aztecas
14. The Ark
15. Jade East
16. Oishi Japanese
17. Guadalajara Mexican



JANUARY calendar of events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FRIDAY

19th

MARKSMANSHIP CLINIC

CMP Marksmanship Park in Talladega plays host to the RWVA Appleseed Rifle Marksmanship & Heritage Clinic from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Topics to be covered include shooting out to 400 yards, target determination, scopes and compensating for wind. Range fees are \$25 for adults and \$15 for students younger than age 18, in addition to the \$20 clinic fee. For more information, call 256-474-4408.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

26th & 27th

THE BLACK JACKET SYMPHONY

Talladega's Historic Ritz Theatre presents the 50th anniversary celebration of The Beatles' Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band album. This event was rescheduled from Dec. 8-9 due to inclement weather. Dec. 8 tickets will be honored for the Jan. 26 performance, and Dec. 9 tickets will be honored on Jan. 27. New tickets can be purchased at www.RitzTalladega.com or 256-315-0000.

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Homes

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CROPWELL HOME IS IDEAL FOR FULL-TIME OR WEEKEND LAKESIDE LIVING

Written by Buddy Roberts
Photographed by Bob Crisp

Prospective homebuyers looking for a lake house in a quiet neighborhood setting will want to see the property at 2400 Blue Spring Road in Cropwell.

Situated on one acre, the all-brick home sports a freshly painted and updated interior. Offering easy access to Pell City and I-20, it features three bedrooms, two full bathrooms and a kitchen with new appliances, including dishwasher, microwave and cooktop.

A large screened deck – perfect for outdoor entertaining – is off the dining area, and the basement den walks out onto a private covered patio. The basement also includes a laundry area, workshop and storm room.

The home is situated on a gentle slope leading to a private deck and boat house with a lift.

The property lists at \$299,000. For more information, call Fields/Gossett Realty at 205-884-2300.

Sylacauga agent takes pride in helping clients 'every step of the way'

Written by Laci Braswell
Photo Submitted

For real estate agent Beverly Murphy of Sylacauga, the best part of her job is helping find her clients the home they are searching for.

"I love helping clients find their perfect home, especially first-time buyers and sellers," she said. "It's such a major decision that it can be a bit frightening at times, but as a real estate agent, I'm there for them every step of the way."

Murphy has been employed by Atkinson Realty for the past decade, having received her real estate license in 2007. She earned a degree in economics from Jacksonville State University in 2005 and served as a tech analyst prior to working in real estate.

"I wanted to be able to be there for my family more," she said. "Real estate allowed me to be more flexible with my time and really be a mom."

Recently, Murphy became certified by the Graduate Real Estate Institute. She also has a certification in e-pro digital services.

The Greenville, South Carolina, native and her husband Dennis have four children, Blake Sowerby, Emily Sowerby, Aaron Murphy and Jane Murphy.

"I moved around a lot growing up," she said. "I consider myself a military brat, and Sylacauga is the first small town I've called home."

Despite its small size, Murphy added that she has a wide range of clients. "I have helped clients find homes or build properties on Logan Martin Lake, Smith Lake, Lay Lake and Lake Martin."



Beverly Murphy

According to Murphy, the biggest misconception when it comes to the real estate business is how tedious the process can become. "There is a lot more to it than just opening up doors and touring homes," she said, offering some advice to prospective buyers.

"It's important that you speak to a credit union. You want to have that help to guide you, and to know that you aren't overspending or settling for what you want."

As for potential sellers, Murphy advises clients to put themselves in the buyer's shoes.

"As a seller, you want to take a real good look at your home, especially the entrance, because it is what they will first see. It's important to look for any damage or imperfections that may turn interested buyers away. You want your home to be as inviting as possible."

Murphy added that the winter months are also a good time to buy and sell.

"Clients can really find deals this time of year," she said.



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\$49,900 - 155 Hollis Ct. - WATERFRONT mobile home on leased lot. This has 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, living room and eat in kitchen. Large, nice deck overlooking the lake with private dock. MLS #800645 Call Brenda 205/812-4141



\$419,000 - 527 W Sunset Dr. - AMAZING VIEW 3 BR, 3 BA located on the Main Channel allowing breathtaking views! Great room w/vaulted ceiling, brick FP and sunroom with separate heating and cooling. Downstairs level has den, BA and additional kitchen and large screened porch with hot tub. MLS #787227 Call Alesia (205) 405-0860



\$347,900 - 708 Cove Point Dr. - FABULOUS 3 BR, 2 BA home located on deep water. Home features great room with fireplace, sunroom and lake living with lovely views inside or out. Hardwood floors in great room, kitchen and master bedroom. Convenient to I-20. MLS #782203 Call Tina (205) 337-8509



\$995,000 - 705 Lakeview Crest Dr. - SPECTACULAR New Construction with LUXURY LAKE LIVING! Brick stacked stone with amazing trim with this large 4 BR, 4 BA w/many amenities. Family room with 14' coffered ceilings and black marble gas FP. Downstairs has large den with 2nd FP, wet bar, exercise room and two of the bedrooms. FANTASTIC view of the main channel. MLS #769402 Call Lawrence (205) 812-5195



\$179,900 - 450 Hillstone Drive - NEW CONSTRUCTION located in Pell City. One level 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with open floor plan and located in convenient new subdivision. Family room, dining area, patio and large 2-car garage. MLS #756824 Call Lawrence 205/812-5195 or Bill 205/369-7977



\$203,400 - 54 Southbend Dr. - LARGE LEVEL LOT with this 3 BR, 2 BA home with huge master suite, living room with fireplace, formal dining room and eat-in kitchen. Full unfinished basement with 2-car garage and open deck in the back with nice level backyard. MLS #792181 Call Michelle (205) 427-3222



\$159,900 - 415 Crawfish Ln. - COZY, WATERFRONT 3 BR, 3 BA one level home with basement has living room, dining room and located just minutes from the city. Partially finished basement has den, bedroom and bath with 2-car garage. MLS #777818 Call Lee Higginbotham (205) 812-4530



\$369,900 - 161 Hamilton Ln. - GORGEOUS HOME This 3-level 4 BR, 3 BA home has great room, master BR and dining room on the main level, open floor plan and flooring of hardwood, carpet and tile. Basement has den, BR, playroom and BA. Property is just off main channel w/covered boat dock, floating pier and carpeted open dock area. MLS #776814 Call Mary (205) 586-0825



\$89,000 - 52599 Hwy. 77- ONE LEVEL 3 BR, 2 BA brick home with carport. Great room, den, hallway and one bedroom with hardwood floors. Home needs some work. MLS #789191 Call Nan 256/452-4761



\$34,000 - 522 Court St. N. - UPDATED 3 BR, 1 BA home with new plumbing, electrical wiring, vinyl siding and hardwood floors. Large storage/workshop building. MLS #791356 Call Scott 205/368-8138 or Joel 205/753-3831



\$219,500 - 2814 Woods Bend Rd. - QUIET COUNTRYSIDE LIVING with the Coosa River 2 minutes away! Home has 3 BR, 2.5 BA, high ceilings and large spacious rooms. Large kitchen has beautiful cabinets and counter tops. Home is located on approx. 3.6 ACRES in country neighborhood. MLS #785143 Call Carey (205) 901-0652



\$329,000 - CHARACTER with this older custom built 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath 1.5 story home. First time on the market and the home consists of living room, dining room, and cozy den with exposed beams and fireplace. Enter the foyer with brick floors and nice staircase leading upstairs to the two bedrooms. Home has 2-car carport and is located on nice lot, convenient to town and I-20. MLS #801960 Call Brenda 205/812-4141 or Lawrence 205/812-5195



\$158,000 - 3521 Mount Moriah Rd. - BEAUTIFUL 3 BR, 2 BA brick home in a rural setting. Home has family room with fireplace and nice kitchen, located on approx. 2.7 ACRES with carport and garage with plenty of parking. MLS #789717 Call Sebastian (205) 926-8043



\$149,900 - 85 Blake Street - NICE 3 bedroom, 2 bath full brick home with updated energy efficient window and new roof. Bonus room and fenced backyard with storage build. MLS #791587 Call Carl (205) 965-4755



\$150,000 - 275 Brooks Rd. - NICE 2 BR, 2 BA home with stone fireplace, full unfinished basement and large sunroom that is heated and cooled, located on approx. one ACRE and near public boat launch. MLS #791185 Call Bill 205/369-7977 or Jeff (205) 405-1649



\$595,000 - 200 Turkey Ridge Rd. - LOT OF CHARM AND CHARACTER with this 4 bedroom 4.5 bath custom built stacked stone and cedar shake vinyl home. Family room with stacked stone fireplace, approx. 15' ceiling, parlor with approx. 12' ceiling and fireplace with antique mantle and separate dining room. Media room, exercise room, game room and potential bedroom all located downstairs. This home boasts many amenities and located on approx. 5.9 ACRES with inground pool and wonderful outdoor kitchen area. MLS #793048 Call Lawrence 205/812-5195 or Brenda 205/812-4141



655 RIVER FOREST LN
TALLADEGA, AL 35160
MLS# 753871 \$149,000



702 SOUTH ST
TALLADEGA, AL 35160
MLS# 786685 \$170,000



475 RIVER FOREST LN
TALLADEGA, AL 35160
MLS# 790923 \$174,500



540 RIVER BEND LN
LINCOLN, AL 35096
MLS# 794933 \$219,500



1685 SHELTON SHORES DR
LINCOLN, AL 35096
MLS# 741265 \$234,900



413 TRUSS FERRY RD
LINCOLN, AL 35096
MLS# 795532 \$249,000



992 CLEAR CREEK DR
ALPINE, AL 35014
MLS# 782738 \$259,000



75 RIVER BEND CIR
TALLADEGA, AL 35160
MLS# 798487 \$284,900



1620 DAVIS ACRES DR
ALPINE, AL 35014
MLS# 792350 \$294,500



963 SHELTON SHORES DR
LINCOLN, AL 35096
MLS# 789436 \$299,500



550 BLUE RIVER DR
LINCOLN, AL 35096
MLS# 784851 \$299,900



300 CLEARWATER POINT RD
CROPWELL, AL 35054
MLS# 780884 \$319,000



150 LAKE VIEW LN
TALLADEGA, AL 35160
MLS# 791681 \$329,000



800 KILLOUGH LN
TALLADEGA, AL 35160
MLS# 788516 \$334,500



518 COVE POINT DR
RIVERSIDE, AL 35135
MLS# 784830 \$338,500



270 COVE DR
PELL CITY, AL 35128
MLS# 799792 \$349,000



590 RIVER TERRACE DR
TALLADEGA, AL 35160
MLS# 802508 \$359,000



69 P & H TRL
VINCENT, AL 35054
MLS# 782252 \$374,500



1600 DAVIS ACRES DR
ALPINE, AL 35014
MLS# 774907 \$389,500



236 RIVERVIEW DR
CROPWELL, AL 35054
MLS# 802703 \$399,500



230 LAKE SHORE CT
CROPWELL, AL 35054
MLS# 779161 \$419,500



65 GADDIE LN
CROPWELL, AL 35054
MLS# 784844 \$469,000



112 VIEWPOINT CIR
PELL CITY, AL 35128
MLS# 789526 \$479,500



770 MAYS BEND LN
PELL CITY, AL 35128
MLS# 793551 \$499,000



120 GRANDVIEW CIR
TALLADEGA, AL 35160
MLS# 798114 \$539,000



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6110 HARMON DR
PELL CITY, AL 35128
MLS# 800779 \$539,900



97 DAVIS ACRES DR
ALPINE, AL 35014
MLS# 793121 \$545,500



2405 ANNESLEY DR
PELL CITY, AL 35160
MLS# 801410 \$549,500



65 BULL DOG CIR
CROPWELL, AL 35054
MLS# 754803 \$639,500



4371 MCGOWANS FERRY RD
CHILDERSBURG, AL 35044
MLS# 779234 \$1,250,000



74 MAYS BEND CIR
PELL CITY, AL 35128
MLS# 755171 \$1,400,000



128 S LAKESHORE DR
TALLADEGA, AL 35160
MLS# 798483 \$4,500



Land for Sale or
Development

5 CONSTELLATION AVE
ALPINE, AL 35014
MLS# 800574 \$7,500



18 PARADISE POINT
TALLADEGA, AL 35160
MLS# 792746 \$8,500



19 PARADISE POINT
TALLADEGA, AL 35160
MLS# 792743 \$9,500



20 RIVER BEND LN
LINCOLN, AL 35096
MLS# 766762 \$12,900



31 WILLOW CREEK DR
LINCOLN, AL 35096
MLS# 770381 \$14,500



0 PARADISE POINT
LINCOLN, AL 35096
MLS# 799894 \$27,500



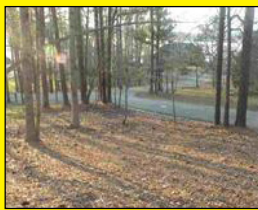
42 LAKEVIEW CIR
ALPINE, AL 35014
MLS# 771365 \$29,000



42 LAKEVIEW CIR
ALPINE, AL 35014
MLS# 771855 \$29,000



11 BLUEBERRY ST
PELL CITY, AL 35128
MLS# 768684 \$34,500



0 WATERS EDGE COVE
ALPINE, AL 35014
MLS# 783650 \$39,000



0 WATERS EDGE COVE
ALPINE, AL 35014
MLS# 783658 \$39,000



14 WILLINGHAM DR
TALLADEGA, AL 35016
MLS# 795723 \$39,000



20 PARADISE POINT
TALLADEGA, AL 35016
MLS# 792740 \$9,500

LAND & LOTS

23 VICKS LN - SYLACAUGA - MLS# 795521 - \$39,900
0 AMITOLA DR - CROPWELL - MLS# 785670 - \$42,500
309 NE CHARTER LN - PELL CITY - MLS# 799876 - \$44,000
255 ARMSTRONG MTN LN - TALLADEGA - MLS#801798 - \$49,900
1616 DAVIS ACRES DR - ALPINE - MLS# 738371 - \$56,500
351 BOATHOUSE CIR - SYLACAUGA - MLS# 736917 - \$59,500
7 GRAND WAY - TALLADEGA - MLS# 761985 - \$69,900
5320 LAKESHORE DR - PELL CITY - MLS# 780563 - \$69,900
0 LAKESHORE DR N - TALLADEGA - MLS# 760575 - \$94,500
6 GRAND WAY - TALLADEGA - MLS# 771967 - \$94,500
0 CLEAR CREEK DR - ALPINE - MLS# 737798 - \$109,500

5 PLEASURE POINT - TALLADEGA - MLS# 800788 - \$129,900
0 GRANDVIEW CIR - LINCOLN - MLS# 798571 - \$129,900
0 CLEAR CREEK DR - ALPINE - MLS# 760803 - \$130,000
4 PLEASURE POINT - TALLADEGA - MLS# 800789 - \$139,900
6 PLEASURE POINT - TALLADEGA - MLS# 800790 - \$149,900
7 PLEASURE POINT - TALLADEGA - MLS# 800791 - \$149,900
0 GRANDVIEW DR - LINCOLN - MLS# 747495 - \$179,000
418 SW CHARTER LN - PELL CITY - MLS# 799846 - \$189,000
38 BRIDGEVIEW DR - ALPINE - MLS# 797685 - \$206,900
14 WATERS EDGE COVE - ALPINE - MLS# 801964 - \$224,500
75 DAVIS ACRES DR - ALPINE - MLS# 772920 - \$394,500



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Formal dining room, great room with brick fireplace, eat-in space in the kitchen, 12x18 play room, 13x40 screen porch overlooking an in-ground pool. 32x22 double garage w/workspace, barn, fenced, Mays Bend area



310 LAKE VIEW CIR. - \$398,000 Logan Martin Lake. Big water view, open floor plan, screened porch, open covered deck, 3 BR, 2 BA, beautiful landscape, 2 car garage, 1 carport. Extra Large Boat garage, boat house w/wench, sea wall. MLS #784680



15 Eureka Rd, Lincoln - \$255,000 Enjoy a Lake View from your large deck in this Beautiful New Construction. Stunning entrance to your 9ft ceilings open floor plan. Greatroom, Dining room, eat in space in the kitchen plus eat up bar. Very light and bright. The kitchen is sooooo awesome. all wood custom cabinets, granite counter tops, stainless appliances, hands free water faucet, top of the line refrigerator. Beautiful tile back splash. Hardwood floors thru out with tile baths. Master Bath will make you feel like your in a luxury motel. Tile floors, soaking tub, tile shower, double sink vanity. Your 2nd bath even has a double sink vanity and tile shower surround. The barn doors in the master suite gives the house a new flare. So much more to see!! MLS #799130



2001 19th St, Pell City \$210,000.00. 2 ac farm in the city with such charm. Fenced with a barn and pasture. This adorable home is perfect for the southern charm home lover! It is full of character! Unique LR w/high ceilings! Pretty DR w/hardwoods! Spacious master BR w/large closet! Front foyer is great place for art work! This home is a treasure you see to appreciate! Tile counter top, gas heat, gas water heater, wood siding. MLS #790241



8560 Renfro Rd. - \$159,000 Logan Martin Lake. Over 400 ft. of shore line. Approximately 1.9 ac. lot. Point lot. MLS #763524



4208 BLUE CUTT RD. - \$267,000 8.5 acres, dirt track w/jumps, very private, architectural design home, 3 BR, 3.5 BA, stone fireplace, jetted tub, downstairs den. 20x60 workshop, 2 HVAC units, energy efficient. MLS #784566



Hwy 280 14.27 Acres, Sterrett, \$1,900,000. Commercial Property, Chelsea Tax District. Across from Chelsea Park Subdivision. Road frontage approx. 497 feet 1285 ft deep, utilities at the street. MLS #773072



2219 4th ave. no. - \$215,000 Downtown Living at its Best! Charm, Charm, Charm! 5 BR, 3 .5 BA, formal living/dining room, greatroom w/FP, bay window, eat in space in kitchen, big deck, beautiful landscape, new roof, life time gutters, red wood siding, approx. 3565 sq. ft. MLS #777124



165 Dove Cove Rd., Talladega - \$189,500 Talladega Co. School District. 6 BR 3 BA N/Asq Logan Martin Lake, huge great room, eat in kitchen. Approx 2200 sq feet. Extra large double garage w/workshop. Level lot, approx 115 feet of shore line. MLS #605715



917 N LAKESHORE DR TALLADEGA, 299,000.00 Lake living at its best..... Walk in your front door to a Fantastic view of the Lake. This home offers a open floor plan great for entertaining. Three sets of glass doors gives you access to your large deck. . The kitchen has granite counter tops, easy close drawers and cabinets with lazy susan. Farm house sink, stainless appliances, center island. Hardwood floors, high ceilings. Split bedrooms offer privacy for you and your guest. The master on the main floor. downstairs you will find 2 BR and a full bath. Large laundry with room for storage. Outside is like paradise.. Open deck for grilling, downstairs patio or follow the walkway to your boat house with boat lift. MLS #794558



116 Amitola Dr. - \$749,000 - Logan Martin Lake at its best. Large level lot with fantastic view. Enjoy the lake while sitting by your pool or on your screen. 3BR and 3.5 BA. Downstairs den has a wet bar. In-ground pool fenced with hot tub. Kitchen and bath rooms have been updated with granite and stainless appliances. Roof, hvac and windows all replaced 3 yrs ago. Double car garage on main level, boat/lawn mower garage downstairs. MLS #798239



3215 Dr. John Haynes Drive - \$210,000. Two 75X150 Lots, 31 Warehouse 11-10X20= \$60.00 Ea 11-10X15=\$55.00 Ea 5-6X10 =\$30.00 Ea 1- Double 10X20 \$150.00 1 Double 10X15= \$130.00. This property offers 2005 By 150 Lots. On one of the lots there's A 31 unit wearhouse. Several different sizes . The other lot is vacant and fenced. MLS #726742



•COTTON TOP FARMS, 4 LOTS. \$25,000
•TWO EAGLE POINTE LOTS, \$14,900 MLS #76033 AND MLS #760336
•LAKE LOT - RIVERSIDE \$75,000
•SEMINOLE TRAL - MAYS BEND LAKE ACCESS \$45,000

•LOGAN MARTIN LAKE POINT LOT, BEACH AREA, APPROX 440 FT. OF SHORE LINE MLS #783524 \$159,000
•LEVEL LOT - EASONVILLE SUBDIVISION MLS#793688 \$25,000
•HWY 280 COMMERCIAL PROPERTY. 14.27 AC +/- CHELSEA TAX DISTRICT APPROX 497 FEET OF HWY 280 ROAD FRONTAGE MLS 793683 \$1,700,000.00



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GOOD LOCATION, SEASONAL
WATERFRONT. MLS#796616



PELL CITY \$189,000. WATER-
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WITH EXISTING BOATHOUSE.
MLS#603599



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LAND SHORES, 2 MI FROM I-20.
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homes!**

PELL CITY \$279,000. GREAT WA-
TERFRONT 2BR/2BA COTTAGE
GETAWAY IN PINE HARBOR
AREA! HUGE DECK OVERLOOK-
ING WATER. NEWLY REMODELED
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ROOF. LIVINGROOM WITH FP.
UNFINISHED BASEMENT. SHARED
BOAT LAUNCH. MLS#796614



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LOT ON YEAR-ROUND WATER.
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LARGE FAMILIES. LARGE BED-
ROOMS, PLENTY OF STORAGE.
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The Sign of Results



- Club of Excellence 2014-16
- St Clair Association of Realtors board member 2015-16
- Top 25% in company 2015-16

Dana Ellison,
REALTOR®

668 Lake Front Dr., Talladega, AL 35160

Talladega County School District
4bed 3bath 1pt. bath

\$589,000



Words can't describe this home with amazing panoramic views of Logan Martin Lake from almost every room! The historic Adirondack colors on the exterior make this home stand out from all the others! The open concept great room with a soaring stacked stone fireplace is the perfect spot for entertaining or relaxing with family. The kitchen w/ butlers room is any cooks dream with an abundance of cabinetry, induction stove & stainless appliances. Master bedroom suite with garden tub, separate shower, double vanity & laundry closet is on the main level. Upper level has 2 spacious bdrms with a shared bath. The basement is another home in itself with another bedroom with a private patio, full bath, den, work out room & MEDIA ROOM with stadium seating! If that isn't enough space, the garage has a bonus room of over 400 sq ft, perfect for an office! TWO detached garages are available for storing boats & RV. Private boat launch & custom dock make this property all inclusive.

LOTS/LAND

- 115 Cherry Tree Lane, Lot #18 - \$17,500
- 60 Old Road Way, Lot #30 - \$17,500
- 20 Old Road Way, Lot #32 - \$12,000
- 130 Cherry Tree Lane, Lot #20 - \$17,500



Nixon Road, 9.7 Acre
\$85,000

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