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Welcome to Paradise
For many, Logan Martin Lake might just
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Lincoln resident recalls

his youth in Easonville
Harrison's hometown now submerged
in Logan Martin... By Chris Norwood

Logon Mortin Homes Edition
LAKESIDE

March 2016

Rut the world away,
and welcome to paradise

On the cover: Logan Martin is home to the common gull. Photo by Bob Crisp

26 45th Annual Boat Show

A Great Family Adventure... Staff Report

Lakeside Living in Style

Hollimans enjoy their lake home and its close-knit community... By Kelli Tipton

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"So how's college going?" I asked.

"Great," Abby replied. "Did I tell you about the getto-know-you questionnaire I had to fill out for one of my classes?"

"No." It had been at least three months since I'd dropped in on the Hathorns, and the family was spending the unusually balmy late winter Saturday afternoon outdoors. Abby's parents Chasidy and Stan were in the yard playing Kubb and arguing about whether Chasidy had tossed her baton in or out on the second throw.

The game was too intense for me, so I joined Abby on the deck, where she had been reading *The Gilded Age* in her rocking chair, not far from where Stan's Big Green Egg was smoking a broiler. The newly-20-something blogger and college sophomore was casually stylish in a blue dress and white sweater.

"You'd have found it amusing," Abby told me. "The first page was the standard stuff: books, television shows, life lessons, quotes and so forth. 'Who is your favorite person?' 'If you could travel anywhere, where would you go and why?'"

"How did you answer those?"

"Favorite person: Mark Twain and my Paw Riley, of course. Travel anywhere: Egypt, because I have always loved Egyptian history. I filled in all those blanks without second guessing myself, but I flipped the page over and was bombarded with the genuinely simple yet complex question of 'Where do you see yourself in 10 years?'"

"Stumper?"

"Well, I felt pressured to conform and write down the answer that I knew others would, rather than write down what I truly wanted to be doing in 10 years. You know, should I write down all of my hopes and dreams, or should I just say, 'I don't know?' I debated with myself until my brain hurt."

"So what did you decide?"

Abby sat up straight in her chair. "Hi, my name is Abby Hathorn. My favorite book is *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding. I grew up in Mississippi. My favorite movie is *Bringing Up Baby* with Cary Grant and Katharine Hepburn. And 10 years from now, I see myself either working as a TV host or being the editor of a fashion magazine."

FROM THE EDITOR

Where will you be in 10 years?

"Well done," I said.

She shrugged. "I wrote it in pen. There was no going back. And while I was waiting for my turn to introduce myself to the group, I started making a list in the margin of my paper of little and big dreams I would like to accomplish by 10 years from now. Wait, I'll show you."

She padded away and returned with the document, complete with a list of eight goals and dreams. "Ten years is a long time, and I have so many things I would like to accomplish in a decade. Many mountains to climb, many dreams to fulfill. And where is it written that I have to limit where I see myself in 10 years to just a few lines on a class icebreaker?"

Where indeed? For any of us? A decade ago, some individuals wouldn't have imagined they'd be living their dream as residents of Logan Martin Lake. For this issue, we've talked to some of them this month to find out what drew them to their little pieces of paradise. Wayne and Kristi Holliman have invited us into their lake home, and we've also spent some time reminiscing with a gentleman who grew up in a town that is now at the bottom of the lake.

And should you like to know what eight things Abby wrote in her margin, visit www.vipblueedition.com. (After you've read Lakeside Living, of course.)





8 Early Spring Fishing Tips

- **1. Go small and slow.** Anglers should move to smaller lures that are fished slower in the early spring for maximum appeal. Cold water means sluggish fish that might be reluctant to put up the fight to strike a large prey fish, but will often scoop up the small and slow.
- **2. Fish with bait.** If an angler just wants to catch fish, one of the best tips for early spring fishing is to simply use bait. Almost all fish will strike a plump and lively nightcrawler any time of the year.
- **3. Wait!** An angler fishing in the early spring should give the fish more time before setting the hook. Again, early spring generally means colder water, and the fish might need a little longer to get the lure into their mouth.
- **4. Seek the sun.** Anglers should keep an eye on the sun and find shallow water. The bright sun will quickly warm early spring water in the shallows, and this will attract fish.
- **5. Be prepared.** Early spring fishing can often mean fishing in muddy water from frequent rain. Anglers need to be prepared with lures that are brightly colored or dark for use in cloudy water.
- **6. Sleep late.** While early morning is often considered the best time of day for fishing, early evening during early spring fishing might be the best. The water should have warmed throughout the day, making the fish more active just as the sun is going down.
- **7. Fish the edges.** Look for fish to be in areas where clear water meets muddy water. Tributaries coming into lakes or rivers are generally a good place for this.
- **8. Learn something new.** On those days when the fishing is slow, use early spring fishing to experiment with new lures and fishing techniques. Learn to put some new tricks into your fishing skill set for better fishing all year long.





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Mar 02, 2016		POOR	Morning
Mar 03, 2016		FAIR	Morning
Mar 04, 2016	<u> </u>	FAIR	Morning
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Mar 07, 2016		GOOD	Morning
Mar 08, 2016		GOOD	Evening
Mar 09, 2016		POOR	Evening
Mar 10, 2016		POOR	Evening
Mar 11, 2016		FAIR	Evening
Mar 12, 2016		FAIR	Evening
Mar 13, 2016		POOR	Evening
Mar 14, 2016		POOR	Evening
Mar 15, 2016		BEST	Morning
Mar 16, 2016		BEST	Morning
Mar 17, 2016		BEST	Morning
Mar 18, 2016		POOR	Morning
Mar 19, 2016		POOR	Morning
Mar 20, 2016		GOOD	Morning
Mar 21, 2016		GOOD	Morning
Mar 22, 2016		GOOD	Morning
Mar 23, 2016		FAIR	Evening
Mar 24, 2016		FAIR	Evening
Mar 25, 2016		BEST	Evening
Mar 26, 2016		BEST	Evening
Mar 27, 2016		GOOD	Evening
Mar 28, 2016		POOR	Evening
Mar 29, 2016		POOR	Evening
Mar 30, 2016		FAIR	Evening
Mar 31, 2016		FAIR	Morning

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/

Welcome to Paradise

For many, Logan Martin Lake might just be the Promised Land

Story by TOM WOFFORD Photos by BOB CRISP

For decades a little plaque outside Sandy Thomas' residence on Logan Martin Lake has greeted visitors with a tantalizing message: "Welcome to Paradise."

"That's what this place has always been for our family, like our own little private piece of heaven," she said. Her husband's family has had property on Logan Martin since its very beginning.

"Scott's mother loved to entertain, and the lake has always been the perfect place to entertain," Thomas said. "She always thought of Logan Martin as paradise, so she put that little sign out front that said, 'Welcome to Paradise.'"

"And it is," she continued enthusiastically. "Right now I'm looking out the kitchen window at the water glistening with the mountains in the background. The sunrises are absolutely gorgeous. It is paradise."

The Thomas family has been on Logan Martin Lake since 1964, when it became one of Alabama's newest lakes, the product of Alabama Power's last large-scale development of the Coosa River. "Scott's father bought land here when the lake was first being developed," Thomas said, "so Scott has been spending time here more or less as long as he can remember."

The couple eventually settled in Atlanta after

marrying 32 years ago, but Logan Martin's location made it easy for them to join the others of the family in the lake lifestyle. "We've been coming here our entire marriage," she said.

"We have a special bond with this lake," Thomas said. "Teaching my daughter to ski. Sitting out here on the boat house and waving to the children as they pass by in the boat, skiing, or my son riding a wakeboard. We have so many wonderful memories here. We have family who live all around us and extended family from all over have always come for reunions. So many memories.

"This house on this lake has been very dear to us, meant so much to us," she continued, echoing some lines written by the poet William Butler Yeats, "I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore...I hear it in the deep heart's core."

Barbara and Charles McDonald are two of Logan Martin's newest residents, arriving only the first week of February this year.

Recent retirees from Baldwin County, the McDonalds ruled out beach property before they began looking at lakes. "We knew we wanted waterfront, and I grew

up going to Gulf Shores," Barbara said, "but hurricane insurance alone puts beachfront out of reach for most people."

They considered lake property from as close as Shelby County to as far away as South Carolina but settled on Logan Martin, largely because of its size, location and amenities.

At about 17,000 acres and almost 50 miles wide, it's one of Alabama's larger lakes, "but at the same time we have a great sense of community here," said local real estate agent Nicole Anderson-Walters, one of Logan Martin's most dedicated boosters. Logan Martin has long been known to locals as the "Lake of a Thousand Coves," as the reservoir mingles with innumerable sloughs, creeks and small inlets to create an impressive 275 miles of shoreline, but in a setting that maintains a sense of intimacy.

"We liked that the water level only varies by five feet over the course of the year," McDonald said.

Logan Martin is a fisherman's paradise as well, a benefit to recreational and competitive fisherman alike. In addition to large populations of largemouth and spotted bass, the lake is teeming with white,



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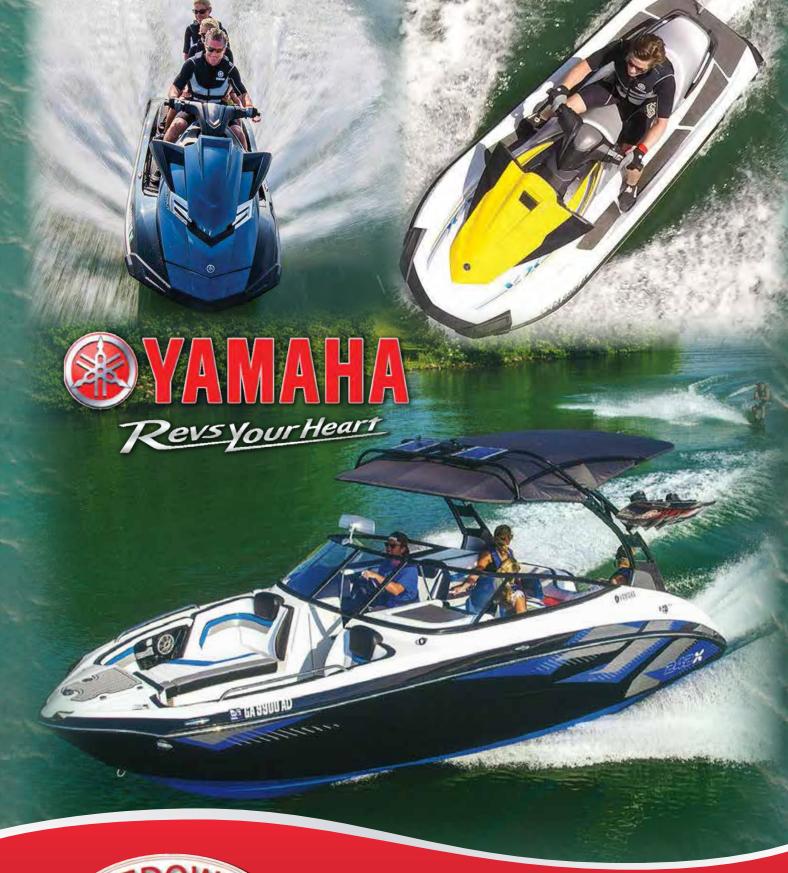














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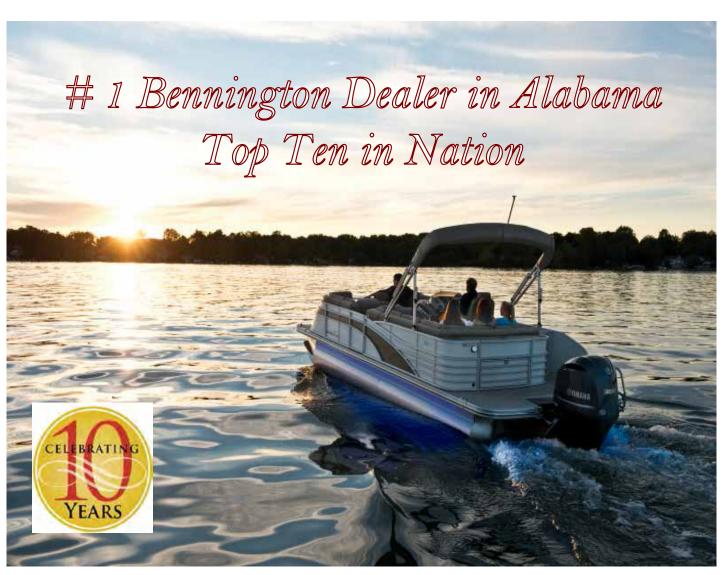
If its beauty, community and resources weren't enough, Logan Martin is one of the most conveniently located lakes in the entire South. Straddling Interstate 20, Logan Martin is only 30 miles from Birmingham and 100 miles from Atlanta.

"My parents will be living with us here," McDonald said, "so access to good medical facilities was very important." Besides its easy access to Birmingham's medical community, Logan Martin has a relatively new hospital in the neighborhood, St. Vincent's St. Clair, part

"The interstate is right there, but you aren't aware of it," Anderson-Walters said. "You have peace and quiet when you are here, but when you need it, the interstate is right there, and you're in Birmingham or Atlanta in no time."

Bob Tench lives in Birmingham and is looking at property on Logan Martin Lake to be his new permanent residence, largely because of its advantageous location.

"Since my home is also my office, I decided why not



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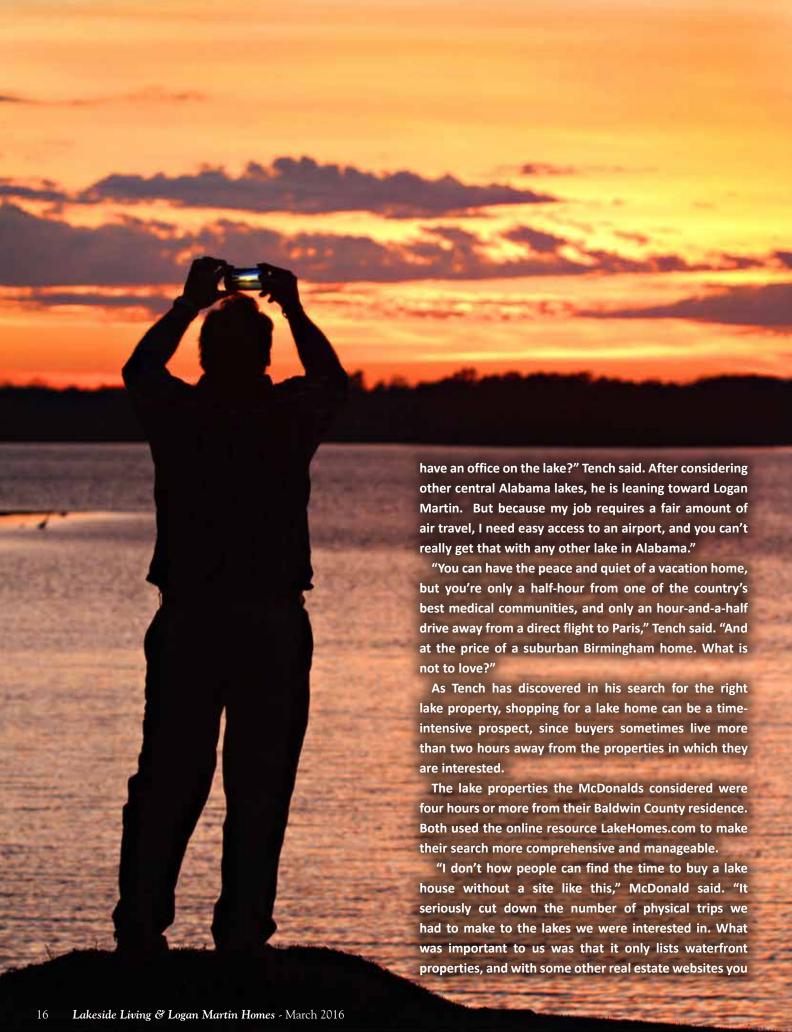
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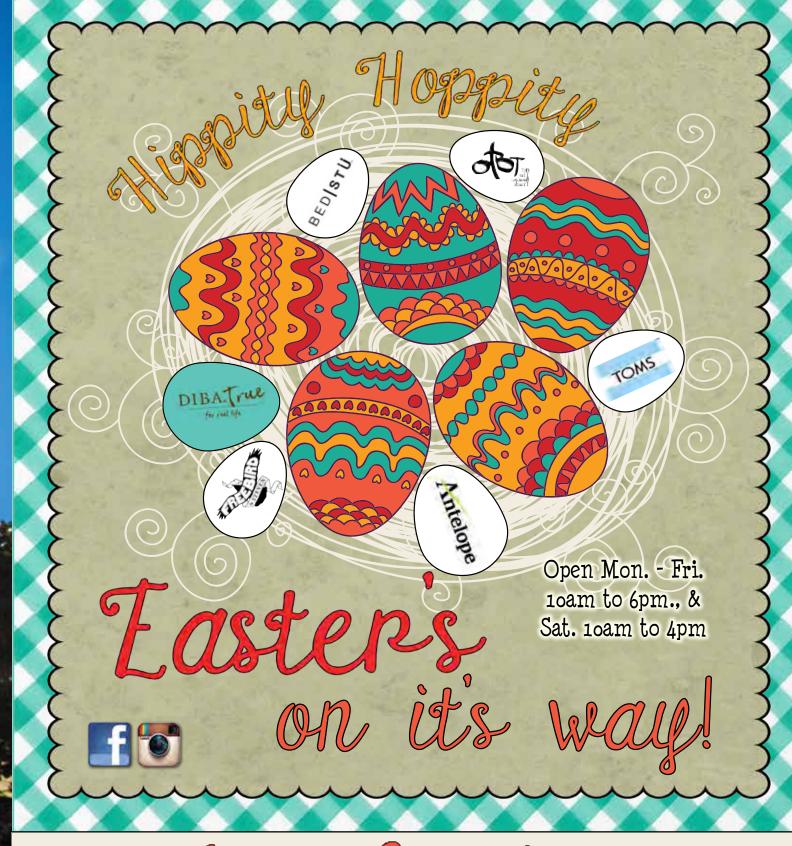
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local lake experts pick up where such online resources leave off. Like Lake Homes, such agencies as Fields Gossett Realty, ERA King Real Estate, The Realty Pros, ReMax Hometown and LAH Realty, Lake Haven Realty, Moody Realty and Realty Executives stand ready to greet newcomers to the lake and help them find their dream homes.

"It's no surprise we attract so many people from so many different places," Anderson-Walters said. "Logan Martin is convenient, affordable, with low property taxes. It's a semi-resort environment with a great sense of community and lots of activities. We have a lot of full-time residents, but of course lots of weekenders from Birmingham and from Georgia."

Like the Thomases, who have enjoyed Logan Martin for the past 50 years, the McDonalds are looking forward to their future on the lake.

"I look forward to spending quality time with my husband and my family, youngest to oldest," McDonald said, "waking up and seeing beautiful lake water every morning, having visitors to share it with."

Like many others, she can't exactly name which of Logan Martin's aspects will be closest to paradise for her.

As the poet Wallace Stevens wrote, "Perhaps the truth depends on a walk around the lake."

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Lincoln resident recalls his youth in Easonville

Harrison's hometown now submerged in Logan Martin

Story by CHRIS NORWOOD

There are numerous ghost towns and lost cities all over Alabama. Some lost their economic reasons for being, some were bypassed by the major transportation modes of their time, and some ... well, some got bought by Alabama Power and flooded.

Easonville falls into this latter category. Located on what is now the bottom of Logan Martin Lake, Easonville was a thriving community for the first half of the 20th century, consisting of farms, homes, churches, a store with a cotton mill and a school with a noted basketball program. By the early 1960s, however, Alabama Power had decided to dam the Coosa River. In 1963, Easonville ceased to exist, although the cotton gin, at least one of the churches and some of the houses were relocated.

Longtime Lincoln resident Edward Harrison grew up in Easonville and attended school there.

At the age of 6, he recalled, he and his older brother and sister started walking about three miles to Pisgah school, which also no longer exists. Buses in those days were privately owned, and there was a bus that took his older

siblings to Easonville High, but there wasn't one to Pisgah at that time. Alma Ingram (later Clinkscales) taught him first, second and third grade, in the same room. There was one bathroom, designated for the girls, with the boys expected to go out into the woods, he explained.

Missing the bell meant a whipping.

"One day when it seemed I could not wait til after 3 p.m. and walk home, I tried the woods, but the bell rang," he said. "No, I did not get a whipping, but I was not pleasant to be near that afternoon."

Eventually, his father agreed to pay 5 cents per child per day to send all of his children to Easonville. There were two grades per classroom there, with a stove in the middle. While the teacher taught one class, the other was expected to study. There were two bathrooms.

At the high school, there was also a basketball court. Former Talladega County Probate Judge and state Sen. Kaiser Leonard played on the team with Harrison's older brother Lonnie. "How he (Leonard) managed to attend Easonville and was a resident of Talladega County, I am not sure, but I



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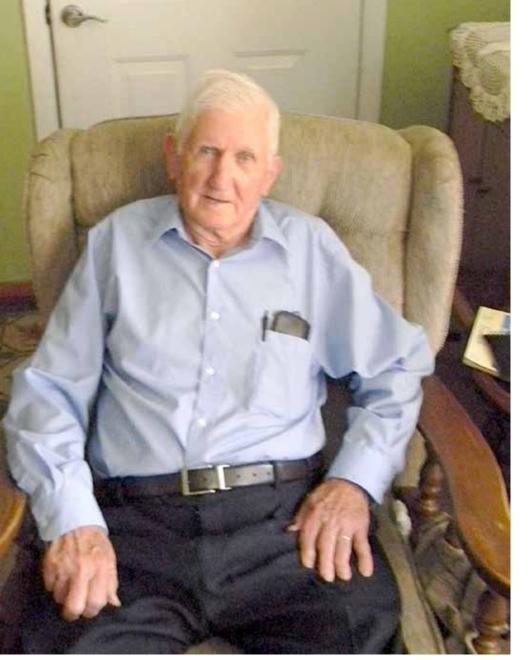
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Edward Harrison grew up in the now-underwater town of Easonville, which was near Cropwell.

was told he paddled a boat across the river. I know he spent a few nights at our house after basketball games."

"Very seldom did Easonville lose a basketball game," he said, although the practice of returning to center court for a toss up following each goal often lead to low-scoring games, such as "20 to 16, or 24 to 20," he said. They also played a short season, since not all of the schools they competed with had indoor gyms at the time. During the Depression, students sold candy bars as part of a contest to win a new basketball. "One morning before school, it was discovered that basketball had been cut open with a knife. They found

out who did it, and his father bought the school a new basketball. He took it out of the boy's hide and allowance. He was from a family that had enough to give an allowance. We didn't know what that was in our family."

There was also a girls' basketball team, with six players to a side and uniforms up to their knees, prompting some "concern about what the world was coming to."

The Harrison family didn't get their first car until 1929, relying on horse and mule cart for transport up to that time. After that, the family started attending church on "preaching day," or the second Sunday of the month.

The closest they got to a vacation was visiting family in Anniston. His seventh-grade year, considered the beginning of high school, the county ran out of money, and the school year lasted from October to March. At the beginning of the next year, he and most of his classmates failed the exam to move up to eighth grade, and had to start over. In spite of this, the school managed to grow, and added two new classrooms sometime in the 1930s.

Harrison transferred to Pell City High for his junior and senior years, graduating in 1939. He worked for the A&P earning \$2 per week for much of this time. After graduating, he signed up for job training through the National Youth Administration, earning a remarkable \$14 per month. He also served a stint in the Civilian Conservation Corps, going as far west as Oregon, then returning to Alabama to work in a hardware store. His father survived getting hit by a train, and Harrison moved back home to help out with the farm duties and to care for him. He eventually got work at the powder plant in Childersburg before being drafted.

He was on Saipan preparing for the invasion of Japan when the war ended.

After the war, Harrison came home, settled down, got married and raised three children in Lincoln, became a deacon in his church and built a home of his own.

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45th Birmingham Boat Show offered 'a great family adventure' Photos by BUDDY ROBERTS



Lake enthusiasts turned out to see the latest in boats, motors, fishing gear, and lake property at the 45th annual Birmingham Boat Show in late January during what the event's organizers called one of its most successful years ever.

Logan Martin Lake was wellrepresented at the show, lakeside fixtures Poor House Branch Marina, Woods Surfside Marina, and

Tradesman Co. among the exhibitors, as well as watercraft dealers from other lakes and communities, such as Sylacauga Marine & ATV, Wedowee Marine, Skiers Marine and Rambo Marine. Lucky's Bait and Tackle of Cropwell was the show's featured tackle retail dealer.

"We are proud to have presented the 45th Anniversary Edition of the Birmingham Boat Show, a great





wholesome family adventure," said event president Robert Coffen. "An important element to remember is that boating promotes family values. The Birmingham Boat Show has been and remains committed to family togetherness on Alabama's many rivers, lakes and coastlines."

With more than 600 boats on display this year, the show is Alabama's largest marine expo. Also the oldest



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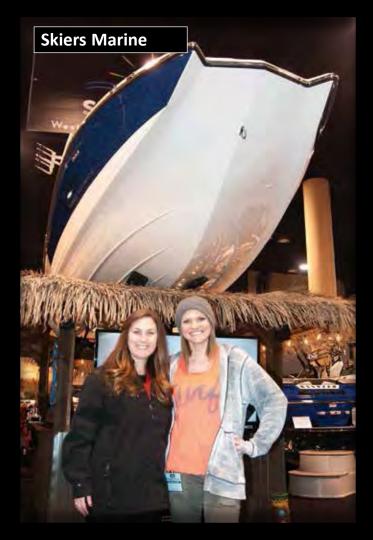


such event in the state, it was the first public event ever held at the Birmingham Jefferson Civic Center, in 1972.

"The show's annual message for the past several years has been that families who boat, fish and participate in outdoor activities gain a unique ability to band together as a close family unit," Coffen said. "Keeping children involved in the great outdoors creates the positive foundation on which they are able to become productive adults." L









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Hollimans enjoy their lake home and its close-knit community Story by KELLI TIPTON **Photos by BOB CRISP**

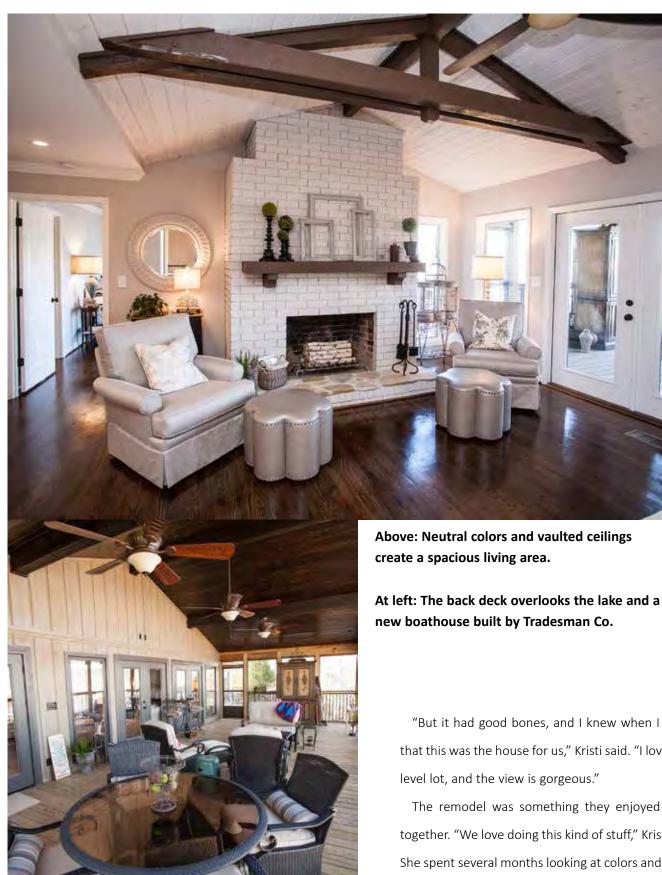
Cedar Cove is a close-knit community in Alpine where maybe a dozen homes dot the shoreline of Logan Martin Lake. When Wayne and Kristi Holliman bought their home there in 2013, they knew without a doubt that it would be an excellent weekend retreat. But after an extensive and extremely successful makeover, they decided to

make the home their primary residence year round.

"We hated leaving on Sundays," Kristi said. "We moved in full time in October of last year."

The home was built in 1968, and it had never been remodeled. "It had harvest gold and avocado green appliances and linoleum floors to match," Wayne said.





"But it had good bones, and I knew when I saw it that this was the house for us," Kristi said. "I loved the

The remodel was something they enjoyed doing together. "We love doing this kind of stuff," Kristi said. She spent several months looking at colors and found plenty of inspiration on Pinterest and other online sites. "Technology makes everything so much easier these days," Kristi said. Much of the work was a series

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White granite countertops and stainless steel appliances add a touch of elegance to the kitchen.

of do-it-yourself projects, but they sometimes relied on help from local professionals to achieve the look they wanted.

"Kristi spent a month looking at colors," Wayne said.

A light, airy palette of neutral, natural colors provides
a seamless transition from room to room. An open
floor plan was achieved by knocking out a wall in the
main living area. Vaulted tongue and groove ceilings
also contribute to the spaciousness of the home.

Reclaimed barn wood and salvaged bricks add color and texture upstairs and downstairs, while white granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, polished chrome fixtures, and white marble floors add a touch of elegance.

Perhaps the most dramatic change is a back deck that spans the length of the back of the house. "There was no deck at all. There was only a little screened in porch on one side of the house," Kristi said. The

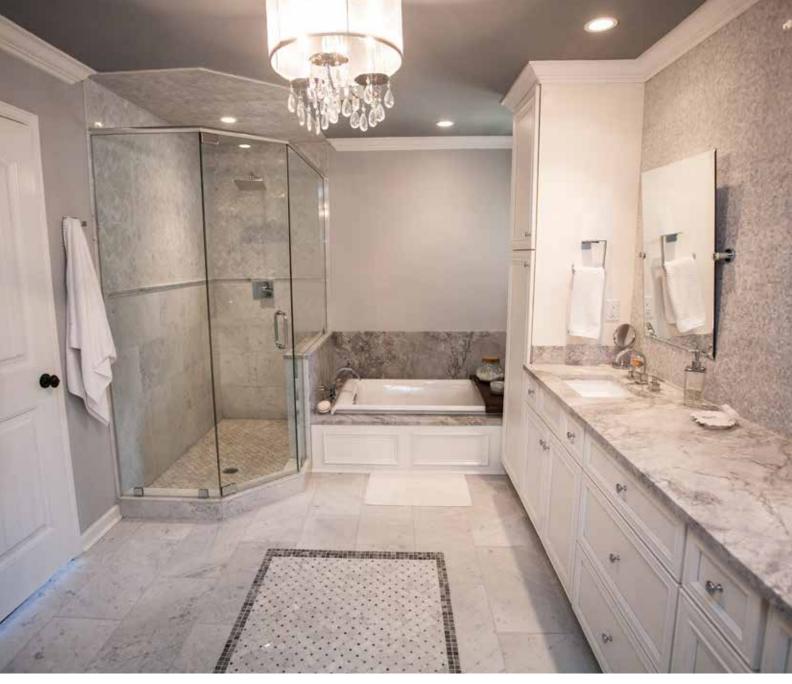


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The master bathroom features a marble and quartzite mosaic tile centerpiece on the floor.

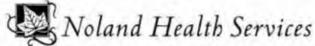
deck is accessible from the master bedroom, the living room, and an in-law suite they built on one side of the house. It serves as additional living space and is a favorite gathering spot for the family.

The in-law suite has a separate entrance and is used as a guest room when friends and family stay overnight. It is a private area with a small kitchenette, and it can

be closed off from the rest of the house.

A small flight of stairs leads to a large area downstairs that resembles a pub and serves as a place to entertain friends with a game of poker or a televised football game. It features a bar along the back wall, complete with sink, microwave and beer kegerator. "We built the bar table by hand using a piece of acacia wood we had





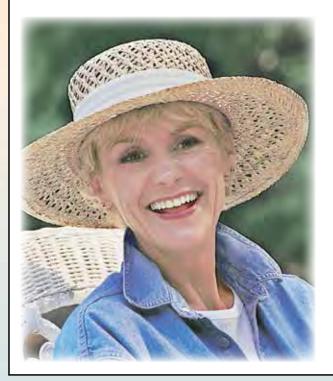




Walk to Remember Alzheimer's

Walk April 9th starting at 7:30 am.

Family Fishing Day and Open House will follow

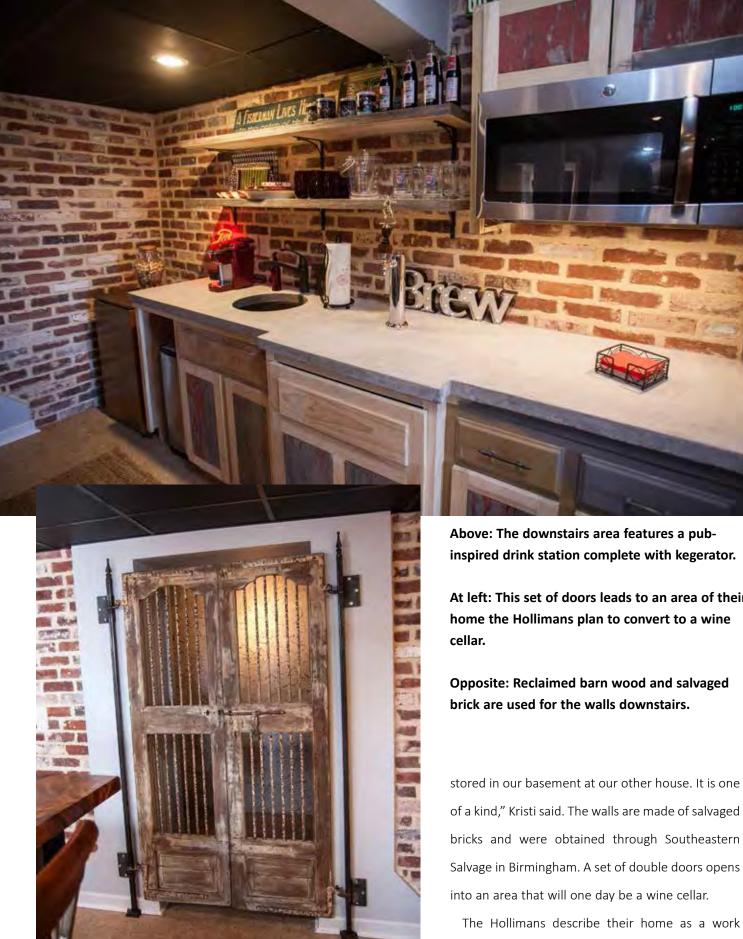


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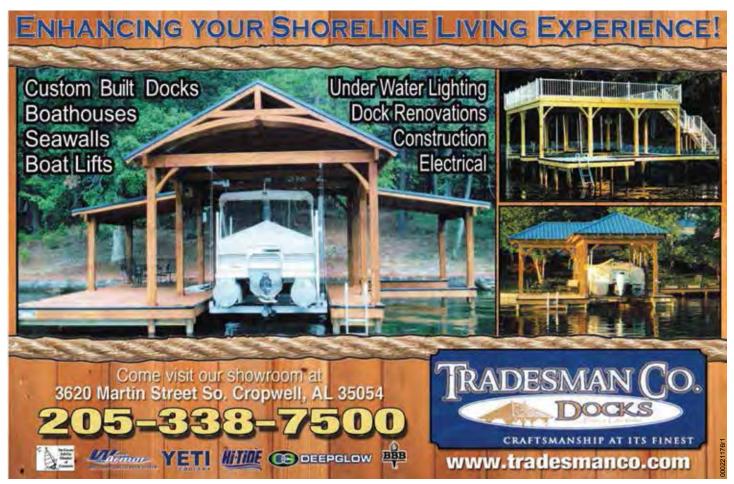
At left: This set of doors leads to an area of their home the Hollimans plan to convert to a wine

Opposite: Reclaimed barn wood and salvaged

of a kind," Kristi said. The walls are made of salvaged bricks and were obtained through Southeastern Salvage in Birmingham. A set of double doors opens

The Hollimans describe their home as a work in progress. "There is still so much I want to do, especially with the landscaping," she said.





Meet Me Ly the



Story and Photo By BUDDY ROBERTS

Kelsey DeLong Bain

Kelsey Bain is back on Logan Martin this month, returning to the lake as a newlywed after eloping with her fiancé.

She and Pell City real estate agent Adam Bain were married in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, in late February with their families in attendance.

"We had been planning for summer, but we just decided to go ahead and do it," Kelsey said. "The idea of getting married in the snow was too good to pass up, and Steamboat Springs has such a quaint, hometown feel. Once we'd decided, everything fell into place, like it was meant to be."

Back at her job as executive assistant for the Pell City Chamber of Commerce, she identified what she has come to appreciate about the organization, named the watersport she took up last year and recalled some time spent almost 10,000 miles from home.

About the chamber of commerce: "Before I moved here I knew about the chamber – I grew up in Birmingham, but

my mom is from Pell City, so I came here a ton — but I didn't know how much it does for the community. It does a lot of behind-the-scenes work that people don't realize. There are pivotal things that wouldn't be here if it were not for the chamber."

Her favorite lake activities: "Well, I can't wakeboard, but I recently got into wakesurfing. I thought it would be hard and I wouldn't enjoy it, but my brother talked me into trying it once, and I caught the hang of it immediately. Occasionally I go fishing with Adam, and three Christmases ago, I got a paddleboard, and it's wonderful. There is no peace like that of a summer morning when you're paddling across water that looks like glass."

Her ideal Saturday on the lake: "We live on the lake, and my mom and stepdad do, too, so we have breakfast with them at Willow Grill – the food is incredible, and the servers know our names. Then we pack a cooler and get out on the

lake as quickly as possible. We go to the island and make our way down to the rocks. One of my favorite times is about an hour before sunset, when it gets calm and starts cooling off. Then there's always a million people – it's actually more like 10 – who end up back over at our house to grill out for dinner."

Her time in the Great Southern Land: "I lived in Australia for three and a half months working in marketing and events for a company in Melbourne. I flew over there and didn't know a soul, but I came back with a family from all over the world. Adam came over, and that's where he proposed, so it was a once-in-alifetime experience."

How Australia most differs from the United States:

"They have such a diverse culture and are much more knowledgeable about other cultures than we are. We know about us, and that's about it. Australians are very worldly. They're also very friendly. Melbourne is a big city - Chicagoish or a little bigger - but I felt very safe

over there. If you even look like you're lost, they ask if you need help."

The best piece of advice she ever received: "My mom always said, 'No matter how old you are, dream as big as you want to.' A lot of people don't do that. They stop learning and stop dreaming. Mom drilled it into my head never to do that."

Kelsey Bain style: "I like to be very classic. My grandmother had a classic style that would still be in style 20 years from now. I want to be like her."

The food she could eat every day: "I think I could eat a slice of cheesecake every day, for sure. I don't think I'd ever get tired of it.

The food she hopes to never eat again: "Mushrooms. I try to like them so hard, but I just can't."

How she describes herself: "I'd say I'm a happy, go-with-the-flow person. I think that's why I love lake people. We're all kind of the same."



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From The Reader's Eye...







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See ad on page 6.



Community Calendar

Saturday, March 12 Benefit Bass Tournament

Sponsored by Elbit Systems of America's Talladega Operations, the second-year tournament will benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Boats will launch from Lakeside Landing at first safe light and return for the weigh-in at 3 p.m. A first-place prize of \$2,500 is guaranteed.

The registration fee is \$100 per boat, with a big fish entry of \$10 per boat. Cash prizes will be awarded for first through 10th places. Winners will be determined by the total weight of their best five fish.

For more information or to obtain an entry form, call 256-310-2298.



Saturday, March 5 Tablescapes

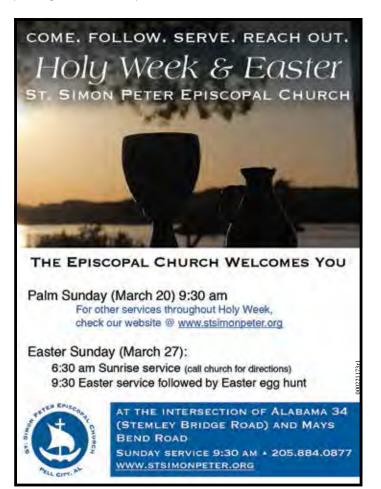
The 6th Annual Love Feeds the Soul Tablescapes Fundraiser Luncheon benefiting Lakeside Hospice and the Christian Love Pantry is scheduled for 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at First United Methodist Church Beacon Hall, 2200 3rd Ave. N. Pell City.

Tickets are \$25 each or table of 8 for \$200. The event includes lunch, original table designs, door prizes, auction items and guest speaker Debra Ford, author of "Grits." There will be prizes given for the top two tables. For more information or

to purchase tickets, call Christine Smith at Lakeside Hospice at 205-884-1111 or Ann Thomas at 205-338-6547.

Saturday, March 26 Renew Our Rivers

The annual community cleanup effort is set for 8 a.m.-noon at Lakeside Marina, 4600 Martin Street South, Cropwell, capping off cleanup activities held at various locations beginning March 21. A picnic lunch will follow at Lakeside Landing. To volunteer or for more information, call Mike Riley at 205-531-2372.











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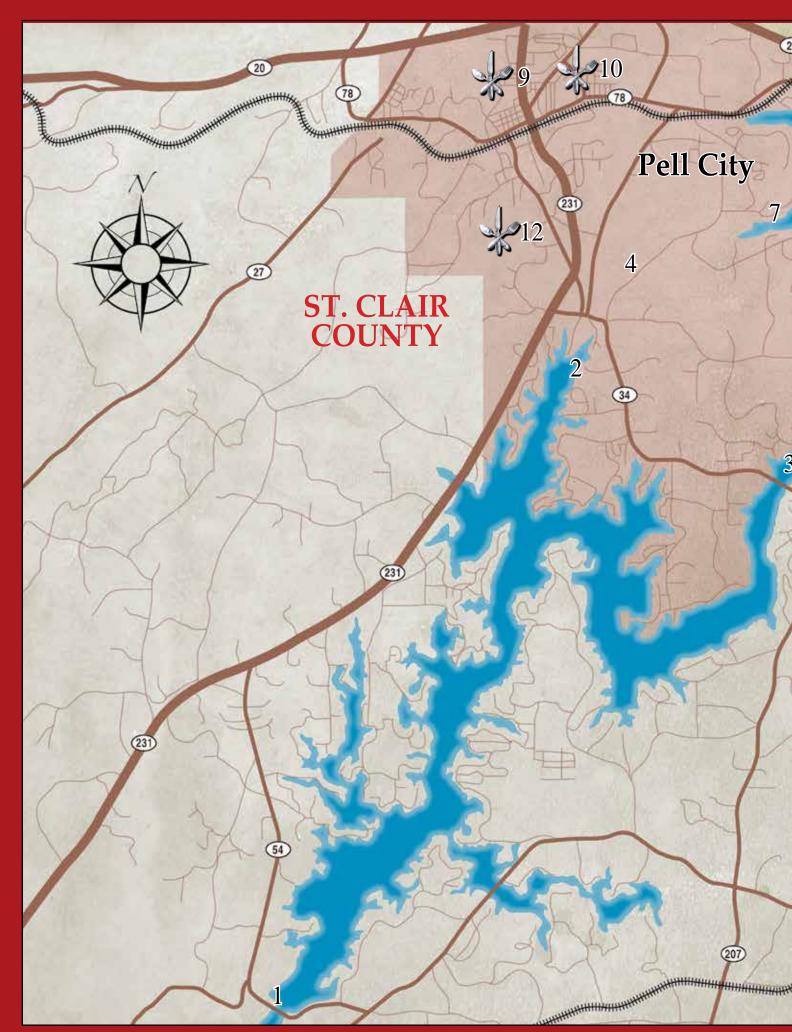














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Love this house?



Cropwell property offers an ideal lakeside living experience

Story by KELLI TIPTON Photos by BOB CRISP

Large sunrooms, wide windows and an open floor plan make this two-story home at 130 River Oaks Circle in Cropwell an excellent place to enjoy easy, breezy lakeside living. With its three bedrooms and four bathrooms, the home is perfect for a primary residence or a second home.

Sunrooms on the upper and lower levels provide a fantastic view of the lake. A family room, kitchen, dining room and master bedroom are on the main level. The kitchen is fitted with stainless steel appliances, granite counter tops and Mexican tile floors. It offers an eating area and a fire place that also opens into the family room.

The large master bedroom provides a great view of the

lake. It is fitted with a garden tub, separate vanities, hisand-hers walk-in closets and a linen closet.

Downstairs, there are two bedrooms with a jack-and-jill bath. A small kitchen, full bath, office space and den provide plenty of room for work and play. A large outside patio is perfect for barbeques, family gatherings or watching sunsets.

This home sits on nearly two acres with 282 feet of waterfront. It also has a floating pier, 12-station irrigation system and a sea wall.

For more information, call Sharon Thomas at ReMax Hometown Properties at 205-338-7355.

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Sylacauga Realtor enjoys the laid-back pace of Alabama life

Story by KELLI TIPTON Photo Submitted

International traveling and big city living can often give one a new perspective on their old hometown.

Ron Comer, a Sylacauga native, moved back to the Marble City nearly five years ago and has found that he enjoys the slower pace of life in the South.

"There comes a time in life when you need to slow down a bit," he said. "I don't miss the traffic jams or the hourlong commutes to work. Life is good here."

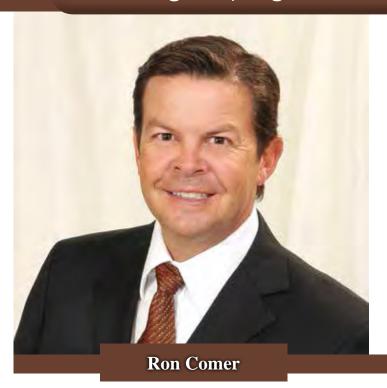
Comer was living in Charlotte, North Carolina, and working in textile sales for Avondale Mills when the company downsized.

"I had to look for an alternative. A friend got me interested in real estate, and I said to myself, 'I think I would like to do this." He received his real estate license in 2001 in Charlotte, but he didn't use it right away. "I stayed in textile sales for a while."

While traveling for the textile industry, he met his wife, Diana, in Medellin, Columbia. They have been married seven years. "She didn't speak a word of English when we met," he said.

He has visited every country in Central America-- Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras and Panama. "I love the Spanish culture, and I can speak enough Spanish to carry on a conversation," he said. Diana enrolled in an English as a Second Language online class at Auburn University for a semester after they moved to Sylacauga, and she is employed as an administrative assistant at OMYA Alabama, Inc.

He has also traveled to Germany, Spain, Taiwan, China, Japan, Korea, Thailand and Turkey. "Istanbul was very interesting," he said.



He returned to Sylacauga to help his father with the family business, Sylacauga Deluxe Cab. He is vice president and chief financial officer of the company. He joined Atkinson Real Estate two and a half years ago and is selling real estate under a reciprocal license. "I enjoy meeting people and helping people make one of the most important decisions in their life, which is buying a home. It is gratifying to help make their dreams come true," he said.

And first-time homebuyers are getting good deals on good homes. "It's a buyer's market. The programs and the prices are allowing first-time home buyers to buy homes," he said

Comer also sells farm land and commercial property. "I have a lot of acreage for sell right now. I also don't mind doing foreclosure sales," he said. "There is a lot of variety in small-town real estate, you do a little of everything," he said.

Since returning to Sylacauga, he has rediscovered his passion for Yoshukai karate. He earned a black belt in 1986, and now intends to get a second-degree black belt. He is also passionate about riding his 2005 Harley Davidson motorcycle. "I like to ride it on dirt roads and mountains," he said.

He also enjoys taking continuing education classes and has recently completed the coursework for specializations in security and safety for real estate agents and using technology in the real estate business.

Comer is a 1986 graduate of Auburn University and is a member of the National Association of Realtors, the Alabama Association of Realtors, and the Birmingham Association of Realtors.





55 Falcon Ln Pell City MLS# 736784 \$54,000



510 River Bend Cir Talladega MLS# 621433 \$179,900



606 Paradise Isle
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\$178,000 - 372 River Forest Dr. - BEAUTIFUL wood floors and well maintained 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with large den, large sunroom and 2-car garage. MLS #733059 Call Bill 369-7977



\$194,500 - 217 Brookshire Rd. - LAKE ACCESS with this immaculate and move in ready one level, brick 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with great room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, dining room, kitchen with ample cabinets and breakfast area, large laundry room and 2-car garage. Convenient location to town and I-20 MLS #739024. Call Brenda 812-4141



\$289,000 - 235 Cove Point, Riverside - 3 hedroom 2 bath home with 2-car garage, boat storage with workshop, covered boat dock and boat MLS#723413 Call Bill 369-7977



\$385,000 - 120 Tumbleweed Ln. - BEAUTIFUL AND ELEGANT Best describes this quality 4 bedroom, 4 bath, 2-story custom built home with large dining room, family room with stone fireplace. Lot of bamboo floors as well as cork floor in large recreation room upstairs. Home is located on approx. 1.5 acres and a must to see! MLS #739311 Call Bill 369-7977 or Brenda 812-4141



419 Pine Point Ln. - 3 bedroom, 3 bath home with full basement, part finished, large sunroom, screened porch, open deck, waterfront lot, fenced on approx. MLS#732697 Call Bill 369-7977



\$429,900 - 1109 Lake Ridge Ln. - OUTDOOR PARADISE with this 5 BR, 4 BA private wooded 2+ ACRE home on the main channel with year round water. Hdwd and tile floors throughout, tongue and groove ceilings and a stacked stone fireplace, full fenced in tennis court that also serves as sports court. MLS #727554 Call Adam 369-2704



328.900 - 7148 Skyline Dr. - RARE FIND with this 4 BR 2.5 BA one level brick home on a beautiful waterfront lot with approx. 500' of shoreline. Home has family room with FP, dining room, sunroom plus den downstairs with another FP and some of two of the bedrooms. Lot of decking and gentle slope lot convenient to town and I-20. MLS #725658 Call Brenda 812-4141



\$779,900 - 451 Eagle Pointe Dr. - GORGEOUS SUN RISES AND PANORAMIC VIEW are just some of the great features of this 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath brick home with large rooms, open floor plan and unfinished area that provide room for in law suite, media room or more. Amenities of central vac, custom shades, outside lighting, pella windows, sprinkler system and walk in closets are just some of the nice features of this home. MLS#724996 Call Karen 473-4613



\$199,900 - 4732 Red Hawk Trl. - GREAT LAKE COTTAGE - 1.5 story 3 bedroom, 2 bath home located on a gentle slope, private wooded setting and waterfront lot with large platform/dock. Great view and convenient location. MLS #607491. Call Blair 812-5377



\$94.900 - 411 30th St., N. - NICELY UPDATED 2 large bedroom with master having its own private bathroom. Corner cabinets, central heat and air, roof approx. 5 years old and fenced yard. MLS#631541 Call Tina 337-8509



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558 EAGLE POINTE LN, PELL CITY, AL \$569,900. 5 BR, 5 BA home and 1.20 acres on Logan Martin.. The living room w/FP, vaulted ceiling and thick crown molding. Chef's kitchen with gorgeous custom cabinets, granite countertops, breakfast bar and eating area. MI \$4568506



3215 DR JOHN HAYNES DR, PELL CITY \$240,000. Two 75x150 lots. There's a 31 unit warehouse. Several different sizes. The other lot is vacant and fenced. The proers als comes with a 2006 Chevrolet roll back wrecker. MLS 726742



HENDERSON LANE, TALLADEGA \$129900. This Home Offers Three Bedrooms And Two Baths. Hugh Greatroom With A Fireplace. Open Floor Plan. Two Sets Of Sliding Glass Doors That Open Up For View Of The Lake. Screen Porch For Your Enjoyment. Your Own Personal Pier. MI.S 731982



RIVERSIDE-1 UNIT - \$275,000. 3Br, 2 Full Bathrooms, This is a rare find in a condo, completely remodeled, eastle front door, hardwood floors and ceilings, crown modding, rock fireplace, wood plantation shutters, floored attic space, stainless appliances, extra sub zero refrigerator, steam shower, grantic counter tops thru out, pantry, soaking tub with rain shower. The sunroom over looks the patio where there is a grilling area and room for the whole gang to gather. This condo comes with one wood pier. Master bedroom has a sitting area overlook the lake. Boat launch, tennis courts and pool. MLS# 613374



922 COMER AVE, PELL CITY \$89,900. This property is a commercial building on main street. The building has been updated with new sheet-rock, new electrical and new Train heat and air system. The building has a big storage area in the back with a toll up door. There is parking on the side street and back of the building. MLS 734189



HWY 34 - COMMERCIAL PROPERTY \$550,000 9 acres, hook up for mobile home, chert pit, two mini warehouse buildings built 2005, 76 units total, double bay mechanic work shop, roll up doors, built 1998, power, cable, bathroom, 1 well, 2 septic tanks. MLS#721675



PARADISE ISLE Unit 112, RIVERSIDE - \$174,800. 2 Br, 2 Full Bathrooms. Paradise isle is perfect lake living, No outside maintenance for the home owner. Paradise is only seconds away from 1-20. This unit is on the main channel with a forever view. Paradise isle features two pools, tennis courts, boat launch, grilling area, playground area, baskerball court, boat parking. The owner of this unit has paid the fee to have a new pier built. The screen porch is great for relaxing while looking at the lake. This unit has a fireplace in the greatroom. Eat up bar in the kitchen plus a dining area MIS# 756588



55 PALMETTO CRK, Ashville \$219,000 Three bedrooms and 2 baths, great room with rock fireplace, office or dining room. Kitchen has a eat up bar also has room for kitchen table. Large laundry room, large deck overlooking Henry Neeley Lake. New carport, new roof and carpet. MLS# 726349.



DOVE COVE \$324,900. Logan Martin Lake, four bedrooms, three bath, three living areas, full brick, two master suites, 3375 sq ft per owner, 1.2 acres covered boat port. MLS#619217



COMMERCIAL BUILDING in the high traffic area. \$169,000 This building has a reception area, conference room, 3 office spaces, 1/2 bath, kitchenette, storage room, approx 1416 sqft, and plenty of parking. City sewer and water. MI.S#729394



102 MICHAEL ST, PELL CITY -\$113,000. Three bedrooms and 2 baths, large eat in space in the kitchen. All appliances stay, gas fireplace, huge corner lot. Big country front porch. Large master bedroom. Spacious laundry room. A MUST SEE. NEW ROOF COMING SOON. MLS# 738814.



334 CANE CREEK DR, PELL CITY - 3 BR/3 BA. - \$79,900 Walk in closets, fireplace, abundance of cabinet space and pantry in the kitchen. This home has a storm shelter and playground that is equipped with a pirates ship jungle gym. Also offers a large library with full Bath. MI.S #726282



PATTON CHAPEL RD,LINCOLN - \$124,900, three bedroom, two bath, 100+ heart pine floors, country front porch, double garage, 1.16 acres, room for 2nd house or out building, fenced back yard, convenient to I 20, Honda. MLS#721644



MAYS BEND - \$198,000 - Lake access, 4 bed, 2.5 bath, approx. 2762 sq ft, outside entertaining area w/fireplace, inground salt water pool, granite counter tops, abundance of living area, master suite w/bonus room attached, double stair case, loft, 26 x 26 double garage, 26 x 26 play rec room. MLS #617094



465 OAKLEAF CIR. PELL CITY - \$212,000
- 3 BR 2.5 BA. Country front porch, fence around back yared. Hardwood floors, Large kitchen with stainless appliances, master bedroom has two closets, jetted tub, double sinks. In-ground fenced pool. Upstairs den could become 4th bedroom. MLS #727145



697 COVE POINT DR, RIVERSIDE - \$335,000 - 3 BR/2.5 BA, cedar siding granite counter tops and stainless appliances. Formal dining room, greatroom with fireplace. Hand scraped maple hardwood floors. master suite with jacuzzi, walk in shower and closet. Boat launch, boat house and seawall. MLS #734813





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PROPERTY FOR SALE



PELL CITY \$189,000. GREAT WATER-FRONT LOT IN PINE HARBOR, NICE NEIGHBORHOOD, HAS EXISTING BOATHOUSE, MLS#603599



PELL CITY \$149,000, NICE WATERFRONT LOT IN CUMBERLAND COVES, PAR-TIALLY WOODED MLS#618196



REDUCED! RIVERSIDE \$179,500. PAR-ADISE ISLE 2BR/2BA CONDO ON LO-GAN MARTIN, MAIN CHANNEL VIEW. MLS#627856



LINCOLN \$26,000. 2 BEAUTIFUL LOTS IN EASTLAND SHORES SD. WATER ACCESS, J ACRE EACH, READY TO BUILD ON. MLS#611817 & 611818



ALPINE \$75,000. 3 LAKEVIEW LOTS & 1 LAKE ACCESS LOT, 2.6 ACRES. UNIQUE BUILDING OPPORTUNITY! MLS#582712

PELL CITY \$39,900. 3 LOTS, LEVEL AND CLEARED, WALK-ING DISTANCE FROM TOWN, VERIFY ZONING FOR HOME, DUPLEX, MULTIPLEX, CHURCH, PARK.MLS#629984

TALLADEGA \$99,000. GOOD SLOPE TO WOODED WATER-FRONT LOT. GREAT LOT TO BUILD PERMANENT OR WEEK-END HOME MLS#603430

ASHVILLE \$159,900. 45 ACRES ON BOTH SIDES OF ROAD. MLS#599660



GREAT LAKE PROPERTY! PELL CITY \$295,000. APPROX 5.3 WOODED ACRES ON LOGAN MARTIN LAKE. APPROX 300 FT OF WIFG, GREAT PLACE TO BUILD OR SUBDIVIDE. PELL CITY LIMITS. NICE MH WITH FRONT PORCH OVER-LOOKING LAKE. MLS#633317





CROPWEIL \$595,000. Lovely 3BR/2.5BA home on a beautiful lake lot with a awesome view in a very nice, quiet neighborhood. Level lot, Cabana, fenced area and pier. Master has separate sitting area. Great room overlooking fantastic view of lake/ Stacked stone fireplace. Separate office and laundry room on main level. Upstairs has 2 bedrooms plus a large bonus room. This is a must see!





TALLADEGA \$334,900, 1.5 story home with great lake view, 4BR/3.5BA, with 2 BRs on main level & 2 up, plus a bonus room! Greatroom with vaulted ceiling, stacked stone FP. Spacious updated kitchen with restored cabinets. Nice sunroom. Spacious master with walk-in closet, sustom shower, jet tub. Great lake living and still convenient to I-20 MLS=634260





TALLADEGA \$350,000. Great for weekender or year round, nice waterfront, poured concrete seawall, new pier system. 3BR/2BA home with metal roof, vinyl siding, carport, living room with fireplace, sunroom. MLS#733109





TAILADEGA \$369,000!! One of the best views on the lake! Recently updated 4BR/3BA LAKE HOUSE DREAM! Magnificent views from every room! New windows & hardwood flooring, vaulted ceilings, modern open kitchen with grante island. 2 full length decks, large master, adjoining office. Huge rec room downstairs with latchenette. Workshop, covered boat dock with deck above. Lighted steps down to the water, concrete retaining wall. MLS#620708

LAH

The Sign of Results

Dana Ellison, REALTOR®



240 Cove Dr. Pell City, AL 35128 - Bottom pine floors that flow throughout the living space & into the spacious lakeside sunroom! 1 level home offers so much space with Master suite, and bedroom & bath easily accessed from the living areas. The master BR has french doors that open into the sunroom & screened porch, with main channel lake view! Both bathrooms have marble showers & floors, while the hall bath also has a soaking tub. The kitchen that overlooks the open living with fireplace & breakfast room is a chefs dream with granite, stainless appliances, lots of cabinets & wood floors. Office space next to the kitchen and large space off of the 2 car graage. Either of these could be additional bedrooms. Large deck and boat dock with lift. MLSF 370431.



75 Hodgens Dr- Main level has a formal living/dining room with wood floors. The den/family room has wood floors. Half bath is in hallway. Master suite has carpet with a very spacious bath with a jacuzzi tub, separate tub/shower, double vanity. Kitchen has beautiful oak cabinets, breakfast bar, black appliances, ice maker & a breakfast room with large windows. The upstairs offers 3 more bedrooms with a playroom, office space, a huge storage / media room & a full bath. Perfect home in a country setting for a growing family or if you just need more room! mls# 725037



LOTS & LAND

587058 - 115 CHERRY TREE LN, #18 CROPWELL, AL - \$20,000

587110 - 130 CHERRY TREE LN, #20 CROPWELL, AL - \$25,000

587104 - 20 OLD ROAD WAY, #32 CROPWELL, AL - \$20,000

587052 - 75 DELLWOOD LN, 11

CROPWELL, AL - \$15,000 586925 - 60 OLD ROAD WAY, #30 CROPWELL, AL - \$25,000

586914 - NIXON RD, #9.7 AC CROPWELL, AL - \$99.000

2 Lots in Catatoga Estates

733035 - Lot 27 Ingram St. - \$26,000

733040 - Lot 28 Ingram St. - \$26,000



5604 Smith Road - 3 BR, 2 BA home in Pine Harbor subdivision! Pool house/workshop wth covered patio is large enough to create a second living space! Kitchen has granite, all stainless appls, living rm with gas FP. Master has a large closet, walk in shower, jacuzugi tub & double vanity. The spacious 2 & 3 BR's share a BA with large stone shower & countertops. Plantation shutters, gleaming hardwood floors, tile in kitchen & baths. mls#727088



450 Big Oak Circle, 3 BR, 3.5 BA brick home. Move-in ready. AWESOME finished basement with large windows, 2nd kitchen with Alderwood cabinets, granite counters, tile floors. Hardwood floors throughout main level. MLS #738810



Pleasent Valley Road - 18 acres. Heavily wooded, level acreage off of Hwy 78. It backs up to the industrial park in Pell City. Located only minutes from the interstate. mls#733052



67 Mays Bend Circle, Brick home on Logan Martin Lake, 4 BR, 3 full BA, 3 car garage, central vacuum system, master suite w/jacuzzi tub, lake view from every room in the house MLS #738433



2101 1st AVE. N. - Conveniently located to I-20, retail & hospital. Located in the Historic Downtown area of Pell City, this special & stylish property is currently set up as a fully licensed cafe/restaurant with a comm kitchen, however, twould be very easy to convert to a wonderful office/retail site. The property is 2500 sf of livable space and there is a storage/garage area which could easily be finished for additional shop/office space. mls# 720988



5112 Lakeshore Dr. - Main channel lakefront property year round water frontage! 5 BR, 3 BA, main level gourmet kitchen has Thomasville cabinetry, induction cook-top with pot filler faucet, granite counter tops & tile floors. Large master suite on main & 2nd master on 1st level, all glass low e & low e with argon gas for heating & cooling, solar powered attic vent, 22x44 in-ground pool, 3 car garage, boathouse, exterior deck, storage building, mls# 629131



6462 Cromer Circle #16 - 4 BR, 2.5 BA, 2 car garage home in located in Southern Trace subdivision. Dining room, spacious kitchen, breakfast/keeping room, 2 story den with see thru fireplace & LOTS of windows, half BA & a great master suite with jacuzzi tub, separate showed double vanities, on the main level. Upstairs 2 BR with nice closet space, a full BA & bonus room that can be anything, to suit your needs. mls# 727929

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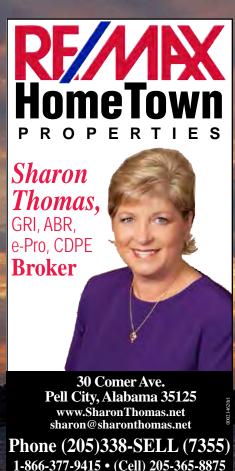
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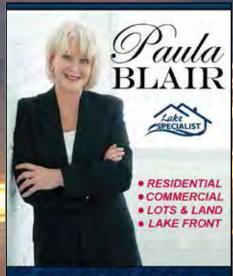
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