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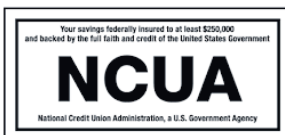


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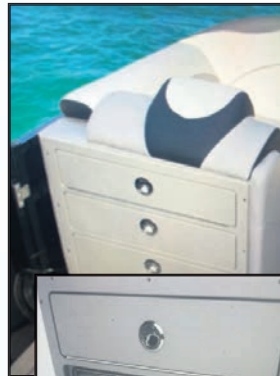
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ON THE COVER: Jackson Robinson and other Junior Sailing Camp students enjoy a morning on the lake.
Photo by Buddy Roberts

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Logan Martin Lake since 1994*

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Thank you for allowing us to do what we do

“This is not an unpleasant way to spend a weekday morning,” Susan Cook said, keeping an eye out for stowaway harvestmen to make sure the excursion remained pleasant.

Susan occupied port side of the bow of a motorboat helmed by Amy Sides, and I was at starboard as we followed in the wake of a fleet of Opti and Sunfish sailboats piloted by lifejacketed youngsters attending the Birmingham Sailing Club's annual junior sailing camp. Neither Amy nor I could disagree with Susan's observation.

Amy, as the camp's director, had invited Susan back to share the camp experience with Lakeside Living's readers, and my camera and I got to tag along again. As we watched the teens and tweens harnessing the wind in the boat ahead of us (some confidently, some with determined trepidation), we agreed that we'd all spent weekdays in less pleasant ways than cruising around Logan Martin Lake.

That brief conversation was a welcome reminder. A reminder that

– although we don't get to spend as much time on the water as we'd like and although deadline pressures, last-minute schedule changes, and plates that have to be kept spinning can too often overshadow this thought – those of us who present Lakeside Living to you each month consider it a privilege that we get to do so.

It is a privilege to get to tell you stories and show you photographs of the lake's habits and happenings. It is a privilege and an honor for our work to occupy space on coffee tables in your homes. It is a privilege that you regard Lakeside Living as a product that's worth reading, whether it's while you're eating lunch at a lakeside restaurant or sipping coffee on your deck or dock while enjoying the tranquility of a Logan Martin morning.

But privileges come with responsibility, and that is not lost on Lakeside Living's staff and contributors. The responsibility to prepare for you and provide you with a quality product that is entertaining and informative is one that Blucher Ehringhaus, John Fry, Ginna

Gray, Pam Isbell, Debbie Bussie, Ginger Staude, Sherry Unger, Candee McCabe, Candace Nesby, JoAnna Allen, Darla Allen, Elijah King, Charlene Walker, Tucker Webb, Faith Dorn, Vallean Jackson, CJ Knight, Michelle Love, Tim Badgwell, Sarah Elizabeth Moreman, Laci Braswell, Susan, and I take seriously.

This issue is proof. It's the result of a partnership we developed with the Birmingham Sailing Club a bit more than a year ago that has resulted in our first themed issue. It's all about sailing this month, and I know you'll enjoy going back to sailing camp with Susan, reading Faith's account of a North American sailing championship hosted on our lake, learning some of the lake's history from Michelle's interview with the son of club founder Sam Caldwell, and spending a leisurely Sunday afternoon at the club with Sarah Elizabeth.

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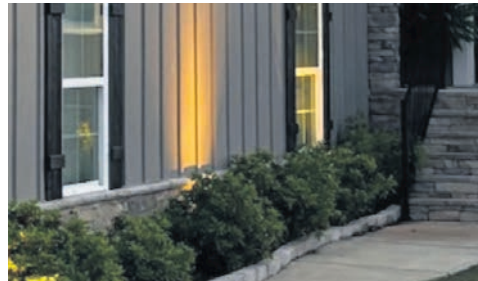
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HOOK, LINE & SINKER

Early-morning angling is the best way to beat the July heat

July.

Hot, humid, and brutal.

Sunscreen, cold drinks, and swimming are usually on the agenda for this month, but for the diehard fisherman, opportunities still exist to beat the heat. In the middle of summer, getting out on the boat in mornings will be key for successful fishing outings.

Bass fishing can be exceptional during the sunrise hours in July. The bite can be quick and fast until the sunrise tops the tree lines. My favorite patterns for this month include targeting seawalls on the main channel. Seawalls near deep water offer plenty of opportunities for early-morning success. Running multiple seawalls and vertical rock banks early in the day will be your best pattern.

Top water spooks, Chug Bugs, Pop-Rs, and buzzbaits are my top picks for early July mornings. This bite typically will not last more than

a couple of hours, so getting out early is key. If you plan to bass fish after the early morning hours, try to focus on deeper docks with jigs and shaky heads or deep ledges with crankbaits and Carolina rigs.

Bass will feed fast and heavy in the mornings on hot days. Covering water fast, beating the heat, can produce some good results. If you're in the mood to stay in the heat, I suggest slowing down mid-morning and focusing on deeper summer points, ledges, and drop offs.

Chasing bass in July can be tough but rewarding. I hope you have your sunscreen! Always remember to employ safe boating practices. This month, the lakes and rivers across Alabama will host vast numbers of recreational boaters, posing safety hazards. Be safe!

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Photo by Bob Crisp



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the tight rigging sings
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a chorus ”

- Jimmy Buffett



Sailing traditions are passed on to the next generation at the BSC's Junior Sailing Camp

Written by **SUSAN COOK**
Photographed by **BUDDY ROBERTS**

One year has passed, and I find myself back at the Birmingham Sailing Club. It's a breezy Wednesday morning, and the Junior Sailing Camp is in full swing. Down the hill and through the trees, I catch glimpses of colorful sails maneuvering near the dock—a fleet of Sunfish setting sail.

In the workshop, I find camp director Amy Sides attaching protective bumpers to an Optimist dinghy, affectionately called an Opti. These small, boxy boats are ideal for the younger campers, usually ranging in age from 8 to 10. Amy

greet me with a quick smile—her hands are busy, and so is the camp.

This week, the Opti sailors have been learning how to “read the wind”—one of the most essential skills in sailing. Even on calm days or during pop-up summer storms, the learning continues with visualization drills on land, hands-on knot-tying, and even practice sails mounted on dollies. From the sidelines, it might look like make-believe, but it's actually smart scaffolding. These dry-land exercises help young sailors visualize the principles of sailing before they ever set sail on the lake. Confidence is built before the first gust of wind fills the sail.

Of course, not everything is about drills and terminology.

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Each day includes a fun, non-sailing activity—tie-dyeing t-shirts, playing capture the flag, or a soapy shaving cream war. And then there's the swimming. After hours under the summer sun, a cannonball into Lake Logan Martin is more than just refreshing—it's a rite of passage.

Swimming is especially popular with the young Opti class. In fact, my first interview fell through on account of it. When Amy gently asked Iris, a first-time camper, if she might pause her swim to answer a few questions, Iris shyly replied, "Umm, I think I'd rather swim." Smart girl.

Iris is in a class taught by Erin Sides, one of the three sailors I met last year (and who is also Amy's daughter). Erin is now on the other side of the lesson plan—herding a lively group of 8-to-10-year-olds who bounce between silliness and sudden bursts of insight. "What would we do if someone stole our training boat?" one camper asks with genuine concern. Erin's answer? "Well... that would just be very sad."

She watches over her class with as much focus and patience as possible, but it's exhausting work. Teaching sailing to one or two people is one thing. Teaching it to eight children under the age of 10? That's a different matter. "At first it was chaos," Erin admits, "until I discovered the power of reward. Don't want to miss swim time? Then pay attention and follow directions." She laughs. "I think I've heard my name called more in the past two and a half days than I have in the last two years."



ANNA SIDES



ALLIE CUNNINGHAM

As Erin's group continues to make a splash, Amy tells me, "It takes a whole army to make this camp happen—and to keep it safe." That army includes instructors and volunteers who provide not only safety maintenance but also food and snack prep.

Last year, the camp hosted 22 campers. This year, it's up to 29—enough growth to warrant an additional instructor. For a sport that used to be predominantly male-centric, this group reflects a fairly equal balance. As Amy says, "Anybody can sail. You just have to want to learn, and once you do, you're not going to want to stop."

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LOU TYRE



ERIN SIDES



DARBY SMITH



AMY SIDES

terminology. It's about navigating uncertainty. Campers quickly learn that some forces—like wind or weather—are completely out of their control. But they also learn to stay calm, make adjustments, and use the skills they've built to move forward. Every "I can't" becomes an "I did," and those lessons translate far beyond the lake.

From the dock, I spot a group of 420s tacking across the water, their double sails catching the breeze. Amy and I hop in the motorboat for a closer look.

We draw alongside one dinghy, and Amy calls out, "He's not in irons, but you can help him by pulling in his sail." Over the next hour, I learn a handful of sailing phrases—like "in irons" (stuck facing the wind with no momentum), "always avoid a collision," and the all-important "Duck!" when the boom swings across the deck.

At one point, a camper raises his arms, shouting with unfiltered joy: "SAILING!"

The colorful Sunfish are now out in full force, darting across the water like a school of tropical fish. Back near the dock, teenage campers are preparing their sleek Lasers—single-sail racing boats that require agility and strength.

In the cove, Erin's Opti sailors circle her boat like ducklings. Two girls call out, "We're stuck!" Amy steers our boat over and calmly advises them: "You need to get some speed...pull in your sail." By the time we loop around, they're off and gliding. Those frantic pleas of "I'm stuck" are nothing more than a fading memory.

Further out, the Lasers are practicing a roll tack, a swift maneuver used to change direction while maintaining speed. I watch as one sailor ducks under the boom and slides to the opposite side of his boat with ease. He's preparing for a race under the watchful eye of instructor Darby.

The camp's philosophy goes beyond learning to sail—it's about building friendships. "If they become friends," Amy says, "they'll want to keep coming out. The sailing will follow."

Back on land, I finally catch up with two campers: Woods, a returning sailor, and Lou, a first-timer. Woods is now sailing a Sunfish after mastering the Opti last year. "I like the Sunfish more," he tells me, "because it goes faster." Even though it's only Wednesday and there are two remaining days of the camp to go, Lou has already learned the basics of sailing and

how to steer a boat. When I ask about his favorite part of camp outside of sailing, he grins. "The food. Especially the tacos." Before they run off to rejoin their group, I ask, "Would you come back next year?" They answer in unison: "Yes!"

Later, I meet Ailie on the dock as the Lasers return ahead of a distant storm. She's just graduated from high school and has attended this camp since eighth grade. "My favorite part?" she says. "The people. Being part of a team. And the racing." As someone with a competitive nature, sailboat racing is a huge draw for Ailie.

Nearby, I watch a group of four haul one of the Lasers from the water. From a distance, sailing looks peaceful. But up close, it's a tangle of lines, fast decisions, and muscle memory. Tighten the main sail. Cleat the rope. Mind the boom.

My last interview of the day is with Anna, Amy's youngest daughter. When I ask how long she's been sailing, she replies, "Since before I was born." It's not a joke. Amy won a championship while pregnant with her. Now 17, Anna has one more year of sailing camp ahead. "Is there anything you don't already know about sailing?" I ask. She pauses, then wisely replies, "You can never really learn everything."

She explains how Lasers and 420s each offer something different. Lasers are fast and solo; 420s are collaborative. Although she enjoys sailing both, she likes the 420 best "because I love having someone to talk to." For her, sailing isn't just about mastering the boat—it's about community. "My favorite part?" she adds. "Traveling to regattas and meeting people from all over."

While these young sailors are learning their craft here on Lake Logan Martin, they're building skills they can carry anywhere. Steering into the wind. Adjusting course when the weather changes. Helping each other when the water gets rough.



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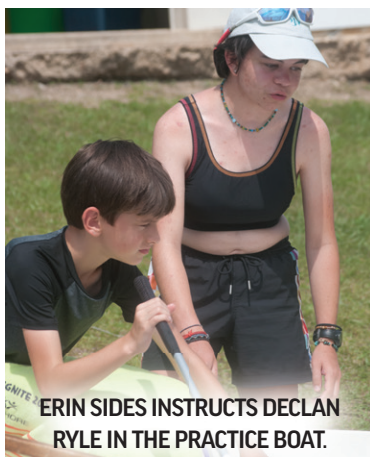
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Watching the campers rig their boats and set sail, it's clear: this is the future of the Birmingham Sailing Club, and from what I've seen, that future is bright.

The shores of Lake Logan Martin may be where it starts, but for these young sailors, the journey is just beginning.

If you're interested in learning more about the Birmingham Sailing Club and the classes they offer, be sure to visit: birminghamssailingclub.org.



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LOGAN MARTIN LAKE HOSTS

FLYING SCOT WOMEN'S NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Written by **FAITH DORN**

Photographed by

JEFFREY SIDES AND RANDY LENTZ

Local waters hosted the Flying Scot Women's North American Championship, an event of the Flying Scot Sailing Association, on the weekend of May 31 and June 1. Seventeen teams of two and three sailors totaling 40 women registered for the event at the Birmingham Sailing Club. Participants representing different sailing clubs attended from seven states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Louisiana, Tennessee, and Texas.

The Flying Scot is a 19-foot centerboard sloop and is one of the oldest and largest sailboat classes in the world. The Flying Scot was designed by Sandy Douglass in 1956. Douglass had previously designed the Thistle, another popular class of sailboat.

Amy Sides has been a member of the Birmingham Sailing Club for about 25 years, joining when she moved to Birmingham. Her sailing career started when she was a child, beginning by taking sailing lessons while visiting her aunt and uncle in Connecticut. Now, Sides serves as director of the Birmingham Sailing Club's junior sailing program. She was also a participant in the Flying Scot Women's NAC this year.

"I was the skipper, which means I drove the boat. The teams are made of one skipper and one or two crew. The crew do a lot of things like adjusting and raising the sails," Sides explained. "Another skipper, Dianne Hart, and I were a team during this regatta. She had to become more familiar with the other side of sailing as crew."

Another Birmingham Sailing Club member allowed the women to borrow his Flying Scot and helped them practice.

Both Hart and Sides usually sail a Thistle, so they needed to practice sailing the Flying Scot several times before the NAC to get used to the differences between both sailboats, including the lightness of the Thistle and the extra inertia of the Flying Scot.

"Sailing is basically the same from boat to boat, but to race them, there are particulars that you want to focus on," said Sides, who enjoyed the camaraderie of the event. "It was exciting to be there with a bunch of women sailors. I hadn't really participated in an all-women event since college. It was a lot of fun. I enjoyed the challenge of improving my sailing in a different type of boat which I have sailed before but not very often."

"When you race sailboats, you never know the conditions you will have: wind, weather, waves and currents, so you have to practice in all different conditions," she added. "I was really

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excited to have the chance to be part of this national event and to not have to travel far. It was fun to have ladies from all over the country come to our club. Someone traveled 600 miles to compete.”

The winning team of the Flying Scot Women’s North American Championship, Greta Mittman and Heidi Gough, represented Corinthian Sailing Club in Dallas, Texas. The team of Birmingham Sailing Club’s Sally Morriss and Sherrie Galaway of Dallas placed second in the regatta.

Stan Graham, a member of Birmingham Sailing Club and one of the organizers of the regatta, said that “Salty” Sally Morriss sailed her father Jim’s original Flying Scot.

“She’s been sailing since she was 12 years old. Her father, Dr. Johnson, was a pediatrician in Vestavia. He was one of our early members and was very instrumental in starting our Flying Scot fleet in the mid-to-late-1970s,” said Graham, who served as the PRO, or Principal Race Officer, for the event.

“The regatta is a timed event. You set a course with a starting line, give the sailors a five-minute warning, then they cross the line, and the regatta begins,” Graham said.

He was out on the water early to study the wind. “Obviously, you can’t see the wind, but it is constantly oscillating and shifting. The quicker you can get to the mark, you can take advantage of those shifts. You have to be good at all points of sail,” he explained. “You make judgements on where the wind might be better. You study all these factors, and it takes a lot



of skill.”

According to Graham, although the event was scheduled to take place over two days, the conditions on Sunday were not very promising, so the organizers made an effort to do three races on Saturday. “At some regattas you may not get but one race, and those are kind of disappointing,” he said.

Dianne Hart teamed with Amy Sides in the regatta. Both women usually skipper, so Hart decided that she would crew during this event.

“Our fleet and our club were the dual hosts for the NAC,” said Hart, “We had a cookout on Friday night and got to meet all



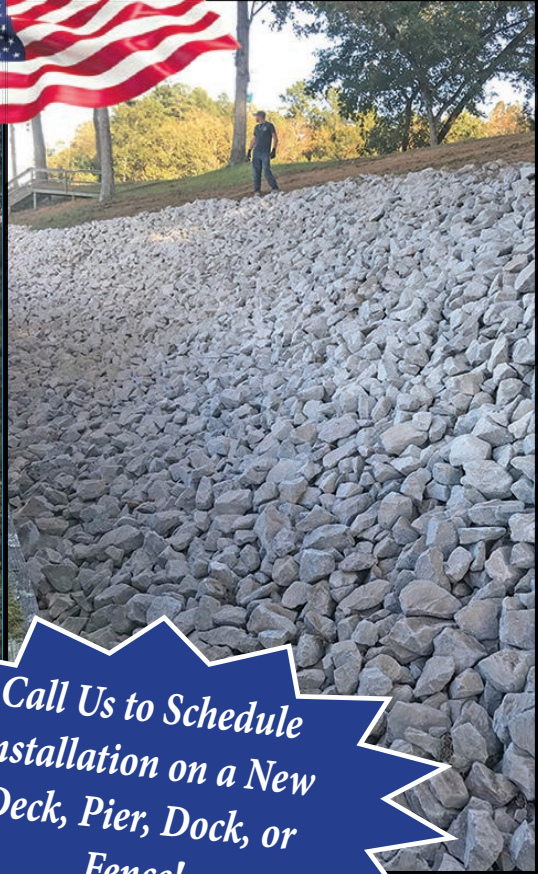

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the other competitors. On Saturday night, there was a catered meal at the Birmingham Sailing Club with a slideshow of various photos people had taken. It was a really nice evening. On Sunday morning, we had mimosas and really nice breakfast casseroles."

Serving as crew on her team made Hart appreciate the role again.

"It was good for me. I enjoyed being able to do the crew features as best and as fast as I could. It has been a long time since I have crewed, especially in a race. Normally, my husband crews for me in our Thistle, so it gave me some more appreciation for him," she said, laughing. "It was a really fun time. Usually, we just sail women and men; it doesn't matter, but it was nice to have an all-women event and have nice little feminine touches throughout the weekend. There were some really good sailors, and we were really happy as a club to host."

Erin Sides, Amy Sides' daughter and one of the women who chose to be on a three-person team, described the entire event as "really cool. That was the most women sailors I have seen at this club."

The younger Sides said that she usually sails a 420, a 4.2-meter-long sailboat that she equates to a "baby Flying Scot."

With encouragement from her mother, Erin decided to skipper in the regatta. She said this event was only her third or fourth time sailing a Flying Scot. Her three-person team was filled out by another member of the Birmingham Sailing Club and the mother of one of her sailing coaches.

"I think I was the youngest skipper, if not the youngest



sailor. I turn 20 in September," Erin said. "I enjoy sailing and spending time with the club. Sometimes it can be intimidating because people have more experience than you—sometimes more years of experience than you've been alive. I just go out there with the mindset of whatever happens I am going to learn."

To learn more about the Flying Scot Sailing Association, visit fssa.com.

To learn more about the Birmingham Sailing Club, visit birminghamclub.org.




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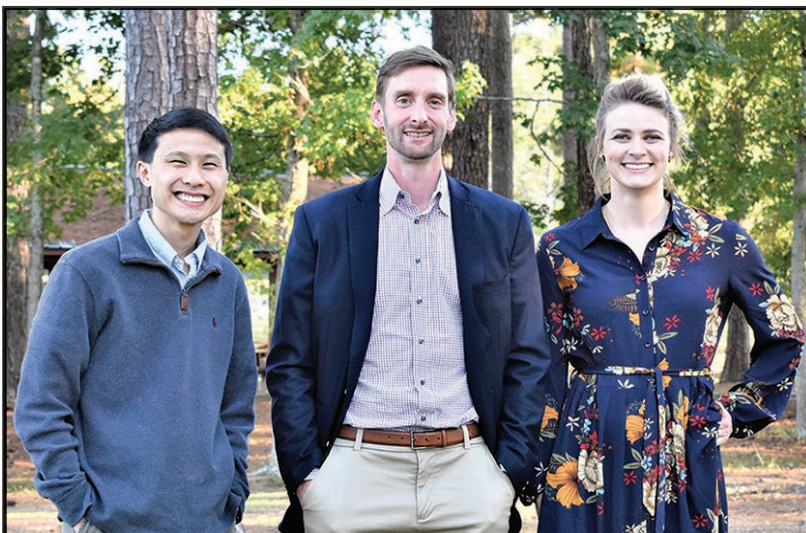
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THE CALDWELL CUP REGATTA



Annual two-day event celebrates the legacy of sailing club's visionary founder

Written by **MICHELLE LOVE**
Photographed by **TUCKER WEBB**

In late spring, the Birmingham Sailing Club (BSC) held its annual Caldwell Cup Regatta event. The two-day event, which takes place over the course of a weekend, is well-known around the lake community, having started more than 25 years ago.

On Saturday, participants are treated to a luncheon at the club followed by a sailboat race in the afternoon. After the race, everyone is welcome to come back to the club for a cocktail/snack hour. The schedule on Sunday is similar in that there are several more races, followed by a catered dinner and trophy presentations.

The regatta's origins began when the BSC members decided to have an in-club event for members. Over the years, it has grown to include nonmembers as well as a way to bring in new members. The event is named in honor of the club's founder, Sam Caldwell. Sam's son

Skip describes the regatta as a way to celebrate his father and the founding of the club while encouraging others who love sailboats to join the club.

The BSC itself was born out of a love of sailing. Caldwell said his father loved sailing for years, and he frequently attended yacht club events at Lake Guntersville. After so many years traveling from Birmingham to Guntersville, Sam Caldwell and some fellow sailing enthusiasts began looking for something closer to Birmingham. Sam knew Logan Martin was being built, so he made the first move to search for property on which to establish a local sailing club.

"We spent almost every single weekend out there when I was growing up," Skip said. "My dad was in the middle of building everything and coordinating everything, and I was right there as the precocious little son of the founder telling everyone what to do."

Richard May, the regatta chairman of the Caldwell Cup and vice commodore

of the BSC, has been a member of the club since 1998, and he said the community is something that fully envelops you.

"It sort of becomes your life," May said. "You get to know all the people up there, and everybody becomes friends. It's just fun."

May said there are several aspects of the regatta that he looks forward to every year, including sportsmanship and the event's social aspects.

"The regatta, it's just great camaraderie, and I really look forward to that," he said. "I think this year we had around 12 boats sail. Just seeing all the people out there I've known for years and the new people, too. If I wasn't focused on the regatta event itself, the sailing would be the number one thing I look forward to. It's just part of the whole club experience. People get out and have some good racing and competition, then they get to come up to the club house and have dinner. It's a sporting event, but then you get the



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social aspect of it, too.

Embracing the past of the club and seeing how much people enjoy events like the regatta is something Skip Caldwell said brings joy to his heart. He knows that seeing everyone enjoy the sailing community and lifestyle is something his father would be happy to see.

"As the years have gone by, it's been amazing to me to go back and look at some of the papers my dad kept and some of the original plans for the sailing club and look at everything that's happened over the years," he said. "When I go the club, I kind of see my dad everywhere I look. For a

while after my dad first passed on, it was tough for me to go out there, and now I just really enjoy going out there and seeing what all my dad did."

May shares Skip Caldwell's sentiments and added that Sam's vision for forming the club is the sole reason everyone is able to enjoy what the club and the regatta have become on the shores of Logan Martin Lake.

"One thing I would like to emphasize is how appreciative the membership is of Sam Caldwell's vision in forming the club," May said. "The fact that we all enjoy it more than 60 years later is a testament."

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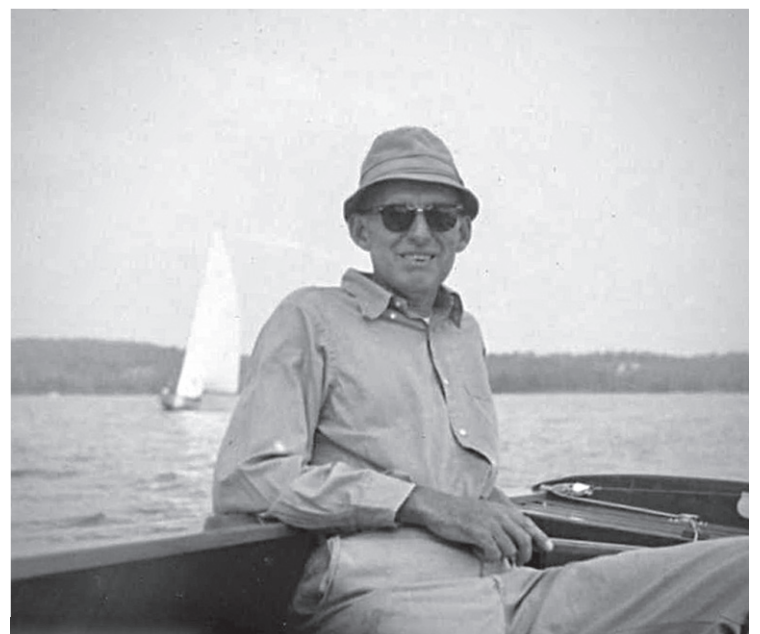


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Sailing club founder Sam Caldwell launches the first sailboat on Logan Martin Lake in 1964



Sam Caldwell in 1967.

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SEEING THE LAKE WITH *SARAH ELIZABETH*



Sunday afternoon at the *SAILING CLUB*

Written by **SARAH ELIZABETH MOREMAN**
Photographed by **DR. S.E. MOREMAN**
and **RANDY LENTZ**

It has been raining a lot these days, yet the rains have not yet made the mimosas droop. The vibrant pinks and pale pinks of the wispy, furry flowers coat the canopies along the tree-lined stretch of Interstate 20, making the drive feel more enchanting. Spotting the exit I need, I ease off the gas pedal and guide my SUV up the ramp past Moody, heading toward Vincent.

I had already texted the person I am supposed to meet to let him know I miscalculated my arrival time and would

be 20 minutes late. As I drive through the curvy roads that seem to wind ever upward, I begin to feel as though I am climbing a mountain, Alabama-style. The realization hits me that the drive takes longer because the road signs call for slower speeds and warn of sharp curves. This area is home to places like Camp Winnataska and Brock Gap's Training Center, both nestled into the landscape for camps and training sessions. Passing these markers, I continue on until I near my destination: the Birmingham Sailing Club.

As I enter, sailboats are everywhere, resting on their trailers or secured in boat cradles. A few people are tending to their boats, cleaning or working

on them. Passing through the gate, I spot the logo with the acronym BSC, which stirs memories of another BSC, Birmingham-Southern College, now closed. I had worked there during the final nine months of its existence, part of the backbone advancement and communications team.

I park near the white building and gather my Scout bag, straightening my Costas. Before I finish locking my vehicle, a hat-wearing gentleman approaches and greets me. I ask if he can help me find Mr. Richard May. He introduces himself as Danny Waters and gestures toward his truck, offering to drive me down to the slips. I thank him and hop into his white truck.



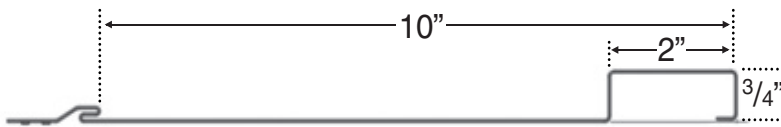
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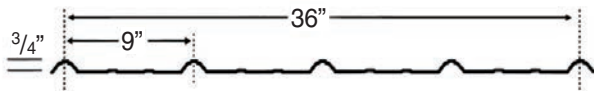
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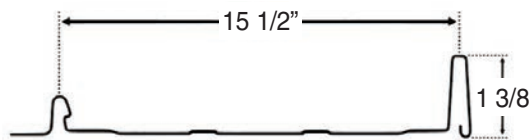


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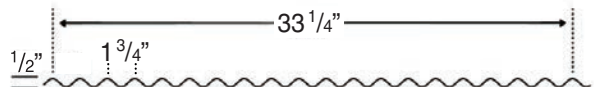
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After a short drive down, he parks, and I smile at him before letting myself out. As I step down, another man approaches. "Sarah Elizabeth?"

"Yes. Are you Mr. May?" I extend my hand. He shakes it before sweeping his arm toward the boats. Then, he turns to introduce me to someone standing nearby. I shake the man's hand and look up to see the person to whom it belongs. I almost laugh, as it turns out we already know each other. Darrell Bilbrey quickly fills Mr. May in, explaining that we are both Auburn alumni, specifically from the College of Liberal Arts, and that we met at an alumni gathering several years ago. Since then, Darrell has been instrumental in many of my networking efforts, one of which led to some work at Auburn a few years back.

I smile at Darrell, "It's been a long while." He tells me that he is the chairman of the Leukemia Cup and that he will send me more information about the foundation and its fundraising regatta. I lean in and ask how things have been for him since we last met. He mentions that he is preparing a book for publication. I ask if he would allow me to read it. He says he will send me a link. With that, we turn our attention to the view of the lake.

Mr. May invites me to take a look around while he prepares the boat. I nod as I follow him down the pebbly walkway to the slips. As we walk down, he asks if I do sports. I laugh and say no, explaining that I only dance and grew up doing ballet. Then I pause and add, "Well, let me take that back. I have been running 5Ks and half-marathons. Mind you, I am not a runner. I only finish races." He responds, "On that note, you will recognize the racing aspects when we go out there for the races."

He introduces me to two men who are sitting on the benches with Mr. Waters, waiting. My eyes are drawn to one man's yellow shirt that says "Juicy Fruit" across the front and "Key West" printed in smaller lettering below. I comment that I like his shirt, and he mentions that he picked it up in Key West. I smile and tell him that I went to Key West back in January to take part in the race challenge, where I completed a 5K and 10K on Saturday and a half-marathon the next day during the Martin Luther King Jr. weekend.

After a few more exchanges, I walk closer to where Mr. May and Darrell are preparing the boats. Darrell motions for me to join Mr. May, who is already in the boat with a huge inflated yellow object positioned at the front. Mr. May offers his hand to help me aboard. After settling in next to the yellow cylindrical float, I smile and thank him. He asks if I am comfortable, then puts the boat in reverse and eases it away from the dock.

Mr. May points out various landmarks.

"Sarah Elizabeth, if you look straight there, that's the dam," he says, leaning close so I can follow his line of sight. I nod, and he continues, "You'll see a car go across it. We'll ride down that way for a bit down while they come out." They being the sailboats.

I comment on how the drive up to Vincent feels like ascending a hill, if not a mountain, with the lake sitting like



a crown atop the area. "You see that white building when you arrived?" At my nod, he describes how it used to be the founder's house before it was converted into the clubhouse for BSC.

Then I ask him about the Birmingham Sailing Club and the origin of its name. "When it was formed, every member lived in Birmingham. Back then, not many people lived around the lake," he explains. "That's not unusual. The Atlanta Yacht Club is outside of Atlanta, and the Muscle Shoals Sailing Club isn't near Muscle Shoals but rather in Wilson Lake. It's a good way for people from all over to form bonds, to build a community. We have members from Montgomery and Huntsville, and some even from Georgia who come over easily on I-20. We also have some non-resident members who live all over the country. There's a young woman who's a member here but now lives in San Francisco and sails on the bay. She started sailing here. And there are good people from the coast near Savannah who come back to sail with us."

I take in the peaceful atmosphere, commenting on how this lake feels like a secret because it is not crowded. He replies, "We sail here on Sundays. This is a Sunday afternoon in June, a beautiful day. There may not be many people today. Our best time to sail is in the fall and spring when the wind is stronger and the lake is quieter. Most people come out early in the morning, which leaves the afternoons open for sailing."

Mr. May removes his sunglasses and says, "I bought these



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at a filling station on the dam road. They were only \$10. I left my good pair at home, and these are so dark I can't even see." I laugh as I adjust my Costas. A good pair of sunglasses is essential when the sunlight reflects off the water.

I jump at the sound of sudden squawking before he reaches for the walkie-talkie. I hold on to the yellow, inflated cylindrical float for balance. Although I do not understand the words, I recognize Darrell's voice coming through the device. Judging by the tone, he seems to be giving directions. I watch as Mr. May steers the boat toward another one, the same boat where I had earlier seen Darrell standing at the dock. The other men who had been waiting there are now with him.

As our boats draw closer, I observe their rapid exchange of words and gestures toward specific points on the water. Mr. May then turns the boat in the indicated direction. I listen to the staccato bursts of communication squawking from the walkie-talkie in his hand. A look of concentration settles on his face as he readies himself for action.

After a few maneuvers, I catch familiar phrases through the static: "Ninety degrees to starboard. That's it. Ready to drop the mark."

"Hey, Richard, you got those new sunglasses."

"Well, that's part of the problem. I can't see anything through them."

"You go about 90 degrees. See the boathouse right there, off the point. Not the one you're headed at. See the one to your right. Are you going to drop it out there? Ready to throw it into place? Yeah, drop it right there."

More bursts crackle through the speaker, and Mr. May

responds, "Okay. Does he want me to drop it here? Darrell, this is part two. Need me to drop it here?"

He stands, saying, "Excuse me," as he leans over the side to pull the yellow inflated float toward the edge. He tugs on the rope from inside an orange Home Depot bucket, lowering the weight into the water...chains, two weight discs, and finally an anvil.

To my fascination, I watch the inflated cylinder bob upright on the surface as the boat drifts away.

"Richard, keep going in that direction, closer to where the clubhouse is."

"Sarah Elizabeth." I turn at the sound of my name. "What they'll do is start up there," he says, gesturing toward Darrell's boat and the orange float like the yellow one he just dropped. "They will round this mark, then usually head to another mark in front of the committee boat before returning and sailing downwind. When they're sailing downwind, they'll put their spinnakers up, you know, to give them a little more lift. It gets pretty colorful."

He glances toward the water. "For now, we'll hang out for a bit. We might go watch the start, then come back to see them round the mark. I think it's fun."

Seeing that he has my attention, he explains, "There is a lot that you do not see as a spectator. There is a great deal of thought behind everything. For example, the wind shifts, and sailors have to stay alert to those changes and figure out how to use them to their advantage. You might tack in response to a shift in order to catch a more favorable wind, which helps you point higher toward the mark. The same kind of thinking

A smiling couple, a woman and a man, are clapping their hands together in a kitchen setting. The woman is wearing a light gray sweater and the man is wearing a blue denim shirt. They are both looking at each other and smiling. In the background, there are dark green kitchen cabinets with silver handles. A large white letter 'S' is overlaid on the top left of the image.

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applies when sailing downwind.”

He continues, “You are also racing against other boats, so you watch what they do and adjust accordingly. There is much more going on than what you can see from the shore. When you are just watching, it is hard to know what is really happening. It can even get intense, especially at the start, when people might be yelling at each other. But in the end, we are all friends, so it does not really matter.”

The walkie-talkie crackles to life: “Hey, Mark Two, we may have to adjust the windward markers. Wind’s shifting a bit. I’m watching it.”

After more indiscernible bursts of static, Mr. May says, “Sarah Elizabeth, I’m going to have to pull this into the boat and drag the anchor out this way. So be careful when I pull it in. It’ll probably bump you. Watch out.”

He hauls the yellow inflated cylinder back into the boat, the anchor clanking behind it. Still listening to the walkie-talkie, he idles the boat into position and drops the yellow mark back into the water.

When he sits down, he begins to explain: “On Sundays, we do what’s called handicap racing. All the different kinds of boats have a handicap because some boats are faster than others. So even if you cross this finish line first, you might not actually win. It just means your boat is faster.”

I ponder his words as he hands me a refreshingly cold small bottle of water. Thanking him, I take a sip and then take in the view before me. The white sails of the boats remind me of butterfly wings fluttering in the breeze. I count nine sailboats: eight white, and one red. They seem to take their time getting to the designated starting point between the committee boat and the orange float.

I ask about the significance of colors. He says the colors do not signify anything. “It doesn’t really matter what the colors are. They can all be the same color. We just happen to have different ones. Here’s the starting line, right there by the committee boat. When the sequence begins, they have to be behind the starting line when the final horn sounds and the flag drops. We’ll watch them start. They usually try to get as close to the line as possible. Then they sail down to the mark we dropped and come back, rounding that orange mark.”

As we watch the sailboats make their way, I glance around, noticing how close the sky and clouds seem. The bright blue interior of the boat reminds me of Key West and the paint I bought for my father as a Father’s Day gift. Since today is Father’s Day, I had already given it to him last week. I could not decide between the shades called “Atmospheric” and “Porch Ceiling,” both versions of haint blue commonly seen on porch ceilings in Key West, known for their natural bug-repelling qualities.

My thoughts of Key West and paint fade with the sudden excitement of waves as a speedboat cuts across the path of the racing sailboats. I turn to Mr. May and ask whether there are rules about staying outside the racing perimeter.

He agrees. “When you’re not going very fast and these big waves hit, they knock the wind out of your sails, which makes



it harder.” He then points to a boat ahead. “That one is a Thistle. The two sailors are brothers, and their father was one of the founding members of the club. They are both very good sailors, so they will probably win. You will see how far ahead they get. The Thistle is a fast boat, so they have to give time to everyone else based on the handicap. Still, they usually win.”

He gestures toward the boats farther back. “Some of them are so far behind that it will take a while for them to catch up. You have to round the marks to port, like that. Soon they will get on the layline, tack, round the mark, raise their spinnakers, and head straight for that orange buoy before coming back. It is going to be a long race.”

The walkie-talkie crackles something that sounds like “massive wind shift.”

Mr. May continues as if he hasn’t been interrupted. “See, this Thistle is already coming down to round for the second time, and this boat right here hasn’t even rounded the first time. Every boat is timed, and we record their finish time. Then there’s a formula used to calculate their overall performance. Now, this Thistle is so far ahead that they’re going to win. There’s no doubt. Look how far ahead they are.”

He gestures toward another boat. “But that little Sunfish that rounded last was actually doing pretty well. They were close enough, and that’s a slow boat. With the handicap factored in, they may end up beating a few others.”

He watches the race unfold. “This is a really good rounding. I might not put up the spinnaker because the wind shifted. Actually, yes, they are putting it up.”

He nods toward another boat. “That one that was last. I

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think they decided not to race. They're just sailing along. Hey, Michael, are you racing?"

The man shakes his head and replies that he is only sailing around.

Another boat, a smaller one with a black fish emblem on its white sail, draws closer. I read the word Sunfish on the watercraft. Mr. May calls out to the man handling the Sunfish. "Charlie, are you doing another race?" Charlie responds that he does not mind finishing in whatever place he lands.

The walkie-talkies begin their garbled chatter, and Mr. May asks if I am willing to stay for another race. I nod, and he smiles before speaking into the device. I lean back in my seat, enjoying the warmth of the sun. Applying two coats of SPF 50 lotion before making the drive was a wise decision. Still, someone on another boat calls out, joking that I have already gotten too much sun. I shake my head in denial and press the skin on my shoulder to check for any signs.

Mr. May steers the boat back to the starting line to watch the sequence begin. When it starts, he says, "What they are doing is going down and back, then finishing at that mark. After that, we'll pick up the mark, and the race will be over. You've hung in there real well."

I smile and lean back in my seat to watch the third and final race of the day. There is something calming about the way the white sails glide gracefully across the water. I have to set aside my workaholic tendencies and allow myself to simply relax, even while observing the behind-the-scenes setup of a sailing race. Mr. May is right; there is a connection between

my experience running races and what I am seeing here. Every moment in sailing matters, and it requires managing both internal focus and external conditions. I get the sense that sailing demands as much mental effort as physical, especially when accounting for elements like wind, sunlight, and shifting conditions.

"That's a wrap. Pull in the mark." The radio crackles. Mr. May steers the boat toward the yellow cylindrical float and tugs it in the float before asking me to hand him the orange Home Depot bucket. I watch as the heavy metal chains, rope, two weighted discs, and an anvil fill the bucket. The final clack of the anvil feels symbolic, marking the end of my day watching the races.

Once we return to the dock and park the boat, I thank Mr. May for hosting me throughout the experience before walking over to where Darrell is finishing up docking the committee boat. I slip slightly on the wet boards of the dock in my Sperrys, saying "Whoa!" as I catch myself before falling face-first. Darrell asks if I'm okay, and I wave off his concern. I then ask about his involvement with BSC. He says he has been a member since 2006. Over our last few meetings, Darrell shared stories from his Navy days, but it isn't until this moment, when he reminds me, that I make the connection between how he still stays closely tied to the water and ships through the Birmingham Sailing Club. He has been sailing since he was in the Navy in the 1980s.

After saying goodbye, I make my way back to my vehicle when I see the owner of the Sunfish. He asks if I enjoyed the



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race. I tell him it was my first time out here to watch a sail race.

He points to the Sunfish and says, "It's my first time on that little boat, and it was good. Sometimes there was no wind, sometimes there was wind. That's hard."

"I don't know anything about sailing, and I'm learning a lot today." I ask him how anyone can tell where the wind is coming from.

"As long as you are not pointing directly into the wind, you will be fine. Right now, it is coming from this direction, which makes things tricky. You have to sense it more than see it. If you aim straight into the wind, you will stall out. You need to angle slightly off course. The first part of the course is upwind, so you are moving against the wind, and the second part is downwind, which means it is at your back. When the wind is light, it becomes much harder to tell which direction it is coming from."

Absorbing what he describes, I ask more questions as we walk up the hill toward the clubhouse, accepting his invitation since I have never been there before. He shares that he has been sailing since he was little and sails more often on the ocean and on a catamaran. He talks about his new experience with the Sunfish and how he can still apply familiar sailing concepts while handling the small boat. Then he extends his hand and introduces himself, "I'm Charlie."

"I'm Sarah Elizabeth." I smile at him.



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MEET ME BY THE LAKE

Tripp
Robinson

Written and photographed by
BUDDY ROBERTS

It's hard for Tripp Robinson to decide whether his favorite vehicle is an automobile or sailboat, but he'd probably give the edge to his 1991 Toyota Sera.

"We found it on Craigslist," the recent high school graduate said while munching on a turkey sandwich at the Birmingham Sailing Club after a morning spent sailing a Laser on Logan Martin Lake. "It's got butterfly doors, stick shift, and it's right-hand drive, because it was manufactured in Japan. It's safe, and it gets

great gas mileage – 41 miles per gallon. I owe everything to that car."

Hyperbolic as the statement may be, it's easy to understand why Tripp feels that way about the vehicle once he's told its story, which he did after discussing his beginnings as a sailor, why he loves the sport and the local sailing club, and why he's soon leaving the lake to study in Kansas.

His beginnings as a sailor: "I went to sailing camp at the Mobile Yacht Club, when we lived down there, and that's where I fell in love with the sport. It's fun being crew on the big 50-foot sailboats out in the bay, but I also learned to sail smaller one-person and two-person boats there."

About sailing: "It requires a lot of patience. It's a very, very technical, very difficult sport. It's hard on your body, it's hard on your mind, and it requires a lot of discipline. You're not going to get it the first time. But once you get it down, it almost becomes second thought. Then you move on to the next thing that makes you go just a little faster. Once you know what you're doing it becomes a lot more enjoyable, but there's always something to learn. There's always something new. They're always coming out with new parts and new techniques. There's always something new, and you can never know it all. I learn something every time I'm in the boat. And even if you're not learning



“Restoring classic cars is currently on the rise in popularity, and McPherson offers a four-year degree where they teach you everything there is to know about restoring a classic car.”

-- Tripp Robinson

about the boats themselves, you get to see the best and the worst in people, so you really learn about life.”

Is Logan Martin Lake a good body of water for sailing? “Yes and no. I’ll start with the no. It’s not the best place for winds. They like to shift, and it really keeps you on your toes. But that contributes to the yes. Because of the wind shifts, it really teaches you to pay attention to the water. You learn the hard way. Sailing here has given me the upper hand in some regattas where we ran into wacky weather patterns. I was already familiar with what to do when we ran into it. See, in the bay, the wind is one direction pretty much all the time. But here, it can change with a moment’s notice. I have been able to apply what I have learned here to other places where they have shiftier weather, and it has given me an upper hand.”

How fast can a Laser sail? “On a good day? Probably 15 knots, which is about 17 miles an hour, but most days it’s usually 8 to 10 knots. I like heavy wind. It’s my strong suit, because I grew up learning to sail in Mobile Bay, where the winds are much stronger than they are here. Fifteen, 16 knots is more typical in the bay, and I’ve done 20 knots before in a larger boat than a Laser. It doesn’t sound like a lot, but it’s pretty fast when you’re in the boat.”

The most challenging aspect of sailing: “Keeping it cool. I know that sounds kind of counterintuitive, but things can go wrong very fast. They can. The water is always moving, you’re always moving, and the wind is always changing. In a race, you can be first place and then immediately go to last place. You just gotta roll with it and remember that we’re all out here to have fun.”

The most enjoyable aspect of sailing: “I like the family dynamic that we have here at the club. You can need something, and you’ll have 10 people lined up to help you. If someone is in trouble out on the water, you stop and check on them. After the races, it’s all smiles, high-fives, ‘good job.’ Because it’s a smaller club, everyone knows everyone. This is my family.”

How he describes himself: “That’s a hard question to answer, because I don’t want to sound arrogant and corny, but I try to be a loving, caring person. I try and make sure everybody’s okay. I have three younger siblings, so I guess that just kind of comes with the territory.”

The story of his Toyota Sera: “We bought it from a guy in Vermont, and we were gonna fly up, meet him in New York, and drive it back home. So we flew up there and got halfway back home – to Virginia – when we blew a head gasket. I had to fly home, and we towed the car back, where it sat in my driveway for about three months. Then we put it on a trailer and drove it to my uncle’s house, where I worked on it every Monday after school, from 3 to 8, for two and a half years. A lot of great memories, and if that car hadn’t broken down, I wouldn’t be going to college where I will be.”

McPherson College: The 2025 graduate of Mountain Brook High School is weeks away from starting classes there to pursue a degree in automotive restoration. “Restoring classic cars is currently on the rise in popularity, and McPherson offers a four-year degree where they teach you everything there is to know about restoring a classic car. There are classes just for engines, just for paint, just for upholstery, transmissions, even business classes to where you can learn how to open your own shop after you get your degree, if that’s what you want to do. It’s the best in the country for what it does. In the auto industry, an automotive restoration degree

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000301001r1

from McPherson College is the equivalent of graduating from Harvard.”

So what's the connection between the Sera breaking down and getting accepted at McPherson? “They only accept 50 students a year. You have to send in a portfolio showing work you’ve done restoring cars. So my car breaking down was kind of a blessing in disguise. It was almost totaled, and I redid it all – the engines, the pistons, everything. And I’m glad I decided to take pictures of everything, because by the time I was finished, I had the portfolio that got me into McPherson. I would not be in that college if my car hadn’t broken down.”

How he hopes to use his degree: “I would like to either open my own garage or manage a collection. Either would be a dream come true.”



CALENDAR OF Events



JULY 5

ANNUAL FIREWORKS SHOW

Rivers Edge Marina (79 Rabbit Branch Circle, Cropwell) hosts this pyrotechnic display from 6:30-9 p.m. Live music will be provided by The Tyler Nichols Band, Burgers & Breakfast will be open until 8:15, and the Tiki Hut will be open until 8:45. Chinito's Food Truck will be on site, Logan Martin Outfitters will have a booth, and Southern Snow Shaved Ice will be returning. Shuttle services will be provided as in the past.



JULY 10

YARBROUGH REPTILE SHOW

The beloved educational program begins at 2 p.m. at the Odenville Civic Center (183 Alabama Street). Snacks will be available at the Odenville Library (200 Alabama Street) following the show.



JULY 18-19

BULLS ON THE LAKE RODEO

This family-favorite event returns to the Pell City Sports Complex, where gates open at 5 p.m. both nights. Tickets are \$15 for Friday's events (professional junior rodeo and mutton bustin') and \$20 for Saturday's (professional bull and bronc riding). Children ages five and younger are admitted free both nights. Food and clothing vendors and children's activities will be available.

For more information, visit the rodeo's Facebook page.



JULY 19

WATERMELON FESTIVAL

Howard Family Farm hosts this event at 3706 Moody Parkway at 9 a.m. A watermelon seed spitting contest, arts and crafts vendors, food trucks, and an ice cream eating contest are on the festival's agenda. *Visit the event's Facebook page for more details.*



JULY 25-26

L INCOLN PRO RODEO

Hosted by Southern Rodeo Company and Lincoln Parks and Recreation, this two-day event will be held at Lincoln's Landing. Tickets are available at www.rodeoticket.com. Bareback riding, calf roping, saddle-bronc riding, steer wrestling, team roping, barrel racing, and bull riding will be featured.



JULY 26

M AD HATTER'S TEA PARTY

The Butler-Harris Rainwater House (1001 1st St SW, Childersburg) hosts this event from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Children may participate in several stations, including hair salon, coloring, crochet, seek and find, and photography. Alice, the Mad Hatter, and the Queen of Hearts will be on hand. Tea and snacks will be provided, as well as a photo booth. Tickets are \$10 each (cash or credit only), on sale at the Childersburg Recreation Department from noon- 4 p.m. on Fridays only until July 18.



AUGUST 9

C HANGES IN LATITUDES, CHANGES IN ATTITUDES

The Black Jacket Symphony presents this tribute to Jimmy Buffett at 7:30 p.m. at Pell City's Center for Education and Performing Arts. The performance includes a recreation of "Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes," Buffett's seventh studio album, which includes his signature tune, "Margaritaville."

For ticket information, visit www.pellcitycepa.com/tickets

AUGUST 10

L OW COUNTRY SHRIMP BOIL

This 12th annual event benefits Talladega's Historic Ritz Theatre. The International Sports Hall of Fame hosts it, beginning at 5 p.m. Dress is summer

casual. A \$100 ticket donation admits two, and tickets include all-you-can-eat fresh Gulf shrimp, summer buffet, homemade desserts, and two complimentary adult beverages. Non-alcoholic and non-seafood options are available. Only 300 tickets are available.

To purchase tickets, call 256-315-0000





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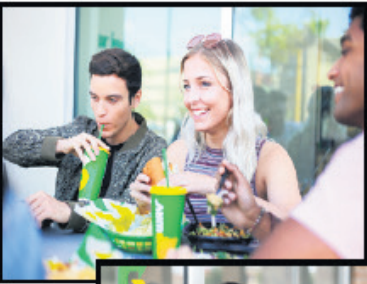
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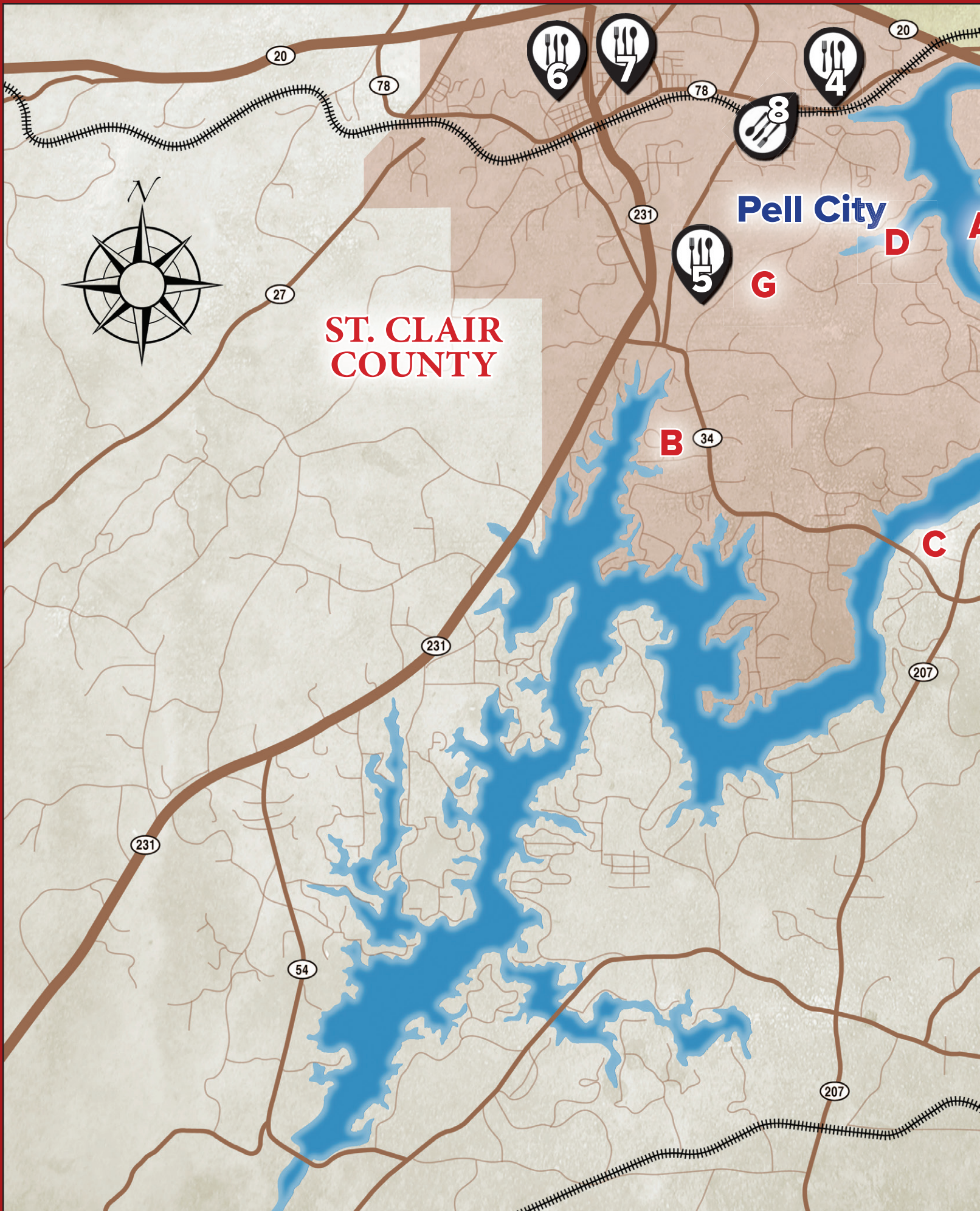
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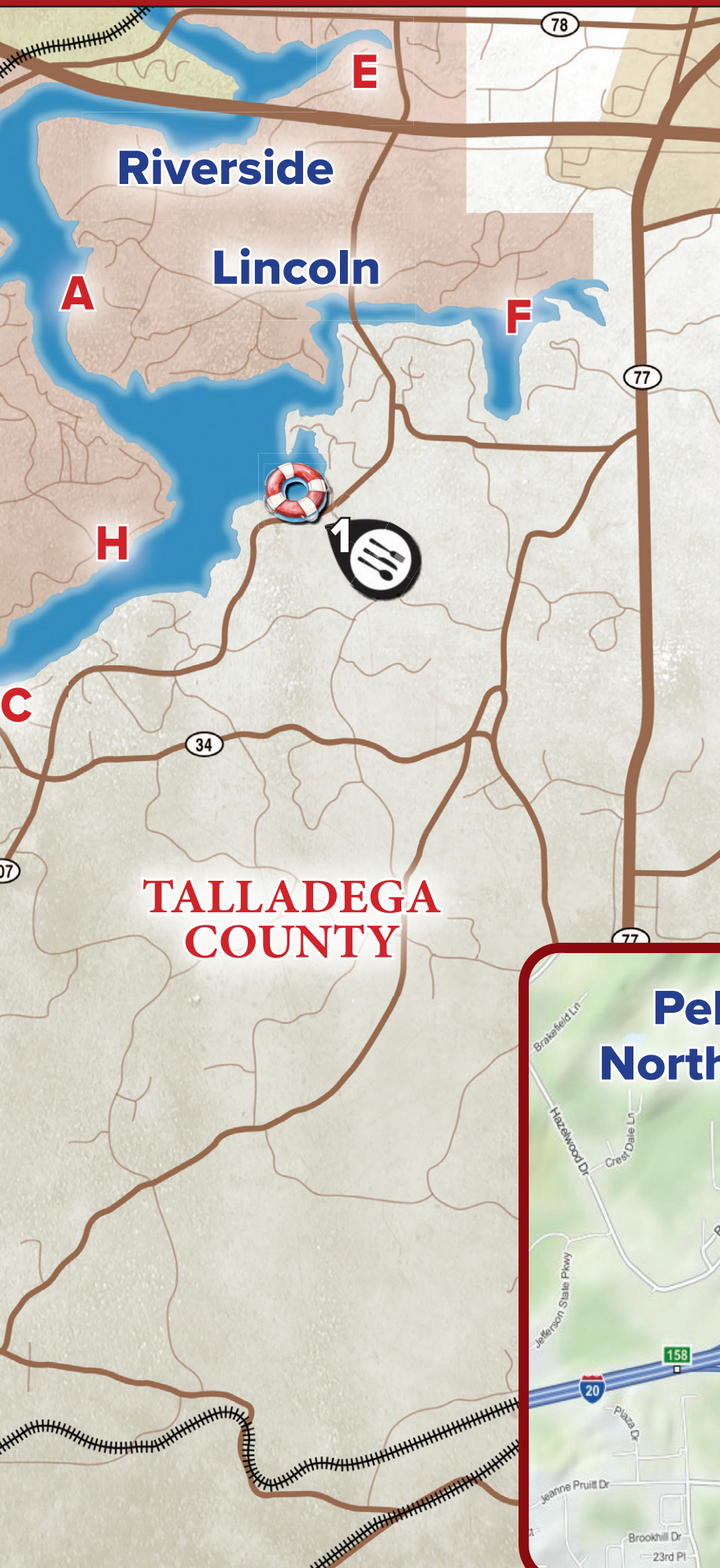
Pell City

B

C

D

G



A Lakeside Living guide to **LOGAN MARTIN**

- 1 – Poor House Branch Marina**
- 2 – Aztecas Mexican**
- 3 – Jade East**
- 4 – Triple G's**
- 5 – Jimmy's Country Store**
- 6 – Maya's Mexican**
- 7 – Pell City Steak House**
- 8 – Oishi Asian Restaurant**

A – Logan Martin Dam

B – Lakeside Park

C – Stemley Bridge

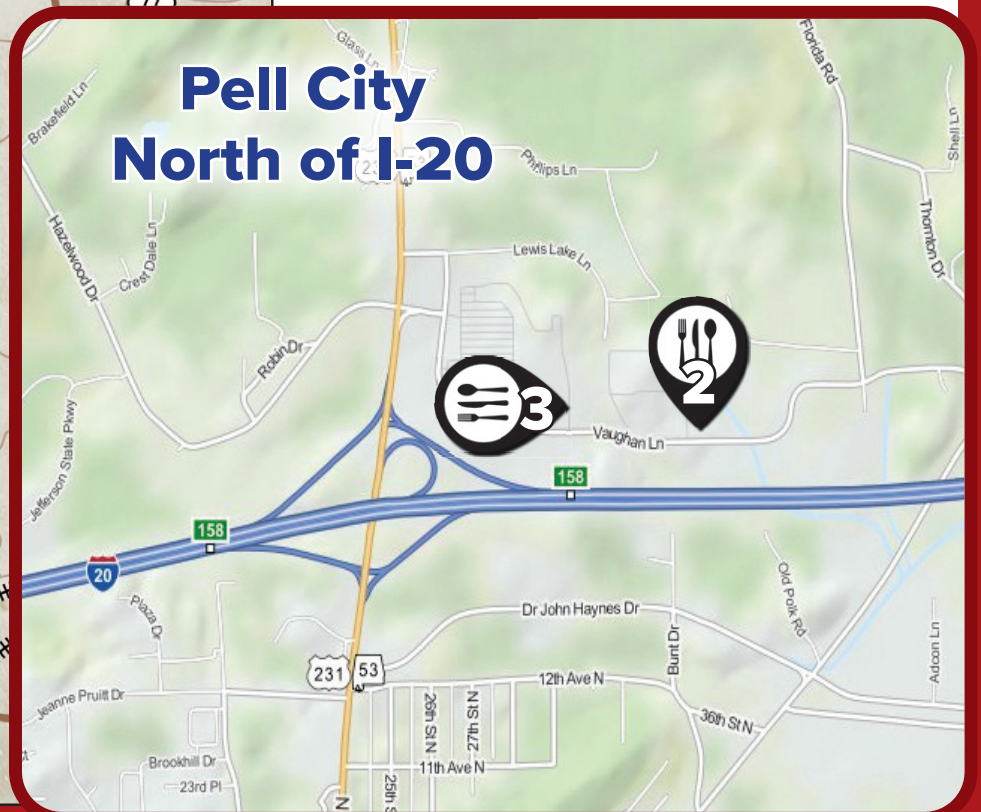
D – St. Clair Airport

E – Mays Bend

F – Choccolocco Creek

G – Dye Creek

H – Blue Eye Creek





Property on Pell City shoreline offers a host of amenities for enjoying the lakeside lifestyle

Written by **VALLEAN JACKSON**
Photographed by **TUCKER WEBB**

Potential buyers in search of a secluded, luxurious home on Logan Martin Lake that is ideal for a new or growing family should check out 705 Lakeview Crest



508 Martin Street South
Pell City, AL 35128
205-884-2300

Drive in Pell City.

The modern, all-brick single-family home sits on an acre and a half and was built in 2017. It has four bedrooms, four bathrooms, an office, a second kitchen, elevator, and a safe room within its 4,480-square-foot interior.

The living room area is spacious, has an open floor plan, and is perfect for entertaining. The space has wood flooring throughout, a tray ceiling, a beautifully crafted light fixture, some recessed lighting, large bay windows, granite-trimmed gas fireplace, and built-in shelving and cabinetry.

The main kitchen features hardwood flooring, a high tray ceiling with recessed lights and a large

window. The color palette is white, with stainless steel appliances. There is ample cabinet space, a marble backsplash, a farm-style sink, a large L-shaped island at its center, and an adjacent breakfast nook. The laundry room has an electric washer and dryer hook-up with a full wash sink and storage cabinets.

A distinguished feature about the home is the den that also has an open floor plan. It has a ceiling fan, a second fireplace, large bay windows, and double-door access to the open deck. There is also a bonus room that could serve as a game room or movie room.

The exterior features a long curved driveway, an attached two-car garage, a detached two-car garage, a golf cart



705 CREEKVIEW CREST

path to the shoreline, a covered patio, a second uncovered patio, fire pit, and a double boat slip with a slide.

The property lists at \$1,400,000. To schedule a viewing

or for more information, call Brenda Fields of Fields Gossett Realty at 205-812-4141.



'THE AMERICAN DREAM IS STILL A REALITY,'

AREA REALTOR SAYS

Written by **VALLEAN JACKSON**

Submitted photos

Paula Krafft is the epitome of what it means to be a Realtor.

She is driven by passion, has market insight, and is heavily involved in the community. She's a native of the area who is committed to making sure her clients have the best experience possible, no matter if they are buying or selling.

"I started working at Moody Realty in 1999 as an office manager," Krafft recalls. "My boss was in home-building, doing neighborhoods, and all that kind of stuff, and I just fell in love with the industry. I've seen a lot of sides of real estate, and that's what prompted me to get my license. I saw the difference a home can make, and I wanted to be a part of making that happen for people."

Krafft is a Realtor with Moody Realty who now has 19 years of experience, and she believes that everybody deserves the chance to achieve the American Dream. She further believes that the reality of the American dream – "the big house with the white picket fence" – is still possible because people still dream.

"The reality of finding what fits them has just changed a little," she explains. "It stands true even with higher interest rates that a mortgage is cheaper than renting. If you are a homeowner, you are building equity for the lifetime of the loan, whereas renting is more of a loss than a gain. Becoming a homeowner is a huge

decision in someone's life, just as it is to get married or to have children. It's how you go about such a large purchase that strongly impacts one's life."

When asked to identify her greatest strength as a Realtor, she says that she's "a people person. I can work with anybody, and I have done it long enough now that I have helped multiple generations of the same families find homes."

Krafft adds that when it comes to buying a home, it's not wise to wait for the perfect time. "There's no such thing. Some people tend to make their decision to buy or wait based on current interest rates and waiting for them to come down, but the rates are always going to fluctuate. Everybody has gotten spoiled by the super-low interest rates. I don't think those low rates are going to happen again. Real estate is one of those industries that one day is not the same as the next, because there are a lot of factors that contribute to those changes. There's not a perfect time. Get started when you're ready."

Hopeful buyers may be discouraged if they are denied for approval, but according to Krafft, a denial is not the end of the dream. She advises those who receive a denial to "hang in there, because there are lenders in place who will



disclose what you need to do to get your credit straightened out or if something needs to be corrected. My motto is, 'What a difference a day makes.' If a lender asks for paperwork or a certain item, get it to them as quickly as possible. Every delay of getting the lender the information they are requesting makes a huge difference in the amount of time it takes to get through the lending process. Do what's needed and stay on course."

Kraft resides in Moody. She is married and has three children, and six grandchildren. When she's not working, she enjoys doing upcycling art, such as mixed media, crafting, and decorative bottles.

A BIT MORE ABOUT PAULA

Favorite Snack:

Any Kind Of Chocolate,
Especially Dark Chocolate

Favorite Beverage:

Sweet Tea

Favorite Sports Team:

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2025 Goal:

To Motivate More People To
Become Homeowners





LOCAL REALTORS' ASSOCIATION

RECOGNIZES MEMBERS AT RECENT LUNCHEON

The St. Clair Association of Realtors held its 2025 Fair Housing and Recognition Luncheon at the Lakeview Venue in Riverside.

Catering was provided by Bowling's Barbecue Catering. Katrina Hennings, the association's 2025 president, gave the welcome, and board member Paula Krafft offered the prayer.

After the meal, Katrina discussed the importance of following fair housing laws. Board members Laurie Brasher performed two songs, God Bless America and This Land is Your

Land, a song, she said she learned through researching its history, has stood over the years for fairness in real estate. The luncheon concluded with the recognition of its members' years of service. Caran Wilbanks has the highest this year, with 35 years in real estate through 2024.

The association's two ARPAC major investors, Becky Bowman and Sharon Thomas, received awards for their ARPAC investment of \$1000 each. Sydney Howard was named Rookie of the Year, and Morgan Munn was named Rising Star.

Caran Wilbanks was recognized

for serving as the association's 2024 president, and Dana Ellison received the Realtors for Communities award. Blair & Parsons was recognized as 2024 Partner of the Year, and Wes Harrell was presented with a silver bowl from Alabama Association of Realtors for being selected as St. Clair's 2024 Realtor of the Year.

Lyman Lovejoy, who has worked more than half a century in real estate, served as past state real estate commissioner, and been a local voice for real estate, was honored with the association's 2025 Hall of Fame Award.



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MLS 21417363



**1331 Funderburg Bend Rd,
Pell City, \$384,000**

This spacious 4-bedroom, 3-bathroom home sits on a serene 1.1-acre lot, with a mini lake lot on the main channel. The heart of the home is the expansive great room with a cozy fireplace, perfect for family gatherings. A dining area provides ample space for entertaining. Large kitchen with solid oak cabinets and island, the screened porch offers a peaceful retreat to enjoy the outdoors. The property includes a finished basement for additional living space and an unfinished basement with endless possibilities. Outside, you'll find a convenient outbuilding for storage or hobbies and a double garage. This home blends comfort, functionality, and natural beauty, creating a perfect place to live and relax.
MLS 21414103



**0 River Bend Cir. Lot 24
Talladega, \$18,000**

Build your dream home on this .63-acre wooded lot in the desirable Country Club Estates subdivision. Enjoy stunning lake views and a peaceful natural setting with access to premium community amenities, including a pool, tennis courts, clubhouse, and private boat launch. Perfect for those seeking both relaxation and recreation, this property offers the ideal blend of nature and convenience. Don't miss this opportunity to own a piece of paradise!
MLS 21413196



**22 Eagle Pointe Lane 22
Pell City, \$163,500**

Lake lot on Logan Martin Lake main channel 1.25 acres with 125 ft of waterfront. Enjoy a forever view and deep, year-round water perfect for your private dock. Concrete seawall. Neighborhood amenities include a pool, tennis court, and boat launch. Ideal for your dream lake home!
MLS 21417238



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Cropwell, \$15,000**

**13 Hickory Lane,
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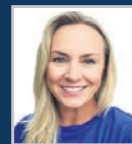
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WATERFRONT



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MLS# 21411612
\$385,000

WATERFRONT



15 Malibu Ln, Lincoln
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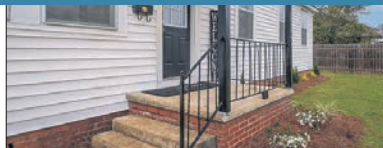
4807 Whiskers Trl., Pell City
MLS# 21411810
\$424,900

LAKE VIEWS



2703 Abbott Dr., Pell City
MLS# 21419382
\$584,900

RENOVATED HOME



125 W Roberts Ave., Talladega
MLS# 21413505
\$175,500

ESTATE LOT W/ VIEW



4947 Hwy 231 #2, Vincent
MLS #21413976
\$350,000

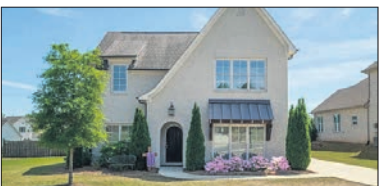


4947 Hwy 231, Vincent
+/- 100 Acres MLS #21414705
\$1,250,000

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY



0 Vaughn Ln, Pell City
MLS# 21373880
\$2,000,000



6037 Clubhouse Dr., Trussville
MLS# 21415751
\$599,900



862 Funderburg Bend Road
Pell City
MLS# 21408320
\$674,800

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65 Riverview Ln., Talladega

\$639,000

Discover one-level living at its finest in this beautiful 2021 built lakefront home on Logan Martin Lake. Featuring 3 spacious bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, this charming property offers year-round water with two piers and incredible views!



150 Two Eagles Ln, Odenville/Springville

\$1,250,000

Come and see this stunning and spacious home situated on a private lake and offering over 6,000 square feet of living space nestled on more than 17 unrestricted acres, complete with a serene private lake. This exceptional property features 5+ bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms, and multiple family rooms. So much more to show you, so make an appointment today!



WATERFRONT



0 Ranch Marina Rd., Pell City

\$225,000

WATERFRONT lot with an incredible view. This slightly sloping lot to the water is perfect for building that beautiful lake home.

SOLD



1550 Baxter Ave, Springville

\$349,000

This newly built home offers 4 bedrooms and 2.5 baths with an abundance of upscale features. The chef-inspired kitchen, complete with a spacious island, corner pantry, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, and coffee bar opens directly onto a large covered patio-perfect for entertaining. Main BR downstairs with 3 spacious BRs upstairs. Best value in the neighborhood!



UNDER CONTRACT



398 Andrew Ln., Odenville

\$227,000

Move-In Ready! This newly built 2023 THREE bedroom and TWO bathroom home is located in a cul-de-sac of the newly developed part of Brookhaven subdivision in the Margaret/Odenville area. Just a 25 min drive to Bham! Home Warranty still applies! Seller Assist in Buyer's Closing Costs.



5024 Collins Dr, Pell City

\$624,999

This NEW CONSTRUCTION 4 BR and 3.5 BA home has an abundance of upgrades! The oversized lot sits majestically in the beautiful subdivision of The Reserve with boat launch and common area. The outdoor patio comes complete with a stacked stone fireplace and sitting area perfect for enjoying family and friends.



0 Hwy 33, Pelham

\$480,000

5.2 Acres

B-2 Zoning, (Bakery, Stores, Bank, Motel/Hotel, Restaurants, Motor Vehicle Repair and Much More)



Broken Arrow Creek Rd., Riverside

\$179,000

3 acres of UNRESTRICTED land located in the Riverside community and within the Pell City School System. That's not all! There is also a 2 bedroom and 2 bathroom mobile home AND...255 feet of waterfront from the Coosa River under \$200,000! Deep water-year around for you and your family to enjoy from your shoreline or by boat.

REDUCED



503 Markeeta Rd., Leeds

\$308,000

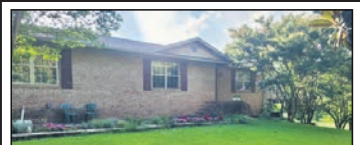
Need a place of worship, school, or wedding venue? This beautiful church building has been well taken care of and includes all of the furnishings such as pews, tables, chairs, and audio and visual equipment. It also has a newly renovated fellowship hall and sits on 3.8 acres in just a few minutes from I 20.



1182 Windsor Parkway, Moody

\$259,000

Welcome to one of the friendliest communities around-Moody! This beautiful brick-front home features 3 spacious bedrooms and 2 full bathrooms, making it perfect for families or anyone seeking comfort and convenience. There is a fenced in backyard and back patio and just minutes to I20.



530 Magnolia St. S., Lincoln

\$529,000

Investment Opportunity! Right in the heart of Lincoln-just behind Jack's-sits this spacious 4-bedroom (or flex-room) home with 2 bathrooms and over 2,500 square feet of living space. Zoned Residential on Light Business



BUYING OR SELLING? CALL LAURIE!



XN5P92

LAKE VIEW!  260 Shoreline Vw, Talladega, AL 35160 MLS# 21413208 \$559,900 LAKE ACCESS	LAKE LISTING GREAT NEW PRICE  3516 Griffitt Bend Rd Talladega, AL 35160 MLS# 21417012 \$579,900	UNDER CONTRACT  645 Starlite Dr Odenville, AL 35120 MLS# 21419442 \$239,900
GREAT NEW PRICE  2120 Deborah Ln Oxford, AL 36203 MLS# 21416664 \$219,900	LAKE LISTING NEW LISTING LAKE LISTING NEW LISTING  880 Old Highway 231, Cropwell, AL 35054 MLS# 21420977 \$875,000	NEW LISTING LAKE LISTING  332 Driftwood Point Rd, Pell City, AL 35128 MLS# 21419872 \$899,900
SOLD  481 N Lakeshore Dr Talladega, AL 35160 MLS# 21416475 \$579,900		
LAKE VIEW!  475 River Forest Ln. Ste 3220, Talladega, AL 35160 MLS# 21409957 \$254,900 LAKE ACCESS	LAKE VIEW! GREAT NEW PRICE  475 River Forest Ln. Ste 4150 Talladega, AL 35160 MLS# 21406266 \$279,900 LAKE ACCESS	LAKE LISTING GREAT NEW PRICE  417 W Sunset Dr. Talladega, AL 35160 MLS #21418122 \$374,900
UNDER CONTRACT  335 Killough Ln Talladega, AL 35160 MLS# 21417210 \$949,900		
GREAT LOCATION!  100 Holiday Estates Dr., Cropwell, AL 35054 MLS# 21413063 \$279,900	LAKE VIEW!  126 Harbor Pointe Dr Talladega, AL 35160 MLS# 21419874 \$389,000 LAKE ACCESS	LAKE VIEW!  134 Harbor Pointe Dr Talladega, AL 35160 MLS# 21419876 \$339,000 LAKE ACCESS
LAKE VIEW!  475 River Forest Ln Ste 4140 Talladega, AL 35160 MLS# 21417721 \$244,900 LAKE ACCESS		



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LAKE ACCESS
LOGAN MARTIN

**Autumn Ln,
 Pell City
 Lot 13**

\$27,900

LOGAN MARTIN
PRIVATE ISLAND

**2929 Hamilton Rd.
 Pell City
 5 BR, 4.5 BA**

\$1,600,000

WATER ACCESS
LOGAN MARTIN

**70 Aqua Dr,
 Lincoln
 3 BR, 3 BA**

\$105,000

INVESTMENT

**103 & 105 Wildwood Trail,
 Leeds
 3 BR, 2 BA**

\$168,900

LOGAN MARTIN

**140 S Lake shore Dr.,
 Talladega
 3 BR, 2 BA**

\$600,000

WATER ACCESS
LOGAN MARTIN

**26 Waters Edge,
 Pell City
 Land/Lot**

\$35,000

**9 acres on Black Acres Rd.
 Lots 12-20**

\$130,000

LOGAN MARTIN

**74345 AL HWY 77
 Lincoln
 2 BR, 1 BA**

\$99,900

**204 Wolf Creek RD N,
 Pell City
 3 BR, 2 BA**

\$315,000

**29 Cooley Lane
 Talladega
 3 BR, 2 BA**

\$190,000

LOGAN MARTIN

**109 Harmons Island Rd,
 Cropwell
 5 BR, 3 BA**

\$864,900

NEELY HENRY
UNDER CONTRACT



**179 Lakeridge Dr,
 Ashville**
 3BR, 2BA
\$739,500

LOGAN MARTIN



5102 Masters Rd, Pell City
 4BR, 4BA
\$1,300,000

ACREAGE



**30 Pinewell Dr,
 Cropwell**
 5 BR, 3.5 BA
\$825,000

NEW CONSTRUCTION



**545 Depot Street
 Riverside**
 3 BR, 2 BA
\$223,500

LOGAN MARTIN
TINY HOME



3 Summit Ln, Lincoln
 1 BR 1 BA
\$115,000



**Lot 26 and 27 Black Acres,
 Lincoln**
 Lot/Land
\$25,000
\$35,000

WATER ACCESS



**495 Willow Dr.,
 Lincoln**
 3 BD, 2 BA
\$260,000

WATER ACCESS
LOGAN MARTIN



**60 Aqua Dr,
 Lincoln**
 3BR, 2BA
\$105,000



687 Flag Circle, Hoover
 4BR, 4BA
\$429,000

3 ACRES
COMMERCIAL



AL Hwy 21 Acreage
\$140,000

MULTI FAMILY



**7th Avenue N,
 Pell City**
 Land/Lot
\$149,900

UNDER CONTRACT



**250 Schall Drive
 Ragland**
 3 BR, 2 BA
\$200,000

LOGAN MARTIN

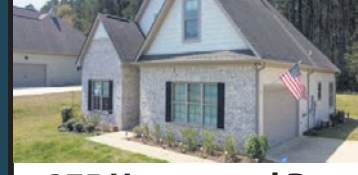


52 Sunset Cir., Lincoln
 3 BR, 3 BA
\$530,800



**60 Sumter Way,
 Pell City**
 4 BD, 4 BA
\$385,900

COMMUNITY POOL



**375 Homestead Dr.,
 Cropwell**
 4 BD, 3 BA
\$410,000



*Kim
Cheatwood*



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**324 Jennifer Rd
Munford, AL 36268**

3 BR, 2 BA MLS# 21415073

\$165,000

**LAKE LIVING!
WATER VIEW**



**23 Lonesome Pine Trl
Riverside, AL 35135**

4 BR, 2 BA MLS# 21415072

\$180,000

LAKE FRONT!



**605 Paradise Isle,
Riverside, AL 36268**

2 BR, 2 BA

\$255,000



**669 Antler Way
Lincoln, AL 35096**

3 BR, 4 BA MLS# 21420014

\$232,000



**7 Lots Woodhaven
Subdivision**

\$26,000 Each



**0 Stemley Bridge Rd #1
Talladega, AL 35160**

4.4 Acres MLS# 1348628

\$159,000



**234 Henderson Lane
Talladega, AL 35160**

5 BR, 6 BA MLS# 21394714

\$999,000

WATERFRONT



**620 River Oaks Dr
Cropwell, AL 35135**

4 BR, 2 BA MLS# 21412665

\$1,295,000



**70 Camelot Ln.
Talladega, AL 35160**

3 BR, 4 BA MLS# 21412401

\$749,900

**WATERFRONT
SOLD!**



**10 Lonesome Pine Trl
Riverside, AL 35135**

3 BR, 2 BA MLS# 21415073

\$165,000

LAKE FRONT!



**504 Coosa Island Rd
Cropwell, AL 35054**

4 BR, 2 BA MLS# 21396564

\$500,000



**1000 Beaver Ridge Cir
Ashville, AL 35953**

4 BR, 3 BA MLS# 21415724

\$779,900

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Brenda Fields



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Tony Gossett



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\$425,000 - 8704 Emerald Lake Dr. W - UNIQUE Design and PRIVATE setting for this 1.5 story 3 bedroom, 3 bath stone and frame home that features lot of hardwood floors, with living room with fireplace, dining room, updated kitchen off keeping room, bedroom and bath all on main level with upstairs featuring large master bedroom with den adjoining with another brick fireplace and nice screened porch for viewing some wildlife, bedroom and full bath and 2-car garage located in basement. Directly across the street is your private dock/bathhouse for enjoyment and convenience. **MLS #21418081 Call Brenda 205/802-4141 or Blair 205/802-5377**



\$725,000 - 14 Seddon Point - GREAT FAMILY LAKE HOME with approx. 3600 sq. ft. on LOGAN MARTIN LAKE. 14 Seddon Point - The home features 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths with family room with fireplace, dining room, keeping room with fireplace, office and extra large den, The full basement provides great storage and potential for a media room. This home is located to approx. 2.8 ACRES with 273 Ft. of waterfront with gentle sloping lot with natural areas, making for a peaceful and serene setting! **MLS # 21396433 Call Karen 205/473-4613**



\$1,250,000 - 2600 Abbott Drive - STUNNING LAKEFRONT PROPERTY that boasts approx. 700 feet of waterfront and great views with this home that is truly an entertainer's dream. The home features 6 bedrooms, 3 full and 2 half baths, greatroom with fireplace, dining room, sunroom and kitchen with updated cabinets, countertops, island and more. Gentle sloping lot with covered dock with boatlift, inground pool with perimeter fencing and 2-car garage. A slice of paradise on Logan Martin Lake! **MLS #21410223 Call Karen 205/473-4613**



\$1,550,000 - 210 Roberts Circle - EXCEPTIONAL LAKE FRONT RETREAT with this 2-story 4 bedroom, 3 bath home located on approx. 4.4 ACRES with STUNNING VIEWS! Home features showstopper porch with vaulted ceilings peaking at 18' exposed beams, pine ceilings and rock floor that grounds the space, sunroom with 5' wide fireplace, two story boat house with two boat slips with lifts, detached 3-bay garage, concrete floors, rear access with pad for equipment, 2 acres of pasture surrounded by mature hardwoods and pine trees, NATURAL beauty and age of this land! **MLS #21424813 Call Mike 205/527-4217**



\$624,900 - 260 Riverview Dr. - NICE 1.5 story 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath home with open concept. Family with large stacked stone fireplace with adjoining kitchen, ample cabinets and eat-in breakfast area overlooking the lake. Master bedroom and master bath located on main level with (2) additional bedrooms and bath upstairs. Enjoy the screened porch as well as the open deck for lakeside viewing. Downstairs has large den that is presently used as bedroom with bathroom, bonus room that could also be used for bedroom, 2-car garage and nice fenced in backyard with private dock. **MLS #21394568 Call Brenda 205/802-4141**



\$450,000 - 1409 23rd st. - UNIQUE PROPERTY IN THE CITY LIMITS FEATURES A HOUSE ON APPROX 2.8 ACRES and another parcel with approx. 7.5 ACRES, not included in the subdivision. Property includes a large barn/storage building, pole barn, great garden spot and fenced pasture. Space to build more! **MLS #21417765 Call Karen 205/473-4613**



\$1,450,000 - 705 Lakeview Crest Dr. - LUXURY LAKE LIVING with this 4 bedroom 4 bath brick and stacked stone home with stunning appearance as you drive onto the property, and great water views. The home features great room with 14 coffered ceiling and gas fireplace. Beautiful Dream Kitchen has vaulted ceiling and decorative beams, large island and ample cabinets. The basement features den with fireplace and second kitchen plus bonus area. This quality home is handicap accessible with elevator, double boat slip, year round water and 4-car garage which includes a separate detached garage, and a concrete golf cart path to the lake and boat house. This is one to see! **MLS #21407865 Call Karen 205/473-4613**



\$725,000 - 881 Ridgeway Circle - PICTURESQUE SHORES OF LOGAN MARTIN LAKE with this 4 bedroom, 4 bath home located on year round waterfront lot with breathtaking sunset views! The home features great room with cozy fireplace, update kitchen with spacious island and new appliances, large sunroom with bamboo flooring and a walk out basement with den with fireplace and a bonus of a safe room, boat house, large dock, and great amenities of community pool, clubhouse and boat launch. **MLS # 21413620 Call Karen 205/473-4613**



\$725,000 - 70 Whispering Oaks - QUALITY-BUILT brick and stone 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath home that features living room, dining room den with fireplace, plus 2nd kitchen, bonus room and play/recre room. Home has hardwood floors, granite countertops, recessed lighting and oak cabinetry, with (4) car garages, two on main level and two in the basement. The property is gentle slope to the lake with boat launch, dock, decking is composite decking board and lighted, landscaped yard. **MLS #21390838 Call Tina 205/337-8509**



\$524,900 - 4954 Autumn Ridge Trail - NEW CONSTRUCTION located with LAKE ACCESS in Pell City! The all brick 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath one level home features open floor plan with high ceilings and custom beams in the great room with brick fireplace, built in bookcases on each side and coffered ceilings in the dining room and each garage. Unfinished walk out basement with full bath allows for space to grow! **Call Alesia 205/405-0860**



\$624,999 - 5024 Collins Dr, Pell City - NEW CONSTRUCTION! This custom built 4 bedroom and 2.5 bathroom home is perfect for entertaining family and friends with the open floor plan consisting of the family room with a floor to ceiling stacked stone fireplace, high ceilings which opens to an inviting chef's dream kitchen, large granite bar with seating, stainless steel appliances, an abundance of cabinets, a pot filler, and a custom built hood and just around the corner of the kitchen is a dedicated dining room. The master suite is located on the main level with tray ceilings, his and her vanities, free standing tub, tiled shower, and a large walk in closet. Upstairs is another 3 bedrooms with a full bathroom.



\$310,500 - 300 Koa Rd. - BEAUTIFUL 3 bedroom 3.5 bath home that features living room with wood burning fireplace, dining room, eat in kitchen and basement with finished room for fitness or den with large full bath. Two car garage and large storage shed located in back and convenient location to town and I-20. **MLS #21413383 Call Carey 205/473-4613**



\$639,500 - 65 River View Ln. - MAIN CHANNEL ON LOGAN MARTIN LAKE with this 3 bedroom 2 bath one level home that features open floor plan with family room, kitchen and sunroom for breathtaking views and endless opportunities for relaxation/recreation. Also offers two piers, private boat launch and boat storage, 2-car garage. **MLS #21413914 Call Laurie 205/365-3639**



\$1,100,000 - 595 Dabbs Lane - HIDDEN GEM ON LOGAN MARTIN LAKE with this 3bedroom, 3 bath home that features family room with stone/brick fireplace 1000 sq.ft. Of wrap around porches, 575 sq. ft. Garage/workshop, located on approx. 5.6 ACRES, over 3000 ft. of Waterfront, detached C/RV spot used for RENTALS INCOME, additional amenities include bathhouse, shower house, boat launch, large pavilion with enclosed kitchen. Potential of income producing property, family compound or great place to live.. **MLS #21406672 Call Karen 205/473-4614**



\$369,900 90 Highland View Dr. - NEW CONSTRUCTION - One level 3 bedroom, 2 bath open floor plan home that features family room that opens to kitchen with large pantry/storage, master suite with his/hers walk in closet, separate vanity and bonus room off master bath that can be private office or whatever needed. Extra room in unfinished bonus room upstairs, 2-car garage and located conveniently to I-20 and town. **MLS # 21390845 Call Brenda 205/802-4141**



\$295,000 - 47404 Highway 78. - CONVENIENTLY LOCATED to town and I-20 with this one level 3 bedroom, 3 bath home that features large family room, kitchen with ample cabinets and large breakfast area, 2-car carport attached as well as detached 1-car garage with large storage/workshop area. Nice entertaining area adjoining with covered hot tub. Property is fenced with fruit tree and gardening area. **MLS #21419006 Call Brenda 205/802-4141 Cell**



\$339,900 - 1281 Rabbit Branch Rd. - RECENTLY COMPLETED NEW 3 bedroom, 2 bath home just across the street from Logan Martin Lake. The home features living room with gas fireplace, master bedroom and bath located rear of the house, open floor plan with floating island, upstairs has finished bonus room above the 2-car garage. Store your boat at the nearby marina and enjoy lake living without the lake price! ADD Under Contract. **MLS#21416409 Call Jeff 205/369-5830**

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Karen Bain
205-473-4613

Adam Bain
205-369-2704



karenbainfgre@gmail.com

LoganMartinLakeTeam.com



705 LAKEVIEW CREST DR, PELL CITY, AL 35128

MLS# 21407665

\$1,400,000



595 DABBS LANE, LINCOLN,

AL 35096

MLS# 21406672

\$1,100,000



14 SEDDON POINT

MLS# 21396433

\$725,000



881 RIDGEWAY CIRCLE,
TALLADEGA, AL 35160

MLS# 21413620

\$699,900



**1 1/2
LOTS**

0 BIG MITTEN LN,
LINCOLN, AL 35096

\$299,000

MLS#21397289

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6187 RAINBOW ROW
MLS# 21417539
\$369,900



2265 LOWER LAKE DR
ODENVILLE
MLS# 21418910
\$299,900



1409 23RD ST MLS# 21417765
\$450,000

THIS UNIQUE PROPERTY IN THE CITY LIMITS. A house on 2.8 acres and another parcel with 7.5 acres that are metes and bounds. (Not included in the subdivision). The property includes a large barn/storage building, pole barn, great garden spot, fenced pasture, storm shelter, and space to build more.

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TracyS@eraking.com

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Morgan Munn
Realtor




morganm@eraking.com

Mobile: 256.223.0838
Office: 256.763.1333



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morganmunnrealestate.com

0003154351





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Adam Bain
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Sharon Thomas

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