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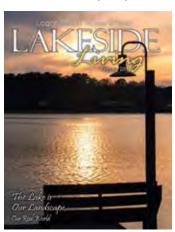


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Reduce your flood insurance premium Lakeside insurance agent says it's worth considering... By Buddy Roberts

Out fishing with Scott Canterbury Local pro angler ready for 2016 tournaments... By Buddy Roberts



On the cover: A portrait of Logan Martin in the golden February sun. Photo by Tucker Webb.

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Logan Martin Homes Edition

Living

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Lakeside Editor **Buddy Roberts**

Art Direction Jennifer Mashburn

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CALENDAR KEY Fishing Condition: This is the overall rating for the whole day, based upon our formula: Best Good Fair Poor Best Time: This column lists the best time of the day when, according to our formula, fish will be biting: MORNING; EVENING.

Ethical and Safe Fishing

Angling ethics develop with time, experience and interaction with others. The following code is offered by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources as a guideline to increase awareness and encourage discussion.

An Ethical Angler:

- Understands fishing and boating regulations.
- Cares about aquatic and marine habitats.
- Keeps only fish they will eat, and properly releases the rest.
- Is respectful of others anglers and non-anglers alike.
- Leaves no trash, even if left by others.
- Shares expertise with less experienced anglers.
- · Cooperates with authorities.
- Fishes and boats safely.
- Preserves the sportfishing tradition.

Ethics and safety go hand-in-hand. Following are some suggestions for safe fishing.

- In selecting a waterfront site, be sure that the area is free from underwater hazards, clean and, if necessary, large enough to accommodate everyone in your group.
- Inspect waterfronts constantly. The natural environment is subject to change without notice.
- · Handle fish carefully.
- Use safety glasses at all times when casting.
- Establish and enforce firm rules for behavior around hooks.
- Stay dry, warm, and protected from the elements. Wear a waterproof sunscreen with an SPF (sun protection factor) of at least 15. Wear thin layers of clothing, and progress outward to include water and wind protection as the final layer.

Source: Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources



February 2016			
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Feb 01, 2016		GOOD	Morning
Feb 02, 2016		POOR	Morning
Feb 03, 2016		POOR	Morning
Feb 04, 2016		FAIR	Morning
Feb 05, 2016		FAIR	Morning
Feb 06, 2016		POOR	Morning
Feb 07, 2016		FAIR	Morning
Feb 08, 2016		FAIR	Evening
Feb 09, 2016		GOOD	Evening
Feb 10, 2016		GOOD	Evening
Feb 11, 2016		POOR	Evening
Feb 12, 2016		POOR	Evening
Feb 13, 2016		FAIR	Evening
Feb 14, 2016		FAIR	Evening
Feb 15, 2016		POOR	Morning
Feb 16, 2016		POOR	Morning
Feb 17, 2016		BEST	Morning
Feb 18, 2016		BEST	Morning
Feb 19, 2016		FAIR	Morning
Feb 20, 2016		FAIR	Morning
Feb 21, 2016		FAIR	Morning
Feb 22, 2016		GOOD	Evening
Feb 23, 2016		GOOD	Evening
Feb 24, 2016		FAIR	Evening
Feb 25, 2016		FAIR	Evening
Feb 26, 2016		POOR	Evening
Feb 27, 2016		GOOD	Evening
Feb 28, 2016		GOOD	Evening
Feb 29, 2016		POOR	

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



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Late December's heavy rains and the subsequent flooding inconvenienced many a Logan Martin dweller and caused more than an inconvenience for others.

It also disrupted the normal routines of some of the wildlife that lives in and around the water, giving Carl Wallace opportunity to photograph a "rare winter sighting of the rare Loganus Martinus anacondus" as a scaly reptile swam by his property. When he humorously shared his photo of the snake in the All Things Logan Martin Lake Facebook group, it reminded me of an interview I once did with singer Paula Reid, during which she seemed completely oblivious that she made one of the most remarkable statements I'd ever heard.

"Did you just say you regurgitated a snake?" I asked.

"Yeah."

"I'll probably regret saying this, but I would like to hear that story."

"Well," Paula said, "let me start by saying that if I walked up on a snake right now, I'd leap back like any good Southern woman should, start looking for something to chop it up with, and study it when it's in pieces." Indeed, the bespectacled mezzo soprano hardly looks like someone who would even touch a reptile, let alone force one to cough up its most recent meal.

"But you signed up for a herpetology class in high school, right?"

Paula nodded. "Why I thought it was a good idea, I don't know." Her herpetology class at the Alabama School of Mathematics and Science in Mobile was taught by Dr. Terry Schwaner, a leading expert about the highly-venomous Australian tiger snake, which, Paula assured me with a laugh, was not the variety she handled.

"It was nonpoisonous, but other than that, I don't remember what kind it was. Dr. Schwaner took the class to Dauphin Island, and there we were, up to our knees in water and poking around in the brush to look for snakes. A smart thing to do with a bunch of teenagers."

Before long, Paula found herself with a 16-inch-long, slimedrenched serpent in her hands. "It had this bump in its belly, and Dr. Schwaner said, 'Let's see what it ate,' and told me to make it regurgitate."

"And you do that by ...?"

"Smushing up its belly until whatever it ate comes back up."

FROM THE EDITOR

The soprano and the serpent

"So in this case ...?"

"A frog's foot came sticking out."

"Lovely."

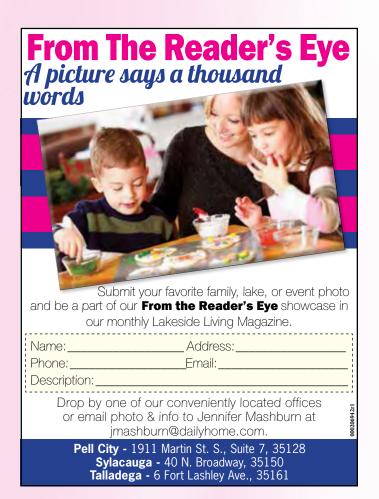
"Tell me about it. The snake was fighting to get it back down as I was trying to get it out of him. To this day, I can still see that slimy webbed foot sticking out of its mouth."

"So you identified what it had eaten. What did you do next?"

"Smushed it back down so the snake could finish digesting it," Paula said.

While I would never be that curious about a snake's eating habits, you might be curious to know some other things. Such as how high the lake actually rose during the recent heavy rains, how to know whether you need to buy flood insurance, how — according to professional angler Scott Canterbury — something like a flood affects fishing on the lake, why it's good to be alert for deer on the move around Logan Martin and what inspires the work of lakeside artist Briana Burgess. We have all of that and more for you in this issue.

And should anyone discover what the *Loganus Martinus* anacondus likes to eat for breakfast, I'd be curious to know. Just not enough to find out for myself.







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Late December rains create problems for lake dwellers

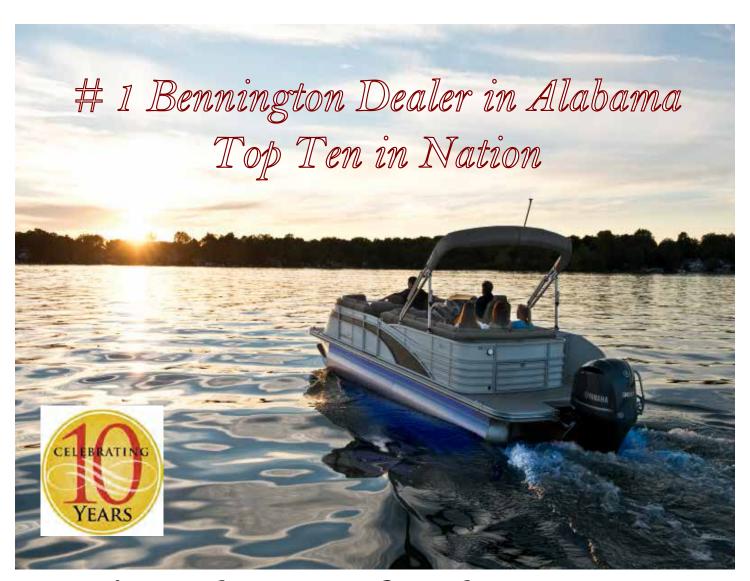
Story by BUDDY ROBERTS Photos by TUCKER WEBB

Kevin Simpson knew heavy rains were expected during the holiday weekend, but he took it as a good sign when the lake level at his family's Cropwell home was still at normal winter pool on Friday, Dec. 25.

"We had gone about our planned Christmas activity

that day," he said. The Simpsons were in Lincoln as it grew later in the day and decided to drive home ahead of the worst of the anticipated weather.

"If we'd left even 30 minutes later than we did, we probably would have had some trouble getting home.



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Heavy rainfall caused water to rise into the sports complex area at Lakeside Park in Pell City.

Some roads were already beginning to flood, but when we got home, our water was still at winter pool. I thought that was a good sign."

The next morning, Simpson described the lake level as having risen to summer pool, and it got higher and higher as the rain continued. "I'd say it finally crested at about six or seven feet into our yard. It came over our seawall and even the tops of some wooden benches we have there. Luckily, we're up on a hill, so it never got close to the house."

Simpson's experience was similar to those of many other lakeside residents that weekend who found their piers, docks and yards completely or partially covered with water and littered with debris. Flash flood warnings were issued for St. Clair and Talladega counties, and streets in the cities of Lincoln and Talladega were closed by emergency officials during the weekend as more than seven inches of rain deluged the area.



Spillways at the Logan Martin Dam on the Coosa River were opened on Dec. 25, but the water level still rose to 468.8 feet, almost nine feet above full winter pool of 460, according to Alabama Power's official measurements. Flood pool is 467 feet.

"Logan Martin is a reservoir built with a large easement designed to store water coming from Weiss, Neely Henry and any water in the watershed that eventually makes its way to Logan Martin," said Jacki Thacker Lowry, a spokesperson for Alabama Power. "This water is stored for hydroelectric power and ability to control water to the Lower Coosa. It worked as planned during these rains."

Still, it was a situation Simpson said he's not likely to soon forget. "I grew up in Pell City and have been on the lake for 30 years, and it's one of the highest levels I've ever seen it get to. I know some places got hit pretty hard, but it was great to see the outpouring of support, particularly on Facebook. We've never had such access to social media before during flooding like this. I guess it's a sign of the times."

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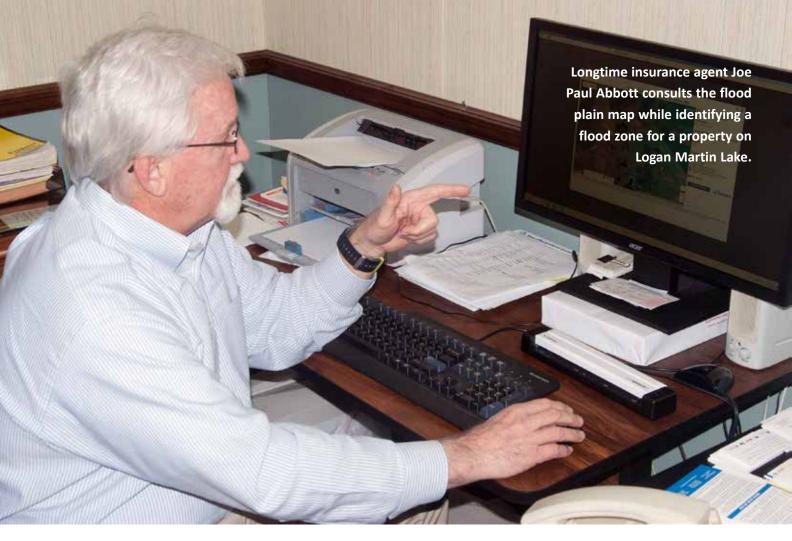
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Can you reduce your flood insurance premium?

Lakeside insurance agent says it's worth considering

Story and phohots by BUDDY ROBERTS

When heavy rain resulted in rising water levels and flooded roads in late December, it may have prompted some residents of lakeside communities to wonder if they need flood insurance coverage for their homes, or if there is anything they can do to reduce their current premiums.

According to Logan Martin resident and experienced insurance agent Joe Paul Abbott of Union State Insurance in Pell City, the answers to such concerns are it depends, and most likely.

"If you don't have a loan on your home, you don't

have to get it," Abbott said, adding that homes in highrisk flood areas with mortgages from federally-regulated and insured lenders are required to be covered by flood insurance. "Will the premiums be as high as you think? They might be. Is there something you can do to reduce your premium? Eighty percent of the time, there is."

Flood coverage, which typically is not covered by standard homeowners policies, is regulated by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Rates

are set nationally and depend on such factors as the age of a home, type of construction and level of risk, determined by where it lies in or near a flood plain. Lenders may choose to require flood insurance even if it is not required federally.

"Many people who bought homes on the lake in the Sixties and Seventies, before it was required that anyone who gets a loan on a house in a flood zone has to have insurance, have found out they have to have it when they went back to get a line of equity on the house," Abbott said. "Or they've sold their home, and the new buyer is required to get flood coverage."

A primary concern about flood coverage is that policies are often more expensive and must be purchased in addition to homeowners insurance. Abbott recommends installing flood vents in the foundation, which he said can reduce annual premiums by hundreds and, in some cases, thousands of dollars.

"Vents can raise your rating floor to above flood level," he said. At a ratio of one square inch of vent per square foot of floor space, the openings allow water to flow in and out, "and that keeps the foundation from blowing out, in layman's terms. The footing is no longer the rating floor your premium is based on. It's then the floor above it."

Homeowners may choose to install engineered vents, which are larger and more efficient, according to Abbott. "They're worth the money."

Acknowledging that flood insurance can be a complicated subject, Abbott said he still learns something new about it "every day," even though he's specialized in it for a number of years.

"If you're not sure if you'll need it or not, call an insurance agent or a Realtor who knows the flood plain," he said. "Your lender can also tell you for sure. Will it be as bad as you think it will be? Maybe. Maybe not. You just need to ask someone who knows."



Out fishing with Scott Canterbury

Local pro angler ready for 2016 tournament trail



Story by BUDDY ROBERTS Photos contributed

Scott Canterbury's recorded voice greeted a caller to his cell phone voicemail.

"I'm either getting ready to go fishing, or I'm out fishing," it said.

It was the latter, as he told the caller himself when they spoke later. Canterbury was in a boat somewhere on the more than 22,000 acres of Lake Tohopekaliga in central Florida, practicing for the start of Fishing League Worldwide (FLW)'s tournament season.

"It's in the forties here in the mornings, sixties during the day," he said. "I'm just not wearing shorts and t-shirts like you usually do when you're in Florida."

The professional angler acknowledged that the weather there may be somewhat better than it's been around Logan Martin Lake in recent weeks, such as in late December when heavy rain caused lake levels to rise. Docks, piers and shorelines were flooded, but according to Canterbury, the weather event actually improved fishing conditions.

"Those first three or four days, it was probably the best fishing there's been on Logan Martin in a couple of years," he said. "There was so much fresh water coming into the lake that it got up over sea walls and

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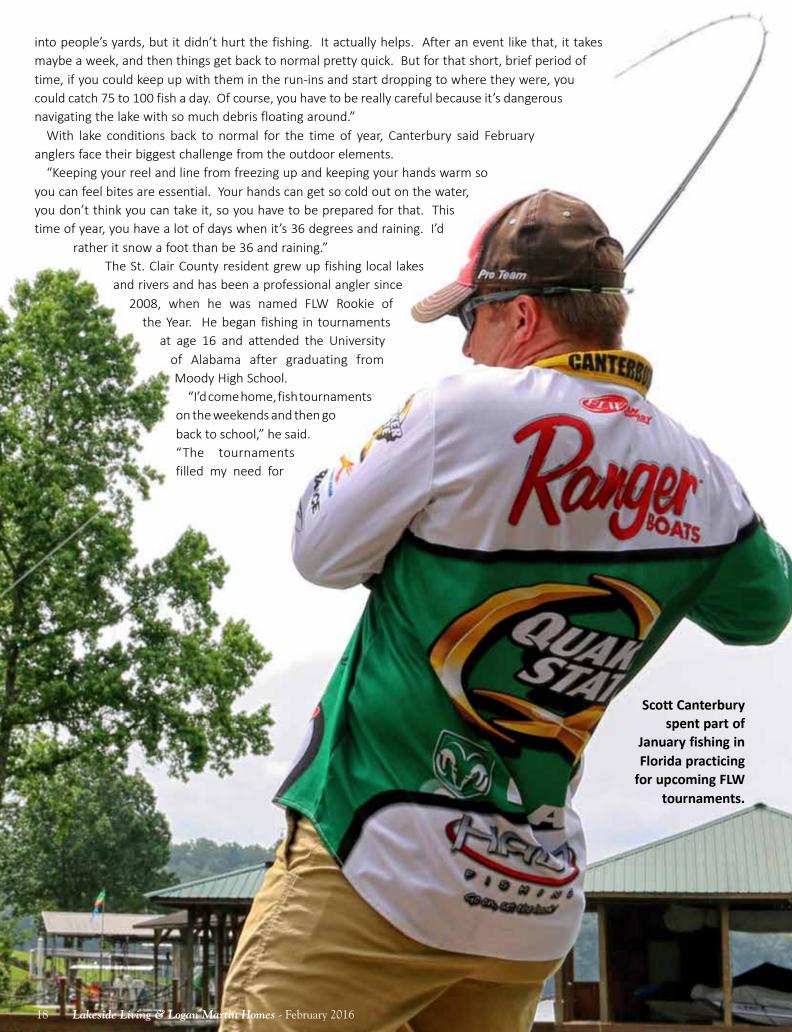
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A past FLW Rookie of the Year, Canterbury remains a top angler on the FLW tournament trail.

competition. I grew up playing baseball and football, whatever sports were offered, so I had a competitive edge and loved the outdoors, and fishing gave me a way to compete at something past high school. I'd always dreamed of being a professional. It took a lot of hard work, but I did get there. It took a lot of daylight-to-dark days of practicing. That's what most of it is to get to the professional level, time on the water. I also give a lot of it to God-given talent, but you've still got to put in the time out there on the water."

It's a dream shared by many amateur anglers, but Canterbury said the reality of professional fishing can be different from how it's perceived.

"People think it's all silk sheets and fluffy pillows. But you're on the road 20 weeks per year, and when you're working a tournament and it's snowing or pouring down rain with the wind blowing 30 miles an hour, you're out there in it. You don't have the option of saying, 'I don't think I'll go out today.' It's not always fun. I do love what I do, but it's not all leisurely days out on the lake."

Canterbury has his favorite lakes on the professional trail, but "some of the best tournaments I've ever fished have been on lakes I'd never been on before. I've had several top 10s on my

first trip to a lake. When you're at a new lake, you fish more on instinct than from memory. Like when I'm on Logan Martin. I usually fish by memory because I've been there so many times. You're inclined to go back to the same spots you've fished before, but that doesn't always work out. Just because you had a big catch in a spot doesn't mean you'll be able to do it again. Conditions change, and the fish change. They're not always going to stay in the same areas. And if you have a secret spot you go to in a tournament, you can be sure it won't be a secret for long."

On Lake Tohopekaliga, he entertained hopes for a better showing this season than the two runner-up finishes he's had there in the past. During one tournament there, he finished second by eight ounces, and he was one ounce short of winning the FLW championship on the lake in 2014.

"That ounce cost me \$440,000," he said. "Fishing is just like another sport, though. Sometimes things happen, and you come up short. Football players make fumbles, and NASCAR drivers blow tires and engines. In our case, we can't always make the fish bite, even if you're sitting on the biggest school of fish in the whole lake. But we're going to see if we can improve by one place at Lake Toho. That'll be all I need."

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Logan Martin inspires a Synthesis of Seasons

Artist Briana Burgess debuts her series of paintings

Story and photos by BUDDY ROBERTS

Briana Burgess still remembers her earliest artistic endeavor.

"I was probably six years old, in the first grade, and the teacher asked us to paint a picture in which everything had to be blue," she said, taking in the afternoon sun on the deck of her family's lake house. "I painted a great white shark underneath the ocean, and I added a little red because it was eating a little fish. My teacher was so upset with me because I'd added the red when I wasn't

supposed to. Apparently I had my own artistic vision even at an early age."

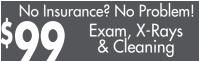
Almost two decades past elementary school, Burgess is ready to share her vision, starting with Synthesis of Seasons, a recently-completed four-painting series in mixed media inspired by Logan Martin Lake.

"I love Logan Martin, and my art is super-lake inspired," she said. "It's my little happy place. Every time I come to our lake house I want to write and paint and create."



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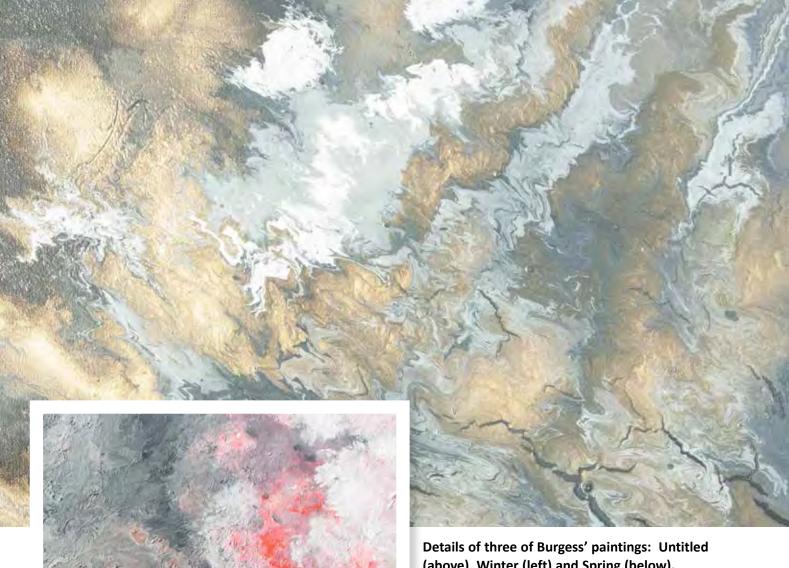
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(above), Winter (left) and Spring (below).

Burgess followed the example of her older brother -Los Angeles-based artist Jason Burgess – by studying art as a youth but eventually pursued other interests. This year, approaching the end of her twenties, she decided to seriously return to it.

"It's time," she said. "At this stage in my life, I want to pursue the things that are important to me. And if I'm not painting and creating, I'm miserable. This is something I need to do."

Besides Logan Martin, Burgess draws inspiration from the work of French Impressionist Claude Monet. "That may sound cheesy, but I really don't care. I loved Impressionism growing up, and Monet was my favorite artist. When I see his colors, it makes me happy. That feeling you get when you look at one of his paintings that's what I want to emulate."

Synthesis of Seasons is a study in colors and feelings,



often reflective of the artist's frame of mind. "I almost always have music going when I'm painting. When I was working on Summer, I was listening to Bob Marley and Southern rap. With Spring, it was more chill – Vivaldi and

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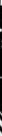




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Fall (left).

Mozart. I had an episode of Making a Murderer on while I was painting Winter. I got really frustrated about the story, and I think a lot of it came out in the painting. But it worked because winter can be a bleak and frustrating season. Fall is a much calmer, warmer painting, like this fall was for us.

"I want people who see my paintings to connect with them and vibe on the feelings that went into them. I don't

want you to see one certain thing, like a horse or a tree, that you're going to get tired of looking at eventually. I want you to see the colors that can make you feel different emotions at different times. I'm not snobby or pretentious about my work. I just want to make something beautiful that makes someone happy."

For more information about Burgess' art, email brianaburgessdesigns@outlook.com.



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'It has meant everything in the world to our family'

Fulmers give 1970s-era lake house a full facelift

Story by BUDDY ROBERTS Photos by BOB CRISP

Melvin and Ann Fulmer stood in the living room of their Funderburg Cove lake house, looking out past their second-floor deck and two-slip boat dock at Logan Martin on a grey late January afternoon.

"We think it looks better here in the summer," Melvin said, although the Birmingham residents agreed that their weekend home looks better now than it did for several years.

Recently-completed renovations added more than 1,000 square feet to the house, and reclaimed decades-old

doors, flooring, wood and brick have given it an almost completely new appearance.

"It's been a fun project for several years," Melvin said. "We're glad to be using it again, and a lot of people have been out here this summer."

The Fulmers bought their lake lot in the late 1960s, when there was only one other house on the slough. Their house was built in the early 1970s, at an original size of 1,300 square feet.

"In that 1,300 square feet, we had three bedrooms, two



bathrooms, a bunk room, a den and a kitchen," Ann said. "It was small, but for us, being at the house was more about spending time outside than it was hanging out inside."

The Fulmers still retain happy memories of time spent with their children at the lake house and in Pell City. "We'd stop and get an ice cream cone at Jill's every Sunday on our way back to Birmingham," Ann recalled. "We were so pleased when Kentucky Fried Chicken opened so we could stop there for dinner on our way back home, and we ate breakfast every Saturday morning at Rita's Kitchen."

As the years passed, they stopped using the house as frequently, although Melvin kept a garden spot on the property. "When we'd share some of the vegetables, I'd tell people, 'These are the most expensive green beans you'll ever eat,' because Melvin would drive out to Pell City just to take care of them."

Being used less, the house fell into a measure of disrepair, with birds, bees and squirrels finding their way inside.

"There was western cedar siding then," Ann said, "and the Alabama state bird (the yellowhammer) loves to drill holes in



Melvin and Ann Fulmer's St. Clair County lake house contains many family heirlooms, such as Ann's grandfather's table in their dining room. "I thought it was so big when I was a little girl," she said. "I couldn't believe how tiny it was when we restored it and brought it here."



February 2016 - Lakeside Living & Logan Martin Homes



The Fulmers extended their main floor to include a living and loft area off the kitchen. After renovations, their lake house is now at about 2,500 square feet.

it. We would cover it with sheet metal, but that didn't stop them. Someone told us if you hang up plastic owls, it will keep them way, so we tried that. It looked like a voodoo house. But we'd come back and find the birds swinging on the owls as they were drilling into the wood."

Eventually, a dinner conversation with their daughter and son-in-law, Cherry and Brad Brascho, led to a plan to renovate the property. "Brad started working on some sketches, and over the next year, we worked out a full design," Melvin said.

For Brascho, a local developer and nationally-recognized water skier, helping the Fulmers restore and improve the home felt a bit like coming full circle, as he remembers seeing the house when he was a teenager.

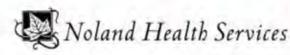
"I grew up in Pell City," he said, "and Bobby Watson was my best friend. We'd come skiing by the Fulmers' pier, and there would be this loud girl sitting out on it, yelling at us to spray her, which we always would." The girl was their daughter Cherry, now married to Brascho. "Any time I'm at the house now, I'm happy, especially when I see how much they enjoy being here."

Ann said she especially enjoys that the house has given her and Melvin more opportunity to spend time with their six grandchildren, Marlee, Max, Merritt, Alli, Brooke and Matt. "I love sitting up here on the deck and watching them ski and wakeboard. This place has meant everything in the world to our family. We can pick the grandchildren up, come here, ski for a couple of hours, make a hamburger and go back home. It's so convenient."

The deck may be Ann's favorite spot, but Melvin has trouble identifying his. "I did so many things in there – I refer to them as focal points – I can't even begin to think of all of them," he said. "It's hard to choose just one."

The Fulmers plan to add a garage to the house and convert a portion of their downstairs patio into a screened porch, but mostly they're enjoying the opportunity to enjoy their











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Visitors to the Fulmers' home are welcomed into the living room, where the floors, mantel, doors, loft and overhead beams were all constructed during reclaimed materials. By the front door is another family heirloom table now serving as a bar.

retirement years – Melvin from the transportation industry and Ann from Jefferson State Community College – at their familiar old lake home that looks new again.

"We had a ball here in the old place, and I hope we will have as much fun with it now," Ann said.

"So far we have," Melvin said.

"That's right," Ann agreed. "And it's more about the people who come here than it is the house itself. That's what's really fun."





The downstairs guest room.



A downstairs bedroom and bathroom, separated by a sliding wooden door.



The den as it looks out onto Logan Martin Lake.

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Be alert for deer encounters near the lake



Story by BUDDY ROBERTS

Archery and rifle seasons may have closed, and breeding season may be coming to an end, but white-tailed deer are still on the move around the lake, prompting state wildlife officials to remind property owners, hikers and motorists to be cautious when encountering them.

The deer are frequently sighted around the lake, from Pine Harbor to Country Club Estates to the Logan Martin Dam, according to such residents as Carol Burnham, Mandy Stone and Steve Daigle, who often see them on and near their property.

Hunting season ended Jan. 31, and while breeding season begins in late November in some areas of the state, it peaks in mid-January in most areas, can continue into early February.

"We may still have bucks out chasing does," said Steven Mitchell, a wildlife biologist with the Alabama Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division. "Sometimes the rut may be over in one area and no more than 15 miles away, the bucks are still chasing does."

Research has documented that most fawns in Alabama, are born in late summer, although studies have found them to occur as early as April and as late as November.

Mitchell cautioned against approaching adult deer in the winter and fawns later in the year. "Some people will catch fawns and try to raise them, which is illegal," he said. "That goes for any wild animal in Alabama. If you see a deer and it approaches you and appears to be docile and healthy, chances are it was somebody's pet at one time. Most of the time, you'll be okay, but be wary. You never know what could happen."

> With Alabama's deer population now at more than 1.5 million and some parts of the state overpopulated, many outdoors enthusiasts may be unaware that only about 2,000 existed in the entire state at the turn of the 20th century. The Alabama Department of Conservation initiated efforts to restocking deer throughout the state including the area around what became Logan Martin Lake - during

the 1950s and 1960s.

The majority of Alabama's herd and those around Logan Martin came from deer that were trapped and relocated from southwest Alabama, and deer from such states as



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Georgia, North Carolina, Wisconsin and Ohio were also relocated to different spots in Alabama. The herds continue to exhibit rutting behavior consistent with areas they came from, Mitchell said, and as deer often are on the move

at night, motorists in rural areas such as the lake are encouraged to exercise caution when between dusk and dawn.

"When bucks are actively pursuing does in low light conditions, they can quickly appear out of nowhere," said Wildlife Chief Keith Gauldin. "And if you see one deer, there may be others following behind, so drive with caution."

He added that drivers may find the following suggestions helpful to avoid hitting deer.

- Be especially attentive from sunset to midnight and during the hours shortly before and after sunrise. These are the highest risk times for deer-vehicle collisions.
- Drive with caution when moving through deercrossing zones, in areas known to have a large deer

population and in areas where roads divide agricultural fields from forestland. Deer seldom run alone. If you see one deer, others may be nearby.

- When driving at night, use high beam headlights when there is no oncoming traffic. The high beams will better illuminate the eyes of deer on or near the roadway.
 - Slow down and blow your horn with one long blast to frighten the deer away.
 - Brake firmly when you notice a deer in or near your path, but stay in your lane.
 Many serious crashes occur when drivers swerve to avoid a deer and hit another vehicle or lose control of their cars.
 - Always wear your seat belt. Most people injured in car/ deer crashes were not wearing their seat belt.
- Do not rely on devices such as deer whistles, deer fences and reflectors to deter deer. Such devices have not been proven to reduce deer-vehicle collisions.







Mandy Stone photographed this deer as it explored her shoreline in Talladega County.

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From The Reader's Eye...

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Community Calendar

Friday, February 5 One Enchanted Evening

The second father-daughter dance begins at 6 p.m. at Walter Kennedy Elementary School. Tickets are \$25 per couple and \$10 for each additional child. The price includes DJ music, tiara, photograph and refreshments. Attire is Sunday dress. Tickets are available at Metro Bank of Pell City, Pell City Coffee Company, Lakeside Package and by calling 205-812-5187. The event is sponsored by the Pell City Rotary Club.

Saturday, February 6 Mardi Gras Gala and Art Experience

The biggest Mardi Gras event in north Alabama kicks off at 6 p.m. and continues through midnight, benefiting Talladega's historic Ritz Theatre. The Fox Sports 1 Dome at the International Motorsports Hall of Fame plays host to the event, which includes a parade, art auction and gala ball. A staple in the community, the Mardi Gras Gala is organized by volunteers and civic leaders. Tickets are \$90 for individuals, \$180 for couples and \$720 for a table of eight. For more information or to order tickets, call 256-315-0000 or visit www.ritztalladega. com or www.talladegamardigras.com.

Friday, February 12 Movies in the Park

The monthly family film series continues when the Disney favorite Beauty and the Beast begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Pell

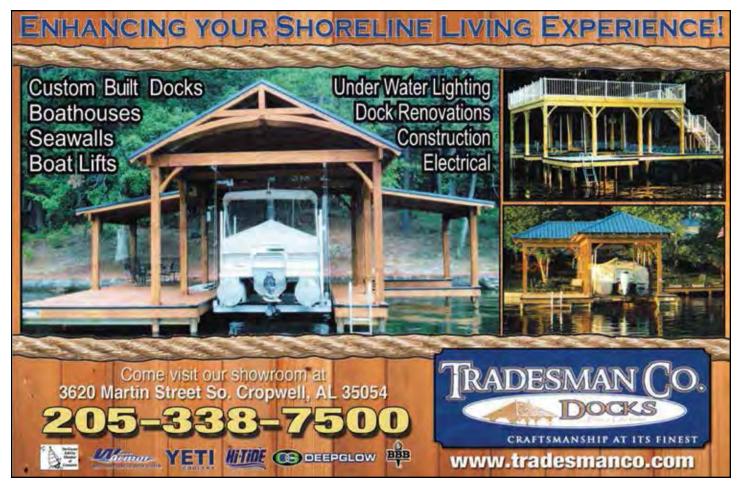
City Civic Center gymnasium. Concessions will be available. The event is sponsored by the Pell City Parks and Recreation Department. For more information, visit PCMoviesInThePark on Facebook.

Friday, February 26-Sunday, September 28 Hiram: The Story of a Young Hank Williams

The Pell City Center for Education and Performing Arts and the Pell City Players present the world premiere of an original play about the life of the famed country musician, written by Rheta Grimsley Johnson and John M. Williams. Tickets are \$22.50 for individuals and \$15 for children younger than age 12, students and seniors older than age 62. Country singer Jett Williams, daughter of Hank Williams, is scheduled to perform during the opening night show. To order tickets, call 205-338-1974 or visit www.pellcitycenter.com.

Saturday, February 27 Live at the Lyric: Don Williams

Dubbed "the Gentle Giant" in the decades he was a dominating country hit-maker because of his unique commanding presence and laid-back style that cut across national and genre boundaries, Williams brings his songs from the 1970s through the 1990s to Birmingham's newly-restored Lyric Theatre. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the show begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$67.50, \$57.50 and \$46.50. To order, visit www.lyricbham.com.



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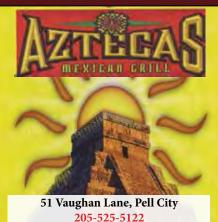
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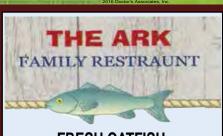
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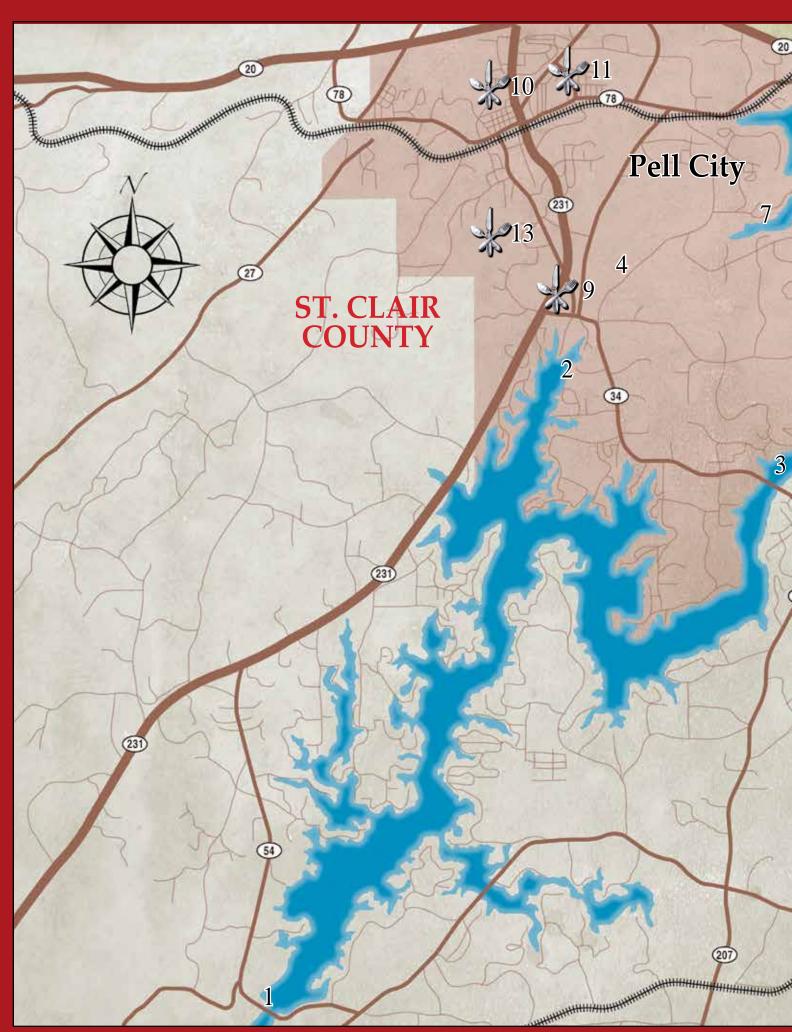
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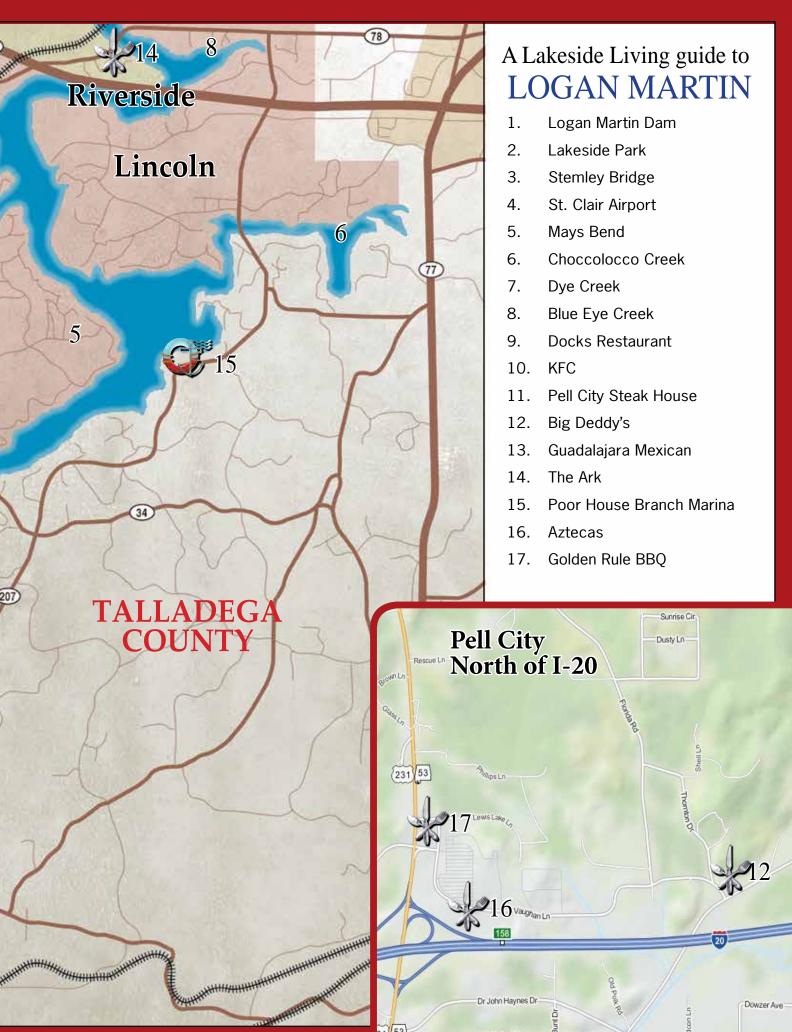


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Story and Photo
By BUDDY ROBERTS

Heather Sander

Rainy and overcast weather in recent days has Heather Sander wishing for warmer days on Logan Martin.

"My ideal day on the lake is spending it on a pontoon boat with my family," she said from under her pink umbrella as it brought a bright spot of color to an otherwise grey setting. "It would be a nice sunny day, and my kids would be playing and fishing."

Sander, who for the past two years has published the culture blog The Nerdy Fox, went on to explain why she enjoys spending time on the lake during warmer weather, why she started her blog and why it's easier to be a nerd than it used to be.

What she likes most about Logan Martin: "It's a good place for getting away from the hustle of the city and enjoying the quiet that's at the lake. Plus, being on the water and fishing is a good family activity."

Her best fishing story: "That would be the time I caught a fish with my bare hands. I was in my early teens, maybe 13 or 14, at a river in Utah, which is where I'm from. I walked out to an island in the middle of the river, saw this fish and grabbed it out of the water. I took lots of pictures of it but released it."

Her beginnings as a blogger: "I started when my daughter was born eight years ago to keep family and friends updated with her progress as she grew older, and I got hooked. It's a great creative outlet. It allows you to express yourself, tell some stories and have fun with the subject you're blogging about."

The Nerdy Fox: Its address is www.thenerdyfox.com. Sander describes it as "a hodgepodge of nerdy things" and "a blog about my life, adventures and geekery. I've always been kind of a nerd, and I grew up hanging around really nerdy friends. Most blogs, though, seem to be mom blogs or fitness blogs, not about a nerdy girl's perspective on life. I have opinions about video games and the newest superhero and science fiction movies, and I wanted to express them."

What is a nerd? "Someone who is not ashamed to like what they like, even if it's not something that's popular. I

don't know if it's cooler to be a nerd now than it used to be, but it's easier. As nerdy things are becoming more accepted in popular culture, it's definitely becoming more common for girls to embrace them. There just may not be as many who are as out there and open about it as I am. I'm a huge fan of *Star Wars* and the Tolkien universe – *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* – and I love video games. That's really how I got into nerd culture."

Her thoughts on the new entry in the Star Wars franchise: "I thoroughly enjoyed The Force Awakens. It exceeded my expectations, and I think it introduced a lot of people back to Star Wars. I don't know if it's the best, but it's definitely better than the prequels. At least Jar Jar Binks wasn't in it."

Blogging's biggest challenge: "Building an audience. It can be really slow at the beginning. You really have to self-promote your blog. It makes me feel a little conceited, but you kind of have to be that way if you want people to read your blog."

Advice for beginning bloggers: "Be authentically yourself. Don't try to copy the big bloggers. There's a million of them out there, and you'll get lost in the masses. Readers will see right through it and not have any interest in your blog if you're trying to mimic someone who's already out there.

Something an acquaintance might be surprised to know about her: "I was an art history major. That was really my first love. And growing up, I wanted to be an Egyptologist."

How she describes herself: "I'm an extreme introvert and am nervous in large crowds. I hate small talk. Real conversation is a necessity. I enjoy drinking coffee and being wrapped up in a fuzzy blanket while watching some *Star Trek* or *Doctor Who.*"

Her style: "Nerdy chic. A lot of comic t-shirts and printed leggings."

The food she could eat every day: "Pasta. Every day. Or maybe sushi. It's a toss-up."

Her favorite lake food: "Sandwiches or hot dogs, something really simple. And a nice beer would be good."

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Love this house?



Cropwell home offers spectacular views of year-round water

Story by ELSIE HODNETT Photos by BOB CRISP

If you are looking for an upscale rustic lake home on year-round water, this property at 220 River Oaks Drive in Cropwell may be for you.

The one level open-concept house sits on slightly more than three-quarters of an acre.

The great room features a massive beautiful woodburning stone fireplace, and both great and dining rooms have cathedral ceilings, tile floors and lots of windows offering great views of Logan Martin Lake.

The kitchen is pretty and bright, with plenty of cabinets and storage.

The large master bedroom is accompanied by a master

bathroom with jetted tub, sitting area and walk-in closet. A screened porch off the master bedroom overlooks the lake.

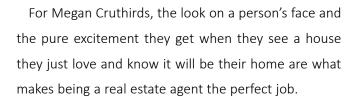
There are two additional bedrooms and a bathroom. Decks for entertaining wrap around the house.

Along the 128 feet of water frontage sits a gigantic boat dock with lift, swim platform, lighting and covered seating area that is about two-years-old, as well as a concrete seawall. There is an extra boat house handy for watercraft storage, a boat ramp and a sprinkler system from the lake.

The house is listed at \$424,900. For more information, call Pam Hendrix with The Realty Pros at 205-902-2777.

New Lake Haven agent enjoys helping people find homes they love

Story by ELSIE HODNETT Photo Submitted



"I've always been interested in real estate, but I never really knew how to do it or get into it," she said. "Last year, my husband Chris and I decided to sell our home and found out our aunt was a Realtor. So we were able to go to her and find out how to do it."

By listing it with her aunt, Cruthirds was able to learn some about the process.

"After we sold my house, I went to school for my license and finished in a month," she said. "I received my license last September."

Cruthirds works for Lake Haven Realty in Cropwell, the same company through which she and her husband sold their house.

"They are the ones who helped me how to do



everything from selling my house to getting my real estate license and offering me the opportunity to work for them," she said. "I'm brand new, so I don't have a specialty yet. I deal mostly with residential, single-family properties in St. Clair County."

Cruthirds said she has gone all over St. Clair County showing properties.

"Before this, I was a stay-at-home mom," she said.

"But now that my daughter is in preschool, being in real estate lets me set my schedule so I can work and still be with her."

Cruthirds said eventually she wants to become a broker and have her own firm.

"But that is a way off," she said. "I want to know everything about the business before I dive in that deep. Right now, I am enjoying being an agent and showing properties to people looking for their new home."





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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





REDUCED! LINCOLN \$379,000. Beautiful 1 level brick 3BR/2BA lake home in lovely subdiv.Landscaped lot with amazing lake view. Great room has FP, media center with bookcases & hardwoods. Nice sunroom, kitchen has quartz counters, ice machine & pantry. Sec system, irrigation sys fromlake to road, all new decking, including stairs to guest apt with separate HVAC, entrance, kitchen, bed & bath. boat launch plus 300+ shoreline, circular drive, concrete to the lake, 2 slip boat port with 2 lifts. MLS#634599





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





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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 S#568506



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 \$12900. 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 molding, 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 sumroom 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 is of leatures two pools, tennis
courts, boat launch, grilling area, playground area, basketball
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 M S # 7,503.88



DICKEY DRIVE \$219,000.00 - 3 bd, 2 bath, full brick, hardwood floors, floored walk up attic storage/ could be made into a room, corian counter tops, Jennair stove, double oven, plantation shutters, work shop w/ ventilation system, back yard fenced, screen porch, formal dining room, office, laundry sink in laundry room, sprinkler system. MLS #725648



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. \$169000 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. MLS#729394



WATER OAK LAND - \$350,000 - Logan Martin Lake, 1 lake lot approx. 3200 sq ft, 4 bedroom, 3 bath, two fireplace, large deck, boat house, 2 great rooms, kitchen on main level, small kitchen in basement, covered patio, open deck. MLS #725439



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 #776/282



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 - \$198,900 - 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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240 Cove Dr. Pell City, AL 35128 - Bottom pine floors that flow throughout the living space & into the spacious lakeside sunroom! I level home offers so much space with Master suite, 2nd 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 granez. Either of these could be additional bedrooms. Large deck and boat dock with lift. MLS# 730433



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, jacuzzi 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



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, it would 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



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



362 Hickory Valley Kd. - > BK/4.5 bth overlooking 4 acres. Ine master suite has lush carpet, jacuzzi tub, his & her vanities, huge stone shower. The kitchen has hardwd floors, granite countertops, Irg island with gas stove & wine cooler, black/stnls appls & Laundry rm. The open floor plan allows a view into the family rm with fireplace & dining rm. Finished basement has 2nd kitchen, full bth, den/5th BR, a safe room & 3 car garage! 1 acre underground radio fence. mls# 732244



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



LOTS & LAND

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

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

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

NEW LISTINGS - 2 Lots in Catatoga Estates

733035 - Lot 27 Ingram St. - \$26,000 733040 - Lot 28 Ingram St. - \$26,000



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 bedrooms, 3 full bath, 3 car garage MLS # is 738433



6402 Cromer Circle #16 - 4 BK, 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 shower & 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













Michelle Shoemaker



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Jeff Gossett











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\$299,000 - 130 Hickory Lane - GREAT ONE LEVEL LIVING with this 3 bedroom, 2 bath waterfront t home. Living room/dining room with vaulted ceilings and stone Fireplace and large surroom overlooking the lake. Large backyard with stone walkway,sitting areas for viewing the lake and separate building with HVAC. MLS #720297 Call Blair 812-5377



\$137,900 - 650 Earl Owens Dr. - NEW CONSTRUCTION - 3 bedroom, 2 bath, one level home with some stacked stone and siding, granite counter tops in the kitchen, split bedroom design and located on corner lot of the sub-



\$1.300.000 - 229 Willow Dr. - CUSTOM BUILT with abundance of amenities and GREAT VIEW - 2-story brick 4 bedrooms home with master located on the main level with open living room, solid surface countertops, hardwood, central vac and stereo system are some of the amenities. Saltwater inground pool, covered pier and boathouse and convenient to 1-20. MLS #729239 Call



\$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



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



\$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



\$229,900 - 600 Creek Ridge Dr. - 3 bedroom, 3 bath home with spacious eat-in kitchen, formal dining room, large family room as well as (2) large rooms downstairs that could be used as bedrooms. MLS#720770 Carl 965-4755 or Michelle 427-3222



\$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 great reatures or into 3 betroform, 3.5 bath of North Northe with large rooms, open floor plan and unfinished area that provide room for in law suite, media room or more. Amenilies 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. Call Karen 473-4613



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



\$319,000 - 2010 Holladay Dr. - ACREAGE (20 Acres m/l) with one level brick home with partially finished basement, partly fenced acreage, large utility shed, conveniently located in Pell City. MLS #611493 Call Bill 369-7977



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



\$649,900 - 930 River Oaks Dr. - GATED AND BEAUTIFFULLY LANDSCAPED 1.5 story 3 bedroom, 4 bath home with open floor plan of large family room with stone fireplace, master bedroom with waterfront view and stacked stone fireplace. Lot of glass for the the great view and wonderful sunroom with plenty of room for entertaining. Main channel waterfront with walkway and pier. MLS# 614684 Call Brenda 812-4141



\$124,900 - 815 Mockingbird Dr. - GEORGEOUS 3 bedroom, 2 bath home on beautiful Coosa River. Home is fully furnished with plenty of room for family gatherings. MLS #732577 Call Mary 586-0825



\$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





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 3/4 acres. MLS#732697 Call Bill 369-7977



\$90,000 - 110 Dogwood Cir - NICE 3 bedroom, 2 bath home, newly painted inside and out with new carpet and vinyl, large deck. MLS #737281 Call Nan 256/452-

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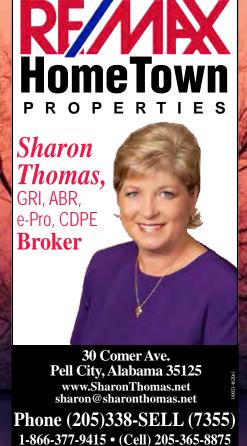


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