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- ▶ The Oyster Roast Regatta
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ON THE COVER: Ice skating at Talladega's Christmas on the Square. Photo by Tucker Webb

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*Covering life along
Logan Martin Lake since 1994*

PUBLISHER

Blucher Ehringhaus
John Fry

EDITOR

Buddy Roberts

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Pam Isbell

LEAD PHOTOGRAPHER

Tucker Webb

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Darla Allen

PHOTOGRAPHY

Tim Badgwell

WRITERS

Jimmy Creed
Vallean Jackson
CJ Knight
Michelle Love
Loyd McIntosh
Sarah E. Moreman

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The bees are coming back to Double Cove Park

It's a while yet before the 2025 observation of National Honey Bee Day, but in the meantime, Alabama Power is revamping pollinator plots at five of its recreation sites (including Double Cove Park at Logan Martin Lake), giving us something to look forward to until warm weather returns.

Five years ago, the utility provider developed the plots to promote awareness as pollinator populations of bees, birds, and butterflies have shown a general decline. A partnership between Alabama Power's Shorelines Recreation group and the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service, the goal is to see shorelines "burst with blooms of many colors in spring 2025," according to APC officials.

"When we developed these areas originally, we understood we'd have to re-do the process in five years," said Garret Parker, team leader for shoreline recreation at Alabama Power Corporate

Headquarters. "We're in the middle of that redevelopment process right now."

"The wildflowers come back every year, but over time, you get a lot of invasive weeds and grasses, and sometimes even trees," he added. "They slowly start to get into the plots and out-compete the native wildflowers. So that's what we've been doing – removing the invasive plants and starting back fresh with the native wildflowers blooming next spring and summer 2025 – looking as they did originally five years ago."

It's a two-step process that takes about three months. In mid-spring, a team removes invasive plants and species. In late spring, after treating the plot, they till the soil and plant buckwheat, a common cover crop pollinators prefer. When that planting grows up by late summer, it's time for the team to remove the buckwheat. One more time, they plant buckwheat and let it grow, then till out the plants, allowing

them to start with a blank seed bed.

The last step comes in late fall, when employees plant a wildflower mix from Roundstone Native Seed Co. in Kentucky. Soil samples from each plot are analyzed by Auburn University's Soil, Forage and Water Testing Laboratory. The sample results are sent to Roundstone to develop a pollinator seed mix tailored to each site.

"Thanks to Alabama Power, spring and summer 2025 will greet Preserve-goers with a fresh blanket of colorful, fragrant wildflowers: bergamot, black-eyed Susan, blue false indigo, butterfly milkweed, Indian blanket, iron weed, partridge pea, Plains coreopsis, purple cornflower, spiked blazing star and other varieties," Parker said. "After the plants reseed for five years, shoreline recreation employees will again re-do the plots. "It gives pollinators an area to thrive and forage in. Through the informative signage at each pollinator plot, it also gets this information out to the residents and visitors who use these sites."

Spring and summer can't get here fast enough for me, but January has to come first, and we are pleased to see you starting another year with Lakeside Living magazine. In this issue, we learn about a new local book club, look back on the legacy of a storied football coach, visit a newly renovated lake home, and go out on the lake once again with the Birmingham Sailing Club. And that's just for starters.

Thank you for joining us to kick off 2025.

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HOOK, LINE & SINKER

Start the new year right by properly maintaining for your fishing equipment

With Christmas over, it's time to take those old reels, rods, lures and replace them with the new.

OR IS IT?

I believe it's critical to talk about maintenance and care for your expensive fishing investments. We all go through cycles of tossing old reels and rods in the trash after they have been used and abused, but I'm here this month to shed some light on keeping your equipment in tip-top shape, which will increase the longevity of your equipment and save you money.

The idea of newer is better isn't always the case with baitcast and spincast reels and rods. My absolute favorite baitcasters are the 20-plus-year-old Shimano Chronarchs and Shimano Curados. Go Google or eBay these reels. It's quite impressive to see that these old reels will bring as much as \$200. In most cases, they are worth more now than they were then.

The main reason these reels are so reliable is

because the older Shimano and Diawa reels were built for the long run. Great internal components have allowed these reels to withstand the tests of time. In no way am I saying that new reels can't hold up just as well. I'm just saying, through personal experience, that newer isn't always better than the older products. Whether it's an old reel or a new reel, taking proper care of your equipment is essential in getting your money's worth out of the product.

January is typically a down month for fisherman, which makes it the perfect time to grease, lubricate, and oil those reels. Stripping down the reel piece by piece and cleaning all of the components is essential. I always perform a yearly maintenance/care week for my reels and rods. Here are some things I always do:

- Read the owner's manual for each reel
- Keep the box and instructions so I can properly lubricate and oil the reel yearly
- Use YouTube and other online resources to make sure I get the proper care for my equipment

Bearings, parts, oil, and grease for reel care are relatively inexpensive, but if you're not a DIY person, I highly suggest that you look into hiring someone to clean your reels once a

year. Typically, you can get a reel cleaned for \$10-\$20. This is a small investment on some very expensive equipment. If you don't use them a lot, you can do it every two years. Marks Outdoors in Birmingham, Bass Pro Shops in Leeds, and The Tackle Box in Oxford will all have leads on reel care technicians. Bearings, worm gears, and other components can be replaced in reels, so be sure to give that a try before throwing it away.

My advice for storage of reels, rods, and fishing line is quite simple. When not in use, try to keep all three out of the sun. UV light is the biggest threat to fishing line and fishing equipment. I always store my line, lures, reels, and rods in an area where sunlight won't directly hit the equipment. For fishing line and reels, I always store both in black containers out of the sunlight during the off season. All of these simple yearly steps and procedures will help you save money and get the most out of your equipment.

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CHRISTMAS ON THE SQUARE

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Written by **LOYD MCINTOSH**

Photographed by
TUCKER WEBB

It's around 4 p.m., and, as late afternoon fades into early evening, downtown Talladega simply dazzles. The decorations add touches of festive color, the Christmas lights sparkle in the darkening air and bounce off the architecture, and children try to keep their balance on the skating rink just steps away from the Talladega County Courthouse, all making The Square the perfect setting for a Christmas celebration.

Seriously, as you walk around streets, which have been closed for pedestrian-

only traffic, you would swear The Square is being staged for one of those ridiculous but infuriatingly popular Hallmark Channel Christmas movies.

(Not really, but you get the point.)

Launched in 2026, Christmas On The Square has been the City of Talladega's premier community event, bringing people of all ages and backgrounds for a weekend of food, fun, and fellowship. It's also a chance to present the city in the best possible light, according to Mary Sood, the city's public information director, and Tena Turner, owner of T.D. Turner Interior Design.

"It's the highlight of the season for the entire community," says Sood, who begins initial planning on Christmas On

The Square in February before kicking into high gear planning the fine details as soon as summer arrives.

"We adopted this eight years ago because we wanted to give back to the community, so what better way than Christmas On The Square," says Turner. One of the primary organizers of the annual event, she says it's important for city leaders and the business community to offer as many free activities as possible so parents can bring their entire families to enjoy their time together without spending an arm and leg.

"Because everything is free, it means parents don't have to say 'I'm sorry, kids, we can come this week because we don't have the money,'" Turner explains.





"Instead, they can come and everybody can have a good time."

The free activities were plentiful: ice skating, bungee jumping, bouncy houses, and train rides through the Square. The Historic Ritz Theatre held showings of many modern Christmas classes, including *Elf*, Tyler Perry's *A Medea Christmas*, *Christmas Vacation*, and *Polar Express*, and an accompanying Best Pajama Contest. And, of course, a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, all offered on the house.

To present Christmas On The Square each year requires hours of volunteer work, vendors, and, most importantly, corporate sponsors who step up year after year. "I can't tell you how much



we appreciate our sponsors,” Turner says, “because without our sponsors this wouldn’t happen.”

As you walk around the streets of downtown Talladega, it’s easy to get caught up in just how picturesque The Square actually is. The Ritz Theatre (one of the last remaining Art Deco theatres from the 1930s), Michael’s Men’s Wear, and (across from The Square on Battle Street) the Talladega Bottling Works provide an enticing backdrop for this celebration. Like many downtowns throughout the nation, The Square has suffered its fair share of problems. However, the thousands of people who have come through The Square would indicate a pent-up desire to have a downtown experience. Sure, nostalgia is part of the draw, but is that really such a bad thing? Not if you ask Billy Davis, a long-time Talladega resident and educator at Evelyn D. Houston Elementary School.

Walking around downtown decked out in Jacksonville State gear - his alma mater - Davis spends much of his time





at the event shaking hands and talking with students he encounters. He says Christmas On The Square gives Talladegans and others coming downtown from other locales a chance to experience the city's history while also imagining what is possible for its future.

"We're trying to get back to the great Talladega we used to have in the past," says Davis. "When I was a little kid coming to Talladega from Lincoln, this place was packed on Saturdays, so this is good for the community and for bringing people together."

While preparations are being made for the official lighting of The Square's Christmas Tree, Turner takes a moment to answer one last question: How successful has the 2024 Christmas On The Square been?

"Have a look around and look at how many faces you see smiling," she says. "I think that says it all right there."



THE BOOKAHOLICS BOOK CLUB

IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE BOOKS

Sylacauga venue hosts in-person meetings
of group that started on social media

Written by **MICHELLE LOVE**
Photographs provided by
BOOKAHOLICS BOOK CLUB

If you happen to stop by Bourbon on Broadway in Sylacauga on the third Thursday of the month, you would see a gathering of the Bookaholics Book Club. A large group of women ranging from 10 to 25 members will be found sitting around the room and discussing whatever literary adventure they have just been through together.

Candice Hightower, the group's founder, said they've been coming to Bourbon on Broadway since August.

"We call it our Central Perk," she said. "It's perfect. It suits all purposes. It's cozy. It was exactly what we needed."

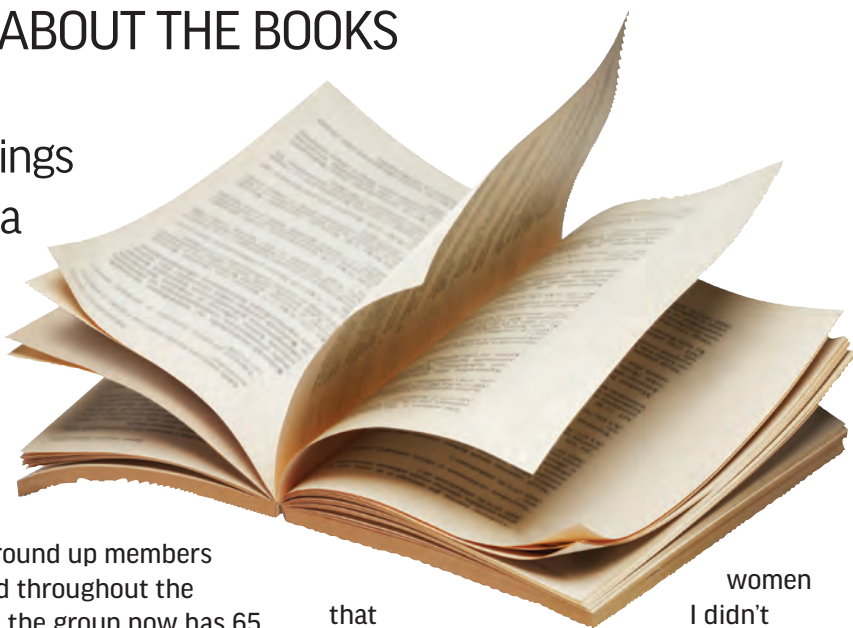
An avid reader, Hightower started the club to find a like-minded community of

people who share a love of reading and literature. She started the Facebook group

Bookaholics to round up members and spread word throughout the community, and the group now has 65 members online. The in-person meetings vary in size, but Hightower said they've had as many as 25 people who up.

The group has been meeting on the third Thursday of the month since it started last summer. Hightower felt the once-a-month time period would give everyone plenty of time to finish their chosen book and simultaneously balance their everyday lives.

"It's really relaxed," she said. "I told the



women I didn't want this to be an additional responsibility or a burden to them. I just wanted it to be a relaxing thing for them, and it's very chill."

At the first meeting, Hightower asked the members how they would like to go about choosing their books. A diplomatic approach was ultimately taken to make sure the choices were fair.

"In all honesty, I've always been a reader but never have been part of a



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book club, so I wasn't really sure how it would work, and I wanted it to be super fair," she said. "So what we did the first meeting, we put all of the titles we were open to into a jar, and we pulled one. That's how we've kept it, and everyone likes it. There are certain genres we've decided we may want to stay away from all together, but it's really forced a lot of us to read things that we never would otherwise."

One such book was the group's October pick, the psychological thriller *American Psycho* by Brett Easton Ellis. Hightower said she had trouble finishing the heavy novel, but she pushed through so she could contribute to the conversation.

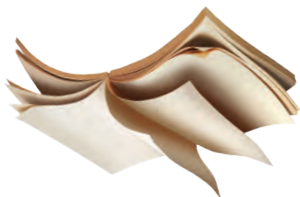
"We analyze the books from different perspectives, so even if you weren't necessarily entertained by it, you can always pull something from it," she said.

Coordinating such a large group of people can be difficult, but Hightower said everyone tries to touch base throughout the month to make sure everyone is on the same page.

"We've even had to extend the timing a little bit," she said. "We were reading *A Little Life*, and it was a really long book, kind of a hard read, so in our Facebook group we'll comment, 'How is everybody doing? Do you need a little extra time?' We'll still meet to discuss other things or discuss where we are at the time, but sometimes we have to extend because life happens, and we're all working and moms, and life just catches up to you."

Making sure everyone's voices are heard is a top priority for Hightower. Everyone present at the meetings is allowed to speak with no interruptions or judgement. She said some who are more quiet tend to stay to the back and listen, but they have expressed to her that they enjoy coming because they love the camaraderie of the group.

"I'm a pretty social person, and I started to realize that some of the groups I was part of were more focused on





material things and gossip, and I just am at that age where I personally want a healthy group where I can go and I can share things and they can share things," she said. "It's just a place where we're uplifting each other, and it's just always completely positive. I've noticed women who didn't know each other before or they were more reserved, they're getting closer to each other and talking more. It's just so cozy. I love it."

Having such a diverse group of people who share such a strong love of reading is very special to Hightower. She said the root of the group's success is the "commonality" of a love for literature

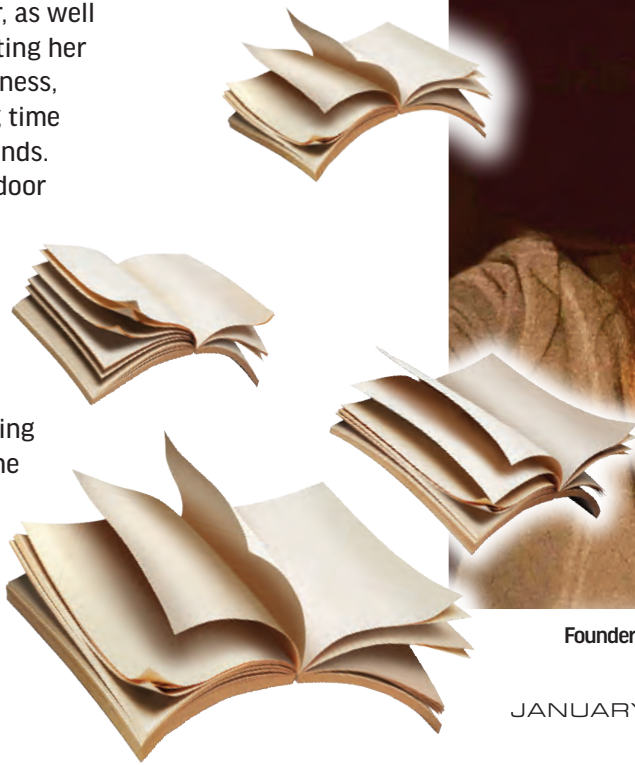
and community.

"You go into something not knowing who everybody is or knowing much about the people there but you all share that common ground," she said. "That first meeting where we had the biggest turnout show up, there were different ages and walks of life there, but everyone found someone there that they could talk to and share their opinions of different books with each other. Now, six months later, I think we would all consider each other friends, and it's gone past the love of reading."

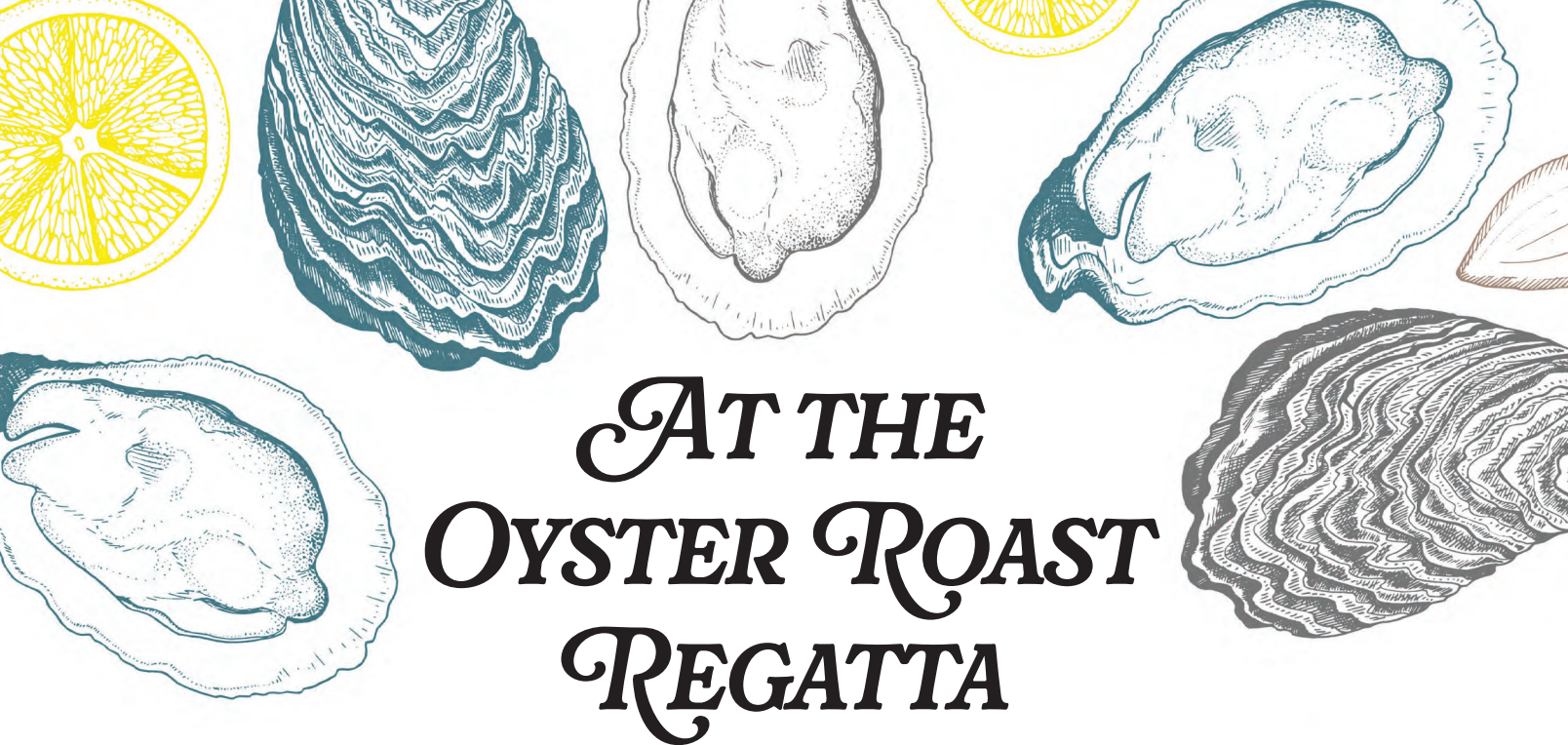
Hightower has a full-time job working as the community educator for Coosa



Valley Medical Center, as well as owning and operating her own charcuterie business, but she loves making time for her book club friends. She emphasized the door is open to anyone who has a love of reading, and as the host she always tries to make the book club feel like a nurturing and accepting place. "I've been on the other side of being left out of things, and I never want anyone to feel that way."



Founder Candice Hightower displaying earrings designed for book club members.



Birmingham Sailing Club hosts a day of sailing and seafood on Logan Martin Lake

Written by **JIMMY CREED**
 Photographed by **LOGAN HELMS**

When I was asked to cover the Birmingham Sailing Club's third annual Oyster Roast Regatta on Logan Martin Lake, my first thought was, "Hmmm...don't think I've ever had a roasted oyster."

My second thought was, "What's a regatta?"

After a full day of sailing on a mid-autumn weekend, I can now say with surety that the BSC Oyster Roast Regatta is simply this: great folks, great food, and great fun.

I know now that a regatta is a sailing race or series of races, but after spending the day with race organizer David Reich and his incredible crew, I also know that the BSC's event is so much more.

For David and his brother Peter, who served as the principal race officer, it is a labor of love that has become an annual salute to their late father, Harry. The elder Reich was a charter member of



“ My dad loved to eat oysters, so we decided we would have an event that included sailing, which was his first love, and eating oysters to honor him. ”



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the BSC when it was formed by Sam Caldwell back in 1963, and Harry's spirit is very much alive on the BSC grounds in Vincent today.

In fact, it was Harry's passion for sailing and oysters that led to the creation of the Oyster Roast Regatta three years ago.

As his last legacy to the club before his passing, Harry helped raise the money and oversee the construction of a new patio addition to the clubhouse. When it was finished in October 2021, the club wanted to say thanks by dedicating an event to him, and the Oyster Roast Regatta was born.

"My dad loved to eat oysters, so we decided we would have an event that included sailing, which was his first love, and eating oysters to honor him," David said. "It was a huge hit and people said 'We need to make that an annual thing,' so we did."

In a short time, the event has become one of the BSC's most popular. That first year, David and company steamed up 75 pounds of shrimp and roasted 400 oysters — all of which come fresh from Pass Christian, Mississippi, provided by a longtime friend of David's in the seafood business. This year, some 120 attendees enjoyed 120 pounds of steamed shrimp and 600 roasted oysters, but more about that later.

For while the BSC folks really enjoy putting on a good spread and seeing everyone have a great time, their focus, first and foremost, is on the racing.





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On Oyster Roast weekend, boats competed in the Thistle, the Flying Scot, and the Catalina classes, and as a long-time former sportswriter accustomed to the tension and pressure of covering stick-and-ball sports or auto racing, I was struck by the serenity of it all.

The weather was overcast, but the temperature was great for early November, and the lapping of the water against the side of the boat, the snap of the sails, and the calmness of the competition made it one of the most enjoyable sporting events I've ever witnessed.

The other thing that struck me was that sailing is truly something for everyone. Boats were crewed by teams



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of men and women working together. There was a team with a 5-year-old sailor and a 79-year-old sailor. There was everything in between, all seemingly having a great time, and they did it all just for bragging rights.

"When you win, if it's a fancy regatta, you might get a pickle tray," David Reich said with a chuckle. "If it's a one-day regatta like this one, you get a glass with a BSC flag on it, if you're lucky."

(For the record, the BSC glasses are very nice.)

The BSC's current membership is approximately 165, but the members welcome anyone interested in joining. You can join

as an associate member even if you don't own a boat, and the club hosts events throughout the year to introduce young and old alike to sailing. In short, it seems like a great group to be a part of.

Finally, there's the food.

As someone who spent 10 years living on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and in New Orleans, even I was impressed with the low country boil, and we won't talk about how much I ate. There was some bread pudding that was as good as any I've ever tasted. And the roasted oysters?

Let's just say they better add another 100 to the order for next year, because I will be back!



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Written by **MICHELLE LOVE**
Photographs provided by
LORI BILLINGSLEY

Late in 2024, the Museum of Pell City took some time to honor a very respected figure in the city's history: Coach Pete Rich.

Rich served as the head football coach for Pell City High School from 1969-1972 and 1989-1990, and his entire coaching career spans more than 30 years. In his time coaching football, Rich made a name for himself as a very encouraging and uplifting coach who cared about every student he came into contact with, building a legacy of hard work, compassion, and

encouragement.

"It didn't matter if you didn't have a penny to your name or if you were the president's son; he treated everybody equal," his daughter Lori said. "His main focus was that everybody was treated the same. We all bleed the same blood, and I've always admired him for that."

As a special tribute to Rich and his many accomplishments and contributions to the community, the Museum of Pell City made the decision last year to create a spot the museum just for him. The tribute is part of the museum's Digging Deeper series, which highlights people in the city's history who have contributed greatly to its enrichment and growth.

Erica Grieve, the museum's coordinator, said when they were thinking of individuals who personified the history of Pell City, Rich immediately came to mind.

"Coach Rich, he was just such an inspiration to so many people," she said. "He loved every student he came into contact with and really just poured himself into them. I think he's definitely worthy. He's such a great person."

The tribute for Rich includes a special exhibit dedicated to his time coaching as well as a video featuring an interview with him and his brother Lamont and photos from their childhood and Rich's professional career. Grieve said

her face was sore from laughing while filming the tribute video, as Rich and his brother

bounced off of each other so well while reminiscing.



Coach Pete Rich on the sidelines at Pell City High School's football stadium, which now bears his name.

Throughout the video, they joked with each other and told stories from their time growing up in Avondale to working in the Pell City area.

Grieve said the whole process took roughly six months to pull together. The exhibit premiered in late December and features dedications to Rich and his fellow coaches.

Rich, who just celebrated his 89th birthday, was present at the dedication event with Gwen, his wife of more than 60 years, and Lamont. Despite his age,



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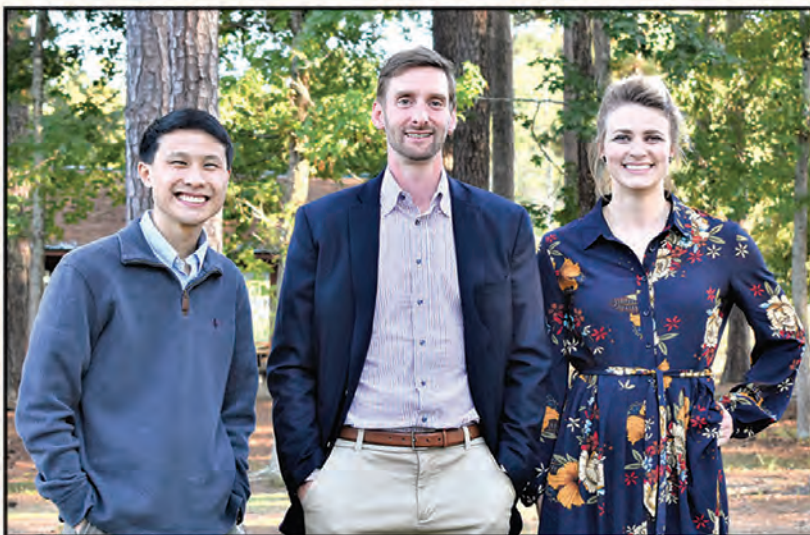
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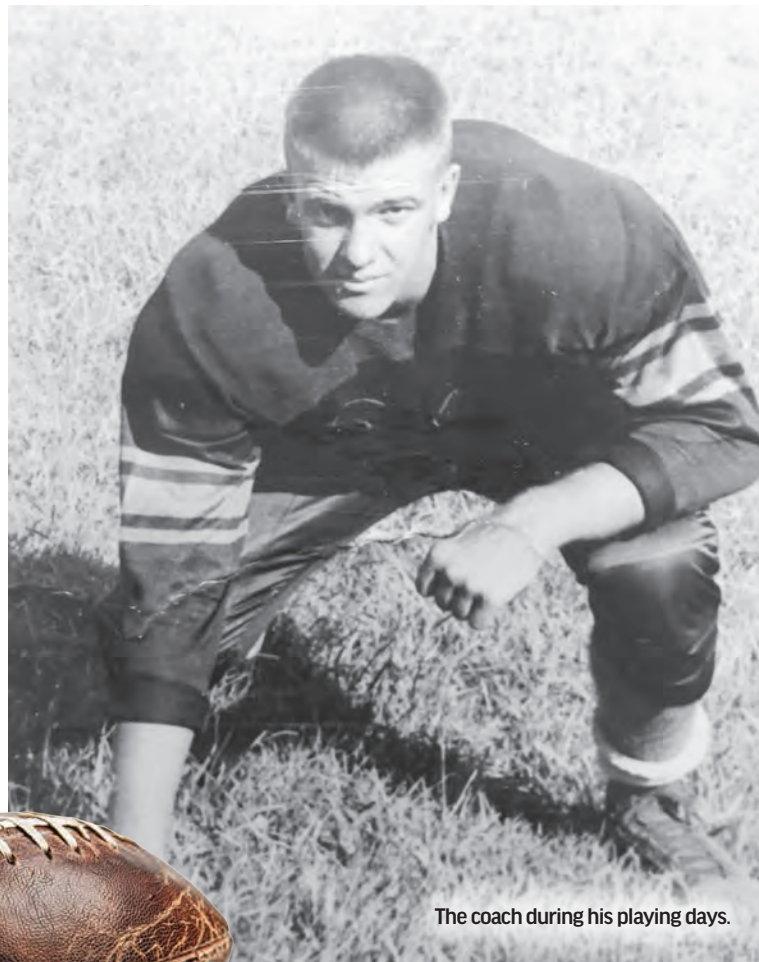
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The coach's college graduation photo.



The coach during his playing days.



Lamont and Pete Rich with a friend during their high school years.



Coach Rich, right, with fellow Pell City High School coaches Freddy Hazelwood, Moe Smith and Gene Ellison in the early 1970s.



Lamont Rich and Pete Rich with friends Carol Pappas, Deanna Lawley, and Erica Grieve.

Rich's effervescent spirit lit up the room. He joked with others present about his upbringing and poked fun at Lamont for childhood antics. Several times

throughout the tribute, he told the small crowd of people present that while he was grateful for the acknowledgement, but he felt he was far from deserving.

"I don't know what I've really done to deserve this," the coach said. "I really just appreciate

this very much. I don't deserve nothing, but I'm glad to be here with all my friends. I'm still here, I don't know why the good Lord let me hang on, but he's let me hang on."

Lisa Reeves Osbourn, whose father played football for Coach Rich at Pell City and who was one of the coach's driver's education students, believes she knows why. "He keeps saying he doesn't deserve this, but he does," she said. "The number of lives he's poured into is just evidenced

by how many of his students come back to see him."

"I just want everybody to be treated the same," Rich said. "I didn't care who they were or what they had, I wanted to always treat them the same. That's how I coached. If I wasn't there to help all the kids, then I was in the wrong business."



The Rich brothers at the Museum of Pell City.





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Gulls in the gathering storm

Written by **SARAH ELIZABETH MOREMAN**

Photographed by **TIM BADGWELL**

Walking along the waterline on the grassy, sandy bank of the lake, I feel the crunch of dried reeds beneath my boots. The wind rushes past, carrying a sharp chill that slips through the seams of my fur-lined barn jacket, making me shiver. Overhead, the whiteness of the sky creates a contrast, its brightness seeming to crystallize the surface of the water into something glass-like. For a moment, I imagine how wonderful it would be if the water were frozen solid enough for me to ice skate in figure eight patterns.

My gaze shifts to my boots, the leather dusted with sand and fragments of broken reeds. Another thought flits through my mind: exchanging these boots for running shoes and sprinting along the lake's edge. The weather feels ideal for it, crisp and invigorating, even as the clouds darken and deepen into shades of gray. The storm is approaching. The winds pick up speed, carrying a faint, electric charge that hums through



my nerves.

I welcome the thought of a storm, especially in winter. The anticipation of unpredicted danger calls for heightened attention to the surroundings, reminding me to assess the need for refuge or make changes. A sudden cacophony pulls my attention to the right, where a large flock of light gray and whitish birds rises over

the tops of longleaf pines and maples. Their stark, pale forms stand out vividly against the swirling gray clouds.

I brush away strands of hair teasing across my face, clearing my view of the mix of ring-billed and herring gulls as they flutter and glide over the lake, seemingly unperturbed by the storm's growing power. The juxtaposition of both



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the gulls and storm mirrors the shift in my perspective on life and expectations. Each day, I find myself understanding more and more why I have often been told that I am a breath of fresh air. Why did so many describe me that way? I used to think it was simply a saying, but the recent storms have lifted my chin, forcing me to confront the harsh glares of expectations and social conventions I had once been blissfully

ignorant of. I understand why others seemed frustrated when I did not react to situations the same way they did, as if they wanted me to feel their stress and anxiety. Seeing storms as they do has led me to decide, like the gulls, to remain resolute in my optimism. I believe that the storms serve a purpose—to strengthen me, transforming fragile porcelain into malleable, yet enduring, marble. The whiteness of the gulls

remains, symbolizing faith, resilience, and grace I possess. Faith is hope, pure in its desire for the best in life, to see the best in others. As long as I keep my gaze on hope, the storms will dissipate, and I can feel lighter, flying like the gulls.

After giving one last admiring glance at the gulls still circling over the lake, I walk away, pulling my phone from my jacket pocket to check for any texts. I smile at the words telling me to hurry



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back because hot, spicy cocoa is waiting for me, and the beef stew is now simmering in the pot.

There is also a reminder that the storm is coming soon and my cousin does not want me to catch a cold from the freezing rain. By the time I reach my cousin's house, the swirling gray clouds have cleared, and the sky is now a startling white, making it impossible to see the gulls. I smile as I step inside the door, the tantalizing smell of hot cocoa and beef stew making my stomach growl. The fire crackles in the fireplace as my cousin greets me with a hug and hands me a mug of hot cocoa. While faith is the core of my optimism, family encircles that core, keeping the proverbial breath of air fresh and minty-wonderful.



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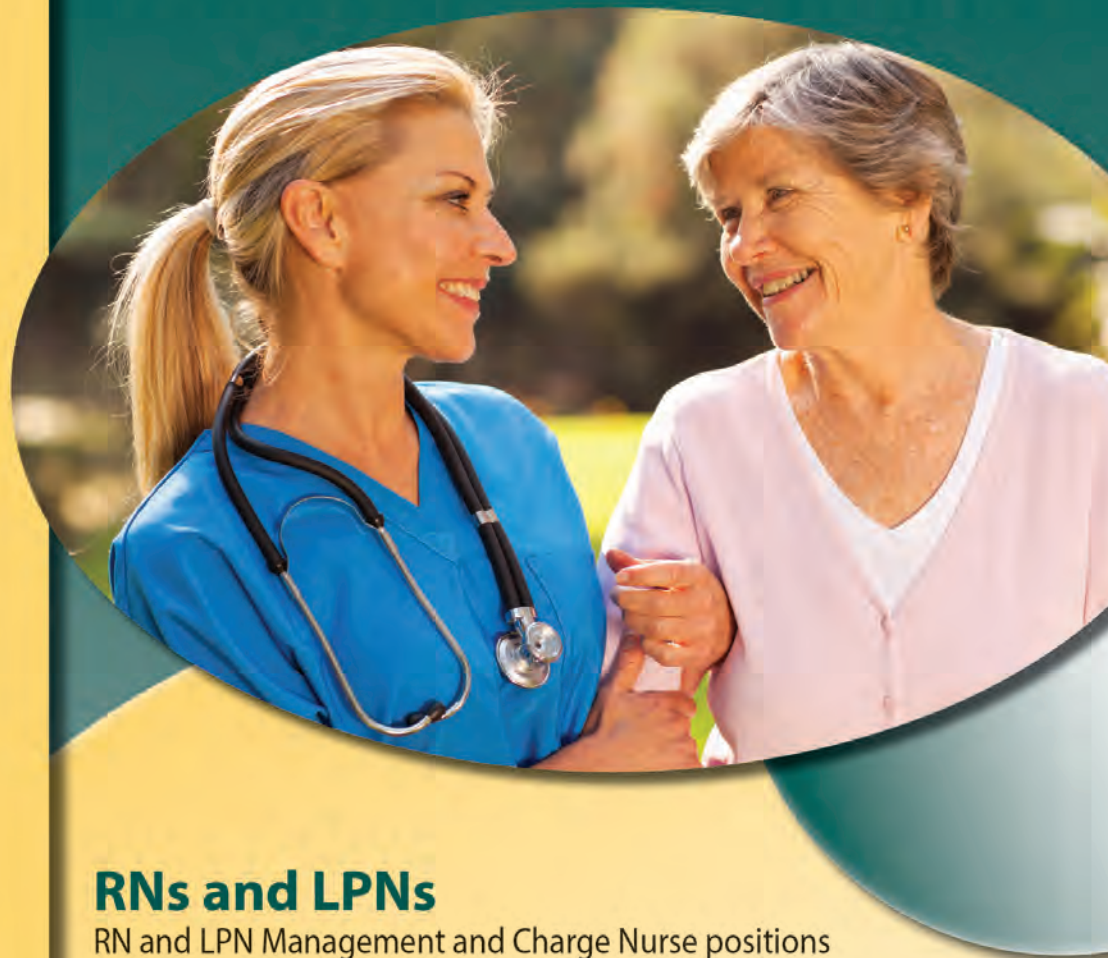


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SEEING POTENTIAL IN THE PAST

1960s-era home on Logan Martin's Pell City shoreline gets a modern update

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

Opie Norris is a man of few words. He would rather let his hard work speak for itself, and as you walk through his lakeside home, that hard work speaks volumes.

Norris bought the house in April of 2023. He owns a towing business and used to live on Coosa Island. When he decided it was time to move from the island, he reached out to Realtor Natasha O'Konski with Keller Williams Realty to see what his options would be.

"I told Natasha I wanted to get off the island, and I wanted a big lot on the Pell City side of the lake," he said. "I didn't really care about what the house looked like because the budget I was





working with was going towards a house I wanted to work on."

He sold his house completely furnished because he wanted to buy furniture that would match the home he renovated as opposed to accommodating the house around his furniture. After looking at a few fixer-upper options, Norris fell in love with what would soon become his home, though it had nothing to do with the house itself.

"I mainly bought the house because of the lot," he said. "It's on a one-acre level lot, which is hard to find."

The original house was something Norris knew would take a lot of work. It was built in the 1960s, and it definitely still "had the 60s vibe to it" with original shag carpeting, wood paneling on the walls, and bathrooms and countertops finished in the familiar pea-green color that was so popular in the 60's and 70's.

He started doing the renovations in May of 2023 and made sure nothing of the original structure remained.

"I took it down to the studs," Norris said. "I took the walls out, moved them, added walls. I took all the windows that face the lake out and put French doors in

so if you're in the bedroom or the office back there you can walk out onto the back porch."

Norris did all the work with his friend Norman Yeager, who he credits the completion of the project. He and Yeager worked relentlessly, spending as many hours as possible in the day to make the house what Norris envisioned.

"He was a huge part of the design and remodel," Norris said. "He was basically my only help."

The before and after photos of the home really are a testament to Norris's hard work and dedication. Before Norris began construction, the house really did look like something out of a 60s home magazine. Now, the house is a reflection of the best modern aesthetics blended with a captivating, welcoming farm house feel. The wood paneling has been

replaced with sleek white walls and gray marbled brick accents around the fireplace and countertops. The kitchen is much more open with a walkway around the kitchen island and the light paneling of the vaulted ceilings. Long gone is the green bathroom. Now there is stylish white and gray coloring throughout the room, including a large walk-in shower Norris designed.

"I would sit at home at night, and I didn't realize what Pinterest was until late in the project, so I would sit at home at night on Zillow and look at houses that were for sale and I would get ideas off that of modern things people were doing," he said. "One day I was trying to pick out tile, and Norman was like, 'You don't know what Pinterest is?' and so after that I would sit on Pinterest for hours and look at options on there."

He describes the house as farm house style with open lake house aesthetic. It was important to Norris that the house have an open and spacious feel to it.

"I took the beams out in the living room, and it's got a big, vaulted ceiling, and I moved the beams way up and put tongue and groove wood in the ceilings and then





white washed it. And I did the same thing in the master bedroom.”

Norris said the last phase of the project that he has to finish is the garage, which is what he plans on doing this winter. Overall, Norris has put \$250,000 into the house. His favorite update, though? The renovated back porch.

“I took the back porch completely off the house and raised it up in line with the roof line and added a fully enclosed bar,” he said. “It’s got its own heating and air, bar, a 100x TV, refrigerator, everything you need. I always have a bunch of people who love to hangout, so I wanted to build an area they can all congregate.”

Overall, Norris is more than pleased with how his home has turned out. It’s well worth all the time and stress he and Yaeger put into building and perfecting every nook and cranny.

“During the demolition stage, we would get one problem fixed then find two more,” he said. “Ninety percent of the





demo I did by myself, so when it's 900 degrees outside and you're in a house with no air conditioning and you're demoing, you want to ask yourself, 'Would it be easier to just bulldoze the house and start over?' I had many a meltdown in there, but it paid off in the end."

Norris said he encourages people to look at homes on the lake as renovation projects and try to see a house's potential. "A lot of the houses on the lake are older houses, but they all have good bones. People just don't usually have the vision to see what you can do with these houses."

When asked if he had any advice for people thinking about going into a demolition and remodel home project, he said there were two main points to remember.

"Don't worry about your budget," he said. "I went in there thinking I could



go in and spend \$50,000 to \$75,000 to do what I wanted to do and ended up spending \$250,000. Also, don't be intimidated by it. A lot of people don't

do things because they're intimidated or they let the fear outweigh the reward. You got to put that aside and let it play out."



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JANUARY 10-11

A IN'T TOO PROUD

The Oxford Performing Arts Center hosts three showings of this tribute show spotlighting the life and times of The Temptations.

Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday with a 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday.

This touring production of the hit Broadway musical that follows The Temptations' journey from the streets of Detroit to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Nominated for 12 Tony® Awards and the winner of the 2019 Tony for Best Choreography, Ain't Too Proud features such classic songs as "My Girl," "Just My Imagination," "Get Ready," and "Papa Was a Rolling Stone."

For ticket information, visit www.oxfordpac.org.



JANUARY 18

SOUTHERN TRADE DAYS

This indoor traveling trade show opens at 10 a.m. inside the Fox Sports Dome at the International Motorsports Hall of Fame. A wide range of all types of items (including fishing, hunting, outdoors, sports, collectibles, new, vintage, arts and crafts) will be offered by vendors. Food trucks will be on site, and family-friendly live entertainment is planned.

Entry to the trade show is \$5 for attendees age 12 and older. For more details, visit the event's Facebook page.



JANUARY 18

THE SNEAKER BALL

Organized by Unforgettable Entertainment of Atlanta, this inaugural event is hosted by White Orchid Events (47265 U.S. Highway 280, Sylacauga) from 6-10 p.m. The ball promises a night of fun, music, and dancing in formal wear and your favorite sneakers. Live entertainment will be provided by vocalist Jaye Bell, and the event will be catered by Str8 Drop of Talladega. Tickets are \$50 for singles and \$70 per couple through Eventbrite. VIP table packages are available.

For more information, call Emmanuel Benton at 470-755-6030.



JANUARY 24-26

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JANUARY 31

AIR SUPPLY

The famed pop duo will be in concert at the Oxford Performing Arts Center. Showtime is 7:30 p.m. Graham Russell and Russell Hitchcock met in 1975, beginning a friendship and one of pop music's best-selling groups. Their first hit, "Love and Other Bruises," opened the door to perform with Rod Stewart in 1977. They struck gold with the 1980 song of the year "Lost In Love," then quickly topped the worldwide charts once again with "All Out Of Love," beginning a run of seven, consecutive Top Five singles. Air Supply last performed in Oxford in 2019.

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A woman with long dark hair, wearing white sunglasses and a white dress with a blue pattern, is sitting on the edge of a wooden dock. Her feet are in the water. In the background, several sailboats are moored at a dock, and there are trees and houses on the shore under a blue sky with some clouds.

MEET ME BY THE LAKE

Katherine
Robinson

Written and photographed by
BUDDY ROBERTS

“There’s just a peace when you have your toes in the water,” Katherine Robinson said, enjoying such a tranquil moment on the Logan Martin shore at the Birmingham Sailing Club. “Life slows down, and you’re not in a hurry. It’s almost like time stops. Lake time is its own time.”

The Birmingham resident was at the club with three of her four children, enjoying a quite weekday morning. Her family is more often there on weekends for sailboat races and other activities, enjoying lake time with, as she describes them, “other people who make life fun and aren’t in a hurry.”

As she took in the panoramic vista from the club’s shoreline, Robinson further reflected about how she has

always been drawn to bodies of water.

Growing up lakeside: “The water has always been my happy place. I grew up on Inland Lake, one of the Birmingham waterworks lakes. You went in in a white bathing suit, and you came out in the white bathing suit. It was crystal-clear water. There were about 100 houses on the lake, and it was the place to go to be relaxed and not in a hurry. We had a cabin with no telephone. You went to bed



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Katherine Robinson with her children Turnley, Tripp, and Jackson. Not shown is daughter Rushton.

when it got dark, and you got up when it was light, and you sat on the porch listened to the water and the birds and see the animals and the amazing things God created and put here for us to enjoy.”

Her ideal day on the lake: “Weather like today: beautiful, not too hot, and some good wind for sailing. Out on the boat watching the kids race or even just out on a boat ride. We would definitely be with the kids and friends here at the club, and just enjoying the day. We would probably be listening to Niko Moon, Zac Brown, or yacht rock on the radio and have a cold drink in our hands. My perfect day would just be hanging out, really enjoying the time with people that I care about. That’s what lake days are for.”

About the Birmingham Sailing Club: “I love the people here. When we came for the first time, we were like, ‘Hey, we want to join but we’re not really sure what we need to do and we don’t have a boat up here yet,’ and they just made us feel really welcomed and included. Everyone is very willing to help and share the sport that they love. The club does a lot to make sure

all of our kids enjoy sailing as much as possible, like Junior Sailing Camp and the Rock Paper Scissors Regatta.”

How she describes herself: “Mom to many. My son says I’m easygoing, and if your 17-year-old son says that, it’s a pretty good endorsement, I would say. Cautiously adventurous. I did a lot of things before I had kids, but as we age, our lives become about other people. So no racecar driving anymore. No jumping out of airplanes or wild sea adventures. Now, I just want to share the joys of life with my kids with other people. I try to be a cool mom, though. I’m think I’m still fun. Just very careful, and maybe a little bit mischievous.”

The best part of being a parent: “I love to see others succeed, especially my children. For me, helping them achieve something that they want and raising good kids, kind kids who want to help encourage and teach others is the greatest reward. Raising kind kids who can see the beauty in the world and the value of helping others is very important.”

Three things she can’t live without: “God. My children. And I think I would be sad if I could never

be near water. Water has been such an important part of my life.”

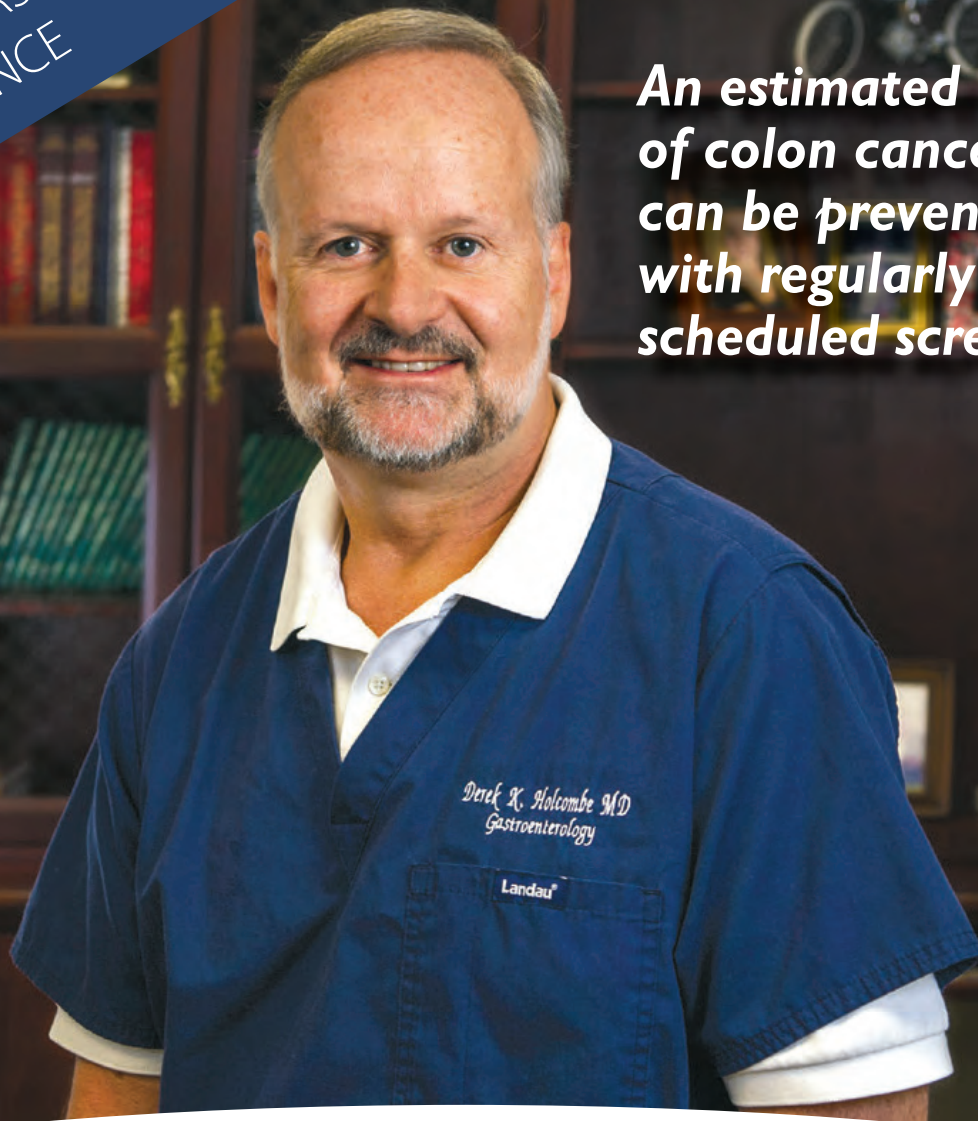
The food she could eat every day: “Mexican. The spicier, the better. Not painful spicy, but flavorful spicy. We started Taco Tuesday right as Covid hit, and we’ve continuously done it since. Taco Tuesday and Pizza Friday. We’ve had up to 30 kids in our house at one time making pizzas and sitting around outside, just entertaining themselves.

The food she hopes never to eat again: “There are two. Bananas and haggis.”

Where she tried haggis: “At a St. Andrew’s Society dinner at the Birmingham Country Club. It was probably not a good time for me to try it, because we had just found out we were pregnant with our second child, we hadn’t told anybody. So probably my my bad reaction to haggis is that I was pregnant. But I ate it and said, ‘This is not something I ever want to put in my mouth again.’ But I probably would try it again if I went to Scotland, because I understand it’s prepared totally different there. I would like to try it over there, but never again over here.”

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Curated by **BUDDY ROBERTS**
Photographed by **TUCKER WEBB**

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At the heart of Alabama Power's

work is its 14 hydroelectric generating plants that use the water to provide a portion of the electricity it takes to power two-thirds of the state's residents, businesses, and industry. Some of the lakes are "pass-through" lakes where the water that comes in goes out, and others (like Logan Martin) are storage lakes where dams strategically pool the water to manage its use.

Each Alabama Power hydro plant operates under a license issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). These licenses consider the environment and aquatic life on the water, in the water, and along the shorelines, in addition to taking into consideration residential access.

Martindale was recently interviewed about the factors that are involved in setting seasonal lake levels.

What is Alabama Power's role when it comes to lake levels?

MARTINDALE: We are responsible for managing the water within compliance of our licenses. There are two ways we manage lakes. One is, whatever is coming in at the dam is going out, which is called run of river. For example, Lay Lake is run of the river. Then we have storage reservoirs, which act as a battery for the system, and we can hold more water and use it as needed within a range. We have a summer pool and a winter pool for those storage reservoirs that is determined by our FERC license and



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the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

A primary objective for us is managing flood water. We use those storage lakes as buffers to move the water down the system. The Army Corps of Engineers sets the rules, and then Alabama Power hydro is responsible for execution.

Which lakes would be an example of storage lakes?

MARTINDALE: Weiss, Neely Henry and Logan Martin on the Coosa River. On the Tallapoosa River, there are Harris and Martin, and then on the Black Warrior River, Smith. These are our storage reservoirs, and they all have a summer pool and a winter pool.

The winter pool is part of the water management plan to make room for the water during a large rain event when almost all the water from the watershed is coming into the reservoir.

How do you determine the

Lisa Martindale is manager of reservoir management for Alabama Power Company.





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timing for the winter and summer adjustments?

MARTINDALE: That is based on the rule curves in our FERC license and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water control manuals. Information about the winter and summer adjustments can be found on the Alabama Power Shorelines app and website. This is designed to be a personal lake guide providing lake level information, generation schedule and the latest news.

Why are people so passionate about the lake levels?

MARTINDALE: Higher levels may provide better recreational access. Also, residents say the lakes look better when they are full.

What are some advantages to lowering the lake in the winter?

MARTINDALE: The primary need for lower lake levels in the winter is to provide storage for flood waters. If there was no storage available, then the heavy rains could result in uncontrolled flooding. For the homeowner, the lower levels provide opportunities for maintenance on their seawall or dock.

What do you wish the average person understood about lake levels that maybe they don't?

MARTINDALE: I think education is so important. Particularly in how weather affects our hydro generation schedule and lake levels. Weather and rainfall do not always correlate to adjustments to our generation and lake levels. From my perspective, it seems like a lot of times there is a perception that

rain would drive a need for hydro generation and that is not always the case.

What about the impact on aquatic life? What is the level of concern? How is that regulated?

MARTINDALE: The licensing process contains an extensive environmental review and has requirements on our operations to mitigate for potential environmental issues. There are minimum flow requirements below some of our dams that we must meet.

We have 14 hydroelectric generating plants with 12 of these on Alabama Power lakes and dams and then two are located on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dams, Bankhead and Holt.

See recipe on page 66

WHITE HOT CHOCOLATE

Comfort in a mug



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Comfort food has been defined as a meal or beverage that makes us feel good, often associated with happy memories and feelings of nostalgia, providing emotional comfort and a sense of security and familiarity. We often seek out comfort foods when we are feeling sad, stressed, or homesick.

Another time we feel a craving for comfort food is when the elements outside are less than ideal, such as during the months of cold weather. To help combat the post-holiday January blues, here's a recipe for a hearty, inviting hot beverage that's a perfect indulgence in the present that might take you back to childhood in your mind.

So while it's cold outside, start up the fireplace, get your favorite fuzzy slippers on, wrap up in a warm blanket and snuggle on the couch with a delicious mug of white hot chocolate.

WHITE HOT CHOCOLATE

- 3 cups half & half
- 2/3 cup white chocolate baking pieces
- 1 3 inch cinnamon stick
- 1/8 tsp ground nutmeg
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1/4 tsp almond extract
- ground cinnamon (optional)
- whipped cream (optional)

1. In a medium saucepan combine 1/4 of the half & half, white chocolate baking pieces, cinnamon stick and nutmeg. Stir over low to medium heat until white chocolate is melted.

2. Add remaining half & half. Stir and cook until heated through. Remove from heat. Discard cinnamon stick.

3. Add in vanilla and almond extract. Stir until mixed through.

4. Pour into your favorite mug. Top with whipped cream and sprinkle with ground cinnamon.

Amazing happens **here.**



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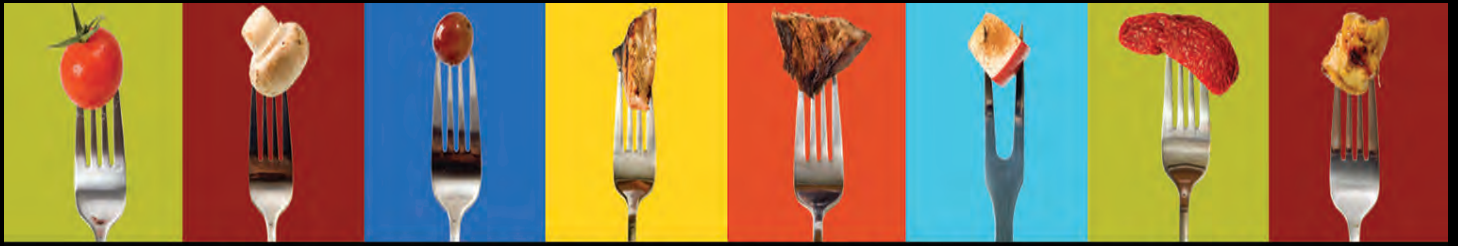


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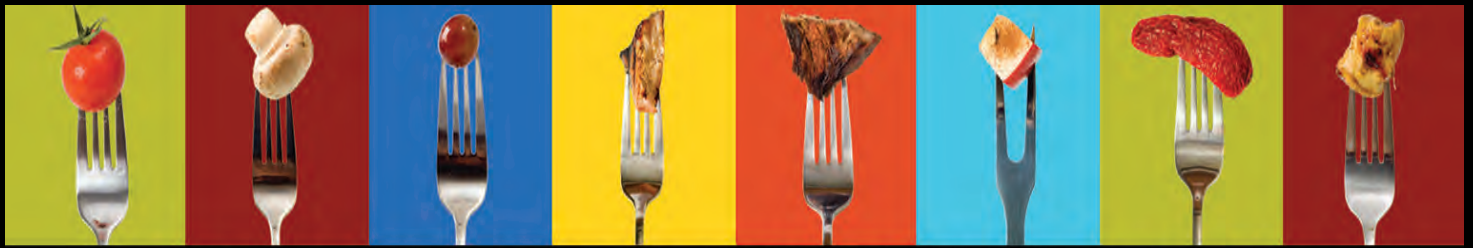
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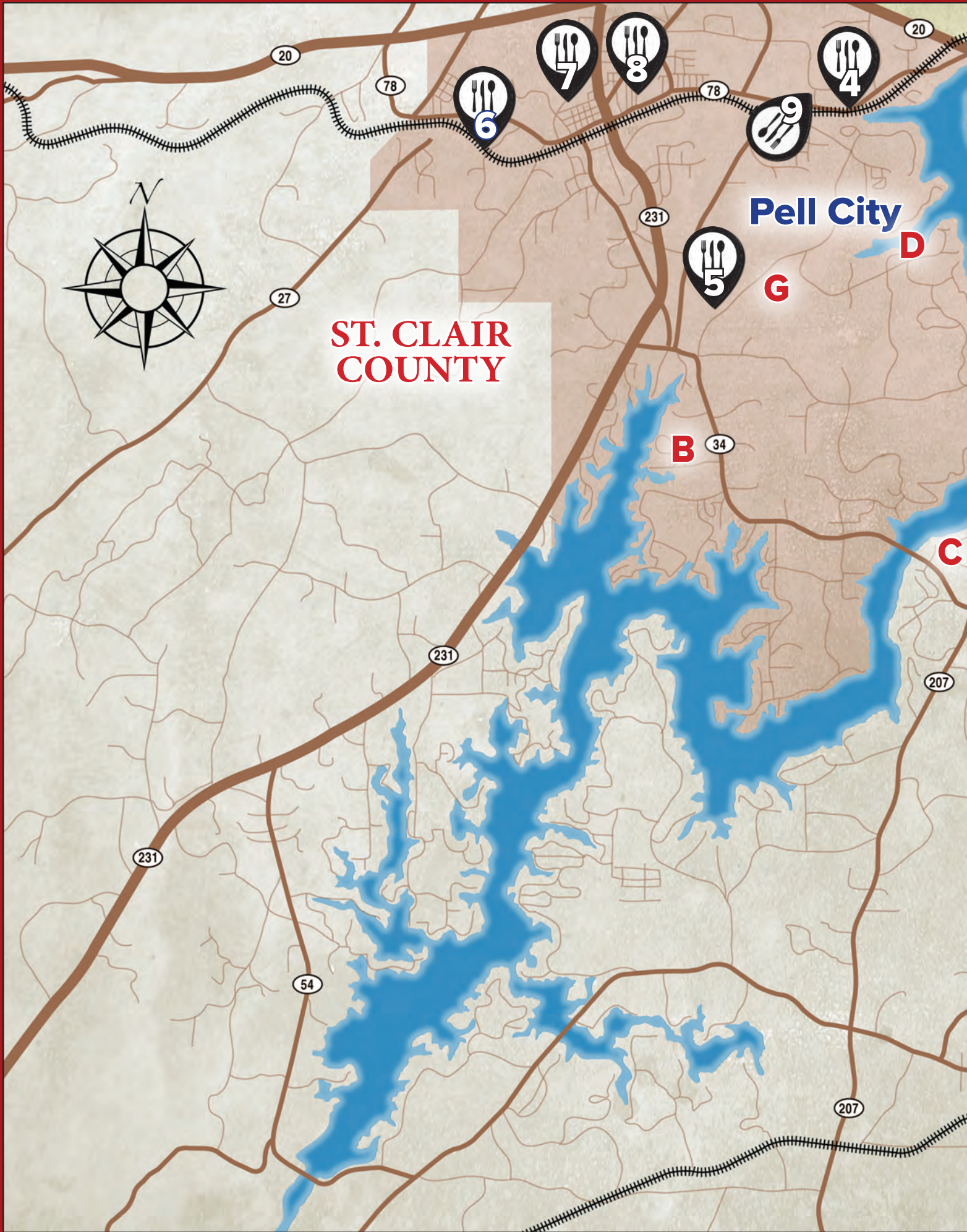
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Cropwell property offers modern amenities in functional mid-century architecture

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

Prospective buyers looking for a charming home with a modern interior on Logan Martin Lake will surely want to see 270 Clearwater Point Road in Cropwell.

The single-family property with wood siding sits on less than an acre and

has one-and-a-half stories. It was built in 1968, has four bedrooms and two bathrooms within its 2,030-square-foot interior.

The living room space is quaint but big in personality and ideal for a small or growing family. The area has an open-concept floor plan with wood flooring throughout, recessed lighting, a tray ceiling, a ceiling fan at its center, large

windows welcoming plenty of natural light, and a gorgeous brick wood-burning fireplace.

Adjacent to the living room is a space that can be used as a dining room or sunroom. Its large floor-to-ceiling windows welcome plenty of light and breathtaking views of the lake.

The kitchen has recessed lighting, spacious cabinets for plenty of storage, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, a large breakfast bar, and a pass-through window above the sink to enjoy views of the lake.

The exterior features a screened patio (perfect for rainy days when the lake can still be admired while remaining dry), an open deck for days with clear



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skies, a large sloped backyard, and an attached garage with two parking spaces.

A distinctive feature about the home is the paved and stone block path from the porch of the partially finished basement that leads to a pier. It's an ideal spot for unwinding after a long day, date nights, sunbathing, or swimming.

The property lists at \$599,900. For more information, call Amanda Anderson St. John at 205-368-6184.



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Written by **VALLEAN JACKSON**

Submitted photo

Kaitlyn White is a full-time real estate agent who knows firsthand the impact an agent can make in a client's buying or selling experience. This is why it has become one of her goals in life to be a positive influence that shows up for families and individuals on their journey of finding a place to call home.

"Real estate is something I grew up around, but is something I never thought I would pursue professionally," she said. "Bill Gossett, my grandad, was a huge inspiration for me. He was a very successful broker and partner at Fields Gossett Realty. I have always been in awe of how selfless he was and how much joy helping others brought to his life, and I can say that as an agent now, I understand why it was so joyous."

White believes that what sets her apart as an agent is how she prioritizes building strong relationships with clients. This allows her to better understand their goals and expectations. She added that what she looks forward to most is the moments of joy and relief that clients experience when they walk away from the closing table.

"Being an agent is understanding my clients' unique needs and helping them navigate the process of buying or selling their home," she said. "I take pride in knowing that I'm a valued member in helping individuals with what is typically one of the most important transactions of their lives."

The Fields Gossett agent has four years of experience as an agent and looks forward to continuing to be a guide for clients. She understands how

the process of buying a home can seem overwhelming but believes strongly in making sure clients have a person in their corner that they can trust, ask questions to, and rely on.

"It is important to not take on buying or selling a home alone. It's very beneficial to have a dedicated professional that you know who is on your side to provide knowledge and guidance throughout the entire process. An agent has connections in place that can be helpful, they know the market, they can negotiate for you, and they can market your home to achieve the best possible selling price."

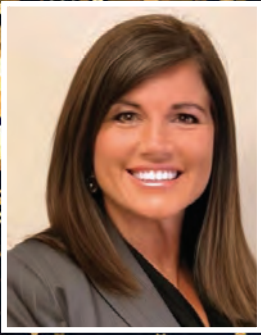
When asked what advice she would

give to prospective sellers, she advises focusing on preparing the home for the current market. This includes decluttering, making necessary repairs, and staging to create a welcoming atmosphere. Pricing the home competitively based on a market analysis is also crucial to attract potential buyers. And being flexible with showings can increase the chances of a quick sale.

White is a Pell City native and currently resides in the area. She married her high school sweetheart in 2014, and they have two children together. When she is not working, she enjoys being able to spend quality time with her family.



"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" ~ John 1:12



Laurie Brasher
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155 Nottingham Dr, Pell City
\$585,000

This beautiful custom-built 4 BR and 3.5 BA brick home in the Archers Bend subdivision of Pell City is a fantastic property! With features like a community clubhouse and inground pool, it offers great amenities for residents and an inviting home for family gatherings.



705 Watson Rd, Cropwell
\$478,000

Come and view this beautiful 4-sided brick 4-bedroom, 3-bath home in Cropwell near Logan Martin Lake highlighting a lot of appealing features, especially for those looking for both comfort and convenience and it includes an indoor pool and hot tub!



5006 Collins Dr, Pell City
\$639,999

A NEW CONSTRUCTION 4 BR and 3.5 BA home with almost 3000 sq ft will be the perfect entertaining home with an oversized family room and upgraded kitchen and an outdoor patio complete with a stacked stone fireplace. This beauty sits on an approx. 1 acre lot with Logan Martin Lake access!



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.



503 Markeeta Rd., Leeds
\$334,900

Investment Property or Church-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. Recent remodeled basement includes a fellowship hall, new appliances, new countertops, and new tile flooring.



805 N Lakeshore Dr.
\$424,000

Ever wanted a cabin style lake home on year-round water for under \$450,000? This is it! This 4 bedroom and 2 bathroom lake home is perfect for the full time lake enthusiast or for a peaceful weekend retreat. The open floor plan contains an eat-in kitchen, bar seating, den with stacked stone fireplace, French doors opening to the recently added heated and cooled sunroom with extensive and unencumbered views of Logan Martin Lake.



908 Davis Acres Dr, Alpine
\$599,900

218 FEET of WATERFRONT on Logan Martin Lake! This 3 BR and 3 BA home has been renovated just 2 yrs ago and added sf and has expanded the lot to 1 acre.



6470 Winslow Dr, Trussville
\$449,000

What a showcase home with an abundance of space for your family! This 4 bedroom (consisting of one master suite downstairs and one master suite upstairs) and 3.5 bathroom home with two family rooms is the perfect home for the growing family. There is a community pool with a splash pad and a playground to enjoy!



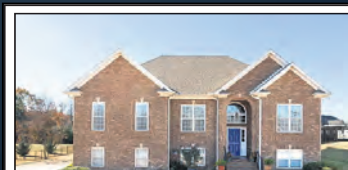
145 N Lakeshore Dr., Talladega
\$389,000

Fishing, Swimming, and Boating on Logan Martin Lake are just a few steps away since the private community boat launch is located right behind your backyard, but you don't have to pay for an expensive lake front price home! Come and see this 4 bedroom and 2.5 bathroom spacious 2127 sq ft home on almost an acre.



398 Andrew Ln., Odenville
\$245,000

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!



175 Smithfield Ln., Springville
\$369,900

Welcome to this beautifully maintained 4-bedroom, 3-bathroom home located in the desirable Springville community. Spanning 2,210 square feet, this property has 3 Bedrooms and 2 bathrooms on the main level with another bedroom and full bathroom and den in the finished basement and with a large unfinished basement spacious enough to park 3 cars!



121 Vann Cir., Trussville
\$349,900

Right in the heart of historic Trussville and just blocks away from the up and coming lively Trussville entertainment area sits this 4 sided brick spacious 3 bedroom and 2.5 bathroom home with 2 family rooms and an office/mud room area. The oversized deck is perfect for entertaining and connects to a fenced in backyard complete with a spacious storage/workshop with electricity. This home won't last long in this exciting housing market!

394 & 422 Lakeview Crest, The Reserve, Pell City.....\$110,000 & \$135,000



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1606 7TH AVE. S., PELL CITY, AL 35128 - MLS #21369803 - \$30,000 - 3 LOTS



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NEW LISTING
\$990,000 - 332 Driftwood Point Road - BREATHTAKING VIEWS from this 4 bedroom, 3 bath home located on the main channel of Logan Martin Lake. The home features living room with 20' ceilings with wood beams, dining room, (2) kitchens, master suite with fireplace and French doors that open to sunroom. Basement features den with fireplace, one of the kitchens, 2 of the bedrooms, bath and another hook up for laundry room. Gentle slope to the water with gazebo, in ground pool with perimeter fenced, bathhouse with lift and 2-car garage plus extra parking space. **MLS #21402508 Call Blair 205/812-3377**



SOLD
\$980,900 - 435 Lee Cutoff Road - STATELY 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath, 2-story home with a GRAND STAIRCASE to the second floor balcony has many amenities PLUS with approx 29 ACRES! The home features a 27' ceiling great room with open floor plan to include fireplace, dining room and kitchen. Master bedroom is located on main level with recessed ceilings, spacious bathroom with his/her vanities and an office located off the master with separate front entrance. Also additional bedroom with on-suite on main level and two bedroom with Jack and Jill bath and bonus room upstairs. So much potential with pasture, for horses, recreation and beautiful, peaceful setting as well as a landing strip for small aircraft. A MUST SEE! **MLS #21387793 Call Alesia 205/405-0860**



\$665,000 - 5006 Collins Dr. - BEAUTIFUL NEW CONSTRUCTION with this 5 bedrooms, 3 bath 2 story home that features family room with stacked stone fireplace, chef's dream kitchen complete with oversized island with farm house sink, breakfast nook and an outdoor entertainment area on 2 lots that includes covered patio and a stacked stone fireplace. Upstairs with an oversized playroom/bedroom and 2 of the bedrooms and a full bath. Located in subdivision with community boat launch and commons area. **MLS #21395979 Call Laurie 205/365-3639**



SOLD
\$549,900 - 2711 Stoneybrook Cir - PRIVATE SETTING and CONVENIENCE with this 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath home with approximately 5400 sq. ft. that features (2) kitchens, large living room/dining room and large den that opens to kitchen. Second story includes 2 bedrooms, bath and huge master suite with large office. The basement is partially finished with bathroom and storage area. Charming and large front porch, 2-car garage on main level, plus in-ground pool with new liner and a separate building with fireplace (not totally finished) and located on 6.1 ACRES and nestled in wooded area for privacy and convenient to town and I-20. **MLS #21378641 Call Adam 205/369-2704**



\$765,000 - 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/rec 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**



\$775,000 - 14 Seddon Point - GREAT FAMILY LAKE HOME with more than 3600 sq. ft. located on Logan Martin Lake! The home features open floor plan with large family room with lake views, hearth room with fireplace, dining area and kitchen with granite countertops, grained wood cabinets and abundance of storage and main level master bedroom. The expanded open area is great for large gatherings. The second story features a second master with access to an office with views of the lake and 2 spacious bedrooms with shared bath, plus a full basement that provides great storage and could become a media room. This home is located on 2.82 Acres with a gentle sloping lot with approx. 273 waterfront, with views of the lake from the front and back of the house. **MLS #21396433 Call Karen 205/473-4613**



\$478,000 - 705 Watson Rd - BEAUTIFUL 4-sided brick 1.5 story 3 bedroom, 3 bath home that features layout of spacious family living all on main level with family room, dining room, plus one bedroom with full bath upstairs, in-ground saltwater pool with outdoor entertainment area with perimeter fencing and 2-car garage. **MLS #21395476 Call Laurie 205/365-3639**



NEW LISTING
\$575,000 - 155 Nottingham Dr. - BEAUTIFUL CUSTOM-BUILT BRICK 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath home located in Ashers Bend Subdivision. Home features family room with fireplace, dining room, and main level master suite with luxurious amenities of jetted tub, standing shower, double vanities and large walk-in closet. Three bedrooms located upstairs provide ample space with two bedrooms sharing a Jack-Jill bathroom, one with private bath. Finished basement with large family room and an office and 2-car garage. **MLS #21396728 Call Laurie 205/365-3639**



SOLD
\$424,900 - 543 Avondale Lane - MOVE IN READY with this 2 Story 5 bedroom, 4 bath home located in new subdivision of Sumter Landing. The home features living room with fireplace and spacious home with many upgrades. **MLS #21385798 Call Adam 205/369-2704**



\$425,000 - 805 N Lakeshore Dr. - COZY CABIN STYLE 4 bedroom, 2 bath home that is perfect for the full time or weekend for a peaceful retreat that features open floor plan with eat-in kitchen, bar, den and stacked stone fireplace. French doors open to the recently added heated and cooled sunroom with extensive and unencumbered views of Logan Martin Lake. Nice, sloping lot with over 140' of waterfront with (2) piers and one with boat cover. **MLS #21393737 Call Laurie 205/365-3639**



\$409,500 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 205/812-4141**



\$634,900 - 260 Riverview Dr. - YEAR ROUND LIVING with this charming 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath 1.5 story home that features open family room with massive stacked stone fireplace, kitchen with solid surface countertops, ample cabinets, breakfast room, separate dining room and master bedroom all on main level. Upstairs features nice walkway overlooking family room and has (2) bedrooms and bath. Daylight basement is finished with large den and bonus room. Enjoy the open deck or screened porch that overlooks gentle slope waterfront lot that is fenced and private dock. **MLS #21394568 Call Brenda 205/812-4141**



PENDING
\$439,900 - 580 Avondale Lane - MOVE-IN READY with this Valley A Floor Plan in New Castle Subdivision that consists of 4 bedrooms, 3 baths (2 bedrooms and 2 baths on main level). The kitchen has tons of counter space and cabinets, large island and walk in pantry. This Smart Home System has large back yard with privacy fence and irrigation system and 2-car garage. **MLS #21388381 Call Adam 205/369-2704**



\$649,000 - 5018 Collins Dr. - NEW CONSTRUCTION of this 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath 2-story home that features open floor plan of family room with a floor to ceiling stacked stone fireplace, high ceilings and inviting chef's kitchen with large granite bar, abundance of cabinets, stainless steel appliances and custom built hood. The master suite has his and her vanities, free standing tub and tiled shower and located on main level. Also has a double lot with covered patio and custom built stacked stone fireplace and located in The Reserve Subdivision with lake access, convenient to town and I-20. **MLS #21395985 Call Laurie 205/365-3639**



NEW LISTING
\$289,900 - 75 Leonard Court - BEAUTIFUL VIEWS from this 3 bedroom, 2 bath WATERFRONT doublewide with screened porch, large open deck and dock with floating pier attached. LOTS OF POTENTIAL for a great waterfront price. **MLS# 21403820 Call Blair 205-884-2300**



SOLD
\$354,900 - 130 Braxton Place - BEAUTIFUL, SPACIOUS CUSTOM BUILT 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home that features updated with no carpet throughout and has living room with country French Mansions fireplace, dining room and spacious kitchen with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances (new microwave 2023 and dishwasher 2024). Home has much to offer! **MLS #21386287 Call Misty 205/368-9490**



Does the New Year Mean a New Home?

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Dawn Williams, CREN, ABR®, MRP
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2319 Cogswell Ave. | Pell City, AL 35125



2119 N 2nd Avenue, Pell City, \$380,000

Luxury Downtown Residence. This home offers a lifestyle of unparalleled sophistication. Alabama marble flooring and mahogany beams welcome you. Host gatherings in the spacious dining room, natural light and polished hardwood floors. Indulge your culinary desires in the gourmet kitchen, stainless steel appliances, 5 eye gas stove, soft-close cabinets, and dual quartz islands. Relax by the gas log fireplace in the living room, creating a warm ambiance. Master suite features a spa-like ensuite with a nine-headed shower, spacious dressing room and a separate tub room. Escape to your private outdoor sanctuary, complete with a pool and landscaping perfect for entertaining. The unfinished basement offers limitless potential for your customization. Nestled on a prime corner lot in the heart of downtown, this residence offers convenience to the finest dining, shopping and entertainment. Don't miss the chance to elevate your lifestyle and make this exquisite property your own. MLS 21385239



234 Henderson Ln Talladega, \$1,100,000

Estate on the Lake! Large level lot approx 1.53 acres, Best of both worlds Sunrise and sunset views. Two stories of beauty. Massive crown molding and columns. Gorgeous kitchen with 6 eye gas stove and tons of counter space. Large pantry and a "pot room". Keeping room with a fireplace adjoining sunroom/ eat in kitchen area. Master on the main floor plus an office, formal dining room. Upstairs is 4 more bedrooms and 3 baths. One being a 2nd master with a very spacious closet and fireplace. Sit quietly in your reading room overlooking the lake. Great Room with two story ceilings and windows with a fireplace, double garage and a supersized out building. Double stall boathouse and boat launch. Plus much much more! MLS 21394714



6400 Riviere Dr. Pell City, \$650,000

A diamond in the rough..... Pine Harbor large level lot with fabulous sunrise and moonrise views. Boat house and seawall. Four bedrooms and four full baths. Two bedrooms walk out onto a porch overlooking the lake. Great room with vaulted ceilings and brick fireplace. Eat in space in the kitchen plus an eat up bar. Double car garage with sprinkler system installed for fire safety and a golf cart door. Double car carport or makes a great outdoor space. Two large screen porches one with a Michael Phelps swim spa plus a separate covered porch. Large patio area for family functions and grilling. A studio apartment (4th bedroom) upstairs includes a kitchen, bath and large living area with a huge closet. Great natural light for an art studio or crafting room. This home has so much to offer a must to see. MLS 21391774



11 Pine Harbor Road Pell City, \$100,000

WOW !! What a buy... A business sitting at the mouth of Pine Harbor. The Kitchen seats 45 people and 13 tables. A separate prep kitchen with an office. Plenty of parking. The Kitchen comes fully functional with 4 microwaves, 6 refrigerators, a 12 x 12 walk in stainless master built walk in cooler, 2 toasters, 4 1/2 ft x 2 1/2 ft gas grill, 2 gas fryers, commercial 2 door refrigerator, prep bar, Ref/Freezer, 28 cubic ft freezer, 24 x 10 quartz center island, 3 compartment stainless sink, 1 hand washing sink, hood system fire suppression, commercial stand up dishwasher. Plus much more. Covered Picnic area with smoker and 3 picnic tables. Out building does not remain. MLS 1359591



35714 Us Highway 231, Ashville, \$180,000

MLS 21398749 Looking for that starter home or empty nester? Here it is. Two bedrooms and two bathrooms. Spacious rooms, with an open floor plan. Dining room, sunroom, large great room. Big level lot approx 1 acre. Small town feel. Covenant to Birmingham and Gadsden. Just minutes to I-59. The roof is 2 yrs old, HVAC is 5 yrs old.

MLS 21398749



112 Charter Drive, Pell City \$330,000

Here is what you've been waiting for: A luxury lake access condo in a gated community. Charters Landing! This luxury condo is just over 1800 sf one level with a spacious open living area. The kitchen has all the upgrades expected with granite and stainless steel appliances. The security system is an added plus. Two spacious bedrooms, 2 full baths. Large dining room and an office area/ separate sitting area. Just off the entrance is a breezeway for you to enjoy with a beautiful view of the lake. There's a fireplace area for your enjoyment. Don't worry about a place for your boat. There is a deeded boat slip located near the common area with two Seadoo slips. There are 4 parking spaces for your own personal use. There is additional parking for all your guests. There are several tennis/pickleball courts located just steps away that are lighted for night time enjoyment. New HVAC unit put in 2022. Call now!



101 Paradise Isle Unit 101, Riverside, \$299,000

Waterfront oasis! breathtaking sunrises and sunsets, water view from the main living spaces. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathroom condo right on the water is so cozy yet feels spacious with the wall to wall windows. There is a sun porch. Big eat in kitchen. Breakfast bar that seats 10 people. Formal dining room. Great room with wood burning fireplace for cozy nights. Plantations shutters. If it's water therapy you're looking for, look no further. There is a boat launch, two floating piers, swimming, 2 salt water pools, tennis court, walking sidewalk and picnic area. HOA maintains all of the exterior for maintenance free living. Lake life on Logan Martin is only a phone call away! Call for your showing today! MLS 21401900



55 Steeplechase Ct., Pell City, \$252,000

Are you looking for a great full brick home in Pell City??? This Beautiful Garden Home is a MUST SEE! Perfectly made for easy living and low maintenance. The home features hardwood floors with a large great room with a gas log fireplace, The kitchen offers beautiful white cabinets and an eat up breakfast bar. Separate dining area. Three bedrooms and 2.5 baths. Master bath has a jetted tub and separate shower, double sinks. Single car garage. The covered back patio is the perfect place to sit and enjoy your morning coffee or enjoy the firepit with family. Great location and convenient to shopping and I-20. MLS 21402288



KING

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LOTS FOR SALE!

**0 Annesley Dr Unit #0
Pell City, \$250,000**

**Lot 6 Cason Lane
Cropwell, \$15,000**

**13 Hickory Lane,
Odenville, \$39,900**

000323731

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GREAT NEW PRICE
425 Patches Ln.
Pell City, AL 35128
MLS# 21392519
\$589,900

LAKE ACCESS



SOLD
5022 Forest Dr.
Pell City, AL 35128
MLS# 21396635
\$749,900
LAKE FRONT



UNDER CONTRACT
112 Harbor Pointe Dr.
Talladega, AL 35160
MLS# 21382123
\$399,900
LAKE ACCESS



SOLD
593 W. Sunset Dr.
Talladega, AL 35160
MLS# 21395716
\$418,900
LAKE FRONT



130 Eagle Pointe Way
Pell City, AL 35128
MLS# 21397753
\$574,900
LAKE ACCESS



GREAT NEW PRICE
300 Johnson Ave. S.
Talladega, AL 35160
MLS# 21399442
\$144,900



NEW LISTING
131 Palmetto Crk.
Ashville, AL 35953
MLS# 21399891
\$99,900
LAKE FRONT



SOLD
64 Elm Way,
Lincoln, AL 35096
MLS #21397329
\$289,900



GREAT NEW PRICE
233 Digby Rd.
Oxford, AL 36203
MLS # 21395360
\$189,900



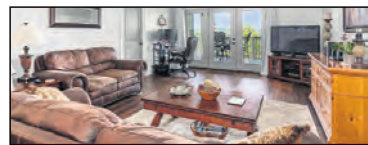
GREAT NEW PRICE
475 River Forest Ln. Ste 4150
Talladega, AL 35160
MLS# 21391826
\$299,900
LAKE ACCESS



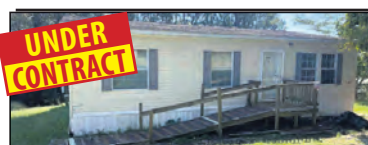
475 River Forest Ln. Ste 2430
Talladega, AL 35160
MLS# 21395345
\$329,900
LAKE ACCESS



84 Harbor Pointe Dr.
Talladega, AL 35160
MLS# 21400231
\$399,900
LAKE ACCESS



475 River Forest Ln. Ste 4420
Talladega, AL 35160
MLS# 21396611
\$264,900
LAKE ACCESS



UNDER CONTRACT
1240 Levine Rd.
Odenville, AL 35120
MLS# 21400104
\$49,900



GREAT NEW PRICE
3501 Cogswell Ave.
Pell City, AL 35125
MLS# 21385151
\$59,900 **COMMERCIAL PROPERTY**



GREAT NEW PRICE
946 Silver Run Rd.
Munford, AL 36268
MLS# 21387418
\$219,900 **COMMERCIAL PROPERTY**



75128 Highway 77 S
Lincoln, AL 35096
MLS# 21398124
\$499,900 **COMMERCIAL PROPERTY**



#1 Team

Across 3 Lakes

Lay • Logan • Neely

SOLD



**748 Pine Harbor Rd,
Pell City**
4 BR, 5 BA

\$590,000

LOGAN MARTIN



35 Waters Edge Cv, Alpine
4 BR, 3 BA

\$1,650,000

SOLD



**139 Wolf Creek Rd N,
Pell City**
3 BR, 2BA

\$254,800

LOGAN MARTIN



**Autumn Ln,
Pell City**
Lot 13

\$28,000



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

\$175,000

LOGAN MARTIN



**0 Annesley Dr. # 0
Pell City**
2.5 Acres

\$399,900



**612 Chaffee St,
Talladega**
4 BR, 7 BA

\$525,000

SOLD



**2806 Ridgeway Rd,
Pell City**
3 BR, 2 BA

\$205,000



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

\$615,000

NEW CONSTRUCTION



**23 Stonegate Cir,
Lincoln**
3 BR, 2 BA

\$299,900

LOGAN MARTIN
UNDER CONTRACT



638 Davis Acre Dr,
Alpine
6BR, 4BA
\$687,100



85 River Oaks Ln., Cropwell
4 BR, 5 BA
\$1,195,000



30 Pinewell Dr,
Cropwell
5 BR, 3.5 BA - 26 Acres
\$875,000



75 River Oaks Cir.
Cropwell
3 BR, 2 BA
\$424,900



LOGAN MARTIN
84 Blue Eye Rd W #16,
Lincoln
Lot/Land
\$25,000



LOGAN MARTIN
17 Summit Ln
Lincoln
2 BR, 1 BA
\$115,000



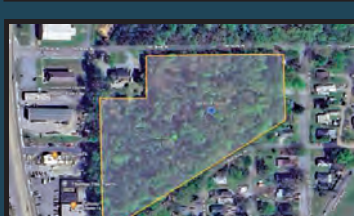
350 Woodland Trl,
Pell City
3BR, 2BA
\$275,000



LAY LAKE
PRICE REDUCED
551 Liberty Shores Dr,
Vincent
20 Acres
\$244,750



LOGAN MARTIN
125 Blue Eye Rd W #19,
Lincoln
Lot/Land
\$25,000



7th Avenue N,
Pell City
Land/Lot
\$150,000



250 Schall Drive
Ragland
3 BR, 2 BA
\$269,000



270 Clearwater Point Rd., Cropwell
4 BR, 2 BA
\$599,900

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863 Funderburg Bend Rd,
Pell City
\$669,900



GEORGIOUS LAKEFRONT HOME
1680 Funderburg Bend Rd, Pell City
MLS# 21400479
\$949,900



UNDER CONTRACT
211 Ambleside Dr, Lincoln
MLS# 21400492
\$274,999



UNDER CONTRACT
280 Turtle Rock Dr, Ragland
MLS# 21398691
\$774,900



AMAZING FARMLAND
400 Morgan Bridge Rd #1/1, Ragland
MLS# 21395063
\$774,900



GARDEN HOME
115 Morton Dr, Pell City
MLS# 21396885
\$338,900



FARMHOUSE AND ACREAGE
7046 Wolf Creek Rd. S.
Pell City
MLS# 21395062
\$699,900



NEW CONSTRUCTION
15 Old Roadway, Cropwell
MLS# 21389324
\$417,000



CUSTOM BUILT
60 Old Road Way, Cropwell
MLS# 21384364
\$489,900



NEW MANUFACTURED HOME
330 Saint Smith Cir, Cropwell
MLS# 21381951
\$209,900



COMMERCIAL PROPERTY
0 Hwy 231, Pell City
MLS# 1342987
\$3,000,000



COMMERCIAL PROPERTY
80 Span Ln, Pell City
MLS# 1343463
\$7,000,000



COMMERCIAL PROPERTY
0 Reel Ln., Pell City
MLS# 1343464
\$625,000



545 Tenbury LN, Cropwell
MLS #21403592
\$424,900



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

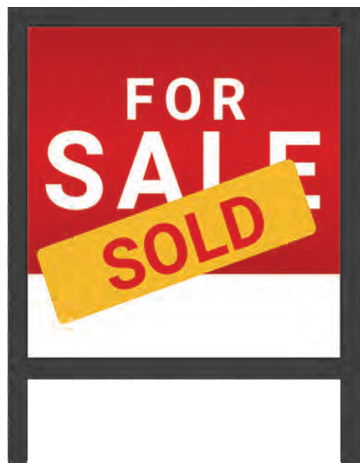
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*Wonderful
2025!*

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A photograph of three people (two women and one man) celebrating. They are holding champagne glasses and lit sparklers. The woman on the left is wearing a white lace top and has a wide smile. The man in the middle is wearing a dark shirt and has a beard. The woman on the right is wearing a light-colored blazer and is also smiling. The background is dark, and the scene is lit by the warm glow of the sparklers and champagne.

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