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- ▶ The Logan Martin LakeFest & Boat Show
- ▶ The Kymulga Grits Festival
- ▶ Meet Me By the Lake

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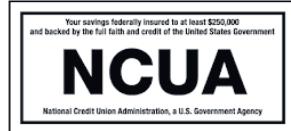


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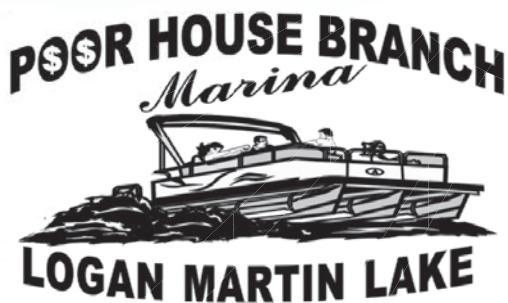
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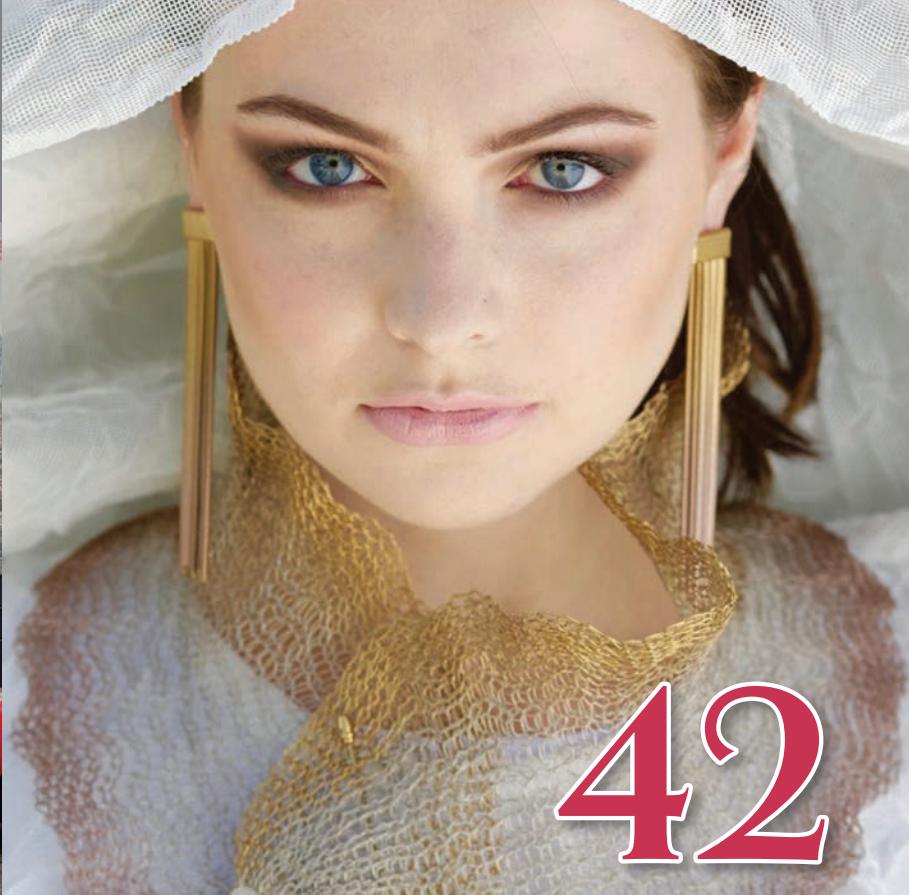
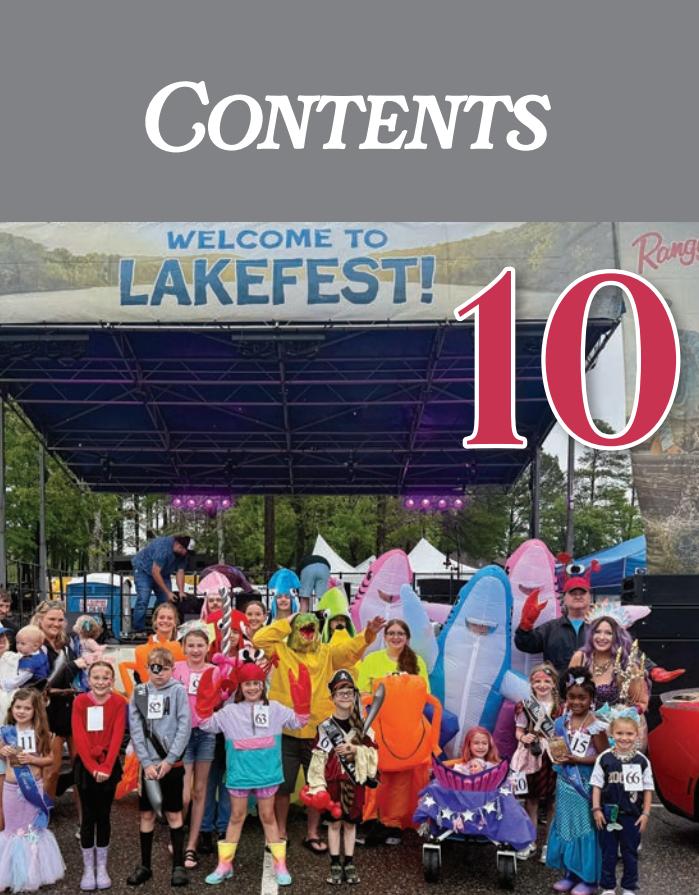
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ON THE COVER: Robin Wallace by the shore at the Birmingham Sailing Club. Photo by Buddy Roberts

Logan Martin Homes Edition

LAKESIDE LIVING

*Covering life along
Logan Martin Lake since 1994*

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Mea culpa, mea culpa, mea culpa

There is an old saying that an error doesn't become a mistake until you refuse to correct it.

I hope that's true, because I need to correct an error.

Three errors, in fact.

I do not like committing an error, let alone three. It is offensive to my sense of professionalism. I realize that the reality of being human means that errors will happen occasionally, but when they do, it means that I have performed at a level that is lower than what I expect of myself.

Errors made in print are especially hard for me to take. When someone makes time to grant an interview to a writer, they look forward to seeing that interview published in an error-free presentation. Again, the reality is that with the absence of levels of proofreading that were once standard to the newspaper and magazine production process, it is a virtual impossibility to produce a completely error-free publication. Still, three major errors is a lot for one issue, and, as this publication's editor, I let three individuals down in the May issue of Lakeside Living.

So, with my Borsalino in my hand, I offer apologies to the following three individuals.

Vaughan Spanjer: Two of the most talented artists in Alabama, Vaughan and her husband Tim were featured in last month's issue, including an appearance on the cover. And not once – not on the cover nor in the three-page article about her art – did I spell Vaughan's name correctly. Which is about as rookie a mistake as can be made. Considering that Vaughan is one of the nicest, kindest

souls east of the Mississippi (or any other river), I especially regret that it happened to her. A corrected version of Vaughan's feature has been posted online and shared via Lakeside Living's social media.

R.L. Mitchell: I do not know Mr. Mitchell personally, but he took time from his schedule as a real estate professional to be interviewed by Vallean Jackson for one of our monthly realty features. He had every right to expect it to be presented properly, so when the headline to his feature referred to singing real estate papers rather than signing them, he had every right to be disappointed and perturbed. A corrected version has similarly been made available online.

Morgan Munn: Morgan is one of the most original personalities I have crossed paths with around Logan Martin Lake, and we had discussed plans to showcase one of her real estate listings in the May issue's other realty feature. When the magazine was published, another listing had appeared in its place. Morgan, despite considerable time spent trying to figure out what happened and why, I regret that I still don't have an answer. But I hope that its appearance in this issue may help offset the error.

The poet Alexander Pope is credited with the aphorism, "To err is human," but a poet can afford to be more philosophical about it than a journalist can. Errors and philosophy aside, however, thank you for joining us for another month of Lakeside Living. I hope you will enjoy what has been prepared for you in this issue.



VAUGHAN SPANJER



R.L. MITCHELL



MORGAN MUNN

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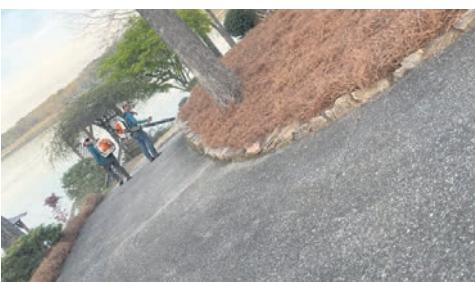
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HOOK, LINE & SINKER

How to catch the hardest-fighting fish on the Coosa River

When you think about fishing on Logan Martin, more than likely you won't think about the gar. But I'm here to change that.

Gar is an absolute blast to catch. Notable for their prehistoric appearance, large scales, and powerful wide, slender body, the gar is a fish that you'll never forget. The three common species of gar in Alabama are the alligator, spotted and longnose. Predominately, spotted and longnose gar can be found in our local waters. Both species can reach lengths of 3-4 feet. There are even claims of gar reaching more than feet long.

These odd-looking fish dwell in all parts of the water column. I chose June to write about them because the hot sun and lack of oxygen in the water will cause gar to group up in certain areas of the river. When this happens, it's not uncommon to see

hundreds of gar surfacing to the top of the water. Typically, they will gang up in the bends of the main river, where the current isn't as prevalent. This makes for very easy targeting, and with the right setup, you can actually catch some of these prehistoric predators.

When we were young teenagers, BASS Elite Series Professional Will Davis Jr. taught me how to effectively catch a gar. We would go out early, before the sun got blistering and target these fun fighting fish. Believe it or not, the setup is simple but effective. All you'll need is a rod/reel setup (preferably a decent bait caster or heavy-duty spinning reel combo), a lighter, some $\frac{1}{2}$ -ounce jig heads, and some small 1/4'-1/2' general purpose rope.

Simply cut off a 6-12-inch section of rope, use the lighter to burn the ends, and put the burnt end of the rope on the $\frac{1}{2}$ oz jig head. Cast the rope and jig

rig into the pools of gar and reel the rig back fast. The gar will viciously attack the rope, their teeth will be entangled, and the fight is on. I recommend having a really good pair of thick gloves and a really good pair of pliers or a knife for cutting the rope out of the gar teeth.

Please be careful when handling these toothy fish. They are powerful and very strong. Recreationally, the gar is not really a sought-after fish. It is a fish that doesn't get much attention. But if you're looking for a fight, I would recommend giving it a try. They are truly a fun fighting fish that is easy to target.

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GOOD FOOD AND GOOD MUSIC ARE HALLMARKS OF ANNUAL FESTIVAL SUPPORTING GOOD CAUSES

Written by **LOYD MCINTOSH**

Photographed by **TUCKER WEBB**

To say the weather didn't cooperate during the 2025 edition of the Logan Martin LakeFest & Boat Show is an understatement.

While the rain largely stayed away on Friday evening, Saturday was a completely different story. Rain poured throughout the late morning and early afternoon, and the temperature felt more like mid-fall rather than mid-spring. By the time I arrived at Lakeside Park around 3 p.m., the rain had largely moved on, but the weather

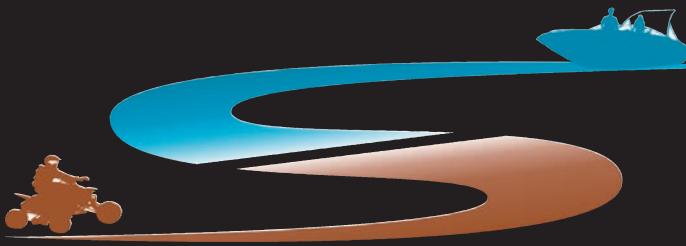
app on my phone read **59 degrees** – Fahrenheit, not Celsius – in mid-May.

Despite the cooler temperature and wet conditions, the spirits weren't dampened for the hundreds of people who came out to enjoy the food, music, and vendors and to check out the dozens of boats on display during what has become the unofficial start of the summer season in Pell City.

The Logan Martin LakeFest & Boat Show has its roots in an event launched in the late 2000s that struggled to draw a crowd. Looking to make waves with the event, the core group of organizers (which included such business and civic

leaders as Fred Casey, Jerry Woods, and Joe Paul Abbot) reimaged the event as a fundraiser, initially for the Logan Martin Lake Protection Association (LMLPA). The group brought in Pell City resident and marketing professional Eric Housh to help take the event to the next level. Rechristened Logan Martin LakeFest, the event was held on property within the Horizons development before relocating out of necessity to Lakeside Park.

Now, 15 years beyond its humble beginnings, LakeFest is one of Pell City's signature events with a positive relationship with the city leadership and the business



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community.

"We're truly blessed because, at around the same period of time, the leadership of Pell City really took an interest in the event and enabled us to move it to Lakeside Park," says Housh. "We've had a wonderful relationship with Pell City Parks & Recreation, the fire department, and the police department. Getting inside the city limits has allowed us to really lean on the city for help."

The 2025 edition of Logan Martin LakeFest was planned to be the biggest and best yet, with more than 40 vendors offering everything from hand-crafted arts and crafts to financial and health advice and a slew of food trucks serving up loads of deep-fried awesomeness. The entertainment was on-point as well, with popular regional bands the Nacho Daddy Band and Get Sideways cranking out radio hits from the last 40+ years.

Additionally, over the last 15 years, Logan Martin LakeFest has raised more than half a million dollars for LMLPA, local charities, and city departments.

"Every year since then, we mix it up. We try to make it a little

bit bigger, a little bit better, all with that core vision that those original four guys came up with in 2010, which is to give back to local charities," says Housh. "Over the years, we've given over half a million dollars back to local charities like the police and fire foundations, local sports teams, local church youth groups, ASPCA has been a beneficiary, the Veterans Home, and we've given a lot of money back to the Parks and Recreation Department for park improvements."

The event also donates funds



to local breast cancer awareness efforts, a cause that is close to Natasha O'Konski's heart. A Realtor with Keller Williams Realty Pell City, O'Konski celebrated one year in remission from a bout with breast cancer on May 11. Also, a long-time sponsor and advocate for LakeFest, O'Konski says she rushed right back to Pell City for LakeFest after ringing the bell, signifying the successful end of treatment.

"I'm a breast cancer survivor, so the fact they're donating to breast cancer research means a lot to



me," says O'Konski. "Last year at LakeFest, I was out here wearing a wig and nobody knew it, and my last day of radiation was that Saturday of LakeFest."

Upon arrival on Friday evening, I had two goals in mind: eat like a condemned caveman during his last meal before execution and check out the bands. On both scores, I was not disappointed. After picking up a cold beverage, I scarfed down a hot dog from Rita's Weenie Wagon, which rivaled any concession stand tube steak.

Still hungry, I wandered among the food trucks before spotting an old favorite: Carpenetti's. A popular and award-winning pizza restaurant in Moody, Carpenetti's food truck offered slices of their famous pizza, of which I had two enormous pepperonis during the weekend (one Friday evening and another Saturday afternoon).

After browsing through some of the booths and chatting with a few friends, I thought it was time to check out Friday's band, Nacho Daddy. A party band based in Birmingham, Nacho Daddy's set was heavy on arena rock from the

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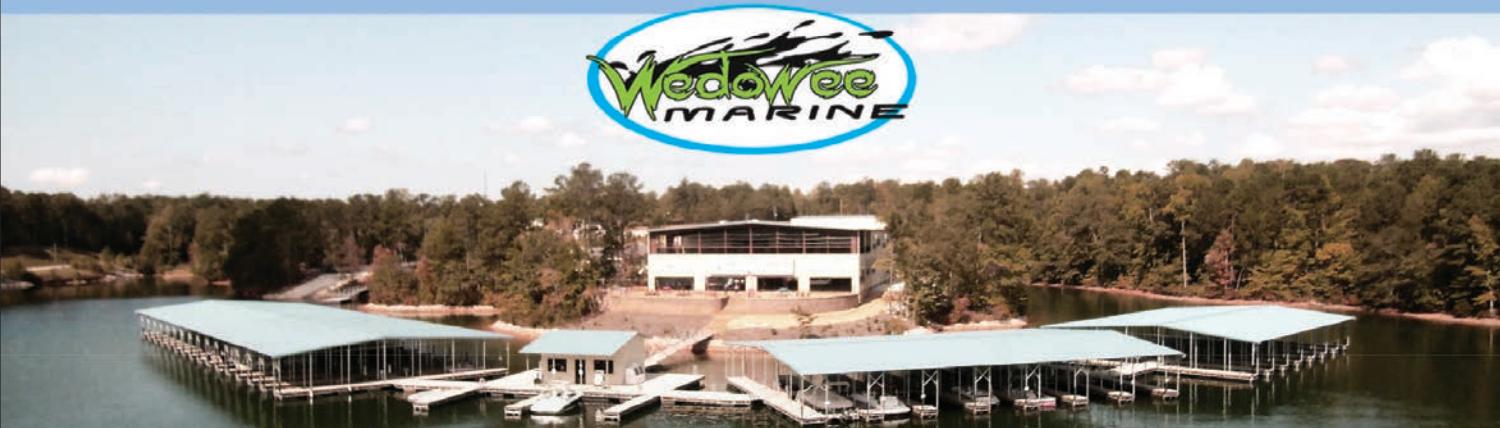


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1980s. As I approached, the band was midway through a version of Journey's "Don't Stop Believing," including a credible version of Neal Schon's epic guitar solos.

The night ended with a spectacular fireworks show honoring veterans from the Colonel Robert L. Howard State Veterans Home in Pell City.

Day two was, without question, the wettest of the 3-day event. Heavy rains poured off and on throughout the day, but that didn't keep people away from the fun and music. I started the festivities with my slice of pepperoni from Carpenetti's, then, while digging the band Kudzu during its mid-afternoon set, I noticed a



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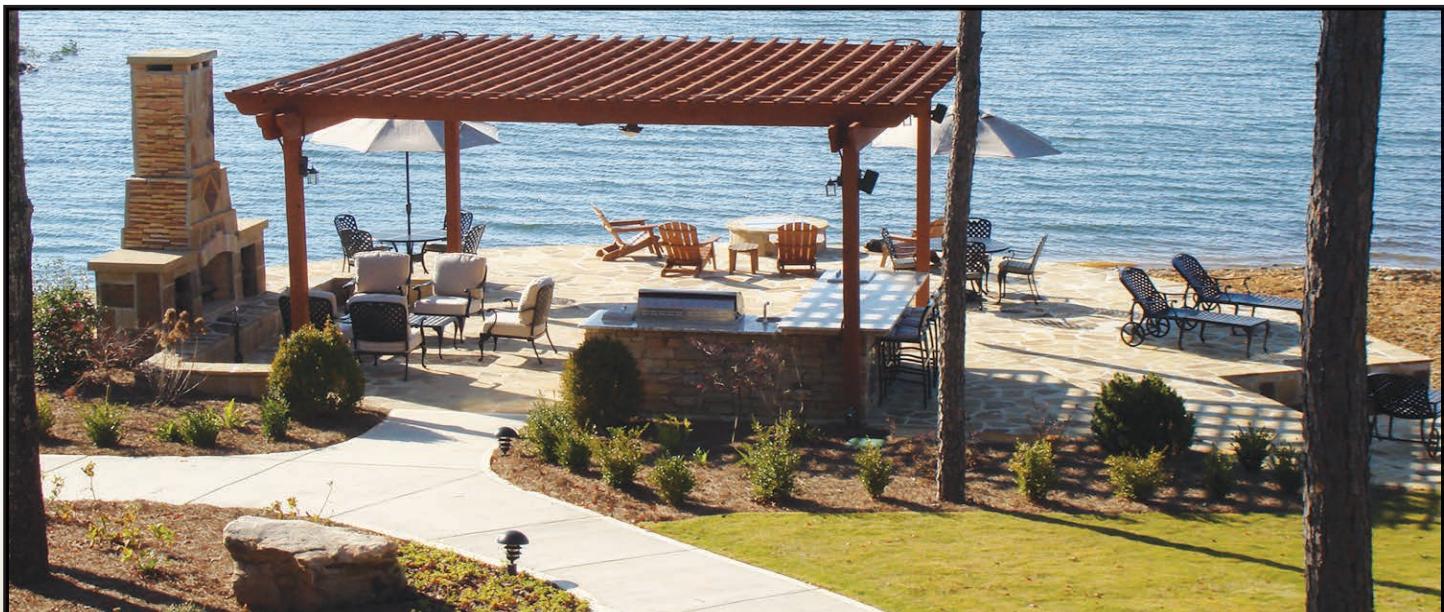
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family sharing a plate of the most amazing deep-fried snack I've ever encountered. The matriarch told me they're called ribbon fries and pointed me toward the food truck where they could be found – J.A. Concessions.

A potato cut into a thin strand of spuds piled, by my estimation, four inches high, ribbon fries can be topped with any number of items, but I just asked for them to be salted to within an inch of their lives. They're crispy, oily, greasy, and amazing. I got another order on Sunday.

Saturday night's headliner was another popular party band, Get Sideways. Clad in black and oozing with plenty of rock-and-roll attitude, Get Sideways specializes in tunes from the 1990s and beyond. One of the most popular bar bands in the Southeast, on this night, their fan base consisted mostly of pre-teen and teenage girls, who crowded the stage and danced like there was no tomorrow.

The band obliged, launching into amped-up renditions of hits from One Direction, Miley Cyrus, and even a version of Taylor Swift's "Love

Story," while giving high-fives and taking requests from the excited group of girls and having the time of their lives.

On Sunday, the final day of LakeFest, the temperature was noticeably warmer, and the sun attempted to peak through the clouds for much of the afternoon. It was also Mother's Day, and what better way to celebrate this special day than with a mimosa, on the house, adding a burst of sunshine to a rainy but festive LakeFest weekend.



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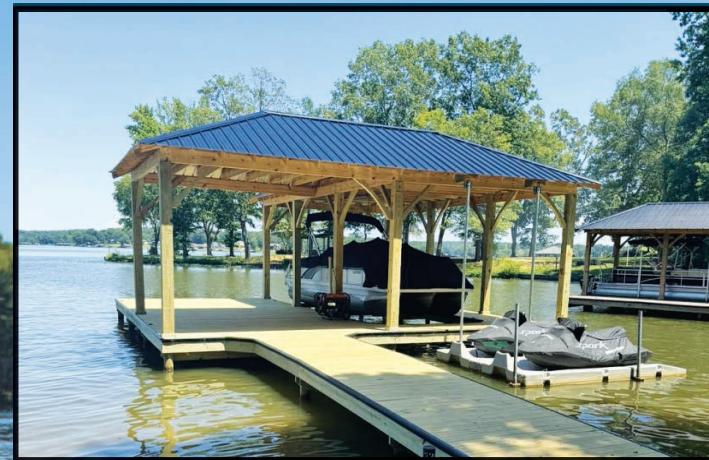


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SEEING THE LAKE WITH *SARAH ELIZABETH*



Through the *KYMULGA COVERED BRIDGE*

Written by **SARAH ELIZABETH MOREMAN**

Photographed by **TUCKER WEBB** and
SARAH ELIZABETH MOREMAN

After squeezing into the tiny car rental, I adjust the mirrors and the seat manually. Even with my somewhat petite state, I feel like a giant in this Mitsubishi Mirage. My usual ride, Darth Vader, a V8 SUV named for its engine, is grounded thanks to bad wheel bearings and spark plugs in need of replacement.

There is something about driving a rental that shifts perspective. As I steer this small car through Birmingham and onto Highway 280, I find myself paying more attention to what is beyond the

windshield. The trees and grass seem especially green today, refreshed by last night's wild, stormy weather. Lightning flashed with blinding whiteness, illuminating the dark sky and keeping me awake well into the early hours. I can still feel the white zings of those lightnings.

Turning off the highway onto the bridge, the trees seem to press in closer, hugging the road. I roll down the windows, letting in the startlingly fresh, cool air that feels perfect on my warm skin. I smile. This drive is exactly what I need after a long, heavy week of living with the weight of my own decisions.

Up ahead, the curve reveals vehicles parked along both sides of the narrow,

paved country road. I ease the tiny car onto the muddy grass, still soft and slick from last night's storms, and slip it into a space without much room to spare.

I emerge from the car, straightening the hem of my floral spring dress. There is a graduation party later this afternoon, but for now, the high-heeled sandals can stay in the trunk. I leave on my black Hoka slides and start walking. A wooden entrance sign comes into view, with Kymulga Grist Mill and Covered Bridge spelled out in crisp white paint, an American flag standing sentinel beside it.

As I make my way down the hilly gravel entrance to the Kymulga Grist Mill's Grits Festival, passing the Railroad Crossing sign, a man beneath a blue



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tent greets me. He asks if I would like to enter the raffle to win a rifle. I laugh, half-apologizing, half-scolding myself for forgetting to bring cash other than a single dollar for the festival admission. I would have loved a chance to win...a rifle of my own, either for protection or as a gift for someone who would appreciate adding it to his gun collection.

The covered bridge is a sight I have been waiting to see for a long time. For years, I have wanted to visit this historic landmark, described by the City of Childersburg and managed by the Childersburg Historic Preservation Commission as "one of the only two 19th-century covered bridges in the state that has not been rebuilt or relocated."

Excitement builds up as I approach the covered bridge, where the soft lights hang in a crisscross fashion, casting an inviting and romantic ambiance. Visions of potential dates cross my mind as I stroll through the historic structure, breathing in the earthy scent of aged wood and feeling grateful for the preservation efforts. As I walk through the shadows beneath the lights, I struggle to find a word that captures this feeling...something close to nostalgia, but not quite. Is it fernweh, the German word that describes a sense of belonging to a place I have never visited before? Fernweh fulfilled, I muse, while taking in the worn beams and small windows that line the path.

Peering out of one window, I see Talladega Creek rushing in full force, thanks to last night's heavy rains. The bridge, believed to have been constructed during the Civil War, perhaps around 1861, was built to provide access across the creek. Wood and metal were used in its construction, employing the Howe truss design to span 105 feet over the water. As I move deeper into the bridge, I feel an increasing sense of nostalgia. I wonder if the spirits of those who lived and died during the Civil War linger here, though I know that thought is more a product of my imagination than my faith. Still, there is something quietly mysterious in the atmosphere, more solemn than frightening. I feel a deepening connection to this rare and





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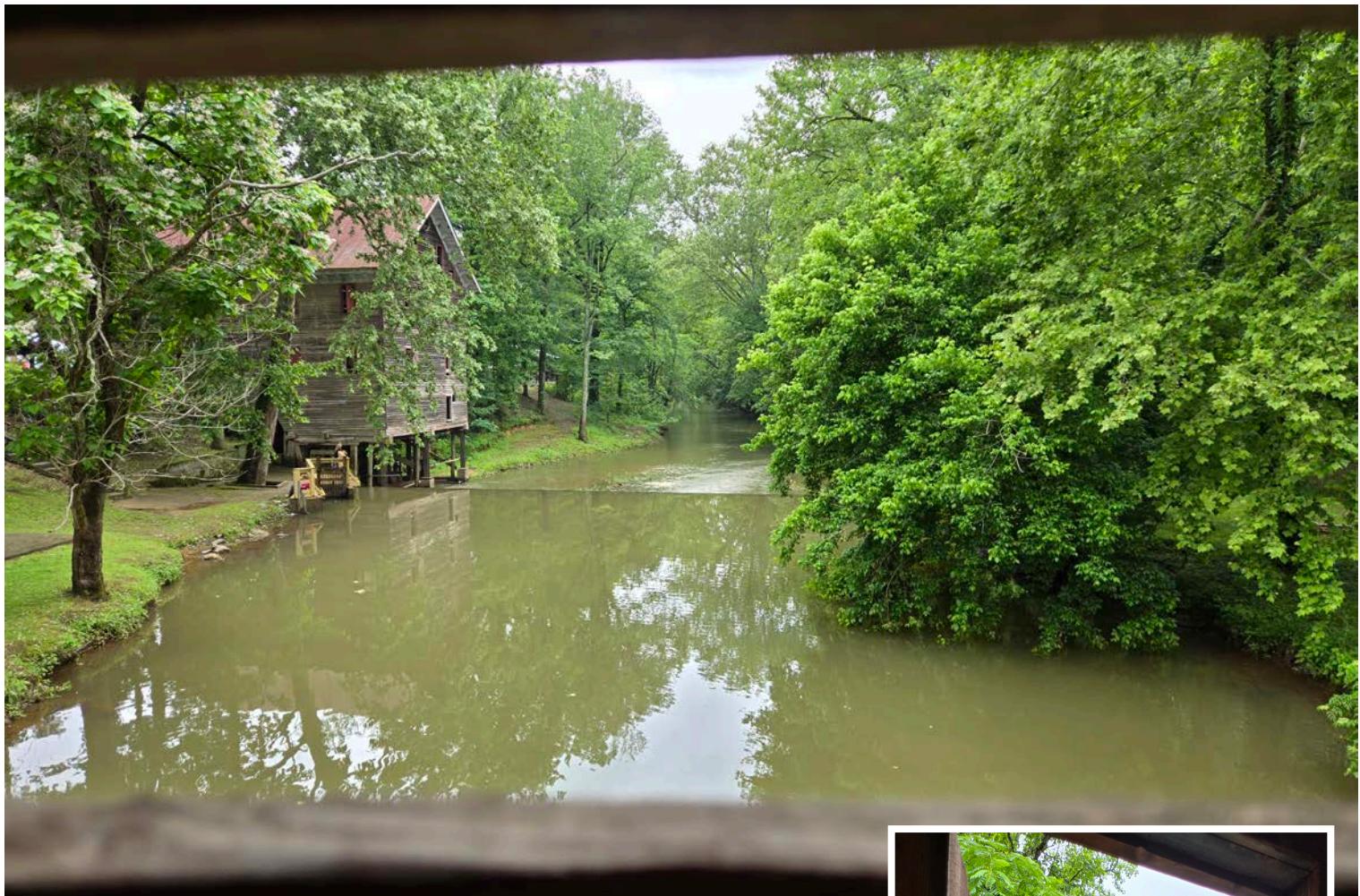
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historic site.

At the other end of the covered bridge, a soft light glows, framed by the rich greenery of the forest. Down the ramp from the bridge, I spot a wooden sign beneath a small metal awning, which shelters a glass panel displaying information about the trees found in the park. The list includes Cherrybark Oak, Florida Maple, Red Maple, Slippery Elm, Sweetgum, Black Walnut, Sugarberry, Box Elder, Water Oak, Yellow Poplar, American Beech, Loblolly Pine, Paw Paw, White Oak, Eastern Hophornbeam, Flowering Dogwood, White Basswood, Shagbark Hickory, Southern Catalpa, Silver Maple, River Birch, and Swamp Chestnut Oak.

I realize I can only identify a few of these trees: among them, the Loblolly Pine and the Water Oak. The rest remain names on a list, waiting to become familiar.

Stepping away from the sign, I turn to observe the three carts hitched to

a bright green John Deere tractor. A tractor train ride, I think with a smile. I ask the driver if I may join the ride, and he helps me climb onto the last cart. The wooden seat is damp, yet somehow welcoming in its coolness, a small relief against the humidity and heat that clings my skin and gives volume to my naturally dark honey-colored hair.

The trail ride is pleasantly slow as the tractor and its driver pull us through the forest, reportedly for all 8 miles. The tires slosh through muddy water along the well-grooved path. The canopy overhead and the dampness of the trees make the ride more enjoyable, with cool breezes offering a welcome contrast to the warm, seventy-degree weather. Sunlight filters through the leaves, casting dappled patterns along the way.

In the second cart, two little brothers exclaim over everything they see. The older one has his face





painted with an ocean scene, complete with palm trees. The younger, wearing glasses, is more talkative; his enthusiasm is endearing as he points out each detail with delight. Their mother watches them with a smile that radiates with quiet pride. In the first cart, a man with his two young daughters turns to engage with the brothers, sharing bits of his knowledge about the nature passing by.

As I listen to their exuberant voices, I turn my attention to the lush shades of green around us, awed by the intensity of the landscape's beauty. The cool breezes are so refreshing that I cannot help but feel a sense of reverence in the moment. Talladega Creek winds alongside the trail ride, its waters moving gently in parallel with our path. On the other side, meadows stretch out, dotted with picnic tables placed beneath sturdy, well-constructed wood pavilions. The peaceful setting invites quiet gatherings, offering shade and rest beneath the broad canopies.

As the trail ride comes to an end, we wait patiently for the tractor driver

to help us out of our respective carts. I make my way over to the older brother to ask about the tiny turtle he has been holding. With a small gesture, he indicates that the turtle actually belongs to his younger brother. I ask for the turtle's name, and their mother replies, "Trent." I thank them warmly before one of the passengers from the first cart approaches me. The father asks if I would listen to one of his daughters. Caught by surprise, I smile and agree.

I stand in front of the girl in the yellow shirt and meet her blue eyes, which shine above a spray of delicate freckles. She hesitates for a moment before beginning to sing softly about dreams. I smile and nod in encouragement as she sings. When she finishes, I thank her for sharing her gift.

Stepping aside to the edge of the bridge, I pause to take in the view of the water below, wanting to experience its presence more closely. Then I walk back across the bridge toward the festival grounds, where vendor booths are set up on the right side near the historic

Kymulga Grist Mill.

Inside the mill, I find a charming shop offering a variety of local goods: hand-carved wooden bowls, Kymulga T-shirts, a freezer stocked with Blue Bell ice cream, small-batch scented candles, and copies of the third edition of *Recipes and Remembrances*, a collection compiled by the Childersburg Historical Preservation Commission. Burlap-linen bags containing two pounds of stone-ground grits and white self-rising cornmeal are neatly arranged, each printed with the Kymulga Grist Mill and Covered Bridge logo, a proud reminder of the site's history and enduring legacy.

After purchasing a Blue Bell Krunch ice cream bar, I explore the museum beyond the shop. I pause to observe a framed certificate from the State of Alabama, recognizing the Kymulga Mill and Covered Bridge as listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior, dated October 29, 1976. I ponder the preservation efforts behind any nationally registered historic



site, knowing that fundraising and membership are often essential parts of sustaining such places.

Wanting to contribute, I decide to purchase a shirt, a jar of local honey, and one bag each of stone-ground grits and white self-rising cornmeal. As I take in each part that makes up the grist mill, I reflect on how such engineering by creative minds long ago made it possible to stone grind grits and cornmeal. Creative minds of the past designed a system that could transform simple grains into sustenance. This kind of knowledge, and the craftsmanship behind it, should be shared, so future generations can grasp how far we have come when it comes to preparing food to fill our bellies.

Leaving the grist mill, I step over to the tracks simply to admire them. I have always had a thing for railroad tracks. The parallel lines running alongside the Kymulga Grist Mill and Covered Bridge over Talladega Creek resonate with me

as perfect symmetry, an order in life that feels indelibly right.

Passing vendor booths offering cotton candy, balloon-tying, face-painting, crafts, and even more guns, I make my way to the other side of the bridge to visit additional booths and check out the Kymulga Station. Live music fills the air while the crowds savor the locally famous shrimp and grits, along with burgers, hot dogs, and fries. The mingled scents of boiled peanuts, roasted corn, and cotton candy drift through the air, making my stomach rumble and my mouth water in anticipation. Beyond the station, I spot a food truck promoting Boba tea, with a long line waiting in front of it. A woman walks by, holding roasted corn on the cob as she eats.

I stop at a vendor booth where Terri LaPoint greets me warmly. It is her friendliness that draws me in, and I ask her questions about her U.S. Congress District 3 campaign and the issues she considers important—chief among them,

keeping families together. I share my cousin's story about the importance of family and midwifery. Before leaving, I purchase a copy of her book for my cousin, feeling more informed about how we can campaign for what we believe in to improve the lives of our community.

I almost walk past a booth selling canned jams and jellies until the words "Pickle Squad" printed on a bag catch my eye. I decide to buy two of these bags for my colleagues as an inside joke, given our shared love for anything pickled. Jake Smith of Red Beard Pickling Company and Bakery offers me a few samples. Naturally, I accept and try the watermelon jelly. Its flavor is succulent, and I can imagine my father enjoying it. He loves watermelon, and part of his love language is to buy a large one, slice it open, and cut bite-sized pieces with his large knife. He would always urge us to try it, no matter how many times we said no. It was not until a few years ago that I humored him and began to



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Harper Gurley
Class of 2025

I am a senior at Pell City High School and will be attending Auburn University this fall for Agricultural Education. My favorite thing in High School is FFA. I have been apart of it for 4 years and served as a FFA chapter Officer for three. I competed on the Livestock Judging, Meat Evaluation, Land Evaluation, Dairy Judging, and Poultry Judging team. I also placed top 6 in Veterinary Science Proficiency at the National level. My team and I will also be competing at the national level in livestock judging this fall. I also dedicate a lot of my time on showing livestock. I have gotten the opportunity to raise and show hogs and lambs. I have also gotten the chance to show dairy cattle. All of this has lead me to finding my passion in Agriculture and leading me to get my degree in Agriculture Education. I would love to thank all my family and my Ag Advisers; Mrs. Bunt, Miss Gibson, and Mr. Castleberry for all of their support.

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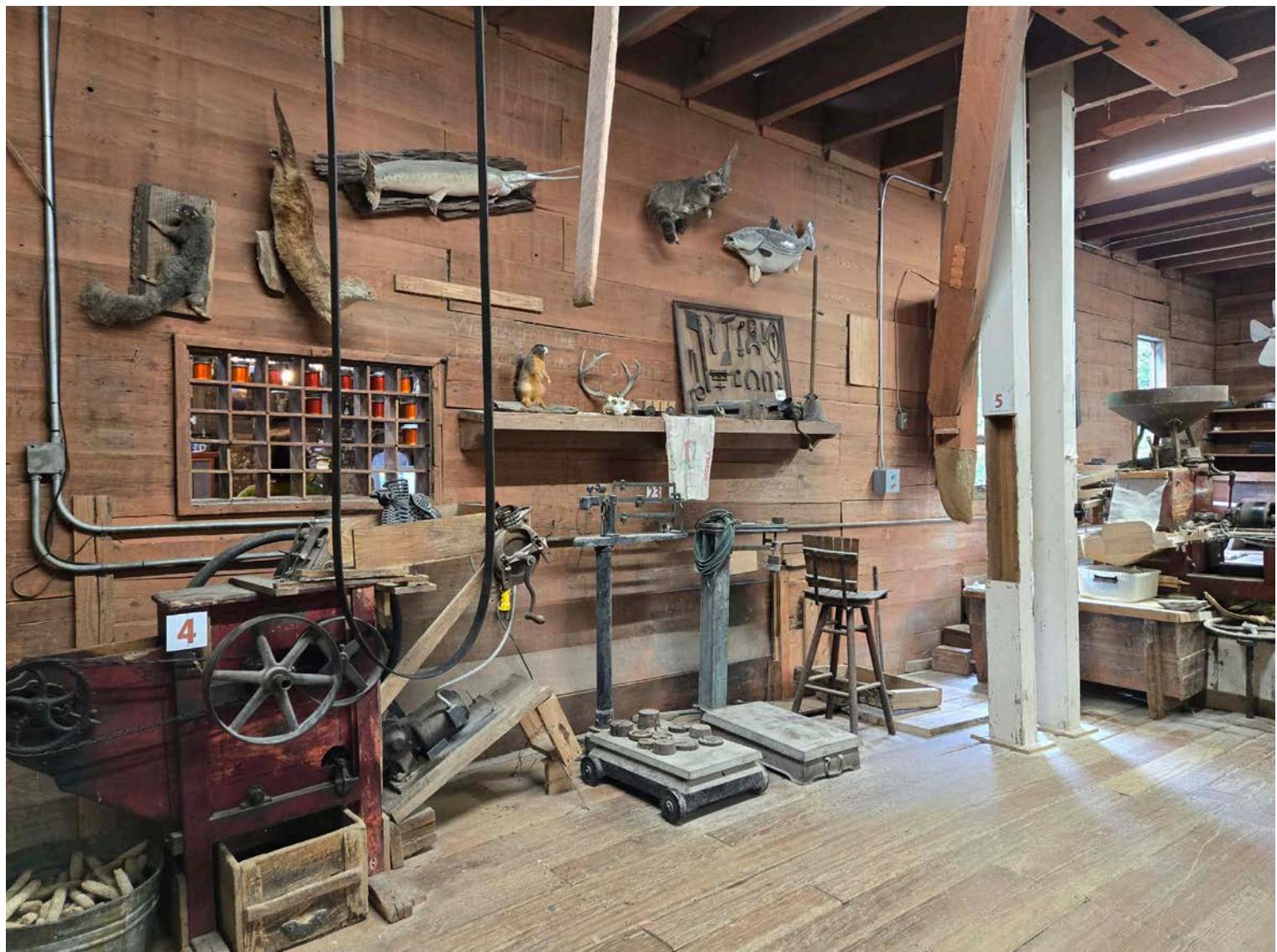
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enjoy watermelon, finally appreciating why he loves it so much.

The next sample is coffee. I look at the red-bearded man in front of me with a questioning expression. Coffee jelly? I hesitate, then reach out and take the sample. The flavor bursts in my mouth, delighting my taste buds. I say "Okay" again, this time with approval. "I am getting this for my mother." She loves coffee and drinks a whopping three cups every morning.

When he offers me a sample of Carrot Cake Jam, I wave it away. "I know that is for me," I tell him. "My birthday falls on National

Carrot Cake Day. I will get it without trying a sample. Now, what is this?" I ask, pointing at the jar of canned pickled lemons. He explains that people actually eat pickled lemons. Interesting, I think to myself. "Okay, I will get that as well. Also these two rubber duckies, since it is a Jeep thing." I wink at him, thinking fondly of my hunter green 1993 Country Jeep Cherokee that I had as a teenager.

After swiping my credit card, I thank him and make my way toward the tiny rental car parked at the top of the now-thinning makeshift lot, the muddy grass firming and drying under the afternoon sun. Once I place

the bags of goods in the trunk beside my waiting heeled sandals for the graduation party across the state to where I will be heading next, I step back to gaze down at the valley where the Kymulga Grits Festival is still unfolding.

I feel grateful to have finally visited the covered bridge and experienced all that the festival had to offer. I will return to appreciate more of this historic place, and hopefully next time, I will be on a date.

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What's new at the

PELL CITY ANIMAL CONTROL CENTER?

A great deal, thanks to the city's animal control officer and Friends of PCACC

Written by **JEFF THOMPSON**

Photos provided by

PELL CITY ANIMAL CONTROL CENTER

Tin November 2024, the City of Pell City was the closest it had ever been to securing an agreement with Greater Birmingham Humane Society (GBHS). An arrangement was discussed for the better part of 10 years, but it wasn't until the end of 2024 that GBHS determined it could take on a project as big as the Pell City Animal Control Center (PCACC).

So, just after Thanksgiving, the city assigned a veteran employee to manage operations at the shelter. Tara Hazelwood had served as the city's animal control officer for nearly a decade and was well respected by PCACC staff. Her superiors at Pell City Police Department gave her a task: ready the facility for transition to GBHS.

Over the next three months, Hazelwood wore two hats. As interim manager, she led the animal shelter

staff while fully maintaining her responsibilities as the city's only animal control officer. Since the shelter operated seven days a week, so did she. And her results have been exceptional.

One of Hazelwood's initial steps in her short assignment as interim manager at PCACC was to reach out to friends. Pat and Neal Stephenson were first. Neal is the current president of the Logan Martin Lake Protection Association (LMLPA) and offered his experience to assist with operations, but his wife Pat was key. For eight years, she was a foundational piece of the shelter. As a volunteer, she worked with every director as the primary animal photographer. Thanks to her dedication in photographing the animals every week, Pat was directly or indirectly involved in rescuing or adopting hundreds, if not thousands, of animals.

Next, Hazelwood contacted longtime friend and animal supporter Michelle Greene. Greene is a local real estate broker, and she's another person who

doesn't take a day off. She cares very much about PCACC, animals, and her friends.

Pell City Police Department Lt. Vince Warrington came next. Warrington served as president of the Friends of the Pell City Animal Control Center. The group's other members at the time included St. Clair County Emergency Management Agency Director Patrice Kurzejeski and Pell City Chamber of Commerce Director Urainah Glidewell.

Add in a few more – Pell City Parks and Recreation Maintenance Supervisor Steven Powell and his staff, Street Department Director Greg Gossett and his staff, and volunteer Dana Ellison – and Hazelwood's team got started.

Within its first two weeks, the team reformatted front office operations by converting the system from paper to digital; reformatting animal identification, medical care rotations, and temperament training procedures; doubled the hours PCACC was open to the public by optimizing staff schedules and

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responsibilities; and compiled a complete list of maintenance projects for the facility.

"My focus was on making the shelter as efficient and organized as possible, mirroring the best practices I knew GBHS employed," Hazelwood said. "We owed it to the animals to be ready for this incredible opportunity."

By January 2025, the facility was operating more efficiently, as many of Hazelwood's operational changes mimicked those employed by Greater Birmingham Humane Society. This allowed the 501c3 nonprofit organization Friends of the Pell City Animal Control Center – now renamed Friends of PCACC – space to tackle its own projects while Hazelwood ran the facility.

Friends of PCACC reorganized, added Pat Stephenson and Greene to its board of directors, and appointed Greene as its new chair. Members, joined by Ellison, took on individual projects like organizing, landscaping, and lobby decor, while the group worked jointly on its first major project in more than a year.

Pat Stephenson appealed to the group that adopting could sometimes be a difficult experience, as the shelter didn't provide a dedicated space for animals and their potential owners to connect. The adoption floor and outside yards weren't suitable, and the lobby was too cramped and busy for quality time.

Stephenson suggested that a fenced-in area could be built

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in front of the facility, two separate, gated spaces where those considering adoption could let a future family member off the leash. The space would also make it easier to capture dogs' personalities in photos, so in multiple ways, it could lead to more adoptions.

Friends of PCACC approved \$10,000 for the project during the meeting, and within two weeks the fences were installed at the shelter. Metro Bank provided support for the effort in donating benches for the space.

By the end of the second month, the facility had been transformed. In addition to the new fencing, Hazelwood's maintenance projects, coupled with efforts by Friends of PCACC and volunteers, included:

- Redecorated lobby and bathroom
- Cleaned and reorganized laundry room
- Removed dead trees on property
- Cleaned gutters and repaired fences
- Replaced gravel
- Repaired and painted front entrance
- Relandscaped front entrance
- Repaired kennel drains



- Replaced lobby and cat room ceiling tiles
- Repaired catio exterior

Friends of PCACC are continuing their efforts, recently securing a \$2,320 grant from The Home Depot Foundation for a new washer and dryer and budgeting \$2,000 to purchase another set. Soon, the nonprofit will have replaced all laundry machines in the shelter. In addition, Friends of PCACC started

identifying walking trails on the land behind the shelter, and they plan to begin fundraising for future projects at the facility.

As GBHS continues to implement changes, Friends of PCACC are continuing their efforts. You can follow their new Facebook page at [facebook.com/friendsofpcacc](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofpcacc) or email them at pcaccfriends@gmail.com.



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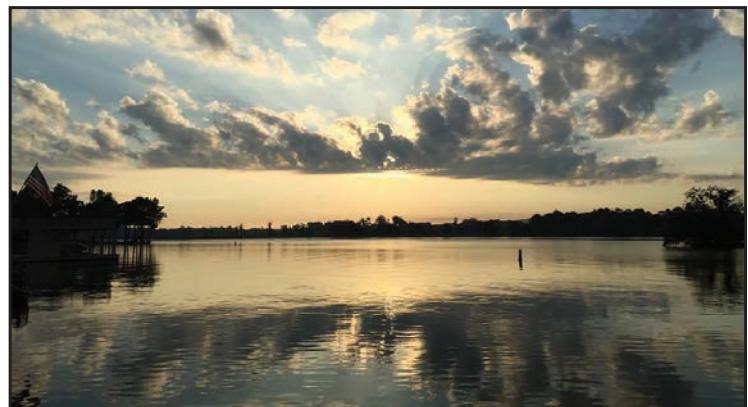
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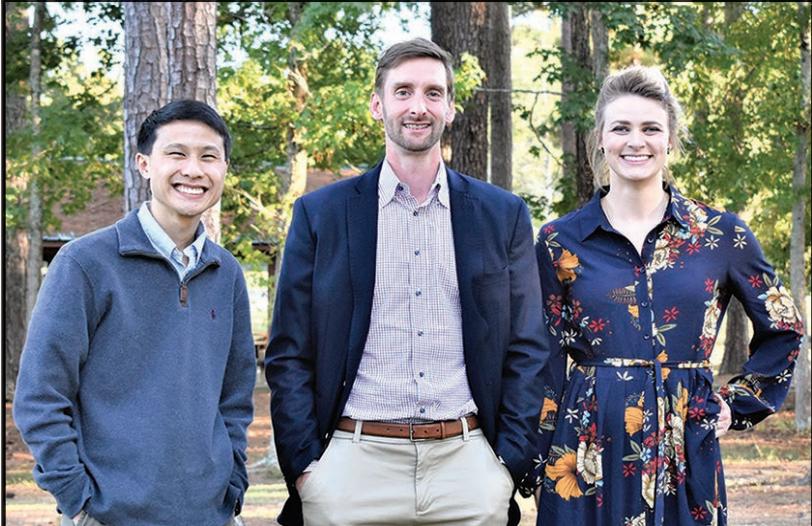
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LAKESIDE AREA- JEWELRY DESIGNER

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Written by **DEBORAH STOREY**

Photos courtesy of
SARAH CAVENDER METALWORKS

Sarah Cavender was flipping through a magazine in a grocery store line and a piece of jewelry looked really familiar.

"Wait," she thought. "That's me!"

Cavender's metal mesh jewelry pops up in all kinds of fashion magazines, from American and German Vogue to Women's Wear Daily.

Katie Couric has one of her belts. Nancy Grace wore her necklace.

The name that spiked sales that time she wore a Cavender-designed belt and necklace: Kim Kardashian.

"That really boosted things, I must say," Cavender said.

Cavender's stunning pieces are a mashup of cold industrial materials and colorful, sophisticated, feminine artistry – delicate blue lily earrings with metal mesh petals, pale pink dogwood flower pins with petals and leaves of fine mesh, necklaces with dangling metallic leaves.

She earned a fine arts degree in sculpture from a Philadelphia arts college and spent a lot of time in jewelry classes but didn't really relate to the finicky, fine pieces others were making.

"I started working with these industrial materials," she said.

After teaching for a while, she started making her own designs and wearing



them at her art gallery job.

"At opening receptions, ladies would want to buy my jewelry off of me," she said – literally off her.

Those unusual materials "became my thing," she said.

Her sister, who lived in Brooklyn, encouraged her to find someone who could help with marketing. Fashion giants Henri Bendel and Patricia Field (the "Sex and the City" stylist) placed orders.

"It was amazing," she said. "I had a lot of people that took me under their



Designer Sarah Cavender.

Photos courtesy of Sarah Cavender Metalworks

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wing."

She developed a technique of treating and folding metal screening to create nature-inspired necklaces, brooches, bangles, belts and earrings.

"We hand-make our jewelry. We finish it, oxidize it, paint it, seal it, then we add color," she said. "We make all our own colors. The colors are brilliant."

"We have quite a few different looks – a classic line using Milanese mesh and some flat snake chain serpentine. We mix those elements together. It's very classic jewelry, but bold. We do everything in different finishes."

Customers can order pieces in silver, gold, antique brass or copper and a rainbow of colors.

"We sell to the Victoria and Albert Museum in London," Cavender said. "That's one of my bigger accounts. They've been buying from us for 15 or 20 years."

The National Gallery of Art asked her to design a piece inspired by a specific painting. The resulting Renaissance necklace sells on her website.

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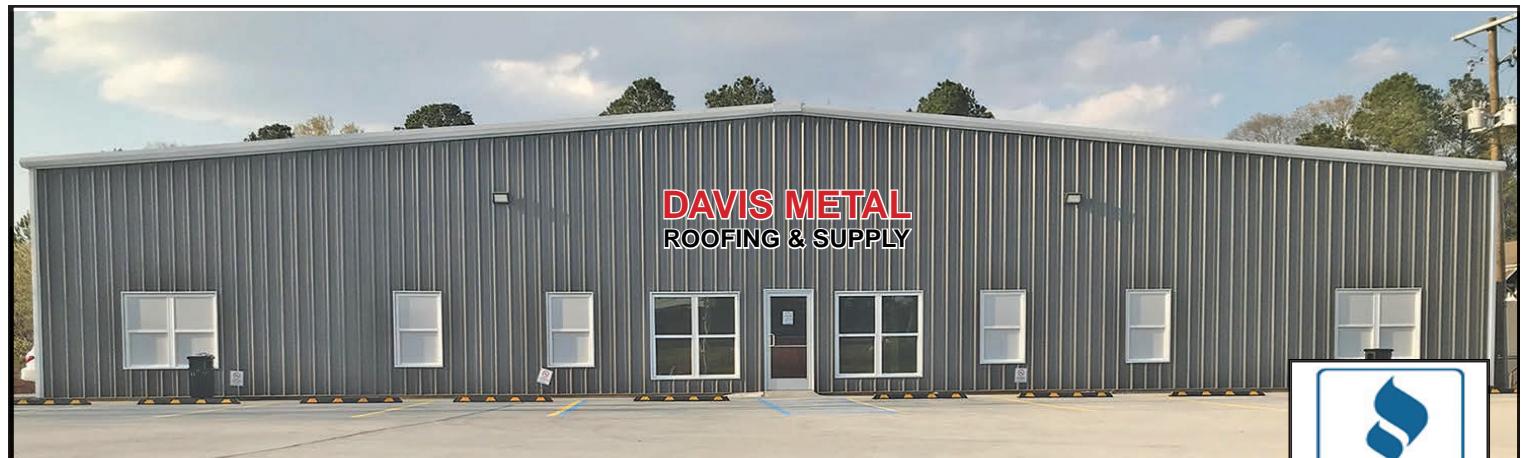
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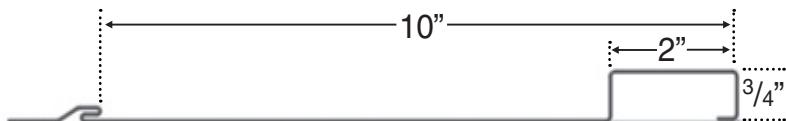


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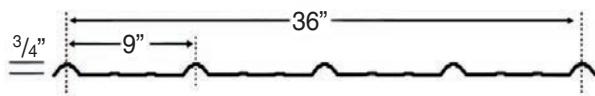
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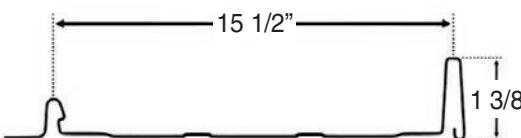
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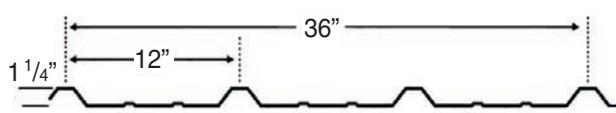
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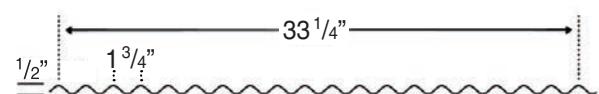
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stores and the Artful Home website also sell her work.

Cavender opened Sarah Cavender Metalworks in Oxford in 1994. Her father is from Heflin in adjacent Cleburne County. She has lived in Texas, California, New Jersey, Florida, Japan and the Philippines.

"I was definitely inspired by Asian art," she said, especially filigreed pieces she saw made with wire.

"I eventually made my way back here after realizing Miami wasn't the place for me," she said.

Her Oxford shop sells primarily to museum stores or boutiques, but customers can walk right in and buy something. Cavender and two employees work in the studio and greet visitors from Atlanta, Birmingham and elsewhere in the front.

"They're looking for gifts to take home that are made by local artisans," she said.

Her most popular piece is the \$195 Three-Strand Fern Necklace.

People ask if she actually weaves the mesh and screen that forms the basis of her designs. She doesn't.

"It all comes out of my head, but I don't make the materials just like painters don't make the canvas," she said.

This feature previously appeared on the *This is Alabama* website and is published in Lakeside Living via Alabama News Center.



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MEET ME BY THE LAKE

Robin Wallace

Written and photographed by
BUDDY ROBERTS

Did you know rabbits can swim?" Robin Wallace asked as she admired the view of Logan Martin Lake from the shoreline at the Birmingham Sailing Club.

I did not and said so.

"I did not either. But I was at the lake one afternoon, and some rabbits were coming across toward the water – I guess someone had startled them – and they just jumped in and started swimming." She paused, as if trying to come to terms with a jarring reality. "Rabbits can swim, but I cannot."

"You can't?"

"I cannot, but I love the water. I like being in it, and I love being around it, but I just cannot master swimming. People are shocked when they find out I can't swim. They're like, 'Oh, everybody can swim.' But, no, they really can't."

Such unexpected topics as the water-treading skills of Leporidae are hallmarks of a conversation with Wallace, a self-described "basic, normal person" despite her work as an actor – which has enabled her to collaborate with movie stars – and talent as an entertaining raconteur. Her talent was on display that morning at the lake, when she discussed her life onstage, named three surprising skills she'd like to possess, and even told a fishing story.

About fishing: "I would rather fish than eat. And I like to eat. But I'm crazy about fishing, especially bass fishing. My brother and I fish together, and when we say that we're going to go fishing, we will get in the boat before it gets daylight, and we will stay on the water until it's dark. We'll pack a lunch, which consists of boiled eggs, greasy cheese and Vienna sausages, and it's horrible. On land, it is the grossest thing I've ever heard of. But when you're out there on the water, it's so good."

Her biggest catch: "An eight pound bass. So I have a funny story about that. I was fishing with some friends, and I had caught this huge bass. In my mind, I was thinking, 'This thing is going on the wall, so let me go



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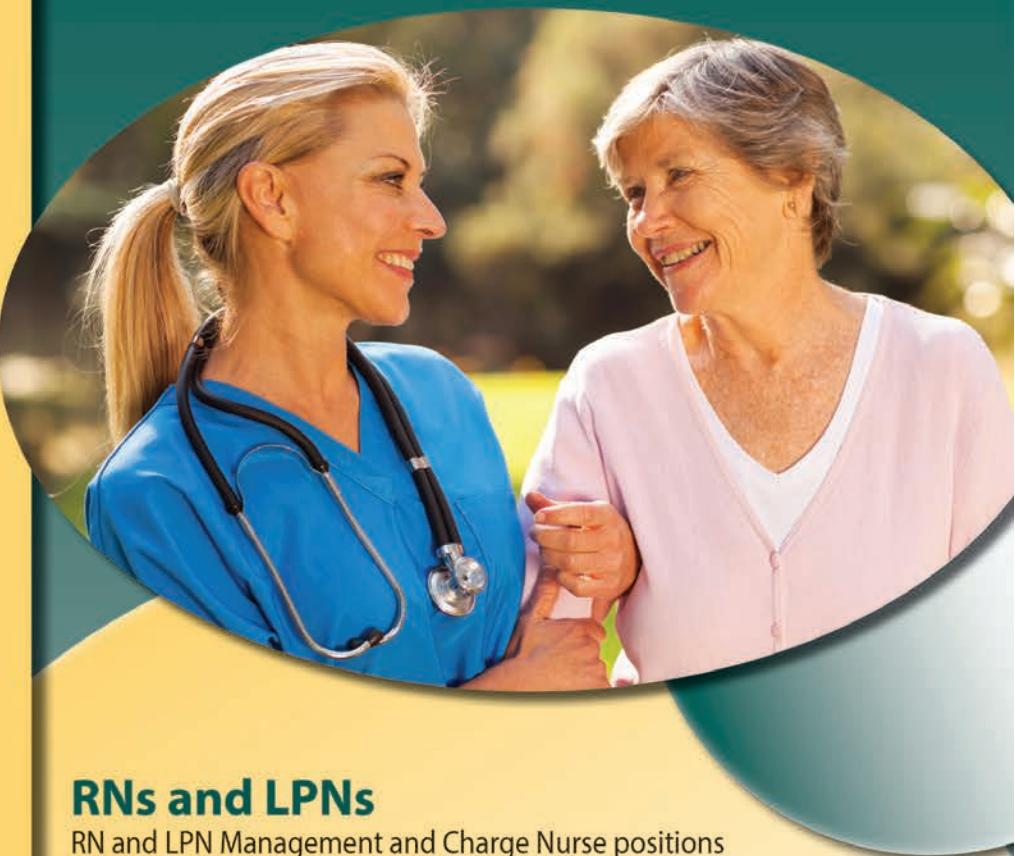


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'Be on time, be nice to people, and be prepared.' That advice has served me well.

-- Robin Wallace

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get my camera.' Of course, I wanted, like, 25 pictures of me holding the fish. I get back, and my friend's dad has started to clean the fish. My fish was ruined. That was one of the biggest disappointments of my life. They ate my fish for supper that night."

They? "Yes, I don't eat fish. I can't even eat my own fish. I'm not allergic to it; I've just never developed a taste for it. It looks so good when other people eat it. I want to like fish so much, but I just cannot. So I hope they enjoyed eating my fish. I hope he was good, but to this day it still bothers me that there's a spot on my wall where he should be."

Trotting the boards for the first time: "Our junior high did a production of *The Facts of Life*, which is such an old show, but it was my favorite at the time. Of course, I really wanted to be Blair, but I got cast as Jo, and I loved being that character. I thought I was so cool. I studied Nancy McKeon's mannerisms, which I had already pretty much memorized because I was such a fan of the show. I loved being Jo. I remember I had a leather jacket that I wore, because on the show Jo rode a motorcycle. She was the tough, kind of wild-side member of the group. I never dreamed that as an adult, I would go on to ride motorcycles myself."

After The Facts of Life: "I just kept going, doing little school productions and things like that. I didn't really do much theater in college, but then once I got out of college, I picked it back up. And now, I love theater so much. I love everything about it. I love hearing the audience laugh. I love a live audience and getting their genuine emotion immediately."

Comedy or drama? "Comedy comes easily to me. It's much more difficult for me to do something dramatic. I have a very dry sense of humor, and I love to make people laugh. I feel like it's easy to make people laugh, because people want to be happy. They want to laugh. You never know what the person that's watching you from the audience may be dealing with. I remember when I did *Steel Magnolias* I was so surprised that every night, inevitably, somebody would say, 'I lost my family member, friend, wife, husband, whatever. I was just so struck by your character. It reminded me of my family. I have an aunt, sister, or mother who is exactly like that character.' That really touched me so much, and that's what I love about theater. Every person feels a different emotion. That's why my biggest goal is just to try to be a real person."

Advice from a star: "Probably the most gracious actor that I've worked with is Tom Hiddleston. He is a wonderful human. We were shooting in Mobile, and it was in the heat of summer – I mean, it was scorching – so the minute the cameras would stop, a crew of people would rush him with a little handheld fan and water, mopping his brow, but he would inevitably offer his water to us. When it came time for meals, normally the bigger stars, have their meals in their trailers, but he came and ate with us inconsequential actors. I asked him one day, 'If you could give any actor three pieces of advice,



what would they be?' He said, 'Be on time, be nice to people, and be prepared.' That advice has served me well."

Does it take a while after a show to become Robin again? "Yes, because you miss the character. You really do. I don't know any other way to put it, but you miss being them. You miss exploring them and learning about them. And there's always a period right after a show – no matter how exhausted you are, no matter how you may have thought this run will never end – when you feel an emptiness. You miss your castmates, and you miss your character. It's like losing a friend."

Is theater important? "I really believe it is. For me personally, when I was in school, before I started theater, I was so introverted, so shy, and had no self confidence. Theater gave me an empowering feeling. The arts are very, very important, because as humans, especially in our developmental years, you don't really know what's going to be that catalyst for a young person. For some people, it's sports. For some, it's academics, and then for the rest of us, it's the arts. At that age, we all were just trying to find our way. Teamwork, time management, work ethic, being part of a process – there are so many life skills you can take away from theater, even if you only do one production and whether you're on stage, working with the costuming, or building the sets. Everybody works together to make the magic happen."

Things an acquaintance might be surprised to know about her: "I have been skydiving. I can tap dance. I wish that I could lay brick, I wish that I could weld, and I wish that I could juggle."

Three things she can't live without: "Books, human interaction, and candy."

The food she could eat every day: "Candy. Any kind, as long as it has sugar in it."

The food she hopes to never eat again: "Licorice. But you know what I love that people hate? Brussels sprouts."



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Finding comfort – and a parallel – in the presence of the white ibis

Written by **SARAH ELIZABETH MOREMAN**

Photographed by **TIM BADGWELL**

While relishing the squishiness of the mud between my toes, I shield my eyes from the bright sun and judge the distance from where I am standing in the shallow waters of the lake to a colony of white ibises. They are poetry in motion, their long red, curved beaks swinging side to side as they forage for insects and crustaceans.

The simplicity of their movements soothes my mind, riddled with regrets of choosing something practical and logical instead of pursuing my long-held dream. It has been barely a week since I reluctantly deferred that dream. After many deep conversations with people in their areas of expertise and recalculating everything, I have to acknowledge the inevitable: storms are coming. I can see the clouds darkening in the direction of that dream, similar to the ones now gathering opposite the white birds



with their football-shaped bodies. The brilliance of the sun dims as the clouds creep across the sky. Even as I pull my feet from the mud, shaking them clean through the water, the wading birds remain unperturbed by the change in the nature.

The continued swinging of their long, curved beaks brings to mind the masks worn at masquerade balls, especially those that symbolize plague. I question the direction of my thoughts, wondering why I have connected the white ibis to plague merely because of its beak.

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As I make my way back up the hill to my cousin's house, raindrops begin to fall, peppering my skin. I glance over my shoulder to see the white birds silently continuing their foraging.

The tendency to find symbolism and allusion in my thoughts persists as I reach the porch, now sheltered from the falling rain. I turn to see the white birds still standing in the water, unmoved even by the downpour. I think of medieval Europe, of doctors wearing plague masks that resemble the ibis, their long, curved noses designed to block the stench and supposedly to protect against disease. Still, the English professor in me stubbornly insists there is an allusion between the ibis and plague.

I dig deep into my memory of the Scriptures, recalling the events leading up to the biblical Exodus from Egypt, the plagues growing in intensity as Pharaoh's heart hardened after each one. Though the ibis is not specifically named in the Bible, it holds significance in Egyptian culture, revered in art,

tradition, and mythology, especially in connection to Thoth, the god of wisdom and knowledge.

It is said that the white ibis is the last bird to seek shelter before a hurricane and the first to return once the storm has passed.

Hmm. I have to ponder that.

Letting go of what I want hurts, and I am astonished at myself for making that decision. Can I still go back across that bridge, waving my hands in the air, yelling, "Never mind! I am choosing you after all!" Besides, the opportunity on the other side of that bridge is where more white ibises gather in abundance.

I have already cried the tears of what ifs like the rain outside, and I refuse to cry again.

I raise my hands to the window, palms flat against the glass, feeling its coolness, seeking some kind of validation of my reluctant, but still rational, decision.

As the storms of doubt churn within me, I watch the birds slip deeper into the dense forest. The wind howls louder

outside the window, and the downpour intensifies.

Letting out a sigh, I turn towards the stairs to join my cousin and her husband in the kitchen, where they are preparing dinner. The rich aroma of roasting tomatoes, banana peppers, and jalapeños drifts through the air, tickling my nose. She greets me with a smile.

"Drink?"

Before I can answer, she presses the glass of lemonade into my hand.

At her beckoning nod, I follow her out onto the wide, covered deck, its generous depth keeping the rain's spray at bay. The towering A-frame ceiling stretches above us, and her husband has already started the fire in the fireplace, its warmth chasing away the unseasonable chill brought on by heavy rain.

"Spill it." She commands, sensing the turbulence of my thoughts.

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me, simply because I turned them down? I hate disappointing my friend. She worked so hard for me to have this opportunity. It is the first, and I hope not the only, chance I have ever had to teach English full-time. What if this was it? What if I do not get another one? I'm... so sad."

She sits beside me, her eyes reflecting quiet understanding as she listens. Then, gently, she says, "We don't know what the future holds, but don't give up hope. Remember...God sees and knows what you want and also the road ahead. You made your choice thoughtfully. You sought counsel, weighed every angle, even made spreadsheets of pros and cons. You did everything you could to be fully informed."

She's right. I did.

"Since I can tell you're still struggling with it," she continues, "let's take the beach out of the picture for a moment. Would you be happy with the job itself without the setting? The salary isn't much more than the cost of living, which means enjoying extras, new experiences, even regular company, might be tough. And traveling farther to see your parents and siblings will cost more, too. The financial risk might be worth it to land your dream role, but it's the unknown factor, that uncertainty, that makes it so hard."

"Well, my brother did say the cost of living there would hurt my feelings," I say, taking a breath before continuing. "I would be so happy to finally teach



full-time, to have my own classroom and an office where students could drop by during office hours, to really focus on teaching and preparing for classes. But the timing isn't right. I am angry about how everything lined up, and I'm torn. So much has happened in the past few months, especially with the financial strain from unexpected repairs. Still, I feel the sting of letting go of my dream job."

My cousin leans over and pats my knee. "The sting is real. Oh, Sarah Elizabeth, I can hear the regret in your voice. They might be disappointed, but they know that life happens. They understood. They know who you are. If there's a way, I'm sure they will make

room for you."

During our conversation, the rain lightens to a drizzle. Through the rising steam from the damp ground, I catch a glimpse of white...the ibises have returned. One stretches its wings like a hero sweeping back his cape in triumph.

Absorbing my cousin's encouragement, I exhale, releasing some of the grief that has weighed so heavily on my chest. I needed this conversation, to be reminded that God's presence is the anchor in the storm, that I only have to reach out and hold on to hope and peace. Joy will return, no matter what the storms bring.

The door to the kitchen opens, and my cousin's husband calls us in. Dinner is ready. We rise from the all-weather sofa. A flutter of white wings catches my eye, and I turn in time to see a wedge of ibises lifting into the sky, flapping into formation.

Watching them fly, I feel something in me shift. A little more sorrow releases, sorrow I had not realized I was clutching so tightly. I understand now: it is time to let go. To trust that other chances, especially this deferred opportunity, will come. In the meantime, I will keep growing in that direction, like an investment that rises steadily, even through dips and lows, much like the ibises, flapping and gliding through uncertain skies.



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CALENDAR OF

Events



JUNE 7

HOMETOWN BLOCK PARTY

This beloved community event returns to the Gateway to Logan Martin Lake for the 26th year. Presented by the Pell City Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Ford Meter Box, Pepsi, and WinSouth Credit Union, the festival is scheduled for 3-9 p.m. in downtown Pell City. Food, vendors, a children's area, and live music will be available throughout the day.

For more details, visit the event's Facebook page.

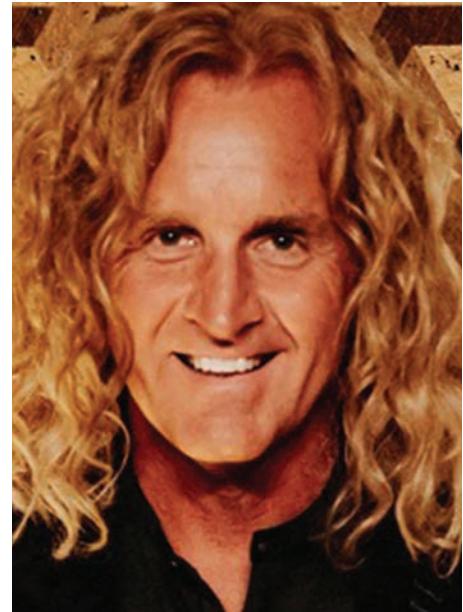


JUNE 7

BENTON NISSAN BASS TOURNAMENT

The 8th annual tournament launches from Lincoln's Landing at safe light. Boats return to the landing at 3 p.m. for the weigh-in. The entry fee is \$160. Proceeds will benefit King's Home and Buy a Tree, Change a Life.

For more information, visit [www.BentonBassTournament.com](http://BentonBassTournament.com)



JUNE 7

BLOOD, SWEAT & TEARS WITH JASON SCHEFF

Oxford Performing Arts Center hosts this concert, rescheduled from April 26, at 7:30 p.m. The Grammy-winning iconic jazz-rock fusion band helped open the center during its inaugural season in 2013 and returns with such hits as "Spinning Wheel," "And When I Die," and "You've Made Me So Very Happy."

For ticket information, visit www.oxfordpac.org



JUNE 7

SAIL PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

Sylacauga native Josie Harrison, currently serving as Miss Covered Bridge's Teen 2025, hosts a pickleball tournament at the Sylacauga Tennis Center to raise awareness for her community service initiative (SAIL) and benefit the Maxye Veazey Senior Activity Center.

For registration information, contact the Sylacauga Department of Parks & Recreation at 256-249-8561



JUNE 13

TWITTY & LYNN: A SALUTE TO CONWAY & LORETTA

This tribute concert performed by the grandchildren of two of country music's most iconic stars begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Oxford Performing Arts Center. Tre Twitty and Tayla Lynn celebrate the music of their grandparents, country music in general, and the lost art of duet singing. Such hits as "Louisiana Woman, Mississippi Man," "Hello, Darlin,'" and "Coal Miner's Daughter" will be featured.

For ticket information, visit www.oxfordpac.org



JUNE 14

RIVERSIDE POKER RUN

Another beloved community event, the 16th annual poker run returns to Riverside Landing from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Registration will be open at the landing from 4-7 p.m. June 13 and 10 a.m.-1 p.m. the day of the event. The cost is \$20 per hand. The run will feature 8 docks, including a Mystery Dock. Prizes ranging from \$300 to \$50 will be awarded. The event is presented by the Riverside Beautification Organization.

For more information, email riversidebeautification@gmail.com

JUNE 15

TRISTEN GRESSETT

Pell City's American Idol alum returns to his hometown as he kicks off his second national tour with a show at the Center for Education and Performing Arts at 7 p.m. Since making the Top 11 on American Idol in 2022, Gressett has moved to Hollywood, and founded his own recording studio, produced a debut album. He will be joined on the upcoming tour by Delaney Renee, a vocalist and songwriter from Massachusetts who also appeared on



American Idol. She and Gressett have released a debut duet, "Trying to Love You."

For ticket information, visit www.pellcitycepa.com

CALENDAR OF

Events

JUNE 20

A TRIBUTE TO THE ALLMAN BROTHERS

Talladega's Historic Ritz Theatre hosts Eat a Peach at 7 p.m. The Birmingham-based tribute band was formed in 2009 while its members attended music school at UAB. During the past decade, Eat a Peach has played shows across the country to celebrate the music of the Allman Brothers and classic Southern rock.

For ticket information, visit
www.ritztheatre.com



JUNE 28

A VIATION DAY

Sylacauga Municipal Airport (195 Airport Road) hosts this community event from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Planes, gliders, helicopters, and RC planes will be on display and the pilots of each will be on hand to meet attendees. Admission is free. Food trucks will be on site, and children's activities will be available. *For more information, visit the Sylacauga Aviation Day 2025 event page on Facebook.*

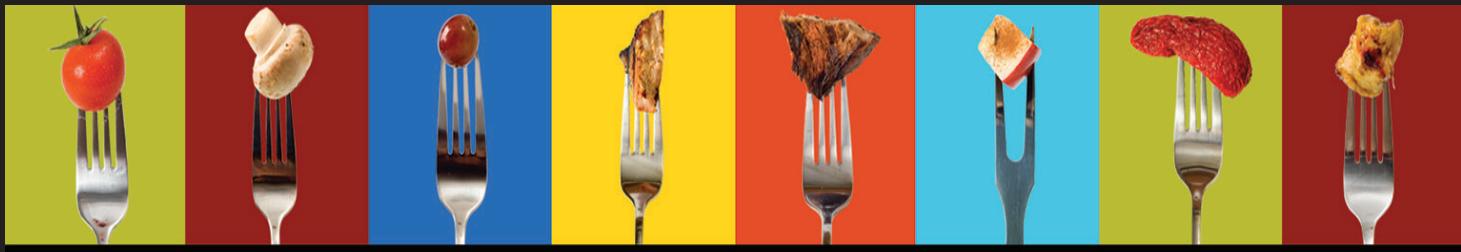
JUNE 28

L OGAN MARTIN DAM PALOOZA

Sponsored by The Tiki Hut and ABC Towing, this 12th annual event returns to the lake at 11 a.m. The popular boat tie-up event will feature live music by 90 Proof, with DJIV providing music in between live sets.

For more details, visit the event's Facebook page.





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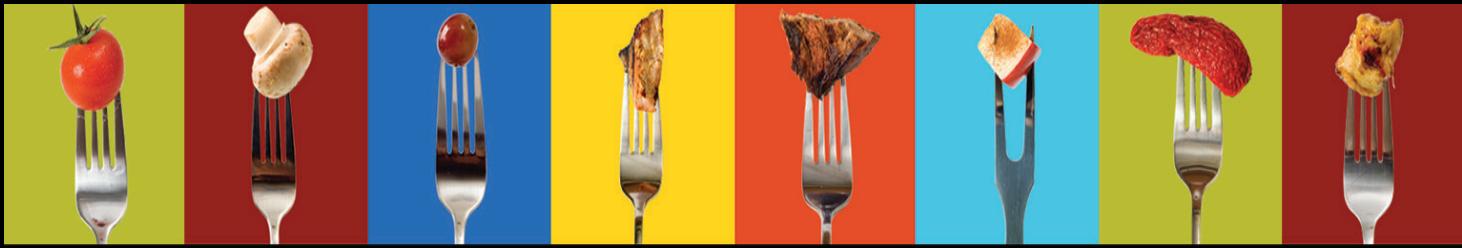
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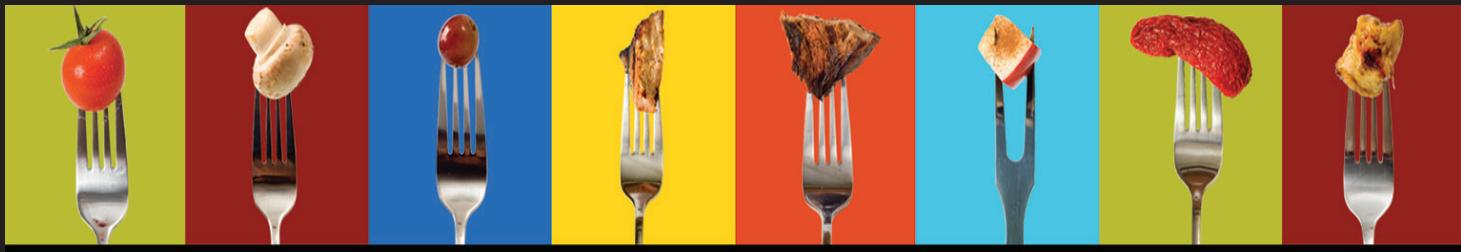
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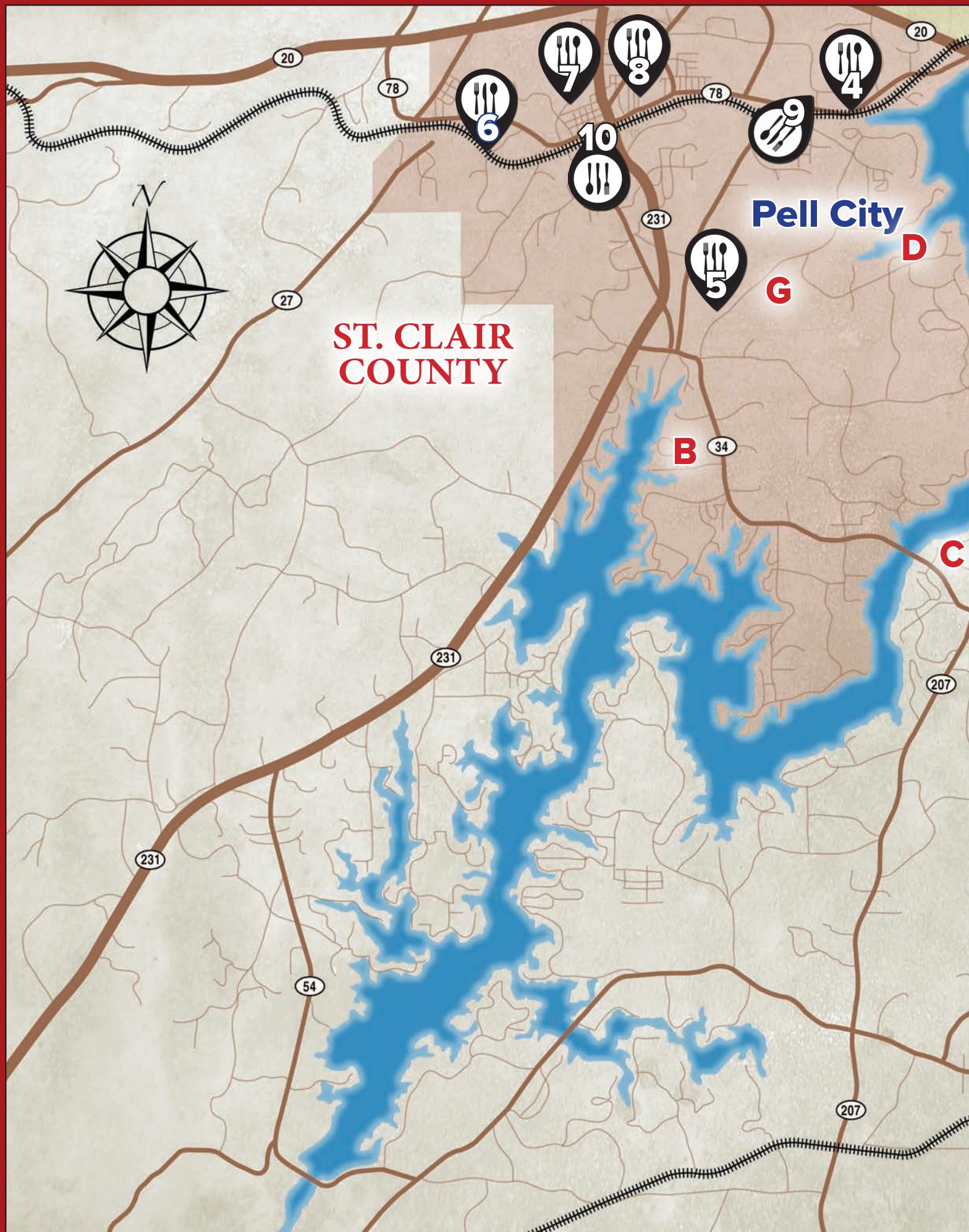


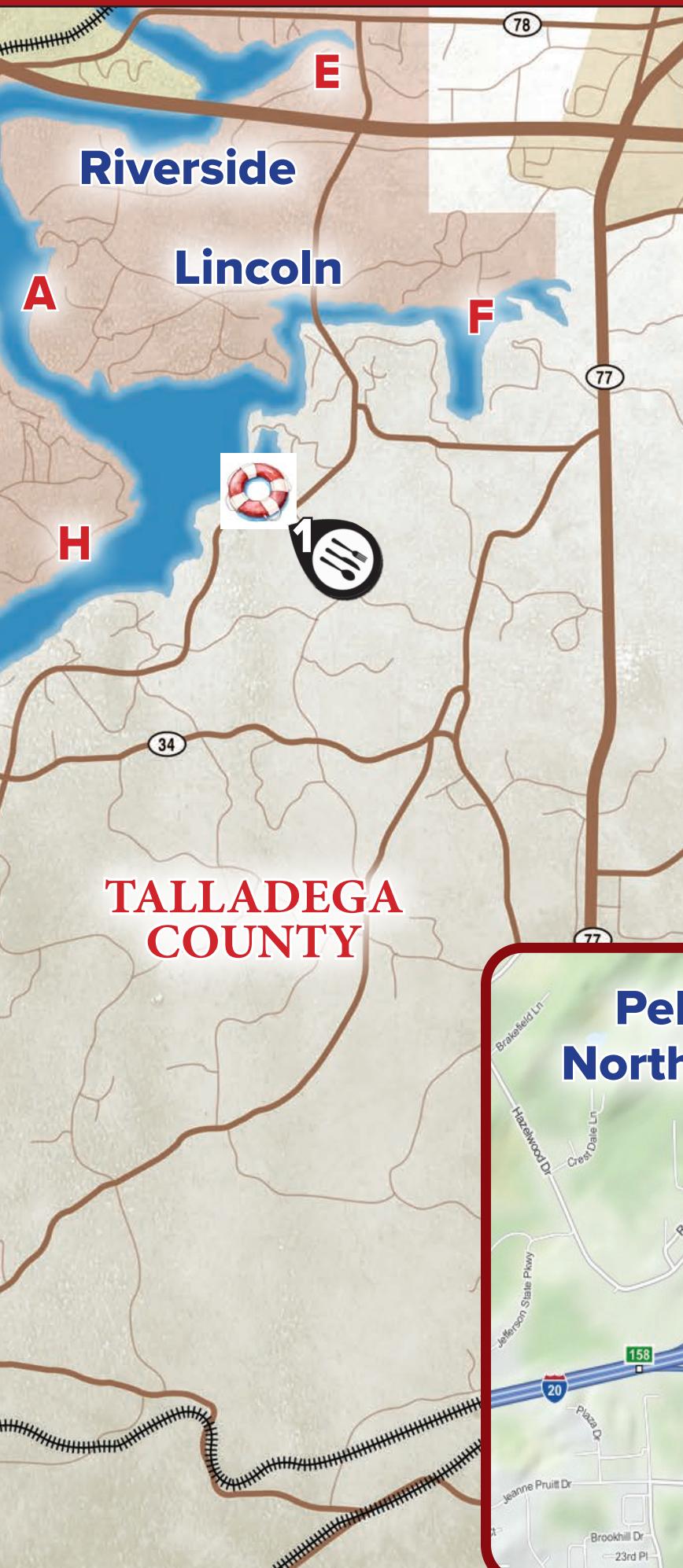
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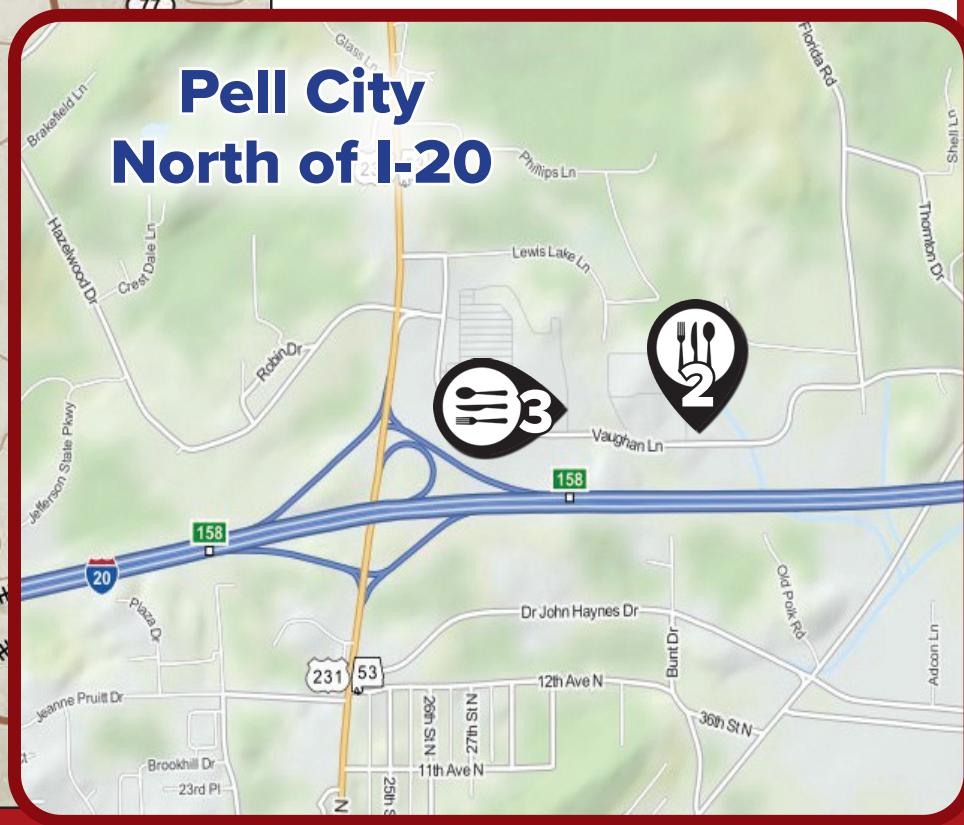




A Lakeside Living guide to **LOGAN MARTIN**

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- 2 – Aztecas Mexican
- 3 – Jade East
- 4 – Triple G's
- 5 – Jimmy's Country Store
- 6 – El Cazador Mexican
- 7 – Maya's Mexican
- 8 – Pell City Steak House
- 9 – Oishi Asian Restaurant
- 10 – Daylight Donuts

- A – Logan Martin Dam
- B – Lakeside Park
- C – Stemley Bridge
- D – St. Clair Airport
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'In short, there's simply not a more congenial spot for happily-ever-aftering' than 70 Camelot Lane

Written by **VALLEAN JACKSON**

Photographed by **TUCKER WEBB**

Buyers in search of a vacation home or permanent residence on Logan Martin Lake should definitely see 70 Camelot Lane in Talladega.



2319 Cogswell Avenue, Suite 101
Pell City, AL 35125
205.338.7320

The waterfront property offers a terrific shoreline, and the house is an all-brick single-family home that sits on an acre. It was built in 1989, has three bedrooms, four bathrooms, a workshop, and two-car garage within its 5,718-square-foot interior.

The living room is spacious and perfect for entertaining. It has floor-to-ceiling windows, wood flooring, a see-through gas fireplace, and chandeliers for illumination. The kitchen has tiled flooring and stainless steel appliances that include a dishwasher, double-door refrigerator with an ice maker, and gas range stove. It has a U-shaped layout with granite countertops, recessed lighting, a small kitchen window, plenty of cabinet storage, and a

breakfast bar.

The main bedroom has wood flooring, a ceiling fan at its center, and large floor-to-ceiling windows with breathtaking views of the lake. A distinguished feature of the home is the sunroom with panoramic windows, two ceiling fans, recessed lighting, and a fireplace. Only steps away is a screened-in sunroom with the same amazing view.

The exterior features a circular driveway, small ramp on the front porch, wrap-around open deck, a lower open deck, and a boat house.

The property lists at \$729,900. To schedule a tour or for more information, call agent Morgan Munn with ERA King Realty at 256-223-0838.



70 CAMELOT LANE IN TALLADEGA



‘I LOVE THE CHANCE TO HELP PEOPLE AND MAKE THEIR DREAMS A REALITY’

Written by **VALLEAN JACKSON**

Submitted photos

Breanna Farmer is a full-time real estate agent whose career “sort of fell into my lap,” as she puts it.

“But it has been one of the most rewarding jobs, personally and in the realm of being able to help others,” she’s quick to add. “I had a friend who was a broker, and I had just recently lost my job, and I was helping her with paperwork and cleaning. She said that if I wanted to get into real estate that she would pay for my license. She did, I paid her back, I fell in love with it, and the rest is history.”

An agent with ERA King of Pell City, Farmer now has 12 years of experience and believes that what makes a good agent is communication. She feels that it’s important to keep clients in the know of things to eliminate any uncertainty, any questions, give suggestions, or explain what is going on in the buying or selling process.

“What I believe makes me stand out as an agent is my experience, established relationships built over the years, and my go-getter attitude,”

she says. “I don’t sit around and wait for houses to just pop up on the market or for a client to tell me what they’ve found. I’m proactively looking and keeping my eyes open for that house that fits what they’re looking for. I also have a ton of resources and contacts – from home inspections to pest control – ready to step in to help get the job done and in a timely manner.”

Farmer believes that one of the “biggest things that all human beings strive for is to have a home, somewhere safe to stay. Everyone deserves a home, whether it’s a trailer or a million-dollar home. Times may have changed, and the median age of first-time homebuyers may have increased

from 28 to 38, but home ownership is very much still possible.”

Her advice to potential buyers is to seek pre-approval “to know where you stand. Secondly, those two-to-three percent rates that were around during Covid are something I don’t think we’ll ever see again, but rates will drop. Make the purchase. You can always refinance later down the road and get a lower payment and interest rate.”

When asked what advice she would give to current home buyers interested in buying a second home or vacation property, she advises seeking pre-approval “just as if it’s your first time purchase. For those in search of a vacation property, make sure it’s affordable, and

have someone lined up to do property management so maybe the home can be rented in the off season, which will help generate some income for the investment.”

A native of Fyffe, Farmer currently resides in Cropwell. She’s married (with their 20th anniversary coming up) and has a son and four pets. When she’s not working, she enjoys playing games on her phone and watching television.



A BIT MORE ABOUT BREANNA

Favorite snack:
Golden Flake dill pickle chips

Favorite beverage:
Iced latte or sweet tea

Favorite sports team:
Auburn

Favorite movie:
Pretty Woman



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205-901-3352

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Stemley Rd.

\$699,900



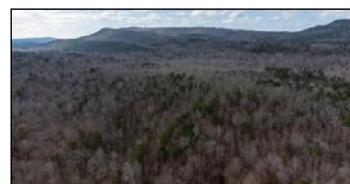
**30 plus
lots in
Point
Aquarius.**



0 Cook Springs Road, Odenville

11.71 Acres +/-
MLS #1312016

\$75,000



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Brenda Fields



Karen Bain



Adam Bain



Laurie Brasher



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Misty Knight



Alesia Mitcham



Carey Monistere



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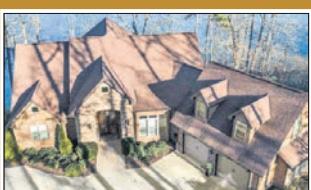
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\$1450,000 - 705 Lakeview Crest Dr. - LUXURY LAKE LIVING with this 4 bedroom 4 bath brick and stacked stone home with stunning appearance as you drive onto the property and great water views. The home features great room with 14'coffered ceiling and gas fireplace. Beautiful Dream Kitchen has vaulted ceiling and decorative beams, large island and ample cabinets. The kitchen features den with fireplace and second kitchen plus bonus area, this quality home is handicap accessible with elevator, double boat slip, year round water and 4-cars garage which includes a separate detached garage, and a concrete golf cart path to the lake and boat house. This is one to see! MLS #21407665. Call Karen 205/473-4613.



\$75,000 - 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



\$524,900 - 4954 Autumn Ridge Trail - NEW CONSTRUCTION located with LAKE ACCESS in Pell City! The all brick 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath one level home features open floor plan with high ceilings and custom beams in the great room with brick fireplace, built in bookcases on each side and coffered ceilings in the dining room and 2-car garage. Unfinished walk out basement with full bath allows for space to grow! MLS #205/405-0860



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



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



\$344,000 - 1550 Baxter Ave. - BEAUTIFUL CRAFTSMAN -STYLE 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home the features chef-inspired kitchen complete with spacious island, stainless steel appliances and coffee bar, family room with fireplace, dining room 2-car garage. Main level boasts vinyl plank flooring, upstairs features three of the bedrooms and large den. Home has abundance of upscale features. MLS #21412979 Call Laurie 205/365-3639



\$110,000 - 595 Dabbs Lane - HIDDEN GEM ON LOGAN MARTIN LAKE with this 3bedroom, 3 bath home that features family room with stone/brick fireplace 1000 sqft. Of wrap around porches, 575 sq. ft. Garage/ workshop, located on approx. 5.6 ACRES, over 3000 ft of Waterfront , detached CRV spot used for RENTAL INCOME, additional amenities include bathhouse, shower house, boat launch, large pavilion with enclosed kitchen. Potential of income producing property, family compound or great place to live. MLS #21406672. Call Karen 205/473-4614



\$364,900 - 174 Smithfield Lane - WELL MAINTAINED 4 bedroom, 3 bath 1.5 Story home that features family room with fireplace, dining room meat in kitchen with beautiful cabinetry and the 4th bedroom is located downstairs and 2-car garage. MLS 21403823. Call Laurie 205/365-3639



\$425,000 - 8704 Emerald Lake Dr. W - UNIQUE Design and PRIVATE setting for this 1.5 story 3 bedroom, 3 bath stone and frame home that features lot of hardwood floors, with living room with fireplace, dining room, updated kitchen off keeping room, bedroom and bath all on main level with upstairs featuring large master bedroom with den adjoining with another brick fireplace and nice screened porch for viewing some wildlife, bedroom and full bath and 2-car garage located in basement. Directly across the street is your private dock/boathouse for enjoyment and convenience. MLS #21418061 Call Brenda 205/812-4141 or Blair 205/812-5377



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



\$424,000 - 805 N. Lakeshore Drive - CABIN on year round water that features 4 bedrooms, 2 baths with open floor plan, den with stacked stone fireplace and nice sunroom overlooking the lake. MLS #21393393 Call Blair 205-365-3639



\$279,500 - 285 Seddon Farms lane - BEAUTIFUL 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath home that features living room, dining room and master bedroom with a high vaulted ceiling and gallery style kitchen. Upstairs has a huge unfinished area that could easily be (2) bedroom and bath and has 2-car garage. MLS 21405254. Call Carey 205/901-0652



Call us for all your *Real Estate* needs



Karen Bain
205-473-4613

Adam Bain
205-369-2704

KarenandAdamBain.com LoganMartinLakeTeam.com



**595 DABBS LANE, LINCOLN,
AL 35096**
MLS# 21406672
\$1,100,000



14 SEDDON POINT
MLS# 21396433
\$725,000



6187 RAINBOW ROW
MLS# 21417539
\$369,900



**881 RIDGEWAY CIRCLE,
TALLADEGA, AL 35160**
MLS# 21413620
\$725,000



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



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

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



705 LAKEVIEW CREST DR, PELL CITY, AL 35128
MLS# 21407665

\$1,400,000



**1 1/2
LOTS**

**0 BIG MITTEN LN,
LINCOLN, AL 35096**
\$299,000
MLS#21397289

Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. - Matthew 11:28



Laurie Brasher
Realtor®

205.365.3639

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**65 Riverview Ln., Talladega
\$639,000**

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



WATERFRONT

**0 Ranch Marina Rd., Pell City
\$225,000**

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



UNDER CONTRACT

**4850 HWY 144, Ragland
\$280,000**

Need a place to stretch out? How about a property that has approx 4.8 acres with two homes and several storage buildings and one large shop.



**268 Lyles Dr., Odenville
\$220,000**

This 4 bedroom and 2 bathroom home sitting on 4.5 acres is perfect for those family members who like to have their own space and still enjoy family time with two large family rooms!

UNDER CONTRACT



**1550 Baxter Ave, Springville
\$349,000**

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

REDUCED



**398 Andrew Ln., Odenville
\$227,000**

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



**5024 Collins Dr, Pell City
\$624,999**

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



**0 Hwy 33, Pelham
\$480,000**

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



**Broken Arrow Creek Rd., Riverside
\$179,000**

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

REDUCED



**503 Markeeta Rd., Leeds
\$308,000**

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



**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.



**805 N Lakeshore Dr.
\$395,000**

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.

WATERFRONT



BUYING OR SELLING? CALL LAURIE!



XNNSP92



260 Shoreline Vw,
Talladega, AL 35160
MLS# 21413208
\$559,900

LAKE
ACCESS



475 River Forest Ln. Ste 4150
Talladega, AL 35160
MLS# 21406266
\$299,900



417 W Sunset Dr.
Talladega, AL 35160
MLS #21418122
\$374,900



645 Starlite Dr
Odenville, AL 35120
MLS# 21419442
\$239,900



2120 Deborah Ln
Oxford, AL 36203
MLS# 21416664
\$229,900



71 Dove Cove Rd,
Talladega, AL 35160
MLS# 21414497
\$1,199,000



481 N Lakeshore Dr
Talladega, AL 35160
MLS# 21416475
\$579,900



475 River Forest Ln. Ste 3220,
Talladega, AL 35160
MLS# 21409957
\$254,900

LAKE
ACCESS



3516 Griffitt Bend Rd
Talladega, AL 35160
MLS# 21417012
\$599,900



335 Killough Ln
Talladega, AL 35160
MLS# 21417210
\$949,900



100 Holiday Estates Dr.,
Cropwell, AL 35054
MLS# 21413063
\$279,900



143 Gambrell Ingram Ln
Cropwell, AL 35054
MLS# 21419145
\$199,900



7384 Dollar Rd
Trussville, AL 35173
MLS# 21418610
\$199,900



475 River Forest Ln Ste 4140
Talladega, AL 35160
MLS# 21417721
**LAKE
\$244,900 ACCESS**



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LOGAN MARTIN



**Autumn Ln,
Pell City**
Lot 13

\$27,900

WATER ACCESS



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

\$105,000

UNDER CONTRACT



**18 Hickory Rd
Ragland**
4 BR, 4 BA

\$435,000

INVESTMENT



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

\$168,900

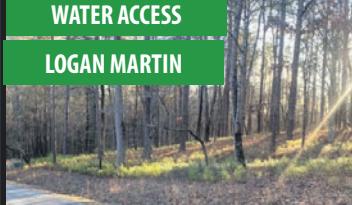
LOGAN MARTIN



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

\$600,000

WATER ACCESS



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

\$35,000

UNDER CONTRACT



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

\$525,000

LOGAN MARTIN



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

\$99,900

UNDER CONTRACT



**85 River Oaks Lane
Cropwell**
4 BR, 5 BA

\$949,000



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

\$315,000



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

\$190,000

LOGAN MARTIN



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

\$864,900



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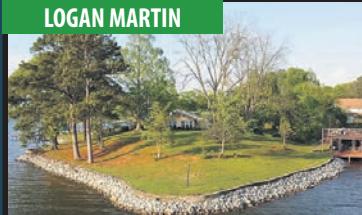
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SOLD
44164 Hwy 78,
Lincoln
3BR, 2BA
\$389,900



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



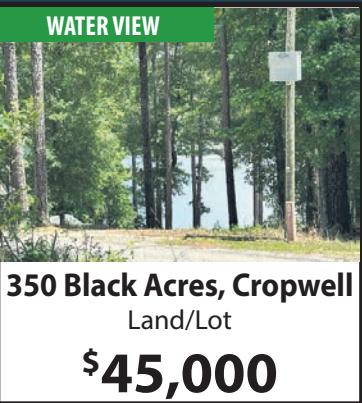
LOGAN MARTIN
5102 Masters Rd, Hoover
4BR, 4BA
\$1,300,000



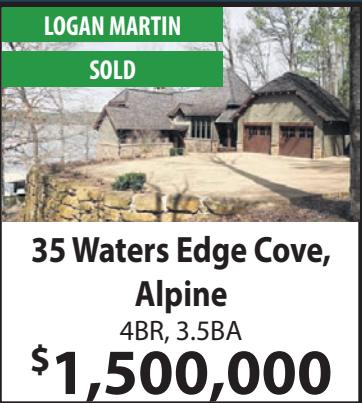
ACREAGE
30 Pinewell Dr,
Cropwell
5 BR, 3.5 BA
\$825,000



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



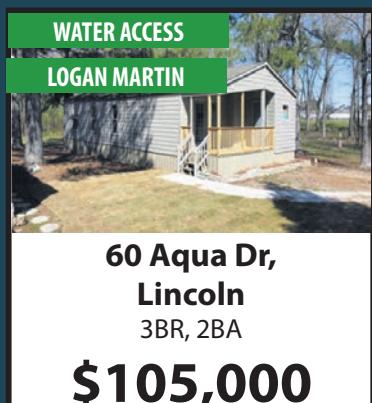
WATER VIEW
350 Black Acres, Cropwell
Land/Lot
\$45,000



LOGAN MARTIN
SOLD
35 Waters Edge Cove,
Alpine
4BR, 3.5BA
\$1,500,000



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



WATER ACCESS
LOGAN MARTIN
60 Aqua Dr,
Lincoln
3BR, 2BA
\$105,000



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



3 ACRES
COMMERCIAL
AL Hwy 21 Acreage
\$140,000



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



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



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



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



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



*Kim
Cheatwood*



ERA KING
REAL ESTATE
2319 Cogswell Ave., Pell City, AL 35125
SINCE 1969



324 Jennifer Rd
Munford, AL 36268
3 BR, 2 BA MLS# 21415073

\$165,000

**LAKE LIVING!
WATER VIEW**



23 Lonesome Pine Trl
Riverside, AL 35135
4 BR, 2 BA MLS# 21415072

\$190,000

LAKE FRONT!



605 Paradise Isle, Riverside, AL 36268

2 BR, 2 BA

\$260,000



7 Lots Woodhaven
Subdivision

\$26,000 Each



0 Stemley Bridge Rd #1
Talladega, AL 35160
4.4 Acres MLS# 1348628

\$159,000



234 Henderson Lane
Talladega, AL 35160
5 BR, 6 BA MLS# 21394714

\$999,000

WATERFRONT



620 River Oaks Dr
Cropwell, AL 35135
4 BR, 2 BA MLS# 21412665

\$1,295,000



70 Camelot Ln.
Talladega, AL 35160
3 BR, 4 BA MLS# 21412401

\$749,900



10 Lonesome Pine Trl
Riverside, AL 35135
3 BR, 2 BA MLS# 21415073

\$165,000



504 Coosa Island Rd
Cropwell, AL 35054
4 BR, 2 BA MLS# 21396564

\$500,000



1000 Beaver Ridge Cir
Ashville, AL 35953
4 BR, 3 BA MLS# 21415724

\$779,900

Cell: 205-965-7022

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Caran Wilbanks

Your Friendly Lake & Neighborhood Realtor



205.368.9772

2319 Cogswell Ave. | Pell City, AL 35125



241 Eureka Road
Lincoln, \$700,000

WOW!!!! What a View!!! Multi level deck with trex decking to sit and look at Beautiful Logan Martin Lake. Breathtaking view from the great room with a multi tiered chandelier w/dimer. Upper lake side window and doors w/reflected solar film. Newly remodeled very spacious kitchen, granite countertops, slate flooring, stainless appliances. Gorgeous hardwood floors. Master suite to die for. It's HUGE !!! Ladies get ready a closet like no other you've ever seen. Plus two more closets in the master. Covered patio area. Fenced dog run with Dog condo or kids play house. Boat launch, double stall boat house, one with lift, sun deck with trex decking, seawall. Forever View. Lakeside patio with firepit. MLS #21406655



125 Birch Court
Pell City, \$280,000

This stunning 3-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom home offers a spacious, well-designed layout perfect for modern living. The formal dining room provides an elegant space for gatherings, while the eat-in kitchen boasts sleek stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, and ample storage. The great room features a cozy gas log fireplace and soaring high ceilings, creating a welcoming atmosphere. The master suite on the main level provides privacy and comfort. Enjoy the versatility of a man-cave, ideal for relaxation or hobbies. Additional features include a double garage, fenced-in backyard, and an outbuilding for extra storage. Located in a peaceful cul-de-sac, this home also offers access to a community swimming pool. An open deck in the backyard is perfect for outdoor entertaining. With its thoughtful layout and convenient amenities, this home is the perfect blend of style and functionality. MLS 21412026



206 Harmon Island Rd, LOT 28
Cropwell, \$75,000

This stunning lakefront manufactured home offers serene views and ultimate relaxation. Featuring 3 spacious bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, it's the perfect retreat for families or guests. The open-concept great room is bright and airy, ideal for gatherings, while the functional kitchen is perfect for everyday cooking and entertaining. A convenient laundry room adds to the home's functionality. Step outside to a large covered deck, where you can unwind and enjoy the breathtaking lake views, rain or shine. The property also includes a large storage building for all your outdoor gear, plus a private pier, offering easy access to the water for boating, fishing, or simply enjoying the scenery. Whether you're looking for a peaceful getaway or a permanent home, this lakefront manufactured home has it all. MLS 21412096



475 River Forest Lane 1250
Talladega, \$324,900

Beautiful 3BR/2BA end-unit condo in Lincoln Harbor with stunning sunset and forever views of Logan Martin Lake. Enjoy extra natural light from additional windows, a cozy fireplace, and fresh paint throughout. The spacious deck is perfect for relaxing or entertaining. Master suite features a large walk-in shower. Community amenities include pool, pier, beach area, and boat launch. Lake life at its best! Some furniture to remain. MLS 21417363



112 Charter Drive, Pell City \$290,000

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 of 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 Firepit 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!



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

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



1331 Funderburg Bend Rd,
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This spacious 4-bedroom, 3-bathroom home sits on a serene 1.1-acre lot, with a mini lake lot on the main channel. The heart of the home is the expansive great room with a cozy fireplace, perfect for family gatherings. A dining area provides ample space for entertaining. Large kitchen with solid oak cabinets and island, the screened porch offers a peaceful retreat to enjoy the outdoors. The property includes a finished basement for additional living space and an unfinished basement with endless possibilities. Outside, you'll find a convenient outbuilding for storage or hobbies and a double garage. This home blends comfort, functionality, and natural beauty, creating a perfect place to live and relax. MLS 21414103



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385 Fish Trap Rd., Cropwell
MLS# 21411612

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MLS# 21419382

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4947 Hwy 231 #2, Vincent
MLS #21413976

\$350,000

+/- 100 Acres MLS #21414705

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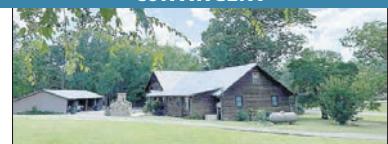
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