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MISS EAST ALABAMA



► The art of Hal Word

► A visit to Church
Farm Christmas Trees

► Carter's Hardware:
The heart of Munford

See inside for more!

November 2025

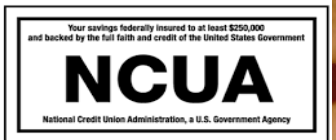


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ON THE COVER: Miss Iron City 2026 Shannon Boutwell and Miss East Alabama 2026 Jayla Duncan. Photo by Buddy Roberts

Logan Martin Homes Edition LAKESIDE LIVING

*Covering life along
Logan Martin Lake since 1994*

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EDITOR'S NOTE

What is communication?

It was a sunny autumn afternoon, and I was speaking with Sarah Elizabeth Moreman, who has for some time now been a regular contributor to Lakeside Living.

"I love to feel the sun warming the wooden planks of a pier," she said, having stepped out of her colorful heels as she watched the Coosa River flow serenely by.

"How long did you live on the river?" I asked.

"Eleven years. I miss it. I miss waking up to see the fog embracing the river. I miss that ethereal feel of foggy mornings as I was daily reminded that I should go outside, that life is much more than the house I lived in."

"You seem to have a definite affinity for being by the water."

"I certainly do. I still come to the lake to visit family and friends. Being by the water reminds me of how 'it is well with my soul' and 'this too shall pass' due to the way water cleanses away the daily living stress. Water has its soothing qualities which inspires me to flex my creative writing skills."

Regular Lakeside Living readers have no doubt enjoyed the words she has shared with us in accompaniment to Tim Badgewell's photography in our monthly Lakeside Flora & Fauna feature. I'm proud to have her as a contributor to our publication, not only for her descriptive, reflective perspectives but also because professionally she's Dr. Sarah Elizabeth Moreman, a recognized authority on interpersonal communication.

Among her recent recognitions has been as a Spear Hero Honoree by the Vulcans Community Awards, which are presented to recognize civic pride, leadership, accomplishment, and progress in the seven-county Birmingham region, which includes the Logan Martin Lake area. The good doctor earned the recognition for her efforts to promote disability awareness and accommodation and inspire others to become more effective and inclusive communicators.

"We need each other to gain better insight about connecting and communicating with each other," she said. "Born profoundly bisensorineurally hearing impaired, I grew up learning how to communicate effectively with others. Being deaf does not equal expertise in sign language. As any



Dr. Sarah Elizabeth Moreman's work on Lakeside Living's Lakeside Flora & Fauna feature has been recognized by Alabama Media Professionals and the National Federation of Press Women.

individual, I have my own communications strategy of adapting to each situation and with another person. The older I get, the more acutely aware I am about the importance of giving others attention by adjusting to the way they communicate."

"That's probably something most of us could be more aware of," I said after a moment's thought.

"More often than not, people do not think about connecting while communicating," Sarah replied. "Communication is more than exchanging words verbally. Communication is shared through various communications strategies such as body language, facial expressions, inflections, writing, reading, and laughter. I believe in truly connecting. 'Stubborn' is the first word that any of my close friends and family would use to describe me. I do not let a conversation go unfinished until all angles have been covered. I do not believe in incomplete thoughts, sentences, and tasks. Unfinished work needs to be finished."

It is our hope that you will enjoy the finished work we have to share with you in this month's issue. From Lakeside Flora & Fauna to a visit to a local tree farm to shopping at a 125-year-old hardware store to meeting an artist who uses Sylacauga marble to make creations you have to see to believe, we're pleased that you've chosen to spend another month with Lakeside Living, Logan Martin's original and premier magazine.

May all be well with your soul this month.



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HOOK, LINE & SINKER

Angling for gamefish in late fall

November is a fantastic month for all types of fishing on Logan Martin Lake.

Water temperatures are cooling, and crappie, catfish, bass are all feeding heavily. Major feeding windows will present themselves as the days become shorter. Spotted bass, largemouth bass, catfish, bream, and all predatory gamefish will be actively feeding in preparation for the winter. This is a great time to target multiple species and fish for numbers.

For bass, my baits of choice are jerk baits and topwater baits.

The jerk bait is exactly what it sounds like – a bait that jerks and has erratic action. This is especially important in the mid-to-late fall because shad will act very erratic. This is because the shad are under constant stress from gamefish attacking them. The jerk bait is perfect for the situation. Some of my favorite jerk baits are the KVD 200 and Spro McStick. I opt for the smaller, two-hook models in November. Pair these

lures with a medium bait cast rod and bait cast reel. You can also use medium spinning reels for this setup. Line of choice will be 10–12-pound fluorocarbon, and monofilament will work as well.

Pop R-style baits and Spook style topwater will dominate this time of year. Schooling fish will often be present. But don't sleep on any solo standing piece of cover on flats and the bank. These solo structures will hold fish in November. Another great top water option this month is an old-school popping cork and fly. One of the best schooling lure setups, the popping cork with a white fly gives bass and stripers a different old-school look. The fish will absolutely destroy it!

When targeting bass in November, I always start at the creek mouths. Small cuts and pockets off the main river will hold bass and baitfish as well. If you can find the baitfish, you will find the bass. Always keep an eye out for schooling fish. Busting action on top of the water is a dead giveaway. Isolated targets will always hold fish this time of year.

Crappie can be caught with trolling minnows or trolling jigs this time of year. Another great pattern is deeper docks in creeks. I opt for four-pound test and a Bobby Garland-style 1/32-ounce dock shooting setup. Crappie, like other gamefish, will be feeding heavily and can be caught in a multitude of ways.

Thanksgiving is here, so add some fresh-caught fish to that table of turkey and dressing!

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Brad Dill and family with some nice Logan Martin crappie



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SUDDENLY SUSAN



Hal Bradford Word



A native of Scottsboro, Alabama, Word's art is grounded in the beauty of Sylacauga marble.

Jewelry for the Home, Crafted in Sylacauga Marble

Written by **SUSAN COOK**
Photographed by **HAL WORD**

I had no idea my friend Hal was launching into a new creative endeavor when we met for dinner in 2022.

Over tiramisu, he handed me a shimmering gift bag I'd been eyeing all evening. Inside were four gorgeous marble coasters, each one edged in delicate gold leaf.

"Where did you get these?" I asked. "They're stunning!"

Hal smiled, that familiar glint in his eye. "Flip them over," he said.

On the bottom were his initials. "So...I've started something new."

It was the most Hal way imaginable to make an announcement—quietly confident, effortlessly charming, and, as always, backed by beautiful proof. While others may talk, dream, and wonder what if, Hal simply does it.

That creative drive has been with

him all his life. For as long as he can remember, Hal Bradford Word has been surrounded by the arts.

"Growing up, I was immersed in music and theatre, mainly due to my father's love of them," he says.

He still recalls the wonder of seeing his first Broadway production, *My Fair Lady*, in New York in 1976. Years later, he found himself onstage in a Birmingham production of that very show, playing Freddy Eynsford-Hill. In a twist of irony and fate, I played the role of Eliza

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The Lavender Songbird box, Alabama Scurro marble.

Doolittle. We've been dear friends ever since, bonded by a shared love of music, theatre, and the goal of infusing everyday life with the excitement of an opening night.

In recent years, Hal's creative spotlight has shifted from the stage to the studio—from performing arts to the art of marble design—a shift that began almost by accident.

"It actually came from years of doing my own home renovations," he says. "One day, I realized I had a lot of scrap marble lying around and began to think about what I could do with the excess."

The result was his first set of gold-leafed marble coasters. Soon after, inspiration struck in the middle of the

night. "I literally woke up at 2 a.m. and had the idea to start using gemstones and pearls on coasters," he recalls. "From there, I began creating trays and decorative boxes."

Hal describes his work as "jewelry for the home."

"I love that concept—not only because of the gemstones, but because jewelry accentuates who we are. Why not bring that same idea into the spaces we live?"

Each new creation begins with a piece of marble that catches his eye. "I look through my collection and see which one calls to me," he says. "I always hold it up to the light—its whole look can change depending on how the light hits it."

From there, Hal works directly with

the marble, letting its features guide his choices. Sometimes the finished piece is subtle and harmonious; other times, he plays with bold contrast. "I might pair a neutral marble with vivid gemstones or take a quieter approach where everything blends softly together," he says.

What began with a few leftover pieces from home renovations soon led Hal straight to Alabama's "Marble City"—Sylacauga. "A lot of people don't realize how special it is," Hal relates, but "it's been used in the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, even the U.S. Supreme Court Building."

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A Snowfall in the Rockies tray,
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“ I guess I’m always up to something,” Hal says with a grin. “Maybe someday I’ll learn to just chill out. ”
~Hal Word

The Caterpillar’s Dream box, Alabama Rose and Scuro marble.

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stretches roughly 32 miles long through Alabama's Marble Belt, discovered by Dr. Edward Gantt in 1814 and first quarried in the 1830s. Each April, the city celebrates with The Magic of Marble Festival, where visitors can watch sculptors bring the stone to life.

Hal partners with AM3 Stone—Alabama Marble Mineral & Mining Company—whose 50-acre quarry sits along that historic seam. It's a collaboration that grounds his art in deep local heritage while giving it global reach, as his gemstones and pearls are sourced from around the world.

Travel remains one of Hal's greatest sources of inspiration. "Probably the first concrete inspiration I had was the Tetons in Jackson Hole, Wyoming," he reveals. "That's one of my favorite places. I'm constantly influenced by the colors and majesty of the mountains—and how they change through the seasons." He's equally drawn to the shifting blues of the ocean and the ephemeral nature of clouds.

That sense of movement and reflection shimmers through his pieces, now found in collections far beyond Alabama, including the Broadmoor Jewelry Co., located at the famed Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs.

When he's not designing or traveling, Hal can often be seen as a guest on WBRC Channel 6, sharing style insights on men's fashion with anchor Russell Jones.

His creativity has also found its way into philanthropy. A longtime member of Birmingham's theatre community, Hal recently donated an original marble piece to Terrific New Theatre for its grand reopening. The work, titled *Tiers of Joy*, combines vintage glass and antique crystal with Sylacauga marble and gemstones—labradorite, freshwater pearls, and topaz among them. "It felt right to create something theatrical—something that celebrated both the old and the new," he says.

In January 2025, Hal joined the Board of Directors for the Alzheimer's Association Alabama Chapter, where he now serves as Board Recruitment Chair. In September, he organized *Finding the Light*, an evening of song and storytelling that raised funds and awareness for



Word at home on his porch where he works.

Alzheimer's research. The following month, he donated another marble piece for the Royal ALZ Gala in Birmingham.

"I guess I'm always up to something," Hal says with a grin. "Maybe someday I'll learn to just chill out."

When and if that day ever comes, Hal will keep doing what he's always done—following his inspiration wherever it leads. Whether it's a new design, a new project, or a midnight idea that won't let

him sleep, Hal simply creates.

And if history is any guide, the next time we share dessert, I wouldn't be surprised to find his latest creation tucked in a gift bag—proof that Hal's creativity and generosity never take a night off.

You can purchase Hal's marble art designs at his website, www.hbradfordword.com, and follow him on Instagram @h.bradford.word.art.



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CARTER'S HARDWARE



A stable fixture in a changing world

Munford retailer celebrates 125 years of history and tradition while making plans for the future

Written by **KRISTI SELLERS**
Photographed by **TUCKER WEBB**

In Munford, where the hills roll gently and everyone waves whether they know you or not, Carter's Hardware has quietly been the heart of the town for more than a century. The small store on Highway 21 has helped folks keep things running—homes, farms, engines, and lives—since long before anyone thought to order a

hammer online.

The Carter name has been tied to hardware in Munford for generations. What started as a small supply business run by the family's earlier generations has grown and evolved into the Carter's Hardware of today. Founded in 1910 by J. Renzo Carter, the current store carries on more than a hundred years of family know-how and small-town service.

In 1918, J. Renzo's brother J.P. joined him in operating the Munford Mercantile until 1930. According to current owner

Dovie Turner, "by the late 1940s, Dial Carter (Renzo's son) ran the store under the name Jot-Em-Down Store. No matter the name, most people just referred to it as Carter's Store."

After Dial's death in 1967, his brother Frank Carter took over and operated the store until his death in 1972. Sara Carter (Frank's wife) ran the store until their son Gary graduated from college and took over around 1977.

Until 2023, Gary Carter, the third generation to operate the business,



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stood behind the counter just like his grandfather once did. He knows the regulars by name, remembers what brand of oil they prefer, and has a story for just about every item on the shelf. For the people of Munford, Carter's isn't just a store—it's a piece of home.

Now, Gary's daughter, Dovie Turner, runs the family business. "After 45 years, Gary was ready to retire," she said. "As a family, we didn't want to sell or close the store. Out of my siblings, I was the only one still living in Munford, both my brother and sister having families and careers outside of the state. My brother Tony is in North Carolina and my sister Katie is in South Carolina. In June of 2023, I took over the business. I am the responsible party and sign all the paperwork but my daughter, Rebecca Luckado, manages all the day to day operations."

Step through the front door, and you'll hear the faint creak of wood floors and the soft hum of conversation. The aisles are filled with every imaginable tool, nut, bolt, and bucket. There are auto parts and spark plugs, paint cans in every shade, garden tools, and plumbing supplies that have solved more Saturday morning crises than anyone could count.

Need a propane refill? They've



got that. Need your chains or blades sharpened? They can do that. Need advice on fixing a leaky faucet or a sputtering lawn mower? You'll get that too—along with a story and a laugh.

Carter's Hardware has been a local spot for U-Haul rentals for the past 25 years. Keys can be cut here, and it's the place for ordering parts for lawnmowers, chainsaws, and ATVs. For locals, Carter's is more than convenience—it's a lifeline. Why go elsewhere when the folks at

Carter's already know what you need?

Part of Carter's charm is that it still feels like the old hardware stores you remember from childhood – the kind where the air smells faintly of sawdust and motor oil and where people gather on slow mornings just to catch up. You might come in for a can of paint and end up staying half an hour swapping stories about fishing trips, tractor troubles, or last night's ball game.

"Gary is retired but you can still find



him here several days a week ready to talk about town news and Friday night football," Turner said. "The coffee is free, and the glass Cokes are cold. We even have a selection of old-fashioned sodas, like orange cream, root beer, or sarsaparilla."

There's a kind of magic in that—a rhythm of community that hums quietly beneath the business of bolts and brake pads.

Through the years, Carter's has

weathered every change time could throw its way. When chain stores came, Carter's stayed. When online shopping took off, Carter's stayed. And when Munford folks needed advice on how to patch a roof or jump a car battery, Carter's was still right where it had always been—steady, reliable, and friendly as ever.

The secret to its endurance? It's simple. The Carters never forgot who they were serving. Every person who walks through that door matters, whether

they're a regular or a first-timer.

Since taking charge of the store, the new owner and manager have upgraded multiple aspects of the business, all in an effort to serve their customers more efficiently. Now, Carter's uses a POS system to track products and sales. "Gary did it all the old-school way and had all the locations and prices in his head," says Turner.

Carter's has received a fresh coat of paint, the shelves have been replaced,



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and the signs have been rebranded. Need a gallon of paint mixed? Carter's Hardware offers paint mixing again, with its line of Pittsburgh Paints. If you need to ship a package via UPS, Carter's Hardware can do that too.

While a hardware store might not be your first thought for holiday gift-giving, Carter's has you covered. For the gift that anyone would want, consider a gift certificate. Pocket knives and the timeless tradition of a Radio Flyer wagon are perfect gifts to sit under any Christmas tree.

For the ultimate gift for the DIYer in your life, consider a customized gift

basket tailored to your specific requests.

Carter's Hardware has big plans for the future. With changing times and customer demand, the hometown store wants to offer even more to their customers. Soon, the store intends to become an official Case Knives dealer again. Plans also call for an expanded garden center selection.

For over a century, Carter's Hardware has been part of the daily heartbeat of Munford. It's where tools are sold and friendships are built, where advice is free, and where a handshake still means something.

According to Turner, "Carter's is one

of the – if not the – oldest businesses in Munford. We have always been family-run. We do our best to support our community and schools in any way we can. We want to offer services that allow people to stay closer to home and keep their business in our town. If we can save you a 20-minute trip to a big box store, then we have done our job."

"We have," she added, "been blessed with the amount of support we have received from our community, especially during the recent changes. We want people to know that even though Gary retired, we are still here and hope to be for many more years."

Jayla Duncan is the author of the children's book, "A Bully for Bella." Its positive message seeks to teach young children how to stand up to bullying. Copies are available at bethesparkfoundation.godaddysites.com.

A Bully For Bella



By Jayla Duncan

A conversation with Jayla Duncan

Childersburg native brings attention to an epidemic affecting Alabama schools

Written by and photographed by
BUDDY ROBERTS

Earlier this year, Jayla Duncan was at the State Capitol in Montgomery to meet with Gov. Kay Ivey and Sen. Garland Gudger, president pro tem of the Alabama Senate. During that meeting, she received a proclamation from the governor recognizing her efforts lobbying for anti-bullying initiatives.

Weeks later, the Childersburg native and senior at Samford University says she's "still processing" the experience.

"What a powerful day it was," she said, seated in a white rocking chair on the wraparound porch at the Butler Harris-Rainwater Museum. "To be recognized by the governor herself was deeply rewarding. What made it even more meaningful were the genuine

conversations I had with senators Gudger and Merika Coleman. I was also able to personally deliver letters written by Samford University students advocating for stronger anti-bullying legislation across our state."

Jayla's advocacy has been through Jayla's Justice: An Anti-Bullying Campaign (her social impact initiative through the Miss Alabama Organization) and The SPARK Foundation, its related nonprofit organization, which she discussed back in her hometown while on a college break.

LL: Tell us about your efforts that resulted in the proclamation.

JD: I have applied twice for a proclamation declaring October 17 as Unity Day in the state of Alabama and October as Bullying Prevention Month. Both of those proclamations have been denied thus far. But I'm not done trying, and because I've been so diligent in my work and trying really hard to promote

anti-bullying efforts across the state, they gave me a proclamation acknowledging all the work I've done over the years. Receiving that proclamation alongside President Pro Tempore Garland Gudger was huge, because he's also working on a bill called Senate Bill 74 which addresses cyberbullying in schools. I've been in contact with his office and Sen. April Weaver, who's sponsoring the bill, discussing it with them. And to have them acknowledge the work I'm doing and be willing to work alongside me was huge and something that I didn't even expect to happen, and I think just signifies how accessible our legislators are to us.

LL: What are Jayla's Justice and Be the SPARK?

JD: My anti-bullying campaign, and the financial component of it is my nonprofit organization, Be the SPARK Foundation. SPARK stands for Sharing Positivity and Random Acts of Kindness. I started in high

school, and it's just grown so much since then. It's definitely not the same nonprofit it was when I was a high schooler, versus someone going in their senior year of college who's been able to actually dedicate more time and resources to it.

The goal is to help schools and communities implement bullying-prevention strategies and to ease any financial burden that they may have. I'm partnering with a national anti-bullying organization called the PACER Center, and they give me a lot of resources, such as pencils, bookmarks, posters, all these things to be distributed to schools just to bring simple awareness to bullying. I'm also able to mail out packages to go in-person and lead bullying prevention seminars and just talk to kids about bullying – what it is, how to report it – and to help counselors and teachers who may not have the extra time or resources to implement bullying-prevention strategies themselves.

LL: Why is the issue so important to you?

JD: I was a victim of bullying in middle and high school, and it's just one of those issues that people don't take seriously until it happens to them or someone they know. And people really do downplay bullying. They just say that kids will be kids or it's a phase in life, but it's not until someone harms themselves or commits suicide that we begin to take it seriously. Bullying is a 100-percent preventable issue, so it should never come to that. And knowing my experiences, and having a mom who's a counselor who was able to help me through it, I was really fortunate. My mom noticed signs. I didn't want to go to summer camp anymore. I didn't want to go to dance class, and she started asking the right questions that she, as a counselor, knew to ask me, but most parents don't know to ask those questions. They just think that their child is moody or they're just going into teen years, and that wasn't the case. And so she was able to help me deal with it because of her experience. But otherwise I don't know what would have happened, and there are other kids who weren't fortunate who did take that step and commit suicide because they felt like it was the only way





out. What I do is just so important and it's so necessary to bring it into an issue that people continuously downplay. I don't do this work for attention or applause – I do it because there is still so much work to be done.”

LL: What are some of the questions that your mom knew to ask you?

JD: She started out asking, 'How was your day? What happened at summer camp? Who are the new kids?' As she started to learn names, 'How do you get along with this person? Are y'all friends?' So that led to me telling her about what happened on a particular day with someone and how we weren't talking, and this was said...things like that. She tried to memorize a lot of the kids' names that she knew that I would be interacting with. The more she asked, the more things started to come out, about camp as well as school. She was just able to kind of plug in just by asking things like, "how was your day going? How's this subject going? How was summer camp after school going?"

She made me feel better, because no one wants to say, 'I've been bullied.' But she shared with me that she had been bullied before, and so seeing how she was able to overcome it and it didn't define her, I was like, 'Okay, well, I can get through it, if my mom could.' And so just being able to have those open and vulnerable conversations with her definitely helped, and it made me feel less ashamed of being bullied.

LL: People can define themselves as victims of bullying?

JD: Sure. People make the misconception that words don't hurt, but they do hurt. What matters is what you do with those words. I let those negative words define me in a way that what they said was true and I let them burden me down and not turn that pain into a success story being able to help other people, then who knows where my life would be right now? But I didn't let those negative words define who I am as a person. I use those words to rewrite the narrative about myself and turn it into a transformative story, and that's what I like to share with other people. Bullies can call you the worst names in the world, but you are so much more than what they say or the things they do to you. You can truly transform

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Jayla and her
mom, Dana Thomas



yourself and be better because of it. Yes, it's easier said than done, especially when you're young. I mean, I was 11 when I was first being bullied, but it doesn't matter how old you are – bullying does not define who you are.

LL: Social media gets a lot of the blame for bullying. Is that fair?

JD: No. Mean people are the problem. Social media is a useful tool, but mean people get on social media, and typically, if a person is cyberbullying, then they're probably bullying in other ways too – verbally, socially, physically. It may be easier to bully on social media, and it's an easy blame. But social media is not the only cause and root of bullying. We can continue to blame all of our issues on social media, or we can get to the root of the issue, which is what causes people to be bullies.

LL: Where do you see your initiative going?

JD: I like to think that it is going great places right now. Recently, I've had opportunity to go to Washington, D.C., and talk to representatives there, which was huge, and I've done a lot of work in the state of Alabama that I'm proud of. I'm not done yet. Bullying is not just an issue that happens in Alabama, and so I'd like to spread my initiative to other states, maybe start in the South and expand, but it's definitely something that I want to continue to grow and spread the message that bullying is a real issue that can be dealt with if we all care enough to do so.



A HAUNTING

Good Time on Logan Martin Lake



Lovers of spooky season and lakeside residents celebrate the third annual Boo Bash

Written by **MICHELLE LOVE**

Photos courtesy of the **BOO BASH ON LOGAN MARTIN**

Logan Martin was full to the brim with Halloween lovers the first weekend in October to celebrate the third annual Boo Bash event. Thousands came out in their best spooky garb to enjoy the boat decorations, costume contests, and free candy.

Kelli Lasseter, one of the lead organizers of the event, said this was the biggest turnout in the event's history, with more than 2,000 participants. Even the wind couldn't deter people from the spooky fun, though some piers were lightly roughed up by big gusts.

"It was a lot of fun. It was big this year," Lasseter said. "We sent out post-event surveys, and it seems like everybody had a great time again. We can trump that up to a lot of great folks in this community coming together to make this thing happen. It's just wild."

Lasseter said they calculated 1,373 adults, 931 kids, and 146 dogs in attendance. She said there were several great costumes and boat decorations this year, including a Pac Man boat, a Ghostbusters boat, and a Beauty and the Beast boat on which the owners built a castle on top of the vessel. There were also 73 pier hosts this year, including Tiki Hut, the Logan Martin Lake Protection Association (LMLPA) and the Pell City Parks & Recreation Boo Slough. Lasseter also credits Blair Goodgame,





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St. Clair County's director of tourism, for helping with marketing the event over the years and always bringing "big, great energy."

The event started in 2022 and spawned from an idea Lasseter had with her friend Sonya Hubbard while out on a pontoon boat one day. Hubbard and Lasseter were talking about how they missed the Halloween events of their own childhood where everyone got together and had a big celebration. Lasseter pitched the idea of decorating lake piers and having a pier-to-pier trick-or-treat event. The idea blew up from there, and the Boo Bash has continued to grow ever since.

In 2024, Lasseter and her crew started looking at the growing number of attendees and thought about how they



could use it to help the lake community.

"We recognized that this was really growing. We met with some folks and were talking about it, and we were like, 'I wonder if the LMLPA would be interested in this partnership?'" she said. "We could raise some funds for them, they cover the entire lake, and then we would also have some financial backing to support the event. Up until then we were paying for everything out of our own pockets, and when you have the numbers jump so drastically, having that help is amazing. It's been a lovely partnership."

Seeing the large turnout this year made Lasseter and her fellow organizers feel more than encouraged in their work. Lasseter said seeing all of the families and groups dressed up and having a good time reminded her why they started the event in the first place. She said the Boo Bash's overall success lies in the heart of what makes Halloween such a great holiday: creative expression.

"I think it is a time that people are getting together and enjoying that community," she said. "I think with Halloween, people—especially adults—enjoy tapping into that almost child-like creativity that often gets pushed to the side because of life's stressors. They get dressed up in costumes with their kids and their pets and dress their boat up.



And Logan Martin Lake is just that lake. You think about all the other events we have – people just like being together to have fun and create fun memories, be a child again, and get a lot of candy.”

Lasseter said they’re already looking

forward to next year’s event and thinking of ways they can keep the energy and momentum going.

“I think if we can get some more volunteers that have experience with things like creating digital signage or

volunteer management, I’m hopeful we can see it grow in 2026,” she said.

The official date of the 2026 Boo Bash has not yet been decided, but Lasseter did say it will likely be the first weekend in October.





Shannon Boutwell

MEET ME BY THE LAKE

Written and photographed by
BUDDY ROBERTS

Gingerly lifting her 109-year-old violin from its case, Shannon Boutwell smiles at the instrument as if greeting an old friend. Within moments, the notes of the concertmaster's solo from Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade cascade over the waters of Logan Martin Lake.

"I love this violin," she says after a moment's silence following its completion. "There is a distinct bond between a musician and an instrument. Sometimes it develops slowly, sometimes quickly. Sometimes your relationship

with your instrument is very high maintenance. I'm always struggling to keep it happy. I probably talk more of my violin than many real people."

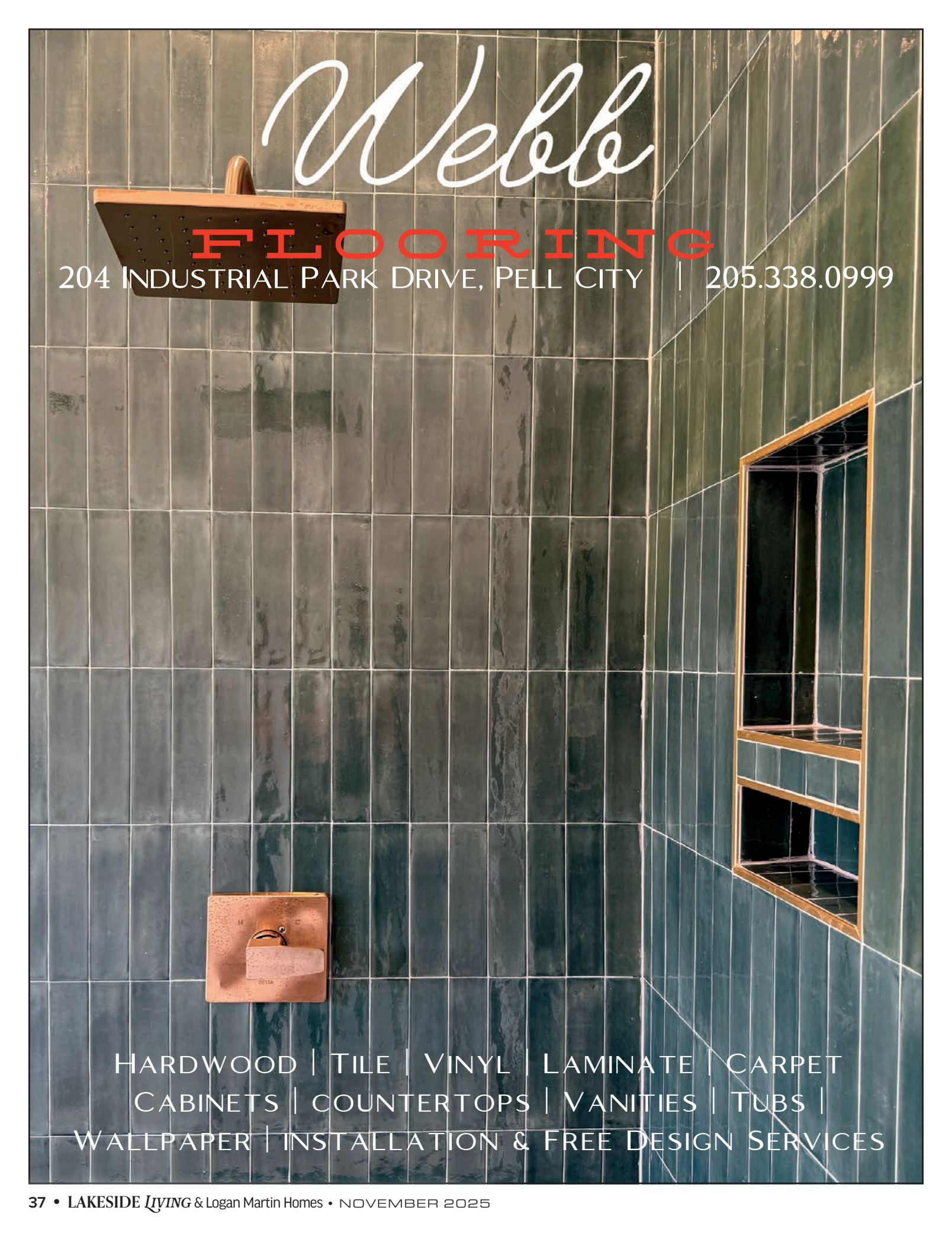
She considers.

"Well, maybe not quite that much, but certainly a lot, but you do over time get almost an emotional connection to your instrument. The more you get to know it, the better you learn what exactly you need to do to get it to sound its best."

As a music major at Samford University and the school's first-ever double major in violin and piano performance with pedagogy, Shannon has such a relationship with two

instruments, but the violin is far more portable, making it her companion of choice for a visit to the Birmingham Sailing Club, where she performed for the members who were on hand that day and discussed more about her instrument and its history, performing at Carnegie Hall, and where she hopes her musical career may take her.

Her beginnings as a musician: "I've wanted to play piano and violin ever since I knew what they were, but I didn't get to start until relatively late. Most of my peers have been playing since they were 2, 3, or 4 years old, and I didn't start piano until I was about 10 and violin until about 11 or 12 – at least



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Shannon currently holds two titles in the Miss Alabama organization: Miss Jubilee and Miss Iron City. She will crown the new Miss Jubilee later this month.

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when I could play and take lessons consistently. We lived in Oxford-Anniston area until third grade, and at the time, there was just no opportunity there for me to do that. My parents looked for a violin teacher and even a way to get a violin, and it was just really difficult. It wasn't until we moved to a bigger city, to Birmingham, that I had the opportunity to start, so that was how my journey started."

Her violin: "My violin was crafted by Carl G. Becker in 1916, and it is actually not an instrument I own. It's on loan to me through the Becker Family Foundation, on generous loan by Elizabeth Upton. And it's a really, really special instrument. The first time I picked it up, I felt an immediate connection. It's my best friend. It goes with me everywhere. As a matter of fact, it's in my contract. It can't be outside of a certain radius of where I am. When I got the violin in Chicago from Mr. Paul Becker, who's the fifth generation luthier of the Becker family and the grandson of Carl Becker, we went back to the hotel room, and the violin actually was in bed with me on the other side that night. I just love it so much. It's something that I really cherish, and I've really grown a lot because of it. I think it's important as a musician to be able to make music on whatever you have, but it's important to have the right tools if you're aspiring to be a certain level. A musician is only as good as your instrument, so having this violin has really allowed me to flourish in ways that I otherwise wouldn't be able to."

At Carnegie Hall: She's performed piano solos on the storied stage at the famed New York concert hall twice, through her involvement with Gulf Coast Steinway Society. "I remember my dressing room had a picture of Antonin Dvorak in it, and Dvorak is one of my favorite composers. I was going to be performing his Ninth Symphony, and the experience just instilled in me that I wanted to be an orchestral violinist forever. Going to the very hall where that same symphony premiered, and getting to perform there as a soloist was



really incredible. Having his picture in my dressing room made it all the more special. I understood all the tradition and history when I was walking out on stage, and I was definitely in awe of it, but I also always felt a draw to perform and to share what I love with others. So to an extent, even though I knew it was a really big moment, it was also another stage and another audience I got to

share music with. So I think at the time, I was just feeling really excited. I just had a blast."

Which is more challenging, piano or violin? "They're challenging in their own way. The violin, it's a lot harder to develop the technique you need to play and progress from sounding like a student to sounding like a professional. So the actual art of playing the



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instrument is maybe more challenging for violin. However, piano, while easier to start learning, can be much more complex to fully master when you get to a certain point. With piano, there's so many notes, and my hands are pretty small, but I'm playing pieces that were written for gentlemen with much larger hands, so it can be a little bit more of a challenge just because I'm a smaller person than maybe who the piece was written and intended for, trying to compensate by creative fingering or hand crosses that maybe weren't originally in the music."

Her dream job:

"Concertmaster, for a multitude of reasons. When I was 15, I started as concertmaster for Alabama Symphony Youth Orchestra. I love the way it feels to be leading alongside the conductor and to not only be responsible for playing your part well but to have the opportunity to lead a group of other musicians – an entire family in the orchestra – to a common goal, making absolutely beautiful music and paying tribute to some of the greatest composers of all time. It's incredible. The Berlin Philharmonic would be the dream orchestra for me, no doubt about it, but I will say, particularly due to the Becker Family Foundation and its connection with Chicago, I'd love to play with the Chicago Symphony."

How she describes herself:

"Passionate, definitely a redhead, a leader, definitely musical and artistic."

The food you could eat

every day: "Macaroni and cheese."

The food she hopes to never eat again: "Probably asparagus."





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"I love piano and violin so much. My favorite is whichever I'm playing at the time, and until I learn how to play both at the same time, I think it'll stay that way."



GET INTO THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

at Church Farm Christmas Trees in Pell City

Written by **LACI BRASWELL**

Submitted photos

*T*is the season, Lakeside Living readers!

There's nothing more symbolic of the holidays than a freshly cut Christmas tree. Whether you're 1 or 100, a Christmas tree can instantly bring back memories and create lasting new ones.

I must admit, it's been decades since my Christmas was adorned with anything but a store-bought tree. Although our

family tree was picture perfectly suited for the cover of a magazine such as this, there's just something classic about having the real thing at the center of a room.

Some of my favorite early childhood memories included decorating our Christmas tree with my late aunt. The last time we had a non-artificial tree was probably around 1995, but I still remember the smell filling our large open den and how the needles tickled my hands as I placed them on the tree. This particular tree had to be over 10 feet in height, with my aunt having to climb a

ladder to place the angel on top.

Those timeless flashbacks will always play like home movies in my mind, and I'm forever thankful to have those heartwarming experiences. For those looking to pick out their special tree and create special memories of their own, you don't have to search far.

Church Farm Christmas Trees is the perfect place to find your hand-picked tree for your home or business. At 150 Church Farm Road in Pell City, the tree farm sits on 50 acres of land owned by the Davenports family.

Last month, the Davenports toured

me around the facility on their golf cart as they were gearing up for the 2025 season. Husband-and-wife team Craig and Laurie established the farm back in 2019 before opening to the public last year.

The Davenports explained to me that the farm took several years of preparation before they saw it literally come to life.

"We have to order the trees a year in advance," Craig said. "We order those in either one-gallon or two-and-a-half gallon pots. So they usually come a couple of feet tall when we get them – anywhere from a foot to maybe two feet tall, and then we plant those."

Craig said they do all the planting in February and then fertilize the trees in early spring. "If we get a lot of rain, they'll grow 12 inches in a couple of weeks. We trim them all year long."

Rows upon rows of evergreens stretch across the rolling property, with the Murray cypress being the farm's signature tree. "We'll have about 600 ready this year," Craig said.

The farm also has a substantial selection of Carolina cypress, but the Davenports noted they won't be ready until the 2026 season.

Laurie explained the Murray cypress is a popular favorite that is known for being low maintenance and holding ornaments beautifully on sturdy branches. "They stay fresh with regular watering," she said.

Real trees are a hallmark of a Davenport Christmas.

"We've had a real tree since we were engaged," Laurie said. "It's something our kids also enjoy. They help when they come home for the holidays."

Church Farm trees start at \$55 for a six-foot-tall tree and \$10 a foot after that. The farm sells trees as large as 12 feet in height, Craig said.

The Davenports said although the idea of caring for a Christmas tree can be intimidating, mostly all it takes is plenty of watering.

"Water it as soon as you get it set up at home," Laurie said. "Keep the tree stand full of water. As long as they are watered, trees can last even up to around two months."



Craig and Laurie Davenport



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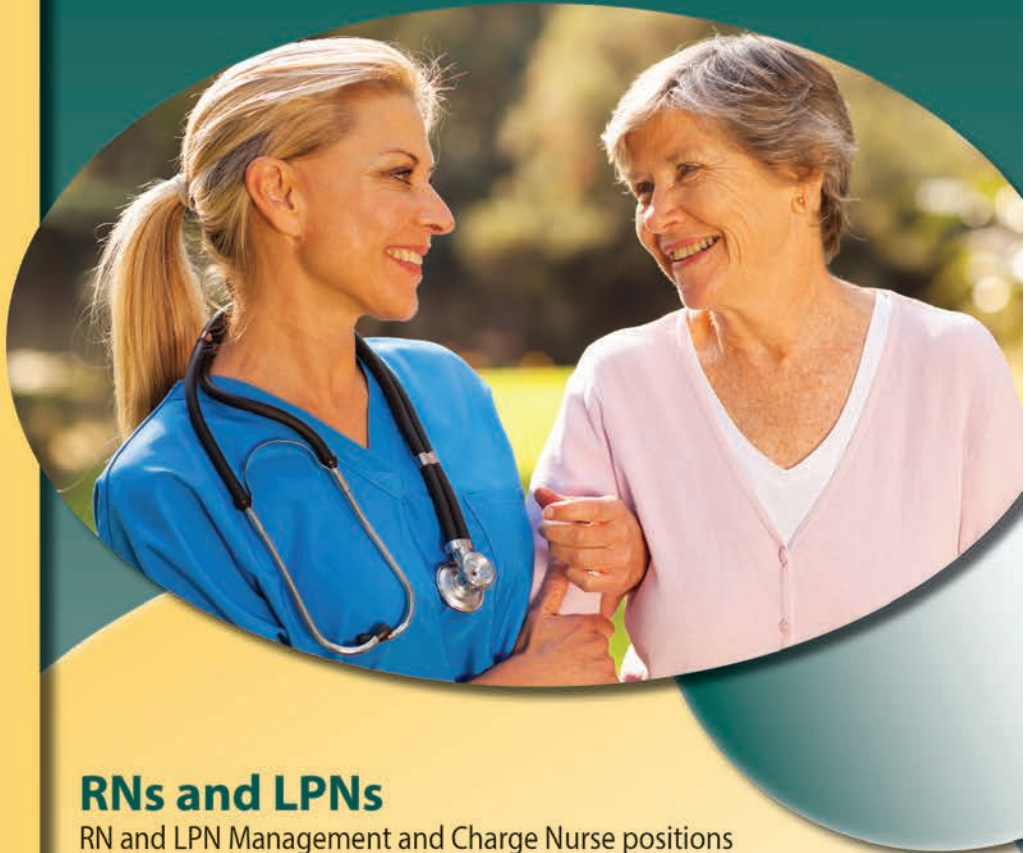


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As I looked closer at the rows of trees, Craig explained what customers can expect when visiting.

"After parking, come up to the pavilion, where we'll give them a saw with some instructions on where the trees are, and there'll be tags on the tree, with pricing and other information, like the height. Guests can walk, or we can take them in a golf cart."

Each tree is properly shaken to remove loose needles and wrapped in netting for an easy ride home, he added.

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load it and strap it to your vehicle for a safe ride home. They will also deliver to businesses within 30 miles.

Coffee and hot apple cider are served on-site, along with a craft station for kids, Laurie said.

For guests who want to return to the enchanting space, the property is also home to a beautiful, rustic log cabin, listed on Airbnb. The cabin features two full bathrooms and bedrooms, kitchen and living space, and a spacious yard and porch. It is open for guests year-round. Prices and additional information can be

found at www.airbnb.com. I encourage everyone to consider giving the farm and cabin a proper visit.

Church Farm Christmas Trees opens Saturday, November 22, welcoming visitors from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with Sunday hours from noon until 5 p.m. The farm will remain open through early December, with its final weekend (Dec. 13–14) available by appointment only. For more information, visit www.churchfarmchristmastrees.com.

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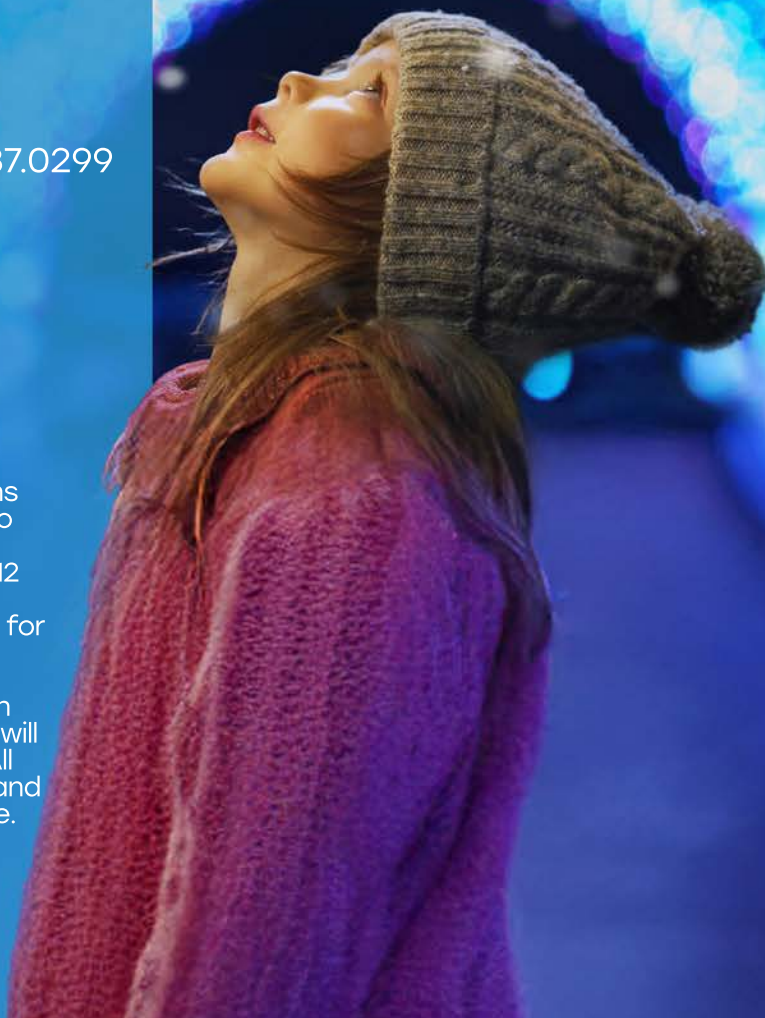
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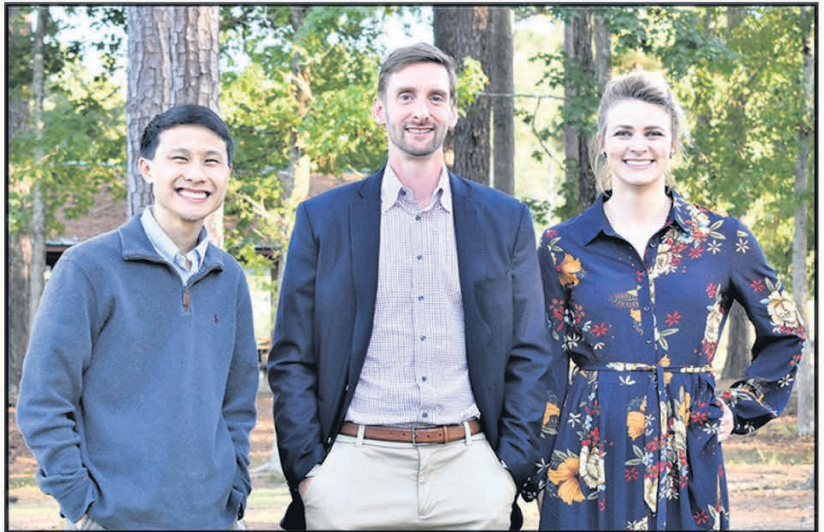
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Written by

DR. SARAH ELIZABETH MOREMAN

Photographed by **BUDDY ROBERTS**

The last time I was here at the log cabin, where my great-great-grandfather was born, Grammy was sitting right there on the pew that lined the logged wall, a piece that came from the church where the same forefather pastored. At the corner where the logs have interlocked tightly since the late 1890s, I run my hand along the open ends of the corner logs. Feeling the ridged rings of one log, I could sense the morning dampness while clearly remembering how Grammy humbly sat like royalty, keeping forbearance of the pain that old age brings, having lived to be the oldest of our clan. It may have been only two years ago, but the memory is still fresh in my mind. I am wearing a pink rose pendant on a gold necklace in her honor, for she loved pink roses.

The doors are open at both ends of



the long hallway of the log cabin, from the front to the back, bringing in cool breezes that cause pebbling on my arms. I am wearing long sleeves, though, and it

is autumn. "I am going outside for a bit," I call out. Seeing waves of hands in my direction, I make my way out to the back door while my cousins continue busying



themselves with setting up tables for the family reunion potluck-style barbecue lunch. Large rectangular foil pans covering different barbecue meats of pulled pork and chicken, along with large jugs of barbecue sauce, are already sitting atop the paper-covered tables. Other dishes have not yet arrived, but I know we will have potato salad, pasta salad, cornbread, green beans, and other typical Southern dishes when more cousins arrive.

Stepping down a few concrete steps into the warm sunshine, I let out a sigh. Numerous thoughts of family and life weave through my mind as I slip my glasses down from where they rested on my head to shield my eyes from the brightness outside. I walk towards my parents' vehicle to pull out a memoir I was reading on the way here, where asphalt roads transform into red clay. While excellent for the cotton fields and Loblolly pine trees everywhere in this county, the red clay is worse than the yellow pollen from the pines. It has not rained for a while, and the grass feels crunchy under my well-worn Durango boots that my father gifted me over a quarter of a century ago when I turned twenty-one. The orange-red dust already coats the tops of my boots, as well as my shiny black yoga pants and button-down shirt. I can even taste its earthy chalkiness on my lips, which I keep closed to avoid breathing in the clay dust.

When I see the coat of red clay dust covering the dark paint of the vehicle, I decide against getting the book. Turning away from the small SUV, I continue past other cars toward a trail through the pines, magnolias, and woods. It is the same trail where Uncle Frank and I shared our last moments together at another reunion, three reunions ago to be exact, when he took me out for an adrenaline rush in the ATV, rumbling up and down haphazardly uneven hills, the branches of trees swatting at us while I laughed with hilarity. At one point, Uncle Frank pulled the ATV to a stop and turned to me. "I did not know you were such an adrenaline junkie." He gestured to my usual sophisticated outfit, always a bit overdressed for a reunion, especially in the devil of an Alabama summer heat, a white



flowy lacy top with nice jeans and high heeled sandals. I lowered my oversized sunglasses to give him a look before slipping them back on. I shrugged. "You should have known me better." I laughed again as he shifted the off-road vehicle back into gear, shooting us back out on the roller coaster of red clay dust and prickly pine needles.

The sounds of my relatives' chatter back at the log cabin, where my great-great-grandfather was born, fade as I traipse further along the trail. Soon, the surface of a small lake reflects the sun sharply into my eyes, temporarily blinding me. Quickly, though, my vision adjusts as I keep walking. I take in the soulful eyes of the yellow daisy-like flowers framing the edge of the water.

Feeling drawn to these yellow bursts of joy, I try to recall their formal name other than Black-Eyed Susans. Slipping my phone out of my pocket to look it up, I note that their name is *Rudbeckia hirta*, part of the sunflower family and part of the Asteraceae.

Asterisk, I think to myself, as I turn my phone to take pictures of the prolific, self-seeding biennials that thrive under the full sun. An asterisk signifies something noteworthy, a little star-shaped mark to make a point, demanding our attention. The yellowness of these hardy coneflowers against the greens and browns of nature

certainly clamor for mine.

A Great Monarch butterfly flutters over to rest on one brownish-black eye, its wings judiciously opening and closing. The Tiffany lamp pattern of its orange panes, framed with black curved lines and white dots, reminds me of how the Black-Eyed Susans are featured prominently in certain Tiffany lamps. While other floral depictions are intricately woven into Tiffany-stained glass, the Black-Eyed Susan stands out for its simplicity, leaving the more lasting impression. Louie Comfort Tiffany artistically expressed his philosophic outlook on life through flora, including the Black-Eyed Susans, with their vibrant simplicity and joyful presence, the golden hope ringing the soulful dark centers that call for sturdiness and resilience.

The golden Black-Eyed Susans and the lone Monarch butterfly reflect the state of my thoughts lately, shaped by childhood memories and the quiet blessings of family. It was the stained glass that first enraptured me as a child, and I remember asking for a Tiffany lamp. It still sits on my bedside table in my room at my parents' house, casting colorful splashes of light across the jade green walls. Each morning and evening, whenever I spend the night in my childhood bed, the lamp reminds me of the wonder of being part of a family: to be kaleidoscopically and introspectively transparent, with different angles of



lighted perspective.

Another piece of my Tiffany-inspired past is a chandelier. When I was closing a difficult chapter in my past, I asked for the Tiffany-style chandelier as part of the agreement. It is still in storage, waiting. I think it is time to hang it and let its stained-glass brilliance capture the sun again. Not at the log cabin, where red clay dust would coat it, smothering the light. It needs to shine freely, like the Monarch butterfly poignantly opening and closing its wings.

In a similar, intricate way to the Tiffany lamp, the Great Monarch is rare and precious, making this moment feel sacred. Monarch butterflies are currently listed

under the Endangered Species Act, their numbers imperiously declining over time. I watch this one closely, its wings moving slowly as it rests on a Black-Eyed Susan. At that moment, I sense that perhaps Grammy and Uncle Frank are here with me.

As if to signal that it is time for me to turn back, the butterfly flits away. I watch it until I can no longer see it, then retrace my steps to the log cabin, surely stuffed with more family and more food. The sounds of voices reach me before I see the sturdy sight of the well-crafted heart pine logs held together with architectural brilliance meant to last. Like the prolific sturdiness of the Black-Eyed Susans, I know that the loss of any loved one brings

deeper meaning to family and reminds us not to take it for granted. Like the rarity of a Monarch butterfly, time is wispy, yet it still gives us hope as we carve out moments for family.

When I visited the Butterfly Center at Callaway Gardens on a fourth-grade field trip, I was told not to touch a butterfly's wings, as they can deteriorate under even slight pressure or the oils of a human finger. The fragility of a butterfly wing mirrors how we should care for family: to treasure the rare blessing of togetherness, to hold family reunions where we devote time for each other, and to let our fellowship grow as prolific as the Black-Eyed Susans.

CALENDAR OF

Events



NOVEMBER 6

MERRY & BRIGHT ORNAMENT NIGHT

Sylacauga Parks and Recreation invites the community to kick off the holiday season with a festive evening of creativity starting at 6 p.m. at the J. Craig Smith Community Center. Guests will have the opportunity to design their own ceramic Christmas ornaments and turn them into keepsakes. Participants may choose from a variety of ornament designs provided at the class or submit a personal photo in advance to have it sublimated onto their ornament. After sublimation, guests can embellish and decorate their creations with a seasonal touch. For registration details, visit Sylacauga.Recdesk.com.



NOVEMBER 7-8

ST CLAIR COUNTY FAIR

The St. Clair County Agriculture & Multi-Event Center in Odenville hosts this event, returning for its second year after a successful launch in 2024. The old-fashioned county fair is open from 3 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday. Admission is free. The fair will feature a livestock show, live music, a petting zoo, local demonstrations, vendor market, carnival rides, bouncy houses, food trucks, and much more. For more details, visit the event's Facebook page.



NOVEMBER 13

THE COMMODORES

The Oxford Performing Arts Center hosts one of the greatest R&B groups of all time as part of the Coca-Cola Concert Series at 7 p.m., with doors opening at 6:15. The Commodores have influenced artists both young and old and in all genres with their classic songs. For tickets for this stop on the group's Greatest Hits - Live tour, visit oxfordpac.org.



NOVEMBER 15

PUMPKIN CHUNKIN' CHALLENGE

Girl Scouts of North-Central Alabama hosts this event at Empowerment Bridge Center (4955 Highway 78 in Pell City) at 2 p.m. for youngsters in grades K-12. Participants will enjoy a smashing good time as they build mini-catapults, launch candy corn pumpkins, and learn the power of teamwork and creativity. For more information, call 800-734-4541.



NOVEMBER 22

18TH ANNUAL ART EXTRAVAGANZA

Aljerald Power Memorial Lodge/Plank Road Station in Winterboro (between the Old Rock School and the new Winterboro School on Highway 21 South) will be filled with fine art and a variety of specialty items and products during this day (8 a.m.-2 p.m.) of fun, food, and entertainment. Vendors offering a wide range of crafts, live plants, original design jewelry, woodcrafts, produce, baked goods, homemade jellies, and more, offering a great holiday shopping opportunity. Talladega First Methodist Women will again have a double booth of baked items and casseroles for Thanksgiving celebrations. Pre-ordered smoked ribs and hams will be available for pick up. For more information about the event and to order smoked meats, call 256-362-9375.



NOVEMBER 22

SYLACAUGA CHRISTMAS MARKET

Get into the holiday spirit at this event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the J. Craig Smith Community Center. Admission is free to this fun-filled day of holiday shopping and festive cheer. Browse a variety of vendors offering unique, gift-worthy items including handmade crafts, boutique apparel, seasonal décor, jewelry, art, children's goods, pet products, and more. Food and beverage options will be available. The venue will be transformed into a winter wonderland, and vendors are going all out with holiday-themed booths to make it a magical experience for all ages.

DECEMBER 5

CLAYS FOR CAMPERS

Selwood Farms in Talladega County hosts this benefit event to fund scholarships for kids who otherwise couldn't afford to attend a Christian summer camp. Proceeds also help offset camp expenses so more kids can experience the life-changing impact of camp. The sporting clay event (starting at 8 a.m., rain or shine) is like golf with a shotgun—teams will ride golf carts through a pristine 400-acre wilderness at Selwood Farms in Alpine, competing at 18 different clay shooting stations. With breakfast, snacks, and a full fish fry lunch provided, it's a day of great food, friendly competition, and giving back. For registration information and full details, visit poplarpointcamp.com.





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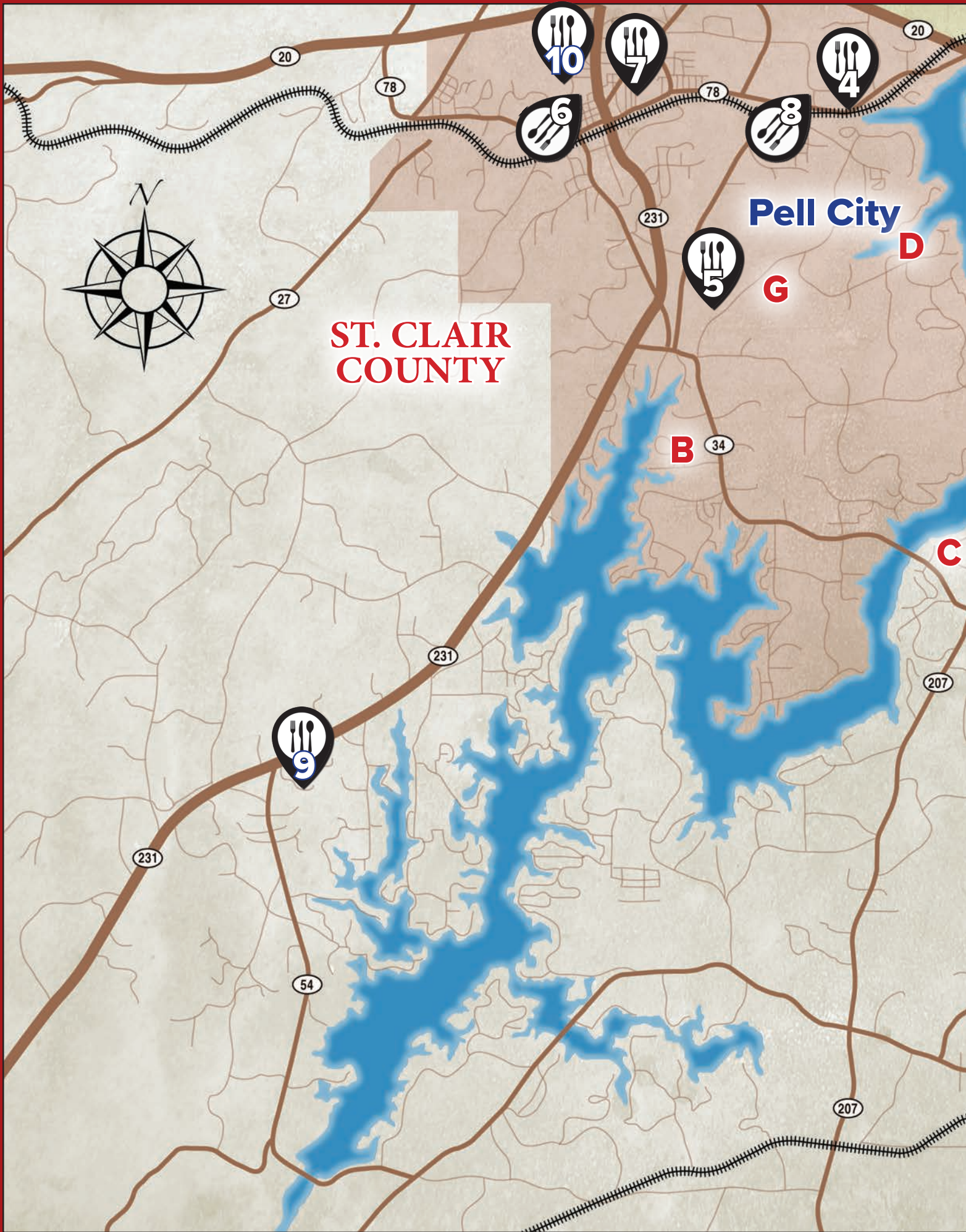
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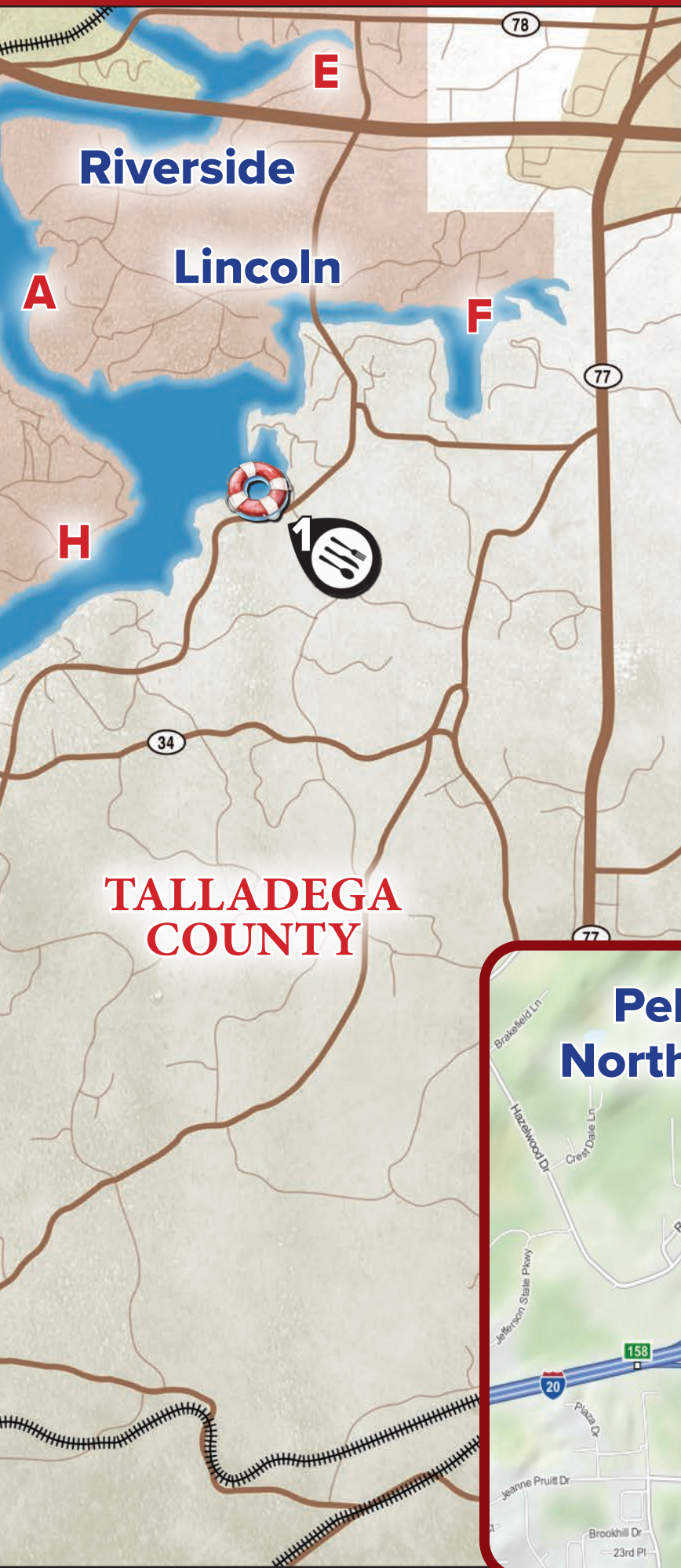
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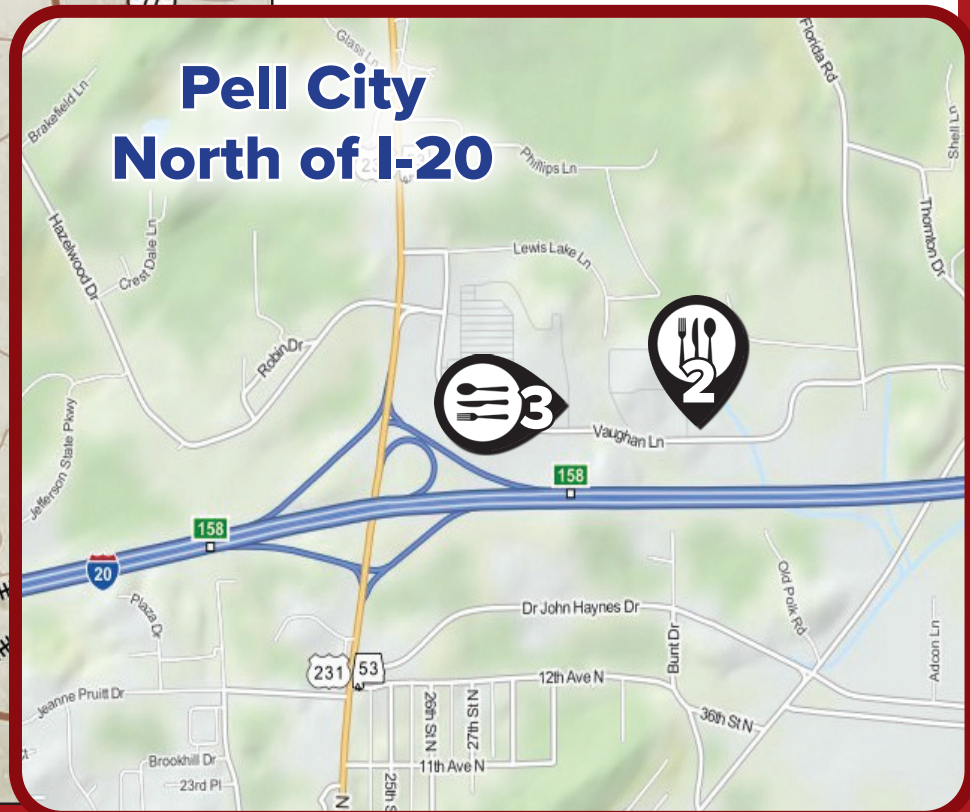
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A Lakeside Living guide to **LOGAN MARTIN**

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

- A – Logan Martin Dam**
- B – Lakeside Park**
- C – Stemley Bridge**
- D – St. Clair Airport**
- E – Mays Bend**
- F – Choccolocco Creek**
- G – Dye Creek**
- H – Blue Eye Creek**



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1180 IMAGES SQUARE IN CROPWELL

Enjoy the Logan Martin lifestyle in this Southern-style home in a charming Cropwell community

Written by **VALLEAN JACKSON**
Submitted photos

If the must-haves on your checklist for the ideal home include two stories, a gated community, Southern charm, and easy access to Logan Martin Lake, then 1180 Images Square in Cropwell checks every box.

Built in 2008, the single-family two-story vinyl-sided home sits on a corner lot of just less than an acre, offering three bedrooms, and two-and-a-half-baths within its 3,173-square-foot interior.

The interior of the home has an open floor plan with hardwood floors, recessed lighting, and large floor-to-ceiling windows. The two wood-burning fireplaces framed with marble

add an extra touch of coziness, perfect for upcoming winter nights.

The kitchen is simple yet elegant, with its granite countertops, tiled backsplash, stainless steel appliances, and an island at its center ideal for preparing meals and entertaining guests. The generous amount of off-white cabinets and the walk-in pantry help to complete the space.

A distinguished feature about this home is that the main bedroom creates a private suite with a vaulted ceiling, sitting area, and balcony with breathtaking views. The matching his-and-hers closets and vanities add both convenience and comfort.

The exterior of the home includes three porches, ceiling fans, beautiful curb appeal, a spacious yard perfect for family gatherings, a two-car garage



Signature Realty
2806 Dr John Haynes Dr., Suite 101
Pell City, AL 35125
205.235.8300

with extra storage space, and driveway parking. Community amenities include a pool, boat launch, and storage facility.

The home is listed at \$650,000. For more information or to schedule a tour, contact Donna Breland with Signature Realty at 205-910-8799.



Thinking about buying a lake home?

‘DO IT NOW!’

Logan Martin Realtor advises

Written by **VALLEAN JACKSON**

Submitted photo

When it comes to having patience, being a guide, and helping someone achieve their goals in life, Amanda Anderson-St. John takes the cake. After a 26-year career as a teacher, she discovered her second calling in real estate, building her success on the same foundation of care, communication, and commitment that once made her classrooms thrive.

“I knew I was going to retire at a young age, but I wanted another career that was just as fulfilling,” she says. “Real estate allowed me the chance to not have to wait until teaching ended for me to start. As I was still teaching, I got my license and started doing it in the afternoons and on weekends, and I absolutely fell in love with selling houses and meeting new people. So when teaching came to a close for me, I was more than ready to take on real estate full-time.”

Anderson-St. John has now worked in real estate for six years. As the co-owner of and Realtor with The Anderson Group with Lake Homes Realty, she enjoys being able to offer not just lakefront properties but homes throughout the community. As someone who grew up lakeside and taught in Pell City for many years, her familiarity with the area is a gift to her clients. She believes that real estate is more than buying and selling – it’s about helping people

find where they belong.

“Since being in this industry, I have met so many people that I would have never met had it not been for real estate,” she says. “There are clients who you meet for the first time, but from the time spent together and growing to know one another, it’s like they become family. I know people probably say that all the time, but it stands true for me. Some of my very dearest friends are people who I met through selling houses to or helping. It’s been so rewarding that I can’t imagine not doing real estate.”

She’s known for going above and beyond for her clients—even if that means occasionally going to great lengths to help make a deal work. “There’s nothing I wouldn’t do to make sure a client’s buying or selling experience is successful. I know how big of a decision it is, whether it’s your first home, your second, or your dream lake house. My goal is always to make sure my clients are happy.”

When it comes to waiting for the right time to buy a home, “the market is a very volatile thing and you have to weigh your options,” she says. “It’s also like a give-and-take industry. So if the wait is for interest rates to come down, that often means prices will go up. So I don’t think there’s ever a perfect time to buy. Of course, when rates were two percent, that would’ve been ideal. I would’ve bought a few myself, but I think any time can be the right time if your finances and circumstances



Amanda Anderson-St. John

are in order. Rates will always fluctuate, but the key is finding what’s right for you.”

When asked what advice she would give to anyone considering the purchase of a lake home, she says, “If you can do it now, do it! Life is short. Create all the memories with your family and loved ones that you can while you can. Because sometimes the time is now better than continuing to put things off. Why just vacation once or twice a year when everyday can feel like you’re on vacation? Living on the lake is one of the best decisions my family and I made.”

A native of Ragland who now lives in Cropwell, Anderson-St. John is married with three children. When she’s not helping clients find their dream homes, she enjoys relaxing and binge-watching her favorite shows.



A BIT MORE ABOUT AMANDA

Favorite snack:

Rice Krispies cereal

Favorite beverage:

Coke

Favorite movie:

Pretty Woman

Favorite sports:

University of Alabama

Her current goal:

"Sell more houses than I did last year"



Blair Fields



Brenda Fields



Karen Bain



Adam Bain



Laurie Brasher



Tony Gossett



Lee Higginbotham



Misty Knight



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\$1,250,000 - 150 Two Eagles Ln - COMFORTABLE LIVING with one level 3 bedroom 3 bath home, large family room and two car carport plus, separate garage and fenced yard.

MLS #21422124 - Call Laurie 205/365-3639



\$1,370,000 - 705 Lakeview Crest Drive - LUXURY LAKE LIVING. Built w brick, stacked stone and amazing trim, this home offers a stunning appearance as you drive onto the property. The home is handicapped accessible w elevator.
MLS #21425919 - Call Karen 205/473-4613



\$374,900 - 445 Big Oak Circle - CHARMING brick 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home nestled in desirable Twin Oaks. Home features Family room with fireplace, dining room, spacious master suite, kitchen that boasts wood floors and opens to shaded deck. Upstairs you will find two of the bedrooms and the finished basement offers a large bonus room and 2-car garage. Fenced backyard and convenient location to town and I-20
MLS #21429673 - Call Laurie 205/365-3639



\$985,000 - 595 Dabbs Lane - This is a hidden gem on logan martin lake. With a panoramic view on 5.6 Acres, over 3000 ft of waterfront, this unique property offers a variety of choices for its use. A home sits on a small knoll overlooking the breathtaking views of the land and lake, large windows, stone/brick fireplace, recently updated finishes, carport make a great home place! **MLS # 21425154 Call Karen 205/473-4613**



\$1,150,000 - 4721 Red Hawk Trail - SECLUDED DRIVE TO MAGNIFICENT 3.783 ACRE ESTATE with this unique design 4 bedroom, 3 bath home that features great room with stone fireplace, dining room on main level and included with bedroom, bath and playroom located in basement and large large screened in porch to view the PRIVATE LAKE and open deck to view the NATURAL BEAUTY.
MLS #21424000 - Call Lee 205/812-4530



\$624,000 - 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



\$329,000 - 44 Maplewood Circle - UPDATED One level 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with new flooring, kitchen appliances, added large deck and 2- car garage. Convenient location with over one ACRE fenced backyard and Move in Ready!
MLS #21422436 - Call Brenda 205/812-4141



\$599,000 - 260 Riverview Dr. - YEAR ROUND LIVING with this charming 1.5 story, 3 bedroom 3.5 bath home that features family room with massive stacked stone fireplace, kitchen with solid surface countertops, master bedroom.
MLS #21394568 Call Brenda 205/812-4141



\$485,000 - 4954 Autumn Ridge Trail - This newly constructed home in an established Logan Martin lake access neighborhood is a find! The all-brick exterior and setting amongst mature trees create a welcoming and private atmosphere.
MLS #21414282 - Call Alesia 205/405-0860



SOLD
\$285,000 - 47404 Highway 78. - COMFORTABLE LIVING with one level 3 bedroom 3 bath home, large family room and two car carport plus, separate garage and fenced yard. Convenient location!
MLS #21419006 Call Brenda 205/812-4141



\$699,900 - 14 Seddon Point - Great family lake home with more than 3600 sq ft on logan martin lake. A gentle sloping lot with 273 feet of waterfront, this home is a must see! The open floor plan offers a large family room with lake views, hearth room with fireplace, dining area and kitchen. This expanded open area is great for large gatherings.
MLS #21396433 - Call Karen 205/473-4613



\$695,000 - 24 Woods Ferry Road - UNRESTRICTED (2) ACRES with large business and parking lot, small home, 2 rental homes, one RV lot and pole barn. Income producing property with endless options for this building. Pole barn and extra storage buildings. BRICK home of approx. 1850 sq. ft., completed in 2022: 950 sq. ft. 2 updated mobile homes that produce rental income.
MLS #21424013 - Call Karen 205/473-4613



\$435,000 - 1409 23rd Street S. - Check out 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). This property has beautiful hardwood trees, a large barn/storage building, pole barn, great garden spot.
MLS #21417765 - Call Karen 205/473-4613



\$278,500 - 164 Bayou Ridge Lane - SPACIOUS 4 bedroom, 2 bath WATERFRONT mobile home features family room with fireplace, massive kitchen with large serving island, master suite with luxurious bathroom with large walk-in closet. Enjoy having your own private beach with the deep water slough and dock.
MLS #21427202 Call Laurie 205/365-3639



\$378,800 - 385 Fish Trap Road - Welcome to your dream lake home! As you arrive, you're immediately captivated by expansive water views and sunlight dancing across the lake. Freshly landscaped with brand new decks, this fully renovated
MLS #21423263 - Call Laurie 205/365-3639



\$155,500 - 500 30th St. N - Convenient location for this 3 bedroom 1 bath home close to town and I-20.
MLS #21386219 - Call Tina 205/337-8509



\$529,000 - 530 Magnolia St. - SPACIOUS 4 bedroom (or flex room) and 2 bath one level home that offers flexible options for an office, guest room or hobby space is nestled on a generous one acre lot. Convenient Location!
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\$549,900

**15.6 fenced ac.,
4BR, 4BA**



**Mini Farm
In Town!**

1409 23RD ST
MLS# 21417765
\$399,900



**Finished
Basement**

740 HICKORY ST
MOODY
MLS# 21432198
\$299,900



**1 1/2
LOTS**

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

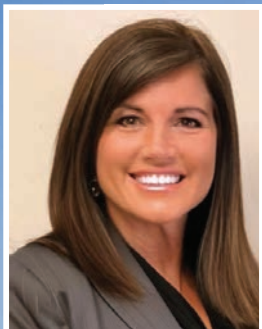
**Newest
Neighborhood**



**28.94
Acres**

LOT AT O COVE SHOCCO ROAD
TALLADEGA
MLS#21433205
\$120,000

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.
John 15:12



Laurie Brasher
Realtor®

205.365.3639



• Professional Photos • Digital Marketing • Open Houses



150 Two Eagles Ln, Odenville/Springville

\$1,250,000

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

REDUCED



199 Bagley Drive, Trussville

\$643,000

This incredible privacy-gated 6-bedroom, 3.5-bathroom home sits on 11 secluded acres and an outdoor entertainment area that includes an inground pool. Each bedroom has its own private balcony, giving everyone their own retreat. There is also a 2-bedroom, 1 bathroom guest home, with a walk-in attic, full basement, and RV parking.

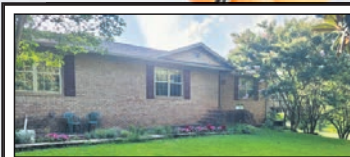
REDUCED



65 Riverview Ln., Talladega

\$624,500

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!



530 Magnolia St. S., Lincoln

\$529,000

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



385 Fish Trap Road, Cropwell

\$378,000

This updated 3 Bedroom and 2 Bath manufactured Logan Martin Lake home includes luxury vinyl plank flooring, updated windows, fresh interior and exterior paint, a beautifully designed brick patio, pier, covered dock, private boat launch, and a recently built sunroom, complete with a cozy stone fireplace all on an easily accessible walk to the water.

REDUCED



445 Big Oak Circle, Pell City

\$374,900

Welcome to this charming brick 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath home nestled in the desirable Twin Oaks neighborhood of Pell City on a 0.43 acre lot with a fenced-in backyard. The main level features 9-foot ceilings, a spacious master suite with a private bath, and a formal dining area filled with natural light. Upstairs, you'll find the second and third bedrooms and a full bathroom. The finished basement offers a large bonus/teen room, ideal for family living or entertaining.

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.

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.



164 Bayou Ridge Lane

\$278,000

You can own a 4-bedroom, 2-bathroom manufactured home on Logan Martin Lake for under \$280,000! This spacious 2,200 sq ft home offers incredible value and room to spread out. Enjoy lake living with a private boat launch and 2 piers.



1528 Oliver Rd, Leeds, AL

\$274,500

What a gem! This 3-bedroom, 2-bath, one-level home in the sought-after Oliver Crossing subdivision. The family room features a vaulted ceiling and cozy wood-burning fireplace. Recent updates include new roof, fresh paint, new light fixtures, and newer appliances. Enjoy the backyard for grilling, entertaining, or relaxing evenings. Don't miss this move-in ready home!

REDUCED



1115 Brookhaven Dr. Odenville

\$227,800

Would you love that warm, welcoming neighborhood feel—while still being just minutes from Birmingham, Trussville, Springville, and Odenville? This beautifully maintained 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home, completed in 2021, offers the perfect blend of comfort and location. This home is ready for you to move in and enjoy the best of both worlds!

NEW LISTING



400 Broadleaf Circle, Talladega

\$85,900

What a super deal on a cozy 2-bedroom, 1-bathroom home located just minutes from Logan Martin Lake, Pell City, and 25 minutes to Honda! Enjoy the convenience of a brand-new refrigerator and stove, plus the bonus of a fenced backyard, multiple storage buildings, and a detached 2-car carport.



BUYING OR SELLING? CALL LAURIE!



XNS992



#1 Team

Across 3 Lakes

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LAKE ACCESS

LOGAN MARTIN

Autumn Ln,
Pell City
Lot 13

\$27,900

LOGAN MARTIN



2929 Hamilton Rd, Pell City
5 BR, 4.5 BA

\$1,550,000

UNDER CONTRACT



181 Stillwater Trl
Lay Lake Lot

\$99,000

SOLD



260 Fox Run Lane,
Pell City
3BR, 2 BA

\$222,900

NEW PRICE

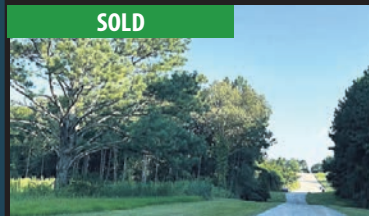


402 Paradise Isle, Riverside
3 BR, 2 BA

\$350,000



SOLD



40 Pinewell Dr,
Cropwell
Land

\$145,000



425 Rabbit Pt Rd.
3 BR, 2 BA

\$624,000

PRESALE



Lot 23
Stonegate Circle
3 BR, 2 BA

\$299,900

UNDER CONTRACT



29 Cooley Lane
Talladega
3 BR, 2 BA

\$174,900

NEW LISTING



2151 Mount Moriah Rd.
Pell City
4 BR, 2 BA

\$248,900



260 Skyline Trail
Pell City
4 BR, 5 BA
\$929,900



70 Choice Circle
9 Acres
\$149,900



UNDER CONTRACT

44164 HWY 78
Condo #106
\$269,900



ACREAGE

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



UNDER CONTRACT

1626 Davis Acres Dr.,
Talladega 4 BR, 2 BA
\$685,000



COMMERCIAL

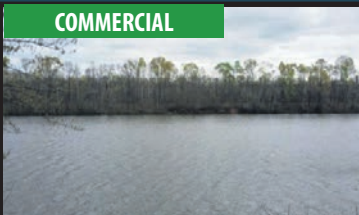
2401 12th Ave N
4BR, 4BA
\$1,400,000



WATER ACCESS

NEW PRICE

495 Willow Dr.,
Lincoln
3 BR, 2 BA
\$250,000



COMMERCIAL

551 Liberty Shores Blvd.
Vincent
Lay Lake Lot
\$243,000

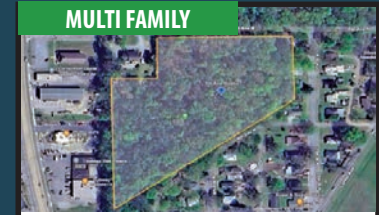


Stonegate Circle
Lot 24
\$14,000



3 ACRES
COMMERCIAL

AL Hwy 21 Acreage
\$140,000



MULTI FAMILY

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



1835 NW OLD HWY 26
Land
\$175,000



LOGAN MARTIN

140 S Lake Shore Dr,
Talladega
3 BR, 2 BA
\$499,000



WATER ACCESS

LOGAN MARTIN

26 Waters Edge,
Pell City
Land/Lot
\$35,000



SOLD

0 Shore Side Ln
Lay Lake Lot
Lots #137 & #138
\$159,900



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GREAT LOCATION



3200 Aquarius Drive,
Alpine, AL 35014
MLS# 21427231
\$299,900

SOLD



104 Princeton Drive
Childersburg, AL 35044
MLS# 21426891
\$134,900

LAKE VIEW



475 River Forest Lane Unit
1150, Talladega, 35160
MLS# 21428786
\$309,900



332 Jerry Avenue
Talladega, AL 35160
MLS# 21434114
\$219,900

UNDER CONTRACT



2120 Deborah Ln
Oxford, AL 36203
MLS# 21430900
\$189,900

NEW LISTING



128 Pacific St.,
Pell City, AL 35128
MLS# 21433330
\$439,900



2002 Cleveland Farms Parkway
Pell City, AL 35128
MLS# 21434088
\$574,900



2058 Edgewood Dr,
Moody, AL 35004
MLS# 21431247
\$299,900

LAKE VIEW!



475 River Forest Ln. Ste 4120,
Talladega, AL 35160
MLS# 21430475
\$259,900 **LAKE ACCESS**

GREAT NEW PRICE



112 Lindy Ln,
Oxford, AL 36203
MLS# 21424455
\$237,900

UNDER CONTRACT



920 Birch St
Moody, AL 35004
MLS # 21430901
\$269,900

LAKE VIEW



475 River Forest Lane Unit
1330, Talladega, 35160
MLS# 21429774
\$319,900

NEW LISTING

LAKE VIEW!



475 River Forest Ln. STE 4140,
Talladega, AL 35160
MLS# 21417721
\$259,900

UNDER CONTRACT



100 Harbor Pointe Dr
Talladega, AL 35160
MLS# 21427677
\$339,900

UNDER CONTRACT



84 Harbor Pointe Dr
Talladega, AL 35160
MLS# 21420072
\$339,900

NEW LISTING



175 Garden Ct.,
Lincoln, AL 35096
MLS# 21414497
\$229,900



Caran Wilbanks

Your Friendly Lake & Neighborhood Realtor



205.368.9772

2319 Cogswell Ave. | Pell City, AL 35125



**732 River Bend Cir
Talladega, \$990,000**

Beautifully renovated in 2020, this stunning waterfront property offers year-round water access on a large, level lot with 280 ft of shoreline. Enjoy a 2-slip floating boathouse with lift, boat launch and "Spider Be Gone" systems on both the house and boathouse. The home features 6 garages, workshop, safe room, screen porch, open decks, and covered patio—perfect for outdoor living and entertaining. Inside, you'll find real hardwood floors, two full kitchens, two laundry rooms, custom cabinetry, lots of closets, an office nook and a possible studio apartment. 3 bedrooms & 3 baths. This property is the ultimate in luxury lakefront living. **MLS 21432733**



**1331 Funderburg Bend Rd
Pell City, \$375,000**

This stunning 3-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom home offers a spacious, well-designed. 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**



**27 Morning Glory Drive
Pell City, \$309,000**

Charming 3-bedroom, 2-bath full brick home in desirable Morningside Subdivision. Features include a spacious formal dining room, eat-in kitchen with breakfast bar, and a cozy screened porch perfect for relaxing. Also, there is a gas log fireplace in great room. Enjoy a fenced backyard ideal for pets or entertaining, plus a double car garage for ample storage. A perfect blend of comfort and convenience! **MLS# 21424915**



**499 Sweet Apple Rd
Pell City, \$55,000**

Beautiful 2-acre vacant lot on Sweet Apple Road in a serene country setting. The property is half cleared and half wooded, offering the perfect blend of open space and natural privacy. Perk test completed and survey available. Ideal for a stick-built home or bar dominium. Peaceful rural living with easy access to city amenities—don't miss this great opportunity! **MLS 21424404**



**1524 Martin Street S
Pell City, \$550,000**

Commercial property on Hwy 231 currently operating as a body shop. Features two 70' x 70' concrete block buildings with metal roofs, 5 bays, 4 metal roll-up doors, office, and 1 bathroom. Includes two rental houses on-site for additional income. Deeded driveway access, 5 ac gives ample space for expansion, and flexible commercial use potential. Ideal for auto, industrial, or investment use. **MLS 21422860**



**200 Cove Dr
Pell City, \$799,000**

INCREDIBLE VIEW from this gorgeous lake home on year round water. As you enter, you find a living room or office area. The large, updated kitchen has quartz countertops and a farmhouse sink. The beautiful sunroom traverses the entire length of the house. The main bedroom and bath, a second huge bedroom, and a full bath are on the main level. The main level laundry room has an outside entrance from the lake for dropping off wet items. Downstairs is a family room with a gas-log fireplace; another large bedroom and full bath on this floor. Walk outside onto your covered patio with your outdoor kitchenette, which includes a sink and grill with a copper vent hood. Gentle slope to the double-stall boat house with lifts and sundeck. Concrete seawall with steps. Beautifully landscaped yard with mature trees where something is always blooming, located on a quiet, dead-end street. Neighborhood HOA Park with boat launch, walking trail, and picnic areas. A MUST SEE! **MLS 21425116**



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

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



Visit me online at **PellCityRealtor.com**

LOTS FOR SALE!

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

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

Home is Where Your Story Begins

247' Waterfrontage to Logan Martin Lake



**105 Albert Rd.,
Lincoln, AL**

**3 Bedrooms,
2 Baths**

MLS# 21431040

Residential

\$549,000



**13 W 10th Street
Anniston, AL**

Business

\$725,000

MLS# 21429498

Motivated Seller! The historic Peerless Saloon is located in the heart of downtown Anniston, Alabama's Entertainment District. In 1985, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places. In its earlier days, The Peerless Saloon was best known for the whiskey served there, which was produced by the original owner. The saloon's most interesting feature is its massive mirror-backed mahogany bar, which was made for the 1904 Chicago World's Fair. On the second floor of the saloon, The Atlanta Room can be reserved for meetings, private parties and social events. During its earlier days, this portion of the building was used as a brothel and speakeasy. Located adjacent to the saloon is The Peerless Grille which offers its customers a variety of drinks and dishes in a relaxed atmosphere. Sale includes two parcels/addresses, all fixtures, kitchen and bar equipment.

**4034 Possum Trot Rd.,
Piedmont, AL**



**2 Bedrooms,
1 Bath**

MLS# 21407702

Residential

\$142,900

**0 Post Oak Rd.,
Anniston, AL**



Land/Lot

MLS# 21391684

\$7,500

Land/Lots



Dawn Williams, CREN, ABR®, MRP, Realtor®



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Paul Golden
Realtor®
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Garrett Burgess
Realtor®
256-499-5815



Lauren Holladay
Realtor®
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NEW CONSTRUCTION



15 Old Roadway, Cropwell, AL
MLS# 21389324
\$407,900

HOME WITH ACREAGE



7046 Wolf Creek Road S, Pell City, AL
MLS # 21395062
\$549,000



270 Saint Smith Circle, Cropwell, AL
MLS# 21419207
\$239,900

PINE HARBOR



3165 Easonville Rd, Pell City, AL
MLS# 21427234
\$549,900



2983 Canterbury Drive, Moody, AL
MLS #21430465
\$379,900

*We are wishing
you a wonderful
holiday season!*

LAKE VIEWS



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

SMALL FARM



2310 Mineral Springs Rd., Pell City
+/- 16 Acres MLS#21431754
\$649,000



116 Solar Shield Blvd, Odenville, AL
+/- 2.80 Acres
\$259,900

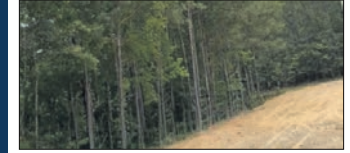
ESTATE LOT W/ VIEW +/- 20 ACRES W/ ROAD FRONTAGE



4947 Hwy 231 #2, Vincent
MLS #21413976
\$325,000



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



Lot 1 & 2 Amber Drive, Jackson Gap
+/- 2.27 Acres
\$800,000

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY



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

2 HOMES ON 26 ACRES



4265 Stemley Rd, Talladega
+/- 26 Acres MLS# 21427041
\$559,900

CONTINGENT



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



1180 Images Sq,
Cropwell, AL
MLS# 21432458
\$650,000

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