

Logan Martin Homes Edition

LAKESIDE

Living

February 2015

Gateway to Commerce

Lakeside city
earns top 10
business ranking

Fishing in February

Champion high
school anglers
offer advice



February Contents



35

FEATURES

8 Gateway to Commerce
Pell City named to list of business-friendly cities..... By Buddy Roberts

14 Winter on the Water
Top high school anglers offers tip for February fishing..... By Buddy Roberts

26 “Perfect for the Lake”
Lincoln artist loves her little house by the water..... By Buddy Roberts



On the cover: Lisa Gaither, executive director of the Greater Pell City Chamber of Commerce.
Photo by Bob Crisp



32

35 Shorelines
Alabama Power partnering with residents to address dilapidated structures on Logan Martin..... By Buddy Roberts

Hook, Line & Sinker	6
Meet Me by the Lake	33
From The Reader's Eye	34
Community Calendar	37
Logan Martin Homes	43
Lakeside Agent Spotlight	45

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14

Logan Martin Homes Edition
LAKESIDE
Living

Covering life along
Logan Martin Lake since 1994

Publisher
Robert Jackson

Editor
Jimmy Creed

Lakeside Editor
Buddy Roberts

Distribution
Gerald Reed

Advertising Director
Pam Adamson

Art Direction
Jennifer Mashburn

Photography
Bob Crisp

Graphic Design
Fay Denton-Belcher
Jennifer Mashburn
Geraldine Osburn

Writers
Elsie Hodnett
Buddy Roberts

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When David Letterman announced his plans to retire as host of CBS' "The Late Show," I got an idea of how Dodgers fans felt when their beloved team left Brooklyn.

It's hard for me to remember a time when Letterman wasn't on network television. He'd been my go-to guy for late-night laughs since Johnny Carson left "The Tonight Show" in 1992. Like Carson, Letterman will leave a far-reaching legacy, not the least of which is being the comedian who brought the Top 10 list to a prominent place in popular culture.

Top 10 lists are everywhere these days, covering every subject imaginable and even some that it's hard to believe anyone could imagine. Unsolved Mysteries of Arkansas, Great Books Not Appreciated During Their Time, Athletes with Unathletic Hobbies, Strangest Jobs of the Victorian Era, Ongoing Conflicts the Media Fails to Cover, Frightening Facts about Horror Movies, Reasons (Insert Actor's or Actress' Name Here) is Totally Awesome, Questions We Still Don't Know the Answers To – they all have their own Top 10 list.

I came across a couple of fun food lists not long ago, covering two American classics and lakeside staples at any time of year: hot dogs and hamburgers. See if you agree with these rankings. I had to take issue with some of them, as you'll note from the parenthetical comments.

Top 10 Best Hot Dog Toppings

10. Relish.
9. Mayo. (This shouldn't even be on the list.)
8. Jalapenos.
7. Avocado.
6. Coney sauce. (More commonly referred to as chili sauce in these Southern regions.)
5. Onions.
4. Chili. (I would have ranked this first.)
3. Cheese.
2. Mustard.
1. Ketchup.

Now here's the list of Top 10 Things You Need on a Burger.

10. Onion rings.
9. Onions.
8. Lettuce.
7. Tomato.
6. Bread. (Good call.)

5. Pickles.
4. Ketchup.
3. Bacon.
2. Cheese.
1. Patty. (Makes sense, right?)

What do you think? Are there items that should have been on both lists but weren't? Feel free to drop us a line with your top 10 choices, either at broberts@dailyhome.com or on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/LakesideLivingMagazine.

Speaking of lists, The Gateway to Logan Martin Lake – Pell City – has been ranked among the top 10 most business-friendly cities in Alabama. That's our cover story this month, so be sure to find out exactly where it ranks and why it was chosen for what local officials are calling a significant recognition.

Also in this issue, meet the 10 members of Pell City High School's bass fishing team. They're the current state champions, and they're offering their top tips for late-winter angling on Logan Martin. Also, Lincoln resident Karla Conway invites us into her lake home this month, where you'll enjoy admiring her brilliantly-colored acrylic paintings.

New to Lakeside Living this month is the feature Meet Me by the Lake. In this initial outing, we'll talk with author Elizabeth McGrady, who explains why she regards the lake as her secret hideaway.

Thank you for joining us again this month. And if you haven't had your fill of Top 10 lists, you might like to visit www.thetoptens.com, which offers thousands of them. I'm heading there now to check out the list of Top 10 Questions to Ask Users of Top 10 Lists.

From The Reader's Eye

A picture says a thousand words



Submit your favorite family, lake, or event photo and be a part of our **From the Reader's Eye** showcase in our monthly **LAKESIDE Living** Magazine.

Drop by one of our conveniently located offices or email photo & info to Jennifer Mashburn at jmashburn@dailyhome.com. 256-299-2158

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CALENDAR KEY

Fishing Condition: This is the overall rating for the whole day, based upon our formula:

Best ■ Good ■ Fair ■ Poor ■

Best Time: This column lists the best time of the day when, according to our formula, fish will be biting: **MORNING**; **EVENING**.

Special Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days will be February 7-8

The regular waterfowl season shooting hours, bag limits and legal arms and ammunitions apply to the special days. Individuals must follow the listed rules to participate in the scheduled youth waterfowl hunts:

- (1) Up to two youth participants must be accompanied by an adult supervisor. The adult supervisor, who may not hunt, is to remain within arm's length of the youth at all times.
- (2) A youth is defined as those individuals who have not reached their 16th birthday.
- (3) An adult is defined as those individuals 25 years old or older or the parent of the youth who are in possession of all state hunting licenses and state and federal waterfowl stamps required to hunt waterfowl. Possession of the required hunting licenses and stamps are required.
- (4) Only one firearm will be allowed per youth. Only the youth hunters will be permitted to utilize the firearm for hunting. The adult is expected to review with each youth the rules of firearm safety and hunter ethics and to ensure they are followed.

Information from Outdoor Alabama.
www.outdooralabama.com



February 2015

Feb 01, 2015	■ BEST	Morning
Feb 02, 2015	■ FAIR	Morning
Feb 03, 2015	■ FAIR	Evening
Feb 04, 2015	■ FAIR	Evening
Feb 05, 2015	■ GOOD	Evening
Feb 06, 2015	■ GOOD	Evening
Feb 07, 2015	■ POOR	Evening
Feb 08, 2015	■ POOR	Evening
Feb 09, 2015	■ POOR	Evening
Feb 10, 2015	■ GOOD	Evening
Feb 11, 2015	■ GOOD	Morning
Feb 12, 2015	■ POOR	Morning
Feb 13, 2015	■ POOR	Morning
Feb 14, 2015	■ FAIR	Morning
Feb 15, 2015	■ FAIR	Morning
Feb 16, 2015	■ FAIR	Morning
Feb 16, 2015	■ FAIR	Morning
Feb 17, 2015	■ FAIR	Morning
Feb 18, 2015	■ GOOD	Evening
Feb 19, 2015	■ GOOD	Evening
Feb 20, 2015	■ POOR	Evening
Feb 21, 2015	■ POOR	Evening
Feb 22, 2015	■ FAIR	Evening
Feb 23, 2015	■ FAIR	Evening
Feb 24, 2015	■ POOR	Evening
Feb 25, 2015	■ POOR	Morning
Feb 26, 2015	■ POOR	Morning
Feb 27, 2015	■ BEST	Morning
Feb 28, 2015	■ BEST	Morning

Information from the Farmers' Almanac.

Lake Levels

Full Pool: 465 Feet
Winter Pool: 460 Feet
Flood Pool: 467 Feet

This graph and information come from the LakesOnline.com website. For up-to-date lake levels, log on to <http://www.loganmartin.info/Level/>.

Valentine's Day is February 14th

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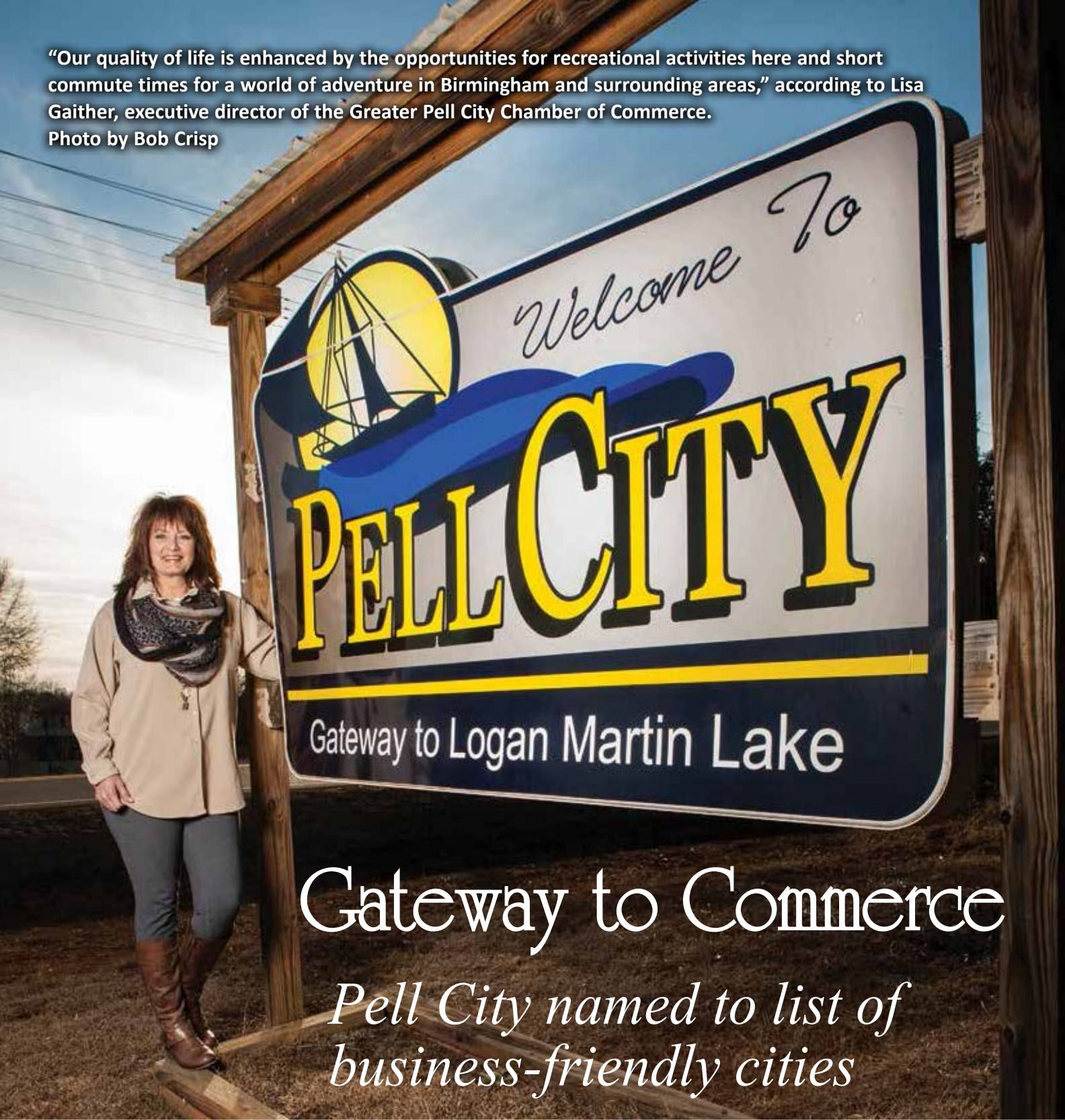
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“Our quality of life is enhanced by the opportunities for recreational activities here and short commute times for a world of adventure in Birmingham and surrounding areas,” according to Lisa Gaither, executive director of the Greater Pell City Chamber of Commerce.
Photo by Bob Crisp



Gateway to Commerce

*Pell City named to list of
business-friendly cities*

Story and Photos
By BUDDY ROBERTS

The Gateway to Logan Martin Lake is one of the 10 best cities in the state for businesses, according to a non-profit research organization. Pell City was listed 10th in the Alabama Policy

Institute's research paper, "Building Business in Alabama: How Business-Friendly Are Alabama's 50 Largest Cities?"

Dr. John Hill, the institute's senior research analyst, visited Pell City last month at the invitation of Lisa Gaither,

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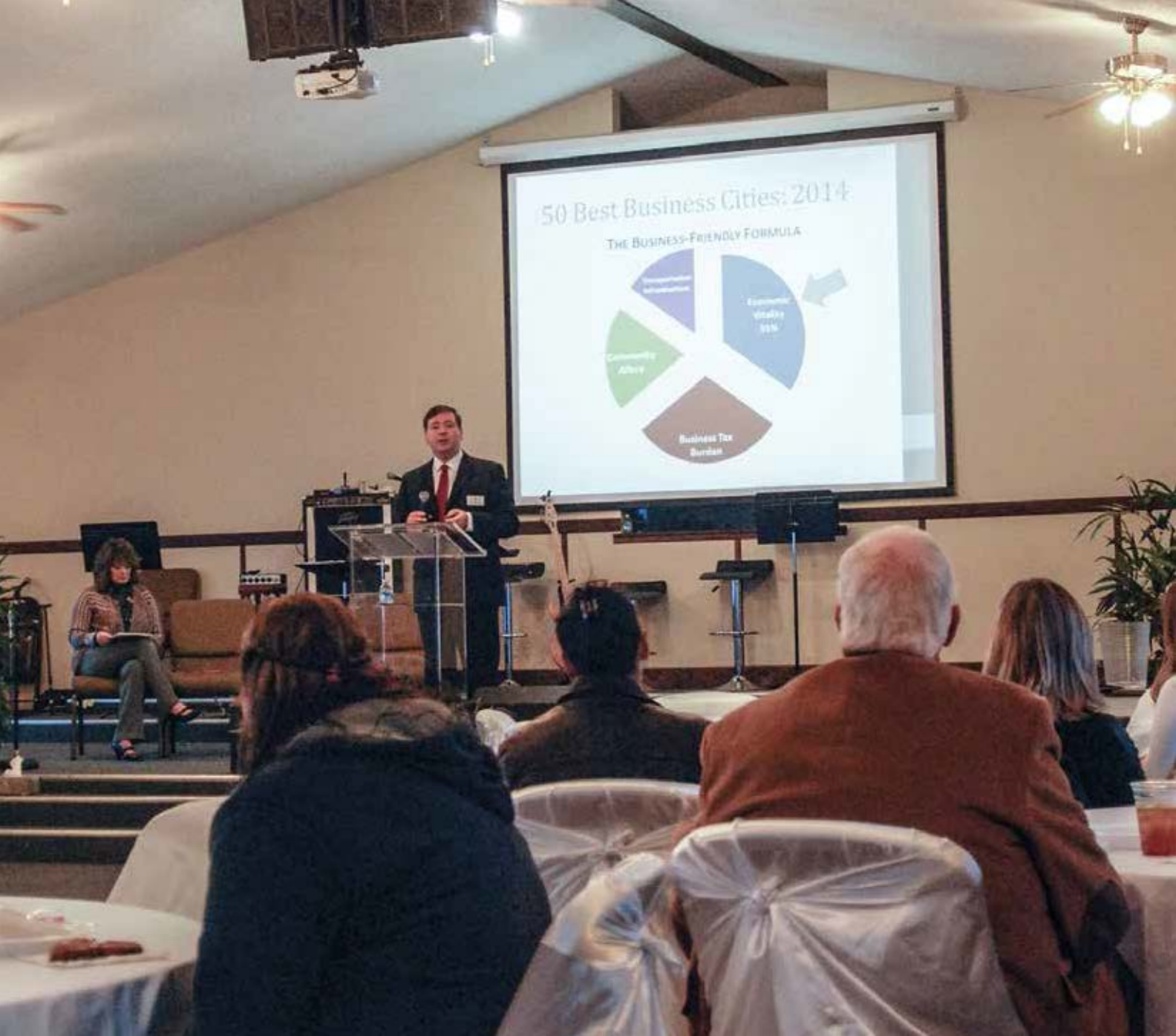
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The Alabama Policy Institute, which named the 50 Best Business Cities in Alabama, is a non-partisan, non-profit research organization “dedicated to the preservation of free markets, limited government and strong families,” senior research analyst Dr. John Hill told Pell City chamber members last month.

executive director of the city’s chamber of commerce, to explain what the designation means.

“When people see the title of the study, they often say something like, ‘There aren’t 50 cities in Alabama,’” he said. “Actually there are 400 different cities, towns and incorporated areas in the state. Our list started with

the largest city, Birmingham, and ended with Pell City, which is 50th in population.”

Ahead of Pell City in the ranking for best business cities were, in order, Millbrook, Prattville, Foley, Daphne, Cullman, Helena, Troy, Montgomery and Fairhope. Selma was ranked last, slightly behind Mobile,

Birmingham and Bessemer.

“Why did Pell City score so well?” Hill asked. “The answer lies in how the study was conducted. API looked at four different categories that we believe both attract businesses and help them succeed: economic viability, business tax burden, community allure and transportation infrastructure. Instead of making each piece of the pie the same size, they were weighted based on what we considered most important.

“Economic viability counted 35 percent, and one of the things Pell City has going for it is that its short-term job growth went down by six-tenths of one percent, which for this study was a plus. It was not quite as bad as the state’s number. Pell City’s short-term and long-term population growth both beat the state averages. In fact, it grew by 30.02 percent during the past 10 years. Pell City even came out ahead in median per capita income – at \$26,329 – which was a hair above the state average.”

Business tax burden counted for 30 percent of a city’s

total score, measuring property tax rates and local sales taxes. Pell City’s property tax rate of 46.5 and 5 percent sales tax rate were close to the state average, with the highest scoring cities having millage rates of 40 or less and a general sales tax of no more than 3.5 percent.

Hill said that Pell City scored well in community allure, which counted for 20 percent of its total score, measuring cost of living, crime rate and academic achievement.

“Your cost of living is only 85.7, which is 15 percent less than the national average. Your violent crime rate is 12 percent lower than the rest of the state. The city’s high school graduation rate of 85.6 percent is almost exactly the same as the state average. Taken together, these data suggest that Pell City is a safe community for well-educated families looking for good value.”

Transportation infrastructure counted for 15 percent.

“As a whole, Pell City was in the middle of the pack,” Hill said. “Because of its access to the interstate and rail lines, Pell City did fairly well. Unfortunately, the



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Lisa Gaither, left, is the new executive director of the Greater Pell City Chamber of Commerce, and Amy Strickland, president of Interstate Freight, is the chamber's new president.

distance from Pell City to the nearest commercial service airport serving at least 10,000 passengers per year, which is in Birmingham, is about 31 miles, which is farther than the state average of 24 miles.”

Gaither said that “from my

perspective as chamber spokesperson, I am pleased with our overall ranking, but I would like to see our transportation infrastructure score higher than it is. Although we do not have a commercial airport, because of I-20 we have easier access in terms

of time, commute and convenience to the airport than many of the cities ranked higher than we were. For example, Pell City received a score of 42.88 while Alabaster was 62.93, and both take an equal amount of time to reach the airport.”

Hill acknowledged that the API’s findings “are not perfect” and said the best advice he could offer toward improving Pell City’s score “would be one word: grow. In 2013, Pell City wasn’t on our list because it wasn’t big enough. Now it is.

“There are several smaller municipalities that are growing rapidly that are only slightly behind you in population: Calera, Moody, Chelsea and Gulf Shores. At the same time, there are some communities that will likely fall off in the next couple of years: Gardendale, Jasper and Ozark. Don’t be one of those communities. Keep on doing what you are doing. If you keep growing, who knows what your ranking will be in 2015 or 2016?”

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For over a year, Always There's Amelia Gibson has nurtured a special relationship with Mrs. Schroeder that transcends helping maintain her home and preparing her meals. They have become friends. In fact, when Mrs. Schroeder takes her two walks per day, she carries her cane in one hand and Amelia on the other. Jen says, "We can't imagine having anyone else care for her."

Like many adult children of aging parents, Jen has a busy personal life, which presents challenges in her ability to offer constant attention to her mother. Always There offers Jen a solution - call it a silver lining - to that cloudy issue. My mother is not always easy to deal with. I tried other companies in the area, and Always There has been by far the best. In particular their Care Management services have been a huge help with planning and decision-making. I couldn't be more pleased with their dependability and service."

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Coach Curtis Gossett, center, and members of the Panthers bass fishing team display the awards they've reeled in during the past three years. (Contributed Photo)



Winter on the Water

Top high school anglers offer tips for February fishing

Story and Photos
by BUDDY ROBERTS

When Curtis Gossett put Pell City High School's bass fishing team together three years ago, it was, by his own admission, a struggle.

"The kids were young and inexperienced," he said. "Now they've been tested, and we're starting to see the results of their hard work."

The team is now the defending Alabama Student Angler Bass Fishing Association champion, and its

members finished at the top of the Alabama BASS Nation High School Classic in November, reeling in a total of 14 fish weighing 32.22 pounds, almost 3 pounds more than the runner-up team's catch.

Up next for the Panthers is the BASS High School Southern Open at Lake Martin on Feb. 14. In anticipation of the tournament, each of the team's 10 members offered some advice about overcoming the challenges of late-winter fishing.

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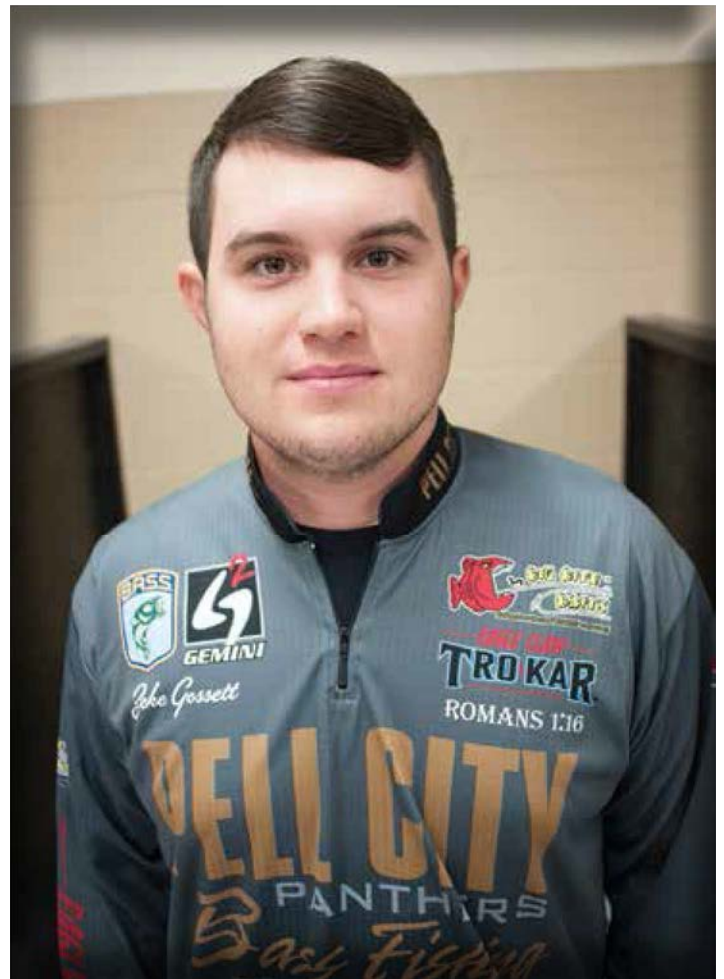
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Hayden Bartee

Age: 18.

Grade: Senior.

Parents: Mitch and Rene Bartee.

“It’s really cold this time of year, obviously. The water temperature is cold, so the bass, being cold-blooded, are the same temperature as the water. The colder they are, the more sluggish and lethargic they are. But the water temperature is warmer in a creek than it is out on the river, so what I try to do is go to the long points and clay banks where the creeks meet the river and where the bait fish get stacked. The bass are going to be there because they’re pre-spawn right now, feeding up and getting fat to get ready for the long haul of spring. This can be a fun time of year to fish, and you can catch a lot of big fish with jerk, crank and spinner baits.”

Zeke Gossett

Age: 17.

Grade: Senior.

Parents: Curtis and Laura Gossett.

“Staying warm. It sounds silly, but it’s just as important as using the right bait. When you’re warm, it keeps your mental focus straight on what’s important, which is catching fish. When you’re cold, you’re head’s not in the right place when the big one bites, and it can keep you from getting him in the boat. Dress right, and wear layers. There are so many good clothes out there – face layers and things like that – that can help you stay warm.”





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Joseph Lacy

Age: 18.

Grade: Senior.

Parents: Sharon Lacy and Robert Lacy.

“My biggest challenge this time of year is probably slowing myself down. I like fishing fast. I want to be moving and covering water, but fish are not as active this time of year as they are in summer, so I have to slow myself down. One way to do that is use a slower ratio reel, like a 5:1, when I’d usually use a 6:1 or 7:1. Instead of hopping a lure across the bottom, in winter you want to drag it along slowly.”



Bre Wyatt

Age: 17.

Grade: Senior.

Parents: Lucretia and Rob Wyatt.

“The biggest challenge this time of year is trying to find the schools of bait, because fish are going to follow the schools. The bait fish stay in pods, and in the winter they look for riprap banks – rocks that tend to drop off from 2 to 10 feet deep – and go toward them, because the rocks hold heat. The bass hold off the banks to ambush the bait fish. So you have to pull up on the bank and use your depth finder to find the pods, because that’s where the fish are going to be waiting. It’s all about using technology and knowledge.”



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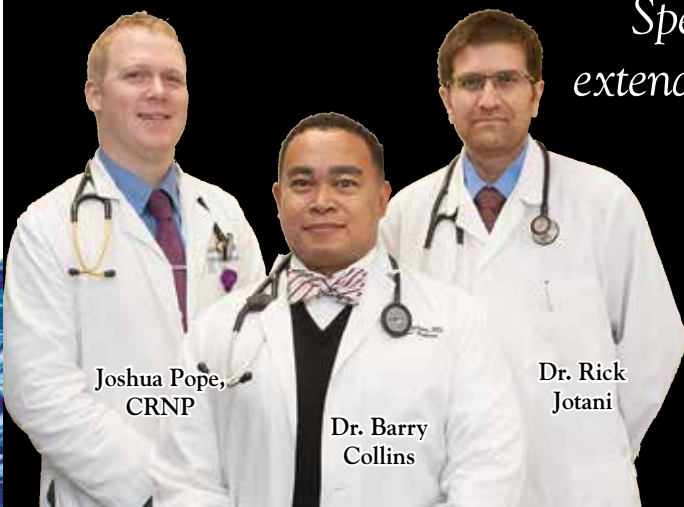
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Ean Davis

Age: 16.

Grade: Junior.

Parent: Rebecca St. John.

“The fish are harder to get to bite this time of year because they’re so deep and the water is so cold that they don’t want to move around that much. They can be down 20 feet or more, as opposed to being at around 8 feet, if not shallower, in warm weather. Shad Rap is a good bait to get them to react and make them move.”



Hunter Shell

Age: 17.

Grade: Junior.

Parents: Jimmy Shell and Cathy Shell.

“I find fishing this time of year to be more of a mental challenge. I fish really fast in the fall, but the fish slow down in winter, so I have to slow down. I like going to Logan Martin Dam when the current is on and using an ounce hair jig over the rock piles. I let it hit bottom and slow roll it back to the boat.”






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Chris Masters

Age: 17.

Grade: Junior.

Parents: Chris Masters and Diane Masters.

"It does get cold this time of year, and it can get cold quick. When that happens, it gets really foggy. I was out on the water the other day, and I couldn't see the other side of the lake. That's why it's good to use electronics. If you don't, you won't know who's around you or how deep the water is, and you could end up getting turned around and not even know where you are."



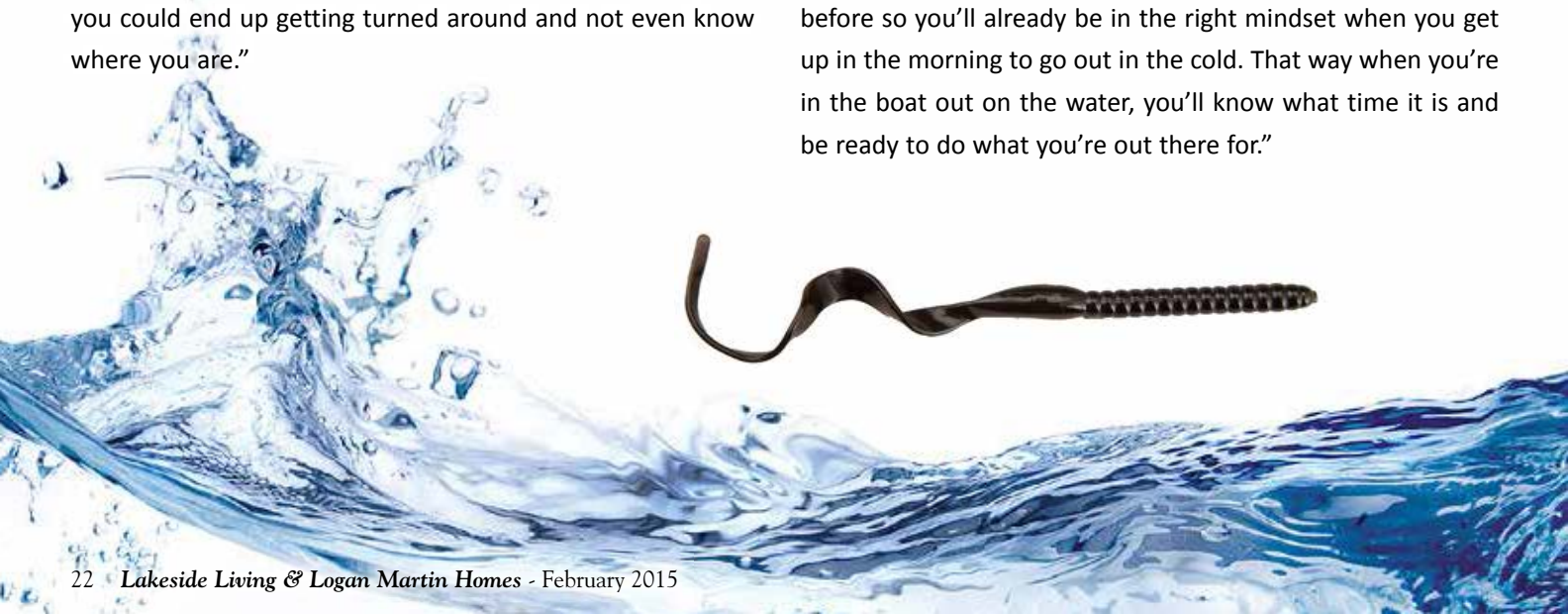
Ryan Parks

Age: 17.

Grade: Junior.

Parents: Danny Parks and Jane Parks.

"Really and truly, the key to winter fishing is keeping warm. One tournament we went to not long ago, it was 26 degrees that morning with ice on the rods. Going out in weather like that, you have to bundle up and try to stay as warm as you can. It's also good to go ahead and set a game plan up the night before so you'll already be in the right mindset when you get up in the morning to go out in the cold. That way when you're in the boat out on the water, you'll know what time it is and be ready to do what you're out there for."





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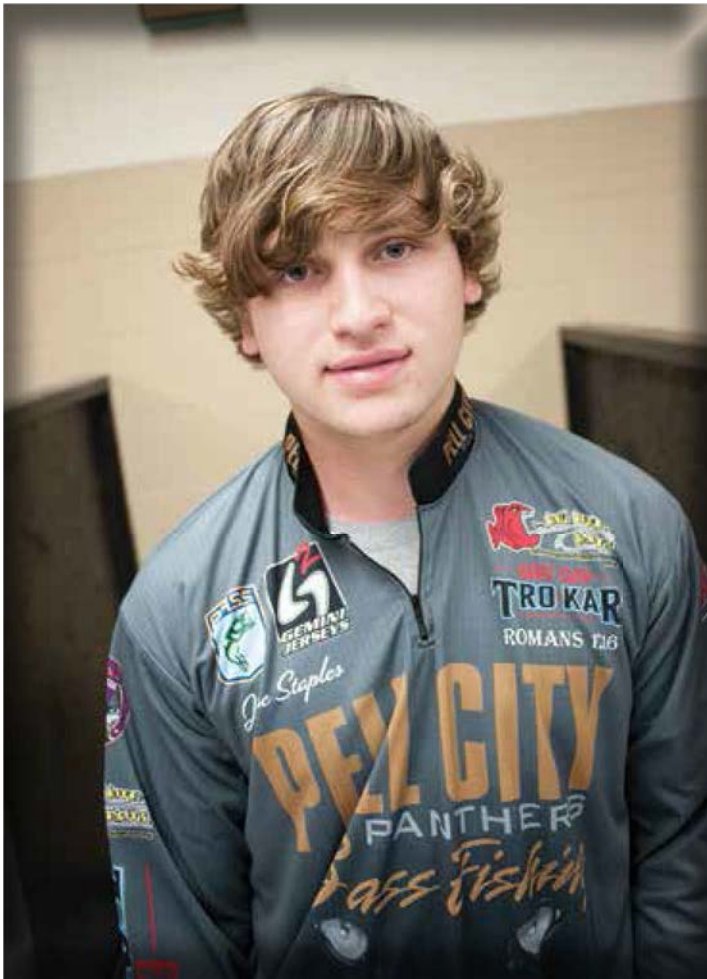


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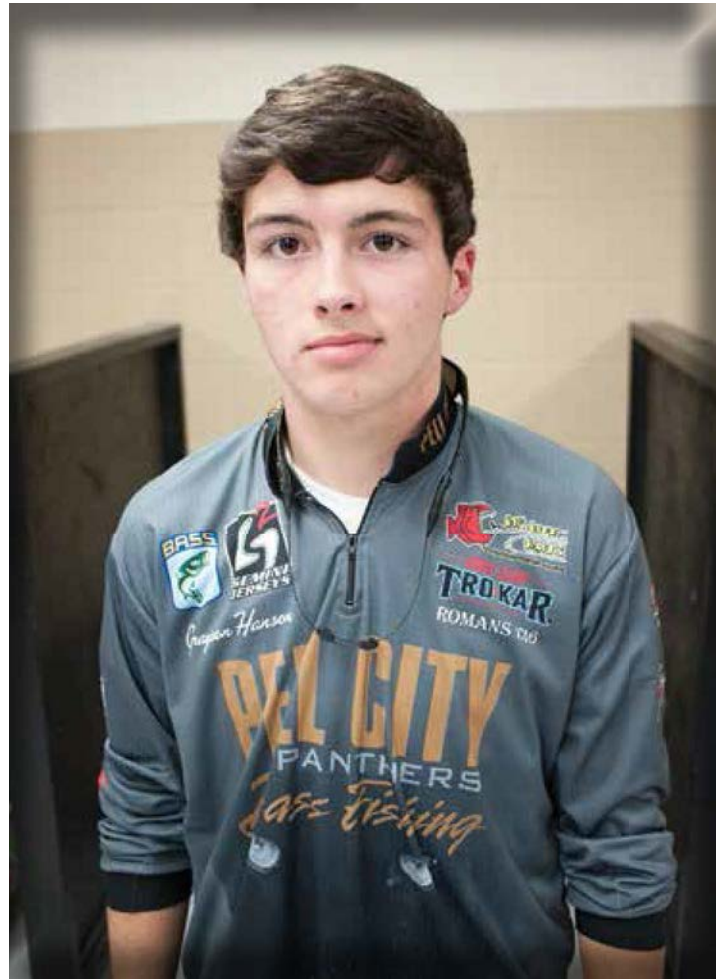
Jesse Staples

Age: 15

Grade: Sophomore.

Parents: Shad and Kelli Staples.

“Since the weather is cold and rainy, you have to fish slow. Use a jig around structures – like trees, brush and rocks in the water – and drag it across the bottom.”



Grayson Hanson

Age: 15.

Grade: Sophomore.

Parents: Shayla Hanson and Brandon Southern.

“This time of year, take everything slow. Don’t rush the bite. Keep reminding yourself you have to keep it slow.”





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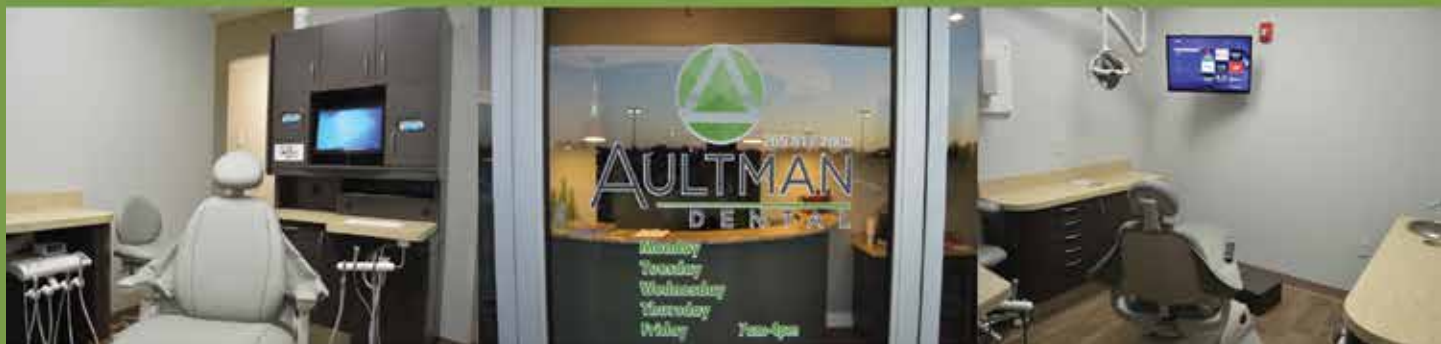
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"Perfect for the Lake"

Lincoln artist loves her little house by the water

Story by BUDDY ROBERTS
Photos by BOB CRISP

It was shortly after 1 p.m., and an impressionistic canvas painting of six brightly colored birds sat almost completed on an easel in Karla Conway's art studio that separates her living and dining rooms.

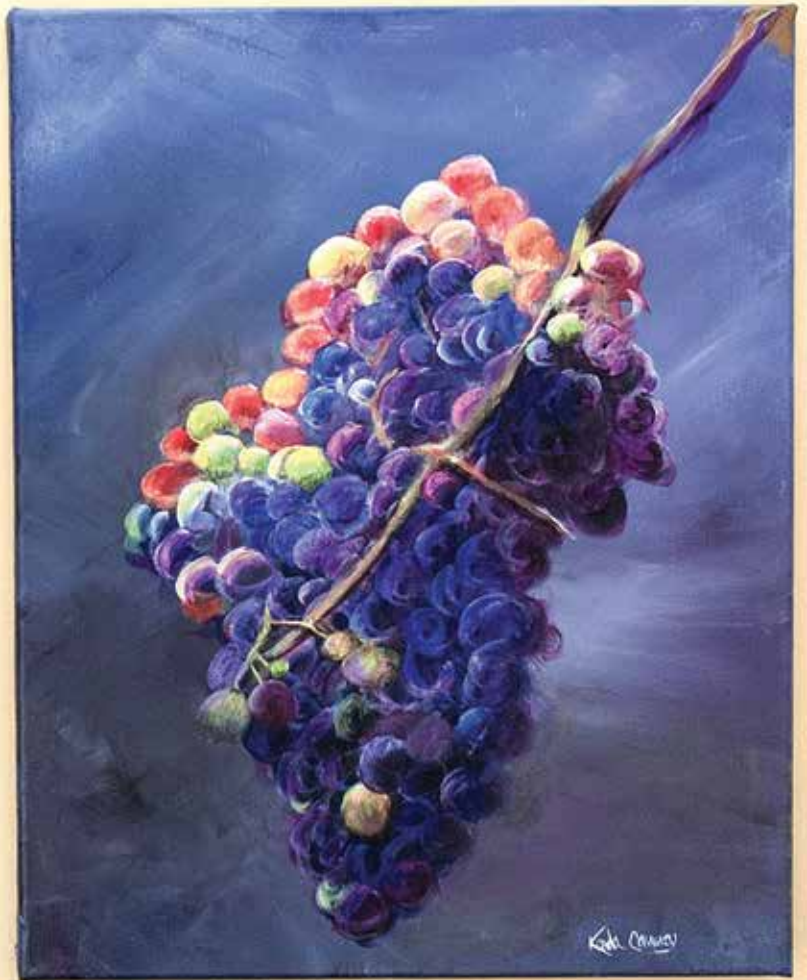
"I started that this morning," the lakeside artist said, as if it required no more skill or talent than making a peanut butter sandwich.

Conway began painting five years ago when she accompanied her husband, who "had painted most of



Karla Conway's home art studio overlooks her rustic deck and scenic backyard.





Conway's depictions of the fruit of the vine are displayed in her living room.

his life," to a class at Artscape Gallery in Pell City. "He just wanted to try to get back into it. It looked like fun, so I went with him. After that class, I bought a bargain pack of canvases and painted straight through them."

Now she decorates her Lincoln home – "it's an A-frame built in the early 70s, perfect for the lake" -- with her art, her late husband's, and friends she's made in the local arts community.

"About everything decorative in here was made by someone local, a friend or a family member," she said, peeling red paint from her right hand even as her left was streaked with purple and white. "Sometimes that overlaps. It's nice to be able to have things that are one of a kind, handmade, and had loving care go into their making."

Conway creates her art at the two unfinished wooden tables covered with easels, tubes of acrylic paint and

containers of brushes that comprise her studio.

"You can see why I wanted to do my painting in here," she said gesturing toward the full-length windows affording a view of her wooded back yard and the water. "The lighting is so much better in here. Plus, I'll do it if it's out right here in the middle of everything."

That isn't to say there's no distinction between art space and living space.

"Mail doesn't get placed on the art table," she said. "Paint and brushes don't get placed on the dining room table, for obvious reasons. A little bit of organization works well."

The director of resource development for Presbyterian Home for Children in Taaladega, Conway describes her artistic style as "impressionistic, and I think the word is 'paintedly,' which means that you see the brush strokes. The artist doesn't try to hide them." She has incorporated



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Above: The décor of Conway's home perfectly complements its lakeside location.

At right: Conway's mother made the quilt prominently displayed by her upstairs landing. The triangle pattern itself is known as "flying geese."

elements of Russian Impressionism into her works, particularly the style's vivid colors and strong lighting.

Birds tend to be her favorite subject. "I don't know why. Maybe it's because birds lend themselves to bright colors. They have personalities. Their faces can be very quizzical and expressive. I paint mostly from photos – I'd love to learn to paint from real life – and when I look for photos to paint from, I like finding ones with birds looking at the camera."

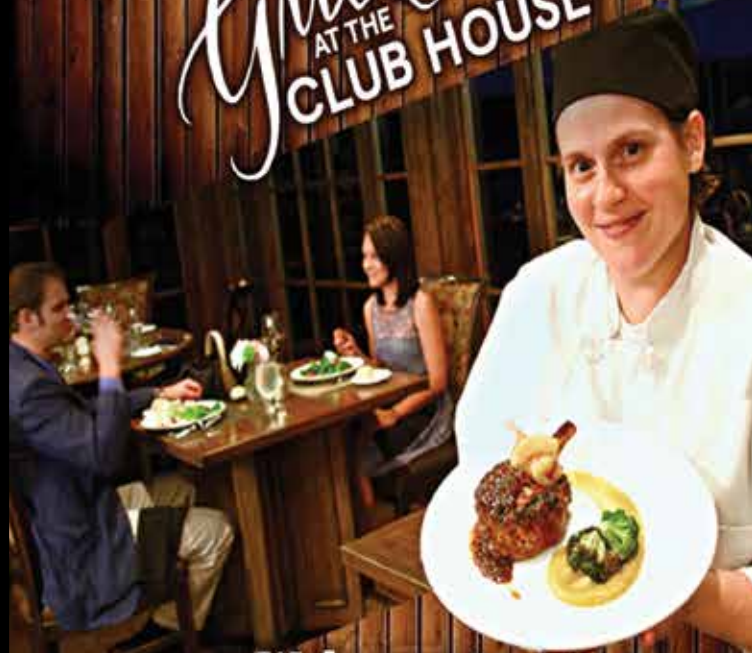
While Conway said she enjoys being able to observe the lakeside fauna from the vantage point of her living room and art studio, sometimes it gets too close for comfort. Birds sometimes gain access to her screened deck and can't get back out, and a squirrel once climbed down the chimney, leading to a half-hour





These three acrylic paintings on canvas adorn a wall in Conway's kitchen.

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Conway took up painting after attending an art class at Artscape Gallery in Pell City. “It’s a great addition to the community and has enabled a number of people who are artists to develop a thriving arts community here.”

around-the-house chase. “I’ve almost decided to give up, open the doors, and put up a sign that says ‘wildlife refuge.’”

Still, there’s not much for which she’d trade life in her little house on the lake.

“It’s actually getting hard to find a small house on the lake,” she said. “At least that was our experience when we were shopping nine years ago. We had the big house, and I don’t want to do that again, but if you want to retire on the lake, finding a smaller place may not be as easy as you think.”

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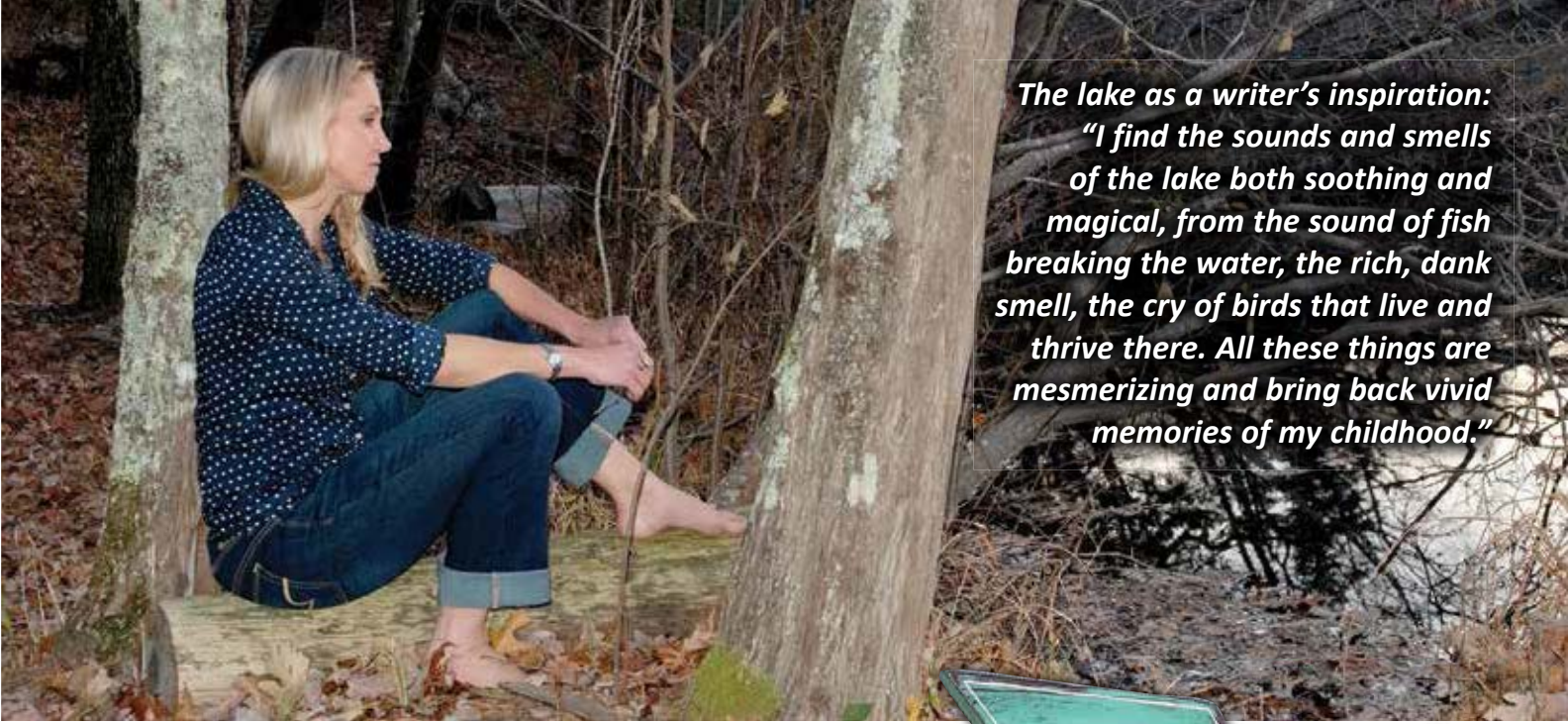
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thrive there. All these things are
mesmerizing and bring back vivid
memories of my childhood."*

Meet Me by the

Elizabeth McGrady



Story and Photo
By BUDDY ROBERTS

A sixth-grade English teacher at Charles R. Drew Middle School in Lincoln, McGrady published her first book, "We Share the Same Sky," last year, blogs at www.wesharethesame.com (which she says is comprised of "a little of everything") and has just completed a young adult novel.

While spending a recent afternoon lakeside, she explained why she finds solace there and how the setting inspires her.

The lake as her hideaway: "I grew up on Dunaway Mountain in Rainbow City. Our home was nestled between the mountain and the Coosa River. We had no close neighbors, and my brother and I spent all of our time during the winter months on the mountain and the summer months along the river. They are still the places that call to me when I am out-of-sorts, when I just need time away to unwind. Being on the lake reminds me of who I really am."

At the lake early in the year: "I actually prefer the lake during the winter months. It carries a lonesome feel that I connect with. There are fewer people out and about, the trees are but stark silhouettes, and the gray heaviness is so welcoming. It feels almost as if it belongs to me, alone."

"We Share the Same Sky": "When I first realized I wanted to write a book, I knew immediately that I wanted it to be about New York City, the enclaves and the people who resided there and the cultural identity maintained within its boundaries. Instead of writing a book that fringed on being a

'history book,' I would take a trip to Manhattan, explore the surrounding boroughs and write about how I experienced it. I made the trip the summer of my 40th birthday, June 2007. It was a gift to myself. I was there for a week and stayed in Central Park Hostel, which is small, cozy and inexpensive."

Putting it on paper: "The entire thing morphed into something completely unexpected, something very personal. In Chapter 13, also titled "We Share the Same Sky," I reflect on visiting my Polish grandfather when I was very young, and my fast love for his family. Before leaving, he had ruffled my hair and reassured me that everything would be OK because 'we share the same sky.' So while the book takes place in New York City, it is in fact also about culture, my Southern culture, and how growing up in America's South influenced who I am."

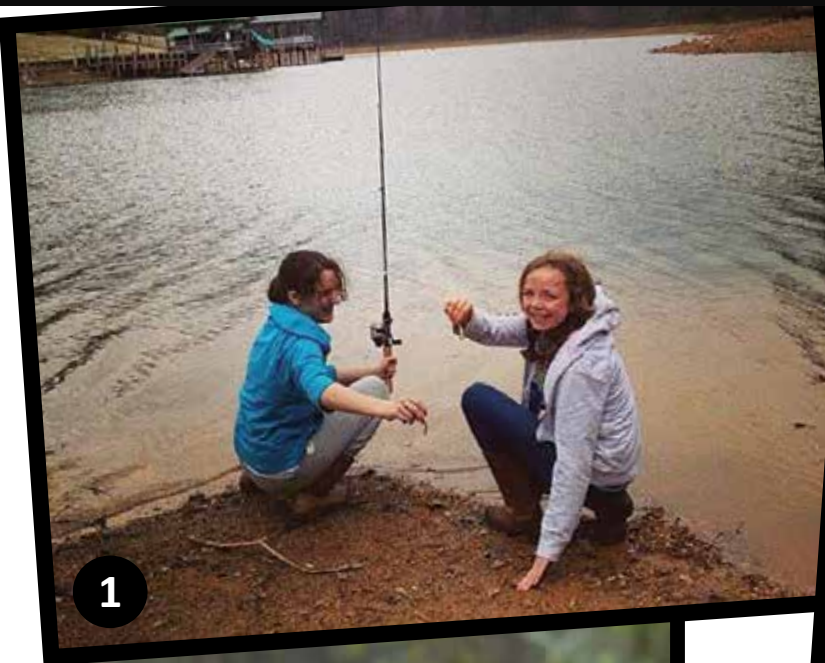
McGrady's book can be obtained at:

- amazon.com/author/elizabethmcgrady.
- Barnes & Noble at The Summit,
214 Summit Boulevard, Birmingham.

Contact McGrady through her blog, on Twitter at @mozleymcgrady or follow her on Facebook at [Facebook.com/WeSharetheSameSky](https://www.facebook.com/WeSharetheSameSky).

From The Reader's Eye...

Every picture tells a story. What's yours?



1. Isabelle and Caleigh enjoy fishing even when it's cold.
2. "Don't worry, Grey! I've got this!" says Conway.
3. Lyla and Cullen fish from the side of Logan Martin Lake during winter pool.
4. Kara Carden finds the lake beautiful and enjoys photographing it during every season.
5. Sherry Bowers submitted this photo of a bobcat on the prowl.

Send in your pictures and share your story with us. See ad on page 6.

Alabama Power partnering with residents to address dilapidated structures on Logan Martin



Shoreline management officials hope a new Alabama Power initiative will encourage property owners to make improvements to deteriorating piers and boathouses.

Story by BUDDY ROBERTS

Photo by BOB CRISP

Having lived by the lake all her life, Connie Cook says she has become increasingly concerned about what she describes as “a major eyesore and embarrassment” for Logan Martin.

“We’re seeing numerous piers and boat houses that are falling into the lake,” she said. “Some have been there for many years. One is so bad that the roof is sticking out of the water. We also see a lot of foam and wood floating from piers that have come apart.”

That’s why Cook was pleased when Alabama Power announced plans last month to restore what company officials have called “a well-kept shoreline.” The electricity provider manages the state’s waterways and 4,000 miles of shoreline, including Logan Martin Lake.

“I think it’s great,” Cook said. “These things are not only an eyesore, they can be a safety hazard for boaters and jet skiers. It’s not a good reflection on our lake.”

To encourage property owners to improve their piers, boathouses and other structures that may have fallen into disrepair, Alabama Power plans to waive permit fees to repair or replace “decayed, neglected or dysfunctional structures with new structures” and provide trash removal sites for discarding disassembled structures during the annual Renew Our Rivers cleanups.


“We know lake residents take pride in their homes and weekend retreats and hope these incentives will help make decisions about upgrades or repairs that much easier,” said Billy Edge, the company’s shoreline supervisor.

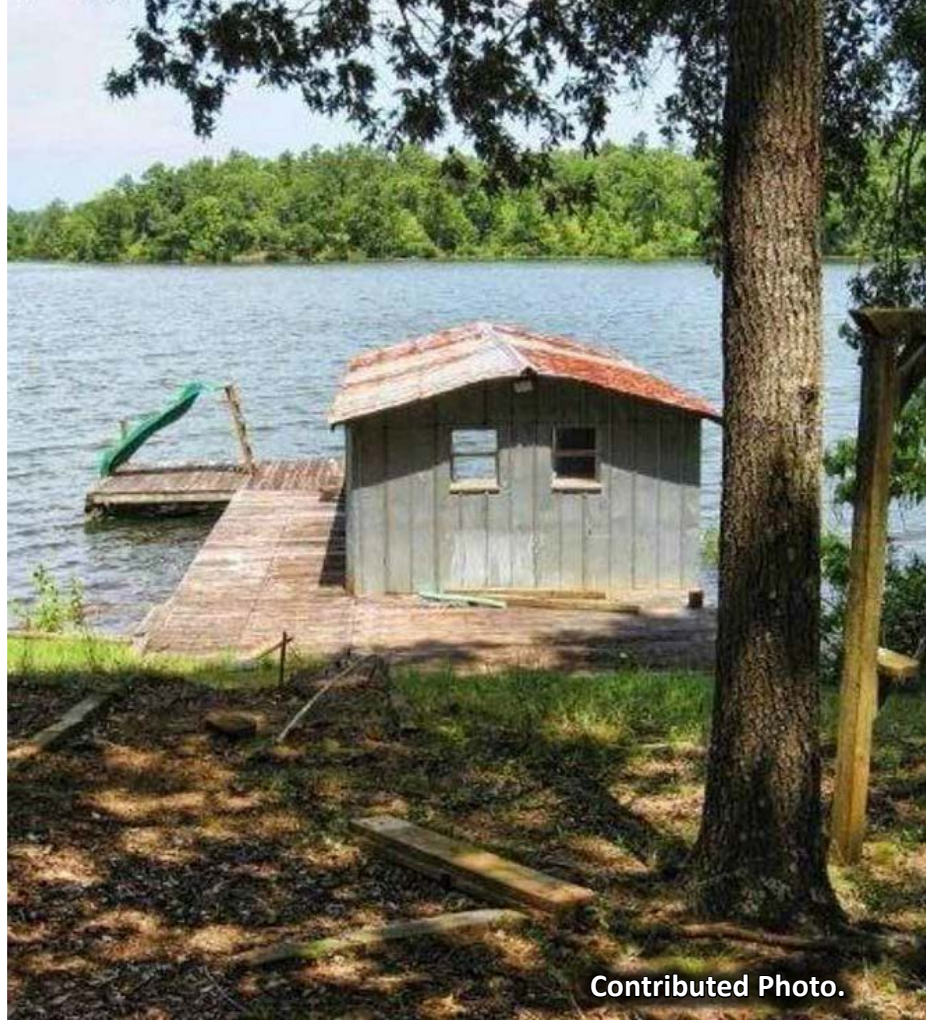
“As we increase our focus on aging shoreline structures and those in disrepair, Alabama Power will continue to reach out to lake residents to help them find ways to voluntarily repair or remove structures during 2015.”

Rob Coyne, shoreline manager for Logan Martin Lake and Neely Henry Lake, encouraged property owners seeking to take advantage of the initiative to call 205-472-0481 for more information before beginning any repairs or demolitions of existing structures.

“Logan Martin is a wonderful asset to this community, and a well-kept shoreline adds to the enjoyment and aesthetic value of the lake,” he said.

Jacki Thacker, a spokesperson for Alabama Power’s Anniston office, said addressing the issue of dilapidated structures has been “on our radar” for a while, and officials decided the 2015 off-season would be a good time to partner with lakeside residents in making shoreline improvements.

For more information, visit www.renewourrivers.com and www.apcshorelines.com. 



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Community Calendar

Monday, February 26 - Sunday, March 1 "Smokey Joe's Cafe" at the Pell City Center

Presenting the musical revue, the Pell City Players are Tony Ivey, choreographer, Nicole Walters, Allen Morgan, Al Guido, Danielle Daly, Wendy Dewberry, Ginger McCurry, Julie Funderburg, Amy Drinkwater, Keith Owens, director, Kathy McCoy, Steve Shafer, Teresa Carden and stage manager, Kevin Dewberry. Members of The WingNuts band will perform as the Smokey Joe's Café band. The musical revue includes rock and roll and rhythm and blues songs by songwriters Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller including "Dance With Me," "Kansas City," "Fools Fall in Love," "Yakety Yak," "Love Potion No. 9," "Jailhouse Rock" and many more. Some members



of the band pictured from left are Donnie Todd, Alan Furr, Clint Morrow, Eric Brown and Glenn Wilson. (Contributed photo)

Saturday, Feb. 14

Valentine 2015 Mardi Gras Gala Fundraiser

The Historic Talladega Ritz Theatre will host a Valentine's 2015 Mardi Gras Gala fundraiser from 6 p.m.-1 a.m. at the Fox Sports One Dome at the Talladega Superspeedway. The benefit will include dinner by Classic on Noble, music from Atlanta's "Party Nation," an open bar plus live and silent auctions. For ticket pricing and more information call 256-315-0000 or visit www.talladegamardigras.com.

Friday, Feb. 20

Mardi Paws Fur Ball and Auction

The Animal Shelter of Pell City Inc. will host

Mardi Paws Fur Ball and Auction from 6-10 p.m. at Celebrations, 1661 U.S. 231 South, Pell City. The event, which will benefit the ASPCI, will include dinner, music featuring The WingNuts, dancing, a wine pull and live and silent auctions (cash or check only at the event). Attire will be dressy casual to masquerade. For more information and ticket pricing visit www.aspci.org.

If you have an upcoming lake-related event you would like to see posted in the Lakeside events calendar, please email your information to Elsie Hodnett at ehodnett@dailyhome.com



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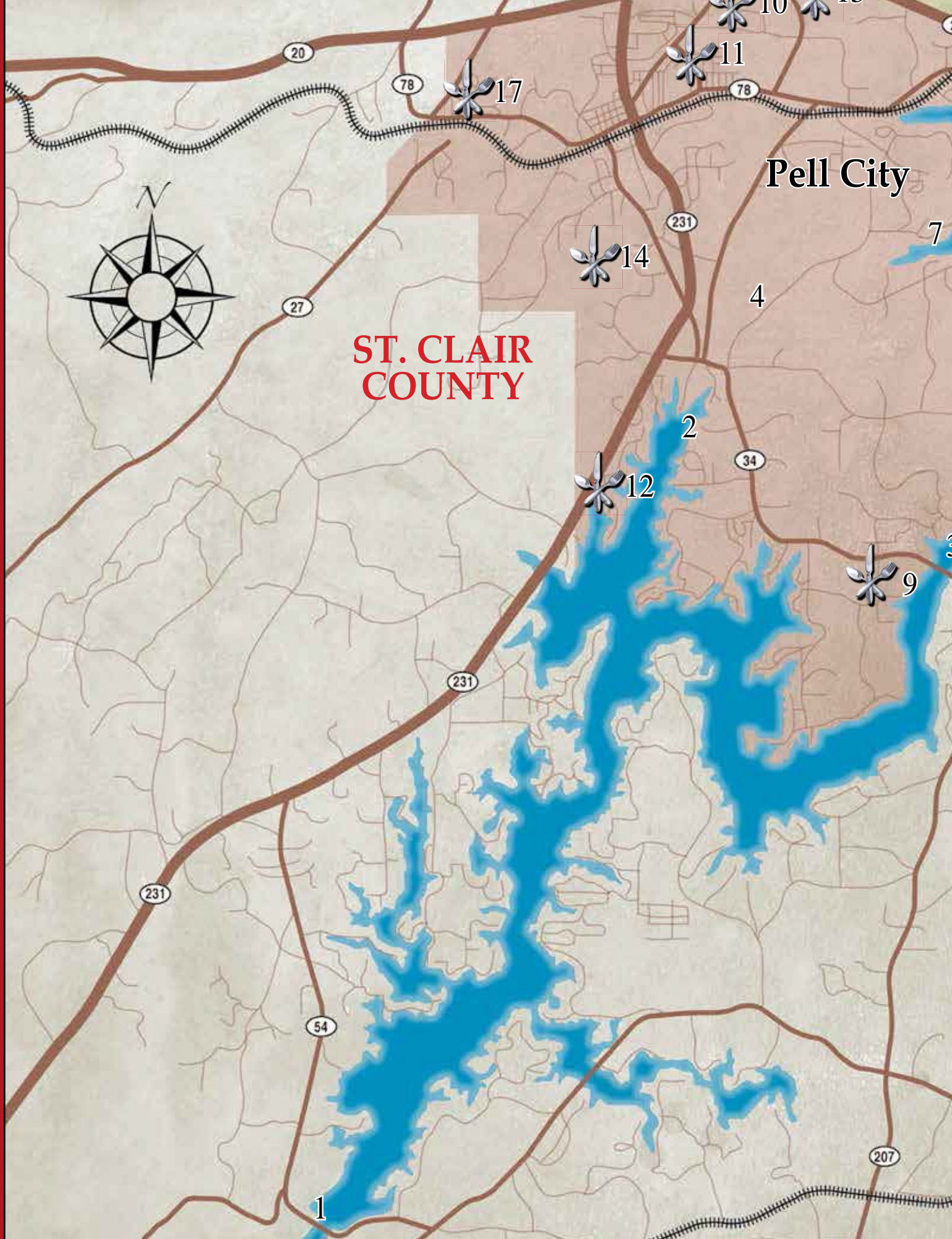
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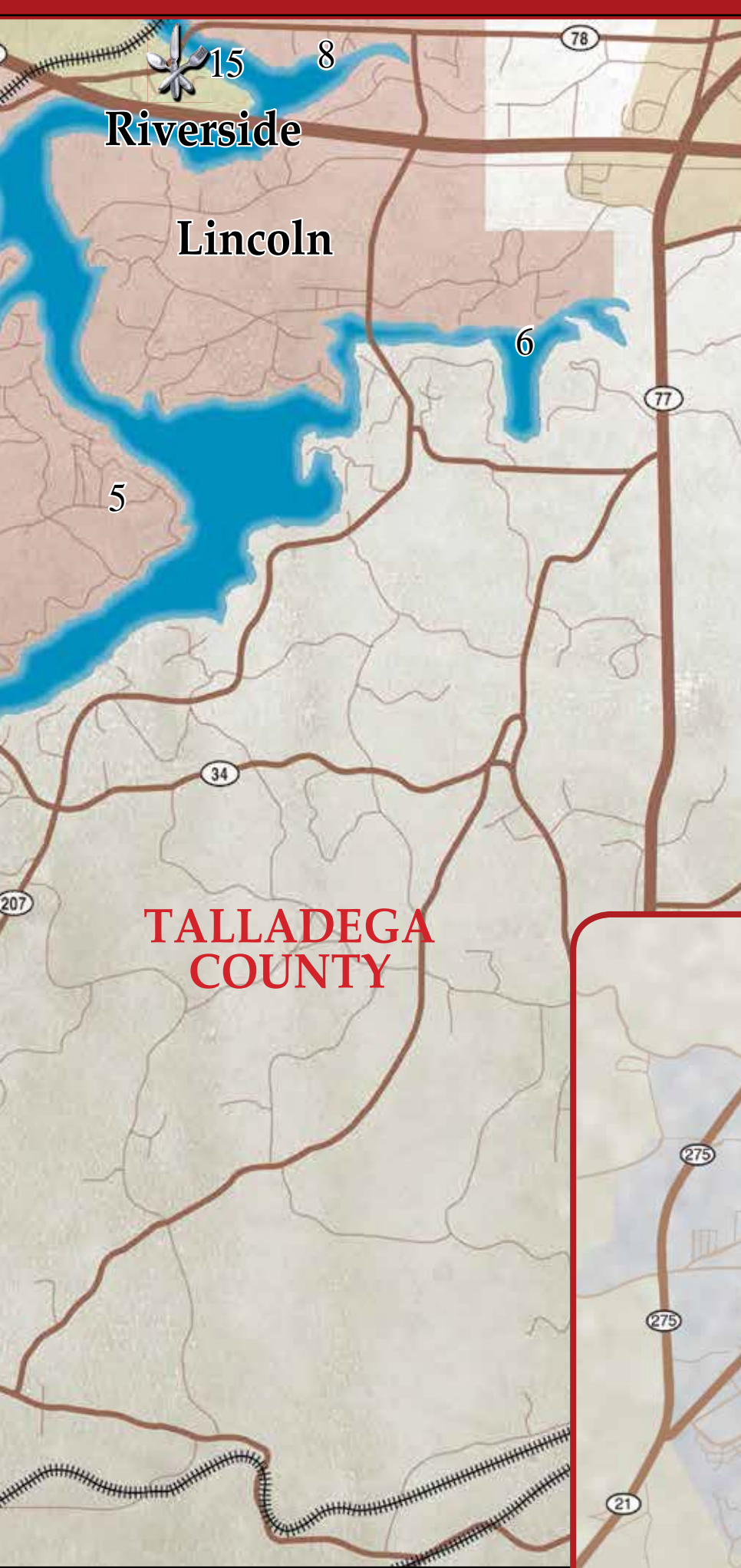
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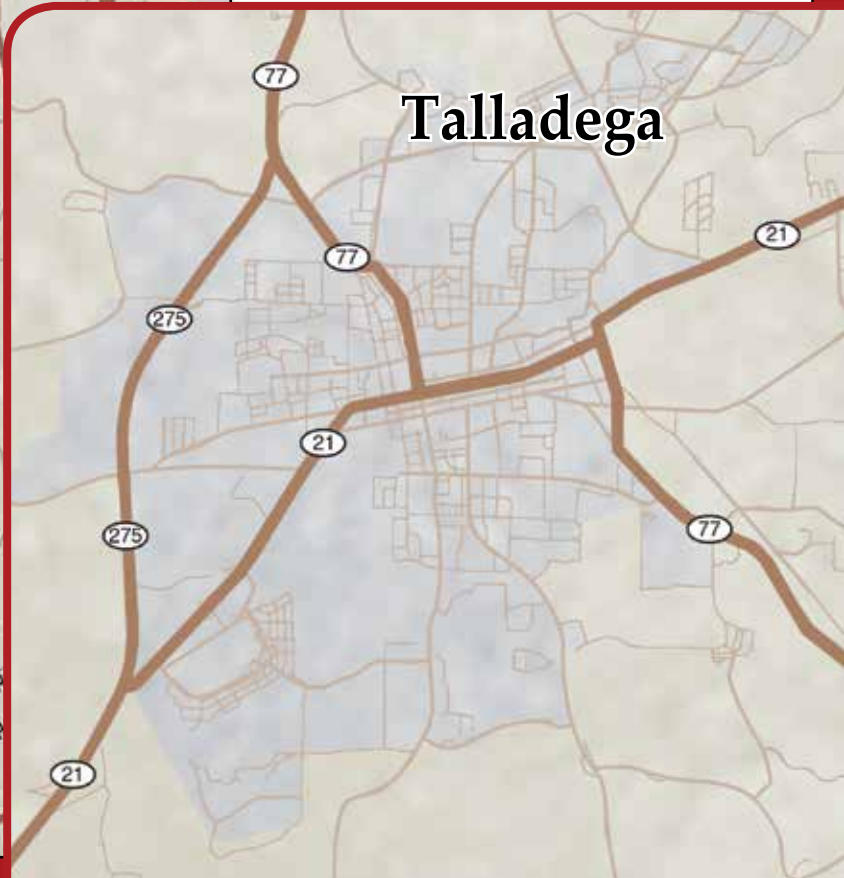
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Logan Martin Homes

A Real Estate Property Guide for Logan Martin Lake and Surrounding Areas



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Story by ELSIE HODNETT
Photos by BOB CRISP

Located in an exclusive neighborhood in Lincoln, this two-story brick home at 225 Eastland Drive is great for entertaining with convenient access to Interstate 20 and Honda Manufacturing of Alabama.

Built in 1997, the house sits on a large level lot of approximately 1.36 acres.

The 166 feet of water frontage, boat landing, seawall, extensive pier and floating dock allow enjoyment of the lake with year-round water.

The outdoor features include a deck and patio with fountains, award-winning landscaping, irrigated garden spot and a sprinkler system from the lake.

Along with a two-car garage, the property has an additional two-car detached garage with floored storage




in the attic.

The main level of the house has a master bedroom and two additional bedrooms and bathrooms.

The second story features two large bedrooms, a sitting room/play area, bathroom and built-in storage cabinets.

The sunroom overlooks Logan Martin Lake and has a recessed bar with small refrigerator.

The house also includes an abundance of storage space, is wired for surround sound and, has external speakers, blinds throughout, granite countertops, a new roof, three heat pumps, a fireplace, Jacuzzi tub and much more.

The house is listed at \$490,000. For more information contact Karen Bain with F&G Realty at 205-473-4613. 

Mike Carr:

'The client is the real boss'

Story by ELSIE HODNETT
PHOTO BY BOB CRISP

After working in technology for about 40 years, Mike Carr is now happily in real estate.

"I got my real estate license in September of last year," he said.

Carr said a combination of things led him to real estate, where he works for RE/MAX Hometown Properties in Pell City.

"I worked in computer sales for about 30 years," he said. "Then in 2005, I worked for Fujitsu America as a service delivery manager supporting 5,000 servers at 167 locations across the U.S. from coast-to-coast and from tip-to-tip. I wanted to be in sales again. I also wanted to be my own boss. Well, the client is the real boss but the job has great flexibility."

Carr said he primarily sells residential real estate in St. Clair and Talladega counties.

"I sell everything from subdivision and waterfront to rural and farm properties," he said.

Carr said he most enjoys dealing with people.

"I love interacting with the people," he said. "Most people selling or buying get excited at the conclusion of the deal. Usually you have two happy parties."

Carr said first-time homeowners are very special.




Mike Carr

"They see a mountain of paperwork to get their first house, and I help them through it," he said.

Carr said he thinks it is a good time now to both buy and sell real estate.

"I've been fortunate to get off to a good start," he said. "It has truly been a blessing."

Carr is also involved in the community.

"I served as director of the Christian Love Pantry, which helps provide food for people in need in St. Clair County, for four-plus years and continue volunteering there," he said. "I also teach a Sunday School class and am involved with my church, Pell City First United Methodist Church." 

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PAULA BLAIR
205.812.5290



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256.506.5459



JENNY HOUZE
256.506.6814



DIANA WHITE
205.753.0236



DONNA HAYNES
256.493.4950



DIANE WILLIAMS
205.369.4595



HILGA KERR
205.369.2600



JIM PRESLEY
256.591.3217



JUDY KIRKLAND
205.368.3391



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256.375.2710



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TANGELA GARRARD
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REDUCED!

PELL CITY -\$110,000. 4BR/3BA, Large level lot, Split Bedrm Plan, 1 Story, Corner, Subdivsn, Some trees, Dishwasher BltIn, CookTopElec, Refrigerator, Oven Elec, Laminate Counter, Deck Open. MLS#564165



green house, work shop and a train room complete with tracks and trains. There is a whole house generator. MLS #607332

CROPWELL \$249,200. 3BR/2BA, great room w/fp surround sound, private patio with a hot tub off the master, bonus room. The guest house offers 1BR/1BA, den, huge foyer, bonus room, ample parking. Raised herb garden in the spacious back yard. Swings hanging from the beautiful oak trees. Garage has a track room,



LOGAN MARTIN \$399,000, five bed, 5.1 bath, quality thru out beautiful kitchen with stainless appliances, granite counter tops, extensive ironwork, stone pillars, exposed beams, rock fireplace 21 ft ceilings. MLS#599819



LINCOLN \$199,900. LOGAN MARTIN LAKE access home on large lot. 3BR/3BA with hardwood floors, split bedrooms, large dining room with wainscoting, attic storage. Fenced backyard is perfect for pool or kids' swing set. Convenient to I-20 & Honda. Community swim area & boat launch just a gold cart ride away. Large deck, basement den and full bath. MLS#568506



RIVERSIDE-1 UNIT - \$375,000. 3Br, 2 Full Bathrooms, This is a rare find in a condo, completely remodeled, castle front door, hardwood floors and ceilings, crown molding, rock fireplace, wood plantation shutters, floored attic space, stainless appliances, extra sub zero refrigerator, steam shower, granite counter tops thru out, pantry, soaking tub with rain shower. The sunroom over looks the patio where there is a grilling area and room for the whole gang to gather. This condo comes with three wood piers and one aluminum floating pier with fifteen thousand pound lift. Master bedroom has a sitting area overlook the lake. Boat launch, tennis courts and pool.



CROPWELL- \$249,000 -The only way to truly experience the benefits of this unique cottage is to enter through the cozy front door. Located on the Logan Martin Lake, this cute home offers 2 bedrooms and 1 bath, cozy living area, quaint kitchen, and sunroom. Watch the kids play in the water from the open deck or the screened porch. Take it as you see it, owner to leave most furnishings for you to enjoy. MLS#: 610820



STEMLEY ROAD \$72,000, three bed, two bath, 3.6 acres, three out buildings, fenced yard, public boat launch and marina in walking distance, close to Honda. MLS#619411.



DOVE COVE \$339,900.00 Logan Martin Lake, four bedrooms, three bath, three living areas, full brick, two master suites, 3375 sq ft per owner, 1.2 acres covered boat port. MLS#619217



PELL CITY -\$239,900. 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath approxiamtely 3200 square feet home with water access on 1 acre more or less. Home has granite countertops, a double garage with room above the garage, salt water pool, and outdoor fireplace.

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NICE LAKE HOME

CROPWELL \$259,900. 1 level brick 3 BR/2BA on 3 level acres with huge backyard to cove on the lake with pier/boardwalk. Workshop, shed for tractors, double gar. Huge master w/2 walk-in closets, double vanity, garden tub. Kitchen has oak cabinets, stainless apps, convection oven. French doors open to huge deck. Freshly painted in neutral colors. MLS#612853



WATER ACCESS IN PINE HARBOR

PELL CITY \$257,900 Charming stacked stone & wood 3BR/2.5 BA home in Pine Harbor with water access, nestled in the trees on large lot. Great room has Cathedral pine tongue & groove ceiling, Beautiful master with large walk in closets, kitchen with eating area, island, gas cook top, Viking stove, huge pantry. Sunroom, patio, workshop. MLS#606349

PROPERTY FOR SALE

PELL CITY \$189,000. Nice waterfront lot in Pine Harbor Subdivision, approx 0.8 acres with boathouse. MLS#603599

TALLADEGA \$99,000. Great waterfront lot to build home, in Pleasure Point SD, gentle slope to wooded waterfront. MLS#603430

TALLADEGA \$49,500. Great private view overlooking Logan Martin, gently rolling 3.5 acres, summer access. Enjoy peace & quiet of country living & great place for your dream home. MLS#603514

ASHVILLE \$159,000. 45 acres, gently sloping, 3 mi S.E. of Ashville, convenient to I-20. MLS#599660

VINCENT \$149,900. Beautiful Lake Lot in nice Cumberland Coves Subdivision, partially wooded. MLS#571729



LOVELY BED & BREAKFAST

TALLADEGA \$299,000. Magnificent Historic Home, currently operating as a Bed & Breakfast, convenient to Talladega Speedway & Logan Martin Lake. 6BR/6BA, 8 fireplaces, lots of hardwoods, updated electrical & plumbing, zoned heating & cooling, almost new roof. Huge kitch, updated apps, 3 ovens, walk-in pantry. Great upper & lower porches, huge deck with grill and hot tub. Ample parking, storage building. MLS#616629



REDUCED! 6 ACRES

RAGLAND \$174,000. Nice 3BR/2BA on partially wooded 6 acres. beautiful open kitchen/gathering room with nice hardwoods, FP, granite counters, eating area, nice appliances. Spacious Bedrooms, Plenty of garden space, workshop, partial basement with garage, main level carport, new 2014 roof & elec. 3 ton carrier HP. MLS#609146

FANTASTIC LAKEFRONT HOME



TALLADEGA \$599,000. Fantastic home on Logan Martin Lake, sits on approx. 3.38 acres with over 350 ft of waterfrontage. Perfect for large family or entertaining, this home has 4 or 5BR/3.5 BA. Amazing Master bedroom and bath with all the extras. Nice sunroom, 2 laundry rooms, terrific kitchen with solid surface counters, large pantry & formal dining room. Multiple entertaining areas, four decks, hot tub, screened tile porch, pagoda, launch, huge pier, garden shed and garage/workshop. MLS#549580

LOGAN MARTIN LAKE PRIVATE ESTATE \$995,000



Approx 6 acres on 1000' waterfront with seawall. Beautiful Vanishing Edge Salt Water Pool with fountain & surrounding patio overlooking lake. One level, views of the lake from all rooms. 4BR/4.5 BA. Beautiful Dining room, Huge Gathering Kitchen with Australian Verde Fire Granite, Wet Bar, amazing cabinetry. Luxurious Master, Jet tub, Steam Shower, coffer ceilings, dressing closets, adjoining study w/FP. Gazebo w/swing. Covered boat-house, 2 electric wenchers, seaplane hangar, covered boat slip w/lift. Landscaped & wooded for privacy. A fishing HOT SPOT. Guest House with Kitchen/Living combo, bath, laundry, private deck. Playground, beach volleyball area plus 2nd

boat dock, fenced yard & 2nd stone patio. MUST SEE! MLS#498718



Bill Gossett



Blair Fields



Lawrence Fields



Brenda Fields



Karen Bain



Jenny Frey



Alesia Mitcham



Scott Fields



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Jeff Gossett



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\$364,999 - 5802 Lee Rd. - PINE HARBOR area with this custom built 4 bedroom, 4.5 bath home with 2-story foyer, living room, dining room, family room with fireplace. Downstairs has nice den, 2-car garage and located on gently slope lot with pier. Convenient to town and I-20. MLS #607409 Call Lawrence 812-5195 or Brenda 812-4141



\$429,900 - 1109 Lake Ridge Ln. - **OUTDOOR PARADISE** - 5 bedroom, 4 bath 2-story home with greatroom, with stacked stone fireplace, dining room, exercise room, office and playroom. Full fenced tennis court that serves also for other activities, main channel lot with year round water with new dock. MLS #610210 Call Karen 473-4613



\$814,900 - 930 River Oaks Dr. - PRIVATE AND IMPRESSIVE 3 bedroom, 4 bath 1.5 story home with open floor plan, lot of exposed beams with tongue and groove ceilings. Large family room and master bedroom both have stacked stone fireplaces, larger than most sunroom overlooking the gentle sloped waterfront lot located on the main channel. A Must See! MLS #614684 Call Brenda 812-4141



\$448,500 - 477 Aradon Farms - QUALITY 4 bedroom, 4 bath Executive Estate with many amenities. Main level and basement parking, split bedroom design, formal living and dining room and refurbished kitchen with solid surface counter tops. Enjoy the privacy with covered patio and rock water fall. MLS #558310 Call Bill 369-7977, Jeff 405-1649 or Tony 281-1317



\$175,000 - 2499 Center Star Rd. - 10 ACRES M/L with open floor plan Country Style Home with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. The home needs some finish work. MLS #609026. Call Tony 281-1317



\$219,000 - 98 Traweek Lane - Nice 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with finished basement area, convenient to Highway 34 and town. MLS #592405 Call Mary 586-0825



\$199,900 - 4732 Red Hawk Trl. - GREAT LAKE COTTAGE - 1.5 story 3 bedroom, 2 bath home located on a gentle slope, private wooded setting and waterfront lot with large platform/dock. Great view and convenient location. MLS #607491. Call Blair 812-5377



\$269,900 - 901 Mountain Crest Dr. - BEAUTIFUL brick 4 bedroom, 4 bath home located on approx. 4 quiet ACRE lot. Home has greatroom with vaulted ceiling, dining room, basement with den, study/bedroom and 2-car garage. Nice setting with fenced back yard! MLS #611578 Call Scott 368-8138



\$199,900 - 320 Coosa Island RD. - CONVENIENT LOCATION with this 1.5 story 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath home located on a wooded lot with approx. 120' of waterfront. Large open greatroom/dining area, bonus/storm room and high sunroom. Home will require some finishing touches and ready to enjoy. MLS #601909. Call Gary 222-9800



\$160,000 - 163 Nathan Lane - LAKE ACCESS with LAKE VIEW with this 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with family room, eat-in kitchen with finished basement and 2-car garage. MLS # 586465 Call Tina 205/337-8509



\$240,000 - 211 Lakeshore Dr. - WATER ACCESS with this 4 bedroom split foyer home with living room, dining area, spacious breakfast nook and western room located in the basement that could serve as another bedroom, above ground pool and storage building. MLS #613183. Call Nan 256/452-4761



\$189,900 - 6367 Mays Bend Rd. - IMMACULATE full brick 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with recently updated kitchen, split bedroom floor plan. Hardwood floors are in the living room and bedrooms, new HVAC and roof is approx. 4 years old, large level lot with in-ground pool with privacy fence and 2-car garage. MLS #611974. Call Carl 965-4755 or Michelle 427-3222



\$205,000 - 4421 Blue Cutt Rd. - PRIVACY with convenience to town! Nice 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with fenced in back yard with approx. 15 ACRES to roam with an abundance of wildlife. There are two storage buildings as well as a pole barn. Home recently painted. MLS #587414. Call Adam 369-2704

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205.901-BLUE x701 office
bvoss@BlueHouseSells.com

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