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Logan Martin Homes Edition LAKESIDE *Living*

*Covering life along
Logan Martin Lake since 1994*

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On the cover: The Logan Martin home of Rod and Robin McSweeney. Photo by Bob Crisp.

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LETTER



From the Editor

Alligators in Alabama

I've always had a soft spot for alligators, although I can't tell you why.

They're hardly the best-looking creatures on the planet, and their disposition makes them nowhere near docile enough for real interaction.

Still, there's something about *Alligator mississippiensis* that's absolutely fascinating. Maybe it comes from having read *The House on East 88th Street* when I was a kid (although, to be accurate, Lyle was a crocodile, not an alligator). Speaking of reading, I found the following material from *Outdoor Alabama* about the state's alligator population to be of considerable interest, albeit less entertaining than Lyle the Crocodile.

Early in the 20th century, alligators in the U.S. had diminished to alarming numbers. Unregulated alligator harvest during this time prompted Alabama to protect the animals in 1938. In 1967, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the American alligator as an endangered species.

"Alabama was one of the first states in the Southeast to protect alligators," said Chris Nix, Alligator Program coordinator with the Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) Division.

Conservation efforts by the

affected states allowed the alligator population to rebound so that by 1987 it was removed from the Endangered Species List but continued to be a federally protected species. Alabama's alligator population has grown to the point that it can sustain a limited harvest, in which hunters are invited annually to participate.

The American alligator is one of 93 reptile species native to Alabama. It is also one of the largest reptiles in the world. Males can grow to 19 feet in length and weight as much as 900 pounds, while females are somewhat smaller on average.

Alligators are carnivorous, feeding mostly on fish, birds, snakes, turtles and small mammals. They feed mostly at night.

Alligators are unable to chew their food so they must swallow it whole or in large chunks. An adult alligator will eat 20 pounds of food a week during warm weather but can go for weeks without eating during the winter.

American alligators can be found throughout their range in freshwater swamps, marshes, rivers, lakes and streams. They prefer water sources that do not go dry in the summer months and that provide an abundance of food.

The Coosa River fits the

description of such a water source, and alligator sightings are occasionally reported in Logan Martin Lake. We have no confirmed reports to share with you in this issue of *Lakeside Living*, but here's what do have this month: a visit to Rod and Robin McSweeney's unique lake home, a look at The Ritz Theatre's first-ever summer season, all the details about the brand-new Coosa Hoedown weekend, conversations with lakeside area titleholders in the Miss Alabama organization, the story behind the new name for a popular local attraction, and a whole lot more.

As always, thank you for joining us. And if you see an alligator while you're out on the water, be sure to send me a picture, okay?

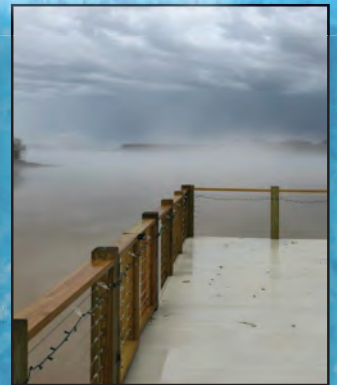


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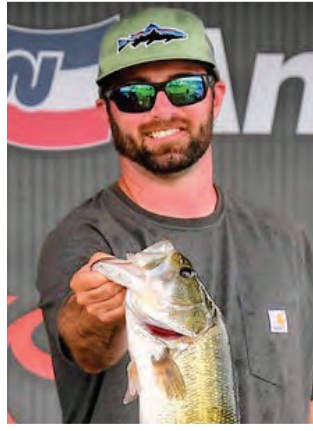
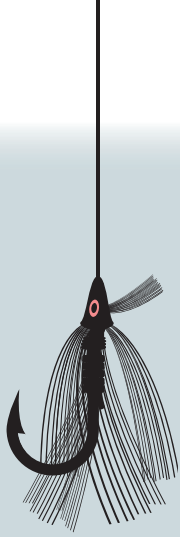


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HOOK, LINE & SINKER

Night fishing on Logan Martin Lake

June and July sure are hot, but August is the true devil! It always seems to be one of the toughest and hottest months of the year. Average water temps are nothing short of bath water temperature. Hot water temps paired with hot outside temps can make for very tough fishing conditions. But even in the heat, opportunities still are prevalent. August is the perfect month to beat the heat of the day and to target nighttime bass.

Bass and other gamefish will often get lethargic and lazy during the hottest days of summer. This is caused by many variables, all of which revolve around the brutal high hot-water temps. Fishing at night during these hot time periods has many advantages. No sunburn and heated fishing action are my favorite things about August nighttime fishing.

Fishing at night can be tricky. But with the right equipment, catching bass at night isn't difficult at all. My personal favorite lure for Logan Martin is a big nighttime spinnerbait. At night, bass will use their predatory instincts to target prey. One

of these evolved attributes of the bass is their lateral line and sensory receptors. Bass use these to keen in on prey, and the vibration of a big spinnerbait gives the bass a focus point. When a bass hits the nighttime spinnerbait, it is a bite like no other. Often they will hit it so hard that it will knock slack in your line. Its truly unbelievable that bass can find and locate the vibration of such prey.



Local angler Patrick Sylestine caught this largemouth bass on Logan Martin using a black and blue nighttime spinnerbait.

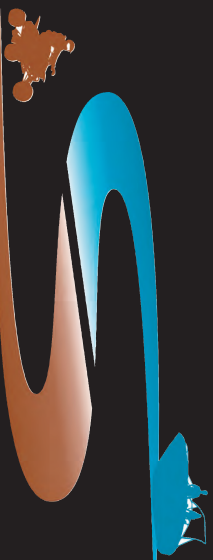
Using a ½-oz. to a ¾-oz. nighttime blade will work great on Logan Martin. A single #6 Colorado blade, in black or nickel, will vibrate perfectly. My bait of choice is the Davis Bait Company R series nighttime blade, as well as the SST series. I like to use a neon curly tail or zoom chunk as a trailer on the spinnerbait as well. The rod setup will need to be beefy line with a strong rod. I like to use a 7-foot or more bait cast rod paired with 17-to-20-pound test. The targets that I look for are rock, seawalls, shallow brush piles and shallow docks. Anytime you can locate brush around docks, that's your absolute best bet at catching a big bass on a nighttime blade. Hold on tight, the bites are very aggressive!

Logan Martin is one of the best nighttime fishing lakes in our state. I always enjoy taking clients out at night for that once-in-a-lifetime experience. Try it this August. The moon might just be your new best friend!

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In The Southeast



What do Tuckahoe Travelers and a mechanical bull have in common?

They'll both be at Lakeside Grill for

THE COOSA HOEDOWN



Written by **BUDDY ROBERTS**

Photography Courtesy of **DONNIE BIGLER**
and by **BOB CRISP** and **BUDDY ROBERTS**

The last time musician Austin Waits was in Pell City, it was for a high school marching band competition.

"Pell City had a great marching band," he recalls,

anticipating his return to to the Gateway to Logan Martin Lake, this time as vocalist and rhythm guitarist for Tuckahoe Travelers, the band that's headlining the first-ever Coosa

Hoedown on August 26 and 27.

Lakeside Grill at Coosa Island Marina hosts the new, country-themed event presented by Natasha O'Konski of Keller Williams and sponsored by Rod-

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Local singer-songwriter Erica Ryleigh will perform at the Coosa Hoedown. Her recently-released EP is available on Spotify and iTunes.

ney's Marine Center, Lakeside Boathouse, ABC Towing, Stevens and Son Locksmiths, Brandon Tate State Farm, and Promo I.D.

Justin Hogeland, the event's organizer, said that admission is free to both days of the hoedown, thanks to its sponsors. "This is something different. We've never had a country-themed event on Logan Martin before, and this will be the first time a mechanical bull has been at the lake."

A cornhole tournament, other games, and prize and cash give-

aways are planned, and Lakeside Grill will offer food and beverage specials throughout the weekend, Hogeland said. "You can come by land or water, and you can dress according to the country-western theme. Cowboy boots and hats are definitely encouraged."

Live entertainment is scheduled for both days, and "we have some really good talent coming," Hogeland said. Lakeside area singer-songwriter Erica Ryleigh will perform at 7 p.m. August 26, and the bill for August

27 includes Len Park at 10 a.m., Kudzu at 2 p.m., Kat Hunter at 5:30 p.m., and the headlining Tuckahoe Travelers at 8 p.m. Singer-songwriter Patrick Barnett will perform at Lakeside Grill at noon on Sunday, August 28.

"Tuckahoe Travelers have been getting a lot of attention in the past year, and I believe they'll be going to the next level," Hogeland said. "It's great for us to have them at this event."

The Tuckahoe Travelers are comprised of Waits, lead guitarist Zach Daugherty, bassist Donnie



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Lakeside Grill at Coosa Island will host the first-ever hoedown.

Bigler, and drummer Elliot Russo. According to Waits, the band was hired for the Coosa Hoedown after Hogeland saw its first set during a show at Ferus on 41st in Birmingham.

"We were in right away," he said. "We always get excited about something like this in a different setting. We play a lot of college bars and a lot of honky tonks, so when we get the chance to be on a stage outside at an event like this, we love it. It's always fun to play by the water. I grew up on the Coosa, and Donnie grew up in Mobile on the bay, so we're water guys."

The band was formed almost five years ago in

Gadsden but is now Birmingham-based. "Elliot and I have known each other since we were kids and went to high school together, and the first time we all got together for a jam session was in a neighborhood in Gadsden called Tuckahoe Heights," Waits said. "When we were kicking around band names, Tuckahoe Travelers was thrown out, and we liked it because of the alliteration and because it was different, but I don't think any of us really felt, 'This is the one.' But it came up again about 15 times over the next two weeks, so we decided we'd better roll with it."

The band has released its latest single, "Pay-



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day," in June and has been at work on an EP with producer Gordon Motes at Sound Stage Studios in Nashville.

"If you look us up on Spotify, we're categorized as a country band," Waits said, "but I usually tell people we're somewhere between Blackberry Smoke and The Zac Brown Band. We're a little bit Skynyrd, we're a little bit '90s country, so we play a really good mix of the kind of music you'd hear on the beach down at Gulf Shores. We'll do about eight or nine of our original songs along with a lot of crowd favorites, and we're excited to come down to the lake, play our music, and see what the folks think about it."

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where would april go



Written by **APRIL CLARK**
Photography by **BOB CRISP**
and Courtesy of **SEAN DIETRICH**

Earlier this summer, I had the opportunity to kick off my search for summer entertainment in the lakeside area by attending Sean of the South's performance at the Historic Ritz Theater at 115 Court Street North in Talladega.

The Ritz had just announced Summer 2022: The Ritz Is Back!, which executive director George Cluver said is a first for the theater. "With the 2.5 years of Covid, The Ritz took a major hit – lost revenue, contributions, and momentum. However, we are fighting back and decided to do our first summer series ever!"

Sean of the South kicked off the season, and Culver teemed with excitement on opening night.



Showgoers were happy to be out to support The Ritz but to also experience Sean's second appearance in Talladega with an evening of tales of common people, small towns, and rural life in the American South.

If you're like me and didn't know anything about Sean, in short, he's a columnist, novelist, and podcast host, known for his commentary on Southern life. More than that, he's a true artist

who tells his story in a masterful and personal way. It was amazing to see hundreds gather to witness what they've read and heard about Sean. Showgoers lined up to buy his books in the lobby with anticipation of him signing their copy after the show. Intrigued by what this night would bring, I sat down with Sean before the show to get an idea of who he is.

"Why Talladega?" was my first question.

SEAN OF THE SOUTH



"They asked me to come," he said with a chuckle, "I love it here! I remember coming to the Superspeedway as a kid, and my wife has distant family here."

Immediately we dove into a friendly conversation about the evening at hand. I asked what the audience could expect.

"I'd like to say they can expect an evening they'll forget for the rest of their lives."

We laughed, and that's Sean being humble. He has a very large fan base. Nearly 300 tickets were sold to the show here in our little town. Heather Knowles and her husband are longtime fans of Sean. They drove from Genova to see the show. She says she discovered his books a long time ago and had never been to one of his performances. When asked what they anticipated, her husband said, "It's going to feel

like home."

Sean's hopes for his shows are to share the good parts of the American South, the uplifting, non-divisive parts. As a native Northerner, I asked, "What are the good parts?"

He took a deep breath and replied, "It's awful hard to find right now in this climate — or can be, but I'd say the good parts are the unnoticed deeds that happen every day. Good deeds that happen in small communities that never get any air time."

Not only does Sean share his personal experiences in his shows but he gives a voice to those unnoticed deeds with his podcast where stories are sent in by listeners. I asked him about one of those unnoticed deeds that tugged at his heart. He shared a story of an 87-year old woman who gave a homeless man a place to stay and



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in turn he helped her fix up her home. Come to find out, he had a terminal disease, and she nursed him to the end. Another story came from Missouri, where a 13-car Amtrak train derailed and Boy Scouts and other people from the community were going into the wreckage to pull survivors out before the EMT arrived.

"There are good people here," Sean says, "and we get personified as this divisive, class division between race and political affiliation, and it's not a total picture." I shared with Sean my experiences in the South and particularly here in Talladega and the warmth I've been greeted with and the hospitality. I could relate to his reflections of silent kindness here in the South.

Much like his podcast and shows, Sean and I began to share stories and became fast friends. It was truly a pleasure to meet such a masterful storyteller whose work has taken him all over this country. He shares a story about a show he did in upstate New York near Canada. It was

the furthest from home he'd ever been, and he was apprehensive about the audience being able to understand his experiences because of cultural differences. He recalls he could not believe how connected he was to the audience and how receptive they were to his experiences. His words had reached a growing fanbase in New York who showed up to support wearing Alabama gear.

"It was heartwarming," he said. "I'm living my dream completely. I get to entertain people, I talk a lot about the things I've gone through and the people who I meet after shows have gone through suicides and things I've been through and even tragedies I can't even relate to and they connect with me and with the writings I've done that means so much to me that if I died now, I'd be happy. I feel lucky."

I think that's what makes Sean's shows so welcoming: it's his willingness to let people know they're not alone. It's truly like listening to his



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heart, and it does feel like home. And that to me transcends any geographical region, race, or age.

Sean not only gained a new fan in me but a friend, and I can't wait to delve into his books and podcasts to have a deeper look at his take on the American South. It's important to hear each other's stories and points of view. I think it's what makes our society palatable.

Sean, his wife, and two dogs live in Birmingham, and he says "we're happier than we've ever been." If you missed Sean's show at The Ritz, I'm sure he'll be back to Talladega, but in the meantime listen to his podcast, read his writings and share your stories! Continue to do the kind things even if they go unnoticed.

You can still catch the rest of the summer series, which I highly encourage you to do. It's great to have a local venue that can bring entertainment like Sean, the acoustic Led Zeppelin tribute show, and these two upcoming shows to the lakeside community.

August 2 and 4 SUMMER OF SOUL

This film tells the story of the 1969 Harlem Cultural Festival, when some 300,000 came to celebrate African American musicians and culture and to promote the new politics of Black Pride. Festival performances included Nina Simone, Stevie Wonder, Sly & the Family Stone, B.B. King, Fifth Dimension, Gladys Knight, Mahalia Jackson and the Staple Singers. Yet in spite of attendance by some 300,000, the celebration was overshadowed by dominant media coverage of Woodstock that summer. Video footage of the "Black Woodstock" was virtually forgotten. "Questlove" (best known as leader of The Roots, house band of The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon) was driven to both produce and direct the film upon seeing vintage video footage and realizing the Festival's historic significance was a keystone in black cultural history. 7 p.m. Tickets: \$5 or \$15 for a party of 4.

September 9 THE ISAACS

Across several generations, The Isaacs have been performing their signature family harmony for more than 50 years. Known earlier in their career as a mainstay in bluegrass gospel, they appeared on Gaither Homecoming Videos and Tours for 20 years. The Isaacs have won 9 Dove Awards and were recently inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame. However, they have transitioned into one of the premier classic country bands in Nashville today. Their latest three albums have been Grammy-nominated. After years of guest appearances, The Isaacs were welcomed as the newest members of the Grand Ole Opry last September. With their exploding popularity in recent years, a concert appearance by The Isaacs is a real coup for The Ritz. Don't miss it. 7 p.m. All seats are \$28.

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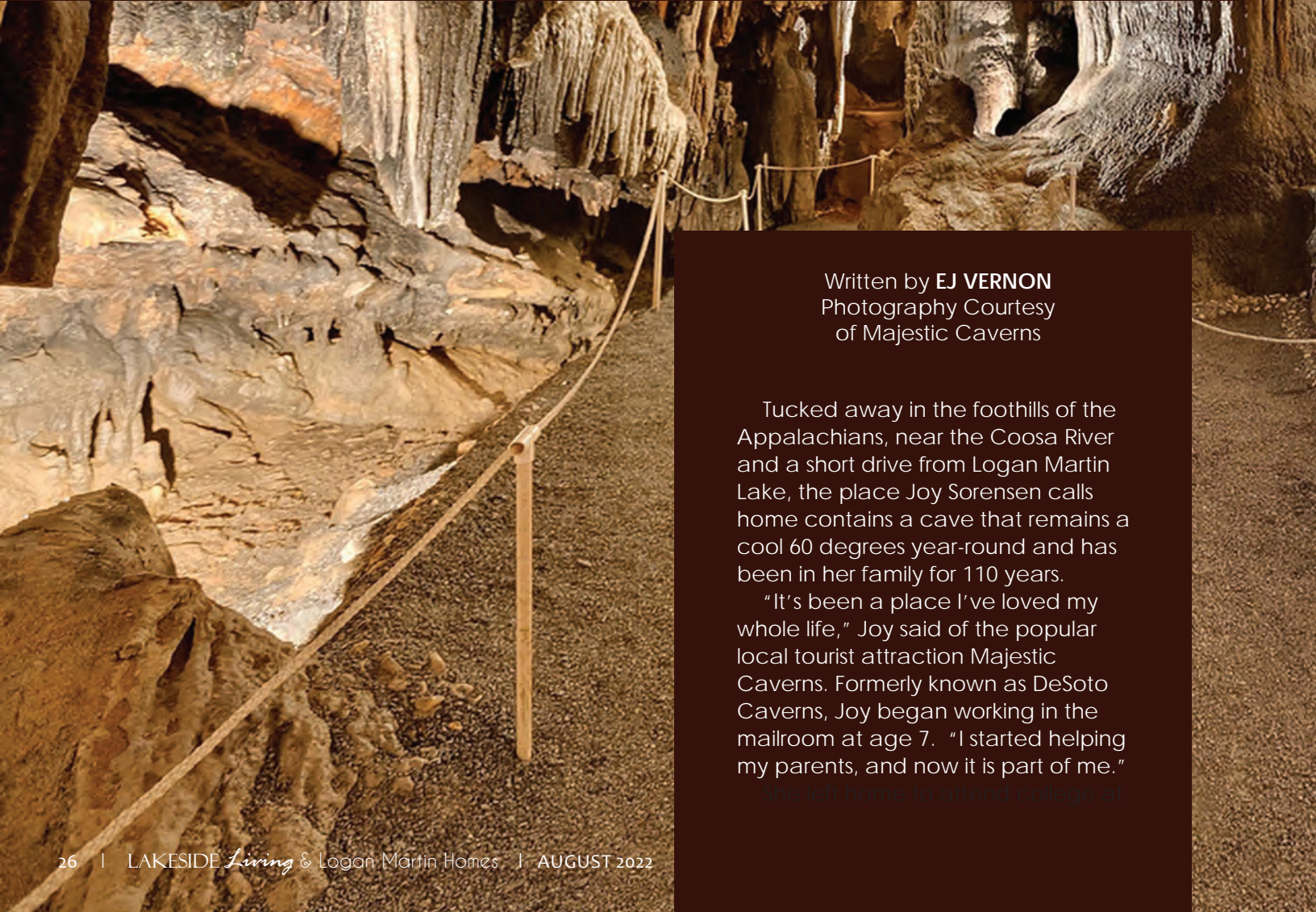
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MAJESTIC CAVERNS:

A new name for a favorite
lakeside area attraction



Written by **EJ VERNON**
Photography Courtesy
of Majestic Caverns

Tucked away in the foothills of the Appalachians, near the Coosa River and a short drive from Logan Martin Lake, the place Joy Sorensen calls home contains a cave that remains a cool 60 degrees year-round and has been in her family for 110 years.

"It's been a place I've loved my whole life," Joy said of the popular local tourist attraction Majestic Caverns. Formerly known as DeSoto Caverns, Joy began working in the mailroom at age 7. "I started helping my parents, and now it is part of me."





Taylor University in Indiana but always loved coming home to the caverns during school breaks.

"I couldn't wait to talk to my dad about the cave, about what he was doing and what he had planned," Joy said.

Studying photography and traveling abroad only deepened Joy's love and appreciation for what she had at home at the caverns. And when her husband, Jared Sorensen, expressed interest in dedicating his life's work to the caverns, Joy knew her childhood dreams of carrying on the family legacy would become reality.

"Working at the caverns was always a huge dream of mine," she said. "Hearing Jared say he felt called by God to work here thrilled me. I was honored, humbled."

Now, Joy, her husband and her dad, Allen Mathis, work together to continue growing a legacy that will live on for generations while still preserving history. On June 1, Joy and her family announced a name change for the tourist attraction. The transition from

DeSoto Caverns to Majestic Caverns is a description that encompasses more than a historical figure.

"We needed a name that not only represented the history," Joy said. "We needed a name that also depicted the physicality of the caverns."

Tourists often confuse the name DeSoto Caverns with DeSoto State Park in Fort Payne.

"We've had people end up here who were trying to get to DeSoto State Park and vice versa," Joy said. "A lot of the locals don't even know about the confusion."

But this is not the first time this historic site has been renamed.

In 1796, a scout for President George Washington recorded the beauty of the cave, making Majestic Caverns the first cavern on record in the United States. Majestic Caverns is also known for having one of the largest deposits of onyx in the world. And it was the onyx that caught the attention of Joy's great-great grandmother, Ida Mathis, in 1910.

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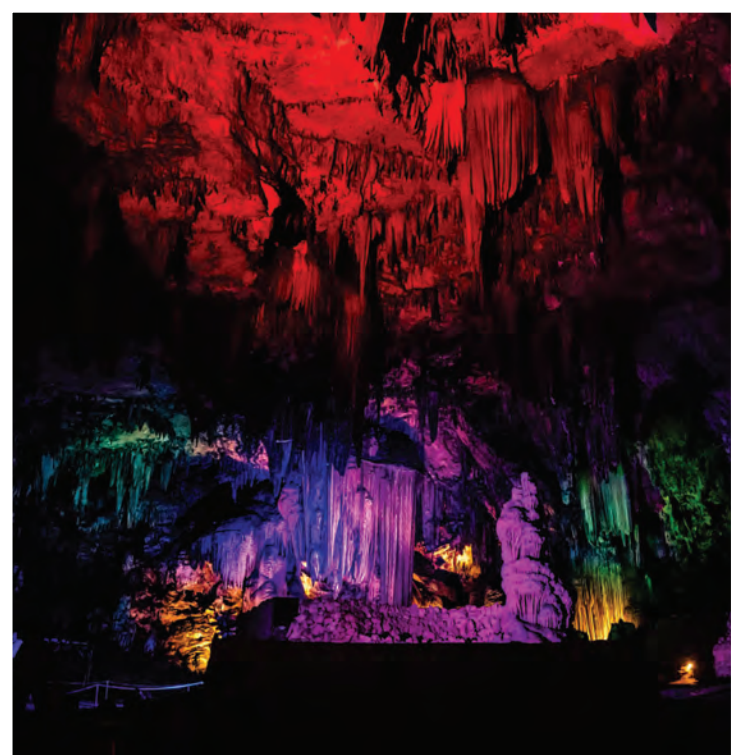
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the cave with the intention of mining the onyx. But when those plans fell through, she bought out the other shares, making her the sole owner.

The site was initially referred to as the Kymulga Cave. Later, the cave became known as the Cavern Tavern when it was illegally used, not by Ida Mathis but by trespassers, as a honky-tonk with a working bar, dance floor and live music.

"My father became the CEO in the 1970s and began to really develop the land," Joy said.

Allen Mathis lived in the back of the gift shop with his dog while he spent time working on the cave's interior, widening the cave's narrow pathways and adding lighting.

"You're not going to see anything like this on the surface," Allen said. "You're going to have to go underground. And I think when



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you come down here and the way we display the cave, it really is a majestic cave. People are amazed at the handiwork of God, and I think that it can't help but impress people in a special way and create a lasting memory. That really reaches my heart to be able to use creativity to develop something that people will enjoy."

Shortly after taking over as CEO, Allen and his wife Danielle decided the cave needed a name that would be easier for people to pronounce, so they named it DeSoto Caverns after Hernando DeSoto, who traveled through the region in 1540.

People who visited the cave learned about the science and history of the site, including the adventures of Hernando DeSoto, a history that is still shared on cavern tours today. The property also features more than a dozen above-ground activities.

Today, when visitors enter the cave, they are still able to witness the beauty seen centuries ago because of the preservation efforts by the Mathis family. Rich in minerals, the formations of flowstone, draperies, cave bacon and helictites create rare visions of color and art, allowing people to experience the mystery and wonder that fill the air.

"Describing our cave as Majestic Caverns aligns us with the heart of our land's history, our inspiration for our legend-based storytelling experiences," Jared said. "As it is our goal to illuminate truth through legendary tales that have not only happened once upon a time but continue to keep on happening."



IDA MATHIS' ALABAMA LEGACY



Because of Ida's decision to purchase the cave more than a century ago, she unknowingly played a role in leaving a footprint deep within the soil of Alabama history. But her legacy extends beyond the beauty hidden

beneath the earth's surface.

Ida Mathis was inducted into the Alabama Women's Hall of Fame in 1993 for the contributions she made to aiding in the survival of Alabama's economy and serving as a role model who opened doors for women across the nation. Her relentless efforts demonstrated that women possessed the talents and ability to serve as leaders in their communities.

Growing up as a farmer's daughter, Ida gained first-hand knowledge about the challenges to successful farming. She studied earth sciences while attending the Florence Synodical Female College, where she earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees, becoming one of the first women to obtain a graduate degree.

Credited by President Woodrow Wilson as saving the state of Alabama from economic ruin, Ida's work brought over \$20,000,000 to Alabama in the early part of the 20th century.

During World War I, men entered into battle, leaving few at home to run farms, so Ida decided to lend her agricultural expertise to helping Alabamians survive. Cotton crops were threatened by the interruption of international trade in addition to erosion and adverse weather conditions. Ida convinced bankers to lend money to farmers. In exchange, she agreed to teach farmers about crop rotation.

In a 1917 article published in *American Magazine*, Ida described Alabama farmers by saying, "We work ourselves to death to keep from growing hay. We kill the grass to grow the cotton to buy the grass—and thus we ride round Poverty Post on a merry-go-round."

Her work garnered the attention of government officials and other national leaders. As a result, she traveled around the country, speaking to farmers about the need for crop diversification and food safety in farming. She believed in the power of education and became the first woman to deliver the baccalaureate address at Samford University's ceremony in 1917.

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'I'm just grateful to be in the room'

Three local hometown titleholders compete for Miss Alabama 2022



Ibby Dickson



Emma Wright

Written and photographed
by **BUDDY ROBERTS**

When 40 young women from throughout the state were onstage at Samford University's Wright Center in Birmingham earlier this summer to compete for the title of Miss Alabama 2022, the lakeside area was represented by three of the preliminary titleholders.

Miss Sylacauga, Miss Jefferson County, and Miss Historic Springville all have ties to Logan Martin Lake communities and, while preparing for the competition, took time to speak with Lakeside Living.

Miss Sylacauga & Miss Sylacauga's Outstanding Teen

"It's an absolute honor to be Miss Sylacauga," said Lacey Wood, a member of Sylacauga High School's class of 2022 and an upcoming freshman at the University of Alabama. "I love this town, and I give it credit for making me who I am today."

Miss Sylacauga is Wood's first title in the Miss Alabama organization, and she has used it to promote Step Up, her social impact initiative that advocates for inclusion on behalf of individuals with physical and emotional challenges.

"I owe a special thanks to the sponsors of Miss Sylacauga and to our director Kim Todd, and to the entire community for the support it shows to us as

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titleholders," she said.

Wood has worked closely during the past year with Isabella Kirkland, a sophomore at Fayetteville High School who holds the title of Miss Sylacauga's Outstanding Teen. The two did not know each other before claiming their titles, but they've developed a tight friendship and often appear together at community events.

"It's a big-sister type thing that's part of the Miss Alabama organization," Kirkland said, "and we actually get asked all the time if we are sisters. We attend events together, we get invitations to speak to different groups, and our social impact initiatives are close. Lacey's is Step Up, and mine is Stand Up to Stand Out."

Both titleholders say they are aware of the responsibilities that come with their crowns. "There is a weight to it," Wood said. "Every word and every gesture is important, especially when we're talking with students. The kids are paying attention to what we say and how we act."

"You put this crown on, and the eye goes directly to you," Kirkland said. "You have to remember that it's a platform and it holds you to a standard."

Miss Jefferson County

Sylacauga native Ibbey Dickson placed among the top 12 semifinalists at this year's Miss Alabama competition. A former Miss Sylacauga, she has represented Jefferson County for the past year but still has strong



Isabella Kirkland and Lacey Wood

feelings about her hometown.

"It was great to be Miss Sylacauga," she said. "I won the title after I had been in a car accident and in the trauma unit at UAB, and I entered the competition a few weeks later with no expectations. It was an extreme honor to be able to represent the people of Sylacauga. They're the reason I'm in this position. I love introducing my out-of-

state friends to my hometown. We produce some incredible people here who go out into the world and make a difference and then want to come back to Sylacauga. I've really developed an appreciation for Jefferson County over the past year while I represented it, but there's something special about Sylacauga."

A senior at the University of Alabama studying news media

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and political science, Dickson has developed the social impact initiative Mentoring Matters, components of which she has worked to implement in local school systems.

“Some people still think women who participate in scholarship organizations like Miss Alabama just wear a crown, smile, and dress up. That is part of it – we are the face of the communities we represent – but titleholders are also working on legislation, influencing public policy, and helping communities in ways that really matter. What these women bring to and give back to the communities they represent is absolutely incredible. Miss Alabama gives us a platform to stand on and speak in behalf of families and communities.”

Miss Historic Springville

A native of Blountsville, Emma Wright served as Miss Wallace State and Miss Center Point before she was selected to represent the close-knit community in St. Clair County.

“It was a big change from Center Point to Springville,” she said. “Center Point is very urban, while Springville has a real small-town feel. Springville just feels like home. There is so much love and a strong sense of community in Springville. In a world that is so chaotic, it’s good to know that places like this are still here.”

Wright, who studies medicine at UAB and has no student debt thanks to scholarships she has received through the Miss

Alabama organization, also placed in the top 12 semifinalists at this year’s competition. “How can I count the ways?” she said when asked about the benefits of the Miss Alabama and Miss America organizations.

“When Miss Alabama began, women were not typically in places of business. They were secretaries and homemakers. Over the last 100 years, Miss Alabama has played a significant role in professional development. She is constantly evolving with the well-rounded modern woman. The young women who wear these crowns are impacting the community and state.”

Drawing from her medical training, Wright’s social impact initiative is Medically Accurate

Sexual Education Reform. “I am grateful that Miss Alabama has given me a platform to promote public health while I hold this title,” she said. “Sex education can be politicized and polarizing, but it needs to be discussed, and I’m okay starting and having those uncomfortable conversations.”

She encourages young women to participate in the Miss Alabama organization. “I have not had one negative experience during my involvement. Do not feel scared to compete. The organization is all-inclusive. You are somebody in this organization. What you will gain is so worth it. You will be competing alongside – not against – women who will change the world, and I’m just grateful to be in the room.”



Tips to Protect Your Personal Information and Identity

The internet makes everyday tasks easier and more convenient but, if you're not being cautious, that convenience could cost you. Check out some of the helpful tips below!

Be Smart Online

- Secure Your Accounts.
 - Create and use strong and unique passwords.
- Use Multi-Factor Authentication.
 - Multi-Factor Authentication requires two or more credentials to log in to your account.
 - These additional credentials usually come in the form of a passcode sent via text, e-mail, or authentication app, or by signing in with your face ID or thumbprint ID.
 - This makes it harder for scammers to sign in to your accounts even if they do compromise your username and password.
- Choose Security Questions Only You know.
 - Avoid questions like your zip code, mother's maiden name, and birthplace. Also, avoid using questions with a limited number of responses that attackers can easily guess — like the color of your first car.
 - Another option is to answer the question with a made-up answer that doesn't pertain to the question. ie. Question: What's your favorite color? Answer: Lucky (the name of your first pet.) They have no relation to each other so hackers would be less likely to guess the answer. Just make sure that you record your answers and keep them somewhere secure.
- Be Leary of E-mails, Calls, or Websites That Ask For Your Social Security Number.
 - You should never provide your SSN to someone you don't know who calls you on the phone and requests it. This same warning applies to unsolicited emails and any forms you fill out on the internet. In general, don't give your SSN to anyone unless you are absolutely certain they have a right to it.
 - If you do provide your SSN online, make sure that the site is secure. Look for the "S" in HTTPS at the beginning of the website URL.

How To Recognize and Avoid Phishing Scams

Phishing emails and text messages oftentimes look like they're from a company you know or trust. They may look like they're from a bank, a credit card company, social networking site, an online payment website, or an online store. These scams try to steal your passwords, account numbers, or Social Security number.

Here are some signs that will help you recognize a phishing email or text message.

- Often look like they're from a company you know or trust.
- Often tell a story to trick you into clicking on a link or opening an attachment. Here are some examples:
 - Stating they've noticed some suspicious activity or log-in attempts.
 - Claims there's a problem with your account or your payment information.
 - Say you're eligible to register for a government refund.
 - Offer a coupon for free stuff.
 - Directs you to click on a link to make a payment or update your information.

If you think the message might be legitimate, contact the company using a phone number or website you know is legitimate, not the information provided in the text message or email. If you've been a victim of a scam, you can report it at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud). For more helpful tips visit winsouthcu.com/fraud-prevention-tips.html



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Meet Me by the



Written by **BUDDY ROBERTS**
Photographed by **BUDDY ROBERTS**

Alli Brascho Spickard

Alli Spickard has fond childhood memories of life on Logan Martin.

"I grew up swimming all the time," she said, sitting on the dock at her grandparents' shoreline and watching the calm waves on a sunny summer morning. "My mom would put me and my siblings in

our life vests and bathing suits, and we'd stay in the water all day."

Now married, relocated to Alexander City, and pursuing graduate studies at Samford University in speech-language pathology, Alli said she misses her home lake and takes advantage

of any opportunity to return and visit family, as she had done this particular day, prompting memories of former days.

Growing up on Logan Martin

Lake: "It was Small Town, USA, like growing up on The Andy Griffith Show. Being outdoors and running



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around with my friends all day, just coming inside to nap and eat. I had the best childhood anybody could have. My siblings and I were very lucky, and we're blessed to still have our childhood home to come back to."

On visiting the lake after having moved away: "Everything is constantly changing. That's just lake life. In some ways, it's not the same place anymore once you leave. But it's comforting to know that I always have a place here to come back to and that the people who lifted me up and made me who I am are still here."

Lake life: "If you lean into it,

lake life is slow, peaceful, and you can soak it all up. I get very introspective sometimes, and I've been thinking about how life is a vapor, which makes me desperately want to slow down. Sometimes I feel like I'm running out of time to be here and be with the people I love the most. The lake is a place where everything slows down. The first year of Covid was probably the best summer I've had since I was seven years old. This is where the family comes together, so we all sought refuge and comfort at the lake, and I got to spend more time with my siblings and

grandparents than I had in years. We were outside all the time and celebrated every moment.

"That experience taught me a lot. We're always going 90-to-nothing and thinking about how to get to Point B, and that so often keeps us from really enjoying the moment. Then all you can do is look back at what you wish you'd experienced but failed to. When we try to do too much, we lose the present, and sometimes we should say 'no' to things that can limit us from being fully in the moment."

The best advice she ever received: "It's from my dad,



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although I can't put it quite as eloquently as he does when it plays in my head every day. If you have an opportunity and you're not sure you want to do it, what's the worst thing that can happen if you do it anyway? You don't have fun, maybe. But if it turns out to be amazing and the best experience of your life, thank God you did it.

"Also, family is everything. If you put family first, they will always be there. Even if I fail at everything in life, I still have my family. My dad gets that from his parents. Family has always been prioritized for us."

Three things she can't live without: "Hand sanitizer, my husband, and music."

About music: "Music is like the gateway to everything," said Alli, who has an undergraduate degree in voice performance. It's a universal form of communication. It can be therapy, it can be self-expression, it can be a way to mourn or celebrate. Without music, it would be a very dark world."

The food she could eat every day: "Fresh-baked bread."

The food she hopes to never eat again: "Star anise."

Alli Spickard style: "I like classic items that never go out of style, with pops of color."

Her favorite color: "Blue. It's joyful and peaceful, and it reminds me of my grandmother's hydrangeas and of sunny days on the lake."

Her ideal day on the lake: "All my siblings would be there, and my dad and stepmom. Preferably we'd all be there the night before, and the day would begin with us all having breakfast together. Then we pack up and get on the boat with our tubes and waterskis. Being out on the boat all day, we're listening to my dad's favorite music, which is old country from the '80s. Then we go eat at The Back Porch, where I'll get a burger and sweet potato fries. I love their sweet potato fries."



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The Great Egret: A study in poise and solitude



Written by
SARAH E. MOREMAN
Photographed by
TIM BADGWELL

I stand outside, keeping an eye on my dogs to make sure they do not rush to the water and get muddied in their eagerness to explore. The still form of a lone tall bird stands serenely on the banks across the water. The whiteness of its feathers contrasts nicely against the dark natural hues of the water, rocks, and trees.

The white plumage of the Great Egret brings out the strong attributes of purity and power revered across cultures in various forms, such as being used for fashion and gracing on currency

including the New Zealand two-dollar and the Hungarian 5-forint coins. In Greek mythology, Zeus uses the Great Egret to deliver messages to the mankind from his seat on Mount Olympus. Other Greek gods and goddesses use this distinctive waterbird for their purposes, such as Athena protecting Odysseus on his voyage by sending the Great Egret to accompany him.

Therefore, the divine status of the Great Egret enhances the purity of its white plumage, which unfortunately resulted in its near demise in the late 19th century as the fashion trends ruthlessly sought its fine plumes, namely aigrettes, to decorate hats. It was not until early 20th century, specifically 1910,

before plume hunting was banned and the *Ardea alba* species was protected under the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA).

In 1953, the portrayal of the Great Egret in flight was selected to be the symbol of the National Audubon Society, an environmental organization founded in part to prevent the killing of birds for their feathers. Since then, there is low concern for conserving the rapidly recovered Great Egret population due to its ubiquitous presence across the Sun Belt, particularly the temperate and tropical climates.

The distinctive courting features of the Great Egret is the

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appearance of the neon green patch on its face, along with the growing of fine plumes down its back. Although not necessarily vocal even when disturbed, only using a low, hoarse croak, the breeding call is a loud croaking sound of *cuk cuk cuk* accompanied with higher pitched squawks. The male selects the nesting area before starting to build the nest within the colonies among trees close to the water such as reed beds, ponds, marshes, and tidal mudflats. The male then courts the female. Both look similar in their appearance, along with the young. With the clutch up to six bluish-green eggs, incubated by both the monogamous pairing of parents for 23-26 days, the nestlings must survive the siblicide before being able to fly within six to seven weeks. The aggression among the nestlings portrays the symbolic perseverance and art of solitude.

What distinguishes the lanky, long-necked Great Egret from the several other types of the *Ardea* family is how it retracts its neck when flying. In other words, the Great Egret tucks its neck back against its shoulders to aid in its slow, yet powerful flying, with the wingspan ranging between 52 and 67 inches, averaging two wingbeats per second at the cruising speed of 25 miles per hour. Such poignancy in its graceful and buoyant flying upholds the reverence of the Great Egret as pure, powerful, and poised even when hunting for food. This three-foot tall member of the heron family, closely related to the pelicans, takes on the composure of a flamingo by standing still with one leg lifted as part of its stand-and-wait hunting technique. With its neck curved like the letter "S," the Great Egret exudes strong patience as it waits for the prey to come within the periphery of its spear of the yellow beak. After peering intently beyond the surface of the water, the bird quickly jabs with its sharp beak to capture the prey, which could be a fish, crustacean, amphibian, insect, or small reptilian.

Therefore, it is not only the whiteness of the Great Egret's plumage that draws my eye. My dogs' exuberant barking does not disturb the Great Egret from its poise. I observe how the white bird stands alone and well-balanced in the water, waiting steadfastly before swooping down with its beak to impale the prey in the water, exuding resilience that inspires anyone desiring to master the art of solitude through fierce patience and concentration. Considering the purity, power, and patience through its poise whether in flight or hunting while unconcerned by the surroundings, the Great Egret embodies the encouragement of finding contentment and happiness within ourselves rather than depending on others.





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August calendar of events

August 5

A MAGICAL EVENING

Pell City's Center for Education and Performing Arts hosts this performance of close-up and stage illusions featuring magicians Brian Reeves and David Merlin. The show will start at 5:15 p.m. with close-up magic in the lobby, and the stage show begins at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. To order tickets, visit www.pellcitycepa.com/tickets.

August 6

SUMMER SIZZLE FEST

Ragland City Park hosts this community festival from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Helicopter flights, water slides, a petting zoo, a classic car and motorcycle show, food trucks, live entertainment, arts and crafts, a dunking booth, and a rock climbing wall will be available. For more information, visit the event's Facebook page.

August 7

TOMATO TASTE

Hamilton Place at Pursell Farms hosts this four-course plated dinner celebrating the favorite Southern fruit from 6-8 p.m. Chef-inspired tomato dishes will include Heirloom Tomato Melance, Summer Tomato Pie, Tomato-Crusted Filet Mignon, and Crab-Stuffed Tomato Gratin. Wines by International Wines will accompany the meal. Tickets are \$65 each. To make reservations or for more information, visit www.pursellfarms.com/event-calendar/.

August 19

LITTLE RIVER BAND

The Oxford Performing Arts Center hosts this classic rock band – known for such chart-topping hits as “Reminiscing,” “Cool Change,” “Lonesome Loser,” “The Night Owls,” “Take it Easy on Me,” and “Help is on the Way” – at 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$45-\$69. To order tickets or for more information, visit www.oxfordpac.org.

August 27

TOUCH-A-TRUCK

The Greater Alabama Council Three Rivers District and the Autism Society of Alabama host this event at the Shops of Grand River in Leeds. It offers different types of vehicles that children can see, touch, ask questions about, have photos taken with, and sit behind the wheel. Local fire departments, police departments, and emergency response teams will be there to talk with children. The purpose of the event is to bring awareness to autism and allow children to visit large equipment in a safe, fun environment. For more information, call 205-699-3700.

August 27-28

ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS REGATTA

The Birmingham Sailing Club hosts this annual event on Logan Martin Lake, originating at 147 Merrill Road, Vincent. Visit www.birminghamssailingclub.org.

September 17

BASS FISHING TOURNAMENT

The God is Bigger Movement sponsors this fifth annual competition, which launches from Lakeside Park and the Pell City Sports Complex. The \$110 registration fee per boat includes a \$10 big fish pot. Cash prizes will be awarded for first through eight places, as well as for first-place and second-place couples and parent/child teams. Those who pre-register by calling 205-966-7272 will be entered for a chance to win a seven-night stay at Seascape Resort in Destin, Florida. The tournament benefits the God is Bigger Movement. For more information, visit www.gibmovement.com.

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Lakeside living is a dream come true for Rod and Robin McSweeney

**Pell City couple designs and
builds 'fairytale castle'
on Logan Martin shore**

Written by Faith Dorn
Photographed by Bob Crisp

There are plenty of fabulous homes on Lake Logan Martin, but there's only one like Rod and Robin McSweeney's lake home.

"We grew up our whole lives on the water, and once we had children of our own, we always had a place on the lake, whether it was a trailer or a small house or something else," said Rod, "It had always been our dream to live on the lake full-time."

Rod used to fish with his son in a Wednesday-night bass tournament on Logan Martin. During one of the tournaments, he saw a wooded lot and told his son that he would build a house there one day.

"Years after I had seen the lot, when we decided we were ready to move, we drove over and talked to the lady next door to the lot we had seen and asked her if



she knew who owned it," Rod said. "It was her sister's lot, but she was not interested in selling. I asked for her sister's number and told her that if she changed her mind, I would like to purchase it."

About three months later, McSweeney gave the owner a call and told her that they were still looking for a location on Logan Martin.

"She didn't want to let go of it because it was a gift from her father. I told her that if she sold me this lot, we would take care of it," Rod said, "A few months went by, and her husband called me and told me that

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000293973*1



she had decided to sell me the lot."

Initially, the McSweeneys did not realize how beautiful the lot was because it was overgrown.

"I wanted to build a place that is the most fun place, especially for our grandkids," said Robin, who the grandchildren call "Nana." The grandchildren call Rod "DaDeet."

"We sat down and started to brainstorm," she continued. "It took about a year to come up with the plans and a year to build. I said that I wanted it to look like a fairytale, sort of like a castle,"

Those who have seen the house would most likely agree that it looks like a castle. The individually hand-chiseled rocks contribute to that look. Because the house can be seen on all four sides, Robin wanted each side to have its own character.

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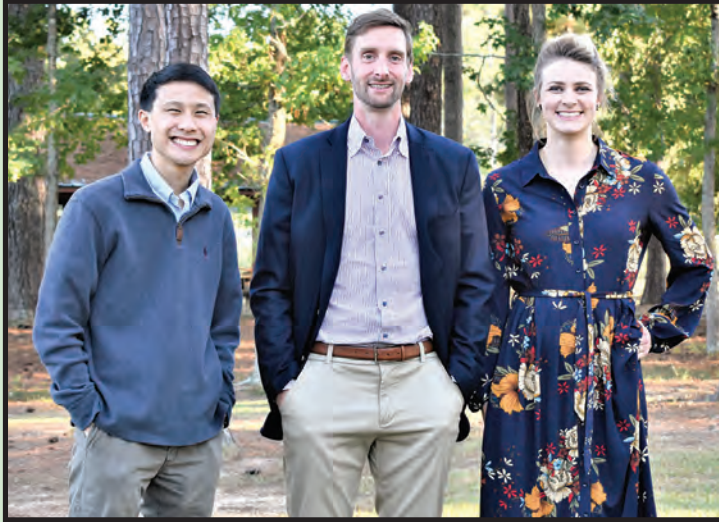




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The two-level home has an attached garage where the McSweeneys keep their cars. There is also a detached three-car garage. The home features seven bedrooms, a bunk room with eight bunks for grandchildren and cousins and any of their friends, five bathrooms, and two half-bathrooms.

"We really tried to make a room for each grandchild and each married couple. Each one has a different style," said Robin.

The pool, surrounded by travertine and designed by Shoemaker Pools, is one of the most spectacular parts of the home.

"We wanted it to be a large upper pool and hot tub large enough for a lot of the family to enjoy. We have a big slide that curves around into a catch basin, so really it is two pools and a hot tub," explained Robin.

The McSweeneys are incredibly pleased with the final product and want to ensure that the entire team who helped make the house a reality receive accolades, including Joanna Goodman, interior designer, and Chris Reebals and Ria Neill, both of Christopher Architects and Interiors.



If you have thirty minutes or more to listen, ask Antonio what he dreams of being in ten years.

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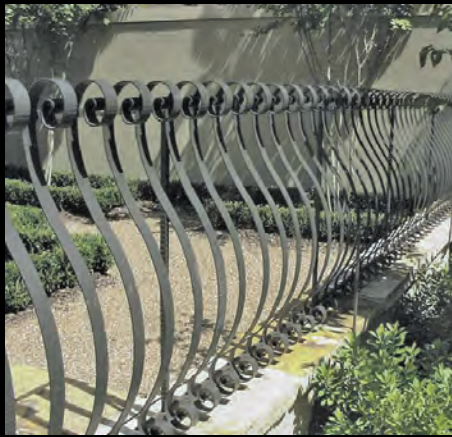
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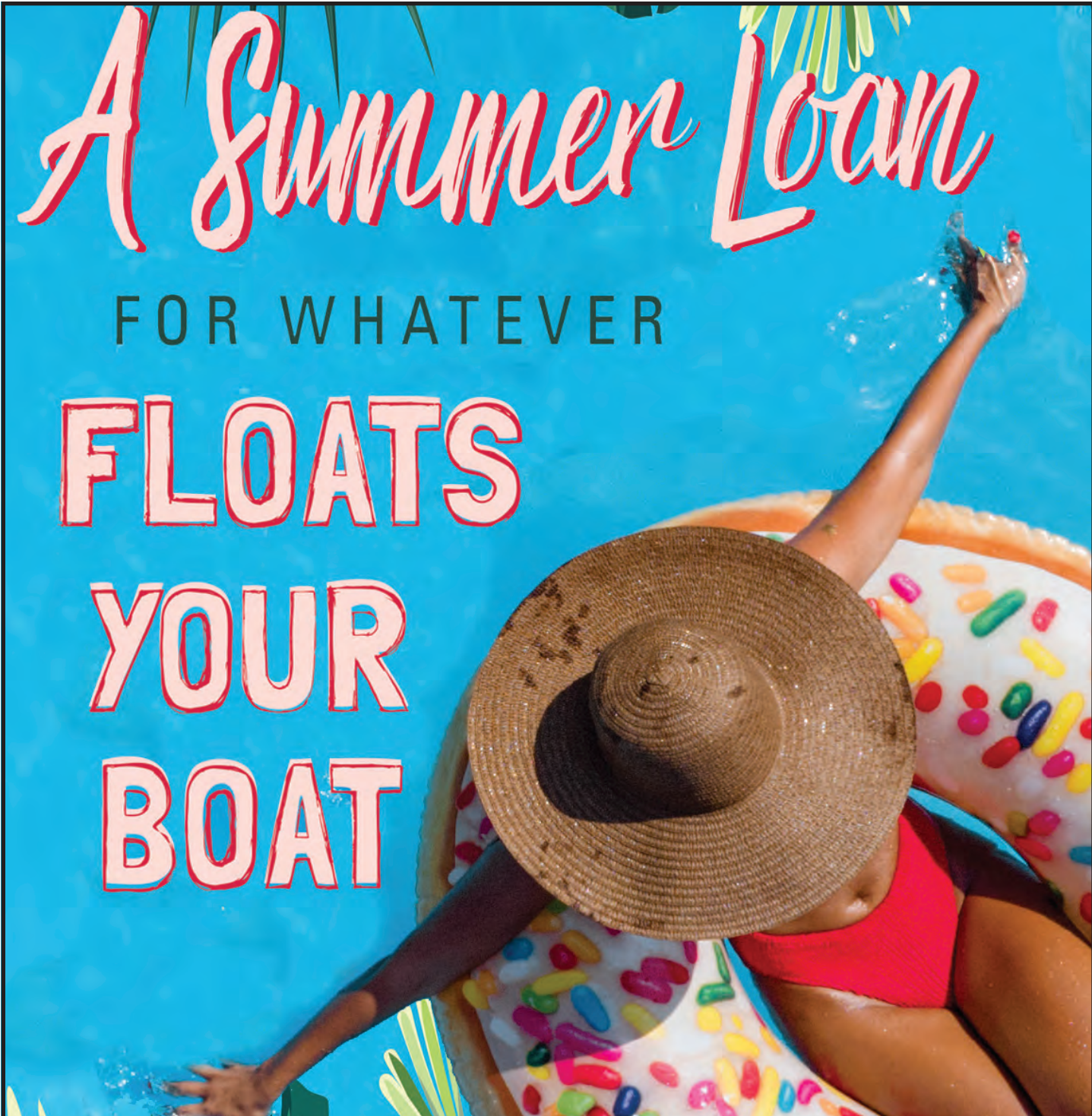
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A comment the McSweeneys often hear from visitors is that their home is very warm and welcoming.

“People can come in and put their feet up on the ottoman. We want people to feel welcome,” Robin said.

Four-legged family members also enjoy the home.

The couple own two goldendoodles, Stevie Nicks and Remington Steele, who have a dog door hidden behind a kitchen cabinet with a sign over it that says “The Doodle Door.”

“They don’t get on the lake, but they guard the house any time a boat comes up, and that is good because it is hard enough to keep them groomed,” said Rod, laughing.

In contrast to the dogs, their grandchildren enjoy jumping off of the pier into the lake.

“We love fishing and waterskiing and tubing. We grew up a bunch of water bugs. We just have fun at the lake,” Rod said.

Rod and Robin emphasize that all of the glory belongs to God.





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"We are here because God has blessed us beyond our wildest imagination," Rod said. "We are really spiritual people, and we are blessed beyond what we should be. We have done some pretty cool stuff, but we haven't done anything that God hasn't allowed us to do."

Although their lake home is impressive, the McSweeneys are equally impressed by their neighbors and Pell City.

"We have the best, most kind neighbors I have ever seen," Rod said. "We love Pell City so much. It is a hidden gem. Pell City is the greatest place to live."



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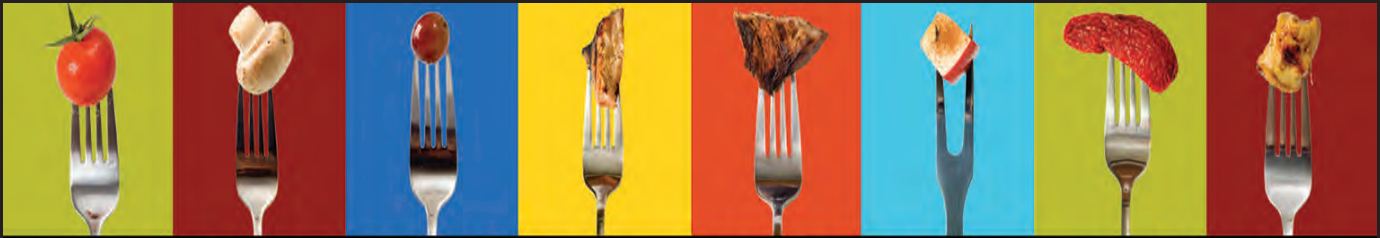
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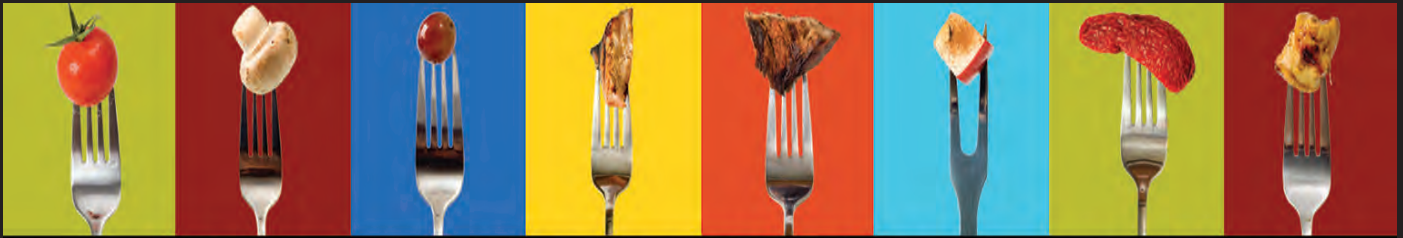
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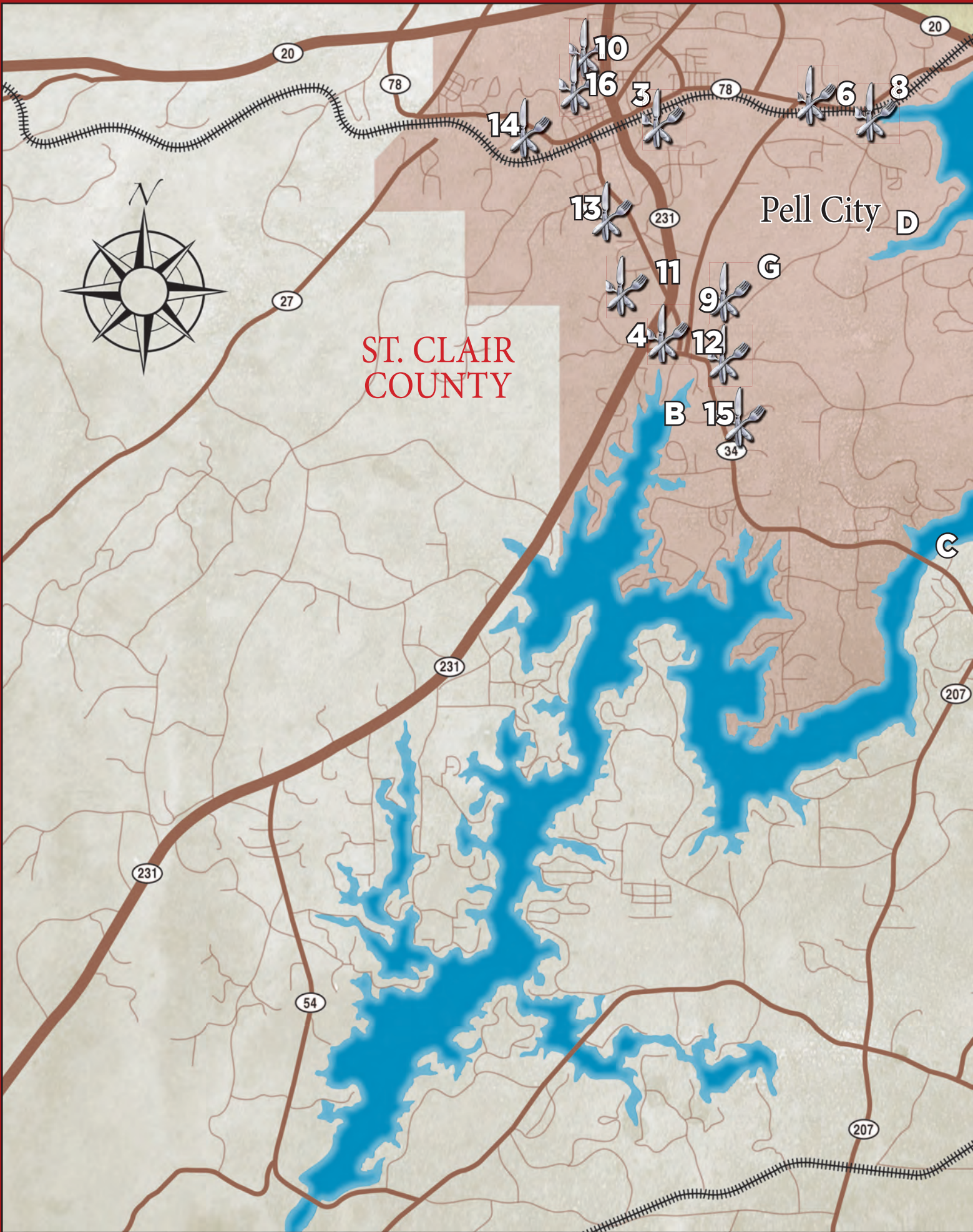
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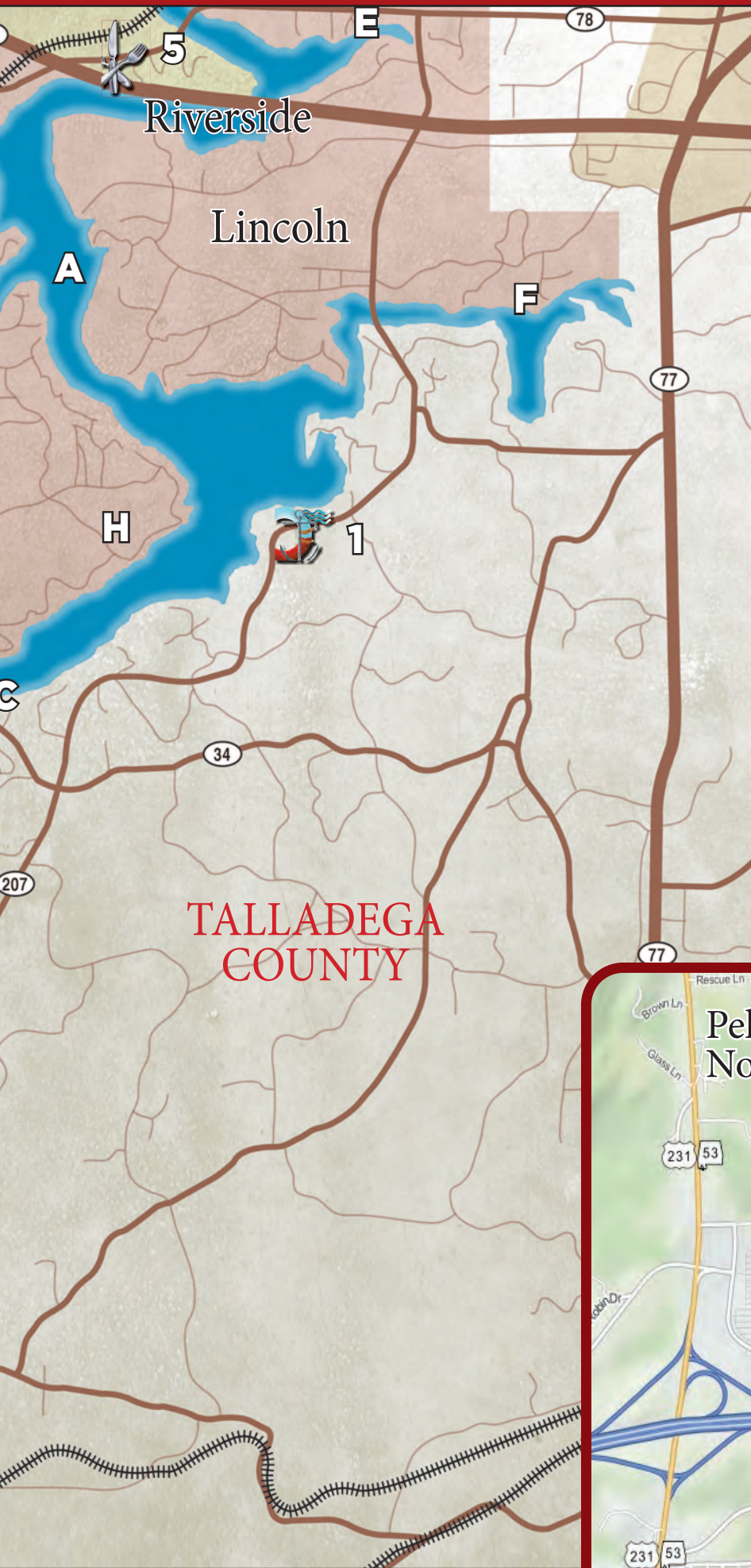
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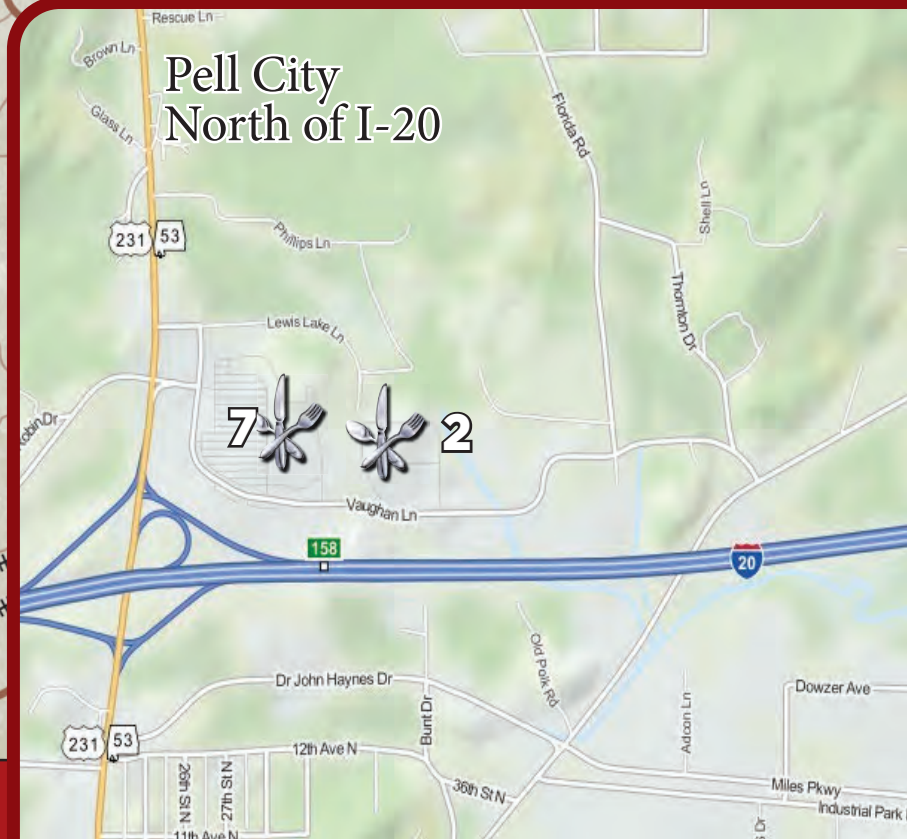




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- B – Lakeside Park
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Written by **VALLEAN JACKSON**
Photographed by **BOB CRISP**

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The 1.5-story single family home was constructed in 1975 and has been completely reimagined to create a fabulous modern living and outdoor experience. Situated on 1.47 acres, it has five bedrooms, five full bathrooms, and a half bath within its 5,400-square-foot interior.

The spectacular interior features hardwood flooring, recessed lighting, French doors, large windows that provide breathtaking views of the lake, a den/

family room, laundry area, and media room. The kitchen includes a large island at its center, a pantry, an eating area, stone countertops, built-in dishwasher, built-in microwave, stainless steel double door refrigerator, gas oven and stove.

The home has a three-car garage, circular driveway with such exterior amenities as a patio, open private deck, a covered boat dock with two lifts, an inground saltwater pool, and a hot tub. Another exterior feature is a lavish outdoor kitchen that has a fireplace and grill and is a great setting for family gatherings.

The property lists at \$1,850,000. To learn more about the property and its many other amenities, call Natasha O'Konski with Keller Williams at 205-812-4917.



'Real estate is a journey, not a race,' lakeside area broker advises

Written by VALLEAN JACKSON
Submitted photo

Donna Breland found a new niche in real estate after working in other fields for 31 years.

"When it comes to careers," she says. "I started out in the business field as an assistant marketing director at Riverchase Galleria in Birmingham. I did that for about four years, then I went into teaching and education for a little over three decades, and I retired as a principal. However, I knew that in retiring it wasn't the end. I wanted to still serve the public because I strongly believe we were put here to serve and make a difference. Plus, I heard that classroom teachers make the best real estate agents, and with the help of a friend already in the business, I loved it from day one and knew it was what was next in my life."

The Realtor and broker for Signature Realty has now been in real

estate full-time for five years. She believes that her transparency and her desire to help clients feel comfortable and supported throughout their home-buying process are what make her stand out as an agent. It is her job to "calm the panic," alleviate the stress of selling or buying, open as many doors as possible, be considerate and understanding, and help clients get over the obstacles that occur while on the journey, she added.

"Real estate is not quick, but a process. I enjoy real estate because of the reward of being able to help people love their homes, build lifelong relationships along the way, and the opportunity to make their dreams a reality. That's what I find the most joy in. I am a firm believer that it is more of the quality of service given than about the quantity of homes I can sell. If it ever becomes more about quantity over quality, I'll quit, because to always provide the best experience and support is what I strive to do."

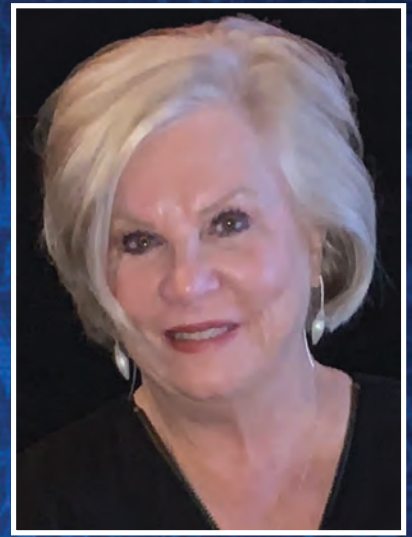
Asked what advice she would

give to prospective buyers, she advises that the market is forever changing. "Real estate is a journey and not a race. However, in comparison to races, it is more of a short 5K for some or a full marathon for others. Everybody's situation is unique. So I suggest not getting frustrated, prioritize the qualities you want in a home, and be willing to accept that you might not get that 10 out of 10 that you want, but 9 out of 10 can be just as good. Not every home you see will give you that feeling of home, but when you enter the right one, you'll know. Don't rush the process."

Breland is a native of Columbiana but currently resides on the lake. Since moving to Logan Martin in 2018, she feels that she's "waking up on vacation every day." She finds the lakeside lifestyle to be healing, relaxing, and beautiful, filled with breathtaking sunsets she cannot get enough of. When she is not working, she enjoys cruising on the pontoon and spending time with family.

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UNDER CONTRACT!



**403 Woodland Ridge Rd,
Odenville, AL 35120**

3 BR, 2 BA
MLS #1320848

\$249,000

SOLD!



**191 Highland View Drive
Lincoln, AL 35096**

4 BR, 2 BA
MLS #1311400

\$245,000

BACK ON THE MARKET!



**407 S East Street, Talladega,
AL 35160**

6 BR, 4 BA
MLS # 1301940

\$230,000

NEW LISTING!



**101 Elizabeth Ave,
Talladega, AL 35160**

3 BR, 2 BA
MLS #1324314

\$172,900

4.4 ACRES



**0 Stemley Bridge Rd.
Talladega, AL 35160**

4.4 Acres
MLS #1283670

\$159,000

COMING SOON!



**105 Highland View Drive,
Lincoln, AL 35096**

3 BR, 2 BA
MLS #1327740

\$240,000

Cell: 205-965-7022

kimc@eraking.com

00239821



508 Martin Street South • Pell City, AL
205.884.2300 | 1.800.806.7741



Tina Stallings, Realtor

Cell - 205-337-8509 or text
tinastallings212@msn.com



67 Treasure Island Ln., Cropwell
WATERFRONT, 4 BR, 3 BA
MLS #1301444

\$625,000

Deep water on quiet cove. Lovely interior. Beautiful new deck. Call for your private showing.



0 Nova Circle 22, Apline
LOTS AND LAND
MLS #1314637

\$39,900

Very nice building lot with lake views. Property is close to swimming, boating, golf. Restrictive covenants protect property values. See covenants in Documents.



0 Hildestone Way #42 Pell City
LOTS AND LAND
MLS #1309956

\$27,500

Improved lot cleared, perc tested and ready to build!



ALPINE BAY AND POINT AQUARIUS LOTS
Multiple building lots with restrictions for stick built homes.

Prices begin as low as **\$12,500**

000293990r1



260 EASONVILLE PARK DR
CROPWELL



2205 WALDROP ROAD
ASHVILLE



331 LAKE FRONT DRIVE
TALLADEGA



183 Highland View Dr
LINCOLN



501 LAKE FRONT DR
TALLADEGA



55 PARRISH CIRCLE
CROPWELL



46 CAMERONS WAY
LINCOLN



60 EASONVILLE PARK DR
CROPWELL

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6263 RAINBOW ROW
PELL CITY



153 LAKEVIEW CIRCLE
RIVERSIDE



130 RIVER OAKS DR
CROPWELL



404 26TH STREET N
PELL CITY



000294004r1

WATERFRONT



120 Oak Pointe Drive
Pell City
MLS# 1317168
\$649,000

WATERFRONT



787 Blue Springs Road
Lincoln
MLS# 901094
\$1,200,000

WATERFRONT

CONTINGENT



100 Viewpoint Circle
Pell City
MLS# 1314357
\$999,900

WATERFRONT



183 Marina Drive
Talladega
MLS# 1326216
\$699,900

PINE HARBOR



3701 Hayes Drive
Pell City
MLS# 1317211
\$349,900

COMMERICAL

WILL SUBDIVIDE



Vaughan Lane
Pell City
MLS# 848173
\$3,500,000



3224 Crossings Drive
Birmingham
MLS# 1327860
\$464,900



4824 Caldwell Mill Rd
Birmingham
MLS# 1314546
\$739,900



1245 Rogers Road
Oneonta
MLS# 1323906
\$549,000



4030 Old Cahaba Pwy
Helena
MLS# 1285879
\$285,000



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Pell City, AL, 35125

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12 CROPWELL DR., PELL CITY, ALABAMA 35128



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222 Viewpoint Cir,
Pell City, AL 35128
MLS # 1325141
\$1,850,000
LAKE FRONT



307 Dove Cove Rd,
Talladega, AL 35160
MLS #1322723
\$649,900
LAKE FRONT



3346 Griffitt Bend Road
Talladega, AL 35160
MLS # 1317347
\$599,900
LAKEFRONT



236 Shoreline View
Talladega, AL 35160
MLS # 1320043
\$409,900
LAKE ACCESS

Don't miss out on this COMPLETELY renovated 5 bed 5.5 bath LAKE home in Pine Harbor. This home has been completely reimagined, creating a jaw dropping living and outdoor experience. BREATHTAKING lake views greet you as you enter the home, featuring a renovated open floor plan. The kitchen features Viking appliances, LARGE island with plenty of seating, soft close cabinets, and a spacious pantry. The master suite will WOW you, with french doors leading out to the pool, lake views, a double shower, walk-in closet, and access to the laundry room. Upstairs boasts a media room, bedroom, and a full bathroom. Details not to be missed are plantation shutters, cedar beams and accents, electric blinds, and TONS of storage. Outdoor amenities include a covered boat dock with two lifts, a salt water gunite pool, a hot tub, a full bathroom, and a GRAND outdoor kitchen. The outdoor kitchen features a gas starter fireplace, grill, ice maker, and more! Don't let this ONE OF A KIND property get away!



475 River Forest Lane
Unit 1310
Talladega, AL 35160
MLS # 1323837
\$279,900
LAKE ACCESS



210 Shoreline View
Talladega, AL 35160
MLS #1322046
\$409,900
LAKE ACCESS

loganmartinlake.com



**2020 Old Coal City Road
Pell City, AL 35125
MLS # 1323839
\$569,900**

Redesigned, remarkable, and rare! This 4 bed 3.5 bath spacious home is a masterpiece. The main level of the home boasts an open floor plan featuring the kitchen, living room, and dining room. Within this space is built in bookshelves, wood burning fireplace, kitchen island, gas appliances, an enormous pantry, and much much more! Throughout the home hardwood floors and crown molding can be found. Upstairs features two LARGE bedrooms, a jack and jill bathroom, dressing area, and an open deck. The spacious master suite has a living area with a fireplace, a second kitchen, 1.5 bathrooms, and screen porch access. Recent updates to the home include indoor and outdoor painting and electrical for the pool. Outside a salt water pool, play ground, and a playhouse with power can be found. The detached garage is the perfect work space/storage and also has a gym. This home is a once in a lifetime opportunity and IT WILL NOT last long!



**340 Cane Creek Road
Anniston, AL 36206
MLS #1317877
\$269,900**

LAND, LAND, LAND! Come see this 3 bed 2 bath brick home that sits on a little over 10 acres with streams that lead to a creek. The kitchen has been recently updated with new appliances, counter tops, and backsplash. The kitchen features a pass through, opening it up to the living spaces. The living room has a gas fireplace and built-in storage/desk area. Updates continue to the bathroom with new flooring and a tub/shower combo. Boasting plenty of yard, the recently added fence with gate creates many opportunities for your own outdoor oasis. Don't miss this unique opportunity today! Make this home your farmhouse dream.



**140 Farwell Street
Talladega, AL 35160
MLS# 1319643
\$124,900**

Come see this 2 bed 1.5 bath charming home in the Bemiston subdivision. Captivating details of this charmer are hardwood floors, tile showers, granite countertops, and much more! The kitchen features a pass through to the spacious dining room. The large living spaces create an environment perfect for entertaining. Outdoors you will find a fenced in backyard and a two car garage. This home is conveniently located to downtown Talladega and is within walking distance to R.L. Young elementary School. Come see the remarkable find!



**602 S Street East
Talladega, AL 35160
MLS# 1316994
\$249,900**

TIMELESS, CHARMING, AND COZY! This 3 bed 3 bath home, located in the heart of Talladega, is MUST SEE! BEAUTIFUL hardwood floors greet you as you enter the home and continue throughout. STUNNING features such as pocket doors, crown molding, and recently redone stain glass windows are classics that you will not want to miss. The LARGE entryway opens up to a spacious formal dining room and living room. The sizable kitchen boasts an eat-in breakfast nook, an island, and is flooded with natural light. The GORGEOUS stairs take you to the master bedroom, an immense master closet, master bath, spare bedrooms, and a full bath. The bedrooms are vast in size and feature transom windows. Outside you will find expansive green spaces and a long driveway, perfect for entertaining multiple guests. Carport was recently added which can be used for parking, storage, or used as an entertainment area. This location of this home and AMAZING characteristics is a rare opportunity! Come see this charming gem!



**2489 Harts Ferry Road
Ohatchee, AL 36271
MLS# 1325725
\$134,500**

Come see this 3 bed 2 bath double wide home in Ohatchee! Featuring a large kitchen with a generous amount of cabinets, great for storage and a built in desk area. The living room boasts a BEAUTIFUL stone gas fireplace. The flooring has been recently replaced with carpet and laminate. The master bath has a LARGE soaking tub, separate shower, and double vanity. This home has warm tones, creating a relaxing home environment. The master bedroom and bathroom are generous in size. This home is in an amazing location, close to restaurants, shopping, and a great school district. Catch this opportunity quickly!



**78094 Highway 77
Lincoln, AL 35096
MLS# 1310989
\$169,900**

Location, location, location! This 3 bed 2 bath home is minutes from Lincoln schools, Honda, and restaurants. Standout features of this home include a built in china cabinet, a LARGE sunroom, a wood burning stone fireplace, and much more! Recent updates to this home are a new hot water heater, roof, painting, ac unit, and laminate hardwood flooring. This home offers spacious rooms, such as, the kitchen, living room, and dining room. The master bathroom features a GORGEOUS walk in, tile shower! This home has so much to offer and will not last long



**544 Fox Run Circle
Pell City, AL, 35125
MLS# 1320459
\$184,900**

Cozy, welcoming, and turn key! Located minutes from restaurants, shops, and parks, this 3 bed 2 bath home in Fox Hollow WILL NOT last long! The living room features a gas fireplace with natural light. The kitchen boasts a dining area, breakfast bar, and patio access. The bedrooms are spacious, perfect for a growing family. The privacy fence in the backyard is ideal for outdoor entertaining while maintaining privacy. This home has been meticulously maintained and is more in ready! Catch this opportunity quickly!



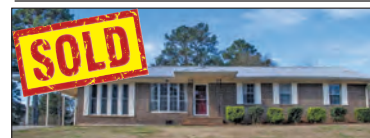
**238 Avery Drive
Anniston, AL 36205
MLS# 1322652
\$239,900**

This BEAUTIFUL 3 bed 2.5 bath is a MUST SEE in Cane Creek. This home is perfect for entertaining, featuring a formal living room, a den, dining room, spacious kitchen, and plenty of bedrooms. The open kitchen has stainless steel appliances and tons of cabinet storage. Throughout the home you will find GORGEOUS flooring, sizable bedrooms, and a large garage. Close to golf and Fort McClellan, this home is in a GREAT location and WILL NOT LAST LONG! Catch this opportunity today!



**115 Cotton Top Lane
Pell City, AL 35125
MLS #1316212
\$399,900**

GORGEOUS! This meticulously maintained 4 bed 4 bath is a MUST SEE! As you enter the home you will instantly notice high-end features and a flowing layout. The living room has a BEAUTIFUL brick fireplace, STUNNING hardwood floors, and is open to the kitchen and dining room. The kitchen features a breakfast bar, stainless steel appliances, and granite countertops. The spacious master bedroom has a LARGE closet with plenty of storage space. The spare bedrooms are generous in size with a split design. Recent updates to the home include painting and installing an above ground pool. The kitchen opens up to the back deck, leading out to beautiful views. Parking is not limited with this home; there is a two garages on the main level and a two car garage on the basement level. This home has so much to offer and is not to be missed!



**5109 Lee Road
Pell City, AL 35128
MLS #1315155
\$224,900**

BACK ON THE MARKET!!!! This BEAUTIFUL brick 3 bed 2 bath home is a MUST SEE located in the Pine Harbor Subdivision. This home has been recently renovated with updated bathrooms, flooring, light fixtures, and much more! This home features a large living area, extra den, dining room, and lots of closet space and storage. It has a spacious flat backyard with a large deck, which is perfect for entertaining. This home is move in ready with a recently replaced roof, HVAC, and storm doors. THIS HOME WILL NOT LAST LONG!



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Broker/Owner
/Property Manager



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**130 Kendrick Mill Road
Vincent, AL**
MLS #1323197
\$475,000

3 bedrooms 2 1/2 bath plus huge bonus loft and great den in basement.



**Hamby Road
Cropwell, AL 35054**
MLS # 1323786
\$189,999

Approximately 16 acres of beautiful land with cool barn ideal for horses. This property has so much potential for horses, cows or farm of your choice. Also, would be ideal for building beautiful home site. This is such a unique property fabulous custom barn with shared water. The stalls are setup for several horses and tack room. Room for hay also. This fabulous property is in the county so many possibilities for a buyer. Must have appointment.



**Willow Lane, 9 Lots
Vincent, AL 35178**
MLS #1313391
\$126,000
(Lots Sold Separately For \$14,000 Each)
9 lots for manufactured homes or subject to covenants and restrictions. Ideal place to add a home close to lake area. Beautiful lots with lots of trees.



**71 Church Lane
Pell City, AL**
MLS # 1318268
\$89,999

Beautiful opportunity to have great manufactured home which has been added on to for more room. The home is so close to interstate and restaurants and shopping. This home have really pretty yard which backs up to woods. The big living room opens to spacious kitchen and breakfast area. Split bedrooms with spacious rooms and lots of closet space. Must see to appreciate this home. Must have appointment. Home is being sold as-is.



**39 Haven Circle, Land/
Lots, Riverside, AL 35135**
MLS #1305821
\$97,777

Pretty waterfront lot in Riverside Estates with beautiful sunset each day. The property has beautiful view of very natural area with several trees. Also, gated community boat launch. Close to the interstate. Strickly for building a home, no mobile homes according to covenants and restrictions. Also, the walk is easy to the lake. Riverside city restrictions and zoning apply on building a home and getting permitted. Waterfront is approximate since old survey. Bring all offers!!!! Subject to verification on a new survey and zoning verification by selling agent.



**36 Haven Circle,
Land/Lots 35 & 36, Riverside, AL**
MLS #1305815
\$99,000



**381 Castleberry Drive,
Lot 2
Cropwell, AL**
MLS #1320456
\$75,000

Great lot ready to build your dream home right across the street from the lake. This lots has already been setup with a concrete pad and utilities for a home with initial lines. Also, the septic has not been put in the property. The seller has pictures of the home that was going to be put on the property. Ideal for dream home so close to lake and restaurants plus marina just down 231. So much to appreciate with this opportunity to build your dream home already started. Pictures from seller is the house that was going to be built on the lot.

1 RIVERVIEW DR., CROPWELL Land/Lots MLS #854778 **\$21,000**
2 RIVERSIDE DR., CROPWELL Land/Lots MLS #892839 **\$21,000**



**3760 Logan Martin Dam Road,
Cropwell, AL 35054**
Agricultural or Commerical
MLS # 1313394
\$199,999

Beautiful acreage with manufactured home at the front of the property. The land is right behind a business so lots of potential.

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The Nicole Anderson Team

#1 ON LOGAN MARTIN LAKE



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tracysboyd@gmail.com



AMANDA PARSONS

Realtor®, Buyers Agent

205-368-6184

amanda.parsons.realtor@gmail.com

PRICE REDUCED



103 Brookshire Lane
Cropwell
3BR, 2BA
MLS# 1324037

\$215,000

LOGAN MARTIN
WATER ACCESS



60 River Oaks Lane, Cropwell
4BR, 4 BA MLS# 1311351

\$465,000

LOGAN MARTIN
UNDER CONTRACT



409 Eastland Drive
Lincoln
3BR, 3BA
MLS# 1322421

\$688,000



360 Black Acres Road
Cropwell
3BR, 2BA
MLS# 1323218

\$290,000



95 Old Roadway, Cropwell
5BR, 4.5BA MLS# 1326641

\$650,000

LOGAN MARTIN
UNDER CONTRACT



466 River Terrace Drive
Talladega
3BR, 2BA
MLS# 1313688

\$380,000

LOGAN MARTIN
SOLD



50 Cedar Cove Drive
Alpine
4BR, 3BA
MLS# 1321711

\$545,000



2013 2nd Avenue N.
Pell City
3BR, 2BA
MLS# 1326284

\$340,000

UNDER CONTRACT



3106 6th Avenue N.
Pell City
3BR, 2BA
MLS# 1326290

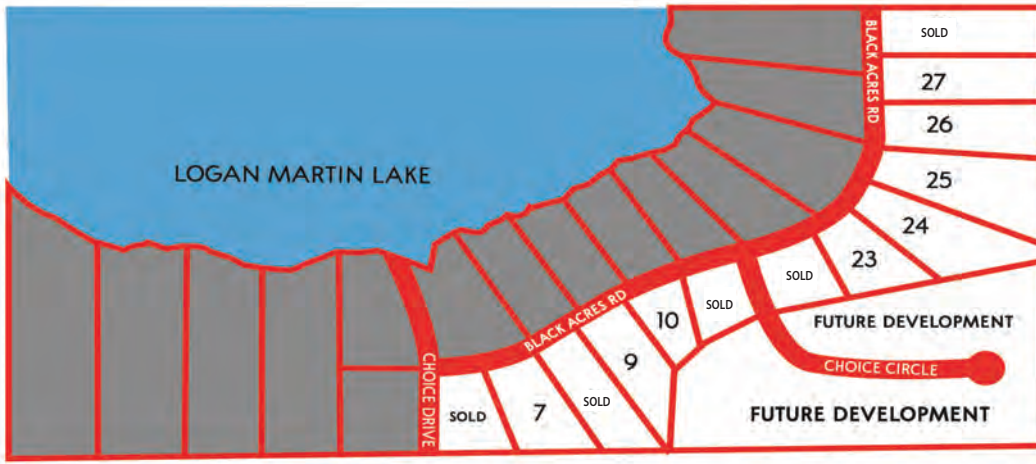
\$189,900

LOGAN MARTIN
WATER ACCESS



309 Charter Lane
Pell City
Lot #19
MLS# 1274886

\$54,900



HOMES STARTING
MID
\$200's



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UNDER CONTRACT



4029 Wellington Way
Moody
3BR, 2BA
MLS# 1326640
\$310,000

LOGAN MARTIN
PRICE REDUCED



860 River Oaks Drive, Cropwell
5BR, 3.5BA MLS# 1319471 **\$925,000**



320 Black Acres Road
Cropwell
3BR, 2BA
MLS# 1307812
\$350,000

SOLD



2515 Sebonac Road
Hoover
3BR, 3BA
1322970
\$569,000

LOGAN MARTIN



400 Riverview Drive, Cropwell
5BR, 4BA MLS# 1326645 **\$1,400,000**

LOGAN MARTIN
SOLD



540 River Terrace Drive,
Talladega
3 BR, 2 BA
MLS# 1322839
\$416,900

LOGAN MARTIN
PRICE REDUCED



2312 Annesley Drive
Pell City
3BR, 2BA
MLS# 1320375
\$165,000

LOGAN MARTIN



Mohawk Trail
Pell City
Lots #9 & #10
MLS# 1323427
\$195,000

LOGAN MARTIN
SOLD



4701 Griffitt Bend Road
Talladega
3BR, 3BA
MLS# 1320366
\$600,000

LOGAN MARTIN
PRICE REDUCED
UNDER CONTRACT



0 Davis Acres
Alpine
Lot #2A
MLS# 1311402
\$99,000

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UNDER CONTRACT



157 Overlook Ridge, Lincoln
MLS# 1322406
\$499,000

Georgious Home with a Stunning Lake View! This 4 bedroom and 3.5 bathroom home has Southern appeal and bonus spaces for entertaining or having a relaxing time with your family. The upscale subdivision also has a community pool and boat launch so you can enjoy Logan Martin Lake community! This home is a win-win in all the right categories!

PRICE REDUCED



65 Ridge Crest Ln., Trussville
MLS# 1315083
\$598,900

4 BR and 4 BA with over 10 acres and an inground swimming pool!



0 Hwy 33, Pelham
MLS# 852711
\$569,000

B2 Commercial 5.2 acres with 165 and Hwy 33 road frontage!



595 Willingham Rd., Talladega
MLS# 1312397
\$975,000

WATERFRONT Investment Opportunity/Family Dream! You can create a lucrative subdivision or campground, or you can keep these 30 acres all to yourself! Includes approx. 900 ft. of waterfront!

DEEP WATER



208 Blue Spring Rd, Cropwell AL
MLS# 1327937
\$714,900

This gorgeous and movie-in ready 3 bedroom and 2.5 bathroom all brick lakehome is perfect for those carefree lake days! Wait! Every day would be your carefree lake day! Just open the French Doors and take a few steps from your custom built deck to your private dock with covered boat lift and swim or kayak in the calming waters of the near-by slough or jump in your boat at your own deep water dock and go right out into the main waters of Logan Martin! There is also a separate garage for all your water toys and a commercial grade perimeter fencing to keep your children and pets safe. There are so many special qualities about this home that you will have to see it for yourself!



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NEW LISTING



386 LAKEVIEW CIRCLE, ALPINE, AL
4 BED | 3 BATH
DEEP WATER - PANORAMIC SUNSET VIEWS
MLS# 1311827

\$799,900

THIS MAY BE THE BEST VIEW ON LOGAN MARTIN LAKE. PANORAMIC VIEW WITH DEEP YEAR ROUND WATER. This beautiful brick home features exquisite details such as heavy crown molding, hardwood floors, gorgeous tile work, open floor plan and a gourmet kitchen. The screened in porch, grilling deck and two tiered boat house with lift and floating dock have AWESOME views of the main river channel. The abundance of windows offer the same spectacular panoramic views from the kitchen, den, master bedroom and 2nd bedroom. 2 heat pumps. Home is in the process of becoming a smart home; lighting, temp, cameras, motion detectors, Alexa Voice control,... controlled by your phone. NEW CARPET INSTALLED FIRST OF MARCH. SELLER WILL SELL FURNISHINGS SEPARATELY.



NEW LISTING



164 EVENING STAR ROAD VINCENT, AL
MLS# 1325437

\$299,900

DOUBLE WIDE, ATTACHED TWO CAR GARAGE, BRICK FOUNDATION, SCREENED IN FRONT PORCH, TWO COVERED DECKS, HOT TUB AND MORE!

REDUCED



538 WOOD RIVER LANE TALLADEGA, AL
Lakefront Property
MLS# 1313905

\$299,000

If you want the perfect affordable lake home, this is THE ONE!

There is room for everyone. This home offers an open floor plan with a living room, large den area with a wood-burning fireplace, spacious kitchen with an abundance of cabinets and island. The dining area has plenty of room for a large dining table. The master bedroom is king size and the bathroom features large tub, separate shower, walk in closet, tall double sink vanity. The second bedroom is furnished with 2 sets of bunk beds and a single (these can be purchased). It gets even better. The third bedroom is large enough for a queen size bed as well as another twin. The outside space is perfect for lake living. A large deck, half covered and half open is the perfect relaxing as well as entertaining space. The gentle sloping lot leads to year round water with a floating covered dock and a separate pier. THIS IS REALLY A BEAUTIFUL LOCATION WITH WOODED VIEWS, THE SLOUGH OPENS TO A LARGE COVE. THIS IS GREAT FOR LAKE LIFE.

423 23RD ST N, PELL CITY, AL
Commercial Property
MLS# 1307635

\$250,000

Great Investment Property: 6 Office Spaces, Conference Room, 2 Full Bath, 2 Half Bath, Full Kitchen, Utility Room, Carport Plus Parking in Front of Building. PRESENTLY RENTED. RENTERS WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE RENTING. RENTING MONTH TO MONTH NOW



978 BLUE RIVER DRIVE #10, LINCOLN, AL

Lakefront Property
MLS# 1309629

\$499,900

THIS IS A RARE FIND ON LOGAN MARTIN LAKE. ONE ACRE LOT ON YEAR ROUND WATER, 224 FT OF WATERFRONT WITH BOAT LAUNCH. ACROSS THE STREET IS 7 ACRES OF BEAUTIFUL WOODS WITH DEER AND WILDLIFE. THE ACREAGE HAS A COVERED PAVILLION THAT ONCE HOUSED A MOBILE HOME. THERE IS A SEPTIC TANK, WATER AND ELECTRICITY AT THE SITE. WATER AND POWER ARE RUN UNDER THE ROAD TO THE LAKE LOT. THIS BEAUTIFUL LAND CONSIST OF 5 PARCELS. THIS PROPERTY IS JUST MINUTES FROM THE TALLADEGA RACE TRACK, THE HONDA PLANT, THE CMP TALLADEGA MARKSMANSHIP PARK AND TOP TRAILS. TAKE A LOOK. THIS TYPE OF PROPERTY IS VERY HARD TO FIND; LAKE LOT AND ACREAGE.



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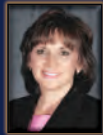
Blair Fields



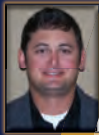
Brenda Fields



Lawrence Fields



Karen Bain



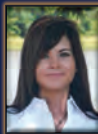
Adam Bain



Scott Fields



Carl Howard



Jacquie Owens



Jenny Frey



Tony Gossett



Carey Monistere



Jeff Gossett



Tina Stallings



Nan Morris



Sebastian White



Alesia Mitcham



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Misty Knight



Laurie Brasher



Shawn Story



Jenny Richey



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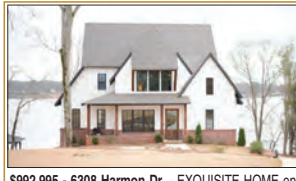
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\$629,900 - 188 Cedar Way - PRIVACY with approximately 6.3 ACRES with this 4 bedroom 3.5 bath home with open foyer that opens to the living room with fireplace and vaulted ceiling. Kitchen features leathered granite countertops, stainless appliances and pantry. The dining room overlooks the pool with custom cabinetry. Master suite features barn wood tray ceiling and an incredible master bath. MLS 1328128. Call Blair 205/812-5377



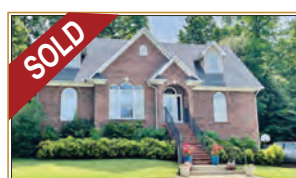
\$992,995 - 6308 Harmon Dr. - EXQUISITE HOME on Logan Martin with this 2-story 4 bedroom, 3.5 baths home that features open floor plan of the kitchen and living room with amazing views of the lake. Finished basement with 2-car garage and beautifully landscaped yard. MLS #1311722 Call Jenny Richey 256/504-1631



\$1,400,000 - 418 Charter Lane - EXQUISITE Coastal Farm House design waterfront 1.5 story home presently under construction with 4 bedroom 3.5 baths. Features on main level are the master suite, large great room with vaulted ceiling and see-thru fireplace, sunroom and study with 2nd fireplace and 3-car garage. The upstairs consists of the 3 bedrooms and 2 baths, one bedroom has private bath. Beautiful lot with great views and located in Gated Subdivision with nice comparable homes and conveniently located to town and I-20 and rare find with new construction on the lake! MLS #1321846. Call Brenda 205/812-4141 Call



\$714,900 - 208 Blue Springs Trail - GORGEOUS/and MOVE IN READY with 3 bedroom, 2.5 Bath home that features family room, dining room and separate 3 car garage and dock and perimeter fencing. MLS 1327937. Call Laurie 205/365-3639



\$318,000 - 6326 Harness Way - AMAZING 4 bedroom, 2.5 home with family room with fireplace, dining room, porch that overlooks the fenced backyard and huge double car garage that is large enough for more living space. MLS#1319158. Call Laurie 205/365-3639.



\$639,000 - 67 Treasure Island Lane - NATURE LOVER'S DREAM HOME on Logan Martin Lake has 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, Great room with fireplace, large kitchen with wrap around bar and dining area and boasts lots of cabinet space and beautiful tile countertops. The (2) upstairs bedrooms are roomy and share a double sink bathroom. Two workshops located in the basement and the yard includes mature trees and garden space. MLS #1301444 Call Tina 205/337-8509



\$488,900 - 5105 Thomason St. - SOUTHERN CHARM with this beautiful 3 bedroom, 3 bath home located in the Pine Harbor area. This classic home features two main level entrances and an open floor concept with large dining area and warm fireplace in the family room, large kitchen with ample cabinets and 8' island complete with storage and seating. Located upstairs is a large bonus room with bedroom and sitting area and bath. The double garage has custom workbench and more space in the backyard with approx. 1.5 acres. MLS #1313761 Call Shawn 205/473-6206



\$799,900 - 722 Lakeview Crest Dr. - EXQUISITE 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath home that features beautiful open floor plan with huge cathedral ceiling in living room, dining room and spacious garage. Upstairs huge playroom, office/study and two of the bedrooms. 2-car garage and located in The Reserve on Logan Martin Lake! MLS 1327779. Call Misty 205/368-9490



\$629,900 - 65 Ridge Crest Lane - BEAUTIFUL SOUTHERN STYLE 4 bedroom, 4 bath home with approximately 10 ACRES and inground pool. Home features open concept kitchen and family room on the main level as well as master suite and another bedroom. The other 2 bedrooms are located upstairs with family-playroom and downstairs has finished area complete with sleeping area and full bath, workshop/craft area along with some updating in recent years. MLS #1315083 Call Laurie 205/365-3639



\$325,000 - 538 Wood River Lane - YEAR ROUND DEEP WATER with this great view! This features 3 bedroom, 2 baths, open floor plan with living room, large den with fireplace, spacious kitchen and large dining room. The outside space has large deck, half covered and half open, gentle sloping lot with floating covered dock and separate pier. MLS #1313905 Call Karen 205/473-4613



\$230,000 - 1102 28th St. - CONVENIENT location for this attractive one level 3 bedroom, 2 bath home that features large living room with fireplace. Dining room, kitchen and breakfast area and 2-car garage. Nice level yard and very convenient to I-20 and town. MLS 1327842. Call Brenda 205/812-4141



\$249,900 - 8897 Greensport Rd. - PRIVATE and convenient to the Lake is this 3 bedroom, 2 bath home that has approx. 5.5 ACRES with a pool and fenced-in yard. MLS #1313292 Call Adam 205/369-2704



\$634,999 - 65 Ridge Crest Lane - BEAUTIFUL SOUTHERN STYLE with this 4 bedroom, 4 bath 1.5 story home that features family room with fireplace, dining room, playroom in the basement and bonus room. Large in-ground pool, patio, 2-car gar as he and located on approximately 10.450 ACRES. MLS 1315083. Call Laurie 205/365-3639



\$349,000 - 172 River Terrace Dr. - YEAR ROUND WATER with this 2 bedroom, 3 bath modular home with large open family room with gas fireplace and large sunroom overlooking the lake. Located downstairs in the daylight basement two rooms used as bedrooms, spacious bathroom, family room and kitchen with some recent updates. MLS #1311979 Call Laurie 205/365-3639



\$315,000 - 15 Morton Drive - DESIRABLE LOCATION of MORNINGSIDE is this one level all brick 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with living room with fireplace, dining room, large master suite with double vanities and two walk in closets and nice sunroom off the back. Corner, level lot with 2-car garage and great storage in the unfinished area upstairs. MLS #132604 Call Brenda 205/812-4141

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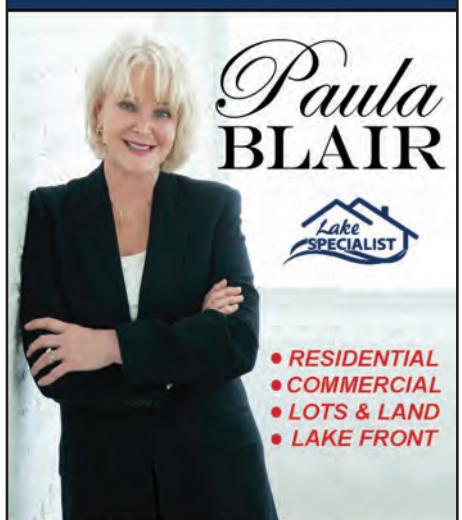
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