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Logan Martin Homes Edition
LAKESIDE
Living

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Logan Martin Lake since 1994*

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Nash gives the gift of pulp fiction

I liked Bobby Nash the second I shook his hand three years ago at the Alabama Phoenix Festival.

It was good to see the Georgia-based author again when he stopped by the lake on his way back home from a convention at which he'd signed books and spoken on panels.

"This is nice," he said as he took in the Logan Martin view. "I'd bet it's a great place to get some writing done."

"You write outside often?" I asked.

"Absolutely. I find the peace and quiet of the outdoors very relaxing. It can get gloomy in the house. Alabama and Georgia are similar in that we get only very small bits of spring and fall, so while it's still pleasant during the day, I'll go out on my screened-in porch at home and set up a table with my laptop on it in front of my swing. It'd be even better if I had a lake to look at."

Bobby sold his first story in 1992 and since then has published novels and a host of short stories and comic book scripts. He specializes in pulp fiction and is doing a fantastic job of keeping some grand old adventure characters from the 1930s and 1940s alive by introducing them to 21st Century readers.

"People sometimes ask, 'what is pulp? What does that mean?' No one has a definitive answer. It's one of those things that you can't really describe but you know it when you see it," he said. "If you've seen any of the Indiana Jones movies, those are good movie versions of pulp."

The term "pulp" is derived from the proliferous inexpensive fiction magazines published in the decades between 1890 and 1960. They were printed on cheap wood pulp paper, in contrast with the slick, glossy magazines printed on higher quality paper that

still exist today. Pulp magazines published genre fiction: westerns, science fiction, mystery, fantasy and adventure.


Some of the characters Bobby writes about include Domino Lady, a wealthy socialite who dons a mask to fight crime; Lance Star – Sky Ranger, an aviator adventurer; Rick Ruby, a 1930s-era private investigator; and The Avenger, a genius-level superhero.

Bobby's stories are fun, entertaining and effective at concealing how much work goes into them. "Most people don't realize what a lengthy, laborious process writing is," he said. "They also think that if you're a professional writer, you're rich. I hate to disillusion them."

"Because of how writers are usually depicted in media, you mean?"

"Oh, yeah. Every time you see writers in a movie or on TV, they're so rich that you never see them writing. They're sailing around on yachts or fighting crime or helping police solve mysteries."

Speaking of sailing, we won't be doing any of it in this issue of Lakeside Living. Instead, we stay on land to visit two lake area businesses that produce fantastic craftsmanship (albeit in totally different forms), and we've collected some seasonal gift ideas and recipes for you. We're also extremely thankful to Antoinette MacMurdo for decking the halls of her lake home for us so we can show you a view that has to be seen to be believed.

And if you'd like to check out Bobby's books, you can find out more about them and order copies through his website, www.bobbynash.com. "Books always make good gifts, you know," he said before leaving the lake. 

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HOOK, LINE & SINKER



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.

Fishing makes us alert, pulls us out of our thoughts and engages us in something bigger than ourselves. It's a restorative that cleanses us when we've become muddled and makes us healthy when we've become sickened. It's a brace against pessimism.

Fishing teaches us to perform small acts with care. It humbles us. It enriches our friendships. It cultivates reverence for wild things and beautiful places. It makes us participants in nature instead of spectators, a crucial distinction because participants tend to become protective, and spectators tend to become indifferent.

Anglers are people who want to get beneath the surface of things. Looking down into a lake is like looking up into the night sky. Both water and sky are filled with mysteries. When we stare deeply into them, we connect with every man and woman who has ever sensed the tugging vitality of the universe. We become part of a larger community, united by mysteries so vast that they make our differences of opinion and philosophy seem very small.

-- Jerry Dennis, *The River Home*.



December 2016

Dec 01, 2016	POOR	Evening
Dec 02, 2016	FAIR	Evening
Dec 03, 2016	GOOD	Evening
Dec 04, 2016	GOOD	Evening
Dec 05, 2016	BEST	Evening
Dec 06, 2016	BEST	Evening
Dec 07, 2016	BEST	Morning
Dec 08, 2016	POOR	Morning
Dec 09, 2016	POOR	Morning
Dec 10, 2016	GOOD	Morning
Dec 11, 2016	GOOD	Morning
Dec 12, 2016	FAIR	Morning
Dec 13, 2016	FAIR	Evening
Dec 14, 2016	BEST	Evening
Dec 15, 2016	BEST	Evening
Dec 16, 2016	FAIR	Evening
Dec 17, 2016	POOR	Evening
Dec 18, 2016	FAIR	Evening
Dec 19, 2016	FAIR	Evening
Dec 20, 2016	POOR	Morning
Dec 21, 2016	POOR	Morning
Dec 22, 2016	POOR	Morning
Dec 23, 2016	GOOD	Morning
Dec 24, 2016	GOOD	Morning
Dec 25, 2016	POOR	Morning
Dec 26, 2016	POOR	Morning
Dec 27, 2016	POOR	Morning
Dec 28, 2016	POOR	Morning
Dec 29, 2016	POOR	Evening
Dec 30, 2016	FAIR	Evening
Dec 31, 2016	FAIR	Evening

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/>

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LOOKING FOR a DIVINE HOLIDAY TREAT?



Find it at Heaven's Gold Cakes

Story by KELLI TIPTON
Photos by BOB CRISP

Tis the season for Christmas goodies, and whether you are planning an office party, making a gift list or preparing a holiday meal, Heaven's Gold Cakes and More in Childersburg can help you serve up scrumptious cakes, pies, brownies and other desserts that are sure to please everyone.

"The main flavor this time of year is red velvet. I make so

much of it, I don't even eat it anymore," said owner, baker and cake artist Chunde McKinney. "We do a cream cheese pound cake, and the banana pudding cake is very popular.

I have one called 'My Christmas Cake.' It's a layer of red velvet cake and a layer of key lime cake with a cream cheese frosting. It's delicious. I also do a peppermint chocolate cake, and of course, German chocolate is another Christmas



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A VARIETY OF HOLIDAY TREATS IS NOW AVAILABLE AT THE CHILDERSBURG BAKERY.



favorite.” Coconut, strawberry, lemon cream and vanilla buttercream cakes will also make a perfect ending to Christmas dinner.

Can't decide which fabulous flavor to serve? “We also do a variety box. It's a Christmas box with different flavors of cupcakes and cream cheese brownies,” McKinney said.

“We also do red velvet balls. It's red velvet cake on the inside, we roll it in the cream cheese icing, and roll it in the nuts. Those come in the variety box by request. The variety box is very popular, because people have guests coming over, and different people like different things.”

The smallest variety box has 15 cupcakes, and the largest has 50 cupcakes.



Office Christmas parties can be festive and hassle-free with a dessert bar. McKinney sets up a table, decorates it and puts out a variety of mini cupcakes, brownies, parfaits and chocolate covered strawberries. Sheet cakes are also a popular choice for office celebrations.

Gift certificates, she suggested, are an excellent way to show appreciation for teachers, ministers and others who help and inspire throughout the year. Or maybe a small



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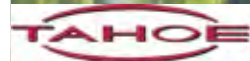


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bundt cake wrapped in a festive holiday paper and tied with ribbon is more your style.


McKinney opened her storefront cake shop in the fall of 2010, but she began baking cakes for family and friends out of her home in 2005. “My mom taught me how to bake the cream cheese pound cake. It took me three months to master it,” she said. At the time, she was a singer in a gospel band, and the band needed uniforms. “So I would make those cream cheese pound cakes and sell them to buy uniforms.”

Next, she decided to try her hand at red velvet cake. She succeeded. Then someone asked her if she could decorate cakes. She believed she could, but she had never tried. She took a class in Oxford at Hobby Lobby and learned a few techniques. “When we were learning to do roses with the frosting, I almost quit. It was so hard for me to do them,” she said with a laugh.

She read books on the subject and practiced more difficult techniques. Her persistence paid off. Today, she

decorates everything from birthday cakes to wedding cakes with confidence and style. “We all have God-given talents and abilities, and they will come out when you need them to. We just have to perfect them,” she said.

Her cakes range in price from \$3.50 for a small bunt cake to \$45.00 for a nine-inch, three-layer cake. Holiday specials include a seven-inch, double-layer cake for \$25, a dozen specialty cupcakes for \$22.50, and a six-pack of Christmas cupcakes for \$13.50. The banana pudding cupcakes, strawberry cupcakes, German chocolate cupcakes and red velvet cupcakes are customer favorites. All orders over \$60 placed and paid for before December 17 will receive a 10 percent discount.

Business hours are from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, and from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturdays. For more information, customer reviews and photos, visit the Heaven’s Gold Cakes and More Facebook page. To place an order, call 256-626-2590. 



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Find what you're looking for this Christmas at lakeside retailers



The search for the perfect holiday gifts – whether your list includes menswear, the latest in women’s fashions, jewelry or personalized presents – can often be stressful, but shopping locally with lakeside area retailers is a sure way to take the tension out of

Michael’s Mens Wear

127 Court Square West, Talladega

Hours: 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays and
9 a.m.-9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

Special Holiday Hours: 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Dec. 19-23.

Suits are what the 47-year-old business is known for, according to owner Mike Gee. “We always have a suit sale of some kind going on. Many customers come in and know they want a suit, but they don’t know exactly what they want. That’s where our customer service makes the difference. We’ll match the suit up with a shirt and the right tie. When was the last time you went to a department store and they waited on you?”

Polka dot ties are popular this season, as they have been for the past three years, Gee said, and Michael’s offers a colorful selection. “Red, black and white are

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COLLEGIATE JACKETS ARE ALWAYS POPULAR ITEMS AT MICHAEL'S.

the top sellers, but navy blue is big this year. The most important thing when you buy a suit is the tie. You want the right color and the right match.”

Offering a wide selection of shirts, shoes, denim jeans and a host of accessories, Gee considers customer service to be his store’s most important commodity.

“That’s our thing,” he said. “We want to make you happy and get you looking good. Some people just want to sell you something. I don’t. If I don’t think it looks good, I won’t sell it to you. I want you to get a compliment on what you buy here and come back to see us because you know you’ll look good when you leave.”



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Griffin's Jewelers on Battle Street offers a wide variety



SANTA CLAUS FIGURINES BY PIPKA ARE NOTED FOR THEIR INTRICATE DETAIL.

of Christmas dinnerware to dress your table for the holiday.

“Christmas Tree” by Spode is a nostalgic pattern reminiscent of simpler times. Lenox china in “Holiday” is an exquisite holly motif on soft ivory with 24-karat gold trim. Noritake’s “Palace Christmas Platinum” and “Holly and Berry” make an elegant tablescape, and Casafina’s “Deer Friends” is a fun, playful and easy-to-use collection that can be put in the microwave and cleaned in the dishwasher. Beatriz Ball is a popular line of high quality, highly polished metalware. “People really love it because you can bake, chill, and serve with it, and you never have to polish it,” said bridal consultant Connie Burrell.

Griffin's also has a great selection of collectibles. Ne'qwa hand-painted ornaments are one-of-a-kind. Elaborate detailed scenes are painted in reverse on the inside of mouth-blown glass ornaments. “The Nativity ornament is a popular one because it is a limited edition,” Burrell said. Each unique ornament comes in a protective gift box and comes with a certificate of authenticity. Pipka Santas are another popular collectible. Each Santa figurine is intricately detailed and portrays the heritage and customs of

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Alabama and Auburn fans will love showing their team pride with bracelets, earrings and necklaces. Bejeweled eyeglass holders and purse hangers also make great inexpensive gifts. "Jewelry boxes make great gifts too. We have both men and women's jewelry boxes, large and small, and we have glass topped ones for storing solar powered watches," Burrell said.



HATTIE LEE'S OFFERS MANY HOME DÉCOR GIFT ITEMS.

Hattie Lee's Boutique

2635 Martin Street South, Pell City

Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays.

Owner Joann Bain looks for "something different" when she purchases clothing, jewelry and footwear for her boutique.

Bed Stu shoes and boots are handsewn, washed and tumbled to give them a distressed look and a softer feel. They are made of natural leather, tanned using a vegetable based process, and hand finished for exceptional quality and comfortable wear. Each pair of shoes and boots is as distinct and unique as the person wearing them.

Ivy Jane is a top-of-the-line brand of women's tops and blouses with unique prints and a whimsical feel. The shirts are flattering for all shapes and sizes and can be worn with jeans for a casual look or dressed up with slacks for the office. Bain also supplies Dear John jeans, Z Supply and Habitat brands of clothing for their effortless style and breathable fabrics.

Accessories are an important part of any outfit. "I like unique and different things. I have a friend who makes jewelry, and I carry it here," Bain said. She also carries brand names like Erimish, known for their stackable bracelets made of natural stones and crystals. Erimish bracelets and necklaces can be worn alone or layered for a more dramatic look. They are great

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Christmas gifts for teens and women of all ages.

Hattie Lee's Boutique carries sizes from XS to 3X. "I am adding more plus sizes," Bain said. The spacious dressing rooms and rustic décor make shopping fun, whether you are buying something for yourself or someone else. She also offers gift cards and free gift wrapping.

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design and make a sketch of it.”

In addition to YETI products, the store also carries licensed Alabama and Auburn apparel, Carhartt jackets, Kershaw knives and Icicle sunglasses. “We have Alabama and Auburn short sleeve shirts for 40 percent off, Kershaw knives for 10 percent off, and Icicle sunglasses for \$100,” Griffin said. 

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PAUL CALDWELL WITH TWO OF HIS LARGE
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CHILDERSBURG PAYS HOMAGE

MANUFACTURER TO THE PAST

Confederate Stills of
Alabama supplies distillery
equipment coast to coast

STORY BY BUDDY ROBERTS
PHOTOS BY TUCKER WEBB

When Paul Caldwell started Confederate Stills of Alabama, he saw the venture as more than the manufacture of distillery equipment. It also

gave him an opportunity to pay tribute to his heritage.

“One of the things that got me intrigued about distillery was my great-granddaddy’s discharge papers from a prisoner of war camp in Illinois,” the Winterboro native said. “His name was Henry Jackson Davis. He was my grandmother’s daddy. I’ve been to his grave down around Alexander City. He died in 1923 or 24.”

Davis walked home from the Union internment camp, where he’d been imprisoned as a member of the

Merry Christmas from Our Family to Yours



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Wonderful Christmas
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Confederate Army's Alabama 34th Infantry.

"His function in the regiment was to make the liquor," Caldwell said. "They used white liquor, and when someone got wounded, they'd give him two or three shots of it before amputating his leg or arm. When they finished, they'd pour some of the liquor on the bandage, and that was it. He either made it, or he didn't."

Davis' legacy lives on in the hand-crafted stills and cypress fermentation tanks produced by his great-grandson's operation in Childersburg. The company's emblem is the same as that Southern soldiers wore on their belt buckles, which, according to Caldwell, is now a registered trademark of Confederate Stills of Alabama.

"I wanted to do something to honor my great-granddaddy," he said. "And our big tanks have 13 stars on them, for the stars on the Confederate flag."

Caldwell's stills and fermentation tanks have been featured on Absolutely Alabama, an episode of Shipping Wars and are used by cast members of the Moonshiners television program. The stills range in size from 100 to 250 gallons, encased in oak, cherry, walnut or Mahogany. Fermentation tanks





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CALDWELL AND HIS PRODUCTION STAFF TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN THEIR WORK AND THE BUSINESS' CONNECTION TO ITS SOUTHERN AND AMERICAN HERITAGE.

can be as small as 75 gallons and as large as 1,000 gallons.

Caldwell built his first still while he was a work control manager at Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Generating Station, eventually taking early retirement to operate Confederate Stills full-time. "Things started taking off while I was still there," he said. "I posted a photo of my first still on the Internet, and within a week, I got a call from a guy in Colorado wanting to buy it. It got much, much bigger than I ever thought it would be, and I realized that I couldn't continue to do both. So I went home and had one of those long, heartfelt prayers, asking 'Do I do this, or not?' When I went back in, I resigned and took on this challenge."

It's one that has paid off for him, and, he believes, for his customers. "What comes out of a small craft distillery is so much better than mass-produced whiskey."

Now, his stills produce liquor at distilleries from New York to California. He sees them as meeting a need in the market that opened up in the wake of the craft brewery boom that began a few years ago. Between 2012 and 2014, as many as 425 new distillery licenses were issued across the country.

"By that time," Caldwell said, "I'd already decided I was going to build a still. If you know anything about nuclear power and people who work in that field, you know that they're real



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All personalities, kind of like fighter pilots. We decide we're going to do something, and we do it."

He had been an electronics technician in the U.S. Navy before starting his 27 years at Farley, so "I was well-versed in calculus, thermodynamics, heat transfer and fluid flow. At its basics, nuclear power is all about taking fluids and turning them into steam to turn generators. Distilling is not a lot different."

Caldwell points out that no distilling actually takes place at his Childersburg operation – just manufacturing. "All we have here is equipment. No ingredients. We have none of the natural products needed to make liquor."

Asked to identify his favorite liquor, Caldwell's answer might be considered surprising.

"It used to be Dickel, but it's rare anymore for me to drink any of it," he said. "I can buy a six-pack of beer, and it will last me a month." 📌



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'Location,
location,
location'



Logan Martin couple loves lakeside living

STORY BY BUDDY ROBERTS

PHOTOS BY BOB CRISP

"Have you heard them?" Antoinette MacMurdo asked, holding up a CD of a cappella quintet Home Free's *Full of (Even More) Cheer* album. "They're wonderful. I should have them playing."

She had just finished decorating her lake home for

Christmas, reflecting that it was eight years ago this month when she and her husband Doug moved into the four-bedroom, three-bath house that boasts more than 100 feet of shoreline and a stunning panoramic view of Logan Martin Lake.

"We bought it for the location, and it looks a lot



**ANTOINETTE MACMURDO AND BAMA GIRL IN THE DEN,
BY THE FAMILY CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATED WITH MORE
THAN 1,000 ORNAMENTS.**



different now than it did then,” she said, indicating the concrete-finished parking area. “When we bought it, there was just asphalt and dirt and a dead tree there, but we saw the potential in the property right away.”

Built in 1966, the house originally contained a living room, kitchen, two bedrooms and one bath. “Over

the years, it has been transformed,” MacMurdo said, and she and her husband have put their distinctive mark on it, converting the carport into a sunroom, installing new windows and restoring the fireplace in the den. The MacMurdos recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary and, while both are originally from



THE MACMURDOS' DEN OPENS ONTO A SPACIOUS SCREENED-IN PORCH, WHICH AFFORDS A SPECTACULAR VIEW OF THE LAKE. "THE SUNRISERS HERE ARE BEAUTIFUL," ANTOINETTE SAID. "THEN THE HARVEST MOON COMES, AND THE SUPER MOON LAST MONTH WAS GORGEOUS. I WAS SITTING IN THE KITCHEN AND COULD SEE IT STRAIGHT THROUGH THE WINDOWS IN THE DEN."

Birmingham, have always loved lake living. "When we were in Frankston, Texas, we lived on Lake Palestine. When we came back to Alabama, we were going to buy either farmland or lake land, and we ended up with this."

It's easy to understand why she said they bought the property for its location. The house offers a lake view from every room, and the MacMurdos' shoreline accommodates a boathouse and a deck and floating pier that sit on 35 feet of water.

"Doug enjoys crappie fishing from the pier, and we

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A SELF-TAUGHT QUILTER, ANTOINETTE MACMURDO OFTEN PLAYS HOST TO THE FRIENDSHIP QUILTERS GUILD. EXAMPLES OF HER HANDIWORK ARE PLACED THROUGHOUT THE HOME, INCLUDING THE LIVING ROOM.

like to come out to the deck and have lunch. There’s always a slight breeze out here, and when the family comes over, we’ll use every chair out here.”

In the den, vaulted ceilings accommodate a nine-foot traditional Christmas tree that contains at least 1,500 ornaments. “There are years and years of family ornaments on this tree,” she said. “It’s a lot of work, but it’s hard not to put it up.”

The front room serves as both living room and dining room, and it contains Antoinette’s Victorian Christmas tree, decorated with angels, cameos, St. Nicholas figures, miniature

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THE MACMURDOS' COZY DEN IS ALL DECKED OUT FOR THE HOLIDAYS, INCLUDING SOME DECORATIONS WITH A NAUTICAL THEME.

teacups and vintage furniture, crosses, fluers-de-lis and a dove that has been on the tree every holiday since 1985 in honor of her grandmother. "I've always loved things that are old and ornate, and these are all special ornaments for me."

Back in the den, she looked out at the lake and recalled another thing she enjoys about lakeside living.

"The Birmingham Sailing Club will drop their bouys out here, and we get to watch them. I love sailboats and being able to sit in the den and see a large sailboat in the window. And if there's an Alabama football game on at the same time, can life get any better?" 



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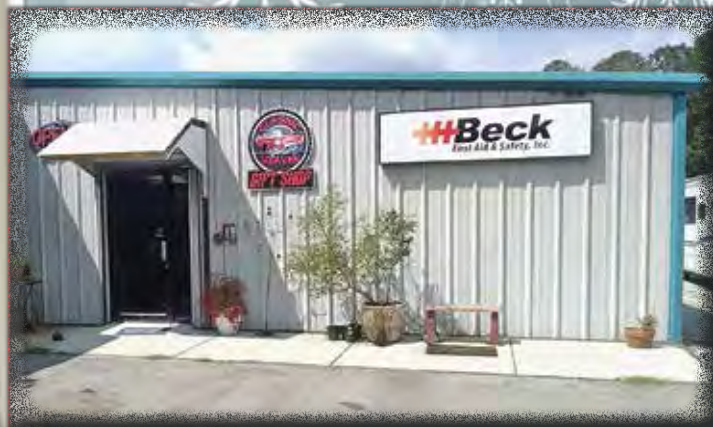
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STORY AND PHOTOS
BY JESSICA FURNISS

Christmas is without a doubt my favorite time of year. The crisp air brings hopes of snow, cozy fires and quality time spent with the ones you love.

In my adult years I have grown to love a big Christmas brunch. I enjoy preparing eggs, bacon, biscuits and fresh fruit, and of course no brunch is complete without a delightful

cocktail.

My go-to summer cocktail is a mimosa, so for Christmas, I decided to do a mimosa with a twist. The combination of cranberry and rosemary always puts me in the mood for holiday cheer. This year, as you snuggle up close to those you love, open gifts and sing carols, I hope you will enjoy sipping this cheerful holiday cocktail.

Christmas Brunch Cocktail

1 liter Champagne or Brut

½ liter organic cranberry juice

Sprigs of fresh rosemary for garnish

Fill your glasses up 2/3 of the way with the Champagne, then top off with cranberry juice. Dress it up with a sprig of rosemary.



Holiday Wreath

One tradition from my childhood that I always remember this time of year is my mother's Christmas wreath.

I remember exactly what the house smelled like as the butter and marshmallows melted, I remember the movements of her hands as she stirred in the crunchy corn cereal, I remember her eating little pieces as she shaped the wreath and most of all I remember the feeling of family. In those moments, everything was perfect.

10 ounce bag marshmallows (regular or gluten-free – I prefer gluten-free)

3 tablespoons butter (grass-fed is best)

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

10 drops green food coloring

4 cups corn cereal

1 pack Red Hots candies

Melt the butter in a large saucepan over low heat. Once the butter is melted, add all the marshmallows and stir constantly

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until they are melted.

Remove from heat and stir in the vanilla extract and food coloring until well combined. Add the corn cereal and stir until all the cereal is coated in the marshmallow mixture.

Using two spoons (if you use your hands, this stuff will stick to them like crazy), pour the mixture onto parchment paper that has been sprayed with a little gluten free non-stick spray. Form into a wreath (using the spoons). Sprinkle with the Red Hots candies.

Almond & Cranberry Crusted Goat Cheese

- 1 pack goat cheese log
- Handful salted almonds
- Handful dried cranberries

Place the handful of almonds into a freezer bag and crush with a kitchen mallet or the bottom of a glass. Add the dried cranberries to the freezer bag and shake to combine with the crushed almonds.

Pour the almonds and cranberries onto a plate. Remove



the goat cheese log from the package and roll all sides in the almonds and cranberries (you will have to press the mixture into the cheese a bit to coat the entire log).

Smear on your favorite crackers for the perfect holiday snack.

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Easy Crème Brûlée

When you think of crème brûlée, I'm sure thoughts of fancy restaurants and candlelit dinners flash through your head. We all enjoy an expensive night out with friends and family, but there is no reason to not have those same flavors at home on a Tuesday, or

on your holiday table. This recipe uses only three ingredients! It is quick to make and tastes delightful.

1 pack organic vanilla pudding mix

2 cups almond milk

1 cup coconut sugar

1 pack raspberries (optional garnish)

Mix pudding mix and 2 cups of almond milk together until creamy. Pour into a glass pie pan or shallow brownie pan. Chill for 30 minutes to 1 hour.

Preheat oven to high broil. Remove pudding from the refrigerator and sprinkle 1/4 cup sugar evenly on top. Broil on high for 9-12 minutes until the sugar is bubbling.

Remove from oven and allow to cool on the stove. Chill for an hour and then serve. I enjoy mine with fresh raspberries. While this recipe will not provide the solid crust of a traditional crème brûlée, it will give you all the classic flavor you love.

Jessica Furniss is a certified fitness professional, food blogger, creative recipe developer and authority on clean eating. Visit her website, Spiffy Eats & Giggle Water, at www.spiffyeats.com.

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Meet Me by the



Alice
von Valor

STORY AND PHOTO
BY BUDDY ROBERTS

Holiday traditions are important to Alice von Valor.

“One of my favorites is making Christmas cookies – homemade sugar cookies and homemade icing – using my grandmother’s recipe,” she said. “It’s also gotten to be a thing to where the kids always hang candy canes on our tree. To me, candy canes are a real vintage treasure every Christmas.”

Von Valor appreciates all things vintage, especially the style fashion of the early decades of the past century, and having spent much of her life in Sylacauga and Childersburg, she also loves Logan Martin Lake and spent a recent balmy morning on the banks of the Coosa River, discussing the water, the holidays and the organization she’s proud to be a part of.

About Birmingham Pinups: “We are a community of like-minded individuals who enjoy the pinup and rockabilly





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culture which is influenced by the 1940s and 1950s music, clothing, cars and overall way of life. We're conservative and family-friendly, and we pride ourselves on being strong women of the community who exemplify southern charm, style and class. Our organization is dedicated to working with local charities and non-profit organizations in Birmingham and surrounding areas to help raise awareness for their specific need or cause."

Some examples: "Not long ago, we worked with Three Hots and a Cot to help veterans who need help with work, housing addiction, as well as many other issues that are unfortunately very common with retired veterans. We've also raised money for animal rescue efforts and the Southern Museum of Flight's Mary Alice Beatty Scholarship, which is awarded to women pursuing careers in aviation or aerospace technology. We're constantly looking for events to be a part of and fund raising opportunities to benefit worthy organizations, especially those involved with historical preservation."

For more information about joining or

working with Birmingham Pinups: "You can visit our website (www.birminghampinups.com) or email me or our founder and president, Melissa Shannon, at birminghampinups@gmail.com. We're also on Facebook and Instagram."

Her appreciation for vintage fashion:

"The older I get, the more appropriate the styles of the Forties and Fifties seem for me. My grandparents were of that era. My grandfather was a soldier in the Army, and my grandmother wore the fashions and all those great hairstyles. With the state of the world being what it is, there's something about reflecting back to a time that seems more elegant than ours."

About Logan Martin: "We usually spend a week camping out on the lake, but we didn't get to this year. I love being by the water."

More of her favorite holiday things: "Of course, no Christmas is complete in my house until It's a Wonderful Life has been watched again. Hats, scarves and sweaters are my favorite accessories during the holiday season." 📌

*To me,
candy
canes are a
real vintage
treasure every
Christmas."*



An advertisement for Confederate Stills of Alabama. The image shows several large wooden barrels and a still apparatus. The text includes the company name, a circular logo with "BETTER BOURBON HAND MADE IN THE USA BORN IN CYPRESS", a phone number (334) 648-5672, and the website confederatestills.com. The phrase "YOUR START-UP CONSULTANT" is written at the bottom left. A vertical number "0002312491" is on the right edge.

DECEMBER calendar of events



LAKESIDE AREA CHRISTMAS PARADES

Pell City: "Sailing into Christmas" begins at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8, on Cogswell Avenue. Rod Goode will serve as grand marshal.

Talladega: The annual parade begins at 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 5, at Battle Street and the square.

Lincoln: Festivities begin at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, on Magnolia Street. The parade will be followed by a tree lighting ceremony at Randolph Park.

Sylacauga: "Star Spangled Christmas" begins at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, on North Broadway.

Childersburg: "Christmas Past, Present and Future" begins at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8, on First Street. Bobbie Reynolds will serve as grand marshal.

SATURDAY 3rd

LIGHTS IN THE PARK

Sponsored by the Pell City Parks & Recreation Department, the annual festival of lights returns to Lakeside Park, through Dec. 31. As in past years, thousands of spectators are expected to drive through the park to view the holiday-themed displays.

MONDAY 5th

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

The Ritz Theatre in Talladega plays host to Charles Dickens' holiday classic, presented by an acclaimed national touring company. The production stars 40-year theater veteran Scott H. Severance as Ebenezer Scrooge and includes 26 traditional Christmas carols. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$12 for students. To purchase tickets, call 256-315-0000.

FRIDAY - SUNDAY 9th - 11th

CHRISTMAS ON THE SQUARE

The city of Talladega plays host to this festive holiday community event at the historic town square. Carolers, Santa Claus, pop-up shops, food vendors, crafts and activities for children, Christmas decorations and trees for sale will be available. Hours are 6-9 p.m. Dec. 9, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Dec. 10 and noon-6 p.m. Dec. 11.

TUESDAY 13th

HERITAGE HALL HOLIDAY MARKET

The Talladega museum plays host to the emporium of items created by local artists. Hand-woven baskets, pottery, handmade dolls, homemade jellies and jams, jewelry, paintings, holiday ornaments, soaps and other gift items will be available. The market is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and 1-4 p.m. Sundays through Dec. 23.



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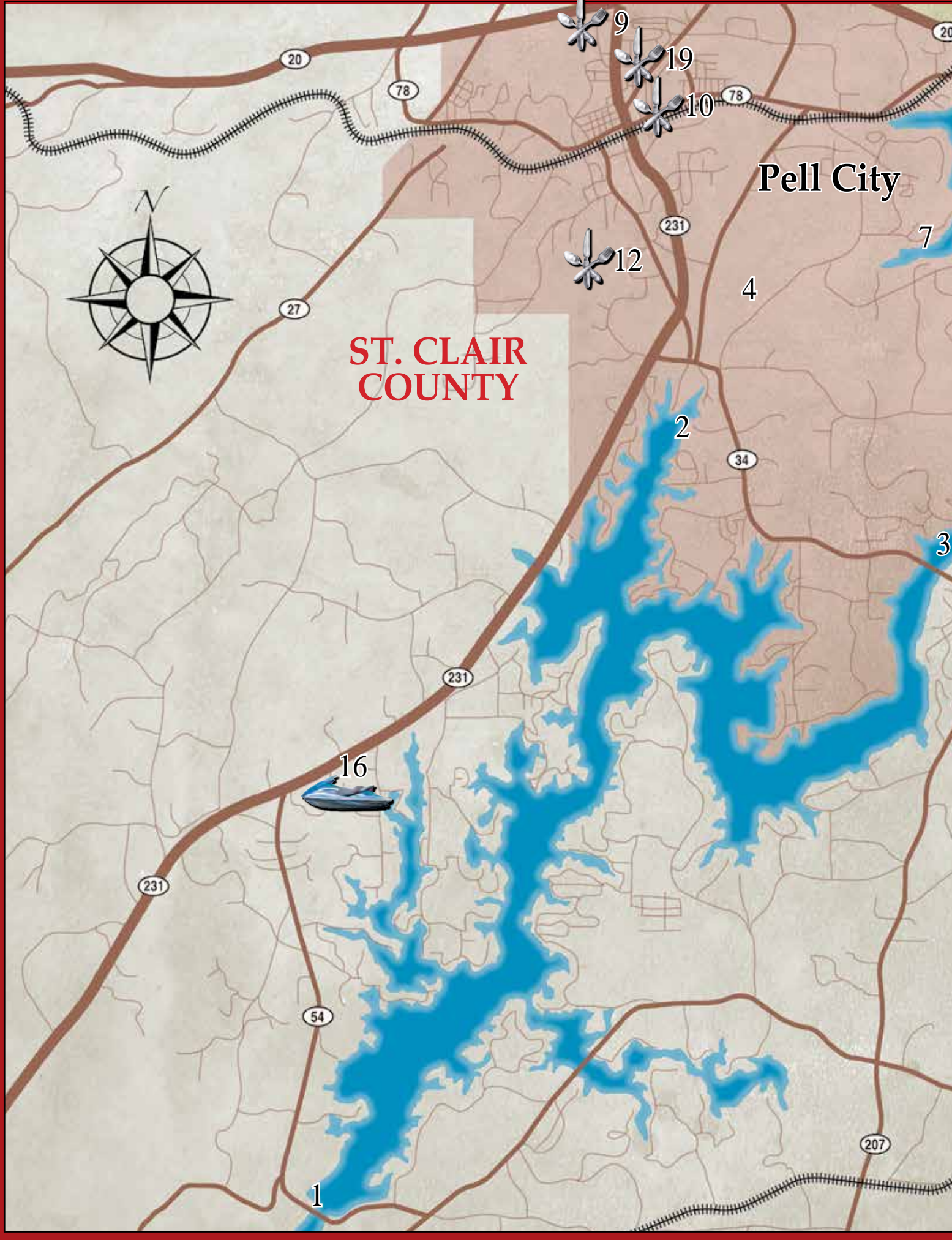
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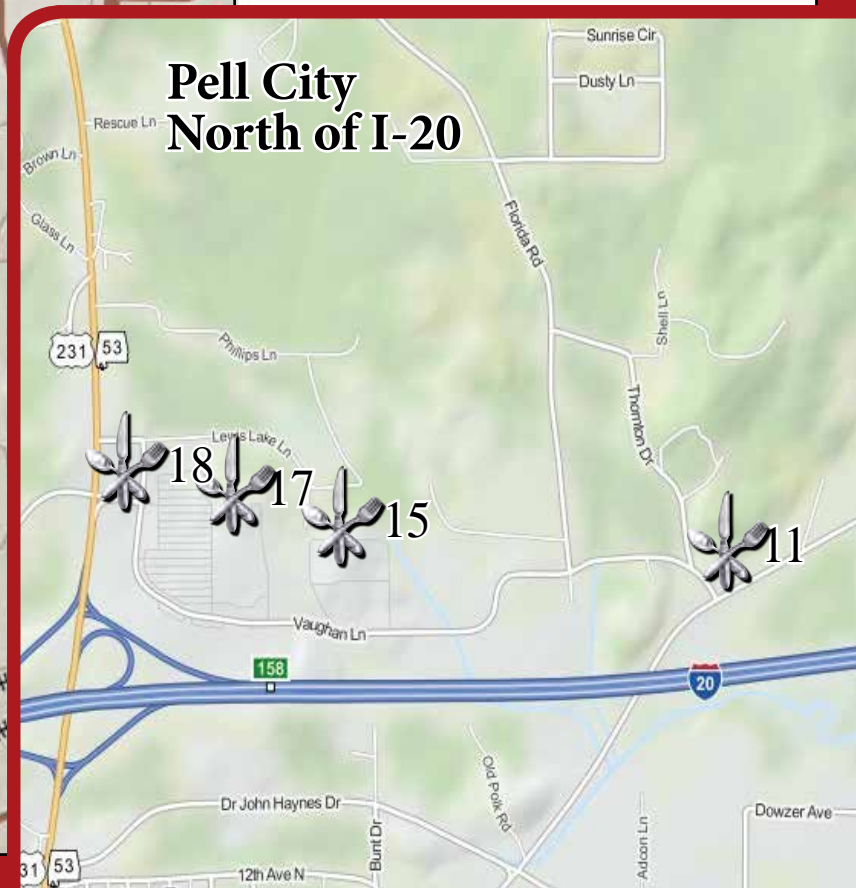
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A Lakeside Living guide to **LOGAN MARTIN**

1. Logan Martin Dam
2. Lakeside Park
3. Stemley Bridge
4. St. Clair Airport
5. Mays Bend
6. Choccolocco Creek
7. Dye Creek
8. Blue Eye Creek
9. KFC
10. Pell City Steak House
11. Big Deddy's
12. Guadalajara Mexican
13. The Ark
14. Poor House Branch Marina
15. Aztecas
16. Advanced Watercraft
17. Jade East
18. Golden Rule BBQ
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Move-in ready Mays Bend home offers both lake and mountain views

PHOTOS SUBMITTED



STORY BY BUDDY ROBERTS

The property at 67 Mays Bend Circle in Pell City is ideal for buyers seeking a home in which they can fully appreciate the scenery of Logan Martin Lake.


The four-bedroom, three-bath house offers large covered porches, and its Peachtree windows and French doors offer a lake view from every room. “Whether you are spending time enjoying the sunsets or strolling down the gentle slope to the 120 feet of shoreline, this property is sure to provide years of fun for you, family and friends,” said Dana Ellison of LAH Real Estate.

Built in 2008, the home features a master suite with Jacuzzi tub and separate shower, a second bedroom and bathroom on the main level, a den, a kitchen with maple cabinets, white

appliances, breakfast bar and pantry and a laundry room. The two upstairs bedrooms offer ample storage space and share a bathroom with double vanities.

Interior amenities include central vacuum, recess lighting, beaded wood ceilings on the main level, ceiling fans, double-paned windows, and hardwood flooring.

Exterior features include brick siding, a private dock, seawall, and circular driveway. The 24x40 three-car garage offers plenty of parking and storage space, with a utility sink, attic space and 220 amp outlets.

The property lists at \$419,900. For more information, call Ellison at 205-870-8580. 

'More bang for your buck'

Donna Haynes praises lake properties in Talladega, St. Clair counties

STORY BY LACI BRASWELL

For Donna Haynes of ERA King Real Estate, the journey to starting her career as an agent wasn't a direct one.

"I grew up around the real estate business and it was something I always thought about pursuing," she said. "Both of my brothers-in-law worked for Thomas Realty in Etowah County for many years."

Haynes first received her real estate license in 1975 but soon found that life had other plans for her.

After being elected president of ALFA Insurance, her father relocated to Montgomery. "He owned a farm in Talladega County and offered it to my husband and me, if we would keep it up properly." So, for several years, she worked as a stay-at-home-mom, living on the farm and putting her hopes for a real estate career on hold.

Eventually she started a pet grooming business from the farm, but it wasn't until 2012 that she decided to officially enter the real estate business.

"I really wanted to give it a try after my daughter enrolled at the University of Alabama. Plus, I was getting tired of being bitten by the animals with my grooming business."



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Haynes describes herself as a strong woman of faith, and prayer helped her make the decision to start a new career. "It wasn't an immediate decision. I prayed for God to open the door for me if this was something he wanted me to do."


At first, her new career path was challenging. "I didn't make a single sale for several months. It was a bit discouraging, but I didn't give up, and my first two deals ended up being priced at half a million and a million dollars."

When asked what is appealing about lakefront property, Haynes attributed it to location. "Talladega and St. Clair counties are fortunate to be so close to I-20. They are close to many resources, but still able

to find a nice escape."

She also said that the price of lake property in Talladega and St. Clair counties is more reasonable than those elsewhere. "Our area is also very reasonably priced compared to other lake communities, such as Lake Martin in Montgomery. You're able to get more bang for your buck here."

Haynes believes that her farming experience has proven to be an asset when dealing with potential clients.

"I'm able to help give people direction on what they can do with the land on their property. I'm also able to help potential clients find property to fit their specific needs, like farming." 

Christmas Blessings

from Our Families to Yours
this Holiday Season!

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6



Lyman Lovejoy, Shawn Lovejoy, Brian Camp, Joyce Logan, Chad Camp, Micshelle DeWitt, Terry DeWitt and Debra Pike



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655 River Forest Ln., Talladega.
 3br, 1 ba located on 2 waterfront lots.

MLS# 753871 **\$159,500**



6600 Riviere Dr., Pell City. 6br, 4full/1half ba. Covered pier and detached garage.

MLS# 755797 **\$440,000**



158 River Terrace Drive, Talladega. 3br, 2 ba. Gated community.

MLS# 763950 **\$85,000**



184 Margaret Ln., Lincoln. 3br, 2ba, year round water with 2 piers.

MLS# 764993 **\$169,500**



100 Lagoon Lane, Cropwell. 2br, 2ba duplex, completely remodeled.

MLS# 759785 **\$89,900**



450 Burns Rd., Vincent. 5 br, 2 ba. Over 1 acre and almost 2500 sq ft.

MLS# 742584 **\$177,500**



2900 Griffitt Bend Rd., Talladega. 4 br, 3full/1half ba. 1900 sq ft on main/1210 sq basement.

MLS# 751247 **\$445,000**



1685 Shelton Shores, Lincoln. 3br, 2ba, Great views on a wooded lot.

MLS# 741265 **\$234,900**



84 River Terrace Dr., Talladega. 2br, 2ba. Lot size 39, 204 sq ft.

MLS# 757611 **\$265,000**



501 Lakefront Drive, Talladega. 2br, 2ba like new home across from Logan Martin Lake.

MLS#759174 **\$130,000**



409 Shelton Shores Dr., Lincoln. 3br, 2full/1half ba on year round water.

MLS# 752239 **\$310,000**



65 Bull Dog Cir., Cropwell. 4br, 4full/1half ba. Situated on 1 acre.

MLS# 754803 **\$669,500**



350 Lomar Drive, Lincoln. 4br, 2ba on water with a pool and an island with bridge.

MLS# 757129 **\$429,000**



74 Mays Bend Cir., Pell City. 4br, 3full/1half ba. Flat lot on a point lot with 2.50 acres.

MLS# 755171 **\$1, 500,000**



101 E Winds Drive, Alpine. 5br, 3ba 2 story brick home on flat lot.

MLS#767333 **\$399,900**



1109 Lake Ridge Lane, Talladega. 5br, 4ba move in ready with great views.

MLS# 758684 **\$399,900**



518 Cove Point Drive, Riverside. 3br, 2ba brick home with mature fruit trees.

MLS# 758285 **\$359,500**



550 Blue River Drive, Lincoln. 4br, 3ba home on up tp 6 acres with water view.

MLS# 748638 **\$350,000**



60 Bayview Drive, Lincoln. 3br,2ba. Recessed lighting and crown molding .

MLS# 761276 **\$55,000**

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475 RIVER FOREST LN., TALLADEGA, \$172,900 2 br, 2 ba, Condo. No maintenance just move in and enjoy the lake. You will love the community pool, beach, boat launch, dock, playground and grilling stations. Beautiful kitchen with custom cabinets, granite counter tops that over looks into the great room. The master features a garden tub and separate shower, double vanity. Covered deck MLS 761110



503 LINDY CIR., PELL CITY, \$339,000. 3 br, 2 ba. Great room has a brick fireplace, Tray ceiling with lighting. Formal dining room with unique ceiling design plus eat in space in the kitchen. Master bedroom opens onto a covered and open deck over looking Logan Martin lake. Two car garage with pull down stairs to the attic. Large level lot. 1 acre with its on personal pier. Roof and windows three years old. The seller is offering a carpet allowance to the buyer. MLS #: 751485



922 COMER AVE, PELL CITY \$89,900. This property is a commercial building on main street. The building has been updated with new sheet-rock, new electrical and new Train heat and air system. The building has a big storage area in the back with a roll up door. There is parking on the side street and back of the building. MLS 734189



DOVE COVE \$299,900. 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



2307 FRAIM DR., PELL CITY 199,900.00. Pine Harbor with a beautiful sunset. two bedrooms and 2 full baths, double car carport, screen porch, pier, community pool, sprinkler system, new hvac, new roof, storm shelter-chair lift and some furniture can be bought separately. MLS# 753181.



7145 SKYLINE DR, PELL CITY, \$368,500. 6BR, 3 BA Screen porch, pool, side patio and hot tub. Sits on approximately 1.9 acre, large level lot. Approximately 121 feet shore line with concrete seawall and pier. Subdivision has a boat launch. Wood vaulted ceiling with beams in the great room and kitchen area. Kitchen is open to the great room with a view of the lake. Metal Roof. In ground pool completely fenced. Handicap accessible ramp. Workshop and metal building. Updates needed. MLS# 760884



334 CANE CREEK DR, PELL CITY - 3 BR/3 BA. - \$98,000. Walk in closets, fireplace, abundance of cabinet space and pantry in the kitchen. This home has a storm shelter and playground that is equipped with a pirates ship jungle gym. Also offers a large library with full Bath. FHA approved for loan. MLS #763289



3215 DR JOHN HAYNES DR, PELL CITY \$220,000. Two 75x150 lots. There's a 31 unit warehouse. Several different sizes. The other lot is vacant and fenced. The proers als comes with a 2006 Chevrolet roll back wrecker. MLS# 726742



PARADISE ISLE Unit 112, RIVERSIDE - \$174,800. 2 Br, 2 Full Bathrooms. Paradise isle is perfect lake living. No outside maintenance for the home owner. Paradise is only seconds away from I-20. This unit is on the main channel with a forever view. Paradise isle features two pools, tennis courts, boat launch, grilling area, playground area, basketball court, boat parking. The owner of this unit has paid the fee to have a new pier built. Screen porch. This unit has a fireplace in the greatroom. Eat up bar in the kitchen plus a dining area MLS# 736388



36 CEDAR POINT, LINCOLN - \$196,900 Water access, 3 bed, 3 bath, 2 dens, fireplace, storage, double car garage fenced back yard. # 568506.



7725 AL HIGHWAY 144, RAGLAND \$620,000. 4 beds 4 baths 3,265 sqft. Farm house on 93 acres, has dog trot for nostalgia but completely updated. 2 dens with fireplaces, formal dining room, big eat in kitchen with island, study and laundry. Hardwood, tile and carpet floors. Screen porch and country front porch. 3 car garage with storage. 3 barns, one with 5 stalls, tack room and feed room, 3 storage buildings. Property fenced and crossed fenced. Beautiful pond. 3 heat and air systems. MLS #752344

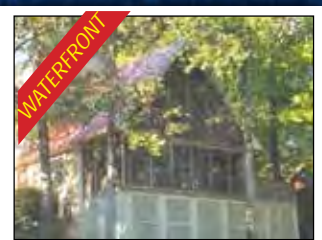


140 GUY DR, LINCOLN , 175,000.00. New Construction, three bedrooms, 2 baths, Open floor plan, eat up bar, granite counter tops, hardwood floors, tile bath, large laundry, double garage mls 766714.



125 OAK LEAF, PELL CITY 209,000.00, four bedrooms and 2.5 bath. formal dining room plus eat in space in the kitchen, great room with fireplace, upstairs den, patio, gas cooktop mls 766471.

403 EUREKA RD, LINCOLN, \$298,000 3 BR 2BA. The front of the house is a wall of windows looking into your screen porch over looking Logan Martin Lake. Over one acre leading to your boat house with lift and water. Great room has a beautiful stone fireplace. Kitchen has eat in space also breakfast bar. Sitting area has a wall of bookshelves. Master bedroom has room for a sitting area. Large closets in the bedrooms. Air conditioned workshop. MLS# 761750



- 1355 COUNTY ROAD 42, STEELE \$154,800 - 33 acres MLS# 619571
- TWO EAGLE POINTE LOTS, \$14,900 MLS #76033 AND MLS #760336
- MAYS BEND, LOGAN MARTIN LAKE POINT LOT - \$165,000

- COTTON TOP FARMS, 4 LOTS. \$15,000
- LAKE LOT - RIVERSIDE \$75,000
- MAYS BEND, LAKE VIEW \$45,000 MLS 766725



Merry Christmas

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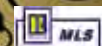


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CROPWELL \$369,000. Nice 3BR/2BA on Logan Martin. Approx 3 acres and 60 ft of waterfront. Huge fenced lot, detached garage and covered RV carport. Nice open living, dining and kitchen with hardwood floors. Screened in porch, basement and deck. MLS#760694



CROPWELL \$389,000. Spacious 3BR/3BA Lake home on 4.6 acres in nice Subdivision. 2 wood burning FPs, basement, garage, 2 storage buildings. MLS#741214



PELL CITY \$189,000. Great Waterfront lot in Pine Harbor, nice neighborhood, has existing boathouse. MLS#603599



TALLADEGA \$415,000. Amazing waterfront and view with this 3BR/2BA brick home with deck, patio and screened porch. Nice interior with hardwoods, fireplace. Bonus stubbed room in attic, wired & plumbed daylight basement & rec room. MLS#754459



PELL CITY \$295,000. Approx 5.3 flat wooded acres & 300 ft of waterfront on Logan Martin. Great place to build or subdivide. Nice MH with front porch overlooking lake. MLS#633317



LINCOLN \$419,000. Beautiful 3BR/2BA on approx. 4 acres. 3 car garage, gorgeous salt water pool & patio. 32x42 brick 2 car gar/workshop with floored upstairs, plus detached office/man cave with heat/air. Newly remodeled Kitchen with granite, stainless apps, large island, formal dining. Spacious den with gas FP and custom cabinets. MLS#761267

CROPWELL \$559,000. LOVELY 3BR/2.5BA WITH AWESOME LAKE VIEW ON GORGEOUS LEVEL LOT IN RIVER OAKS. CABANA, GREAT POOL, FENCED AREA, PIER. GREAT ROOM OVERLOOKING FANTASTIC VIEW OF LAKE, STACKED STONE FIREPLACE. SEPARATE OFFICE & LAUNDRY ON MAIN LEVEL. UPSTAIRS HAS 2 BED-ROOMS PLUS A LARGE BONUS ROOM. MLS#738166



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