Logan Martin Homes Edition

Magazine

Toughman Alabama

Triathlon event comes to Pell City

Best In State Pell City prep

anglers make waves on water

Family Affair

O'Neals enjoying home on lake











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Community Calendar



Wednesday, Sept. 3 St. Clair County Farmers Market 2404 Forrest Lane at U.S. 231 N., Pell City; 2-5:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Sept. 17

Saturday, Sept. 6 Breakfast fundraiser

Southern-style breakfast at Stemley Volunteer Fire Department, off Stemley Bridge Road at 125 Rock Church Road, across from The Shack Barbecue, Talladega; 7-10 a.m.

Sunday, Sept. 14 Bass tournament

Sylacauga Marine and ATV presents the 11th annual Tracker-Nitro Big Bucks Buddy Trail, safe daylight to 3 p.m. from Clear Creek Marina. Exclusive advance to Bassmaster Classic. For registration information, call Sylacauga Marine and ATV at 866-354-2628.



Saturday, Sept. 20 Logan Martin Woodcarvers

Group meets at 9 a.m. at the Pell City Recreation Center. Open to anyone interested in the art of woodcarving. Meetings are free. For more information, call Marvin Little at 205-338-7299.

Friday, Sept. 26 Fourth Friday

Live music, food, fun and games for the family, fourth Friday of each month, March through December; downtown Pell City, 5:30-8 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 27 A Magical Evening at CEPA

The Pell City Center for Education and Performing Arts, Jack's and the Magic City Magic Club will present A Magical Evening, a wonderful night of entertainment for the whole family starting at 7 p.m. On one evening, nine magicians will perform feats of close-up magic and grand illusion, so come see if you can catch the trick. The evening will actually start at 6:30 p.m. when several members of the Magic City Magic Club will perform magic in the CEPA lobby. Tickets will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 8 and seniors over 62. To buy tickets visit http://www.pellcitycenter. com/.

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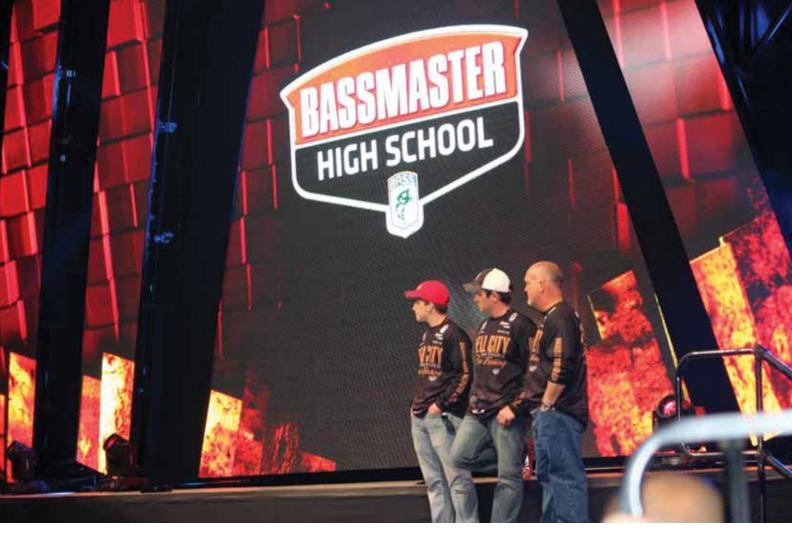
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Bass Fishing Goes to School

Young Pell City anglers leading sport's rise in popularity among Alabama high school ranks

Stoy by LEW GILLILAND Ph & Shn itted

Zeke Gossett helped make a little history four years ago. The Pell City High School student was part of the first two-person boat to hit the water in the inaugural Alabama Student Angler Bass Fishing Association tournament.

"That was a cold February morning on Wheeler Lake," said Gossett, now a senior. "I can't remember how we did, but it was just awesome to be able to say that's something I did."

Gossett and his fellow anglers on the Pell City Panthers Bass Fishing Team have continued pressing forward since that day, making their presence felt on several high school tournament trails.

The Panthers are coming off a memorable 2013-14

season that included an ASABFA state championship. Final standings were determined by the combined catch of each school's top three boats.

"It was awesome," Gossett said. "It was our first big team win. Everybody on the team did well. We knew we had the team to do it, and we finally got it done. It was not only big for the team but for the town of Pell City."

The Pell City squad is part of a sport that is growing in popularity statewide.

Fifteen boats competed in the first ASABFA tournament four years ago, said Curtis Gossett, Zeke's father and head coach for the Panthers. Now, those events average 200 boats and more than 90 teams compete, he said.



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"Everybody knows about fishing in the South, especially in Alabama," Zeke Gossett said. "Everybody does it, but they never had anything at the high school level. Now, the high school teams are exploding. We're lucky enough to be able to do it and be one of the first ever in high school to have a bass fishing team."

Anglers compete two to a boat. Each boat also has an adult who serves as the captain. The captain drives the boat and is allowed to assist in various ways depending on the tournament trail, but is never allowed to fish.

Pell City had 15 anglers on its 2013-14 roster, including eight who competed. The other seven were younger students.

The eight who competed are all back for 2014-15. The four pairs include seniors Zeke Gossett and Hayden Bartee, seniors Bre Wyatt and Joseph Lacy, juniors Hunter Shell and Ryan Parks and juniors Ean Davis and Chris Masters.

In addition to the ASABFA, Pell City



Hayden Bartee (left) and Zeke Gossett are among the most decorated anglers on the Pell City Panthers Bass Fishing Team.

also competes on the Airport Marine High School Trail, the Sylacauga High School Team Trail, the Alabama B.A.S.S. National High School Trail and the Southern Slam High School Trail. Pell City has also been part of



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Members of the Pell City Panthers Bass Fishing Team include (front row, from left) Ean Davis, Chris Masters, Zeke Gossett, Hayden Bartee, Joseph Lacy and Bre Wyatt. In back are Hunter Shell and Ryan Parks.

Hayden High School Fall Challenge tournaments and the FLW High School State Championship Tournament.

Curtis Gossett said different factors attract different students to the sport.

"My son is a nine-time Alabama junior champion. He's a student of the sport. When he's not fishing, he's on the Internet reading about it," Gossett said. "My core group has parents who are outdoorsmen, and they're following in their footsteps, but that's not all of it.

"Technology is a big part of it. [It] is pulling some of those people who like technology and want to put technology to work in the outdoors.

"Fishing does not discriminate. It's a sport that anyone can enjoy and do. It doesn't depend on your size. It doesn't matter if you're male or female. One of my best fishermen is a young lady. Some of the kids who don't fit the mold of football, basketball and baseball stars, they see a chance to be part of a team."

Bartee said the desire to belong probably attracts some students.

"I like being part of a team, and I like working with people I can get along with," he said. "Zeke and I have been on the fishing team since I was in eighth grade. I think that has a lot to do with it - people wanting to

belong to something."

Zeke Gossett and Bartee are among the team's most decorated anglers.

The duo won the first B.A.S.S. Alabama state high school tournament last November, earning an invitation to the B.A.S.S Southern Divisional at Lake Eufaula, where they won again, defeating the other Southern state champions.

Bartee and Gossett also finished fourth at the B.A.S.S. High School Nation Championship in Tennessee, moving up six spots from 10th on the event's final day.

Winning the state tournament also earned the duo an invitation to compete in the B.A.S.S. Bassmaster Classic High School Exhibition on Lay Lake, where they captured third. Bartee and Gossett were one of only 10 teams that earned a spot in the exhibition.

Bartee said hard work is a big reason for the duo's success.

"You need to find you a good partner who you get along with," Bartee said. "It's turned into more of a friendship and not just a partnership. We're out there fishing three quarters of the year, and it helps to have supportive parents who know what they're doing. We read a lot. There's a lot to pre-fishing a tournament."



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From left, Pell City coach Chad Gossett, his son Zeke and teammate Hayden Bartee at the B.A.S.S. Southern Divisional. Zeke and Hayden won the high school portion of the competition.

Said Gossett, "Hayden and I work hard, but the most important thing is I know I'm blessed. He's [Jesus] done everything for me."

Curtis Gossett said more goes into competitive fishing than many people probably realize.

He said his anglers spend three or four hours preparing before each tournament, and that's only the beginning.

"They get up at 2 or 3 o'clock and then drive to where they fish and fish until 3 o'clock," he said. "They stand out there in the heat for eight hours. A lot of them do not sit down. It's physically grueling. It's also physically grueling on the team captain, who sits in the front of the boat all day."

The sport is physically challenging enough that B.A.S.S. now mandates that student anglers participating in its tournaments take a 15-minute "halftime" break in which they sit down, hydrate and don't fish.

Competitive fishing is also expensive. Most of the boats are parent-owned and maintained. Gossett said the team holds fundraising events in an attempt to cover other expenses.

"We do a great job fundraising," he said. "I have an assistant that helps with that. Mitch Bartee (Hayden's father), he is just an excellent fundraiser. We hate having to do it, but to be able to finance what we do, we have to.

"We have been blessed to have companies around

the town to help us out. We also did a big fundraiser at Walmart where we sold T-shirts and just asked people for donations, and it was big success."

The funds raised help power the team, but can pay off in other ways as well.

High school anglers sometimes fish for more than pride as some trails offer scholarships as prizes.

For example, Zeke Gossett and Hayden Bartee have won \$6,900 in scholarships from the Airport Marine Trail, and both claimed \$750 scholarships from the B.A.S.S. national tournament. They also earned a \$1,000 scholarship for winning the ASABFA regional tournament on Lake Eufaula.

But, of course, the payoff can't always be measured in dollars and cents. For some, just participating will launch them into a sport they'll enjoy the rest of their lives, whether on a competitive or recreational level.

Gossett and Bartee have both thought about turning pro someday.

"I have a very big interest in fishing in college and maybe even (going) further," Bartee said.

Said Gossett, "Definitely college is the next part of my life. I definitely want to get a good degree. I want to fish on a college team. After that, maybe try to take this fishing thing to the next level."





Competitors prepare for the 1.2-mile swimming portion of the Toughman Alabama triathlon, which unfolded recently in Pell City.

Toughman Alabama Triumph Success of triathlon event may lead to bigger, better things to come for Pell City

Stoy by SHANE DUNAWAY Phob BOB CRISP

Logan Martin Lake plays host to a wide variety of sports and leisure activities, from boaters and jet skiers to the fishermen who flock to the lake for Bassmasters fishing tournaments.

After the Toughman Alabama triathlon held Aug. 16 at Lakeside Park and the surrounding area, Pell City can add extreme fitness events to the list.

More than 350 competitors from 16 states took on the challenge of a 1.2-mile swim, a 56-mile bike ride and a 13.1-mile run at a price of \$150 to \$225 per person, depending on how early they chose to register for the event.

Erica Grieve, former executive director of the Pell City

Chamber of Commerce, said the race took nearly a full year of planning and coordination with Toughman and race management company Team Magic, a company Grieve partnered with in the summer of 2013 for a racing event.

"We started last year with the cross race, which was a bike race, with this management company, just to see how it would go," Grieve said. "People loved it. They had around 200 racers for it, so we wanted to bring in something bigger and actually use the lake. It's something we've never tried before."

Therese Bynum, founder and co-owner of Team Magic, discussed how the success of the cycle cross race, her

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Competitors exit the water following the 1.2-mile swim at Logan Martin Lake

familiarity with the local area and the quick sellout of the upcoming Chattanooga (Tennessee) Ironman competition, scheduled for Sept. 28, prompted the push for a larger-scale fitness event.

"I actually grew up in Pell City on the lake," Bynum said. "Ofes Forman had called me and asked if we would put on a triathlon. Last year, we did the cycle cross race just for us to meet with the city and see how we worked together. Chattanooga announced its race, and after that, I called Ofes and said 'We didn't want to just have a triathlon. We want a half-Ironman, and it's going to be a Toughman.""

Competitors began their morning in the waters of Lake Logan Martin before transitioning to their bicycles to begin the longest-distance portion of the event.

"I guess about halfway through the bike ride, the heat picked up," said Emily Rollins, a Brentwood, Tennessee, native, who has participated in nearly a dozen half-Ironman, Ironman and triathlon-style events. "That was the biggest challenge for me."

Rollins pushed through the swim, bike and halfmarathon portions of the event to finish first out of all women competitors with a time of 4 hours, 51 minutes.

Her husband, Brad Rollins, also participated, finishing third among the male competitors.





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Above: Competitors take part in the 56-mile bike ride.

At right: Biking was leg No. 2 of the event.

"We were getting ready for Ironman Chattanooga, but this course really compares well," he said. "It's a legitimate course. It's what I call a fair course. It's not extremely hard, but it's not easy with the hills and the heat. It's definitely a challenge."

Bynum agreed with the Rollins family's assessment of Pell City's first attempt at hosting a half-Ironman event.

"This wasn't an easy course," Bynum said. "It lived up to the name 'Toughman.""

More than 50 volunteers assisted the competitors through a variety of means, whether it was helping them exit the lake or handing out water and sports drinks at hydration checkpoints along the routes.

"Team Magic did a great job of putting this



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

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

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Competitors received encouragement from friends and loved ones throughout the Toughman Alabama Triathlon.

event on, and the volunteers did a spectacular job," Rollins said. "For the first year, the event was a home run."

After hours of grueling competition, the racers socialized with one another and enjoyed refreshments before an awards ceremony closed out the day's festivities.

Brad and Emily Rollins qualified along with 148 more competitors for the Toughman Championship Race to be held Sept. 7 in New York.

Rollins discussed the unique perspective of tackling the course alongside his wife.

"It's kind of good and bad, because I worry about her as well as encourage her and want her to do well," he said. "Like today, she had somebody stop in front of her and turn around. She ran into him, but thank goodness she didn't get hurt. That kind of stuff is on my mind, but when I see her and see the look on her face, I know she's doing well. It helps make the event more fun."

Joe Graham, a Camden, South Carolina native, said he enjoyed his first Toughman experience, even though he hadn't taken the time to see if he qualified or not.

"I thought the city was very







Above: A competitor reaches the end of the 13.1-mile run that served as the final stage of the Toughman Alabama triathlon. The event took nearly a full year to plan, according to Erica Grieve, former executive director of the Pell City Chamber of Commerce.

welcoming to all the guests," Graham said. "I thought the event was well organized. This was a challenging event, and all the staff involved in the event did an excellent job of keeping everybody hydrated and healthy through the event."

Bynum credited the city for providing a wonderful location to host the event and its community members for the level of support received.

"I felt like I was coming back home," Bynum said. "It's just beautiful. Everybody has walked up and said 'this was beautiful', but not just that. Everyone in the city — the city services, the police, the firemen, the mayor, everybody — welcomed our competitors. We've even got some of the City Council members out here today. Having the city behind an event like this makes it special."

Toughman owner Dr. Richard Izzo complimented the city on welcoming an event he estimated would generate more than \$1 million in revenue for the local economy.

"We want to thank the City Council, the mayor and Team Magic for hosting the event," Izzo said. "It's very hard to find a venue like this. This is an absolutely magnificent venue. Everyone we've been hearing from said they didn't even know this location existed, and now that they've been exposed to it, they're definitely going to come back next year and tell friends."

Grieve declared the event, the final one organized during her time with the chamber, to be a success and said she hopes to see the city capitalize on the park's ability to draw future events like Toughman.

"It was better than I can imagine," Grieve said. "It was amazing. I wish more people in the community could've come out to see it. We have a huge resource here, and I can't think of another park as pretty as this one that's on the water. The runners — all you hear them saying is how breathtaking it is. I don't know why we haven't used the park like this before now."



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Going the Extra Mile

Pell City Police Department patrols Logan Martin waters, too

Sto y b DAVID ATCHISON Pb o by BRIAN SCHOENHALS

Pell City Marine Police Officer Justin Cooper jumped onboard the 25-foot vessel, turning all the electronic equipment on and making his safety checks.

Within minutes the 31-year-old marine police officer was untying the boat from the pier and headed out to the open waters of Logan Martin Lake.

"I was on (street) patrol until May of this year," he said. "They moved me into special operations. This is like patrolling the streets, except it is done on water."

Cooper has several jobs with the police department. His special assignments include working as a school resource officer during the school year and serving as a member



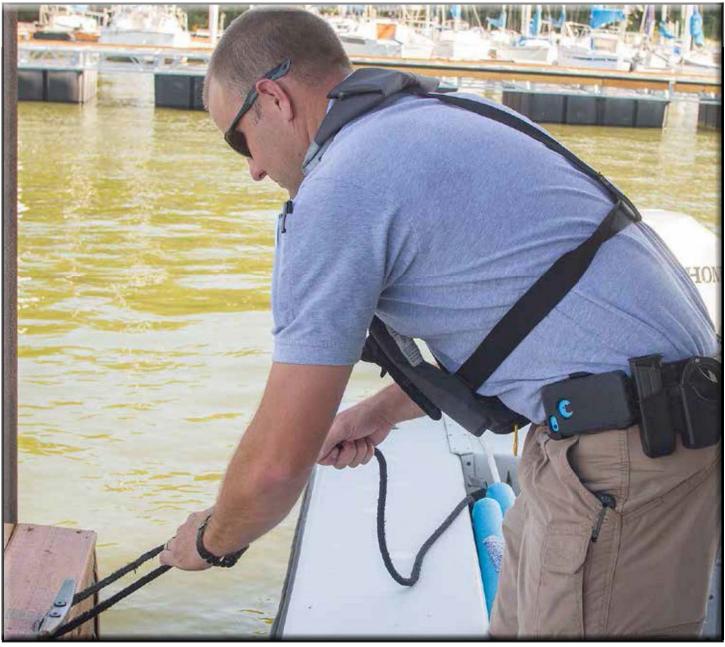
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Cooper readies the marine police boat for a morning patrol on Logan Martin Lake.

of the department's SWAT team, but when the school bell rings for the summer, Cooper begins cruising along the shores of Logan Martin Lake.

"We patrol from the dam to I-20 in Riverside," Cooper said. "Our primary focus is Pell City."

Cooper began scanning the lake water and banks of Logan Martin Lake almost immediately after he pulled away from University Marine and Sailing Center, formerly known as Pine Harbor Marina, where the Pell City Police Department's marine police boat is kept during the summer. It is stored at the city shop during the winter.

"I was actually sworn in on the water," Cooper said as he steered the boat toward the open channel of the lake.

He said Pell City Police Chief Greg Turley was out patrolling on the water when he was preparing to start his new job with the department. Cooper was sworn in as a Pell City police officer on June 1, 2011, but he only became the marine police officer for the department in May of this year. However, he is not new to boating or being around water.

"I've boated my whole life," he said. Cooper slowed the police boat, which was given to the local police department by the state marine police division, as he approached the shoreline.

"When I get to a neighborhood, I look at the docks, make sure nothing is out of place," he said. "Sometimes during the nighttime, I hit my lights so residents know it's the police."

Cooper said it takes three to four hours to patrol Pell City from the lake.

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Pell City Marine Police Officer Justin Cooper talks to fisherman Dennis Degrenier of Pell City about his morning on the lake.

"That's not stopping," he said.

Cooper frequently stops and talks to lake users, letting them know not to hesitate calling him if there is a problem or concern, on or off the water.

The officer eased toward a dock and boat ramp where Dennis Degrenier of Pell City was taking his boat out of the water. Degrenier said he had caught eight fish that morning.

"Small summer bites," Degrenier said. "They were all spots."

Degrenier hit the water at about 5:30 that morning and was pulling his boat out of the lake at about 10.

"If you see us out here, or need us, just call," Cooper told the angler.

Cooper said his primary focus is on safety.

"The other part of the job is checking our banks and docks to deter crime and thefts," he said.

Cooper said he just wants everyone to have a fun time on the lake, but to do it safely.

"I've given a bunch of warnings," he said.

He said for most, safety violations are really unintentional. "You just need to correct them," he said.

Cooper said there is not much room for error on the water.

"There are a lot of hazards on the lake," he said. "Even at full pool, some places are really shallow with submerged trees and stumps."

Cooper said he has removed debris from the water and has recovered boats for people.

"We've helped in some searches, as well," he said.

Cooper said he patrols the lake, both day and night.

"I am out here at random hours intentionally," he said. "We try not to stick to a set schedule."

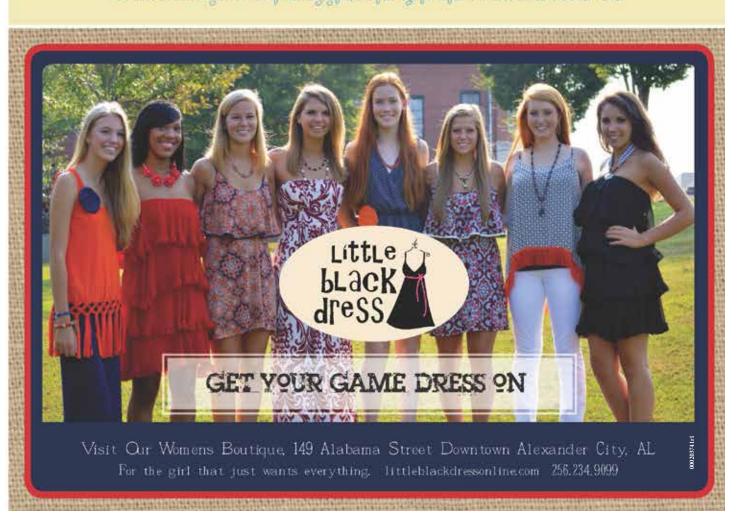
And as for Cooper, he is enjoying his new job patrolling Logan Martin Lake.

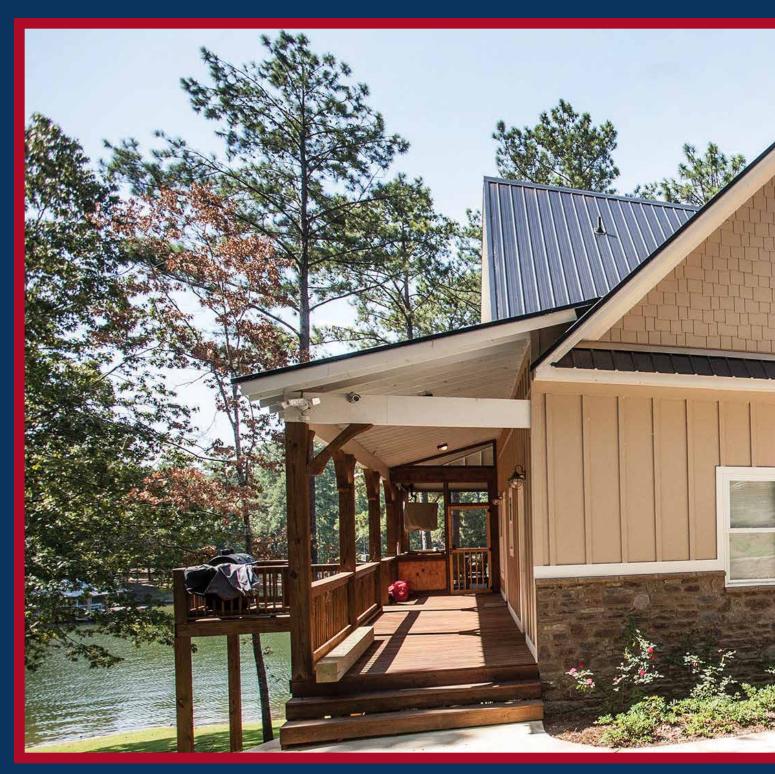
"It's good," he said. "I can't complain."

Cooper said if any lake residents or boaters need assistance, they can call him at 205-753-1900.



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A Family Affair Home allows O'Neals to keep loved ones, friends close

Sto y by ELSIE HODNETT Ph o by BOB CRISP

The wrap-around porch just invites you to sit a while and enjoy the gorgeous lake view.

"I've always wanted a wrap-around porch," says DeeDee

O'Neal.

And when DeeDee and her husband, Howard, began looking at plans for their lake home, the wrap-around



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porch was where they began.

"We found house plans with a wraparound porch as a starting point," she said.

The couple tweaked a couple other things and ended up with their perfect second home on Logan Martin Lake.

"We live with our sons, William, 14, and Clay, 18, in Helena on property my parents bought when I was in middle school," DeeDee said. "They bought 20 to 25 acres. When my brother, Del Clayton, married Julie, they built a house on the property. A couple years after we got married, we built on the property as well."

Howard grew up in Talladega and





Above: A bottom-floor bar.

At left: The great room.

Below: A back view of the porch.

spent many days on the lake.

"For about 10 years, we would take our motor home to Lakeside Landing for the summer," he said. "We have always looked for a house or lot, but never really found what we wanted. A little more than two years ago, we got serious, and through several different opportunities we found this lot."

Del and Julie purchased the lot across from the O'Neals, keeping the family ties close.

"Our good friends, Brett and Donna Bell, are also building a house near us, as well," Howard said.



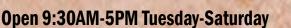
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At left: An upper-floor patriotic themed bedroom. Below: An upper-floor nautical themed bedroom.

DeeDee said even at the lake house they are blessed to be surrounded by friends and family.

"We started building in February 2013, and after a little setback due to the weather, we finished the bulk of the house in September," Howard said. "My 'man cave' is still under construction somewhat, which will be an ongoing process to find the odds and ends I want to put in it."

The three-story house has four bedrooms and 5 ½ baths. The boys have the two upstairs bedrooms, both overlooking the lake.

William went with an All-American theme — red, white and blue.

Clay, who just started his freshman year at Mississippi State University, chose a nautical theme with blues and white and lamps made of crossed oars.

"I made the headboard by taking oars and painting them a variety of colors — white, blue and gray, and I left some natural," DeeDee said.

Even the upstairs balcony has a nautical theme, with oars lining up as rails, overlooking the great room on the main level.

The great room is open and spacious, with a great view of the lake. Decorations include family heirlooms such as the irons a great-grandmother actually ironed with and a moonshine



bottle with corncob cork that was traded in payment for goods to a grandfather decades ago.

"DeeDee decorated the main house completely, because I'm not good at that, but she did leave me the downstairs to do as I liked, and gave me a few tips when things didn't look just right," Howard said.

The fully-finished basement houses the "man cave," built with wood that came from a barn the couple owned in Calera. There is a 120inch projection TV for football and movies.

"I found a guy who did barn wood

furniture, and he created a bar and liquor display, which is something I've always wanted," Howard said. "We aren't big drinkers, but I bought a selection of liquor to showcase."

Adjacent to the bar area hangs a 48-star U.S. flag.

"My great-uncle, Bob O'Neal, was a prisoner of war and was killed in World War II," Howard said. "They didn't bring his body home for six years, and this flag was draped over the casket."

Through antiquing, Howard found an old Pepsi merchandiser with sliding doors. "I got lucky and it just happened to fit in the bar space," he said. "I bought a Jack Daniel's barrel I'm turning into a pub table. And we have barn doors that we need to hang that will section off the room."

Antiquing also led the couple to a door from an old building in Montgomery that was being demolished.

"They had to cut it down to fit the doorway," Howard said. "I think they had to take 8 inches off the length and 6 inches off the width."

DeeDee said the old door leads to the guest room, which was designed with antique-style furniture with her mother, Cathy Clayton, in mind.

"It serves as a guest room, but it really is Mom's room when she is here," DeeDee said.

The outside is also set up for lakeside enjoyment.

"A friend helped design an amphitheater-shaped fire pit which I helped build," Howard said. "We had Fred Casey with Tradesman Company build a seawall and dock with a single boat slip, SeaDoo plug-in dock and floating island."

"It's a party barge," DeeDee said of the floating island.

And even the outside has a piece of history, with a cast iron bell - that came from O'Neal's grandparents' place - mounted on a pole.

"Although we don't actually live here full-time, we love it," Howard said. "It is a dream that has come to pass. The location is perfect for us, with friends and family across the water to make it perfect. We have many memories already and are sure to make more."



Above: Another view of the home's wraparound porch.



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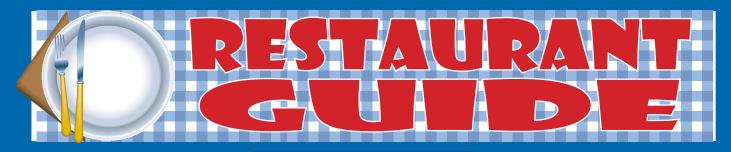
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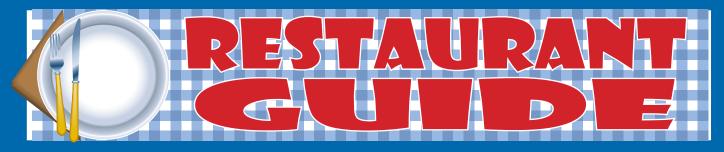
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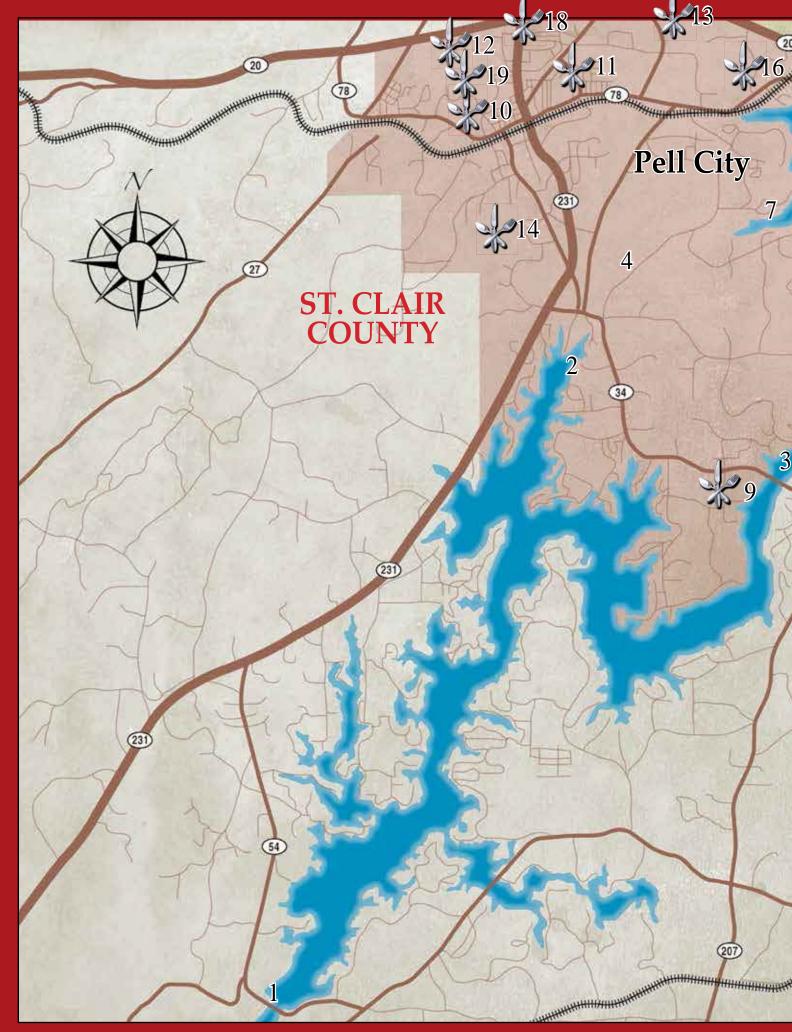


Under New Management

36 Lakeside Living & Logan Martin Homes - September 2014









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Brothers (from left) Lee Holmes, Robb Peoples and Ray Holmes are the co-owners of Sylacauga Marine & ATV, the oldest marine dealer in Alabama.

Doing Something Right

Sylacauga Marine making its mark as a premier Tracker, Nitro dealer

Sto y b LEW GILLILAND Ph o b BOB CRISP

Visit Sylacauga Marine & ATV and you're liable to run into somebody from out of state.

"We have customers that come from as far away as Florida, Tennessee, Georgia and Mississippi to buy boats from us," said Lee Holmes, vice president for the dealership. "Those customers come on a daily basis. We've delivered boats as far away this year as Dallas."

Just as impressive is the dealership achieving that level of business without a large advertising budget.

Holmes said some people probably learn about the dealership through the Internet, while others may receive tips from friends. He said most of the dealership's advertising is word-of-mouth.

Sylacauga Marine & ATV is the oldest marine dealer in Alabama. Bob Holmes, Lee's father, started the business in 1959.

Motorcycles, outboards and small boats were the main items the dealership sold in the beginning. Today, it is a full-service retail and service facility for boats, motors, ATVs and UTVs.

"We also carry a full line of marine accessories and parts, as well as parts and accessories for ATVs and UTVs," said Robb Peoples, dealership president.

Peoples co-owns the dealership along with his two





Sylacauga Marine & ATV offers a full-line of 2015 models from Nitro performance bass boats, said Robb Peoples, dealership president.



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Sylacauga Marine & ATV is the No. 1 dealer of Nitro fiberglass bass boats in the Southeast. Nitro is the No. 1 selling fiberglass bass boat in America.





Sylacauga Marine & ATV is a full-service facility for boats, motors, ATVs and UTVs, including Polaris Side x Side RZRs.

brothers, Lee and Ray Holmes.

"We pride ourselves in customer service," Peoples said. "When you walk into our store, we greet you at the door. We have no answering machines, no commissioned sales people. Customers deal with us, the owners. We want to keep our customers happy and have strived to do so for many years."

Said Lee Holmes, "We run this place the way it was run 20 or 25 years ago. I speak to most every customer that comes in here. We have a real good service department. The biggest difference between us and other businesses is the personal touch."

The dealership also features a veteran staff.

Peoples said the parts and warranty manager has been with the business for more than 15 years. He said the service manager has worked for the dealership for more than 13, and the technicians for more than seven.

Holmes added that with the exception of about three employees, everyone on staff has been there a minimum of five years.

For the outdoorsman or family looking to get on the water, Sylacauga Marine and ATV offers plenty of choices.

"We have a full line of 2015 models from Tracker aluminum boats, Suntracker pontoons, Nitro performance bass boats, Tahoe family boats, Grizzly utility boats and Regency pontoons, as well as Polaris ATVs and UTVs," Peoples said.

Peoples said all brands sell well according to the season. He said Tracker aluminum boats are a top seller, as are Nitro fiberglass bass boats.

Peoples said Sylacauga Marine and ATV is the No. 1 Tracker dealer and the No. 1 Nitro dealer in the Southeast. The business has also been one of the nation's top 10 Tracker dealers for the last six years, Holmes said.

"Doing that from little ol' Sylacauga shows we're doing something right," he said.

Peoples said the dealership enjoys good relationships with manufacturers, which he believes is a key to the company's success.

"The manufacturers of the brands we sell are dealeroriented and realize in order for them to prosper, the dealers have to prosper as well," Peoples said. "They don't push extraordinary goals on us. They let us run our business the way we know. It makes for a very powerful relationship."

Sylacauga Marine and ATV is at 2670 Old Birmingham Highway. The dealership is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. The phone number is 256-245-8970 or 1-866-254-BOAT (2628). Visit them at www.sylacaugamarine.com.

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Logan Martin Homes

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

Realty Executives Complete 2408 Cogswell Ave. Pell City, AL 35125 Office 205-338-MOVE (6683)

Love this house?



Like Brand New

Recent renovations make Riviere Estates home the 'perfect' place

Stoy by BILL KIMBER Ph ob BOB CRISP

Contemporary convenience meets traditional charm at 106 Viewpoint Circle, a lakeside home that's perfect for family comfort whether it's the season for fishing, skiing, football or the holidays.

This spacious home is on a quiet cul-de-sac in a golf course community and features year-round water on a huge lakeside lot.

"It's all on one level with great views," said broker Nancy Locklar of Realty Executives Complete. "The owner is a builder, so the renovations are beautiful and top quality. It's age-friendly with some really beautiful special touches."

The brick, stone and stucco home is built on a slab and includes three bedrooms and 2½ baths. It's in Riviere Estates in the Pine Harbor area of Pell City and features a sprinkler system, pier and boathouse with lift, as well as a carport and parking area for cars, boats and RVs.

Indoors, the foyer opens into a spacious living room with a fireplace and vaulted ceiling, then to a dining room with a wall of windows.

The newly renovated kitchen has all new cabinets, stainless appliances, tile floors and granite countertops. Most of the plumbing has been redone recently, as well.

A family room off the kitchen offers more lake views. The bathrooms have new tile, and the bedrooms offer serene comfort.

"It's bright and airy, and it's wonderful for entertaining and for everyday living," Locklar said.

The home is priced at \$399,000.

For more information about this or other valuable properties, contact Locklar by calling 205-483-2683 or visiting nancysellsthelake.com.

Lakeside Agent Spotlight

King has 'family business' on the cutting edge

ERA King looks to stay on top through technology, personal touch

BY BILL KIMBER

Many industries have been revolutionized by technology, and none more so than real estate. What took days of phone calls and meetings to accomplish 20 years ago can now be done with the click of a mouse. That puts a whole new set of requirements on real estate professionals, said Everett King, owner of ERA King Real Estate.

"My father started this company in 1969 when I was 16, but he got in the real estate business in 1963 when I was 10, so real estate is all I've known since I was 10 years old," he said.

When he graduated from the University of Alabama in 1978, "I was never going to do anything other than go to work with my dad. That was that," King said.

"His idea was, we would grow to six agents – two coming, two going and two staying. You always have new agents, and you always have people who are getting ready to move on to another position. He and I were the two who were staying."

King worked as a salesman for his father, Jack King, until the elder King died in 1990.

"I was the No. 1 salesperson, and I loved it," King said. "I felt like that was what I was supposed to be doing, and I loved it."

But King sensed the industry was changing just as his family's dynamic had changed.

"We had just gotten a computer for

MLS (multiple listing service), and when my father died, my first decision was to quit selling. I haven't listed or sold anything in 24 years," King said.

Instead, he has focused on overseeing a full-service agency that gives his staff the freedom to sell without the hassle of handling office chores.

By expanding the company's footprint from Anniston and Calhoun County to five offices in five East Alabama counties, King has also grown the business to 100 agents and 24 support people who use the latest technology to advertise listings, find customers and communicate quickly with prospective clients.

"The average real estate purchaser spends 12 weeks online educating themselves, so our first contact will come from a relatively well-educated buyer," King said. "It's completely different from 10 years ago. You're 160 times more likely to do business with them if you can respond in five minutes. But the average response time is 48 hours."

ERA King develops websites with a virtual tour, dozens of photos and a data sheet for each of the properties it lists. When a prospective customer clicks to contact an agent, the company's lead management software calls the listing agent to put him or her in touch with the customer. If the agent doesn't respond quickly, the computer rolls the call over to the next agent qualified to handle that property.



Ev rette King

The increased focus on technology has required constant, intense retraining for everyone in the company, King said, and the company is now working to bring its online presence to mobile devices, as well.

His family has grown, but ERA King is still a family business, King said. His wife, Anna, is the company's top seller, earning honors as the top ERA agent in the United States five times in the last 15 years.

Their three sons are also in the business. Jeremy Wright, 38, is the marketing and IT director; Josh Wright, 35, is the general manager; and Jackson Everett King III, 25, is a sales agent.

And while the company doesn't look like it did when his father was alive or even as it did 10 years ago, King insists that it's still his father's company. "It's just under my watch," he said.

With a new office in Pell City serving St. Clair County and the Logan Martin Lake area, "We're really looking forward to being involved in the Pell City community," King said. "My father always said, 'If you're not active in your community, you don't have a right to an opinion."





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85 Acres -Altoona, AL









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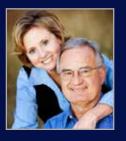




Additional **Properties** Sold in 2014

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V I N C E N T \$149,900. Beau-tiful lake lot in nice Cumberland Coves Subdivision, partially wooded. MLS#571729



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



PELL CITY \$589,000. Unique custombuilt home on Pine Harbor Golf Course, with Lake access, 3BR/3.5BA, open floor plan, kitchen with granite, great room with lots of windows, sunken dining with glass walls, perfect for entertaining. Amazing Foyer with 18 ft ceiling. Lots of extras, travertine & marble floors, handmade mahogany doors, solid limestone fireplace, 2-2 car garages, lifetime terracotta roof, and beautifully landscaped with 16 station irrigation system. MLS#551527



CROPWELL \$399,000. A mazing brick & stone 5BR/4.5 BA home on 3 wooded acres. Gorgeous great room with vaulted ceiling, stacked stone FP, open kitchen with stainless apps, 6 burner gas cooktop, dbl convec. oven, eating area & formal dining. GR opens to nice screened porch. Beautiful hardwoods throughout. Master suite with vaulted clgs, double walk-in closet, huge walk in shower, jet tub. Double Garage & Partially stubbed basement. MLS#604927



PELL CITY \$325,000. Very well-kept 5BR/3BA lake home on 2 lots, boat launch, pier, partial seawall, covered pavilion, fenced in sections. 20x40 play pool, 4-5 ft deep with new cover. MLS#594959



LINCOLN \$299,000. Large 1 level 4BR/3BA home on good water. Very wellbuilt, needs some carpet and paint, basement has 2 entrances. MLS#595462

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LOGAN MARTIN LAKE PRIVATE ESTATE \$1,199,000. Approx 6 acres on 1000' waterfront with seawall. Beautiful Vanishing Edge Salt Water Pool with fountain & surrounding patio overlooking lake. One level, views of the lake from all rooms. 4BR/4.5 BA, Beautiful Dining room, Huge Gathering Kitchen with Australian Verde Fire Granite, Wet Bar, amazing cabinetry. Luxurious Master, Jet tub, Steam Shower, coffer ceilings, dressing closets, adjoining study w/FP. Gazebo w/swing. Covered boathouse, 2 electric wenches, seaplane hangar, covered boat slip w/ lift. Landscaped & wooded for privacy.

A fishing HOT SPOT. Guest House with Kitchen/Living combo, bath, laundry, private deck. Playground, beach volleyball area plus 2nd boat dock, fenced yard & 2nd stone patio. MUST SEE! MLS#498718



PELL CITY \$257,900 Charming stacked stone & wood 3BR/2.5 BA home in Pine Harbor with water access, nested in the trees on large lot. Great room has Cathedral pine tongue & groove ceiling, lots of win-dows. Beautiful master suite with double walk in closets, great kitchen with eating

area, island, gas cook top, Viking stove, huge pantry. Sunroom, patio and great workshop in backyard. MLS#606349





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PELL CITY, AL 35125



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RELOCATION













TALLADEGA \$334,900. Awesome sunset view with year round water, a floating pier & a lake pump with a 20 gal holding tank! This gentle sloping lot has a gentle walk way to water. The spacious

Great Room has hardwood flooring, cathedral ceilings, ceiling fans & a wood burning fireplace. The kitchen features tile flooring, oversized double ovens, abundance of countertop space, gas cook top, dishwasher, built-in microwave, a bar area & a spacious eat-in area. The Master BR has a great view of the water and an exit to a screened porch! The Master BA has 2 walk-in closets, 2 sinks, a tub & separate shower. Downstairs has 2 BR and a den,kitchen/game room & an office! The large decks on both levels are great for entertaining. MLS#595605

NEW LISTING!



CROPWELL \$424,900. Great 4BR/4BA waterfront home sold with adjoining lot that has 3 covered RV parking spaces & storage building. Very spacious open floor plan, large open kitchen with pantry. out of this world Master suite with huge closet & 2 sitting areas. 4th BR/ Office separate from main house, 2

car garage with 4 car carport, low maintenance inside and out, 2 large decks, patio, boat launch, beautiful tile floors, MUST SEE! MLS#575269



PELL CITY \$124,900. Cute all brick 3BR/2BA on a big corner lot with nice fenced backyard and out building. Great rrom w/fireplace, formal living and dining room, oversized laundry room, mud room. MLS#600118



PELL CITY \$159,900. Gorgeous Cape Cod Style home in Down Town Pell City. The back yard is fenced, plus a fenced off area for the dogs with a dog house. Separate garage apartment, The home offers original heart pine floors and arched door ways. For the men there is a work shop just outside your door. MLS#596808



4BR/2BA with bonus room and nice fenced backyard, attic, 2 car garage. MLS#589452



LINCOLN \$199,900, LOGAN MARTIN LAKE access home on large lot. 3BR/3BA with hardwood floors, split bedrooms, large dining room with wainscoating, attic storage. Fenced backyard is perfect for pool or kids' swing

set. Convenient to I-20 & Honda. Community swim area & boat launch just a gold cart ride away. Large deck, basement den and full bath. MLS#568506



PELL CITY \$184,900. FOX HOLLOW - THE COVE 3BR/2BA with bonus room, large level fenced in back yard, screened porch, Corian counter tops and island in the kitchen. Great room with fireplace, jetted garden tub in master BA. Community pool, sidewalks. MLS#603463



PELL CITY \$264,900. Nice 3BR/2BA home on Logan Martin lake in nice Skyline SD. Kitchen has granite counters, hardwood floors throughout, generator in basement, new pier. MLS#587905



PELL CITY \$189,900. Large 3BR/2BA home on large lot in Pine Harbor SD. Remodeled, state of the art kitchen with granite counters. Great screened porch, double garage, fruit trees, unfinished basement has lots of potential. Near Golf Course & Marina. MLS#592022



RIVERSIDE \$179,900. Highlands, 4BR/3BA, full brick fenced backyard, man cave/office, MLS#599331

TALLADEGA \$409,900. Q-U-A-L-I-T-Y This home SHOUTS it! 5BR, 5.5BA, Almost newly built with all the upgrades. Extensive

ironwork, beautiful kitchen with antique

stained cabinets, exposeed beams and stone pillars lead into the great room with wonderful rockwork fireplace that goes all the way up to the 21 st ceiling where large windows overlook seasonal water. MLS#599819



fireplace, hardwood floors, Corian counter tops, stainless appliances, oversized laundry room, basement den and rec room on a cul-de-sac. MLS#603358





LINCOLN \$121,900. 3 BR, 2 BA on large level lot, close to downtown Lincoln and convenient to Honda.



PELL CITY \$549,000. This is the deal of the century, 2 homes for the price of one. 4 acres with a beautiful pond. Both homes are approximately 2000 square feet each. The main house has 3 BR and 2 BA, large great room with a fireplace plus a double car garage. The master shower is to die for, 6x6 with 4 shower heads. The second home has a uge pavilion with a hot tub and grilling area. This home has 3 BR and 2 BA. The master bath has a big soaking tub. MLS#596899

Come See Us at Our New Home at 2319 Cogswell Avenue, Pell City



"The Manning House"

Wedding Venue

Bed and Breakfast



176 RIVER PINE LN, TALLADEGA, AL

THIS PREMIER WATERFRONT ESTATE IS MANY THINGS!! It is currently the Manning House: A BED AND BREAKFAST AND WEDDING VENUE. It is the perfect setting for a Corporate Executive Conference Center and Retreat or Church Conference Center. It is the Family Estate where all generations can come together with room for everyone under one roof -WHAT IT IS...IS WAITING FOR YOU!! This home is over 14,000+ sq.ft. with unique characteristics unlike anything on this lake with over 500 ft of main river channel waterfront on a beautiful level lot. The home features 3 complete kitchens, 7 bedrooms, 6.5 baths, a formal living room, dining room, large den, 2 large sun rooms, a ballroom/ gameroom the size of a 4 car garage, a large conference /media room, 2nd den entertaining area. The rooms and options of what you can do with this property are unbelievable. Make an appointment to view this amazing property as a business opportunity or as a residence. MLS #509253





Bill Gossett



Brenda Fields

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Karen Bain
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Alesia Mitcham



Scott Fields



Bonnie Voss

Tony Gossett

Tina Stallings

Jacque Owens

Adam Bain

Mary Ellis



Carl Howard



Nan Morris



Michelle Shoemaker



leff Gossett



Gary Smith **Carey Monistere**



"a Foundation for Generations"



UPDATED 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath very livable home Enjoy the comforts of the living/dining room with fireplace and coffered ceiling. This area leads you to the covered porch with open deck overlooking the lake. Downstairs is a cozy den with another fireplace and game room area. Plenty of storage enhances the unfinished area with boat storage and workshop area. Gentle sloped, fenced yard, pier and floating boatstip and boatlaunch. MLS #603538 Call Brenda 205/812-4141



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



TIME ON THE MARKET - (2) Beautiful gentle sloping lots with a full brick 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath 1.5 story home with newly updated kitchen, family room with fireplace, dining room and (2) large country porches, large shoreline with pier. MLS #568076 Call Lawrence 812-5195



bedrooms, 4 full and 2 half baths, gorgeous view of the lake from the huge living room, den with kitchen downstairs overlooks saltwater in -ground pool and the lake. Home has central vac, stereo/intercom system, covered pier and boathouse. MLS #558234 Call Lawrence 205/812-5195



\$177,500 - 370 Hodgens Drive - IMMACULATE AND COMPLETELY UPDATED 5 bedroom, 2.5 bath home on approx. 1.6 ACRES. Large living room with wood burning fireplace, abundance of cabinets in the kitchen and 2-car garage on the main level. MLS#601564. Call Carl 205/965-475 or Michelle 205/427-3222



\$449,900 - 1154 Funderburg Bend Rd. - THIS TRUE LAKE HOUSE provides an abundance of space and tongue and groove vaulted ceilings. 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths greatroom with stacked stone fireplace, finished basement with den/rec room and another stone fireplace. Outdoors has screened porch, covered boat dock and seawall MLS #562184 Call Karen 205/473-4613

\$249,500



\$230,000 - 1279 Slasham Bd - CUSTOM DESIGNED

bedroom, 2 bath home has greatroom with fireplace dining room and open loft abve the adjacent master

bedroom. The sunroom can be easily converted to a 3rd bedroom if needed. This home is located on

approx. 6.10 ACRES with lot of white fencing. MLS #605461 Call Scott 205/368-8138

This 2

nome that will impress you at first glance!

\$439,900 - 1650 Mountain Top Loop Rd. 10 BEAUTIFUL ACRES with this gorgeous family home. This southern plantation features 4 bedrooms, 3 full and 2 half baths. Additional acreage can also be purchased. Just bring your horses and enjoy! MLS #588808 Call Mary 205/586-0825



\$309.900 - 70 Fritz Dr. - SOUTHERN ELEGANCE with this inviting 4/5 bedroom, 4.5 bath 1.5 story home with nice amenities. The home has a large living room with fireplace, formal dining room and fantastice kitchen. The master bedroom is oversized with a sitting area, located on the main level with the other four upstairs. Basement includes den another bedroom and full bath with room for additional expansions. MLS #592268 Call Blair 205/812-5377



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



\$249,900 - 153 Lakeview Circle bedroom 3 bath one level home with family room, dining room, bonus room upstairs with finished basement. Conveniently located to I-20. MLS #580513 Call Adam 369-2704

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COUNTRY SETTING with

approx 2 ACRES with this nice home of

3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths with split bedroom

design, basement and bonus room. The

large deck is partially covered and a patio

for grilling and dining while enjoying the peacefull setting. MLS #603656 Call Lisa

205/246-1456 or Alesia 205/405-0860

\$324.900 - 676 Sunset Rd. - LOCATION is great for this refurbished 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath foreclosure on 13 ACRES m/l in Pell City. Family room with fireplace, circular staircase leading to second floor. Unfinished basement, inground pool, barn and workshop. MLS#605522 Call Scott 205/368-8138









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0 Co Rd 59, Rockford - *3 BR, 3 BA Cabin overlooking Hatchett Creek with ¹/₂ mile +/- creek frontage, 35 acres +/- of hay fields perfect for horses. Cabin has vaulted ceiling, Tongue* & Groove lumber, large porch overlooking creek and screened porch off kitchen. **REDUCED \$299,000**



8793 Coosa Co. Rd. 56, Weogufka -167+/- ACRES, 3 BR/2BA Brick home with garage and Hay Barns. House has hardwood floors, living room with fireplace, mountain views. Hay barn has full loft upstairs. **\$549,900**



175 Polo Lane, Sylacauga - 4 BR, 2 1/2 BA lake home w/wrap around porches, screened porch, boat house, private boat launch, and amazing lake view; located on flat lot with deep water dock. Four large bedrooms have walk-in closets. **\$450,000**



Cedar Shores Dr. 38 AC, Sylacauga - 38 +/- Acres on Lay Lake. Has lake/road access on 2 sides. Approximately 9 acres lake frontage. In Fayetteville school district. **\$242,000**



3137 Co Rd 49, Goodwater - 3 *BR*/2 *BA home with finished basement, 2nd full kitchen and built in BBQ in the basement. House has 3 wood burning fireplaces - one in the master bedroom. Property is 105 acres with a 30X40 shop, hay fields, streams and a stocked pond.* **\$649,990**



108 STONE RIDGE DR, Sylacauga - 5 BR 3 ¹/₂ BA home built in 1994 has living room, den with fireplace, kitchen, dining room, master bedroom with fireplace, office, laundry room, enclosed 2-car garage and C H&A **\$349,900**



16315 N HWY 21 - 4 BR, 3.5 BA Tudor on 10.8 acres; full basement w/den, FP, bed, bath & kitchenette, vaulted great room w/FP, sunroom w/wet bar, upstairs den w/FP, kitchen w/breakfast room & FP, 3 car garage, pool, 3 CH&A units, wood furnace heating, hardwood, tile, carpet. **\$375,000**



1068 Spring Field Drive, Chelsea - Beautiful large 3BR, 2 ½ BA. Designer kitchen, huge open Great Room. New master shower has marble with glass doors. Walk-in attic. Garage with opener. Fenced-in back yard has patio. **\$208,900**

EXPERIENCE THE AMERICAN DREAM

It's time you made your move.

We Can Help Make It Happen.



•WATERFRONT PROPERTIES golfchicl@hotmail.com



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