

Logan Martin Homes Edition

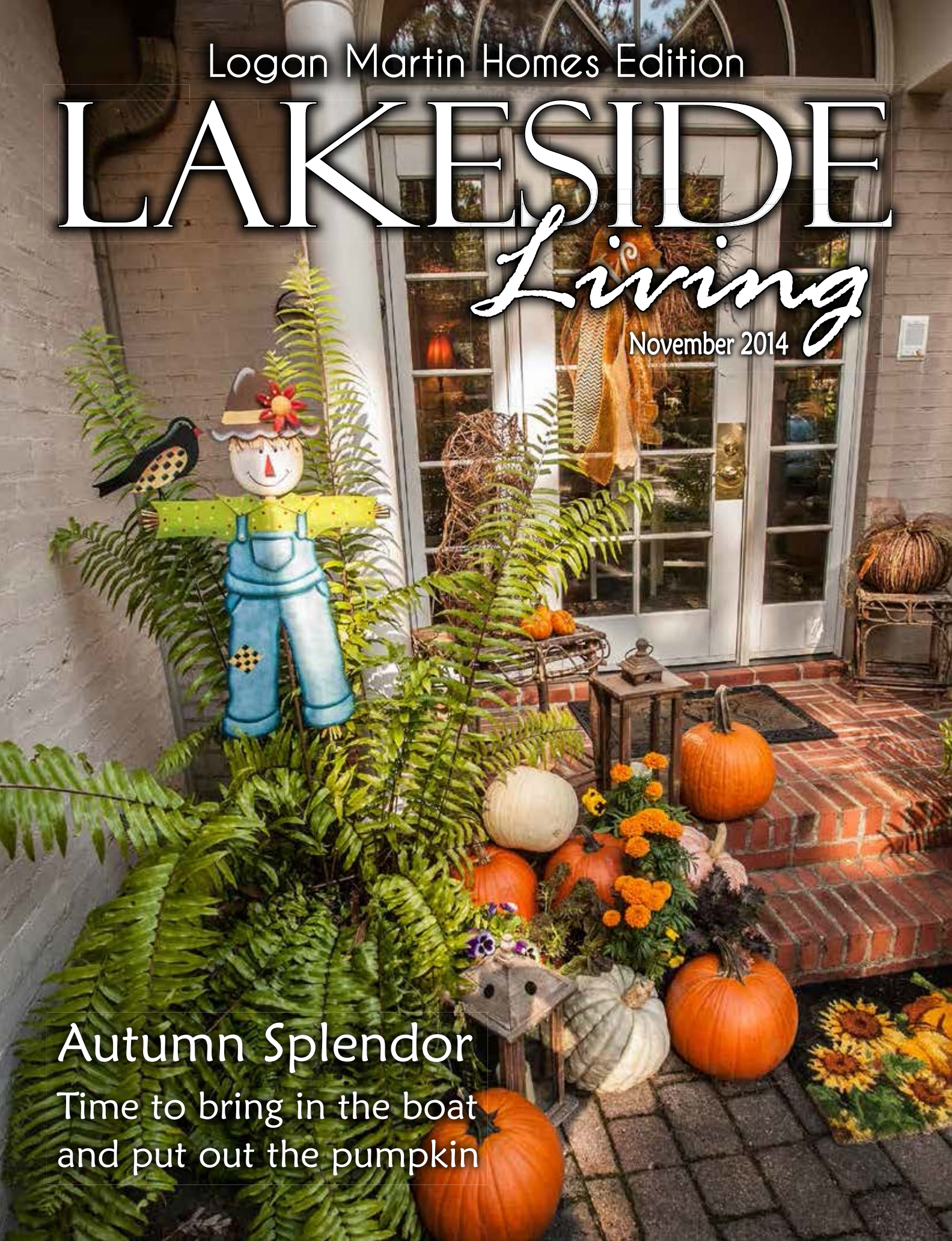
# LAKE SIDE

## *Living*

November 2014

### Autumn Splendor

Time to bring in the boat  
and put out the pumpkin





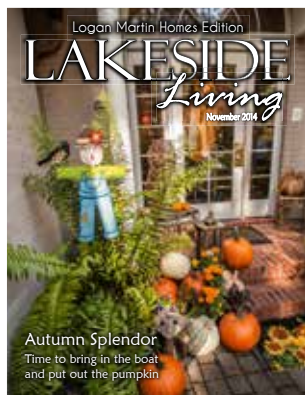
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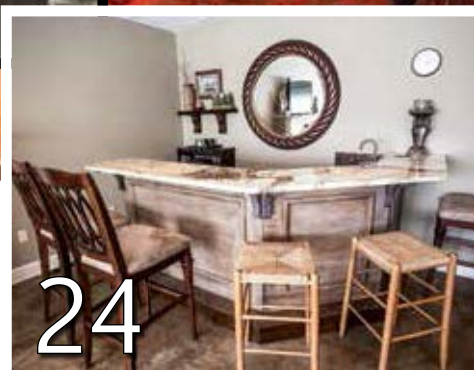
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## Logan Martin Homes Edition LAKESIDE *Living*

*Covering life along  
Logan Martin Lake since 1994*

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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.**

## Take Someone Fishing

There is nothing like being with someone as they catch their biggest fish ever.

The Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation has uncovered the following useful statistics about youth engagement in the outdoors:

- 75 percent of teachers feel students who regularly spend time outdoors are more creative and better problem solvers.
- Only one-third of high school students get their recommended levels of physical activity.
- 90 percent of adult outdoor enthusiasts were introduced by a parent to outdoor activities between the ages of 5 and 18.
- A lack of time is the top barrier keeping youth from participating in outdoor recreation indoors.
- While 26 percent of children say that mobile technologies take away from their enjoyment of outdoor activities, 41 percent of adolescents and 56 percent of young adults say mobile technologies add to their outdoor experiences.

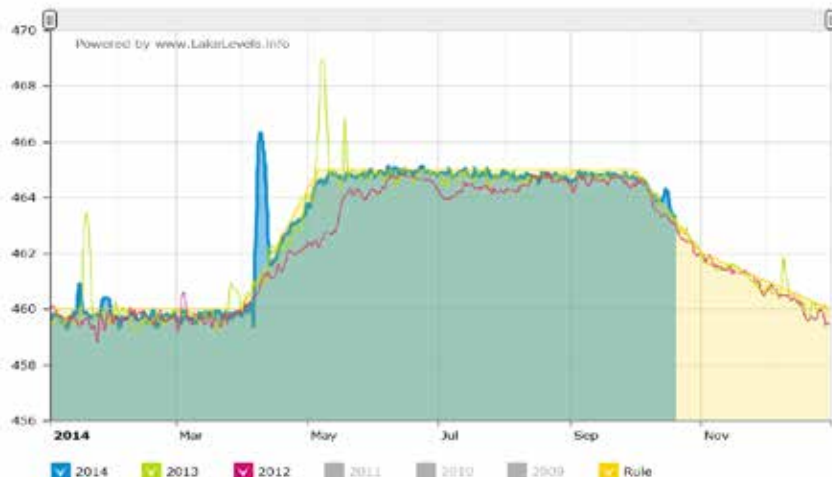
## Boating Tip

The Alabama Marine Police Division's mission is to enhance safety and promote responsible use of resources on Alabama's waterways through enforcement, education and community activities.

Practice safe and courteous boating practices. Be aware of what is going on around you, know the laws and rules of the waterway, and be considerate of other boaters.

Above all, wear your life Jacket!! It's your friend for life!!

Information from Outdoor Alabama.  
www.outdooralabama.com



## November 2014

Nov 01, 2014	GOOD	Morning
Nov 02, 2014	BEST	Morning
Nov 03, 2014	BEST	Morning
Nov 04, 2014	FAIR	Morning
Nov 05, 2014	FAIR	Morning
Nov 06, 2014	GOOD	Evening
Nov 07, 2014	GOOD	Evening
Nov 08, 2014	FAIR	Evening
Nov 09, 2014	FAIR	Evening
Nov 10, 2014	BEST	Evening
Nov 11, 2014	BEST	Evening
Nov 12, 2014	BEST	Evening
Nov 13, 2014	POOR	Evening
Nov 14, 2014	POOR	Morning
Nov 15, 2014	FAIR	Morning
Nov 16, 2014	FAIR	Morning
Nov 17, 2014	FAIR	Morning
Nov 18, 2014	POOR	Morning
Nov 19, 2014	POOR	Morning
Nov 20, 2014	FAIR	Morning
Nov 21, 2014	FAIR	Morning
Nov 22, 2014	FAIR	Evening
Nov 23, 2014	POOR	Evening
Nov 24, 2014	POOR	Evening
Nov 25, 2014	FAIR	Evening
Nov 26, 2014	FAIR	Evening
Nov 27, 2014	GOOD	Evening
Nov 28, 2014	GOOD	Evening
Nov 29, 2014	BEST	Morning
Nov 30, 2014	BEST	Morning

Information from the Farmers' Almanac.

## Lake Levels

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

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



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# Community Calendar

## Friday, November 28

### Bass tournament

Poor House Branch Marina will have its 15th annual bass tournament from the marina. Blast-off is at 6 a.m.; first weigh-in is at 7:30 a.m.



## Thursday, November 6

### Breakfast for the Braves

Breakfast for the Braves is to show appreciation for the work all first responders do. It is held on the first Thursday of every month at 9 a.m. at Eden Westside Baptist Church in Pell City. For information, call Angie at 205-405-1468.

## Friday, November 14

### Benefit auction for Children's Place

The St. Clair Association of Realtors benefit auction for the St. Clair Children's Advocacy Center, The Children's Place, at Celebrations in Pell City will include live and silent auctions. Corporate sponsorship is \$100, and tickets are \$10. To participate, contact Shawn Story at 205-473-6206.

## Saturday, November 15

### Carving wood, not turkey

Logan Martin Woodcarvers meet at 9 a.m. at the Pell City Recreation Center. Meetings are free and open to anyone interested in the art of woodcarving. For more information, call Marvin Little at 205-338-7299.

## Saturday, November 22

### Thanksgiving Jam

Second annual Thanksgiving Jam concert to raise funds for Autism Speaks from 6-10 p.m. at Harvey's on Noble, 280 N. Noble Ave., in Sylacauga. Featuring hit country songwriter Troy Jones as headliner, plus The 64s, Path Working, The Poorhouse Kings, Odie & Friends, David Shierling and Grant Maddox. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Age 21 and up. Tickets \$10 at the door.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Monday, Dec. 1

#### Talladega Christmas Parade

The Talladega Christmas Parade, one of the oldest in Alabama, will begin at 6 p.m. For information about how to participate, contact the Greater Talladega Area Chamber of Commerce at 256-362-9075 or [info@talladegachamber.com](mailto:info@talladegachamber.com).

## Saturday, Dec. 6

### Breakfast fundraiser

The Stemley Volunteer Fire Department will hold a Southern-style breakfast to raise money from 7-10 a.m. off Stemley Bridge Road on Alabama 34 at 125 Rock Church Road (across from the Shack BBQ.)

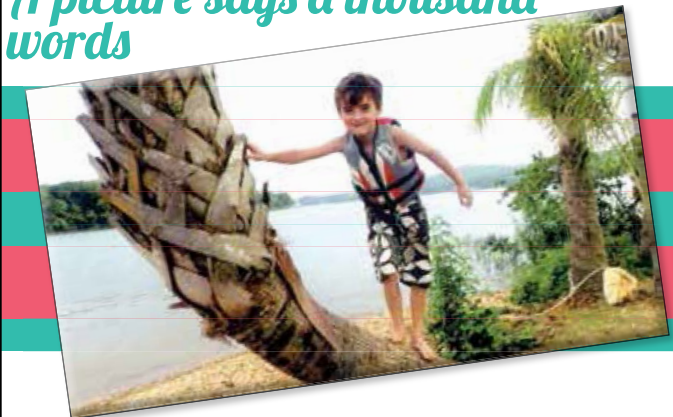
## Thursday, Dec. 11

### Pell City Christmas Parade

The Pell City Christmas Parade is coming up, and it's time to get applications and donations turned in now. This year's theme is "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree." Contact the Pell City Chamber of Commerce at 205-338-3377 or [pellcitychamber2@centurytel.net](mailto:pellcitychamber2@centurytel.net).

## From The Readers Eye

*A picture says a thousand words*



Submit your favorite family, lake, or event photo and be a part of our **From the Readers Eye** showcase in our monthly Lakeside Magazine.

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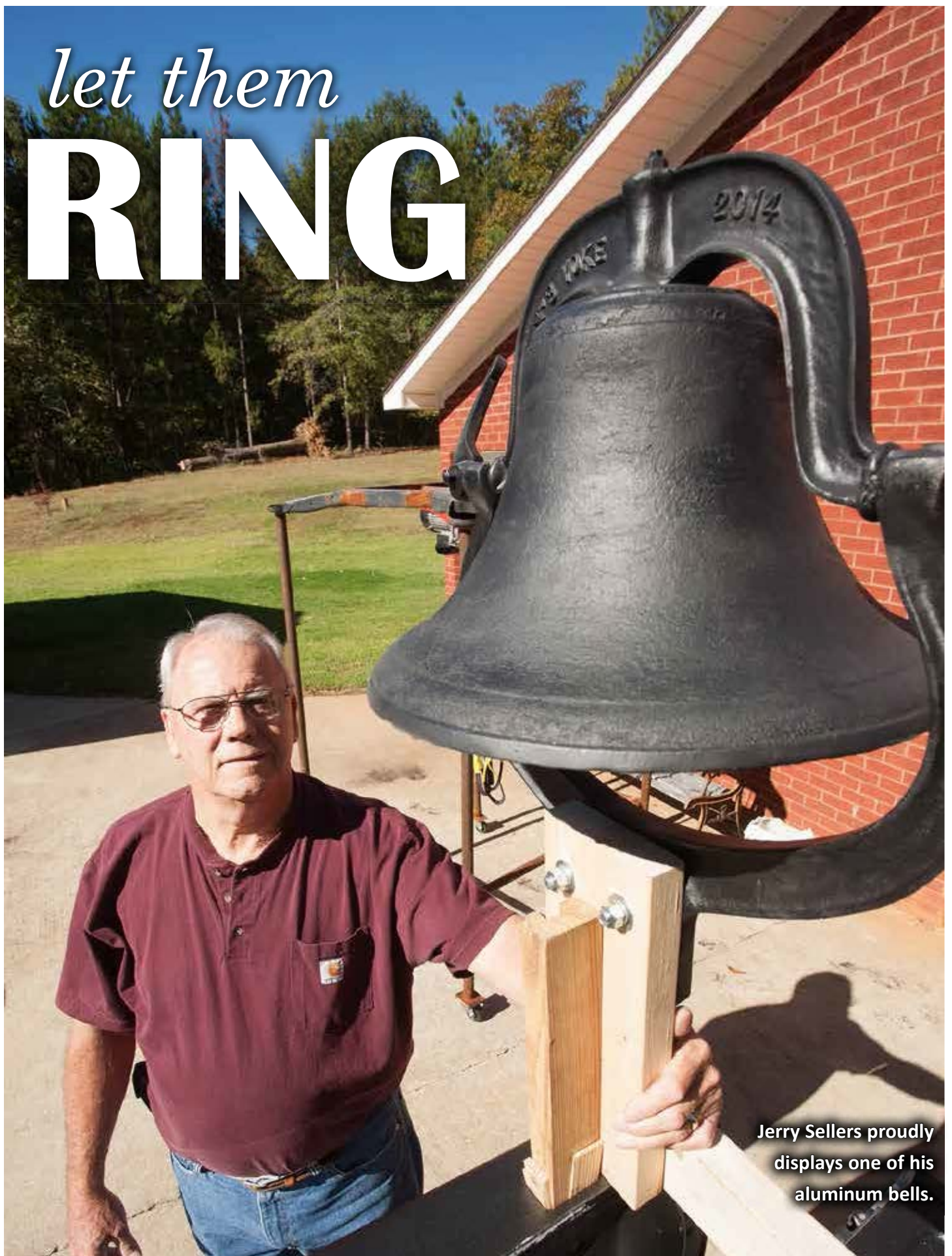
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# *let them* **RING**

Jerry Sellers proudly  
displays one of his  
aluminum bells.



# Talladega man proves you can make bells from aluminum

Story by CHRIS NORWOOD

Photos by BOB CRISP

At first blush, it would seem that the humble bell is a relatively simple device; a metal clapper hits the inside of a cup-shaped piece of metal and produces a tone. But Jerry Sellers knows they can be a little bit more involved than that.

Sellers lives just outside Talladega and makes aluminum bells, among other pursuits. He sells his creations at trade shows in Winterboro and Ashland, but these days most of his bell business is handled via Craigslist. He also sells bell parts online, including iron breaks, clappers, yokes and handles.

He got interested in making bells with his father, Louie who worked in a foundry in the 1960s. Their earliest attempts involved buying coke for fuel from a blast furnace in Jenifer, then using a vacuum cleaner running

in reverse to keep the fire going. Cast iron was melted in this extremely hot fire to create a mold for the aluminum bells. The process also involved an ammunition box from the Anniston Army Depot filled with sand.

The bells were dried and hand painted, and, although some people said that an aluminum bell wouldn't ring properly, ring they did. At their peak, Sellers and his father were turning out about 120 bells every other day. "There was no Internet then, so Dad took them around to auctions and sold them there. He sold some in Chicago, and there was a sheriff from Georgia who came in and bought a whole U-Haul full of them," he said.

"People said they wouldn't ring, but with the right shape and the right alloys, that's not true," Sellers said.

His current bell making operation started back up



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**Above: Louie Sellers first began making aluminum bells back in the 1960s and passed the secret down to his son, Jerry.**

**At right: After a hiatus of several years, Jerry Sellers restarted his bell making operation about a year ago.**

about a year ago.

The operation today is a little more advanced than the one he described from the 1960s, but the essentials remain the same. Sellers said he learned from watching at the foundry. "I watched them make the molds, and then pour them in the sand. It was all just very interesting to me," he said.

"It's a challenge. You have to keep the temperature of the metal just right; you have to take shrinkage into account. You have to test the sand to make sure you have the right amount of moisture, and you can burn the sand if it gets too hot. But you also have to be careful not to chill it off too soon. It's hard, hot work, and I've been





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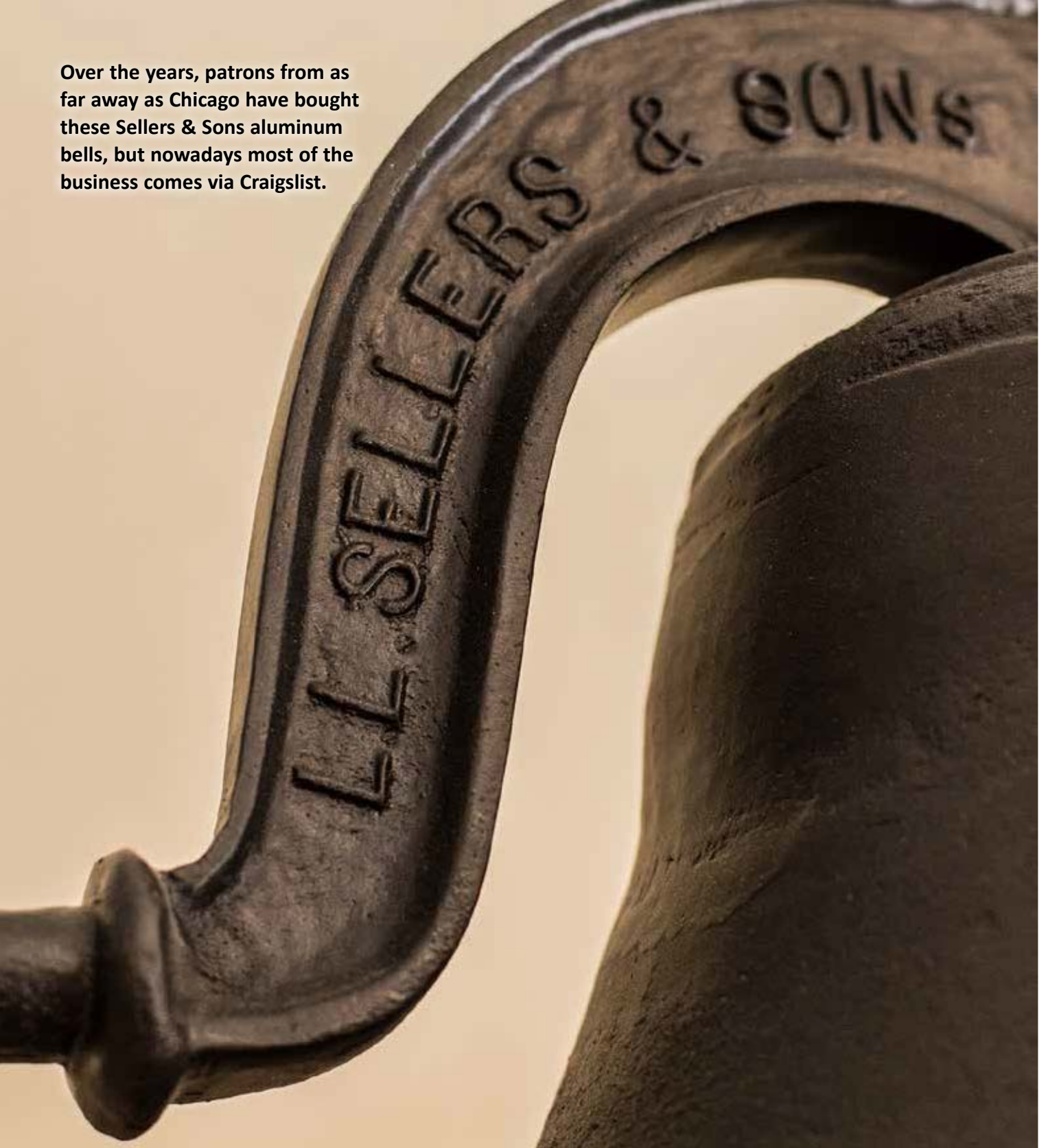


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Over the years, patrons from as far away as Chicago have bought these Sellers & Sons aluminum bells, but nowadays most of the business comes via Craigslist.



doing it since 1971. I don't know why, but I am."


Many other things have also occupied his time over the years, including a current job that involves driving cars to Talladega after they have been bought at auction in other states. His family

also operated a hardware store at one time.

"My dad retired from the government, and Mom passed," he said. "He wanted something to do, so we decided to open a hardware store. He worked every other Saturday until he couldn't

handle it anymore."

He added, "We had a few bells left then, and we sold a few of them."

Thanks to Sellers' handiwork, when it's dinnertime at the lake, you can round up the crowd with a cast aluminum dinner bell hand-crafted in Talladega County. 





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Late fall is the time when many boat owners prepare their watercraft for the winter.



# Winter insurance policy

## Preventive maintenance on boats, decks saves money in the long run

Story by SHANE DUNAWAY  
Photos by BOB CRISP

As the daylight hours begin to shrink and the cooler weather creeps in during the fall months, it signals the time of year for owners of boats and lakefront property to protect their investments before winter arrives.

Mark Hildebrant, a sales manager at Woods Surfside Marina, said some boat owners begin the process of winterizing in mid-September as they get ready to pack in their bow riders, deck boats, pontoon boats and other watercraft they use to traverse Logan Martin Lake, but it is a good idea to keep an eye on these craft throughout the winter months.

Winterizing is especially important for inboard/outboard and outboard motors, because their engine blocks hold water in the cooling system.

"You've got to get that water out and put anti-freeze in so it doesn't freeze and crack," Hildebrant said. "On an outboard engine, you want to make sure to change the foot oil in the lower unit where it's more susceptible for water to get in so that lower unit doesn't freeze and crack."

Hildebrant noted it's a convenient time to take care of annual servicing, including oil changes and replacing filters.

"You also want to stabilize the fuel in a boat because it's going to sit," Hildebrant said. "So if there's any fuel in it, you want to make sure there's a stabilizer in it so it doesn't go bad over the winter."

While routine maintenance and winterization do come with a price tag, Hildebrant said most boat owners are prepared to pay the piper in lieu of the alternative,





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**Routine and preventive maintenance are crucial to keeping a dock, seawall or boathouse looking pristine while ensuring the structure remains safe, according to Fred Casey of Tradesman Co.**



especially after the harsh winter of 2013 when he saw several boats with cracked engine blocks after their owners didn't winterize.

"If you're a boat owner, you know the expense of annual maintenance," he said. "Most people understand that owning a boat requires the annual maintenance and fees associated with it. If you don't winterize an I/O and the water is left in it, obviously the water expands when it freezes and it'll crack the engine block. That is not typically ever covered by insurance."

According to Hildebrant, replacing an engine could cost a boat owner more than 10 times the amount of winterizing the motor.

"Winterization is a cheap insurance policy," he said.

Fred Casey of Tradesman Co. Docks said increased boat traffic in recent years also makes it important for lakefront property owners to monitor the status of docks, seawalls, boathouses and the like while the water is down for the winter.


"It's a very good time to evaluate whatever wear and tear has occurred during the busy boating season," Casey said. "If you take Logan Martin Lake in general, we have a far greater amount of boat traffic than we've ever had. The results of that are even more easily identified when you look at your dock to see if you've had any boards break loose or if you've had any damage that's occurred to your seawall or dock. For all of those, it's a good time to make the repairs while the water is down."

He described the most common types of damage he sees throughout the winterization period and pointed out some areas people shouldn't forget to check while going through

the annual process.

"Normally, we see seawall damage and failures in your seawall," Casey said. "We see some wave damage to the docks in some cases and decking may be coming loose due to movement created by boat waves. Check your boat lifts and make sure they're greased up and ready to take the next season. If you have irrigation pumps on your dock, winterize everything, because if you recall the winter before last, we had a cold winter and several people suffered damage to their boats and their irrigation systems."

Casey stressed routine and preventive maintenance are crucial to keeping a dock, seawall or boathouse looking pristine while ensuring the structure remains safe, especially older docks built before Alabama Power implemented regulations limiting how far docks can extend into the water.

"Preserve what you have, because you may not be able to replace it," Casey said. "Preventive maintenance is always key to the economics in a far greater sense. If you take care of it now, it'll save you money in the long run." 

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# Restaurant Trifecta



## Return of Baskin-Robbins, Little Caesars, Dunkin' Donuts creating buzz in Pell City

Story by DAVID ATCHISON  
Photos by BOB CRISP

It's a new concept that Ramon Arias, president of Bravo Food Systems LLC of Birmingham, believes the public will embrace – three national food service restaurant chains under one roof.

"My wife calls it a trifecta," Arias said. "It's something new."

For the first time in Alabama, people can grab a piece of pizza or a sandwich, and top off lunch or dinner with some dessert – ice cream and donuts.

Bravo Food Systems, a family owned and operated business, recently opened a Little Caesars, Dunkin' Donuts

and Baskin-Robbins, all under one roof in Pell City.

The stand-alone structure loaded with entrees, donuts, and, of course, ice cream, is on Martin Street (U.S. 231) in front of the former Food World store. The former supermarket has been renovated and now houses retail chains Goody's and Burkes Outlet.

Little Caesars opened in early August, and Dunkin' Donuts and Baskin-Robbins opened in early September.

Christopher Arias, 30, who along with his brother, Matthew, 31, serve as vice presidents for Bravo Food Systems LLC, said he recently went through extensive



PELL CITY INTERNAL & FAMILY MEDICINE

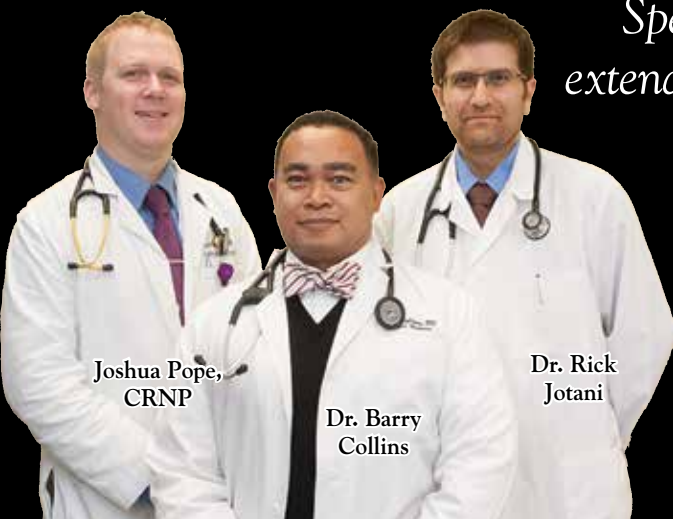
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The new Little Caesars restaurant is part of a food service "trifecta" in Pell City.

training to oversee the operations of the new Baskin-Robbins.

"They make sure you are well fed with information before you open up a café or restaurant," he said.

Bravo Food Systems has 48 food service businesses scattered throughout Alabama, Georgia and Louisiana, mostly Little Caesars restaurants, but the family also owns and operates four Dunkin Donuts restaurants.

The Baskin-Robbins franchise is a first for Bravo Food Systems, and is also the first Baskin-Robbins to open in Central Alabama in about two decades.

The news that the ice cream parlor with more than 1,000 flavors was opening in Pell City generated a buzz.

"Baskin-Robbins is special," Christopher said. "It's a fun place to work and to take families and friends. It's a place where memories are made. We want to be responsible for bringing back Baskin-Robbins. We want to help make memories."

He said Dunkin Donuts and Little Caesars are also some of the fastest growing food chains in the world.

"These three brands are amazing," he said. "But Baskin-Robbins generates more excitement."

Christopher Arias said the excitement is generated by people who remember going into Baskin-Robbins when

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# When life turns golden...

## Always There Provides the Silver Lining.

At 75-years old, Jane Schroeder's life is golden.

"Being able to remain in her home is very important to her," says Jane's daughter Jen Schroeder. "Always There In-Home Care makes that possible. She dearly loves her caregiver, Amelia."

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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they were kids or young adults with their families.

The new Dunkin' Donuts is also more than just a donut shop. The restaurant offers a variety of sandwiches, as well.

Arias said the new Baskin-Robbins carries 24 ice cream flavors, including a flavor of the month. The store also carries BR's famous ice cream cakes.

He looks forward to finding the right combination of ice cream flavors for the store's customers.

"It's going to be a guessing game at first," he said. "That's going to be exciting."

Christopher's father, who started the family business, fled from Cuba in the 1960s.

Ramon Arias eventually made his home in Decatur. He met his wife, Pamela, who is originally from the Birmingham area, at the University of Alabama.

Christopher Arias said he worked his way up in his father's business, joining the company after graduating from high school. He also attended Samford University.


He said it is sometimes hard to separate the family and business life, since the family is so involved with the business, but that is exactly what they try to do.

"There's time for work, and there is a time for play," Christopher said. "There has to be a healthy separation."

He said the new trifecta food service restaurant center employs between 40 and 45 people.

The operating hours for the new Dunkin' Donuts and Baskin-Robbins are 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

According to the company's website, Baskin-Robbins was founded in 1945 in Glendale, Calif. The total global franchisee-reported sales for Baskin-Robbins was \$1.9 billion in 2013. Baskin-Robbins has 7,300 ice-cream specialty stores in 50 countries and 2,500 U.S. shops in 43 states.

Dunkin' Donuts was founded in 1950. The total global franchisee-reported sales for Dunkin' Donuts was \$7.4 billion in 2013. Dunkin' Donuts has 11,000 restaurants in 33 countries. 



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# From the Heart

## Close call spurs Thompsons to make Logan Martin their home

Story by ELSIE HODNETT

Photos by BOB CRISP

Although they loved being lake weekenders, the heart attack that ended up saving Jimmy Thompson's life was the turning point for the big move to the water for him and his wife, Pam.

"We lived in Gardendale and loved coming up to the lake as weekenders," said Pam Thompson, who now lives full-time at the lake in Cropwell with her husband and their

Yorkie, Bella.

She said the couple had a two-bedroom trailer nearby, but were looking for something on Logan Martin Lake.

"We bought this lot in 2006," she said. "It had two mobile homes in bad repair. They hadn't been lived in in a long while. We fixed them up for the weekend and summer, but neither had heat so we didn't use them in the winter."





A twist of fate led the Thompsons to build their beautiful home in Cropwell.







**The home has two full bathrooms upstairs and another downstairs.**

Then in 2008, Jimmy had a heart attack, his wife said.

"The heart attack saved his life because the doctors found he had an aortic aneurism that was getting ready to burst, which would have killed him," she said. "They were able to repair it."

Pam said three weeks after the heart attack, the couple put their Gardendale home up for sale with the intention of moving to the lake full-time.

"The house didn't sell until 2011, a little more than three years later," she said.

Pam said the couple moved to Cropwell but cool weather was coming fast.

"We had a friend with a house across the street that they let us rent while our house was being built," she said. "It took about three months to build and was finished in February 2012. It worked out wonderfully."

The house is on a basement lot with three bedrooms and two full baths upstairs and a bedroom and full bath downstairs.

"We have four kids and five grandkids, so it gets crowded when they come," Pam said.

The open floor plan flows from the living room area into the kitchen/dining room area. An island bar separating the kitchen and dining table provides the perfect place to eat while watching either the lake or the big-screen television in the living room.

"I knew I wanted a lot of windows," Pam said. "Just about all the windows on the back of the house have a lake view."

Pam said the house is decorated in neutral colors, to

go nicely with the dark furniture. And although they are Alabama football fans, it's not elephants that decorate the curio cabinets and tables — it's camels.

"My mom used to do ceramics," Pam said. "She made me a large ceramic camel, and I've collected them ever since. They are hard to find, but I get the ones I like."

Both the upstairs and basement can accommodate friends and family for football games and other gatherings.

"The basement has a small dinette area for eating or card games, and we have an open area with the bar that could turn into a mini kitchenette, which we haven't done," she said. "And you get the gorgeous water views from the downstairs as well."

Although the lot doesn't have deep water year-round for boating, the view is year-round.

"We have a boat launch and pier, a pontoon boat and a fishing boat," she said.

The main level has a partially-covered deck with stairs leading down to the patio. Under the deck is a shaded nook with a variety of plants and patio furniture. The yard has a variety of places for guests to lounge and enjoy the water.

By the small shed is a brick paving stone area with lounge chairs under a shade tree. The pier has a table and chairs, perfect for fishing and swimming. Another brick paving stone area holds the barbecue pit. A fire pit sits ready for use at the corner of the main patio.

"It helps to have separate areas for visiting when there are lots of family and friends over," she said. **L**



Pam Thompson wanted lots of windows like these that give the dining room area a light, airy feel.



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# *Terrific Tablescapes*



Jane Vaughn uses coffee beans in the bottom of this glass hurricane candle holder to help pick up the brown shade in this tablescape and tie it all together.



# Bring the outdoors in for the perfect holiday setting

Story by BILL KIMBER

Photos by BOB CRISP

For a stunning Thanksgiving table, bring together a mixture of heights, colors, textures and themes, and bring a little of the outdoors in, recommends Jane Vaughn of Sylacauga.

Vaughn is noted for her creative and comfortable tablescapes, whether for a bridesmaids' luncheon at church or the head table at a community banquet, at the lake with friends or at home for the holidays.

When it comes to dishes, glasses and flatware, she likes to mix old family pieces with newer acquisitions to create a different look every time.

Save money by using what you already have, whether it's your grandmother's china or a favorite tablecloth, and add personality with small items such as decorative

ribbon to tie around napkins, and small pieces of slate marked with soapstone for place cards.

"It doesn't have to be stiff and formal," she said.

A variety of cloths, runners and napkins topped with floral arrangements and candles add the finishing touch.

As for the centerpiece, "You want to keep it fairly low so you can see over it, and you want it to have interest," she said.

"I go to nature for warmth. You can go to your backyard and find things from the last of summer to dress your Thanksgiving table. And don't be afraid to use color," Vaughn said.

She uses coffee beans in the bottom of glass



**Small items such as this ribbon help to add personality to any table setting.**





Repeating the theme of a tablescape throughout the house helps to give a sense of continuity.

to give a sense of continuity.

"You use what you like, but it's not as much about what you put on the table as it is about who's sitting around it," Vaughn said. "It shouldn't be about the formality of the meal. It should be about the joy of having your family together and celebrating family and warmth."

She said her love of setting a beautiful table has been developed through the years without any specific training. "You go where your interests are, and I really love doing this," she said.

Her tablescapes are featured frequently in Auburn-based East Alabama Living magazine, where her daughter, Scarlotte Vaughn, is managing editor. **LA**

hurricane candle holders to pick up a specific shade of brown, and points out that peas, beans or other dried seeds would work as well. Floral highlights coordinate with the blue upholstery of her dining room chairs.

While decorating a table, Vaughn said

she does some "play acting," sitting at different seats to see how the view looks from different perspectives.

Vaughn repeats themes from the table around the house, adding pinecones, pheasant figurines, feathers and pumpkins to the décor throughout

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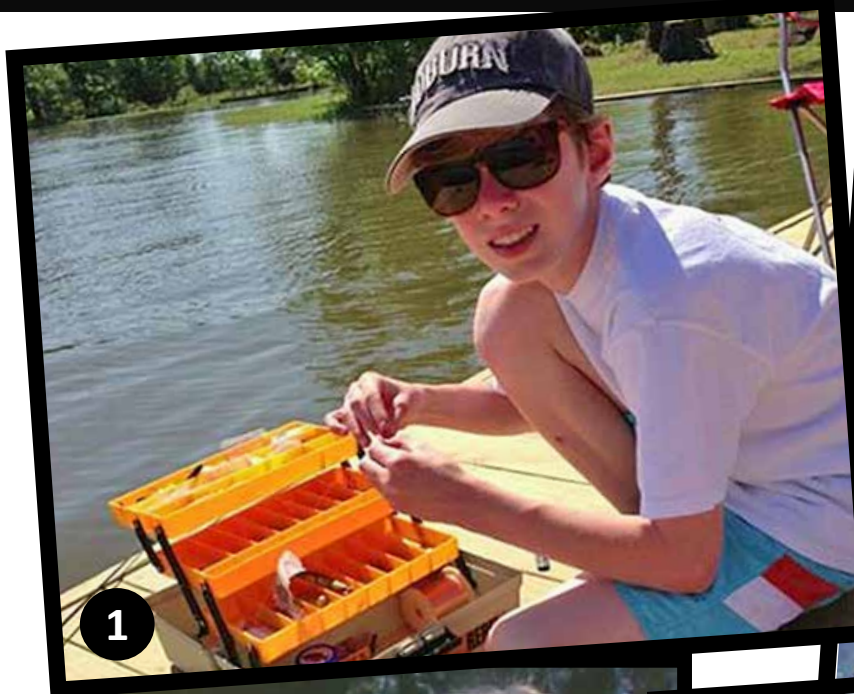
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1. Matthew Holcomb loves to fish off of Skyline Point in his spare time.
2. Tab Strickland of Munford shows off one of his Largemouth bass recently caught on Logan Martin.
3. Peyton Harry can fish with the big boys any day of the week.
4. Avery, Marley, and Harper enjoying a visit to the Pumpkin Patch.
5. Grey is not quite sure what to make of the pumpkins.

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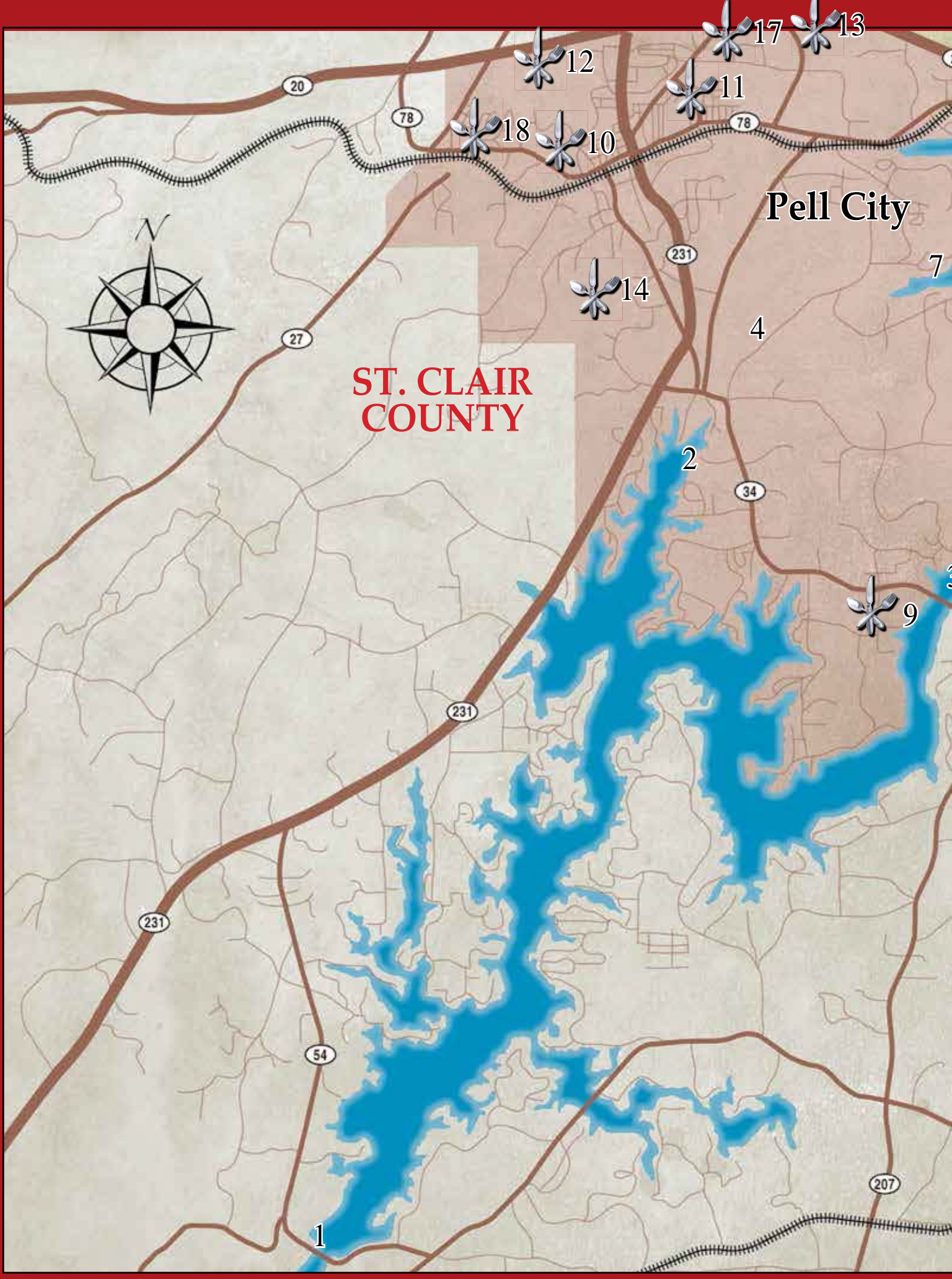
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# Logan Martin Homes

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*Love this house?*





# Lake Joy home perfect for individual, family alike

Story by ZAC AL-KHATEEB

Located on Lake Joy in Sylacauga, the house at 109 Wheeler Street is a near-perfect conventional single-family home.

While the home itself is spacious with numerous amenities, part of the property's charm is its location: It's mere minutes from downtown Sylacauga and U.S. 280, and sprawled along 125 feet of waterfront with a pier that allows for year-round fishing on a private lake.

Greg Atkinson, associate broker for Atkinson Real Estate, characterized the home as uniquely suited for someone who enjoys the privacy of a secluded home, yet close enough to downtown to feel like you're still living in the city.


"It's well designed and spacious, with lots of attention to detail," Atkinson said. "It's in a wooded area, but you also have neighbors."

The home, built in 1990, has three bedrooms, three full

bathrooms and a half bath as well. Moreover, the home mixes the best of space and privacy, both inside and out. The master suite on the main level has an adjoining study and a private screened-in porch. Other features include a cathedral ceiling, fireplace and spacious dining area.

It has hardwood floors in the main living area, while the kitchen features granite counters and ceramic tile floors. It has a second-story den and spacious bedrooms and baths, as well as a large finished basement with another living area and bath.

The house isn't just for a conventional-style family, however. Atkinson said it would be perfect for families or individuals alike.

"It's a year-round house," Atkinson said. "A single person can move in or a family. It's well-built, in great shape." 



# Right where she belongs

Story by ZAC AL-KHATEEB

Shawn Story's career as a real estate broker has been marked by change and a powerful confidence in herself.

Six years ago Story started her own real estate agency, Lake Haven Realty, in Pell City. For three years she sold lake property, becoming one of the best-known agents in St. Clair County.

Then, three years ago, she was diagnosed with neuroendocrine carcinoma. After undergoing surgeries to treat the cancer, Story no longer felt she was in a position to work for herself, so she worked for some other agencies.

"I just got to the point where I didn't want to have the responsibility of being my own broker," Story said. "But after working with a couple other companies in the last few years, I realized I needed to come back to my own company."

And so she did. Six years after starting her first agency, Story has started another one. And business has been good. Story said she enjoys the freedom that comes for being her own broker: She's closing deals and looking to add more agents.

"It's been a process, because I had to get all my books and all my stuff together again," Story said. "But it's going to work. It's really working really well this time. I've been doing wonderful."

Not that Story only cares about the commission she makes or the number of properties sold. She actively enjoys the work she does, from meeting potential clients to coordinating with partners, and of course, the closing itself.

"It's like a puzzle," Story said. "I like how everything has to be put together for you to get the final piece."

Story also loves the idea of helping with the development of Pell City and surrounding areas – she has just started venturing into selling property in Talladega County. She realized that a lot of the work she's been able to do has been because of the people she's met and the relationships she's



Shawn Story

built over time.

"People don't understand that a lot of realtors spend a lot of time trying to help people we work with," Story said. "They think we get that big commission, then we run off to Florida or something. I haven't gotten to go to Florida for four years. I've been too busy."

Another part of her real estate career that Story loves is her involvement with the St. Clair County Association of Realtors' charity auction for the St. Clair Children's Advocacy Center. This year's auction is Friday, Nov. 14.

"As of last year, we were able to give them \$16,000," Story said. "So this year, we're hoping to increase that. We have a live auction and a silent auction. This is something I do every year as chairman."

And despite all the change and difficult circumstances Story has been through, she said she would not change any part of it.

For her, it's just the story of her life.

"Life happens. ... It's something you learn to deal with."

To contact Story, call Lake Haven Realty at 205-338-5515.



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**CROPWELL** \$249,900. The only way to truly experience the benefits of this unique cottage is to enter through the cozy front door. Located on the Logan Martin Lake, this cute home offers 2 bedrooms and 1 bath, cozy living area, quaint kitchen, and sunroom. Watch the kids play in the water from the open deck or the screened porch. Take it as you see it, owner to leave most furnishings for you to enjoy; they will take some of their favorite special items. MLS #610820



**CROPWELL** \$249,200. 3BR/2BA, great room w/fp surround sound, private patio with a hot tub off the master, bonus room. The guest house offers 1BR/1BA, den, huge foyer, bonus room, ample parking. Raised herb garden in the spacious back yard. Swings hanging from the beautiful oak trees. Garage has a track room, green house, work shop and a train room complete with tracks and trains. There is a whole house generator. MLS #607332



**REDUCED!**

**PELL CITY** \$149,900. 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



**NEW LISTING!**

**ALPINE** \$179,900. This home offers 3BR/2BA, a bonus room above the double car garage. This home sits on a large corner lot with beautiful

rose bushes and crepe myrtle. The home has an open floor plan. Cook in the kitchen and still see the ball game. Your breakfast room has a bay window, you also have a eat up bar. The home is built out of hardiplank, with 1936 square feet more or less. Alarm system. Fresh paint on inside walls. MLS#607292



**PELL CITY** \$439,000. 5 BR, 3-1/2 bath home. 2 Story ceilings, gas logs, ventless fp, and natural light streaming throughout the living area. The large eat in

kitchen has many features including, a breakfast bar, granite counter tops and stainless steel appliances. Formal dining area. The owner suite has ample amount of space, tray ceiling with uplighting, & a gorgeous view overlooking the open deck & back yard. The owners bath has marble flooring, double vanities, a travertine tiled shower, jetted tub, and a walk-in closet. The second story includes 4 spacious bedrooms, & a full bath. The basement level consists of a den, game room, bedroom, full bath, & a one car garage. MLS#509885



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

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



**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



**WATERFRONT**

**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** \$175,000. 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



**REDUCED!**

**RIVERSIDE** \$169,900. Highlands, 4BR/3BA, full brick, fenced backyard, man cave/office, MLS#599331



**REDUCED!**

**PELL CITY** \$229,900 3 BR / 2 BA with 12 ft ceilings, dining room, great room w/ 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.



**REDUCED!**

**TALLADEGA** \$399,900.

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, exposed 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



**PELL CITY** \$399,000. 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 huge 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



**REDUCED!**

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**GORGEOUS LAKE ESTATE REDUCED!**



**LOGAN MARTIN LAKE PRIVATE ESTATE \$995,000.** Approx 6 acres on 1000' waterfront with seawall. Beautiful Vanishing Edge Salt Water Pool with fountain & surrounding patio overlooking lake. One level, views of the lake from all rooms. 4BR/4.5 BA, Beautiful Dining room, Huge Gathering Kitchen with Australian Verde Fire Granite, Wet Bar, amazing cabinetry. Luxurious Master, Jet tub, Steam Shower, coffer ceilings, dressing closets, adjoining study w/FP. Gazebo w/ swing. Covered boathouse, 2 electric winches, 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



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



**PELL CITY \$299,000.** 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



**PELL CITY \$589,000.** Unique custom-built home in Pine Harbor, 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



**LINCOLN \$279,000.** Large 1 level 4BR/3BA home on good water. Very well-built, needs some carpet and paint, basement has 2 entrances. MLS#595462



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



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



**CROPWELL \$249,000.** Lovely 3BR/2BA one level home with great open floor plan, in nice subdivision. Hardwood floors, arched doorways, wet bar, see-thru fireplace from kitchen to great room, which opens to beautiful courtyard. MLS#609717





**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**



**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**



**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**



**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**



**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**



**117 Ashton Circle, Sylacauga** - Large 3 BR, 2 BA Garden Home in Ashton Park. Has hardwood and tile throughout, a huge master, beautiful designer kitchen, sunroom and "park-like" fenced-in back yard. **\$212,900**



**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**



**1068 Spring Field Drive, Chelsea** - Beautiful large 3BR, 2 1/2 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**



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If you are looking for a lake retreat under \$100k! Mobile home with 2BRs and 1BA. The screened porch is only one year old. All furniture will remain. The lot gently slopes to the water. \$69,900



Well kept all brick home in Steeplechase Subdivision. This home is on a large corner lot with a fenced yard. There are 3 spacious BRs and 2 full BAs. This home is move in ready! \$147,000



Wonderful all brick home located close to town. This home has it all. 3BRs, 2BAs and the eat in kitchen has a breakfast bar and lots of cabinets. A new roof installed July of 2014. \$155,000



Beautiful new construction in the coveted area of The Cove in Fox Hollow. This home has 3BRs and 2 full BAs. There is a finished bonus room upstairs that could be used as a 4th bedroom. \$165,000



This beautiful home located in The Cove of Fox Hollow has many beautiful upgrades. 3BRs and 2.5BAs. The master bedroom and laundry room is located on the main level. \$184,900.



Elegant all brick home located in Old Beavers Farm. This home has a split foyer plan and is ready for a large family. 4BRs and 3BAs all situated on 1.55 acres. Don't miss this affordable price \$229,900.



Great Family Lake Retreat or investment property, Awesome View of Lake Logan Martin! Two houses in one. Previously a duplex building, now being sold as one house. 4BRs and 3BAs priced at \$229,000.



Beautiful custom all brick home in The Highlands. This home has gorgeous curb appeal and is conveniently located close to town, interstate and Honda. 3BRs and 2BAs. Don't miss this great deal! \$239,900



Have you ever wanted an affordable lake home? This is your home! This home has a large living room complete with a brick fireplace with woodburning insert. 4BRs and 2BAs priced right at \$249,900.



Two words: Elegant and affordable! This beautiful home with an open floor plan will "wow" you when you walk in the door. 4BRs and 3BAs. Don't miss this great deal in Eagle Pointe. \$324,900



Great waterfront lot! This is a very affordable lake lot. This lot has 466' of waterfront (per survey). .77 acres. Talladega County. No mobile homes on this lot. \$110,000



First time on the market for this elegant top of the line home. Too many amenities to list. 5BRs and 3BAs all on 5.16 acres and waterfrontage on Neely Henry. Waterfront estimate is 200'. \$349,900





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



**\$347,900** - 712 Lindy Place - IMMACULATE, 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 boat slip and boat launch. MLS #603538 Call Brenda 205/812-4141



**\$379,000** - 5802 Lee Rd. - PINE HARBOR area with this custom built 4 bedroom, 4.5 bath home with 2-story foyer, living room, dining room, family room with fireplace. Downstairs has nice den, 2-car garage and located on gently slope lot with pier. Convenient to town and I-20. MLS #607409 Call Lawrence 812-5195 or Brenda 812-4141



**\$294,000** - 325 Black Acres Rd. - NICE 1.5 story 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath waterfront home on gentle slope lot. Home consists of separate dining room, hardwood floors, 2-car garage and large detached workshop. MLS #604516 Call Bill 369-7977



**\$699,000** - 229 Willow Dr. - MOTIVATED SELLER with this custom built home with abundance of amenities. 5 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



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



**\$319,900** - 4910 Masters Road - BEAUTIFUL LAKEVIEW from this 3 bedroom, 3 bath home with finished basement, covered boat lift and dock. MLS #610508 Call Jeff 405-1649



**\$249,900** - 153 Lakeview Circle - 4 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



**\$209,900** - 54 Southbend Drive - 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with split bedroom design, spacious floor plan and nice kitchen. 2-car garage and located convenient to I-20. MLS #609819 Call Carl 965-4755 or Michelle 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



**\$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



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

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