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THE

GROUNDHOG

Mentone, Valley Head, Hammondville, Menlo, Cloudland
P. O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984

Volume 34, No. 8

"Neighborhood News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

August 2015

MEET MENTONE'S NEW PRINCIPAL

My name is Mary Lance, and I am a native of DeKalb County. Joey Lance and I have been married almost twenty years. We have been blessed with three wonderful children, Wyatt age 18, Joshua age 16, and Macy age 15. I am a 1994 graduate of Plainview High School and earned my Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education from Athens State University, a double Masters Degree in Elementary Education and School Administration and an Educational Specialist Degree from Jacksonville State University.

DeKalb County has employed me as an Elementary Education Teacher, at both Crossville and Plainview Schools, before selecting me to be an Instructional Supervisor for all DeKalb County Schools. As a DeKalb County Instructional Supervisor, I worked with Curriculum, Testing, Instructional Coaches, Pre-K and various other activities. While working as a supervisor, I wrote and received eight Pre-K grants at an estimated worth of nearly one million dollars. My career goal has always been to serve as an Elementary School Principal. When the position of Principal at Moon Lake became available, I eagerly sought this position so that I might have the opportunity



to become the Principal of a great school that enjoys solid community support. I look forward to meeting each child on the first day of school. I am truly honored to be appointed as Moon Lake's Principal and am looking forward to working with the dedicated staff at Moon Lake to provide the best possible educational program for our students.

My philosophy of education is a belief that all students can learn. For Moon Lake students to be learners, we, as educators, must be their role

model and demonstrate that we are also lifelong learners. I feel that my responsibility as the Principal is to ensure your child receives a quality education within a safe, respectful environment. I think of my students' welfare as I would my own children. For each child, I will determine the best action to take in any given situation. Because we are dealing with students' lives, I believe in giving a 100% effort and asking my students to do the same. Parents, teachers, support staff, and administration all have an important role in encouraging our children to become lifelong learners. I encourage parent and community involvement at Moon Lake. Please feel free to contact me at the school with any questions, concerns, or just to introduce yourself. Working together enhances your child's educational experiences.

Finally, I want to express appreciation to Mrs. Brenda Wisner for her assistance and exemplary leadership of Moon Lake School. I wish her well in her retirement.



*Respectfully,
Mary Lance, Principal
Moon Lake School*

Wildflower Cafe Named the "Best of 'Bama"

Congratulations to the Wildflower Cafe! They have been awarded the title of Best Cafe by Alabama Magazine's 2015 Best of Bama Awards. This title is much deserved due to the overall dining experience and the ambiance in the cafe. The Best of Bama is the list where "businesses across the state are being recognized as 'the best of the best' in the food and drink, arts and entertainment, and shopping categories". Mentone's Wildflower Cafe excels in all of these categories. The meals are exquisite and deviate from the typical menus of the area. The food and drinks are complimented nicely by unique artwork and soulful music. Also, there are plenty of items to buy in the cafe; aside from the pieces

of art, there are herbs, handmade soaps, books, handmade scarves, jewelry, and more. The visitors of the cafe are as diverse as the products and the menu. Some are local; others are tourists. You might see one person in very casual attire and another in a wedding dress. Some are there for the food, others for the delightful music. No matter what brings them in, they leave after their appetite has been satisfied by delicious food, relaxing music, and the Southern hospitality of the wonderful staff. Three cheers to the Wildflower Cafe for being appropriately honored as 'the Best of the Best' in Alabama.



THE GROUNDHOG

P. O. Box 387
Mentone, AL 35984

The Groundhog is published monthly by the Mentone Area Preservation Association, MAPA (Website: www.mapamentone.com; Email: mapamentone@gmail.com) and was first conceived on Groundhog Day, 1982, and organized April 5, 1982, for the purpose of preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area, and is chartered as a 501c3 non-profit corporation.



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MENTONE MATTERS

By Mayor Rob Hammond



On July 7, an article by John Archibald appeared on AL.com about Dick O'Ferrell, Director Emeritus, Alpine Camp for Boys. If

you did not see it, I urge you to go to AL.com and read it. It told of Mr. O's life's work at Alpine beginning in 1959 and the tremendous positive influence Mr. O has had in the lives of thousands of Alpine campers and staff.

Mr. O's positive contributions do not stop at the gates of Alpine. He is the "dean" of the Mentone camp directors. Mr. O created a spirit of support and sharing among the camps that is unique and ongoing. When I was a young camp director, Mr. O was never too busy to share or just listen. He has been there on a personal and professional level for many of the Mentone camp directors. He has always represented the Mentone camps well in the American Camp Association and the Association of Alabama Camps. He is well respected in both organizations. Mr. O, from all of your fellow directors, congratulations and heartfelt thanks!

From The Editor



Summertime offers the pleasure of extended hours of daylight which seems to allow us more time to enjoy beautiful sunsets. It seems the sky demonstrates a new color each evening. The blues and purples and oranges blend together to make shades that are not in a crayon box. Once the sun is set, the nights are splendid this time of year as well. The air cools, and the stars shine. Nature provides a melody for the relaxing atmosphere as the tree frogs and crickets sing their tunes. It is an enjoyable time of year.

This time of year is also great for yard sales, but the "yard buying" is what I actually take pleasure in. Personally, I love a bargain (whether I actually need the item or not!). Sometimes you stumble on the smallest, cheapest item that will bring you many smiles and years of joy. It is nice to just stroll through a yard sale and wonder what life these items have lived. Did the shawl belong to her grandmother? Are they really selling that antique dresser? What exactly is that thing on the table? But if it's a bargain, go ahead and buy it.

It is also back-to-school time. Parents are ready to settle back into their normal routines, and kids get excited about seeing all of their friends. School shopping brings about a wide range of emotion from people. Personally, I enjoy shopping for school supplies. While the kids are picking the items from their list, I am finding them something special for the first morning of school. It isn't much--a pretty pencil pouch, special locker items or, perhaps, glitter shoe strings. I also treat myself

to new pens and a pretty notebook. Also, my mind gravitates to those families who are not able to enjoy school shopping, because they just don't have the money to spend on it. If you are blessed with a little extra money, or if you have some supplies or gently used clothes, I encourage you to call a local school counselor or a teacher. They will find someone to bless with your gift. One other suggestion as classes resume, speak a word of thanks or encouragement to someone working in the educational field or as support personnel. A little kindness goes a long way.

~ Anna Mae Horn



Join MAPA Today!
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Couples - \$30 a year

MAPA
P. O. Box 50
Mentone, AL 35984



MAPA NEWS

Over the past thirty plus years, MAPA contributed and helped with many things in our community--fun, entertainment, and beauty (festivals); education and news (History of Mentone, The Groundhog), community improvement projects (stone wall, park gazebo); financial donations (Boy Scouts, Moon Lake Elementary School, Fire Department). Over this time, the commitment to preservation of all things good about our community was unwavering no matter the makeup of our membership or board. A new MAPA Board of Directors took office last month with these same guiding principles and commitment to the Mentone area.

Mentone Area Preservation Association board members volunteering to serve next year are: Stephanie Roberts (at large), Amanda Pope

(at large), Laura Moon (Parliamentarian – Past President), Jerome Stephens (Secretary), Kayla Worthey (Treasurer), Clare Donohue (Vice-President), and Ray Padgett (President). Thanks to everyone for agreeing to serve and help MAPA serve our community during the next year.

We also welcome new MAPA members on board and invite others to join us in having fun and meeting our neighbors, while at the same time protecting Mentone's heritage and way of life. MAPA's next big event is Colorfest. While MAPA sponsors Colorfest, we encourage all of Mentone to participate in planning and making Colorfest a truly unique experience for visitors and Mentonians. The Colorfest Planning Committee meets every Wednesday at 1:00 P.M. in Kamama Gallery. Please come to the meetings and help plan, so that we can better schedule events during the festival and develop marketing that includes everyone and everything.

Our MAPA Board meets the first Tuesday of every month, 6:00 P.M. at the MERF House. Visitors and members are welcome to attend.



Mentone Area Arts Council Reminders

Second Saturday Art Market - there will be no Art Market during the month of August due to the World's Longest Yard Sale.

Save the Date - the Annual Home Tour and Silent Auction will be held the fourth weekend in October, October 24-25. If you would like to donate something to the silent auction or volunteer your time, please email mentonearts@mentone.com.

Would you like to receive our weekly email about area arts events? Just email mentonearts@mentone.com and let us know.

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This Old House: MERF Community House



My boards may be a little creaky and my paint a little flaky but I am full of life. I continue to open my doors to the young and the wise so my walls are full of joy, laughter and learning.

Oh joy--the wonderful sounds of children learning, playing and creating is coming soon as Moon Lake School starts another

school year. MERF is so thankful for the great relationship we have had with Moon Lake Elementary School for over 20 years. MERF welcomes Mary Lance as the new principal. We know she will understand soon why we love to say "Leave Me in Mentone"! Mentone has a great treasure in MLES, and MERF is pleased to continue working with the teachers to provide a growing and exciting learning environment through great experiences. Some new ventures are in the works that are just too fun.

Summer with the seniors has been a blast, as always! Thanks to Mentone Market and Kamama for providing great meals for our inaugural BYOL events this summer. The senior lunch bunch crew ventured out for lunch several times this summer and had a blast along with a great meal. In late June, many of the crew

and friends were invited to an afternoon of tea, flowers and homemade zucchini bread hosted by the Camp DeSoto girls and Windy Hill Farm. July also brought another fun watermelon party. Thanks to everyone that helps make these events happen and so much fun.

MERF: Mentone Educational Resources Foundation is a local non-profit with the mission "To enrich the learning and living of the community by identifying needs and coordinating resources." If you would like to support our programs, tax-deductible donations can be mailed to POB107 Mentone, AL 35984 or contribute online at www.crowdrise.com/MERF. Contact us at merf.mentone@gmail.com or 256-634-4673.



LIBS FROM THE LIBRARY

By Anna Mae Horn

Libraries touch my soul, and the Moon Lake Community Library is no exception. Libraries, in general, just have a special place in my heart and in my life. Fond memories of going to the college library with my Mother while she was in college are still fresh in my mind. Being a library aid in junior high and high school was a wonderful experience. Several years after high school, I continued the family tradition, as my oldest two children often accompanied me to the library while I pursued my degree. They felt right at home in the college library, and the workers became accustomed to seeing them. My youngest daughter enjoys trips to the library as well and gets in no hurry to leave. She and I can stay for hours. A quiet serenity greets you at the door, along with the smell of new books and of old books. Worlds wait behind the binding to be explored. The library is a huge treasury of information. My favorite reads are poetry, short stories, research, and history. I enjoy reading the words of people from days gone by and I take pleasure in leafing through pictures of what use to be. Do-it-yourself books grab my attention as well, but they are not always put into action!

Moon Lake Community Library has a varied assortment of interesting material. The volunteers have graciously welcomed me into their 'home' to find all the unique history that Mentone has to offer. The building of the



library is a wonderful story in itself. How one community came together to build what was needed for the school. As you stroll through the library looking for interesting books, do not forget about the valuable reference materials and the historical books of which the library has taken meticulous care. They are very treasured

materials, and some can not leave the library. However, they are well worth a little of your time to sit in the crisp coolness of the library and read about how things came to be or simply look at the pictures. Mentone has a story to tell, and you can find it in the Moon Lake Community Library.

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Senior Lunches at MERF

By Tema Flanagan

I'm still new to Mentone, but the senior lunches at the MERF house already hold a special place in my heart. In fact, one of the first things my husband Patrick and I did when we moved here was attend a senior lunch. The lunch was our first real introduction to Mentone, and we were struck by the kindness of the people and the sense of community that binds Mentonians together. That experience only confirmed our feeling that we were in the right place.

We came to Mentone this past fall along with another couple, Brent and Megan Halderman, to start a working farm--called The Farm at Windy Hill--in association with Camp DeSoto. Our goal is to produce beautiful and flavorful produce, eggs, and meat using practices that improve the land over time. We plan to serve the girls at Camp DeSoto by growing a significant percentage of the food for their dining hall, as well as giving them the opportunity to experience the rhythms of farm life as part of their camping experience. Beyond that, we also hope to serve our local Mentone community--preparing and serving a senior lunch at the MERF house seemed like the perfect way to begin doing that.

We signed up to serve lunch this spring and set about planning the meal. Given the mission of our farm, we hoped to serve a meal with as many locally-produced ingredients as possible. We started by growing our own baby greens and radishes for a salad (as it turned out, the senior lunch was our first opportunity to serve food grown in our new garden). Next, we got lamb meat from Cheri Miller, a vendor at the Mentone Farmer's Market. Cheri has a little farm in Rising Fawn; and when we went to go pick up the meat, we got to visit with some newly-born lambs and even bottle feed one. With the meat, we made an Italian meatball and tortellini soup, which we served with our salad, homemade bread, and apple-raspberry pie. Many helping hands assisted us in setting the tables with daffodils, serving up plates of food, clearing tables and cleaning dishes after the meal was done.

While the food was good, the company was better by far. The day we served lunch was unseasonably warm and sunny, so we had a strong turnout. We all enjoyed sharing a meal with friends and neighbors, listening to Doug Kiker recite his poetry in his signature baritone, and singing along as Elizabeth

Romans and Martha Sprayberry took turns playing the piano. Wilma Fletcher played the accordion, and our own Megan Halderman chimed in on her fiddle. We look forward to serving another meal when the senior lunches pick back up in the fall. In the meantime, here's our recipe for the lamb meatballs we served at lunch.

Cheri's Lamb Meatballs

These meatballs are wonderful in soup or pasta. The combination of lemon zest and lamb meat is really quite lovely, but you can use beef with equally tasty results if you prefer. And, though this recipe calls for baking the meatballs, you can also roll them lightly in all-purpose flour and fry them on the stovetop for a browner, crispier finish.

- Ingredients:
- 1 pound ground lamb or beef
 - ½ onion, finely chopped
 - 1 clove of garlic, minced
 - 1 large egg
 - ¼ cup unseasoned bread crumbs
 - Zest of 1 lemon
 - ½ teaspoon salt
 - Freshly ground black pepper to taste

Preheat the oven to 375°F, line a baking sheet with aluminum foil and grease the foil lightly. In a medium-sized mixing bowl, gently mix the lamb, onion, garlic, egg, bread crumbs, lemon zest, salt and pepper until the mixture is evenly incorporated. Using a one-ounce scoop, scoop the lamb mixture, rolling each scoop between lightly dampened hands to form uniform balls before placing the meatballs on the prepared baking sheet. Place the baking sheet in the oven and bake about 20 minutes, rotating the pan halfway through, until the meatballs are cooked through and browned on the outside.



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HAIR @ THE VILLAGE OPENS FOR BUSINESS

Mentone Business Association welcomes Margie Annis, owner and stylist of Hair @ the Village salon/barber shop, to Mentone as the newest member of the MBA. Margie and her husband, Timothy Annis, have been full-time residents of Mentone for some three years. They reside and work as caretakers on the farm that has been the Annis family's Mentone retreat for many decades.

Margie loves being on the farm where she keeps her horses and enjoys riding and taking in the beauty of the fields and woodlands there. But, she also wanted to get to know the people of Mentone and more about the town, so she decided to open a hair salon.

Margie had worked as a beautician many years in Central Florida, owning two salons during that time. She then became a nurse, and it is from that profession she retired before moving with Timothy (who had also retired) to

MBA Mix

Mentone.

Hair@the Village is located on the corner of Hwy. 117 and Co. Rd. 89, adjacent to Moonlight Bistro, Hummingbird@Loom and above Lookout Mountain Preferred Realty. She and her husband have freshened up the building and it has a fresh, welcoming charm, filled with natural light. Her hours are Tuesday-Thursday, 9-5, with flexible days and hours available. Walk-ins are welcome and appointments may be made at 256-254-0205.

The MBA meets every 2nd Monday of the month at 6:00 pm. The August meeting will be held at the Mentone Inn. If weather is permitting, we'll meet at the pavilion there. Anyone interested in helping make the business of Mentone better for everyone is welcome to attend. For more info, please visit our Facebook page. A list of businesses and their open days/hours, called "Daily Openings," is updated each week and is available at many downtown shops or online at mymentone.com.

By Charlotte Gentry, MBA President



Margie Annis is ready to care for your Hair@the Village in Mentone!

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TIGER

C H A M P S

COMMUNICATE HONOR ADVOCATE MOTIVATE PARENTS STUDENTS

By Anna Mae Horn

Valley Head High School is considered a Title 1 school. This means that a large majority of the students come from what is considered low income homes. We all know it takes finances to help along a child's education--money from the family on behalf of the child and money from the school. We also know that our public school system is strained economically. This means that funds are limited on both sides of this scenario for the students at Valley Head and other Title 1 schools. This year, as an officer of Tiger Champs, I have come to realize even more so what all it takes to give a child a good education (from the perspective of the teachers and community). Teachers not only spend a large amount of their own time, sweat, and tears for their students, but also their money.

This year, I learned first hand what it means to these students and to these teachers when community members reach out and give of their talents, their time, and their resources. It means the children have a more successful learning experience and improved learning resources. Community members and groups play a vital role in the success of our education system. Over the year, through various projects, I found that many people volunteered and several organizations donated money or gave scholarships, but I repeatedly heard the teachers speak of one local group--the Lookout Mountain Wholistic Center in Valley Head. I made it a point to learn more about this group and realized these people give simply because there

is a need--a tremendous need. They help the school in a variety of ways and you can too--for Valley Head, or your own local school. For many people, it brings joy and contentment to their own soul to know they have helped nurture

the education and well being of a child. People can give of their talents, time, money or donated items. I saw first-hand how excited the children get to see visitors helping out and doing special projects. They were thrilled to clean up the campus, have

like to donate of yourself, your talents, or your resources, simply contact a teacher, the school, or Tiger CHAMPS. You may visit the school website at valleyheadscool.weebly.com, call them at 256-635-6228, call me at 256-635-8775, or find Tiger CHAMPS on facebook and on the web at tigerchamps.weebly.com.

I was very deeply touched by the work that LMWC does, so I reached out and asked them to share the various things they do for the school and the community as a whole. I also let them know how much their support means to our school, our teachers, and our students.

Ms. deJoly LaBrier shared with us her personal thoughts on being a part of the LMWC and their activities in the community:

Lookout Mountain Wholistic Center in Valley Head celebrated its 16th anniversary this month. Founded in 1999, a vision of Rev. Edwene Gaines, prosperity expert, LMWC has been a supporter of the local community in many ways from the beginning. Our mission is to love, to serve, to learn, to teach, to heal, to pray, to play, as well as to nurture and support each individual's search for spiritual truth.

Everyone is welcome to participate in the activities at LMWC. When I first began attending meetings at Rock Ridge Retreat Center, I was welcomed with open arms. It was a treat to look forward to the various presentations at the meetings each month. Contributions, in all their various forms, by "members" are valued and honored; and as we say at meetings, "anyone who shows up is considered a member."

The holidays are especially important to us. Lookout Mountain Wholistic Center began its service by giving Christmas trees and presents to the Senior Center for several years. Each year LMWC found more projects to contribute to the community in a loving and joyful way.

(cont'd on page 8)



stories read to them, and of course be rewarded with ice cream after a fundraising event. I also received a personal glimpse into how touched the teachers are when people reach out to help their students receive a better education, which is so vital in today's world. I saw the many educational tools that were able to be purchased from donated funds. I heard excitement in a senior student's voice because they would now have a computer and printer to use as they furthered their education. If you would

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Tiger Champs (cont'd from page 7)

community in a loving and joyful way.

Brandy Pecaut, Fort Payne, has been a member for several years, and spearheads the gift of a Christmas shopping spree for two local families suggested by the counselor at Valley Head School. "LMWC donates \$350 to two families picked by Valley Head School (Mrs. Henderson), and I then go to local stores and ask for gift cards- I usually end up with \$100 to \$150 dollars more. Then, I contact the families two to three weeks before Christmas and meet with them to give them their gifts. For me, it is an act of grace, and the joy I receive for myself is the most amazing feeling of joy. To know that we have helped these families have a brighter and more fulfilling holiday is so fulfilling."

Kelly Wilcox, Armuchee, has been a member for 15 years. "Our group supports our local schools each year. We have also supported local fire departments, the senior center, families in need at the holidays and any other local project that our members feel strongly about supporting." Her daughter, Shania, grew up with us. She first came to LMWC at two years old, and this year she will begin her freshman year at Columbia School of Art in Chicago.

At Thanksgiving, we collect food for the food bank. Periodically, we have a clothing "give away" and donations are given to the local women's shelter. It touches my heart in a special way to be a part of these activities.

Ms. Angie Camp and Ms. Tammy Cooper, 6th grade teachers at Valley Head, have each been given increasing amounts of money for the last five years to help supplement the supplies in their classrooms. This year, members at LMWC

approved \$700 each. We have also presented various programs to the students--such as a quilting class I led, where each student took home a quilted gift that they made for a family member as a Christmas gift. Members have also assisted in the classrooms as tutors in math and science.

One of the most rewarding projects undertaken each year is to present a computer and printer to the top five scholastic students, as well as to the top five technical students, at Valley Head High School award ceremonies. In a letter received from one of the parents, "I am so grateful to Lookout Mountain Wholistic Center for this wonderful gift. I had no idea how I was going to afford to get a computer and printer for my child. School is just so expensive. Thank you LMWC!"

In the last few years, LMWC has given two filled backpacks to K-6 grades. All supplies and fees are included, and the teachers choose the students who may not be able to have what they need to begin the year. I have shopped at Wal-Mart with my friends to fill these bags; we have such a good time choosing the design on the bags and watching other parents and guardians filling their carts with school supplies.

Throughout the years, many adults have been given scholarships for advanced learning. This has been in the form of seminars, trainings, workshops and schools. I recently received a scholarship to get advanced training in EFT (Emotional Freedom Technique) in Atlanta. Others have received scholarships to go to Wooten Music Camp in Tennessee and Access Consciousness Training in Atlanta, to name a few.

Topics for the Wednesday night meetings

have a wide range--for example, Four Spiritual Laws of Prosperity, The Joy of Living a Spirit-Driven Life, Sacred Geometry, Recovery From Childhood Abuse, and The Amazing Brain! Vespers are periodically held in the Chapel at the Retreat Center. Attendees and visitors at the Wednesday night meetings donate and tithe generously to the organization because they want to contribute to the welfare and uplifting of the community. It is through our gifts that all these projects are realized.

The Center is open to all and definitely welcomes newcomers. Go to Rockridge Retreat Center, 451 Rock Ridge Road in Valley Head or call 256-635-1377 to get more information. LMWC meetings are the 1st and 3rd Wednesday evenings each month at 6:30 pm CT.

Valley Head High School

Locker Purchase
and Schedule Pickup
Tuesday, August 4th

Seniors	9:00am
Juniors	9:30am
10th Grade	10:00am
9th Grade	10:30am
7th & 8th Grades	11:00 am

Lockers are \$15
and all fees, fines, etc. must be paid
prior to purchasing.

Back to School Clothes Drive

The Valley Head community is having a back to school clothes drive. If you have clothing that is outgrown, but still wearable, there are a lot of children in the area that have a need for them. Please donate any gently used or new items at Horizon HealthCare, the Water Board, or Valley Head Town Hall. If you need to do an evening drop off or you would like your items to be picked up please call 256-630-2748 or 256-635-8775. The clothes drive will go through the entire month of August and all donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you for helping a child.



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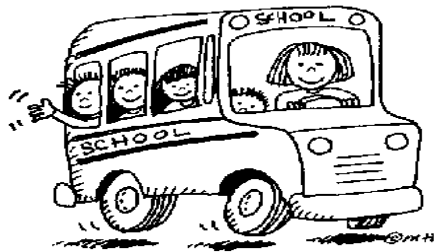
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THE
RECIPE CORNER
BY
ANGIE CARDEN



August Birthdays

Aug 2 – Logan Goza
Aug 2 – George Raley
Aug 2 – Ginger Lee
Aug 2 – Heather Daniel
Aug 2 – Ashley Hodge
Aug 2 – In memory of Emmett Bain
Aug 3 – Halle Hilyer
Aug 3 – Adriana Grace Hall
Aug 3 – Wendy Haynes
Aug 3 – Chance Pearson
Aug 3 – In memory of Betty Butler
Aug 4 – Phyllis Stephens
Aug 4 – Savanna Goza
Aug 5 – Hope Martin
Aug 5 – Amanda Pope
Aug 5 – Elizabeth Meadows
Aug 5 – Amy Jones
Aug 5 – Matt Hilliard
Aug 6 – Casey Stott
Aug 6 – Dallas Bowman
Aug 7 – Samantha Blalock
Aug 7 – In memory of SSG Jonathan Dean
Aug 8 – Alex Gifford

Aug 9 – Martha Browder
Aug 9 – Carolyn Martin
Aug 9 – Brayden Hughes
Aug 9 – Decker Jones
Aug 10 – Alex Whatley
Aug 11 – Dianna Carden
Aug 11 – Lila Jane McElhaney
Aug 12 – Kinsley Worthey
Aug 12 – Amber Smith
Aug 13 – Stephanie Potts
Aug 13 – Brittney Barkley
Aug 13 – Cindy Tipton
Aug 14 – Jennifer Ferguson
Aug 14 – Alan Black
Aug 14 – Hannah Manning
Aug 14 – In Memory of Jay Parker Darwin
Aug 15 – Michael Langston
Aug 15 – Dallas Gregory
Aug 16 – Ashton Jones
Aug 17 – Sandra Pruitt
Aug 17 - Mattie Belle McGee
Aug 18 – Kinsley Mitchell
Aug 19 – Michael Flannigan
Aug 19 – Lee Pierce
Aug 20 – Jesse Jones
Aug 20 – Carla Warren
Aug 20 – Shane Ingram
Aug 20 – Joseph Goza
Aug 21 – Eddie Langston
Aug 21 – Emma Campbell

Crawford
Aug 21 – Christina Stokes
Aug 21 – Michele Black
Aug 22 – Casey Gregory
Aug 22 – Haven Downer
Aug 22 – Keith Langston
Aug 22 – Anthony McKenzie
Aug 22 – Hazel Hilliard
Aug 22 – Sinjhin Smith
Aug 23 – Slade Carden
Aug 23 – Lukas Boehringer
Aug 23 - Phillip Pannell
Aug 24 – Dana Pangle
Aug 24 – Tammy LaRock
Aug 25 – Jason Gregory
Aug 25 – Carolyn Coots
Aug 27 – Howard Hilyer
Aug 27 – Crystal Lee
Aug 27 – Tamara Hawkins
Aug 27 – Luke Durham
Aug 27 – Jack Chambers
Aug 27 – Charlotte McGee
Aug 28 – Larry Gray
Aug 28 – Hunter Izell
Aug 28 – Courtney Roden
Aug 29 – Kayla Worthey
Aug 29 – Donna Willingham
Aug 29 – Susan Cherones
Aug 29 – Isaac Browder
Aug 31 – Wesley Rhodes
Aug 31 – L.C. Bone

Aug 31 – Mark Battles
Aug 31 – Ian Norman

August Anniversaries

Aug 1 – Carolyn & Eddie Coots
Aug 8 – Jim & Beverly Bates
Aug 11 – Rayford & Cindy Bethune
Aug 12 – L.C. & Sarah Bone
Aug 17 – Bobby & Sandy Blalock
Aug 20 – Heath & Lindsey Blalock
Aug 24 – Dwayne & Laura McKenzie
Aug 24 – Matthew & Taylor Smothers
Aug 25 – Mike & Stephanie Potts
Aug 28 – Joseph & Mandi Goza
Aug 29 – John & Kim Johnson
Aug 30 – Richard & Christy Harrison

AUGUST?

What happened to this summer? I smell school clothes and school supplies in everyones lives. Wow! It has been a scorcher, right? It's just so hard to believe that school is about to start and it will be Fall before we know it! I must admit though, I am certainly ready for cool weather, sweaters, coffee, books and SOUPS!

It's been months by now, since any of us wanted a heavy, hot soup, but those days are closely approaching. And since I am itching for some cold weather, let's just pretend it's here! I have a taste for Turkey Chili, which really is a lighter version of chili. This is one way I make it, and feel free to add or leave out any things you like!!!

Turkey Chili

In a large soup pot, brown 1 chopped onion (small to medium) with 1 ½ -2 lbs of ground turkey and about 3 tbsp butter (yes, butter!). When almost browned, add 3 tbsp chili powder, 1 tsp garlic salt or powder, salt & pepper, and 1 tsp ground cumin.

Continue cooking for about 2-3 minutes. (I promise that nothing brings more flavor to your dishes than letting those spices cook for a bit!) Now depending on how thick or soupy you like your chili, drain or don't drain your beans. Personally, I never drain or rinse my beans for chili. I find the texture and consistancy to be so much better if I don't, but that's just my opinion!

So, now add: 1 can pinto beans, 2 cans canallini beans (white kidney beans) 1 can diced tomatoes and 1 large can crushed tomatoes.

I have one more suggestion here, with these canned tomato products, I find adding just a tad of sugar helps tame the overall acidity of anything made with cooked tomatoes. Of course, that's completely optional, I will never know what you do in your kitchen!

I simmer this chili for about 20 minutes, it really doesn't need more time than that! In my house, some of us like to adorn this dish with corn chips or tortilla chips, lot's of grated cheese and tons of sour cream! Sometimes, green onions make an appearance! No matter how you adorn it, I hope you and your family enjoy it!

Wishing you all a Happy August and Happy Cooking!

What To Do Around Here!

August 2015 Community Calendar

Aug 1 - FTC's Annual Meeting. FREE. Farmers Telephone Annual Business Meeting begins at 11 a.m. at the Northeast Alabama Agri-Business Center. Registration begins at 8 a.m. For more information call 256-638-2144.

Aug 1 - Blow Your Own Ornament. Come design and blow your own ornament with the help of one of our glass artists. No reservations are needed, it is on a first come, first served basis. For this, we welcome people of all ages (at least 5 years old). 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$38 per ornament 256-523-3188.



Aug 1 - 2 - Northeast Alabama Hunting & Outdoor Expo. Legendary fisherman and TV star, Hank Parker will be at the expo as the special guest. Scheduled to appear are Bill Dance, Dr. Lou from the Rick and Bubba Show, Wood Walkers and a Barney Fife impersonator. Hours are 9:00AM – 6:00PM on Saturday and 10:00AM to 4:00PM on Sunday. Admission is \$5 per person, and children 12 and under get in free. You can come enjoy product demos, seminars, Q & A, door prizes, and more. Northeast Alabama Agri-Business Center. 256-605-1801.

Aug 4 - Celestial Navigation. This two-hour class is a basic introduction to navigation by the stars. Learn how to navigate without the use of a compass or GPS with the same rules used for almost six thousand years. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Aug 5 - Open House at Moon Lake Elementary School. FREE. The meeting will start in the gym to introduce the new staff members. We look forward to a great school year. 4-6pm.

Aug 5, 10, 22, 26, 29 - Rappelling Adventure. Come experience the thrill of rappelling down the sheer sandstone gems of NE Alabama. Each trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. True Adventure Sports 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Aug 5, 8 - Night Sky Swing Adventure. This is an adventure of a lifetime. Enjoy the thrill of the swing at night. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before the adventure. Meet at True Adventure Sports 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Aug 6-9 - The 29th Annual World's Longest Yard Sale. FREE. Travel the scenic byways of America for more 690-miles of yard sales and

unique treasure finds. Follow the Lookout Mountain Parkway from Gadsden, Alabama to Chattanooga, TN for the southern portion of the sale. Connect with the U.S. Highway 127 in Chattanooga for the remainder of the route to Addison, MI. 888-805-4740.



Aug 6 - Kamama Music Series. Come and enjoy music with The Glass Jars. Kamama stage and seating provide the audience an intimate listening experience where live music can be fully appreciated. Admission is \$10 and seating is limited. Reservations are strongly encouraged. Dinner at 5:30 and Music at 7 p.m. 256-634-3001.

Aug 7 - Solar Oven Class. FREE. Join Robert Wilson from Seven Pines Survival in this fun and simple class for a how-to on making solar ovens from tin foil and cardboard. If the conditions are right, there will be one in use for demonstration. All supplies will be provided, and the class will be open to walk-ins until supplies run out. You will learn how to make a simple solar oven out of cardboard, glue, and tin foil. You will be given instructions on how to use it to cook in the outdoors. DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground (Gate will open 30 minutes before class) 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Free and open to everyone. 256-997-5025.

Aug 7 - Zip Line & Sky Swing Adventure. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before adventure. 256-997-9577.

Aug 7, 17, 21, 27 - Wild Cave Tour. Go beyond where the average tourist explores! This 2.5 hour adventure is for those of you ready to explore on your knees, on your belly, in the mud and through tight tunnels. Adventure includes helmet, cave lamps plus a fun, informative guide. True Adventure Sports 5 pm to 7:30 pm. 256-997-9577.



Aug 7 - Campfire Talk: Amphibian Metamorphosis: From Egg to Frog, What a Leap! FREE Join us for a fun campfire talk in the great outdoors! Enjoy a fun trivia game with Jacksonville State University's Dr. James

Rayburn while exploring how amphibians transform from a single cell to the wonderful hopping creatures we all know. Meet live tadpoles... DeSoto State Park's Campfire Ring (In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center) 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Free to the Public; Great for all ages! 256-997-5025.

Aug 7 - BBB/NACC Fraud Summit. FREE. Learn how to protect yourself from all of the latest trends in fraud! William M. Beck Health & Fine Arts Auditorium at Northeast Alabama Community College at 9am. Free admission, pre-registration requested; call Robin at the Better Business Bureau at 256-533-1640 ext. 104.

Aug 8 - Alabama Racking Horse Show. Come and enjoy. Northeast Alabama Agri-Business Center will be hosting this event. \$5 admission 256-638-1650.

Aug 8, 13, 24, 28 - Rock Climbing/Rappelling Adventure Combo. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing and rappelling is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. True Adventure Sports 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Aug 8 - Rainsville Youth Day in the Park. FREE. Enjoy free hot dogs, soft drinks, inflatables, dunking booth and much more. First 500 kids get free event t-shirt. Free admission. Rainsville City Park 5 pm to 7 pm 256-638-7800.

Aug 8 - RTI Movie in the Park. FREE. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and picnic for an evening with your family under the stars while watching the movie. Free admission to all and Free popcorn to the first 500 people. Rainsville City Park. 8 pm 256-638-7800.

Aug 8 - Campfire Talk: Poisonous & Venomous Organisms. FREE. Join us for a fun campfire talk in the great outdoors! Enjoy a fun trivia game presented by Jacksonville State University Toxicologist Dr. James Rayburn. Learn about how some plants & animals really get your attention with their special lines of defense. Beware out there! DeSoto State Park's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground (In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center) 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Free to the Public; Great for all ages! 256-997-5025.

Aug 11 - Orienteering Class. Basic yet essential skills for survival navigation are brought to you in map reading, compass reading, and topography. True Adventure Sports 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Aug 11 - Knot Class & Application.

Introduction and instruction to essential knots, and their application for camping, rappelling, rock climbing, outdoor survival, and other applications. True Adventure Sports 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Aug 12, 15, 17 - Zip Line Adventure. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before the adventure. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Aug 13 - Kamama Music Series. Come and enjoy music with The Liz Wood Project with Joe Keracher. Kamama stage and seating provide the audience an intimate listening experience where live music can be fully appreciated. Admission is \$10 and seating is limited. Reservations are strongly encouraged. Dinner at 5:30 and Music at 7 p.m. 256-634-3001.

Aug 13, 27 - Movie Night At Vintage 1889. Come join vintage movie night in the boarding room at Vintage 1889. 7 p.m. 256-845-3380.

Aug 14 - Campfire Talk: Wild Plant Teas. FREE. Join us for a fun campfire talk in the Great Outdoors! Join Robert Wilson of Seven Pines Survival for a presentation, followed by a tea tasting of a few plants. He will tell you the history of the plant, how to identify the plant, how to harvest and prepare, and make up a sample of tea afterwards. Please bring a small cup if you wish to sample some yourself, some sugar and honey will be provided. DeSoto State Park's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. (In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center) 8pm-9pm Free to the Public; Great for all ages! For details, 256.997.5025.

Aug 14, 26 - Night Zip Line Adventure. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before the adventure. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.



Aug 15 - Third Saturday Sunset Event. FREE TO ATTEND. You can come out and enjoy an afternoon of fun family activities in downtown Fort Payne. This public event will include live music, a car show, food and more from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. 256-996-3857.

Aug 16 - Tri-State Paper Crafting. Join us to learn, create and be inspired while crafting with papers, stamps, inks, punches, and die cuts. No experience needed. Kamama Gallery in Mentone AL 1:00-2:30. Reserve by noon Friday the 14th. Cost is \$5. To learn more or reserve a spot email cottagepaper@bellsouth.net or call 205-349-4026.

Aug 16 - YES, I CAN! Canning Fruits & Vegetables Workshop. Learn all about home canning. This is a "hands on" workshop, and at the end of the day, you will leave with two jars of finished product, recipes, confidence and knowledge of how to can at home. We will be canning blueberry jam, peach slices, bread and butter pickles, and tomatoes. Instructor is Mary Alice Stout, who has canned and taught canning for over 50 years! You may recall Mary Alice from Mama's Craft and Rock Shop in Cloudland, GA. Bring a paring knife and a brown bag lunch. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. DeSoto State Park; \$20 per person. Workshop is limited to 10, so pre-registration is required. 256-997-5025.

Aug 18, 22 - Extreme Night Hike. This end-of-day adventure does not slow down just because it's dark. Intended for a large group team-building exercise, this hike has a bit of bouldering, some scrambling, some spelunking, and a whole lot of required working together. True Adventure Sports. 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. 256-997-9577.



Aug 19, 20 - Rock Climbing Adventure. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. True Adventure Sports 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Aug 20 - Kamama Music Series. Come and enjoy music with Sally Barris and The Birmingham Boys. Kamama stage and seating provide the audience an intimate listening experience where live music can be fully appreciated. Admission is \$10 and seating is limited. Reservations are strongly encouraged. Dinner at 5:30 and Music at 7 p.m. 256-634-3001.

Aug 21 - Bouldering Adventure Atop Lookout Mountain. Come experience first-hand what bouldering is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. We will climb on some of the best boulders atop Lookout Mountain. True Adventure Sports 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Aug 21 - Campfire Talk: Stars, Moons and Planets. FREE. Join us for fun campfire talk in the Great Outdoors! Learn more about the stars, the planets and their moons with Jacksonville State University's Astronomer Dr. Laura Weinkauff. DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama-CCC Pavilion in picnic area. 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Free to the Public; Great for all ages! 256-997-5025.

Aug 22 - SONrise CORRAL Kids Crusade 2015. FREE. Join the STAMPEDE... Round up your partners, and come saddle into God's Word for a kickin' good time! Exciting music, puppets, clowns, drama, PRIZE TOSS, FREE FOOD, & more! Saturday, Aug 22nd at 4 pm at Greater Vision Ministries, 38623 County RD HWY 11, Hammondville AL 35989 *just 1 mile North of DeKalb Ambulance Service. For More Info: Pastor Tim Coppock 256-601-0679.

Aug 22 - 'Creek Kids' Watershed Workshop. FREE. Experience a view of Little River's watershed and how it connects to the rest of Alabama and our oceans. Many species of fish and aquatic invertebrates, including some types of crayfish, mussels, and snails, live only in Alabama. Participants have a good chance of

observing some species only found in certain Alabama streams & rivers; they will learn about the impacts of dams on waterways, and learn how pollution moves through aquatic environments. Participants should bring lunch/snacks/water, and clothes & footwear suitable for the river. Free & open to ages 8 to adult. DeSoto State Park 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pre-registration is required, 256-997-5025.

Aug 22 - Bike Night. Invite your riding friends to come out and enjoy 4th Saturday Bike Night in downtown Fort Payne. It's a great time with music, food and fun! Held at the Rotary Pavilion in Fort Payne. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Aug 22 - Campfire Talk: Canyon Constellations. FREE. Join us for fun campfire talk in the Great Outdoors! Learn all about the summer night sky with Jacksonville State University's Astronomer Dr. Laura Weinkauff. DeSoto State Park CCC Pavilion in picnic area (In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center) Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish. 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Free to the Public; Great for all ages! 256-997-5025.

Aug 23 - YES, I CAN! Pressure Canning Class. We are offering this class to participants that attended

the canning workshops held in DSP this year, as well as folks that already have experience (prerequisite: hot water bath canning) We will be canning a vegetable (possibly green beans) as well as vegetable soup. Workshop is limited to 7 participants so pre-registration is required. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. DeSoto State Park \$20 per person. 256-997-5025.



Aug 25 - Afternoon Rock Climb. Come

experience first-hand what rock climbing is all about in the afternoon with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. True Adventure Sports 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. 256-997-9577.



Aug 27 - Treasure Hunt Adventure. Do you enjoy trying to solve riddles and clues? This 5-hour adventure will take you deep into the heart of Manitou Cave. You will have to solve and follow each clue in order to find the next one, and ultimately the Treasure! True Adventure Sports 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Aug 27 - Kamama Music Series. Come and enjoy music with The Sullivans. Kamama stage and seating provide the audience an intimate listening experience where live music can be fully appreciated. Admission is \$10 and seating is limited. Reservations are strongly encouraged. Dinner at 5:30 and Music at 7 p.m. 256-634-3001.

Aug 28-30 - Cloudmont at Sidewalk Film Festival, Birmingham. *Cloudmont* is scheduled to play at the Birmingham Museum of Art in the Steiner Auditorium on Sunday, August 30th at 5:35pm. For more information, please contact Jan Jensen at 917-744-6071. www.facebook.com/cloudmontdocumentary.

Aug 29 - The 11th Annual Fyffe UFO Day. FREE TO ATTEND. Hot Air Balloon Rides showcase this unique family outing! Arts and crafts, children's games, food vendors, antique tractors, live entertainment, street dance and much more make this event fun for the whole family. 10 a.m. 256-623-2222.

Ongoing Calendar

AA Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Tuesday at 6:00pm at St. Joseph's on the Mountain Church, Mentone, AL. Questions? call 256-634-3060.

MAPA Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm at the MERF House in Mentone.

Gluten Free/Diabetic All Natural Cooking classes with Brenda Trace will be held at Little River Hardware at 6pm on Wednesdays. Classes \$10.

Lookout Mountain Parkway Association meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11am. Call to find out how to get involved! 256-845-3957.

DeKalb Quilters meet every 4th Tuesday, 9:30am, Second Baptist Church in Fort Payne. DeSoto Rescue Squad meets the 1st Saturday

of the month at 9am at the MERF house in Mentone.

Free Square Dance Lessons offered most Thursdays, 6:30pm, at Tom Beville Center in Rainsville by Duos and Solos Dance Club. 256-638-2780.

Moon Lake Elementary School PTO meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6pm in the Gymnasium.

FREE FOOD for eligible persons and families. Hours: Wednesdays, 9 AM to noon. New applicants welcome during these hours. Joint effort between St. Joseph's on the Mountain Episcopal Church (Community Outreach Ministry) and the Food Bank of North Alabama.

Mentone Fire Department meets the 3rd Monday of every month at 7pm.

Mentone Town Council meets every 2nd Tuesday at 6pm.

The Lookout Mountain Wholistic Center meets the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of every month at Rock Ridge Retreat Center in Valley Head at 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome!

Mentone Farmers Market open year round every Saturday, 10am-1pm.

Storytime at the Canyon Center every first Saturday of the month. 11am-Noon. Free. 256-782-5697.

NPS Green & Gray Saturday every second Saturday of each month at the Canyon Center. 10am. Free. 256-782-5697.

Little River Canyon Center River Rhythms Nature & Art Family Fun Program every fourth Saturday from Jan-Oct. 1pm - 3pm; No

Fee. Call Renee Morrison at 256-782-5697.

The Mentone Business Association (MBA) will meet the second Monday of each month from 6-7pm.

The Rhododendron Garden Club meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 AM at the MERF house in Mentone. (No meetings in June and July) For more information, call 256-634-4403.

MAAC 2nd Saturday Art Market, second Saturday of every month from May-October. except for August during the Longest Yard Sale.

Valley Head Band will be meeting after school starts on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays 4-6 pm at Smith Nursery at the top of the Sand Mountain off of Hwy 117

Summer Program at Valley Head

During the month of June, many students were still glad to go to school to attend the 21st Century Summer Program at Valley Head. The students had a lot of fun and learned many new things. They had a chance to explore topics that there really is not enough time to cover in a school session. The kids had STEM classes and art classes several times each week. Also, they participated in a Google First Class which instructs them on using the computer and email. Almost every week, the kids were able to make a trip to the Valley Head park and have a separate day of water play outside at school. They took field trips to the Birmingham Zoo, DeSoto State Park, Stevie B's, and Cathedral Caverns. They also took a field trip to Rainsville which included bowling at Mountain Lanes and free sno cones from the Froggy Freeze. Several people brought programs into the school for the



kids, including local potter Dowe Foreman, Russell Cave and the Tennessee Aquarium. The summer program concluded with an evening of fun for students and their families at the DeSoto State Park Pool. All the children, teachers, and

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Mentone Wedding Chapel



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Nestled in the woods atop Lookout Mountain, near Mentone, Alabama, this quaint little chapel is surrounded by ferns, forest and flowers. The chapel is a scaled version of traditional Appalachian churches of days gone by. Stained glass windows filtering soft forest sunrays and soft organ music accent an ambience fitting the wedding ceremony. Inside, wooden pews will seat approximately 60 guests.

Linda Patterson, owner of the chapel, said the idea for it began with a bell, and now that bell rings as newlyweds exit the door of the chapel.

To arrange your wedding or renewing of your wedding vows, call
256-634-4181

helpers seemed to enjoy the entire program and learn some things in a few non-traditional settings. The Valley Head Summer Program is made possible through a grant from the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program.



Happy Art for Take Out

By Anna Mae Horn

What do old cameras, flutes, telephones, and wall clocks all have in common? They are all pieces of art painted by local artist Scott Thomas. He likes old mechanical things and musical instruments, so what better way to channel his creative energy than to make whimsical pieces of art? He has always felt he “had to create”. As a retired textile engineer, Scott’s career involved creating denim designs. Through the years, various hobbies such as writing, furniture-making, and photography were outlets--each with a unique perspective of course. His big yard in Cloudland (where he lived for about 15 years before coming to Mentone three years ago) allowed Scott to display his creativeness with distinctive yard pieces. Once such example--he made a water feature out of a cattle watering trough with water running through a trombone.

About seven years ago is when Scott first began his artistic adventure. He began experimenting with decoupage “to keep from going stir crazy” and then water colors. An old telephone was his first painting project. He followed that with a guitar, then globes...and anything else that looks like an interesting project. He finds the tedious work of his painting to be relaxing and enjoyable. Pieces such as the French horn he is currently working on can be tricky to get every inch of surface painted. However, Scott is not restrained by conventional painting methods and supplies when he confronts these issues. He began resolving the problem first by taking a pair of scissors to a traditional small paint brush and proceeded to give it a “hair cut” to increase precision for his projects. He has quite a collection of bent brushes as well. Scott sometimes uses a calligraphy pen combined with mediums such as airbrush paint to achieve a desired look. Often, toothpicks from Cracker Barrel come in handy, as do homemade bamboo sticks. Many artists envision their work and then create a piece of art. Scott Thomas works a little differently. He is always on the hunt for items that spark his interest. He has found a lot of his items on the World’s Longest Yard Sale on Highway 127 and the Lookout Mountain Parkway. Once he finds an item, he just starts somewhere and sees where it leads--one section at a time. He “never thinks of the whole piece”. Scott believes his grandmother contributed to this method. As a boy growing up in Trion, he stayed with her while his parents worked. He watched as she took old flour sacks with prints and pieced them together into beautiful quilts--one section at a time.

Mr. Thomas says he “feels fortunate to do what moves me”. He gets to paint just for the sheer thrill of it; he doesn’t have to do it to put food on the table. It’s just ‘icing on the cake’ to get paid for something he truly enjoys doing. It still doesn’t seem real to this humble man that someone buys things he has “smeared paint on” (in his own words). He felt very honored when a lady from Alabama Southern in Monroeville asked him to speak to her students. He found it both amazing and flattering, especially since he has never had an art lesson for fear of finding



out what he isn’t doing right! (This was funny to me, since I find all his works of art right on target and look simply exquisite.)

Like many other artists, Scott Thomas has been to his share of festivals and art shows to display and sell his art. Though he admits that most of the money received at these functions are often spent at other artists’ tents. He knows first hand how important these events are for beginning artists to get the exposure they need. He gladly joined the MAAC committee for the Second Saturday Art Market going on through October in Mentone. It’s primary aim is to give new artist in the area a free place to set up and display their work. As far as physical locations for selling his artwork, the Wildflower was the beginning, and he still has items there. People would come in the restaurant to eat and buy a painting to take with them. This led to the interesting name of Takeouts--Art to Go. He still uses the catchy email takeouts@rocketmail.com for his work. For a few years, he displayed his work in a shop in Mentone called Scott’s Happy Art. (So named because people commented



that his whimsical works made them smile--the ultimate compliment.) The shop was enjoyable for Scott, especially on the days that he had time to speak with the customers and get to know them. When possible, he likes to meet the people who buy his artwork and find out something about them. For a while after the closing of the shop, his items could be found in Kamama’s Gallery. But he currently has a large collection in the Gallery at the Gulf Coast Art Alliance in Waterway Village. How did that happen? About five years ago, Scott was offered a chance to be the feature artist for the summer at Orange Beach Gallery. This opened doors for him in that region. He now has a steady supply of customers in a new region of the state. His items have found homes in many states and even a few countries. One of his clocks was bought in the Wildflower Cafe by a lady from China, another hangs in a multi-million-dollar suite in Chicago, and yet another painted clock adorns a wall in our home. He recalls selling one of his early items--an 8mm camera--to a photo journalist in Canada; later, a camera was purchased by a professor in New York City. My husband and I, and many others I am sure, are enchanted by the precise and whimsical artwork Mr. Thomas does. Each piece is as unique and delightful as he is. The art and the artist are uplifting and original. The impressive aspect is that Scott finds himself just as intrigued, delighted, and uplifted by his clients. His life journey sounds as unique as his artwork--from a boy watching his grandmother quilting to a

textile mill worker to an artist, all these various experiences in an area of close proximity. A long, fascinating journey within a limited number of miles who has reached people across the globe. No one ever knows where their life’s journey will take them if they are not restrained to stay in the box and follow the trodden path.



Worship

The Sunday morning services at **Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church** are held at 9AM each Sunday, except no services on 5th Sunday. Rev. Jerry Davis is our minister for these services.

The Valley Head Baptist Church invites you to attend Sunday School at 10AM; Worship Service at 11AM; Sunday Evening Worship at 6PM; Midweek Service (Wednesday) at 6PM; Women on Mission meets at 1PM the second Tuesday of each month at different homes. Everyone is welcome to come.

Lea's Chapel Baptist Church welcomes you to worship with us. 10AM Sunday Bible Study, 11AM Morning Worship, 6PM Evening Worship. Wednesday 6-8PM Awana (ages 4 to 18); 6:30pm Praise and Prayer time. Located at 4212 County Road 751, Valley Head. 635-1001.

Visitors are always welcome at the **Valley Head United Methodist Church**. Please join us each Sunday morning for a traditional worship service at 9:30AM. Tony Gunter is the Pastor. All are welcome.

Wildwood Seventh Day Adventist Church, Mentone Chapter, is currently holding services in the Woodmen of the World Hall in Valley Head. All are invited to attend! Sabbath School and Song Service: 9:30-10:45AM, Worship Service 11:00-12:15. Pastor - Wilbur Atwood; Lay Pastors - James Hartley and Ryan Bunnel.

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church on N. Gault Avenue in Fort Payne holds Sunday mass in English at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in Spanish. Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. in English, Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. bilingual, Thursday at 6:00 p.m. in English, Friday at 9:00 a.m. in English and Saturday at 6:00 p.m. in bilingual.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 1519 Smith Gap Road (County Road 85), Fort Payne. Regular Worship Services are at 10AM Sunday. Bible class or Lent/Advent services every Wednesday at 6:30PM. Steve Schrader, Pastor - 845-4314. Everyone welcome.

Walnut Grove Baptist Church on Highway 11 North of Fort Payne, welcomes everyone at Sunday School 10AM, Worship Service at 11AM, Wednesday night youth meeting at 6PM, and Wednesday night Prayer Meeting at 6:30PM.

The Fort Payne Christian Center and Pastors Ken and Elaine Hollman invite everyone to join in Worship on Sunday at 10AM, Wednesday evening at 6PM. God Bless You.

Grace Presbyterian Church (PCA), 5760 Gault Ave. NE, Fort Payne, AL. Sunday School 9:45AM; Sunday Worship 10:55AM. Church office: 256-845-4756.

Menlo Church of Christ invites you to attend the 10AM and 11AM services and evening services are at 5PM on Sundays and Wednesdays. Visitors are always welcome.

Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Cloudland, GA, welcomes everyone to come and take part in our church services. Sunday School at 10AM; Worship Service at 11AM, Sunday evening at 6PM, and Wednesday evening at 7PM.

DeSoto Church of Christ invites you to attend Sunday Bible Study at 10AM, Worship at 11AM, Wednesday Bible study at 5PM.

Howard's Chapel (Church in the Rock) has regular services 10AM each Sunday. You are invited to attend these services or visit the church at other times. Casual dress is always acceptable.

St. Joseph's On-The-Mountain Episcopal Church, 21145 Scenic Highway, Mentone. Everyone welcome to 10:30AM Sunday service of Holy Eucharist. Open for daily prayer and thanksgiving. Supporting our community with outreach. Call for more information, 256-634-4476, <http://stjosephmountain.dioala.org>

Mentone United Methodist Church, 415 Cutler Avenue, Mentone, Alabama invites you to come and worship with us. Each Sunday, our Worship Service is at 11AM and Sunday School is at 10AM. Tony Gunter is the pastor. The service of Holy Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of each month, the second Sunday is Youth Sunday and Fifth Sunday is a service of music and pot-luck lunch. Bible Study Wednesdays at 6:00PM.

Moon Lake Baptist Church invites you to worship with us. Sunday School begins at 9:45AM, with classes for all ages. Morning Worship is at 11AM. The Lord's Supper is observed on the first Sunday of September, December, March and June at the morning worship hour. Discipleship Training is at 5PM and Sunday Evening Worship at 6PM. On Wednesdays, Team Kids, Youth Bible Study, Adult Bible Study and Prayer Meeting are all at 6:30PM. Rev. Terry Turner is the pastor.

Alpine Community Church, 115 Hwy. 337, Menlo, GA. Pastor and Rev. Tommy Pledger welcome each and everyone to worship service Sunday morning at 11AM GA time; Sunday School 10AM GA time; Wednesday night Bible Study 7PM GA time.

Cove Road Baptist Church, County Road 631, Mentone, Alabama, invites everyone in the Mentone and Cloudland Communities to services-- Sunday School 10 AM (GA Time) Morning Worship 11 AM (GA Time) Wednesday Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 5:30 PM (GA Time) Bro. Brian Keith is the pastor.

Summit Church of God invites you to be in service Sunday morning 10:45AM, Sunday night 5PM, Wednesday Bible Study 6:30PM. Pastor Lance Kincer invites everyone.

Mentone Church of God of Prophecy - regular service times are Sunday School at 10AM, with Worship at 11AM. Evening services begin at 5:30PM on Sunday and 6PM on Wednesday. Bro. Whitney Smith invites everyone to attend.

Mentone Community Church, 90 Summerville Rd, Mentone, AL 35984. Pastor Tim Miller; Crosswalk Sunday School K through Adult - 9:15am; Adult Worship Service - 10:30am; JC Kids Worship Service - 10:30am. Van Ministry for Children pick-up/take home, ages k-12, for all surrounding areas 8:15am. For children pick-up and drop-off van, please call Donna Bunn 706-398-0720 Wednesday small group study - 6:30pm.

Cloudland Presbyterian Church welcomes everyone to come join us for services, with Pastor Roger Kvam. Bible Study Sunday at 9AM (EST) and Worship at 10AM (EST).

Since 1889 worshippers have gathered at the Historic **First Presbyterian Church PC** (USA) at 300 Grand Avenue North in downtown Fort Payne. We invite you to join us for worship this Sunday at 10:55AM. 256-845-2915.

New Oregon United Methodist Church located off DeSoto Parkway, would like to invite you to their services. Sunday School for all ages 9:45AM; Traditional Worship Service 11AM. Sunday evening youth activities 5:30PM. Evening Worship 6PM. We have a variety of activities for all ages including Wednesday evening youth activities; knitting ministry for ladies each Tuesday at 9AM; Elderberries for Senior Adults once a month for fellowship and meal. Pastor Jeff Davis, Associate Pastor Keith Davis. Address: 1203 New Oregon Dr., Ft. Payne, AL 35967. Phone 256-845-7446.

The Church of God 7th Day in Hammondville located just off Hwy. 11 N. at corner of Hwy. 117 and Palmer Road. Sabbath School classes at 9:30AM and Worship Service at 11AM. Visitors are always welcome.

Gravel Hill Baptist Church, 14701 Hwy 11 South, Ft Payne, AL 35967 has Sunday School 10 AM & Worship Service at 11 AM each Sunday. All welcome! Wednesdays at 6PM we have supper and a brief devotional time together. Pastor George Moses.

Send any changes to The Groundhog at groundhognews@aol.com or P. O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984.



Alabama State Parks Partners



Living in an area of natural beauty is not taken for granted in Mentone or the surrounding areas. Sunsets, waterfalls, and hiking trails are great ways to enjoy the delightful atmosphere that surrounds us. Designated areas across the state have been preserved as state parks to ensure this natural beauty remains for the use of many

future generations. They are wonderful sites to visit with family and friends; they are fun places to work or volunteer. They serve a diverse array of functions. They offer a haven of relaxation to many, an adrenaline rush for thrill seekers, or an open classroom for learning. State parks offer interpretive programs to teach the public about the state’s natural environment. Some have lakes for fishing and swimming. Other state parks offer lodging in cabins and on campgrounds where Mother Nature herself surrounds us. Alabama is fortunate to have several splendid state parks, twenty-two to be exact, that make our resources available for all to enjoy. Lookout Mountain, in particular, is fortunate to have DeSoto State Park which is actively involved in the community and simply magnificent to visit. It is one of ten state parks across Alabama that won the Certificate of Excellence award from Trip Advisor this year.

Recently, there was mention of several state parks, including DeSoto, closing down due to proposed budget cuts. A group of diverse individuals who love Alabama’s state parks

system, Alabama State Parks Partners, have come together to launch a statewide campaign to bring all state park supporters together. They have only one mission--“to highlight Alabama’s beautiful state parks and the important role they play in the quality of life in Alabama”. They have established a website (alparkspartners.com) as a central location for communication about important topics regarding all of the state parks in Alabama. They have links to legislators who need contacting, to their facebook page (Alabama State Parks Partners), and to a petition you can sign to show your support of our wonderful state parks. Last year marked the 75th anniversary of Alabama’s state parks--let’s keep them around another 75 years!



By Anna Mae Horn

Kids’ Korner



Sequoyah and the Cherokee Alphabet

It is told that about 200 years ago, a man named Sequoyah lived in Valley Head.

His people, the Cherokee Indians, had meetings under a large oak tree close to the railroads that are downtown. The tree was near the Winston Place. Maybe, the Cherokee even learned to read and write there- like having a school under the tree. Sequoyah was a half-blood Cherokee, like his mother, and half white man, like his father. This made him part of both cultures. His English name was George Gist. He noticed the white people used “talking leaves” - they would write on paper so other people that lived far away could read it. Sequoyah decided his Cherokee people needed something like this, and, in 1809, he started making one. In 1821, he finished creating the Sequoyan Syllabary (or alphabet) with 86 syllables, and it could be learned in one day. The General Council of Eastern Cherokees gave him a silver medal in 1824. By the next year, most Cherokees could read and write, and the Cherokee Nation officially adopted the writing system. In 1826, they printed 8 copies

Back to School Word Search

BOOK	M	A	Y	R	A	R	B	I	L	R
BUS	B	O	S	E	Q	U	O	Y	A	H
CLASSROOM	H	O	R	K	S	A	O	P	E	N
LIBRARY	S	T	E	P	N	I	L	K	R	S
MATH	C	L	A	S	S	R	O	O	M	B
PENCIL	I	Z	D	M	E	L	B	R	G	C
QUIZ	E	A	I	C	Z	I	U	Q	A	U
READING	N	Q	N	A	M	G	K	E	Y	H
SCIENCE	C	U	G	S	I	M	B	O	O	K
SEQUOYAH	E	K	A	P	E	N	C	I	L	Z

of the Cherokee laws. For the next several years, American missionaries helped the Cherokee print their first newspaper called the Cherokee Phoenix, which was written in English and Sequoyan. Being able to read and write helped the Cherokee people communicate and take care of business matters. They were able to share

news with family that lived far away. They knew that reading and writing were important, just as they are today. The Cherokee were very happy to be able to learn new things. As you start back to school this year, remember that learning is very important and do your very best. Good luck and have fun!

SOUTHERN PROPERTIES

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www.southernpropertiesagency.com
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 RUSTIC CABIN near Mentone. 1-1/2 story, 2BR/2.5BA home, open floor plan, large vaulted ceilings. Loft guest bedroom overlooking living areas. Lge screened in porch. \$239,000. MLS #1017671.	 ENJOY LIFE in this custom log get-a-way on 4 secluded acres. Loft bedroom and 1 bath with wood floors offering a cozy atmosphere and a front porch complete the picture. \$110,000. MLS#564870	 Mountain Laurel Inn... 7 acres, Main Residence, Guest House and Gathering House. Call for more details. \$479,000 MLS #917483	 REAL BARGAIN. Lge 3BR/2BA home blocks from downtown Mentone. Screened porch, open floor plan, garage, bonus room, workshop plus storage bldg, fire pit, and more. \$264,900 MLS#1001478	 West Brow of Lookout Mountain. 3BR/2BA, 2,500+/- sq. ft. main house, rock walls on 2.9+/- Acres. \$349,900 MLS #815966	 Custom Home. 4500 sqft+ w 5BR/3.5BA, LR, wood burning Isokern fireplace. Master w/sitting room. Pro landscaping, screened porch, courtyard, 2 decks on 1.37 acres. community lake. \$499,900. MLS #1011520.
 COZY, COMFORTABLE charmer. Open great room w/built-in bookcases & stone fireplace w/gas logs. Kitchen has Corian countertops and custom cabinets. On 2 brow lots w/ storage building and greenhouse. \$399,00. MLS #1024616.	 BEAUTIFUL Mountain Get-Away with gorgeous view year round. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, shake-sided outside w/low maintenance metal roof. Deck. \$239,900 MLS#1000691.	 "Like New" near DSP & Mentone, LR w/ vaulted ceiling, hardwoods, wb fireplace. Custom kit w/stainless appliances (includes w/d). Covered front porch, lge back deck. 1.22 acres. \$188,000. MLS#1021858	 UNIQUE!!! Main House, Guest House, Boathouse and approx. 470' of frontage on Little River. \$850,000 MLS #1007556	 Lake Lahusage in your back door! Bank owned 2BR/2BA cottage AND 2-car garage with apartment potential. \$247,500 MLS #654813	 LAKE ON THE BROW. 4-5 BR, 3.5 BA, LR w/vaulted ceiling, hardwoods, FP. Screened porch. Main level master & guest BR's w/ full BA. Bonus room w/2 balconies. Basement w/ Rec/Media Room, 2BR, BA. \$362,300. MLS #1017985
 COZY 1 BEDROOM, 1 bath cabin in Laurel Creek Lakes Subdivision. Kitchen appliances, central heat and air, gas logs. \$149,900. MLS #1002623.	 LOOK OUT at DeSoto Falls! Building lot with a darling 1 bedroom cottage ready for use. \$465,000 #970196	 Secluded, Custom log cabin, 2BR/2BA, wooded lot, 2+ acres, security system, privacy gate, detached storage. \$279,500 MLS #332033	 Impeccable Brow View! 5BR/3.5BA home, custom commercial kitchen, with many extra features. Must See! \$545,000 MLS #338039	 Waterfront Property! 2 BR/3BR/2BA. Master on main level. Large fireplace in main living area. Big screened in porch w/ gorgeous view of the river! outdoor stone pizza oven! \$129,900. MLS #1016195	 MANY POSSIBILITIES! This commercial building offers office space w/ restrooms, open warehouse space & covered back open area. 4.5 acres with plenty of parking. \$185,000. MLS #1015365.
 Owl's Roost! Adorable cabin on wooded lot, furnished with brass bed and country antiques. \$118,000 MLS #690326	 Daniel Boon Log Cabin on 2 acres! Plenty of room with 2BR/2.5BA, unfinished basement and large balcony. \$215,000 MLS #621178	 Highland Springs Division near downtown Mentone! 2BR/2BA cabin on 1.23 acres. \$143,500 MLS #359224	 Bear's Lair - Adorable cabin currently in a rental program. 3BR/2 BA with a brow view. \$299,900 MLS#692795	 One bedroom, one bath cottage on DeSoto Parkway with 2.7+/- acres AND a BROW view! Surrounded by mature landscaping and rock walls. \$299,900. MLS #1018162	 BROW PROPERTY with spectacular VIEW! 3 br/ 3 ba with finished basement. and Large bonus area with outdoor access to admire the view. \$249,900. MLS #1010897.
 Little River/Lake Lahusage/Mentone! East Fork of Little River, cottage has FP, wood floors, P&B ceiling in living area, NEW porch, deck, some doors & windows, HVAC, dock, walkway, fence, paint! Most furn. remains! \$245,000. MLS #1019742	 NEAR LITTLE RIVER CANYON. 3BR/3BA log cabin w/lake, wood floors/walls/ceilings, open living/dining/kitchen, rock woodburning FP, screened porch, deck, Loft/basement/gameroom. \$249,500. MLS #1017450.	 HANDCRAFTED WOODWORK throughout this 2BR/2BA mountain home. Great room w/ cathedral ceiling, full front & back porches, lge utility room all on a wooded lot. Located in laurel Creek Lakes w/ access to 3 lakes & walking trails. \$174,500. MLS #1017650.	 Ready for the person yearning to be self-employed. Thriving convenience store and restaurant in a small resort town. Covered gas pumps and newly paved parking lot. \$375,000. MLS #1015475.	 BROW PROPERTY! 2BR/1BA home on 2.3 +/- acres. Lots of wood features inside the house, enclosed porch and more. \$239,000. MLS #1015755.	 LOG HOME minutes from State Park & Mentone. One of a kind built in 2006 & constructed of 6x12 Pine Logs w/ Dovetail cornering. Tongue & groove cathedral ceilings, exposed beams & beautiful oak floors. \$182,500. MLS #1016783.
 Beautiful Log Home near Mentone & DeSoto State Park features vaulted ceilings and wood burning FP. Kitchen has all appliances. Main level Master BR/BA. 2BR/ BA upstairs. Screened porch, deck and carport. \$210,000. MLS #1018895	 Cedar cabin on 3.48 acres. 2 BR plus loft, 2.5 BA, living/kitchen/dining area, some hardwood, wood heater, covered porch and side deck. BBQ pit, 2-car garage, utility shed and pole barn. Most furnishings negotiable. \$214,500. MLS #1019354	SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR LOTS AND LAND LISTINGS		 This 4,000 sq. ft. brow home on 7.5 acres is suited for private home or bed&breakfast. 6 BR's w/private BA's & exterior doors. Common area w/rock FP & industrially-equipped kitchen. \$525,000. MLS #1018579	 Cabin overlooking the water features pine walls & floors, vaulted 23' ceilings and fireplaces. Enjoy your own relaxing paradise wplenty of Mountain Laurels and rocks. Built to preserve the property's natural beauty. \$495,000. MLS #1019610

www.southernpropertiesagency.com

The World's Longest Yard Sale is Coming!

The question of the summer...When is the yard sale? Everyone knows which one you are talking about this time of the year- THE yard sale is the Hwy 127 Yard Sale, a.k.a. Lookout Mountain Parkway Yard Sale, a.k.a. the World's Longest Yard Sale. It grows over the years and is now 690 total miles from Addison, MI to Noccalula Falls Park in Gadsden, AL. This includes the southern 93-mile stretch which is the Lookout Mountain Parkway from Chattanooga to Gadsden, named by Reader's Digest as one of America's Scenic Drives. The yard sale itself is meant to be a leisurely experience that explores rural America. It was started in 1987 to bring travelers off the interstates and into the smaller communities of Tennessee that offer historical attractions, train rides, festivals, and outdoor activities. It entices the participants to slow down, enjoy the scenery, stroll through the vendors, and truly experience the countryside.

Yard sales are about casually browsing through other people's belongings, about one person's trash becoming a treasure to someone else. What do people consider trash and treasure? Well, a very wide assortment of items are always offered throughout the entire length of the World's Longest Yard Sale. You can find handmade items, school clothes, jewelry, furniture, and dishes. You might find an old cook stove, an antique spinning wheel, vintage cola bottles, old car parts, or an oxen yoke. You can get homemade jelly, fresh garden produce, and even find live entertainment on your route. You might make

new friends, or see old family members. You might see them in your hometown, or in another state.

Besides the states of Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee along the path of the Lookout Mountain Parkway, The Hwy 127 Yard Sale also travels through the states of Kentucky, Ohio, and Michigan. Just make sure you are not in a hurry--some people like to window shop, from the car! You also need to be sure you have plenty of cargo space for all your great bargains. Some people even mail things back home to make room for more.

A large population of the country has started looking forward to this annual event. Some plan their vacations for this week every year and some put money aside for months to spend on the treasures they hope to find. Vendors rent spaces up to a year in advance and accumulate all year for their sales so they can offer what people might want to buy. Hotels along the route are often filled to capacity by those who make it a multiple-day adventure, and campers are often seen making the journey.

So when will they be making the journey? The Hwy 127/World's Longest Yard Sale always starts on the first Thursday of August and goes through Sunday. This year that falls on August the 6th through the 9th. So put the gas in the car, clean out the trunk, grab an umbrella (for possible rain or to use as shade), and enjoy the casual event that displays the beauty of scenic America and the hospitality of her people. Then you will be able to say "I Drove, I Stopped, I Shopped till I Dropped!"



Coming in September Issue

We are sending out our Design Manager Beverly Bates to hunt for treasures at the upcoming World's Longest Yard Sale. Artist and former trash-to-treasure guru, she will scour the offerings from Gadsden to Mentone in search of items she can transform or create into something else altogether.

Watch for Mentone's own version of *Flea Market Flip!*



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REDUCED



MOVE TO MENTONE and live in this wonderful home on the brow. 1.95 acres. 4 bdrm, 3 bth. Open concept living room, kitchen combo, with gas log fireplace. Formal dining room. Separate 30x40 garage/workshop. Native flora landscaping with rock outcroppings, garden fountain pond. Auto sprinkler system. Screened porch with multiple decks for your sunset views. So much amenities. \$329,900



ADORABLE LOG CABIN on the west brow, GA. Open floor plan, stainless steel appliances. 2 bdrm, 2 bth, partially furnished, stone woodburning fireplace, 3 acres, porch and deck overlooking the valley. Great views! \$175k



TUCKED AMONG THE RHODODENDRONS, Hemlocks, Oak trees is a rustic 1 3/4 story, 3 bdrm, 2bth home. on 3.85 acres Listen to the creek run over the rocks from the screened porch. Open floor plan, wood burning FP. Hot tub. Furnished. Located in Cloudland, GA. Seasonal views. \$182,000



MAINTENANCE FREE vinyl faux brick bungalow. 2 bedroom, 3 bath. Great room with rock, gas fireplace. Eat in kitchen/dining, full semi finished basement. Located on DeSoto Parkway, Mentone. \$169,000. (23036)



A SPECTACULAR SUNRISE/ Moonrise on the East Brow in Cloudland, GA. Wooded with 200ft on the brow. Secluded 4.36 acres. A must see!! \$45,000



SOUTHLAND LOG HOME, on the East fork little River. 5.5 acres. Deck, lighted walkway to lower property. stone patio half-way to river steps and landing to river. 2 bdrm, 2 bths. loft. Vaulted ceiling with exposed beams. fully equipped kitchen with granite counters. stacked stone FP. 2 story with Basement. Separate 30x40 garage, large enough for motor home. Private but with all the comforts. Price reduction to \$275,000



CHARMING LOG CABIN circa 1920s in Cloudland, GA. Renovated but kept with its original logs, windows, floors & doors. 4 bdrm, 2 bth. Living room with stone FP. 3 french doors leading to the screened porch & large deck, that overlooks stone picnic tables, stone FP, and BBQ chimney. Seasonal view. A must see! \$135,000 (23096)



HIGH ROAD, Cloudland, GA. 5.5 acres with stream and small waterfall. 3bdrm, 2bth, ranch style home. Living room, new flooring, kitchen with built in pantry, CHA. Guest cabin with 1 bdrm, 1 bth. 3 bay garage/workshop. 2 wells. \$148,000. (23152)



3.8 ACRES located in East fork little River Estates. Nicely wooded with a portion of the historic Dinky Line Railway. 175 ft. on river (Cherokee Co. Mentone). covenants & restrictions. county water and power available. \$45,000



DIXIELAND DELIGHT Farm in Mentone, AL. Beautiful 19.3 acres with open pasture, 2 ponds, wooded area with trails for horseback or ATV. Barn with tack or equipment storage. Fenced for livestock. City water and paved road frontage. What a setting! \$150,000



IDEAL HUNTING PRESERVE. Feed plots already planted, and creek runs through property. Hollows, a great spot to build a lake. Wildlife such as bear, deer, turkey abundant. \$1,650 an acre. 100-150 acres available. (23116)



THE SHADOWS, A UNIQUE LOG CABIN. Sunroom, 2 bdrm, 1.5 baths. 2 fireplaces. Living Dining combo, sitting room. Native Landscaped yard. Covered porch. \$197,000. (23143)



COTTAGE ON LITTLE RIVER CANYON. What a peaceful setting and private. 2 bdrm with sleeping loft, 2 baths. Great room with Rock Fireplace. Covered front porch and grilling deck. Adjoins on the back side Wildlife management and in the front the canyon preserve. Private access. Appt Only. \$150k (22865)



RANCH STYLE 3 bdrm, 2 bath, living, dining combo. 2 car garage. Open front and back porches. 4.2 acres. Vinyl siding, handicap accessible. Sold as-is. \$135,000 (23108)



NICE LEVEL WOODED property with partial drive and home-site cleared. Previous perk test. easy access to the middle fork of little river.. Restrictive cov. apply. Located Mountain River Estates. \$57,000



CAPE COD COTTAGE in Cloudland, GA. 2bd, 1.5bt. Living room with stone, gas log fireplace. Enclosed porch. Dining room/office. .62 acres, fenced, outbuilding. \$49,000 (23086)



HISTORIC DINKY LINE Railway runs through the property. 3.8 acres on the East Fork Little river. 175 ft on water with a deep swimming hole, and rapids. Lightly restricted. County water and power available. Located on Lookout Mtn Mentone area. \$46,000



3.77 ACRES located at Canyon View Forest Subdivision. Wooded and joining the bluff of Little River National Preserve. \$60,000

LOTS AND ACREAGE

OLD HOMEPLACE next to Shady Grove Dude Ranch. 1.7 acres. Great building sites. Non-restricted. Reduced \$18,500 (21599)

5.7 WOODED ACRES with a beautiful view across from Lake Lahusage. The driveway has been started to build your Mentone getaway! Paved road frontage, city water available, perc tested. Lightly restricted. Seller is very motivated! REDUCED \$49,900 (19865)

6.1 ACRES with Brushy Creek running through, drive way in place, wooded. \$33,000 (23044)

5 ACRES on the East brow tract overlooking Pleasant Valley. Rock pallecades, wooded. See Weiss Lake in the distance. Private gated

area. Joins National Preserve & Forever Wild protected property. \$60,000 (22866)

NICELY WOODED 5 ACRES with stream located on Desoto Parkway, Mentone. Residential or commercial use. Old Homesite, large rock formations. Possibilities are endless. \$90,000 (22824)

.6 ACRE West Brow lot, 1 mile south of downtown Mentone. Wooded with rock formations. Great building lot. Prime location, great sunsets. 5 lots available. \$114,900. (23043)

.75 ACRE WEST BROW LOT, 1 mile south of downtown Mentone. Wooded with rock formations. Great building lot. Prime location, great sunsets. 2 lots available. \$124,900. (23042)

CAMBRIA BLEU COMPOUND.

California style in serene country setting. 2 story Herringbone brick home complete with archway entrance. Porches overlooking lake, fields, old home place and the ridges beyond. Inside on main level, walk-in to the foyer that opens into the great room, dining with travertine FP. Gourmet kitchen with high end appliances, granite counters, eat-in bar, cherry cabinets throughout entire house. Master with glamour bath, dressing room. 2 additional bedrooms and bath. Large utility w/ built in cabinets, freezer, w/d. Downstairs suite has 2 bdrms, Den and bath. So many amenities and landscaped naturally with flora and fauna. The Guest Cottage is 2 bdrms, 1 bth, living room with ceramic wood burning insert. Heart pine floors, ceilings, and walls. The old home place on property was built in 1895 when the land was homesteaded. Even the African geese stay and all the wildlife abound! Total of 90 acres. \$974,900 (23094)



Remember When . . .

The Groundhog ran an article in the August of 1988 edition titled "David Tucker--Mentone's New Mail Carrier"? The article read as follows:

"I want the next person who takes the mail carrier's job to have a good feeling about taking up where I left off, to be proud of the job and the traditions, just as I am." David Tucker spoke of his new position as rural mail carrier at Mentone. "Mr. Max Cash would go the extra mile, such as taking packages down to people's homes, especially for people who were elderly or sick, even though that was not part of the job. That's the way I want to be, and I feel if I can't give the service, I'm not doing the job."

David Tucker was born in Mentone, the son of Gordon Tucker and Marie Kirby. Marie is the daughter of the late Jeff and Melissa Earl Kirby, whose family name is part of the unique history of this area. David's family moved to Valley Head when he was seven, and he attended school there. His parents now reside on the old Blackburn place at the foot of Sand Mountain.

"I am really glad to be back on this mountain," David said, "after almost six years as a carrier at Henagar. The lifestyle seems to more accurately reflect my own ideals, and, as this is where I come from, I already know a lot of the names on the mailboxes and look forward to getting to know everyone."

David has nothing but praise for the people he works with at Mentone's Post Office: "We work together, and no one says 'That's not my job'. We just do what has to be done and there is not as much pressure as there might be in a larger city post office, but I don't think many people realize that the situation here is different from all others in

Alabama, possibly in the Southeast. The volume of mail in the Post Office increases tremendously in the summer because of the camps, but because there is such a good working relationship between the staff and Benny Goss, the Postmaster, everything goes smoothly."

David is married to the former Marsha Freeman, and they have two daughters: Carla, 15, and Sarah, 11. The family resides less than a mile from Valley Head on Battelle Road. Long before David obtained the job at Mentone, he and his family attended the Moon Lake Baptist Church where they are now members. "We joined the congregation for what I think are all the right reasons," David said, "for the churches are people, and the people at Moon Lake have loving hearts and made us feel at home."...

"I feel very fortunate to have a job I can be proud of, and that I enjoy." David told the *Groundhog*, "I

worked for 10 years in a factory where I could not see outside, and now to be riding around the beautiful countryside and getting to know a lot of good people is a blessing. I like being able to be home at night knowing I have done a service and been part of one of this country's finest traditions."

Well, David, having been born and raised here myself, I couldn't agree with you more! And may I add, you were a very revered carrier for this mountain, and have been greatly missed. But may I also add, our present carrier, Jennifer Davis, has certainly taken up where you left off!

I feel quite certain that no other community can boast as proudly of all their mail carriers--past, present and future--as we here in Mentone can!!! Thank you all for the great service and tradition you provide!

By Angie Carden

SOUNDS

By Doug Kiker

There are some sounds that are no longer around.
My daddy's loud voice "geeing" and "hawing"
To Pearl Mule as she pulled a plow through the ground.
The clink and jingle of trace chains
When turning at row's end, easing the strain.
The swishing sound a ground slide makes
On wet soil right after a rain.
That loud crunching made while chewing on a fresh stalk of sugarcane.
The sound a saw-briar made zipping through my bare toes causing a lot of pain.
Milk hitting the bottom of the pail,
Along with that faint swishing of the cow's tail.
These memories cause me to smile, it never fails.

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.....
LOTS and LAND

8.9 ACRES WITH APPROX 136' BROW FRONTAGE on Citadel Rock Rd, near the back entrance of DeSoto State Park. Beautiful wooded land with large paved road frontage. \$89,000 (692925)

2.2 UNRESTRICTED, WOODED ACRES Mentone. Corner property; excellent areas to walk, bicycle or keep a few chickens. Public water & power at the road. Great building site for one or a couple of cabins. \$20,000 (1011111)

1.66 ACRES, wooded. Private. Public water & underground power. Lightly restricted. Common access to E Fork Little River. Lot 19, Hunters Ridge, Phase III. Adjoining 2.06 acre lot also for sale. \$15,000 (430891)

OVER 725' OF BROW FRONTAGE & 13 acres on which to build an estate like no other on Lookout Mtn! 2 levels of bluff views; gorgeous boulders & rock formations. Spectacular forever views. Meant for something special. Only 3 miles from downtown Mentone, this much brow & acreage is rarely available. \$750,000. (1020617)

CREEKSIDE 3.7 ACRES, Access on both sides of the creek. Wooded. Privacy w/light restrictions & covenants. \$55,000.00 (564423)

4.43 WOODED ACRES, unrestricted. Septic tank, gravel drive, public water & power already in place! Great place for RV or to build your getaway. \$39,900. (311288)

180' LAKE FRONTAGE. Three wooded lots being sold together, two on the lake. Over 3 acres total. Nice walking trails along the lake; common areas with gazebo. Gated entry into subdivision. Near Little River Canyon Nat'l Preserve. \$75,000 (1010792)

DOWNTOWN MENTONE lot. Remnants of the old stone foundation and hand-dug root cellar still in place. Septic tank of unknown condition also on property. Commercial or residential possibilities! \$45,000. (765396)

LITTLE RIVER CANYON RIM PKWY. 6 acres; beautiful hardwoods; views & serenity. The perfect place to build a true getaway. If you're thinking of self-sufficiency, here's the place to nestle down. The offerings of Little River Canyon are right there before you: Kayaking, swimming, mountain biking, hiking...anything the nature enthusiast desires. No, it isn't your typical residential area, so don't expect it. Expect wildlife, trees, beauty. \$45,000 (1024070)



NATURE'S BEAUTY & CHALET-STYLE CABIN on Middle Fork, Little River, Mentone. Custom-built 2640 sq ft home w/stone, woodburning Fpice; pine floors; high-end windows & doors; gas range w/elec oven; 3BR/3BA+loft 4thBR. Screened porch, covered deck. Three levels, including a finished, walkout basement guest suite w/den & bar; french doors leading outdoors where the pathway winds down to the bluff areas & an intriguing wet-weather stream bed w/fabulous stones, ledges & multiple falls; then on to beautiful Little River. \$265,000 (1019875)



WALNUT COTTAGE. Downtown Mentone. 2BR/2BA. From the studs to the rafters & everything in between, this is a new house. Hardwood floors, SS appliances, vaulted ceiling, quality fixtures, custom-designed interior & exterior. The perfect Mentone getaway or full-time home. Beautiful landscaping, screen porch, fenced back yard & new deck w/pergola. \$165,500 (1023749)



OWNER FINANCING AVAILABLE! SWEET! 2BR/1.5BA CABIN in the heart of Mentone. Near Brow Park. Wide-plank pine floors; lg laundry/half bath w/room for tub/shower. Frame exterior & metal roof. Nice front & back porches. Nearly new kitchen appliances. Small, private back yard. There are so many possibilities for this little cabin! Great rental, too! Furnished! \$115,000 (1000723)



IT'S HOT! LET'S HEAD TO THE POOL! Buy now & get add'l 1.2 acres of land (2.2 AC total)! One-level, 3BR/1BA ranch w/ lots of amenities: professionally-installed above-ground pool; deck & pool house; 2-car att garage; eat-in kit w/b'fast bar; open living/kit/dining; on-demand hot H2O; alarm system; front porch; back deck; fruit trees; private backyard w/garden area; so much more! \$129,900 (1002526)



THE CHARM, THE SPACE, THE LOCATION! It's all here. 1950s farm cottage on 3 acres w/great additions & recent renovations; spacious kitchen w/LOTS of counter space; dining area w/built-in window seat & bookshelves; 3BR/2BA; 2-car att carport; 2 quaint board-n-batten outbuildings; 2-car workshop w/equipment shed. Fruit trees, grape vines, strawberry bed, garden spots. Mentone. Owner financing avail \$169,000 (1024663)



CUTE AND COMPACT little downtown Mentone cottage offers a variety of uses. Currently a residence & art gallery, you could continue using it for this, or as a shop, or as a vacation rental... or all of the above! All the furnishings (including locally-crafted pieces) will remain. Move-in ready! Nice landscaping, artsy cedar railings on the porch (the rocking chairs go with it, too!) \$147,000 (1022969)



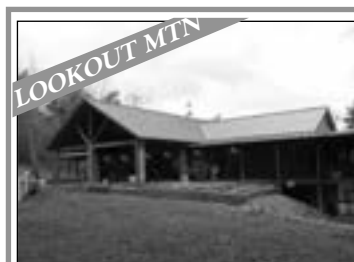
A TINY CABIN, 4 wooded acres, over 410' frontage on Brushy Creek, and an old wagon road creating easy walking through the delights of this property and down to the year-round creek. Perfect for wading and splashing in the heat of summer. Private getaway or vacation rental. Mountain laurel, rhododendron, ferns, yellow root. 2BR/1.5BA one-owner frame cabin. \$130,000 (1021278)



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OWN YOUR OWN LITTLE CANYON with Johnnie's Creek cascading through the forest below. 36 acres of mostly-wooded land (on both sides of creek) & a fabulous, custom-built cypress-sided home. Approx 3600 sq ft of deliciously-designed living inside, tremendous tree-top decks & porches outside! Two woodburning fireplaces (one with insert); Brazilian floors; windows galore; fab light fixtures throughout. Huge, open kitchen/living area. Tons of cabinetry, commercial-grade gas range, granite countertops. Simple luxury in a residence, a lodge retreat, a family compound. \$650,000 (1010510)



Moon Lake Elementary School - Firmly Planted, Forward Moving

By Anna Mae Horn

Firmly planted in the roots of Mentone, Moon Lake Elementary School is anchored by a community that loves, supports, protects, and nurtures it to be forward moving. To grow anything requires the right type of soil – for Moon Lake, the fertile ground was donated by Martha Berry, a forward-moving promoter of education for everyone. The school was named after the lake where she had her summer home, situated on private property across the road from the present-day school. The school was first ‘set out’ in 1911 as a two-story building constructed by local community members, at a time when nearby Bankhead School was in obvious need of expansion. Established sometime in the late-1800s, Bankhead had been the area’s first school. It was known to provide an excellent education, even having occasional ‘summer school’ activities. The families of these students transplanted their educational values and involvement to Moon Lake. Over the years, small schools would be merged with Moon Lake, thereby developing an increasingly stronger facility. The original Moon Lake structure burned to the ground in 1927. Community members ensured ongoing educational opportunities by opening the nearby Baptist and Wesleyan churches to the students. One generous citizen, Pearl Matheny, even opened the doors of her own home to older students. A new two-room schoolhouse was quickly built in 1928. (These two rooms now house first grade and sixth grade.) Moon Lake is one of the oldest school buildings in DeKalb County, and one of the most firmly planted as well. The school grew well during the 1930s and ‘sprouted’ several ‘limbs.’ A north wing was added in 1931, and now it contains fourth grade and fifth grade. The south wing was added three years later, and it now houses second grade and the school’s offices. New Union School, which was the only other remaining Mentone-area school,



was consolidated into Moon Lake in 1939 due to strains on

government finances. Growth slowed for a while, and in the late 1940s, part of the south wing was converted into the school’s first lunchroom. The children would be able to eat hot lunches and would have indoor plumbing.

Just as a growing plant must be nurtured, so must a school--especially during more difficult times. In 1965, the Board of Education was contemplating consolidating Moon Lake with Valley Head, but concerned school families, local citizens, and Principal Aubrey Elam offered protection by agreeing to keep the building in good shape and the finances in order--and so they have. Moon Lake Elementary School is very blessed to have involved parents and community members to nurture her. One example, the school gym was constructed in 1988 with funds raised by the school’s PTO and community members, with a large portion of the funding provided through the generosity of the country music band Alabama.

In 1993, a wonderful thing happened for Moon Lake Elementary School that communicates the sheer essence of the

MOON LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Firmly planted, forward moving.

program. In 1994, wooden playground equipment was built around the grand

oak tree that has long stood as a hallmark of the school’s campus, enhancing the strength and beauty of this proud symbol. The next year, new restrooms were built to replace outdated facilities. A butterfly garden and campus-wide landscaping, including a gazebo, were established by the Rhododendron Garden Club, another supportive community organization. Through all this, the PTO continued fulfilling its role as a powerful resource for the school – somewhat like the stem of a plant. Moon Lake Elementary School receives nourishment and support from many sources--staff and students, parents, community members, organizations, etc.--and each source of help is inspiration for others.

In 1996, MERF and the DeKalb County Board of Education purchased 4.2 acres of land adjacent to Moon Lake Elementary School. MERF’s 2.1-acre portion had an existing house that became a place for enrichment opportunities for students and community members alike. Today, the young and young-at-heart teach, inspire, and learn from each other here. MERF helps train the little ‘sprouts’ in various ways, through tutoring, student field trips, and teacher workshops. The land purchase doubled the size of the campus, allowing the construction of a new school cafeteria and new classrooms and the addition of a Head Start program. For the first time in its history, the school had a full-time principal, librarian, and counselor and each grade had its own teacher. Over the next decade, it seemed the school was moving forward and expanding each year--an intercom system, a network of covered sidewalks, full-time programs in special

Mentone spirit--the establishment of the Mentone Educational Resources Foundation, better known as MERF. With its stated mission “to enrich the learning and living of the community by identifying needs and coordinating resources,” MERF continues to provide beneficial support in many areas of the school’s

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(cont'd on page 23)

Rhododendron Garden Club

By Melanie Tuttle

The next Rhododendron Garden Club will be Tuesday, August 11th. This is always an exciting meeting, since we will be finalizing plans for the Fall Flower Show at the DeKalb Co VFW Agricultural Fair (Sept. 28-Oct. 3).

Horticulture entries are open to all amateur 'green thumbs' who live in DeKalb County--so start grooming those plants so they will be peaking at the end of September. Whether cut or container grown, all exhibits must have been grown by the exhibitor. Container grown plants must have been in the exhibitor's possession for at least 90 days. (No going to the nursery a week before the show to find the perfect potted plant to enter--that would be cheating!) The rule for cut specimens is that they should have been started from seeds, cuttings or immature plants and grown to maturity. (No cutting your neighbor's perfect flower and putting your name on it - that would be cheating!) Flowering bulbs must have been in the exhibitor's possession from bulb, tuber, rhizome or corm or cared for as a mature plant for at least 90 days. (If you grew the plant, don't enter it with your

grandkids' spouse or neighbor's name attached - that would be cheating!)

When this issue of *The Groundhog* comes out, you will still have time to prepare for Combination Container Grown Plants Section, which includes Dish Gardens, Planters and Terrariums. Multiple and combination plantings must have been grown together and in the possession of the exhibitor for SIX WEEKS. So NOW is the time to get those put together. A dish garden is a miniature landscape, grown in an open container and may include accessories. A planter is a group of plants grown in either an indoor or outdoor container. NO accessories are permitted. A terrarium is a landscape using a transparent container that may be open or closed and also may include accessories. Remember to put "like" growing plants together--similar water, sun/shade, and/or soil requirements. (A cactus, fern, and rose would probably not be a good combination!)

Only members of the NE Alabama Federation of Garden Clubs may enter designs. This year's show, Dixieland Delights will feature

Sculptural Form, Reflective, Construction, Still Life, and other creative design classes. Mentone is featured in Section B with titles of Rhododendron Festival, Mentone Colorfest and Summer Camp. Each class has its own rules and requirements, but it's always fun to see the creativity and interpretation of class titles.

When I joined the Garden Club five years ago, I had never even been to a Flower Show, but three very patient blue ribbon winners guided me through the process and now I'm hooked. Blue ribbons are a great motivator, but even more satisfying is the challenge of the creative process--coming up with the idea, and then making it happen. Please join us in August and think about participating in the Flower Show. Designs? Maybe not, but plants entries? Yes. Yes. Yes.

The Rhododendron Garden Club is a member of the NE Alabama Federation of Garden Clubs, The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc., District II Deep South Region and National Garden Club.

Sage Advice: Plants and Summer Heat

By Susan Seago
Co-Owner of Earthly Elements
Garden and Rock Shop

As I write this article, Mentone and the whole Southeastern region are in the midst of a major heat wave. Hopefully, by the first of August, the heat will be moving away. August can be hot, but let's hope it's not. Although it is not a good time to be outdoors during the heat of the day, you can keep your garden growing by watering in the cool of the early morning. The plants will absorb the water better and be able to withstand the hot temps. Plants usually stop this process when the temperature gets to 85 degrees. Tomatoes need nighttime heat under 75 degrees to keep the production process going. When the heat begins to go down, you will see some new growth. Just water everything deeply twice a week for now, and most everything will do okay.

What do I mean by 'watering deeply'? After watering, you should be able to put your finger into the ground and feel moisture an inch deep. Unless you just want to stand and hold the hose for awhile, I would suggest a drip hose system or sprinkler in the early morning to reduce evaporation of the water into the air.

Right now, the lantanas, cannas, crape myrtles, and many sun loving perennials are blooming. One of the newer hydrangeas is called 'Vanilla Strawberry' and can be grown

in the sun. As you know, most hydrangeas need some dappled shade to do well, but this particular hydrangea, not only does well in the sun, it is a rebloomer with large white conical shaped blooms that turn pink as they develop. It is absolutely gorgeous!! It may also grow quite large (8 ft. or taller) so give it plenty of space.

August is almost here. In north Alabama, we still have about two, maybe three months, of good growing season left before frost. You may want to wait until September to start your fall planting, but now is a good time to begin gathering those shrubs, trees, and perennials you want to put into your landscape. As long as

you keep the pots watered, they can wait until the cooler weather to go into the ground. I like to do a lot of my planting in the fall so the root systems do not stress out as they attempt to get acclimated to the area. And then next spring, you will be able to concentrate on planting your vegetables and annuals while all those things you planted in the fall will be vibrant and growing strongly, ready for the spring and summer beauty display.

I would be happy to answer any gardening questions concerning this article that you might have. You can e-mail your questions to earthly_elements@aol.com.

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Moon Lake School (cont'd from page 21)

education and physical education, and MERF-sponsored classes in art, music, and Spanish. A new library, used during school hours by students and during some evenings by the community, completed the school's building campaign. Moon Lake was now forward moving into the age of computers, with the school's first computer lab located in the library. During the ground-breaking ceremony, it was amply stated that the library would "stand as testament to the dedicated belief in and support of this school by its community." It was a community effort; it was a community library. This was made possible by all of those who are firmly planted in their value of education. Moon Lake's PTO-sponsored Harvest Festival raised record-breaking sums greater than \$20 thousand during each of three consecutive years, beginning in 2004--especially noteworthy in the school's small-town setting--once again exemplifying the community's strong support.

Though Moon Lake Elementary School's roots are more than 100 years old, its legacy continues proudly, each year making further advancement. Just as a professional gardener will graft and make hybrids in order to keep the strength of the old plant and add new developments to help prosper the resulting plant, so Moon Lake's students build upon their rich heritage- yet continue to be forward moving and academically successful in high school. Moon Lake's unique spirit ensures that it retains its firm foundation, while also advancing and moving toward the future for the best interest of its students, families, and community. With a rich history behind it and a bright future ahead, Moon Lake Elementary School continues to be firmly planted, forward moving.



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The Mentone Area Arts Council Announces Winners of the 2015 JulyFest Art & Music Festival

The Mentone Area Arts Council recently held its 4th Annual JulyFest Art & Music Festival in Brow Park. Everyone in attendance enjoyed the excellent art, great music and delicious food all day Saturday and Sunday on the Brow and Saturday evening at The Mentone Inn pavilion. This year's judge was art promoter Eileen Kunzman from Birmingham who was impressed with the quality of art of the participating artists. The lucky four are as follows:

1. **First Place - \$650 Award - Don Hutchinson** with his whimsical cardboard dragons. This is the second year that Don has won First Place.
2. **Second Place - \$450 Award - April Blanks** with her woodburned and painted mountain scenes. This was April's first year to participate in the festival.
3. **Third Place - \$250 Award - June Mathis** with her beautiful handblown glass jewelry.
4. **Fourth Place - \$150 - Cloud Farrow** with his drawings/paintings of area attractions.

Congratulations!



Local Ski Hill, Cloudmont, to be Featured at the Sidewalk Film Festival in Birmingham

Cloudmont, a documentary shot on Lookout Mountain in Mentone, AL, is an official selection of this year's Sidewalk Film Festival in Birmingham. From first-time filmmaker Mark Allen Davis, *Cloudmont* tells the story about one family's struggle to create and maintain the first and only ski resort in Alabama.

Since 1971, the Jones family and their employees have struggled with climate change, personal tragedy and financial hardship in an attempt to keep their snowy dream from melting away forever. It's an inspiring tale that shows what's possible when you harness the power of love, family and the will to endure.

The 17th annual Sidewalk Film Festival, a celebration of new independent cinema in downtown Birmingham, is set to take place August 28-30, 2015. Since its debut in 1999, filmmakers from across the country and around the world have come to Birmingham to screen their work at Sidewalk and have been thrilled to discover fresh, enthusiastic crowds eager to devour new independent cinema. www.sidewalkfest.com.

Cloudmont is scheduled to play at the Birmingham Museum of Art in the Steiner Auditorium on Sunday, August 30th, at 5:35pm.

For more information, please contact Jan Jensen at 917-744-6071. www.facebook.com/cloudmontdocumentary

Tin Boat Productions is a small and independent company in the Catskills of New York, focusing on documentary filmmaking and online content. Through our work, we try to create awareness around conservation, showcase inspiring stories or support worthy causes.

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Kamama is the Cherokee word for "Butterfly"
 beauty • creativity • transformation