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THE GROUNDHOG

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

Volume 33, No. 2

"Neighborhood News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

February 2014

DeKalb Team Attends Appalachian Gateway Communities Workshop

By Ray Padgett

Representatives develop action plan to improve economic competitiveness by capitalizing on the area's natural and cultural assets

A team from DeKalb County participated in a three-day workshop designed especially for towns and communities bordering national or state parks, forests and other treasured public lands. Working with national and regional experts on sustainable tourism, economic development, the arts, natural and cultural resources, transportation and branding, the 10-person team crafted a new vision that focuses on the unique Appalachian assets that make this region of Lookout Mountain an appealing place to live, work and recreate.

The partnership of the Appalachian Regional Commission, the National Endowment for the Arts, The Conservation Fund, and The National Trust for Historic Preservation convened the program. With partnership and relationship-building as essential elements to the Appalachian Gateway Communities Regional Workshop, each of the eight participating communities – ranging from Alabama to Virginia – formed a diverse team that included a public land manager, elected officials, business and tourism representatives, civic leaders, and community arts representatives.

Representatives on the DeKalb team were Gail Bishop, Larry Chesser, John Dersham, Carol Beddingfield, Bonnie and Jimmy Durham,

Collins Kirby, Tami Reist, Billy Shugart, Rob Hammond, and Ray Padgett. The team worked to establish projects and plans that not only increase tourism in our communities and area of Lookout Mountain, but also improve the quality of life of our citizens.

The team will continue to work on identified projects and add other members of local government and state land management to the team. Identified projects will result in new

and more cohesive efforts and better coordination of existing plans. As projects are implemented, this area will see increases in number of tourist visits, money spent and visit time, which will result in an increase in business and business

opportunities and funding for local governments.

"The Mentone, Fort Payne, and public land (national and state) partnership was an ideal candidate for the Appalachian Gateway Communities Initiative because of the terrific natural and cultural resources and the emphasis of the arts in its community's plans," said Vice President of Sustainable Programs and Director of The Conservation Fund's Conservation Leadership Network, Kris Hoellen. "It's our goal to help communities foster valuable partnerships, reinforce development plans that balance environmental and economic goals and provide technical assistance to enable places like Fort Payne and Mentone to become even more vibrant and thriving communities."

(cont'd on page 4)



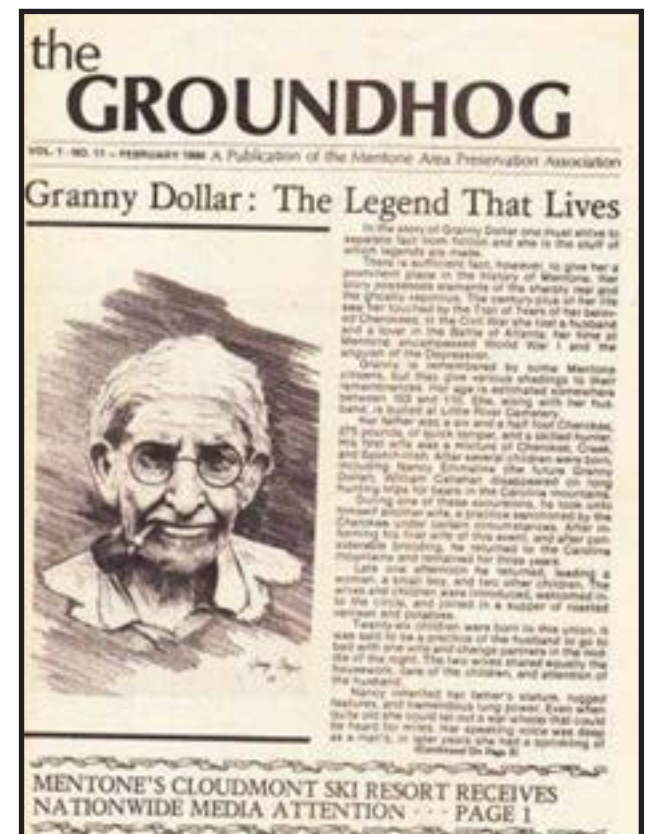
Remember When...

By Angie Carden

A friend of mine told me something her father said once, "How can the days be so long but the years go by so fast?" To me, that is a profound question. When I was given a stack of long passed copies of The Groundhog and asked to write this new segment, that was the first question that came to mind as I read through them all. We all know how time flies, but most of us are so busy with everyday life, that when we finally slow down and look up, we realize that years have passed.

If you happened to be reading The Groundhog in February of 1984, thirty years ago, you would remember the headline reading,

(cont'd on page 20)



THE GROUNDHOG

P. O. Box 387
Mentone, AL 35984

Published monthly by the Mentone Area Preservation Association, MAPA 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



The Appalachian Gateway Communities Regional Workshop in Abingdon, Virginia was an energizing and worthwhile experience for Team DeKalb and the other teams from Kentucky, North Carolina, and Virginia. We learned we

must build on our existing natural, historical, and cultural assets for future economic development without sacrificing the essential character of our town and area. Gateway communities must balance nature and commerce. One of our speakers, Ted Eubanks, emphasized the importance of ecotourism and heritage tourism which are low volume, low impact, and high yield (people spend money!). He pointed out high volumes are inherently high impact and could adversely affect natural assets and quality of life.

Each team had the task of taking an inventory of the assets in their area and creating gateway action plan. Team DeKalb will continue to meet to further develop our plan. Even though I was not able to stay for the entire workshop, I really enjoyed being with the DeKalb team members and learning from professionals who are outstanding in their fields.

From The Editor

February 17, Groundhog Day, 1982: A small group of local citizens gather informally to discuss the possibilities of creating a local publication as an outreach to Mentone residents and visitors.

From that humble beginning, The Groundhog was born. There were no computers on which to compose the content or design the layout. Every month, MAPA members would meet to edit, cut and paste the layout. Today, The Groundhog has gone high-tech. Most communication is by e-mail, including stories from monthly contributors, artwork for advertisements, and final draft submission to the printer. Layout is accomplished through the use of state-of-the-art publishing software. Here's where technology ends and blood, sweat and tears begin: the papers are picked up from the printer by volunteers, who then distribute stacks of papers throughout DeKalb County and its outskirts. In addition, approximately 200 copies are manually labeled and mailed to subscribers.

Despite these changes, The Groundhog has managed to stay true to the mission of its founders: to inform residents of significant events concerning the Mentone area, and to educate its thousands of visitors of the historical background of this very special and unique community.

The Groundhog has always been a labor of love, and it continues to be for those who are involved in its monthly production, publication and distribution. Without the efforts of many volunteers, it would cease to exist. Local residents rely on it as their chief source of current events, and visitors know it's their best source for consolidated information about where to stay and what to do while they're in town. The most popular aspect of The Groundhog, though, has always been and continues to be the small-town personal feel of the paper. With its monthly recipe columns, birthday lists, and regular contributors such as Kristen Emory, a/k/a "The Chicken Lady," The Groundhog creates a sense of community that would otherwise be missing from Mentone.

The Groundhog continues to break new ground

in its efforts to educate and inform. We've launched into social media through Facebook, and there are ongoing discussions about creating an even stronger online presence.

This Groundhog Day marks the 32nd anniversary of the birth of this newspaper. We are honored to have the privilege of helping to see that The Groundhog continues to exist and even thrive. We'd like to think that the original Groundhog staff would be pleased with our efforts.

*By Doreen Crow Waters
for The Mentone Area Preservation Association, Inc.
Board of Directors*



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MENTONE AREA ARTS COUNCIL NEWS

By Thomas Qualls

I remember my first impression of Mentone, which still is true...Mentone is a beautiful community, with so much natural beauty, and the warmth of the people living and working here, it is a wonderful place to live or visit. With so much to be thankful for, Mentone deserves to be enjoyed and shared. One way to enjoy and share such warmth and beauty is through the arts. The Mentone Area Arts Council (MAAC) works hard to provide the arts for everyone. We promote big dreams in a small town atmosphere, bringing the arts and community together as one.

The Mentone Area Arts Council met January 22nd to finalize plans for 2014. Board Members for 2014 are Cynthia Stinson-President, Hank Willett-Vice President, Tammy Beane-Treasurer and Beverly Bates- Secretary; other Board members include,

Elaine Gauldin, Brad Lackey, Harriet O'Rear, Harry Ohme, Scott Thomas, Don and Rhea Pirsch and Thomas Qualls.

Currently, a survey is available on the MAAC website, www.mentonearts.com which will provide valuable input for classes and seminars,



Seated L-R: Harriet O'Rear, Rhea Pirsch, Cynthia Stinson, Tammy Beane. Standing L-R: Brad Lackey, Harry Ohme, Don Pirsch, Thomas Qualls, Hank Willett, Scott Thomas. Not Pictured....Beverly Bates and Elaine Gauldin.

along with other areas of interest. The response has been very positive and we welcome anyone to log on and complete the survey.

MAAC will sponsor various activities and events this year including an Art Auction in May, Julyfest, and the Home Tour in October. Other events being planned are spring flower

planting and community beautification, summer music programs, supporting the arts at Moon Lake School, along with classes and seminars throughout the year. All of these dates and further event information will be posted on our website, along with other information and how everyone can become involved through MAAC to help make our community a great place to live

and visit.

We are currently receiving new members; anyone wishing to support the arts can become a MAAC member by visiting www.mentonearts.org.

Want to know more about Mentone's early years?

MAPA is offering Zora Strayhorn's popular book *Mentone, Alabama: A History*, a fascinating collection of information about many of Mentone's oldest structures, the early settlers and popular legends and lore. Also included are several historic photographs of the Mentone area. You can buy *Mentone, Alabama: A History* at the following businesses in Mentone:

Wildflower Cafe . Kamama Gallery
Crow's Nest Antiques

The cost is only \$15.00, and all sales proceeds go to the Mentone Area Preservation Association to further its goals for 2013. Help support MAPA and get answers to all your questions about the history of Mentone!

Live outside the area? Send a check in the amount of \$18 (covering shipping and handling) to MAPA, P. O. Box 50, Mentone, AL 35984, and a book will be sent to you. Be sure to include your shipping address.

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LIBS FROM THE LIBRARY

By Linda Brown

Sometimes the best thing to do is discuss and discuss some more. This seems to describe the meeting of the Board of Directors of Moon Lake Community Library on January 16, 2014. This was the Annual Meeting, the meeting set aside for each director to submit a report of what we did last year. Of course, this leads to what do we need to do now, this summer and from now on. We need plans to get you to use the library. As always happens when you put events on paper, you have done much more than you ever thought. This was the case here but we want next year to be so much better. We talked about and agreed that our big successes were book sales, calendars, bridge benefit and others too numerous to list.

This led to 2014 and what we can do to make the library more enjoyable for you. This led to the organization of committees. (As everyone knows, a giraffe is a horse put together by a committee.) Our committees were the exception to the rule. For instance, Committee



on Acquisitions will concentrate on finding the Book of the Month to keep us up-to-date with our reading. The Committee on Volunteers will continue to have current calendars for volunteer help in the library and will look for new persons to train to work. The Committee on Special Programs will continue book sales, Holiday Open House, Meet the Author and other events. The Committee on Ways and Means will review the profit made from each last year project and suggest some new ones for next year. The formation of a long term planning team was suggested. A list of suggestions was submitted. This included groups meeting more often during library open hours, having current newspapers and magazines available, setting up a comfortable place with cushiony chairs and a table, and developing a facebook page to keep you abreast of the happenings in the library.

We would like to make a concerted effort to enrich the learning of Moon Lake students by offering exhibits or fun activities to make learning more meaningful or to reinforce what they've learned. We would like to maybe help with science projects, art exhibits and other events during after school hours.

This discussion led us to agree to discuss these ideas and others at our next meeting: Thursday, February 20, 2014 at 3 pm in the Moon Lake Community Library.

Workshop (cont'd from page 1)

Participation in the workshop also makes the Fort Payne/Mentone area eligible to apply for seed grant funding from the Initiative to implement the action plan.

The Appalachian Gateway Communities Regional Workshop is part of an initiative developed by the Appalachian Regional Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts. Since 2007, the Gateway Initiative

has helped gateway communities across Appalachia expand tourism and other economic development opportunities through community assessments, tourism planning workshops and grants for project implementation. The Conservation Fund and the National Trust for Historic Preservation have partnered to strengthen the leadership capacity of towns, cities and communities that neighbor publicly protected natural and recreational lands in distressed, transitional or at-risk counties.

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If you or someone you know needs health care insurance information but you are not sure how to access the Affordable Care Marketplace, we invite you to either call 256-674-3145 or email pwnanavigators@gmail.com for assistance. Two Mentone-area ladies who are volunteer navigators will be glad to assist you in the process of signing up for coverage or to answer any questions you may have about the program. They will respond to your call or email if you will leave your contact information.

It is not too late to sign up for health insurance through the national health care insurance exchange - also known as "Obamacare." OPEN ENROLLMENT ENDS MARCH 31, 2014. After this date, anyone who does not have paid health care insurance will be subject to a penalty for not complying with the Affordable Care Act which is now a federal law. All health insurance policies must now meet a certain threshold of services offered which is good for consumers because it means more protections are built into the system for consumers.

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Rhododendron Garden Club

By Linda Brown

The weather had warmed considerably by Tuesday, January 14, 2014, and everyone was ready for some sunning and funning. The room at the M.E.R.F. Community House was abuzz with laughter and talk. We needed to know how everyone did when the temperature dipped to 0 degrees and below! You could still feel the chill in the old house but the heat was on and it was warming up fast. The meeting was called to order by the president, Peggy Roark, by asking all to participate in the pledge of allegiance to the flag of United States. Martha Wood tickled our funny bone with a list of "plantings" all gardens need. She gave each member a copy of a Wildflower Rebus. The first puzzle was a picture of a girl with a black ring around her eye, of course, everyone knew that this was Black-eyed Susan but we had one that we never answered (the answers were not available.) Refreshments were served by Peggy Roark and Dianne Kuehl.

Martha Wood presented a program on "Wildflowers of Alabama." Wildflowers are defined as "herbaceous flowering plants which occur naturally." Wildflowers can be found in all shapes and sizes, from the large Joe Pie Weed to the tiny ground cover. Wildflowers can be "native" or "introduced" species. Many of the wildflowers we commonly see and assume to be native are

species that were introduced hundreds of years ago and which have become naturalized. Naturalized means that the species have been able to grow and reproduce successfully in their adopted home without benefit of cultivation.



Wildflowers are an important part of the environment. Not only do they provide beauty but they also add important sources of food for many animals including butterflies, bees, wasps, and other insects, songbirds, wild turkey, quail, and mammals such as raccoons, mice, foxes, and deer. Wildflowers are often taken for granted. There are many reasons why wildflowers disappear from an area. Sometimes species disappear because the environmental conditions required changes, young forests become older, fires change soil and light conditions, or a flood temporarily alters an area.

There are a number of things that you can do to help protect wildflowers. You can establish wildflowers in your yard. If you own an area that has wildflowers in it, consider making protection and enhancement one of your management objectives. When possible, use wildflower seeds and plants which were developed for the area you plan to use them. Wildflowers are very enjoyable plants, but their use in residential and commercial landscapes is often overlooked. Native plants not only protect and maintain the native environment, but also add beauty and diversity to

the landscape.

The business meeting reconvened and several items were addressed. The meeting adjourned with everyone who wanted one, getting a house plant.

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

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A Brush With Destiny

By Bill Schwarz

My paternal grandmother was from Wilmington, North Carolina, and met my grandfather sometime in the early 1890's. My great-grandfather had moved to Wilmington from New Jersey shortly after the end of the Civil War. His welcome there as an immigrant and a damn Yankee was not the greatest, and he had a tough time being accepted into the community. Apparently, it all worked out OK, since my grandfather met, wooed, and married a lovely young lady in the Dock family. The fact that the Docks were from Germany also and newly immigrated to this country may well have helped in the assimilation of my Schwarz family into the Wilmington community. The Dock family had four daughters, the youngest of whom was Carrie Teresa Ulrich Dock. Her three sisters were Elizabeth Wilhelmina, Anna Dorothea, and Matilda Wilhelmina. My grandfather Julius and Carrie married on Oct. 24, 1894; he was 23 years old and she was 21. At some point they moved to Savannah and set up housekeeping.

In 1932 during the great mistake called "prohibition," Savannah and apparently all of Georgia in essence told the federal government where they could put the law. So, I have been told, there were speakeasies, bars, and taverns all over town. Nothing was going to keep the Savannahans

from their supply of liquor. I know I heard my father tell of meeting the rum runners on the beach at Tybee Island and of rowing out to a runner anchored in the Savannah River outside of the harbor.

One of grandmother's sisters, Matilda Wilhelmina, known to me as Aunt Minnie, came to visit several times a year. As was usual in those days, Aunt Minnie rode the train to Savannah. She always packed a large suitcase for the trip and when she got ready to leave for home in Wilmington, she packed her clothes in a box and mailed them home. The nice suitcase was used to transport liquor home to the family. She had made this run enough times that it was a comfortable routine and she had never encountered any problems. Her trip was an overnight jaunt and she had a Pullman berth.

On one occasion she had settled into her berth and was preparing to sleep. The train crossed the Savannah River into South Carolina and pulled off onto a siding and stopped. She thought nothing of it until a rather loud group entered the rail car she was in. From the bits of conversation she could understand, it became apparent that the Feds had stopped the train, boarded it, and were looking for booze, compartment by compartment, berth by berth. Aunt Minnie went into panic mode since she

had her suitcase in the compartment with her. She tried and tried to open the window in order to throw her suitcase out. No matter how much she tried, the window would not open. Railroad car windows were notorious for being stuck and inoperable.

The Feds were being led by the conductor and given the names of the berth occupants as they searched for liquor. The closer the pack got, the wilder Aunt Minnie's imagination built and the more panic stricken she became. Finally she could just see herself spending the rest of her days in prison – her destiny. The group arrived at her compartment and she waited to hear her name called, for the curtain to open, and for the Feds to find her suitcase full of liquor. She knew her days of freedom were numbered.

What she did hear, however, was the conductor saying that they didn't need to look in this compartment; there's a very sweet gray-haired lady in there who wouldn't do anything against the law. Just don't bother her and let her sleep. Whether Aunt Minnie continued to transport liquor across state lines I have never heard, but I do suspect that she did.



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THE
RECIPE CORNER
BY
ANGIE CARDEN

ROMANCE

February is the month of “Love”. Flowers, chocolates, mushy cards, fancy outfits and expensive restaurants! We have all been there, and the sentiment is lovely. But as I sit here writing, I can hear my daughter and her friends yelling and giggling on the other side of the house and it makes me remember that Love comes in thousands of shapes, sizes and depths. Which made me think, although Valentine’s Day is one special day of the year, we should all take care not to miss life’s everyday special moments to show those nearest and dearest to us exactly how much they mean to us! We should put forth a little effort daily throughout the year to make our loved ones feel cherished and appreciated!

Wishing you all a very love-filled Valentine’s Day as well as a year full of love-filled days!

Baked Stuffed Tomatoes

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees F.

Slice four vine-ripened tomatoes from core to core. Remove and discard the seeds and juice, and add the tomatoes to a casserole dish. Drizzle with a little olive oil, and sprinkle with salt and pepper.

Combine the 2 tbsp olive oil, ¾ c panko bread crumbs, ½ c grated parmesan, 1 tbsp parsley, 1 clove garlic (finely chopped), 1 shallot (finely chopped), pinch of red pepper flakes and some salt and pepper together in a small bowl. Fill the tomatoes with the panko mixture. Bake 20 minutes. Drizzle with a splash of olive oil before serving.

February Birthdays

- Feb 1 – John Lawton

Feb 1 – Abby Bell

Feb 1 – Tammy Kirby

Feb 1 – Walter Brooks

Feb 1 – Rindy Flannigan

Feb 2 – Beverly Smith

Feb 2 – Karen Nixon

Feb 3 – Melanie Potts Garrett

Feb 4 – Angela Phillips

Feb 4 – Carson Frost

Feb 4 – Brittany Akins

Feb 5 – Yon Hopper

Feb 5 – Savannah Wallace

Feb 5 – Cameron Collins

Feb 6 – Amanda Stewart
- Feb 7 – Jordan Sutton

Feb 8 – Crystal Smith

Feb 9 – Kara Goss

Feb 9 – Jonnie Frost

Feb 9 – Cayden Collins

Feb 10 – Joe McClure

Feb 10 – Leonard Keith

Feb 11 – Cayla Wigley

Feb 11 – Faith Nelson

Feb 11 – Gentry Grisham

Feb 12 – Tara Kirby

Feb 12 – Nicholas Freeman

Feb 12 – Sydnee Grider

Feb 12 – Bubba Browder

Feb 13 – Gretchen Phillips

Feb 13 – Carol Busby

Feb 13 – Craig Hall

Feb 13 – Isaac Pangle

Feb 14 – Valentine’s Day!

Feb 16 – Katelyn Busby

- Feb 17 – John David Blalock

Feb 17 – Trey Moore

Feb 18 – Richard Harrison

Feb 19 - Beverly Bates

Feb 19 – Danielle Powell

Feb 20 – Jon Baggett

Feb 20 – Stella Pierce

Feb 20 – Joan Byrum

Feb 21 – Wendy Manifold

Feb 22 – Justin Langston

Feb 22 – Johnny Mack Ferguson, Jr

Feb 22 – Corey Blalock

Feb 22 – Derek McMahan

Feb 24 – Michael Chambers

Feb 24 – Tom Emory

Feb 24 – Payton Day

Feb 25 – William Beasley

Feb 26 – Kylee Elkins

Feb 27 – Makayla Mullis

February Anniversaries

- Feb 3 – Jeremy & Amy Henderson

Feb 5 – David & Pam Dean

Feb 7 – Calvin & Myra Lanier

Feb 7 – Mack & Debbie Flannigan

Feb 8 - Clark & Genella Tolbert – 50 years

Feb 10 – Danny & Sible Hopper

Feb 11 – Jason & Tina Gregory

Feb 14 – Joey & Melanie Garrett

Feb 14 – Kevin & Connie McElhaney

Feb 17 – Vance & Patti Carden

Feb 23 – Jeff & LeAnn Bain

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What To Do Around Here!

February 2014 Community Calendar

Feb 1 - Waterfall Hike at DeSoto State Park.

Join staff & volunteers for a fun day of hiking thought-out the park to see some of DeSoto's waterfalls, big & small. See Lost Falls, Laurel Falls, Indian Falls, Lodge Falls, even more water features like Laurel Creek & the West Fork of Little River. Moderate Terrain over 5 to 6 miles. Meet at the DeSoto State Park Country Store. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free & open to everyone. 256-845-0051.

Feb 1, 8, 22, 26 - Rappelling Adventure.

Come experience the thrill of rappelling down the sheer sandstone gems of NE Alabama. No previous experience necessary. Each trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Feb 1 - Storytime at the Canyon Center

Little River Canyon Center. Staff and volunteers will read aloud unique children's literature every first Saturday of the month. Storybooks will be available for purchase. 11 a.m. to Noon Free and open to everyone. 256-782-5697.

Feb 4-6 - High Adventure Trip.

This is a 3-day adventure including a Wild Cave Tour, Rock Climbing, An Extreme Night Hike and end with a relaxing canoe trip. Price includes all activities, attractions, permits, fees, gear, and guides. \$137 per person. 256-997-9577.

Feb 4 - Loomis Bro. Circus.

Circus features performing elephants, white tigers, dogs, ponies, acrobats, clowns, jugglers, trapeze and more! Two shows 4:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. Doors open an hour before each show. Tickets are \$15 for adults, two children age 12 and under are admitted free when accompanied by paying adult, additional children are \$8. Cash only is accepted at the circus. Shows last 1 hr. 45 min. 256-638-1650.

Feb 7 - Landscape Installation & Management Class.

Class includes setting of landscape plants, landscape design & plant material. Available to state employees, homeowners & industry employees. Class starts at 8:30 a.m., and attendees will receive a free mini-library of five color, waterproof reference books and a Landscape License study manual. Free & open to the public. Attendance in this class is limited; pre-registration is required. Call DeSoto State Park at 256-997-5025.

Feb 7, 8, 9, 11, 14, 15, & 16 - Children's Advocacy Center Annual Dinner Theater.

The Children's Advocacy Center presents the 19th annual dinner theatre. "Real Husbands of Honey Do County" Ticket prices vary and are by reservation only. For more information or tickets, contact the Advocacy Center at 256-997-9700.

Feb 2 - Night Zip Line Adventure.

Our cable zip line spans 250 feet over a ravine and whisks you on an adventure through the woods where your only light source is a headlamp and tiki torches. You get up to 2-3 zips per person. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before the adventure. 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Feb 6 - Phil Weaver/Microwave Dave in Concert.

Kamama's. Doors open for dinner at 5pm. Concert starts at 7pm. Concert \$10 per person. Reservations requested for dinner and concert. 256-634-3001.

Feb 8 - Green & Gray Saturday.

The National Park Service staff and volunteers will present "Green & Gray" programs on the second Saturday of each month. Topics include park resources and activities, climate change, recycling, energy conservation, eco-gardening, exotic plants, native landscaping, pollution prevention, green energy, and more! Little River Canyon Center. 10 a.m. Free and open to everyone. 256-845-8548.

Feb 8 - Fund Raiser Car Show for Jeff Shankles.

9 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the Northeast Alabama Agri-Business Center.

Feb 8 - Sculpt Your Own Flower.

Orbix Hot Glass. This class is all about hands-on experience in a safe and fun atmosphere with a final product we know you will love. There is a minimum of 3 people and a maximum of 5 in each class. 10-11am. \$65 per person. Reservations and 50% deposit are required. 256-523-3188.

Feb 8, 10, 21, 22 - Extreme Night Hike.

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. Headlamp and enthusiastic guide included. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Feb 11, 13, 15, 17, 28 - Wild Cave Tour.

Explore in one of NE Alabama's most unique all-weather caves, Manitou Cave, in the heart of Fort Payne. Adventure includes helmet, cave lamps plus a fun informative guide. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Feb 12 - Hypothermia Class.

This three-hour class teaches the extreme dangers and how to treat hypothermia. Learn how quick hypothermia can set in and the signs indicating it is setting in. Also learn steps to prevent hypothermia and how to combat it. True Adventure Sports 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Feb 13, 24 - 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. TAS 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Feb 14 - PWNA (Progressive Women of Northeast Alabama)

will meet at Kamama's in Mentone on Friday, February 14 at 11:30am. Progressive women from DeKalb, Jackson and Marshall counties meet on the second Friday of each month, alternating meetings between the three counties. Guest speaker for February will be Ellen Spangler who will talk about the women's movement of the 70's. The main project of the club is to offer scholarships to women who attend Northeast Alabama Community College. This year's applicants should contact Susan Barron's office at NACC. Please call Kamama's for a reservation if not a member. 256-634-3001.

Feb 14 - Valentine Day Dinner at the Springs.

The Mentone Springs Hotel will be having a special Valentine's Dinner Italiano style at 6 pm. Tickets available now. Reservations only. 256-634-4040.

Feb 14 - Valentine's Day Party.

Kamama's. 6-10pm. Reservations required. 256-634-3001.

Feb 15 - Paperweight Class.

Orbix Hot Glass. Maximum class size is five students so everyone has adequate time to work at the bench. There will be material provided before the class for you to review and become familiar with concerning safety and basic glassblowing vocabulary. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$130 per person. Reservations and 50% deposit are required. 256-523-3188.

Feb 15 - Basic Pine Needle Basketry Class.

Learn the basics of pine needle basketry, an old craft with a long history. Join Brittany Hughes and volunteers to learn the basic steps to making a coiled basket from longleaf pine needles. Each participant will learn the basic skills of pine needle basketry and take home their very own creation. 10 a.m. Free, but Pre-registration required; class number is limited to 10. 256-495-2672.

Feb 15, 25, 27 - 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. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Feb 17, 28 - Advanced Rappelling Class.

Learn special rigging, mechanical advantage,

ascending and rope walking, alternate rappel devices, changeovers, knots, safety procedures, special gear, and backup belaying. Meet at T.A.S. Training Center 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. \$125 per person. 256-997-9577.

Feb 18, 19, 26 - 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. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Feb 20 - Knot Class & Application.

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

Feb 20 - SharBaby in Concert.

Kamama's. Nationally-acclaimed blues artist. Doors open for dinner at 5pm. Concert starts at 7pm. Concert \$10 per person. Reservations requested for dinner and concert. 256-634-3001.

Feb 22 - Blow Your Own Ornament.

Orbix Hot Glass. Come design and blow your own ornament with the help of one of our glass artists. No reservations are needed--first come, first serve basis. For this class, we welcome people of all ages (at least 5 years old). 9am-12pm. Cost is \$35 per ornament blown. 256-523-3188.

Feb 27 - Cold Weather Survival Class.

Learn how to survive in cold harsh conditions. Learn tips to prevent hypothermia and death. This class covers the basics for emergency cold weather conditions and also covers a few tips on how to stay warm and comfortable for everyday cold conditions. 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Feb 28-Mar 1 - Rainsville Lions Club 29th Annual Rodeo.

The Rainsville Lions Club will be hosting its annual rodeo at the NEAL Agri Business Center. The rodeo will consist of bareback riding, team roping, barrel racing and bull riding. Admission for adults is \$12, children \$7 & children 5 & under free. 256-638-1650.

Happy Valentine's Day

Ongoing Calendar

MAPA Members meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm in 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.

Karaoke every Saturday Night. 6-10pm, The Blue Lantern. Nice, clean family entertainment. Located on Co. Rd. 642 in

Mentone, 0.7 mi No of Hwy 117.

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: Tuesdays, 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.

Gray DeGraffenried Morrison, II, 1925-2014

By Woody Morrison

My father, Gray Morrison, loved Lookout Mountain Camp for Boys (he was a Director), Mentone and Lookout Mountain. His grandfather, Dr. Jacob Allen Gorman, founded the camp and opened it in 1928. Dr. Gorman built the house in Mentone known as "Hanging Rock Cottage" (listed on The National Historic Register). This is the home you see hanging over the bluff on the left as you first exit Mentone and drop down the mountain to Valley Head.

Dad knew every trail, rock and road on top of Lookout, and I relished in his stories, especially the older ones...like square dancing on top of what used to be "The Hitching Post" with who would become his bride...or stories about his adventures while on horseback and the trails he would find or just getting an ice cream cone with Black Walnut ice cream at the Hummingbird. He would talk about the old days of sitting quietly on the porch of Hanging Rock Cottage and, if conditions were right, he said at night



when it was very still and calm, you could actually hear conversations all the way from the train station in Valley Head. The stories I heard about Shine McNue... and the stories I heard FROM Shine McNue... were classics and always positive. He said his time spent on the mountain was his favorite.

Dad had a great many friends in Mentone. He touched many lives and will be missed. His obituary follows:

Gray D. Morrison - Born September 25, 1925, and departed this life on January 5, 2014. He was preceded in death by his Mother, Edith Gorman Morrison, his Father, Gray D., and his brother, John Gorman Morrison. He is survived by his loving wife

of 65 years, Jane Dudley Bland, and his three sons, Gray D. III, Bryant Boatner married to Rebecca Ramirez, Millard Bland married to Helen Bailey, and his daughter Jane Morrison married to David Jobe of Rice, VA., and 8 grandchildren: Jessica and Gray Morrison, Brittany and Bryant Morrison, Millard and Bailey Morrison, and Mary Clifford and Whitney Jobe. He graduated from Darlington School and was admitted into the Merchant Marine Academy in Long Neck, NY to serve his country. Upon graduation from the Academy, he became a United States Naval Officer where he served both in WWII in the Pacific, Atlantic and Mediterranean Theatre and in the Korean conflict in the staff of Admiral Thomas B. Brittain.

He loved spending time on top of Lookout Mountain in Mentone, AL, and would work with the staff during the summer camp season. Gray's love for his family rose above everything else. His warmth and character will be honored by his family and remembered by his many friends.

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Nuts, Bolts and Nostalgia

By Thomas Qualls

Walking through the door of Ballard Hardware in Menlo, Georgia, is taking a step back in time; you are immediately caught up in the nostalgia of a time gone by. When I first moved to Lookout Mountain a little over a year ago, one of the locals said I had to visit Ballard's.

Each time I visit it reminds me when I was a kid growing up in the 1950's, making regular visits to the local hardware store with my dad. I was always in awe of the hardware store; I am still in awe today.

The store was opened in 1917 by Mr. Rex Wyatt who owned and operated the store until his death in 1951, at which time his son Charlie Wyatt took the store over and continued to operate the store until 1954. One day Charlie Wyatt walked next door to the drug store owned by Mr. Gene Ballard and asked him if he'd like to buy the hardware store. Mr. Ballard asked when he would like to sell it, to which Mr. Wyatt replied, "today." It has been in the Ballard family since. Mr. Gene operated the store until his age and health

required him to retire. Gene's son Don, who retired from the U.S. Navy after twenty-nine years of service, took over operations of Ballard's in 1995.

Don claims to be the top salesman and store manager, not difficult especially since he is the only employee. Don also is responsible for janitorial duties, but one can sense upon entry there is little attention given to "clean up." It would be safe to say some of the original



dust is present from the store's beginning. You will also find things in this hardware store not seen in

many years, perhaps never before.

As you enter, you immediately notice this is a special place and everything has a story;

there's the metal ceiling panels 2x4 feet, along with intricate metal crown molding. Don tells the story how two ladies visited one day and one of them was caught up in counting the ceiling tiles; after a while she asked if she could use the calculator and after some figuring she told Don she'd like to buy his ceiling (for a fairly tidy sum). Don replied it would make too much

mess, dust and so on...she said she'd have all that taken care of too. After a minute Don declined the offer, saying it would take away from the character of the place. Don often has offers to buy something unique in the store. He's had offers from buyers from a notable restaurant chain, as well as individuals, but he doesn't want to begin selling off these special items and change the look and feel of the

store.

Lining the walls and on top of the many shelves are things like a front grill from a 1939 Chevy and original RR lanterns from the old Menlo train depot which was removed in the 1960's. There are also metal rings which used to go around the old wooden wagon wheels. Then there's the WWI Swiss Army rifle hanging right below the lead box which used to hold the

(cont'd on page 17)



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This Olde House: MERF Community House



My boards may be a little creaky and my paint a little flaky but I am full of life. This winter and spring have brought the young and the wise through my doors so my walls are full of joy, laughter and learning.

Brrrrr, this winter has frozen my brain and given me a few senior moments. Though he would like to, Pat Robertson has not been helping us with senior lunches this fall but Pat Peterson has. She was also a great elf at the Christmas party and hopefully will be back to join us on February 19th when senior lunches begin again after a long winter nap. Linda Lawton is another elf that helped us celebrate in December that was not mentioned in the January article. Hopefully, my brain will defrost soon.

The Moon Lake Elementary School students were busy in December discovering how the penguins could save Christmas and making homemade ornaments for their entry into the Tree of Festivals hosted by the Landmarks of DeKalb County in Fort Payne. Hope you had

a chance to go see the festival of trees at the Opera house. Moon Lake was awarded \$250 for having the Most Artistically Beautiful tree. The theme was Christmas memories through ornaments. The judges loved that the tree was truly decorated by the children. A grandfather made the wooden ornaments for the students to paint and they created wonderful paper chains too. Don't you remember great handmade ornaments you've made? The gifts under the tree were cans of food to help with St. Joseph's food pantry collection. Congratulations to Ms. Paula and her artists at Moon Lake. Just imagine what works of art will be produced for MERF's fundraiser in April!

Thank you to the Rhododendron Garden club for planting more daffodils on my grounds- I cannot wait for them to brighten our beautiful Mentone. Come join me at the walking track and watch the beauties emerge.

MERF continues to be thankful for all the ways the Mentone community supports the fun and the learning that happens here. MERF friends--know that you are loved and appreciated.

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.



Left to Right: Alexis Reed, Hunter Gorham, Tanner Gatewood, Madeline Perkins, Isaac Crowe, Daxson Crowe, Madison Smith, Hannah Gorham and Reagan Gatewood in front of Moon Lake Elementary School's tree at the Festival of Trees.



Left to Right: Kendra Burgess, Ethan Smith and Emma Harrison with collected food for St. Joseph's food pantry.

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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.

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. Brother Marlin Stames, Interim Pastor, welcomes all to Sunday School at 9AM (10AM GA time) and Sunday night services at 5PM (6PM GA time).

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. Sunday Services: Sunday School 9:15AM-all ages; Sunday Service 10:30AM; Bible Study Wednesday 6PM; Youth Services 7PM Sunday and 6:30PM Wednesday (Meet at Mentone

Revival Center Building). Pastor Tim Miller.

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.

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



Sage Advice - Cabin Fever

Got cabin fever yet? For those of us who work outside, it has been a cold winter thus far. Will February bring even more cold and snow?

Did you know that the cold weather and snow are beneficial for our plants? The very cold temps kill some of the bugs that can harm our plants. We need three weeks of cold temperatures for the bugs to die and if the pattern keeps up, we will have fewer to deal with this coming spring and summer. The snow has nitrogen in it which provides nutrients to the soil. You may see some 'greening' of the grass after a snowfall. I can see some in my yard as I look out the office window. Snow also acts as a blanket to protect the roots from very cold temperatures. So, there are good things about the cold and snow. I try to think about that when I am tired of being indoors and itching to get into the garden. Spring will come soon enough so I will just enjoy my time indoors and try to finish some of the projects that have been on my to-do list.

Even with all the sleet, rain, snow, and cold weather, we do have some pretty days when the temp rises above 50 degrees and the sun shines bright. It is on those days when we can get outside and do a little in the yard. I still have weeds to clear out from last summer and fall. Since they are not growing right now, if I can get them cleared away, the garden will have a great start for the new growing season. I can also incorporate some fresh compost and let it sit for a few weeks to feed the soil. A

new layer of mulch or pine straw will help to keep the roots warm and growing and prevent many early weeds. A granular weed preventer can be applied now to keep the seeds from germinating. The early annual weeds, Henbit and chickweed, germinate in the fall, and may be presenting their tiny flowers in some beds



now. As an afterthought, it is good to put out a pre-emergent at the right time, preferably in late fall.

For the vegetable garden, bring in some fresh compost and organic matter and till into the beds. Come April, a light re-tilling of the bed will make it ready for planting. Remember. Most warm season veggies should not be planted until after the last danger of frost, which is usually around April 15 in our part of the state. Of course, cool season veggies can be planted earlier.

If you really want

Susan Seago, Fine View Garden Center

to plant ornamentals such as shrubs and perennials, as long as the ground is not frozen, you can do so. Most trees can be planted now, too. I would wait on the magnolias, though. They prefer warmer spring weather. The plants' roots have time to get started well before they have to work on buds and blooms. Come spring, the new beds will burst forth with lustrous green and beautiful blooms. Some perennials, such as the Lenten Rose, will begin blooming soon, so putting them in now will generate a pretty garden almost immediately.

I am sure your garden catalogs have started arriving in the mail. The seed and plant companies are very smart; they send their picture catalogs for you to review while you have to be indoors. If, like me, you read them and begin making your list of what you want, you get excited about spring and just have to get some new items. Visit or call your local garden center to place your orders now. Most garden center owners are glad to bring in what you want, and now is the time for them to place their orders.

So, sit back, enjoy the beauty of winter, and dream of your beautiful landscape this spring and summer.

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 3BR/2BA · \$189,000 2 Acres · MLS #778347	 2BR/1BA · \$79,900 .64 Acre · MLS #341293	 3BR/2BA · \$169,900 3 Acres · #486661	 1BR/1BA · \$59,900 Lot · MLS #499665	 3BR/2BA · \$298,500 2.83 Acres · MLS #649658	 2BR/2BA · \$274,500 .68 Acre · MLS #654813
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 3BR/2BA · \$299,900 7.2 Acres · MLS #450846	 3BR/2.5BA · \$159,000 5 Acres · MLS #917245	 5BR/5BA · \$545,000 .95 Acres · MLS #338039	 3BR/1BA · \$99,500 .27 Acre · MLS #483441		

LOTS AND LAND

3.22-acre lot in West Fork Subdivision. \$29,900. MLS #881041.

.49-acre lot with 100' on West Fork Little River. \$168,000. MLS #553323.

7.13-acre lot in Mountain River Estates Sub. \$49,500. MLS #656265.

1.95-acre lot at Lake on the Brow Subdivision. \$52,900. MLS #984141.

1.02-acre lot in Hidden Lake Subdivision. \$55,000. MLS #762331.

1-acre lot in Hidden Lake Subdivision. \$55,000. MLS #665968.

1-acre wooded, Lakefront Lot in Private, Gated Subdivision. \$55,000. MLS #945265.

1.06-acre lot at Hidden Lake Subdivision. \$60,000. MLS #867272.

246 acres..woods and stream on Lookout Mountain. \$1,082,400. MLS #928084.

100 to 243 acres on Lookout Mountain. \$3,900 per acre. MLS #785191.

7.8 acres border Armstrong Creek and Webb Branch. \$47,500. MLS #581146.

12.1 acres....mostly wooded. \$48,500. MLS #632461.

7 acres - East Fork of Little River. \$38,000. MLS #641045.

40 acres - off the beaten path, hunters paradise. No restrictions. \$110,000. MLS #752857.

4.4 acres - located on the North Brow in Mentone. \$190,000. MLS #392849.

400' deep lot located south of Mentone on DeSoto Parkway. \$149,900. MLS #963487.

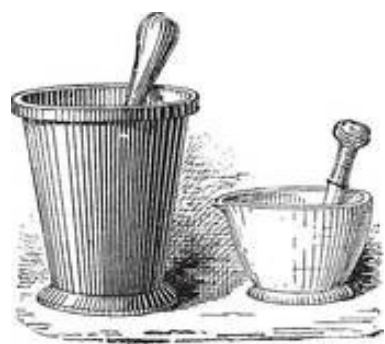
One or two wooded lots on Cutler Avenue in Mentone. One lot offered at \$19,900 and both at \$37,500. MLS #682942.

Corner lots in secluded and private subdivision walking distance to East Fork Little River. \$38,000. MLS #939357.

106' of prime brow view with paved road frontage. Walking distance to downtown Mentone Level and ready to build. All Mentone city services available. \$109,500. MLS #403694.

Lakefront! 200' of water frontage and 169' on paved road frontage. Light restrictions and common lake and brow areas. Access and waterfront cleared and ready. \$55,900. MLS #845943.

Approx. 2 acres on a dead-end street. Unrestricted. (2 tracts available, totaling approximately 4 acres). \$12,600. MLS #407038.



Mountain Herbalist: Hardwood Therapy

By L. C. Moon

Winter is a peaceful time in the woods on Lookout Mountain. Day or night, you can walk through a forest lined with sleeping trees and filled with the music of the river, creeks and waterfalls. As you walk through the forest, you can hear the whistle of the wind through the branches and the wildlife stirring beneath the trees. The sounds are much louder in winter than in the other seasons. I welcome the voice of winter to break the sometimes eerie silence deep in the woods day and night.

The sounds echo in the bare forest; such as, during the day, the deer tromping down trails, the songs of the birds and/or the turkeys rustling the leaves in search of food, are much more pronounced. The silent winter nights give way to howling winds, creaking trees, possums and coons scavenging, coyotes hunting and the haunting screeches of the owls.

The more I learn about the forest, the more my relationship to nature deepens. Winter provides a wonderful time to identify the trees by observing their bark, buds, limbs, leaf scars and growth patterns. Since learning the characteristics of the trees, they have become like acquaintances or close friends that I recognize for their true identity.

The stately oaks (*Quercus*) are a place for animals to make their homes and provide great

materials for baskets and furniture. Dry oak wood provides warm fires with plenty of coals as well as blesses us with food and many folk remedies. The beauty of white and red oaks blesses us, even though red oaks are quite stinky. If you have ever had red oak in your home for firewood, then you know what I mean.

Oak is very astringent and two teaspoons of dried white oak bark simmered in about a pint of water is known to be great for diarrhea when used as a tea. The tannin content is what makes the oak so astringent. As a result of the tannin content, if you plan to use the acorns as a food source you will want to boil them in several changes of water or soak them in moving water, cradled in a strainer, for a few days before consuming them or grinding them into meal for baking.

Oak is known to be a mild anti-tumor remedy and mildly antiviral. Author Alma Hutchens writes that oak decreases mucous in the stomach to help cure post nasal drip, allow for better food absorption and in turn possibly raise metabolism. External applications of a tea made with oak leaves or bark has proven to be beneficial when used as a wash for skin rashes and inflammations. Tommie Bass (old time folk herbalist) recommended a tea of white oak bark applied externally for decreasing age spots, but offered no guarantees. In *Trying to Give Ease*, written by Crellin and Philpott at Duke University about Mr. Bass, says that white oak is an 'alterative' which is a term that is very vague. Simply put 'alterative' means it cleanses impurities and alters the body from an out of balance state to a more healthy state of being with no real physiological explanation.

In *Mountain Medicine* by Darryl Patton, you

can find detailed folk stories about how Tommie Bass used oak as medicine. Usually white oak is used internally more so than red oak; however, Tommie Bass recommended red oak bark tea to be used internally for cirrhosis of the liver, a bleeding bladder and thrush.

Hickory (*Carya*), another common Lookout Mountain hardwood, has limbs that have been used as a switch for naughty children or to heal earaches of many in years past. I hear many stories about grandparents going out and cutting a green hickory limb and holding it over the fire until the sap comes out to drip in the ear of the ailing patient.

The medicinal purposes of hickory are not commonly employed any more. It was most commonly used as a wash for ulcers and sores or to purify the system. Jethro Kloss author of *Back to Eden* recommends mixing one teaspoon of the granulated bark or leaves with one cup of boiling water and simmer for thirty minutes to make a decoction for purifying the system.

Hickory was very valuable for more than medicine to the pioneers. When hickory bark is combined with alum it makes a greenish dye. It was a favorite for many when using potash for the alkali in the soap making process. The nuts of hickory have also been broken and boiled for the soap making process.

Hickory was used for tools, large screws, furniture, flails for thrashing grain and more. You can receive a sweet treat from the hickories if you tap them and harvest the sap as you would a maple tree. As well, the Hickory nut has a pleasant taste and can be eaten straight from the shell.

Most herbalists have their favorite remedies and Wild Black Cherry (*Prunus Serotina*) is
(cont'd on page 17)

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Mentone Wedding Chapel



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.

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Welcome To Mentone!!



Stop by our Log Cabin in front of the Wildflower Cafe, we always look forward to a visit from our neighbors and friends.

..... LOTS and LAND

EAST RIVER ROAD. River View parcel near the bend in West Fork upstream from Desoto Falls. Approved for building a small cabin. Town limits of Mentone in nostalgic area offers a great spot to watch the river flow. Priced at \$44,000.00 (959304)

LITTLE RIVER WATERFRONT 3.11-acre building lot. Conveniently located just north of Camps DeSoto & Skyline. Lightly restricted; 150' of frontage on West Fork Little River just above Taylor's Ford. \$54,900. (735107)

TWO ACRES WITH DRIVEWAY, public water at the road. Private, surrounded by woods, level building spot already prepared. Approx one mile from downtown Mentone on Scenic Hwy N. \$29,900. (840634)

2-ACRE WOODED LOT WITH LAKE VIEW. Lot 1, Hunters Ridge, Phase III. Adjoining lot (Lot 2) is 2.00 acres and is also available for sale. Easily accessed and level-to-gently-rolling in topography. This could be the perfect place to build your mountain getaway. \$20,000 (462353)

WOODSY WATERFRONT LAND. Solitude & nature await your getaway on this lightly-restricted 4.33 acres on Full Moon Lake, in Mentone's Laurel Creek Lakes. Walking trails; 3 lakes; Equestrian friendly. 2 lots sold as one & could be divided in future. Priced to sell. \$49,900. (387932)

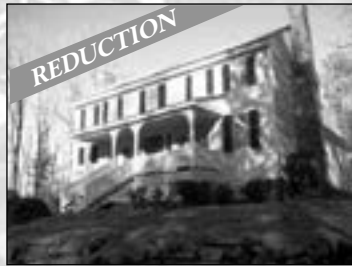
REDUCED! NATURAL EAST FORK RIVER FRONTAGE. Experience the wonder of the most natural part of Lookout Mountain on these 5 acres with 420 ft of river frontage; mossy rock ledges; mature trees. Perfect for nature lovers. Adjoining 6 ac. also available. If you are in the market for a remote paradise this is it. Now \$45,000. (805140)

A PROPERTY RARE. 44 acres of hardwood mountainside with forever views, several level building sites AND a registered cave. Tally Cave, Lookout Mtn, in Valley Head & Mentone. This special piece of earth is looking for a caretaker to own and preserve it. Don't let it get away. \$119,000 (785767)

happy valentine's day



FIND YOUR PEACE & QUIET in this wooded sanctuary! Spacious floor plan; one-level, 4BR/1.5BA, 3426 sq-ft home is ideal for casual living OR entertaining! Nestled on 5.7 wooded acres, surrounded by large-tract wooded properties. Private, convenient (only minutes from medical & shopping), fully handicapped accessible. Great potential as a small group or private care facility. Plenty of parking & nice landscaping. \$185,000. (801678)



HISTORY, BEAUTY & SPACE! 3BR/2BA home on 3.49 acres, built in 1836, with land on both sides of the road. House: 6 fireplaces; hand-crafted doors; wavy window glass; well-worn heart-pine floors. Out buildings: smokehouse with hand-carved pegs in the rafters; servant's quarters with stone fireplace in the middle of the floor. Surrounded by ancient cedars & walnut grove. Spring & creek on property. \$149,900 (535973)



SIMPLE, SOLID & SWEET! A starter home or a "get-back-to-basics" plan? Simplify your life in this light-filled little cutie that offers BIG niceties like wall of bookshelves on either side of the fireplace; sunny & spacious country kitchen w/all appliances & b'fast bar; sunroom; 2BR/2BA; cedar-lined closets; detached "Dutch barn" shop (future guest house?); 3.68 acres. 2-car carport. Add'l land w/barn & rental house avail. \$89,900 (833075)



WATER WONDERLAND! 3 acres, wooded, riverfront lot with stream & waterfall. Minutes from Mentone. Paved road access. East Fork Little River. Boat to the lake from this deep-water river frontage located just above Lake Lahusage for swimming, canoeing & fishing. Large trees, boulders & quiet location (except for the waterfall!) create the perfect place for your weekend getaway. Seller will build to suit. \$89,900. (815833)



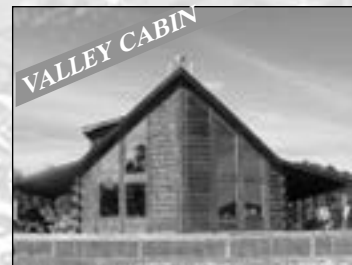
NEED SPACE? Try on this spacious, one-level, 4BR/3.5BA, rambling ranch-style home for size! Family room w/woodburning Fpl; Den w/gas log Fpl; LR; formal DR; huge KIT w/b'fast bar & dining area; new roof; new heat/AC in semi-detached office. Back deck; att single carport; 2-car garage/shop; garden shed. Brow views & lovely sunsets are only a glance away! \$175,000 (657739)



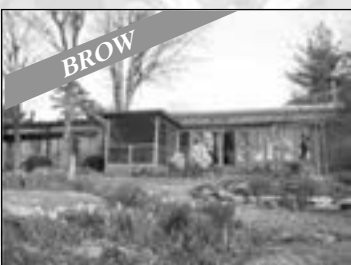
WELL, IT'S A PLACE TO START in Mentone. Little house, privately tucked into 2.4 mostly-wooded acres. Started out life as a single-wide mobile home of unknown age, with rooms & porch added on. Kinda cute from the front w/great trees, a few flowering shrubs & decent areas for gardening. No, it isn't ready to move into & it needs TLC. Give it a look and see what you think. Now \$35,000. (707652)



FAMILY GETAWAY COMPOUND, VACATION RENTALS OR BOTH! 3 fully-furnished cabins & private, fully-stocked lake on 10 acres. Enjoy fishing or canoeing, or just relaxing in a hot tub under the stars (each cabin has its own hot tub). Screened gazebo, lg metal shop, picnic pavilion, horseshoe pit. Foundation for 4th cabin in place. Just 2 miles from downtown Mentone, on a private road. Great rental history! \$375,000 (540943)



PANORAMIC VIEWS across the mountains & valleys, 40 acres of woods & a fabulous log home. Private, secluded; a true getaway. 28' vaulted great room w/mtn stone, masonry Fpl & stunning wall of windows; cherry cabinetry in the well-equipped kitchen (pro appliance pkg); peeled cedar trees loft supports; "man cave" basement (w/shop & garage) wraparound porches & decks. Hunter's dream. Minutes from I-59 & Hwy 11. \$385,000 (609396)



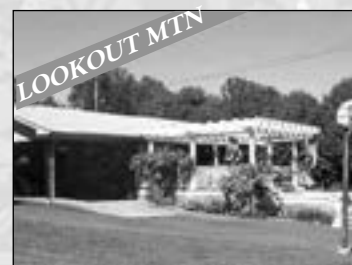
ON A CLEAR DAY...you really CAN see forever! You'll be quite taken with the spaciousness & charm in the brow-side cottage, too. Tucked away behind a quaint stone entry & dogwood-filled garden along the Scenic Pkwy. Once a "traveler's motor court," transformed into an inviting getaway. 2BR/2BA; DR area w/stone Fpl (gas logs); sunroom w/vintage stone floors & wall of windows. Screened porch & deck. Single garage. \$229,000 (423110)



PRIVATE, PEACEFUL, PERFECT! Cold weather is the perfect time to relax in the hot tub in the screened gazebo (no other cabins in sight, just trees, rocks & nature.) Then dash inside to snuggle up in front of the beautifully-crafted, mountain stone, wood-burning fireplace! Full-time, part-time, any time's just right to enjoy this 3BR/2BA, frame cabin, tucked into almost 2 acres with small stream! Your own private Shangri-la or great rental! \$179,000 (640512)



WOODLAND CABIN with all the right stuff: spacious porches front & back; mountain stone Fpl (gas logs); 2 (or 3) BR/2BAs; lotsa wood inside & out (wide pine plank floors & local poplar in MABR); easy-care lot so your vacation can be a vacation! Nice location between DeSoto State Park & Mentone, just off the Parkway. Close to Camp Comer Scout Reservation. Personal getaway or rental. Nice place. Nice price. \$169,900. (979406)



ON SCENIC DRIVE 4BR/2.5BA home that is close to everything: shopping, schools & medical in Ft Payne or the beauty of DeSoto State Park & Little River Canyon! Fab kitchen w/solid surface countertops, Kraftmaid cabinets, Fisher & Paykel dish drawers. Formal LR & spacious den. Lg fenced backyard w/tiny rustic cabin for work or play. Inviting front deck w/pergola; back deck for private relaxation & entertaining. \$109,900 (957413)

Also look for our listings at AlabamaMountainLiving.com

Nuts, Bolts . . . (cont'd from page 10)

dynamite blasting caps. The store used to sell dynamite as well (until the government stopped allowing it). There is a concrete building out back next to the coal pile which was where the dynamite was kept.

Speaking of coal, there is the old cast iron pot belly stove sitting in the middle of the store which was the source of heat. Although it has been patched many times, it still works, and Don keeps it stoked with the large coal rocks from out back.

In the front window is a three-row, walk behind planter in excellent condition from 1936, with the original tags still on. Another interesting item which I've never seen before is the 'nuts and bolts' stand. It looks a bit like an old library card holding box. It stands about six foot high and

pivots around its large base; of course, it's being used and is full of nuts and bolts and sundry items and works just fine. There is a brass plate on the top which indicates it was manufactured in 1901. It may sag a bit, but at more than 100 years old I'd say it's doing fine.

Of course this is a working hardware store with locals coming in and buying needed items without having to drive 20-30 miles away. Don says most of his sales are the usual items, plumbing and electrical supplies, etc. but he did have a lady come in once needing a special item--mortise locks. He just happened to have six of them, and she bought them all saying she couldn't find them anywhere else in the area.

Then there is one more thing I've never seen, nor heard of, and one Don cannot find any infor-

mation about. It is a converter for a shotgun from a 12 gauge to a 410 gauge. It is basically a pipe with threading in its original box, and the price marked is \$7.95.

One more thing, even if you don't need any hardware items, Don welcomes visitors to stop by, visit and browse through the store. Take a seat around the old stove and let Don take you on a trip through history. It will be time well spent. Oh, he probably wouldn't mind if you were to purchase something as well, just to help keep the store open. We hope Ballard's continues to be open for many more years to come.

Ballard's is located on main Street in Menlo and you can find Don there Monday through Friday and half-day on Saturday.

Herbalist (cont'd from page 15)

one of mine. I have a lot of experience with Wild Black Cherry as an effective medicine. In my experience, the bark of the Cherry tree has worked great for clearing mucous from the lungs and healing the lungs.

Whenever my daughter Zoe gets a cough, I walk through the woods and find a cherry tree with a limb close enough to reach with my knife. I cut around the limb until it is ready to break from the tree. I bring the limb home, skin it of the bark, put the bark in a ceramic, glass or stainless steel pot, cover with water about an inch above the bark. I lightly boil the bark for 20 to 30 minutes and then let it cool and steep on the turned-off eye of the stove. This process is known as making a decoction.

If I am using my wood stove to make a

decoction then I monitor when the water begins to simmer and lightly boil for 25- 45 minutes depending on the heat of the stove. I remove the medicine from heat to steep and cool.

After the decoction has cooled to warm, I make it into syrup by adding local honey. I often use other herbs with this combination for the sinus and lungs such as pine needles, mullein, anise, fennel, rabbit tobacco, boneset, horehound and chickweed. I rely a lot on my instincts as to what herbs to use for each person and I do not always use the same herbs though I always use wild cherry when making a cough remedy.

The wild cherry tree does not produce an abundance of the edible berries in the Lookout Mountain area. While the berries are edible, the seed contains cyanide. The wild cherry fruit is much better in jams and jellies. The cooking of

the berries destroys the cyanide so it is said there is no need to pit the cherries when making jams.

The hardwood botanicals of the forest can provide tools, furniture, heat, food and medicines. They can also be our friends welcoming us to experience the silent therapy that only the beauty of nature can provide. Awaken to the hardwoods of the forest for they can be symbols of strength, balance, growth and rest. They are reminders of our sleeping potential and metaphorical examples of how being balanced, with our roots firmly in the ground, will allow us to grow strong with many branches in our own lives. If you have any questions regarding retreats, herbal remedies or natives plants you may contact at Wildflower Café (256) 634-0066 or P.O. Box 224 Mentone AL 35984.

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FALLING LEAF LODGE. Charming rustic cabin nestled in the woods. Lots of porches to enjoy the outdoors of this 2 bdrm 1.5 bth with loft. Custom floors and doors, lots of windows, WB FP open living w sunroom dining area. Also a Workshop for the Hobbieist a must see. \$155,000 (22190)



WILD RIVER LODGE on the East Fork of Little River. Custom Timber Frame, 5 bedroom, 4 bath, Great Room, Dining, Kitchen with full appliance package. Custom Oak cabinets. 2,000sq ft wrap around porch and deck. Screened porch with wood burning fireplace. Gas fireplace inside. Loft with end to end bunks with storage. Outdoor kitchen, 250 gal smoker, sink stainless counter tops. Dual fuel HVAC. Secure gated. 4 acres. So many amenities. \$650,000. (23021)



"THE NUTHOUSE CABIN. Quaint Weekend getaway with open living kitchen design. 2 bdrm 1 bath, covered porch to watch the wildlife. 1 acre wooded with large Rock formations. small shed. located at the end of private drive. complete with furnishings. \$139,000. (22833)



PENDING
MOUNTAIN CREST CABINS. 2 fully furnished log cabins on 2 acres, next to Cloudmont Resort. 'Up in the Clouds' is 2br/1bt w/ kitchen/dining combo, & large crawlspace that can be made into a basement. 'The Hideout' is 2br/1.5bt w/ open floor plan & small loft. Amenities in both cabins are CHA, gas log fireplaces, hot tubs, 3/4 wraparound covered porches, kitchen appliances, furniture, decorations, linens, etc. Great investment opportunity! \$175,000 (22094)



9 ACRES located on the east fork Little River with 500 ft on river, and 550 ft on Gilbert branch. Old homeplace. Concrete slab, power, well and septic. Privately located. Great place to build that getaway cabin! \$138,500 (22148)



5 ACRES ON THE EAST BROW tract overlooking Pleasant Valley. Rock pallacades, wooded. See Weiss Lake in the distance. Private gated area. Joins National Preserve & Forever Wild protected property. \$65,000 (22866)



36 ACRES on the West Fork little River, 1250 ft on water. 700 ft drive, power and water to this point. Wooded, some clearing, rock outcroppings, and bluff views. One of a kind find. \$288,000 (22995)



THE LOONEY BIN Cedar Cabin in the woods, open floor plan with Great rm, eat-in kitchen. Tiled island and counters, Stainless appliances, Loft area, 2 bdrm 2 tiled baths, Tung and Groove walls, FP, Covered Deck w/ Hottub. Furnished, Lovely setting and investment \$229,000 (22973)



NEWLY BUILT cottage style, vinyl sided. 1 bdr 1.5 bath open floor plan with living dining combo. Hvac stainless appliance package, hickory cabinets. tung and groove walls throughout. covered front and side porch for outdoor enjoyment. 1.5 acres, garage shop and storm shelter. \$107,000. (23023)



NICE LEVEL WOODED PROPERTY with partial drive and homesite cleared. Previous perk test. Easy access to the middle fork of Little River. Restrictive cov. apply. Located in Mountain River Estates. \$65,900 (20892)



NEW LISTING
SOUTHLAND LOG HOME, on the East fork little River. 5.5 acres. Deck, lighted walkway to lower property. stone patio halfway 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 \$295,000. (#19919)



LOG CABIN known as "Knowus Ark" is a hidden jewel of a property on the East Fork of Little river. 2 bdrm 2 bth, loft, screened porch, covered porch and double deck. Adobe wood burning FP, tiled floors. Also a separate artist studio. Trail to the river with a nice swimming hole. Privately located on 6.4 acres. \$270,000 (22069)



CUSTOM CREEKSIDE CABIN under construction. Mahogany windows, professional interior designed with rustic flair. Vaulted great room/kitchen. 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath. Plank oak flooring, 2 fireplaces, 2 screened porches. A must see! \$230,000.



6.26 ACRES OF MAGNIFICENT VIEWS, woods, and complete seclusion located on the East Brow of Lookout Mountain, Cloudland. 2bd/2ba rustic home, with tung & groove walls and ceilings. Open floor plan with kitchen/dining room combo, sleeping loft, and utility room. Floor to ceiling windows surround the great room. Sit and enjoy the sunrises from the rock patio that overlooks Shinbone Valley. Amenities include CHA, wood burning stove, and separate storage/shop. Nicely landscaped with 400ft on the brow. Appt Only. \$330,000. (22952)



EAGLES AERIE. A unique Octagon-structure Home on the West Brow of Lookout Mtn. 8.8 acres, 3bdrm 2bth, Great Room W/FP Open kitchen/ Dining. Heart Pine Floors & Views from every Room. A must see. \$389,900 (22539)



UPGRADED BLOCK BUNGALOW IN HENAGAR. Darling 2 bdrm 1 updated bth. Living, dining, Kitchen. new roof, totally re-plumbed. 2 storage buildings garage, carport, county water and underground utilities. 1 acre, quiet location. \$55,000. (22974)



NEW PRICE
HILLTOP SETTING, 2 story maintenance free siding. 4 Bdrms 3.5 baths Eat in Kitchen, Great Room w Gas FP, Den, lots of walk-in closets Wraparound porches. approx 3500 sq ft. landscaped with mature plantings. a must see on 5 acres. Mentone area. \$350,000. (22949)



1.8 ACRES on East Fork of Little River. Easy access to river from common trail that runs along the banks of the river. Bluff views. County water available. Gated community. \$115,000. (23022)

LOTS AND ACREAGE

WOODED 39.8 ACRES, level mixture of hardwoods and Pines, some trails through property. Over 2500 ft. of paved road frontage. Could be nice development opportunity. Build a few cabins in this spot. REDUCED TO \$163,800 (21649)

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)

HEAVILY WOODED ACREAGE with wet weather spring. Paved road frontage along County Road 106, and just minutes from downtown Mentone. \$100,000 (22248)

6.4 ACRES. Partly open field and wooded tract of land in Oakwood subdivision. Lightly restricted. Surveyed, Perk. 2 lots 9, 10. \$45,000 (22650)

1.66 ACRE TRACT with septic, county water, well, and power. Lightly restricted. Cleared and ready to build that cabin in the woods! \$18,000. (22747)

3 WOODED ACRES on the parkway. Gently sloping to level with many hardwoods. Great location to build your weekend cabin between DeSoto Park and Mentone. \$25,000 (22918)

EAST BROW tract located Valley View Forest. Georgous views of Weiss lake in the distance. Camping shed, hot stove, outside deck, fire pit.

Parklike setting, rock formations. \$90,000.

5 ACRES on the east brow overlooking pleasant valley. Rock pallacades. Private gated area. Joins national preserve and Forever Wild protected property. \$60,000

3 ACRES located on the West Fork Little River above DeSoto Falls. Deep water for boating. level wooded property with native Holly throughout. Circular drive, perced, water meter installed. 70ft on water. \$110,000

Classified Ads

COX TILE, 706-766-2758 - Sunrooms, marble, baths, shower pan repair. James Pleas Cox, jpcoxtile1@gmail.com.

ROCK BLUFF RENTALS - Lakeside mountain chalets 1 & 2 bedroom. 256-634-8180. www.rockbluffinc.com

DUCKS MASONRY - Specializing in Rock, Brick, and Block. Dennis Hughes II, 706-676-0770.

ATTENTION GROUNDHOG READERS!

Copies of The Groundhog are available at the following locations:

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Remember (cont'd from page 1)

“Granny Dollar: The Legend That Lives”. Inside, you would have read news about the “Alternatives in Mentone Water Crisis; given in statement by Mayor Rob Hammond” (Yes, Rob Hammond was Mayor thirty years ago as well as now!) And speaking of Mayor Hammond, you would have also seen the birth announcement for his eldest son Jordan, born a few months earlier.

And the major story that was receiving national coverage was titled “Cloudmont Ski Resort Breaks Records; Attains Amazing Media Recognition”. Having lived here my entire life, some of these stories still fill me with pride to live in such a



beautiful, quaint, close-knit and super friendly town. I hope you enjoy looking back on Mentone News and we can all continue to Remember When...



Flying Over Mentone

By Tom Bazemore

Peace of mind and heart has to be one of the most precious things in life. Many spend years wandering the four corners in search of it. Some never find it. A good number of folks from all walks of life have found it in the Mentone area. They, along with lifetime residents, make it a genuinely nice place to visit or live. For me, Mentone has a peace and spiritual ambiance. Most of us have been places we would rather not go back to, but Mentone is a place we enjoy going back to time and again. In general, the changing seasons on Lookout Mountain are a feast for the eyes but particularly so in the Mentone area. There is something about every season to enjoy. One really appreciates it even more after being caught in a traffic jam in a big city. The air is fresher and cleaner, too.

If you will, just a minute or two on a related subject. Many of us find flying peaceful and therapeutic. After taking off from Fort Payne and flying north toward Mentone on the west brow of Lookout Mountain you are met with magnificent sights. In a light plane at lower altitudes you

get to see and enjoy so many beautiful and interesting things about the area, clear streams, falls, rocks and forests. The lakes and Little River have a peaceful beauty. The Mentone area has all of these and more to enjoy. If you have an opportunity to fly over the area on a clear, sunny day, I think you will see what I am trying to explain. It seems that seeing a bigger picture often says and means more to us. Seeing the whole of a work of art is just better than seeing a small corner of it. I am not a man of letters or a great theologian, but after viewing the earth and this area from the air, I

am even more convinced than ever that all of this did not happen by accident. Simply put, nothing manmade approaches the work of The Almighty.





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