



Standard Mail (A)
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 1
Mentone, AL 35984

Address Service Requested

THE

GROUNDHOG

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

Volume 33, No. 1

"Neighborhood News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

January 2014

Proposed Mentone Heritage, Arts and Cultural Center for Mentone

By Ray Padgett

Recent years have revealed the need and warranted discussions about a facility for Mentone that would act as a museum and a center for the arts and performing arts. Ideally our community needs a place that would also serve as an art and music teaching hub, a tourist information center, a community storm shelter, a conference center, and even an exercise/health facility. These discussions culminated in a proposed multi-use facility that would act as a Mentone heritage, art and cultural center. Potentially this space could house all of the above community functions with the help of clever architectural design that would be both practical and cost efficient.

While details of the ultimate use and name of the proposed center vary from person to person, the overall concept of such a facility is enthusiastically supported by almost everyone – residents and visitors alike. Most discussions have centered on the following uses:

- Community Storm Shelter – an auditorium (at a minimum) that could also be used as a safe community storm shelter.
- Tourism Information – entry room/area for tourism information, sites and events, about local area. Run as branch of DeKalb County Tourism office.

volunteers from other non-profits, government, business and public organizations. Possibilities include the Mayor of Mentone, presidents of MERF, MAAC, and MAPA, DeKalb County Tourism Director, and someone from local businesses and summer camps. While we can depend a great deal on local volunteers, a

facility director will eventually be needed in order to make the best community and financial use of the building.

Location of anything is always key; so where would the proposed Mentone heritage, cultural and art center be? The answer may be found through the generosity of First Federal Bank of Fort Payne. They have agreed to look into the feasibility of donating the property on Alabama Hwy. 117 between the Post Office and the Fire Department to build this proposed multi-use facility. Representatives of the bank are enthusiastic and are reviewing



- Museum – permanent and visiting shows of native American artifacts, especially pottery; art, music, poetry, diaries, photographs, jewelry, pottery and other handmade items from early settlers; and natural artifacts of this area. Permanent housing for smaller items would be possible.
- Art Center – art shows for local citizens (adult and school children), traveling shows of famous artworks.
- Classrooms - facilities for art, music and theatre education.
- Auditorium – stage, high tech sound and video recording for local and traveling musicians and theatrical performances with dressing room. Seating for at least 150 people.

- Physical fitness – room with exercise equipment and health information for residents and visitors.
- Conference Center – auditorium and rooms to rent for private events (individuals and companies).

In addition to protecting the health and history of Mentone area citizens, this planned facility would be the catalyst and centerpiece needed to enhance what Mentone already is – a mecca for education and performance of a wide range of artistic endeavors.

It is envisioned that a 501 (c) 3 foundation could be established to own and manage the proposed facility. The foundation board of directors would be composed of seven (7) to nine (9) people from a broad base of community

regulatory and tax ramifications that may influence their decision. This would be a critical part of the project and greatly enhance our ability to obtain grants and donations needed for design and construction of our proposed Mentone Heritage, Cultural and Arts Center.

In the past few weeks, a great number of people have agreed to help with this project. Volunteers from our community, a team from the Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments (TARCOG) and the Alabama Council on the Arts are helping with planning, grant research, and education. We encourage our friends and neighbors to get involved and help with Mentone's new project. As the plans develop, they will be shared.

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.

**GROUNDHOG STAFF**

Beverly Bates, Design Manager

MAPA BOARD

Ray Padgett, President
Kayla Worthey, Vice President
Jerome Stephens - Secretary
Doreen Crow Waters, Treasurer
Laura C. Moon - Parliamentarian, Past President
Elaine Gauldin
Amelia Kirk-Lolli

**Advertise
with the Groundhog!**

Current Rates & Sizes:

1/8 page - \$40 (3" X 5" or 5" X 3")
1/6 page - \$75 (3 1/4" X 6" or 6 1/2" X 3")
1/4 page - \$100 (5" X 6")
1/3 page - \$150 (6 1/2" X 6")
1/2 page - \$200 (10" X 6")
Full Page - \$300 (10" X 12")

Ad Deadline for Camera Ready - 20th of the month prior to publication month
Deadline for Ad Creation - 18th of the month prior to publication month
Layout Charge for Full Page Ad - \$25
Classified Ads - \$10 in advance

In case of errors in advertisements, The Groundhog assumes liability only for the actual space that is incorrect in the advertisement.

Contact The Groundhog
P.O. Box 387 256-465-1107
groundhognews@aol.com

**Have a Letter to the Editor
or a story idea? Send
it to The Groundhog at
groundhognews@aol.com.**

Mentone Matters

By Mayor Rob Hammond



A team from DeKalb County has been selected to participate in an Appalachian Gateway Communities Regional Workshop. This workshop will be held January 14 - 16 in Abingdon, Virginia. The workshop is offered in partnership by: Appalachian Regional Commission, National Endowment for the Arts, The Conservation Fund, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The action planning workshop focuses on the specific trends and opportunities in Appalachian

gateway communities related to sustainable drivers for economic development, cultural heritage and natural resource tourism, public arts promotion, and preservation stewardship of community character. Appalachian gateway communities are those communities that are entry points to Appalachia's national and state parks and forests.

At present the DeKalb County team is: Gail Bishop/ National Park Service, Carol Beddingfield/Ft. Payne Chamber, John Dersham/DeKalb Tourism, Bonnie and Jimmy Durham, Mayor Larry Chesser/Fort Payne, Mayor Rob Hammond/Mentone, Russell Gulley/Big Wills Arts Council, Tamie Reist/ Alabama Mountain Lakes Association, & ARC Tourism Board, Angie Shugart/One World Adventure Co., Ray Padgett/ Kamama's Art Gallery, Mentone Town Council, Collins Kirby/arts representative Ft. Payne.

Many thanks to JoBeth Gleeson of TARGOG for all of her hard work in putting the application and team together. At the end of the workshop, teams will leave with a specific action plan for implementing a collaborative project when they return home.

From The Editor

The Groundhog was conceived and the first issue printed over 30 years ago by a small group of Mentone volunteer citizens driven by their desire to tell about the interesting people who live and lived in the Mentone area. They believed the Mentone story was worth telling. The Groundhog still lives because wave after wave of volunteers believed in that vision and carried on this tradition of telling the Mentone story.

During the past year new stories have sprung up about artists, musicians, chickens, and the natural beauty of this place we call home. We thank the many volunteer writers, photographers, and staff that helped shine the light of community across our little part of the world. Our gratitude goes to all the businesses that gave their support by advertising in The Groundhog. Please support them.

Mentone owes a big debt of gratitude to two key people whose stewardship guided The Groundhog through the past year - our Editor, Susan Cherones, and our Design Manager, Beverly Bates. Their efforts made The Groundhog more appealing and enjoyable with new feature articles, a new look, color print and higher quality paper. Susan is leaving to pursue other interests and Beverly plans to continue her work with The Groundhog. Thank you Susan and Beverly.

While we will miss Susan's talented contributions, every

volunteer is working to ensure the continued quality and success of our community newspaper, The Groundhog.

The Mentone Area Preservation Association Board of Directors is focusing their efforts on an exciting new venture for Mentone - a multi-use facility currently dubbed the Mentone Heritage and Cultural Center. This is the key reason the MAPA Board decided to directly manage production of The Groundhog. In addition, the Board will dedicate the bulk of their volunteer time to working on the new facility project. It is envisioned that the final governing board for the center will be composed of a broad base of community volunteers. More detail about the project is included in the article "Proposed Mentone Heritage and Arts Center" in this issue of The Groundhog. We encourage our friends and neighbors to get involved and help with Mentone's new project.

*The Mentone Area Preservation Association, Inc.
Board of Directors*

DIXIE SALVAGE

3630 N. Gault Avenue
Fort Payne, Alabama 35967

JOHN CROW
Business (256) 845-5475
FAX (256) 845-5475

Coming to Mentone--A Christmas Wish

By Doug Kiker

It might be hard to believe, but my first white Christmas came to me rather late in life. Now, the reason for this was simply caused by the region where I lived most of my life.

My wife, Kaye, and I were raised in south Alabama, so far "down there" that Birmingham was considered "up north." However, it did snow upon rare occasions, and I even remember a really big snow a time or two. "Big" being a relative term, meaning the white stuff covered the grass in the front yard. Anything more than that was almost considered a blizzard.

Even though I had seen snow on these rare occasions, it was never on Christmas day. That old song "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas" was actually a wish for me. The movies played up the joy of a white Christmas.

So, I actually never witnessed this dream or wish until my retirement years after we moved to Mentone.

The weather reporter had mentioned that snow was a very real possibility, but because of my background and the other "un-white" Christmases, I was not too hopeful. However, there was a glimmer of hope that would not be

quenched. Thus, on Christmas morning, it was with joy that my eyes feasted upon this great expectation.

A friend of ours from down south was visiting us for the holidays. He is in my age bracket (there's no use in mentioning numbers), and had never seen a white Christmas either. Well, we ran from one window to another

trying to get a better view. I know neither of us "acted our ages" as exclamations of delight escaped our lips.

Another thing about our situation, we were not weather equipped at this time, meaning a heavy sweater or coat was needed for our kind of cold. So we donned numerous shirts and coats, and even dug out some gloves that might have been given to us for moving north presents.

Talk about delayed action--"fun!" There were three people of retirement age who had never seen a white Christmas. We had snowball fights and then, of course, made angel wings in the snow. I had to have help getting up.

Best of all was the snowman. We rolled balls of snow to build this wonderful structure. It was great fun to hunt things for his eyes, nose and mouth. We named him Frosty, and he surely will live in our memories for a long time.



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.

Ecological Designs, Inc.
Lyle Nicely
AL Licensed Contractor



Mentone, AL
Cell: 256-996-0169
lnicely@charter.net

AUCTION!

Tuesday, Jan 14th
6:00 pm

100's of Antiques, Collectibles, Vintage,
Unique & Rare Items

Door Prizes, Giveaways & Much More!

Come for Fun, Fun, Fun

Royal Auction Gallery
256-635-8760

Royal Bruckno, Principle Auctioneer

AL Lic # 5313 & GA Lic # AU003991

Valley Head Antiques
62 Winston St., Valley Head, AL 35989
In the PURPLE building.



Join MAPA Today!
Help us preserve
Mentone's history
and impact its future.

Individuals - \$20 a year
Couples - \$30 a year

MAPA
P. O. Box 50
Mentone, AL 35984

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.

Joy to the world--lots of excitement at the senior lunch bunch crew's Christmas party this year! The party started with 18 cute reindeer prancing in from Mrs. Long's kindergarten class and entertaining with songs and antics. They left with grinchies to munch on and a surprise visit from Santa Claus himself. He was so impressed with their singing that he joined them in their room for some hugs and pics. The seniors, in the meantime, enjoyed a delicious meal followed by Christmas songs, piano playing, the black hat poet and pics with Santa. Thanks to all the elves that helped to make a wonderful party: Kathy McMunn, Kristen Miller, Carolyn Nail, Joyce Smith, Joan Byrum, Kristen Emory, Pat Robertson, Shirley Hussel, Hazel Bickerstaff, Dee Dee Dunkerly, Liz and Norm Baker. And, of course, a big thanks to Santa for taking off time in his busy day to join us.

MERF is so thankful for the many people that make our senior lunches so good. This fall meals were provided by faithful supporters: Little River Hardware, St. Joseph's Church, Camp Laney, Camp Skyline, Mentone Market, Mentone Inn, Mentone Community Church, Mountain Laurel Inn, Kamama Gallery, Hazel Bickerstaff and Dee Dee Dunkerly. We have a regular group of volunteers to help with the serving that includes the elves at the Christmas

party plus San Hammond and Thomas Qualls. We will take a little winter nap and then lunches will begin again mid-February.

Ms. Paula has been working hard with all her little penguins over at Moon Lake School. Hope everyone was able to see "How the Penguins Saved Christmas". It is always fun to hear how excited the kids are getting ready for the productions and how cute they look in their costumes. MERF is grateful for such an enthusiastic art/music teacher as Ms. Paula. See the picture of the table decorations that the third graders did for senior lunches out of McDonald's French fry boxes. I wonder who had to eat all those French fries?

MERF has had a busy and fulfilling 2013.



The board is thankful for all the volunteers, for those that participated in the health assessment, for Kristen Miller stepping in as program coordinator and for the many financial supporters we have. Your support continues to enable MERF to identify and meet needs in the community. We hope to fulfill more needs in 2014. This old house is particularly thankful for an insightful and hardworking board: Bill Berry, Carol Hazel, Kathy McMunn, Kristen Emory, Lea Long, Joyce Smith, Walt Pullen, Linda Lawton and Roland Hendon. Happy New Year to a wonderful Mentone community!

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.

Third grade table decorations for Senior Lunches last fall.



GAS & DELI

Come on in and have one of the best burgers in town!

Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner to go.

Open 7 days a week

256-634-0065

The Citizens Bank of Valley Head

*Large Enough To Serve You...
Small Enough To Know You*

Valley Head
635-6292

Idler
657-5122

Mentone
634-4744

Member FDIC

Valley Head Drugs

114 Commerce Avenue
Valley Head, AL 35989

256-635-6812

Cynthia and Wayne Wooten, Owners

"We appreciate your business"



LIBS FROM THE LIBRARY

By Linda Brown

Boy, did I goof!! Last month the Libs article was from a 2008 file. I have twelve files which have LIB somewhere in the title. I sent the wrong file as an attachment when I sent my article to the Groundhog editor. When I alerted her to what I had done she replied, "We all goof at some time" which made me feel a little better. Beverly Ashley was the first to call and her first words were, "What happened?" I am using part of last month's intended article because it is so good. How's that for humility?

We have so many new directors that I thought you might like to know who they are. We have eight, so here goes: Liz Baker, Barbara Blalock, Linda Brown, Jim Byrum, Dianne Kuehl, Mickey Luck, Donna Sutton and Jerome Stephens.

At the last meeting, Jerome Stephens presented a copy *Bare Foot Meets Boo Foot* to Rhonda Crow, Moon Lake School librarian. This children's book was written by his daughter, Romey Atchley. You can find the book and review it on Amazon.com by typing in her name. Since Ms. Crow still had one hand empty, the members of the board voted to give her \$500

to be used to buy books for the school library. She stated that there is no money available for the library to buy new books.

Ms. Crow stated that an average book costs about \$20. Giving a gift to the school for books would be a good way to honor or give a memorial to someone. You can make the check to the library or the school for \$20 or more. If you would like and request it, a plaque can be placed in the book naming the person honored or remembered. This would be a great way to remember those great readers who have gone before us.

Liz Baker stated that four new volunteers have been trained and added to the list of workers for the library. She stated that several more are waiting to be trained and should be working soon. Barbara Blalock stated that she is working on the scrapbook. We have been holding pictures and have quite a stack waiting to be put in the book. This book is a good record of what has happened in the library. If you have any pictures of the library, we would like to have them for the book. As with everything else, you can leave them at the desk with Beverly. If you would like to look at the scrapbook, ask Beverly to get it for you. It is material which has to be read in the library, it is not available for checkout.

NOTE: The hours for the library to be open are: Tuesday and Thursday 3:00 to 5:30 PM (closing one-half hour earlier during December, January and February) and Saturday, 9:00 to 12:00 PM. Remember, no fine if you use the

deposit box outside the door.

Write to us at: Moon Lake Community Library, P. O. Box 481, Mentone, AL 35984 and to be on the agenda for the next meeting tell Beverly or call Mickey Luck at 256-845-1282. You are welcome to attend our meetings; the next meeting will be January 16, 2014, at 3:00 P.M. in the library. We appreciate your comments.



Moon Lake Library was filled with good cheer, music and the aroma of holiday goodies recently as the Board of Directors, FRIENDS and volunteers stopped by for the annual Open House. We welcomed new volunteers and visitors to peruse our new holdings as well as lists of new books and DVDs which will be coming to the shelves very soon. Music was provided by the Lookout Mountain Strummers. Photography by Rowland Waylor.

The Strand Box Office Grill

STRAND

215 Gault Ave. North, Fort Payne, AL.
(256) 997-0945

Open weekdays 10am-5pm • Open Saturday 8am-4pm
Friday night is Steak Night 5-8 pm

Mentone Mountain Getaways

CABIN RENTALS
1-888-920-8445

LET ME MANAGE YOUR CABIN FOR YOU - Ron Waits

F F B

FIRST FEDERAL Bank

The finest traditions of community banking

Fort Payne 845-1077	Rainsville 638-6342	Ider 657-6255
------------------------	------------------------	------------------

"We're more than bankers, we're your neighbors and friends."

A & S Construction
Alabama Licensed Builder

Scott H. Gilbert, Owner
256-630-0000

- Metal Roofing, Remodeling, Rock, Brick, Block
- New/Custom Homes/Cabins
- Use and Sell Reclaimed Lumber
- Demolition - Barns/Homes
- Interior/Exterior Painting
- Sons provide Lawn Maintenance
- Stay tuned for updates on this project →



We Hope To Build Where You Hope To Live!

Mentone Heritage--Margaret Shigley Crowe

By Thomas Qualls



I first met Ms. Margaret Shigley Crowe at the MERF House a few weeks ago; she and her daughter Marie Crowe Noah came into Mentone for a visit and to attend the senior luncheon. Ms. Margaret was born in the house now known as the MERF House. Returning to Mentone and the house she grew up in holds many special memories. Ms. Margaret has four daughters and a son and she travels quite a bit, staying with her children in Rome, Columbus, Marietta and North Carolina.

Ms. Margaret remembers how her daddy, Henry Frank Shigley, loved to sing, and she has many fond memories of growing up with family singings. Mr. Shigley was a carpenter and helped build the Opera House in Ft. Payne. Her daddy and mother, Melissa Rebecca (Keith) Shigley, were charter member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, formed in the early 1900's, along with many of her older brothers and sisters.

The church was known early on as "The Little Brown Church" and "Church in the Wildwood." It is neither brown, nor "in the wildwood" and is now known as the Mentone Community Church.

Ms. Margaret attended Moon Lake School

near her home until the 8th grade. Her sister Stella was her 1st grade teacher and her brother Ernest was her 4th grade teacher. She remembers Ernest once told her to share her reader with another student who didn't have one--she didn't and got into trouble for it. She states it taught her a lesson which served her for the rest of her life--to always reach out and help those less fortunate than her. She went on and attended school in Boaz; and after graduating as salutatorian from Valley Head High School, she attended Western Carolina Teacher's School as well as Berry College where she graduated with a teacher's degree. She taught school for over forty years.

Ms. Margaret, at 98 years of age, has lived through two world wars, the Great Depression and so much more.

She remembers the Depression and that her family, although very large, didn't hurt as much as many others because "Daddy always had a garden and fruit trees." There was one family who had it pretty rough with not much to eat. They had a little girl who Margaret and her family reached out to; they made sure she was bathed and had clean clothes that Margaret shared with her. Another life lesson about helping others less fortunate during her many years of teaching was that she was always looking to help out the underprivileged children in her class.

Growing up in the early 1900's and having strong family relations allowed Ms. Margaret and others of her generation to accept their lives and make the best of them. There were no "luxuries" such as TV or radio and early on most families didn't own automobiles. They just lived simple lives and made their own entertainment by playing checkers, and attending family picnics, church socials and

family singings. There were clear rules for life... dress decent, be polite, have the utmost respect for elders and no calling your pastor by his first name. Once asked how her experiences during the Depression affected her attitude and her life, she responded, "Waste not, want not" and "you can make it if you're willing to work."--words of wisdom to be sure. She said she was happy and at peace with no real problems.

We can learn a lot from those who have lived through such difficult times and persevered. We would do well to sit and listen to them every opportunity we have.

Margaret's husband, Charles Washington Crowe, pastored churches throughout the south, mostly Wesleyan and Methodist. She remembers being a pastor's wife came with many responsibilities. She worked with the youth and the Missionary Society, and she continues to minister now by sending out cards and letters encouraging others. And she still loves to play the piano, which she did recently at the ice cream social at the MERF House.

As the seniors arrived for the luncheon, it was like a reunion for the many who have had long ties to the Mentone community. Many had not seen Ms. Margaret for some time, so there were stories shared and catching up to do. I watched with delight as these friends reconnected with each other. It was like a "homecoming" for Margaret and her many friends.

I am reminded that it is friends and the simple pleasures in life which are truly important; these are the things which will last a lifetime. Just ask Ms. Margaret.

Custom Home Design

- New Homes
- Renovations
- Additions

Tony Shrader
(423) 637-5177



"Designs in harmony with nature and your needs."

Off The Boat Seafood & Specialty Market

Now Serving Po-Boys and Fried Seafood Baskets!
Voted No. 1 Peoples Choice Best Seafood

256-845-4699
1702 Gault Ave. N., Fort Payne

Call ahead for faster service!
Open Wed-Sat 10:30-7:00 • Kitchen closes 6:30

Google us at
OTBSEAFOOD.com

Ski * Bama

Cloudmont

Ski and Golf Resort
&
Shady Grove Dude Ranch

721 County Road 614
PO Box 435
Mentone, AL 35984

Accommodations available
For Reservations or Information
256-634-4344
www.cloudmont.com

Southeastern most Ski Resort in the US

Bake Some Holiday Memories

A new year will bring, to some, a new resolution, a new start, a new love or home or baby! For others maybe a new skill or job, perhaps a new car, a new hope or dream! Some will have a new look or style or wardrobe! And I can't forget, a new recipe! My wish is that no matter what's new for you, you will take the new year by the tail, so to speak, and enjoy it, thrive in it and live it to it's fullest! Take this opportunity to make something new for

someone else. Maybe renew an old friendship, or call an old acquaintance, or perhaps you have a relative you rarely see or speak to. Call someone up and say "Hello! Happy New Year!" And from me and my family, we wish you all a Happy New Year! Since your time is valuable to me, here is a fantastic slow cooker recipe!

Spicy Black Eyed Peas

Add to your slow cooker:

One lb. dried black eyed peas (washed), 4 C. water, 2 C. chicken stock (you can use 6 C. water if you don't have stock), 1 chopped bell pepper, 1 minced jalapeno, 1 small onion (chopped), 2 tsp. minced garlic, 8 oz. diced ham, 4 slices of chopped bacon, 1/2 tsp. cayenne pepper, salt and pepper. Turn your slow cooker on low and walk away! Go visit a friend or neighbor, and in 6-8 hours you will have the best black-eyed peas ever! They do bring new years luck, right? Happy Cooking!

THE RECIPE CORNER BY ANGIE CARDEN

January Birthdays

Jan 1 - Alexis Reed
Jan 1 - Brittany Bates Harrison
Jan 1 - Harold Carden
Jan 1 - Jim Byrum
Jan 1 - Kathy Carson
Jan 2 - Donnie Bell
Jan 2 - Kristen Ann Nelson
Jan 3 - Stacy Howard
Jan 3 - Aiden Logan
Jan 3 - Owen Izell
Jan 4 - In memory of Loretta McGee
Jan 5 - Angela Chambers
Jan 5 - Tiffany Coots
Jan 6 - Sharron Hatfield

Jan 6 - Laiton Keith
Jan 7 - Kristen Emory
Jan 7 - Madisen Smith
Jan 7 - Jace Carden - 1st Birthday!
Jan 8 - Tyler Carden
Jan 8 - Garnett Smith
Jan 9 - Dallas Lee
Jan 10 - Neal Whitt
Jan 10 - Stacey Worthey
Jan 10 - Nancy Frost
Jan 11 - Josh Shoults
Jan 11 - Robert Green
Jan 11 - Kandis Lawton
Jan 11 - Preston Owen
Jan 12 - Beverly Henry
Jan 12 - Aaron McKenzie
Jan 12 - Bud Atkins
Jan 13 - Paulette Manning
Jan 13 - Anita Johnson
Jan 14 - Eric Kirby

Jan 16 - Wynston Keith
Jan 17 - Jim Poe
Jan 17 - Joseph Brown
Jan 17 - Michael Owen
Jan 18 - Nicole Goldsmith
Jan 18 - Bobby Blalock
Jan 19 - Candace Eve Perkins
Jan 19 - Jacie O'Tinger
Jan 22 - Kyle Carden
Jan 22 - Anna Potts Garrett
Jan 22 - Rosetta McGee
Jan 23 - Scott Gifford
Jan 23 - Melissa Couch
Jan 24 - Sandy Sharp
Jan 24 - Marysa Wigley
Jan 24 - Darrin Smith
Jan 25 - Sarah Wilcox
Jan 25 - Larry Sonsil
Jan 31 - Tyler Cooper
Jan 31 - Bill Battles



January Anniversaries

Jan 4 - Raymond & Heather Evans
Jan 24 - Taylor & Nancy Brown - 50th anniversary!

www.bakerlandsurveying.com



Baker Land Surveying, LLC

Estate Division . Mortgage Survey
Boundary Survey . Topography Survey
Subdivision Layout & Staking
Percolation Test . Elevation Certificates
Auction Surveys . Cemeteries

Office: 256-927-2795 Mark Baker
Fax: 256-927-4759 Cell: 256-523-1404
Email: bakerls@tds.net Stephen Baker
Cell: 256-706-1538

225 Co. Rd. 475, Centre, AL 35960

*Serving Northeast
Alabama since 1960*

Tired of Paying Too Much for Tree Work?

Call B & T Tree Service, Inc.

Ala - 256-557-0598
Ga - 706-857-5052

Billy Wood, Owner
Insured

Bucket Trucks .
Climbers . Chippers
Stump Grinding .
Firewood for Sale

We buy large and small
tracts of timber and
pay cash up front.
References Available

What To Do Around Here!

January 2014 Community Calendar

Jan 1 - GPS Basic Training and Navigation Class Part 1.

Learn how to use a map, compass, and a handheld GPS. Learn basic navigation and how to pinpoint a location for quick return, or quick rescue. Also learn how to search by waypoints or coordinates. True Adventure Sports 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 256-997-9577.



Jan 2, 30 - The Winter Excursion. The Winter Excursion is a mystery trip that includes hiking, bouldering, sightseeing, navigation, survival, teambuilding, waterfalls, and just plain fun. You will need to bring a small backpack, compass, flashlight, change of socks, warm clothes, camera, trail mix, water, small first aid kit, emergency blanket and emergency poncho. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jan 3, 6, 11, 21 - 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. Headlamp and enthusiastic guide included. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jan 4, 6, 10, 18, 22 - 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.

Jan 4, 17, 20, 25 - Rock Climbing Adventure.

Nestled in the NE corner of Alabama are some of the best and unique sandstone cliffs in the country. 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.



Jan 7 - 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.

Jan 8, 17, 28, 29 - Rock Climbing / Rappelling Adventure Combo. Nestled in the NE corner of Alabama are some of the best and unique sandstone cliffs in the country. 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.



Jan 8, 27 - 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.

Jan 9 - Treasure Hunt Adventure. Do you enjoy trying to solve riddles and clues? Ever wanted to find buried treasure? Up for new & exciting challenges? Then our Cave Treasure Hunt is for you. This 5-hour adventure will take you deep into the heart of Manito Cave. You will have to solve and follow each clue in order to find the next one, and ultimately the Treasure! Are you up for the challenge? Meet at True Adventure Sports 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jan 10, 13, 16, 24, 27, 31 - 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. Explore in one of NE Alabama's most unique all-weather caves, Manito 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.



Jan 14 - Mountaineering Adventure. This 4-6 hour adventure starts with a rappel into

a low light maze where we will stop and anchor part of the way down the rock wall and travel on the rock face mountaineering style to get to our main destination. True Adventure Sports 256-997-9577.

Jan 15 - GPS Basics Training and Navigation Class Part 2. You will learn to find a beacon placed in the woods as a SAR attempt while knowing your position, and the position of your teammates. True Adventure Sports. 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jan 16 - Orienteering Class. Basic yet essential skills for survival navigation are brought to you in map reading, compass reading, and topography. Bring your own compass or you may purchase one at our store. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jan 16 - Sally Barris in Concert. Kamama's Grammy-nominated A-list singer /songwriter from Nashville. Open for dinner at 5:30pm. Concert 7-9pm. Concert is \$10 per person. Reservations requested. 256-634-3001.

Jan 18 - 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.

Jan 23, 31 - 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. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jan 29 - 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. No prior climbing or bouldering experience is needed. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Winter Business Hours

The Art Gallery @ Mentone will be closing December 20 and will re-open on Saturday, January 4. They then plan to be open Saturday and Sunday noon-4pm every weekend through the Winter.

Cones of Mentone, Fancy Me Boutique and Sassafras are closed for the Winter. Tony at Silver Crystal in Log Cabin Village plans to be open throughout December, but will close January and February. Note that he's now also selling hand-made pottery in addition to all that jewelry.

Most other shops appear to be keeping regular hours throughout the Winter. Check their websites or MyMentone.com Business Directory for updates. You'll also find their contact info (phone, etc.) on their MyMentone.com pages.

Let us know about your business and organization news-- promotions, moves, awards, meetings whatever is newsworthy. Just send to groundhognews@aol.com.



**202 GREENHILL BLVD.
FORT PAYNE, AL 35967**

**WE'RE OPEN
Seven Days A Week
7 A.M. - 10 P.M.**

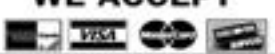
845-1970

- WIC VOUCHERS
- FOOD STAMPS/EBT CARDS
- QUANTITY RIGHTS RESERVED
- NONE SOLD TO DEALERS

WE FEATURE ALL THIS AND MORE

- Money Orders
- Incoming & Outgoing Fax Service
- Postage Stamps
- Copies
- Deli/Bakery
- Floral Department
- Fresh Seafood
- Extended Lines of Gourmet, Specialty and Diet Food

WE ACCEPT



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 Bevill 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.

An Anniversary Story

By Karen Brown Saferite

There probably aren't a lot of brides-to-be who would be excited about rain on their wedding day, but my mama, Nancy Flarity Brown, was. You see, when she and my daddy, Taylor "Charlie" Brown, planned to get married they didn't set a date like most young couples do. They didn't want a big wedding, deciding to use

what money they had to set up housekeeping. My daddy was a logger, and every day that it didn't rain was a day that he worked. So it was agreed between the two of them that the next time that it rained too much to work he would come pick her up in his log truck (their only transportation), and they would go to the courthouse in

Summerville, Georgia. This consisted of shopping for groceries and going to the home they had rented from Charlie's sister. To borrow a phrase that my cousin used to describe her and her husband's relationship, "we didn't want a wedding, we wanted a marriage." This absolutely fits my parents.

Friday, January 24, 2014 will mark fifty wonderful years of marriage for them. In keeping with their low-key, "don't make a fuss over us" attitude, my sister Joann and I have been forbidden to give them an anniversary party... but they didn't say anything about not putting it in the paper! If you see them out and about, be sure to wish them well. Oh, by the way don't forget your umbrella, because if my mama has her way it will be raining--that's her favorite kind of anniversary.

High Horse Lodge
Mentone
Vacation Rental
www.highhorselodge.com
info@highhorselodge.com
706.398.0858



Summerville, Georgia. This was back in the day when not everyone had a telephone, so there wasn't even any planning the night before. Friday, January 24, 1964, Nancy woke up to the sound of rain! And, yes, Charlie did show up! They were married, with the blessing of their families, but with only the probate judge as a witness. There aren't even any pictures. Their honeymoon



**Family
is why
we do it all.**

We all feel the same commitment to care for our families. Helping you meet your insurance needs is part of my commitment to you. Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.
CALL ME TODAY.

Mark Mitchell, Agent
17174 Al Hwy. 75 North
Henager, AL 35978
Bus: 256-657-6252
mark.mitchell.b2g1@statefarm.com



State Farm, Bloomington, IL

AN INVITATION . . .

DAVE'S ANTIQUES

invites you to our auction in this
location on January 20, 2014.
Starts at 6:00 P.M.

(Brought to you by ADL Auctions, Inc.)

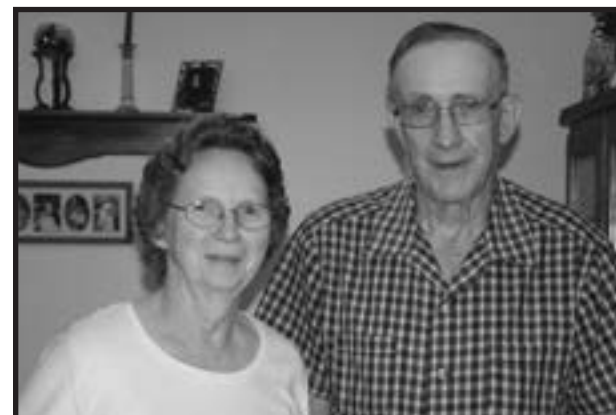
**We offer you 50 years of combined
experience in the auction business.**

Roger Burton, Sr. - Auctioneer ASL #1834
Dave Stone - Manager

**This will be an opportunity to purchase
antiques at great prices.**

Quality consignments are welcome.

National Guard Armory Building
37669 US Highway 11, Hammondville, AL 35989
Phone: 256-418-4207
Email: adlauctionsinc@yahoo.com



Top - Taylor Brown and Nancy Flarity, January 1962, two years before they were married.

Bottom - Nancy and Charlie, September 2013

Valley Head Christmas Parade



Makers of Fine Wood Flooring, Stair Parts, Custom Furniture and Millwork ALL from Recycled Timbers. All of our materials are recycled! Reclaim - Recycle - Rebuild - REMARKABLE!
256.997.0703 Collinsville, Alabama
www.jamesandcompany.com



From the ceilings, to the floors

We've got you covered!



*You've Tried the Rest,
Now Try the BEST!*

**GIBSON
EXPERT TREE
SERVICE, L.L.C.**

**256-634-4809
Cell 256-717-3333**

**Licensed & Insured
30 Years Experience**

**Professional Climber
Call Mark Gibson**

Subscribe to The Groundhog!

Have The Groundhog delivered to your mailbox!
Subscribe now or renew your own subscription.
Just \$20 a year.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Is this a new or renewed subscription? _____

Is there someone special who would love to
have a Groundhog subscription? Just fill out the applica-
tion above and fill in your name below:

From _____

Send your check payable to:
The Groundhog, P. O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984



**Just in
Time for
The New
Year!**

**Give A Gift
Subscription or Renewal
to The Groundhog.
We will mail this card for you.**

Contact:
The Groundhog
P. O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984
(256) 465-1107
groundhognews@aol.com

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 miniter 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.

"Continuous service by the same family since 1933"

BROWN'S CLEANING & LAUNDRY

"An old company with new ideas"

Vault Storage for Furs & Woolens • Drapery Cleaning with Machine
Decorator Fold • Suede, Leather & Fur Cleaning • Fire Restoration & Odor
Removal • Wedding Gown Preservation • Alterations • Pillow Cleaning

817 Gault Ave. N.

(256) 845-3241

Full Laundry Service

Mountain Herbalist: Winter Skin Care

By L. C. Moon

The winter winds are blowing through the valley and whipping across the top of the mountain. Every year during the cold season my skin needs extra love and care. It seems that mostly only women care about skin care though men have the same predisposition to chapped lips, dry and cracked skin during the winter. As the old adage says, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

I have discovered natural remedies work best to prevent and heal my seasonal woes. I began researching natural skin care because my skin is so sensitive and the traditional soaps and skin care products seemed to make my irritations worse. I discovered that most products contain one or more of alcohol, artificial fragrance, mineral oils, preservatives, etc. and most soaps contain detergents known to irritate sensitive skin. As a result of not being able to find exactly what I wanted in a product, I began making my own gentle skin care remedies 15 years ago and found that pure oils, beeswax, essential oils, glycerin and cocoa butter etc. help protect as well as heal my skin.

For instance, the lip balms I used were too thick and did not feel like they were moisturizing and nourishing; they just seemed to cake up on my lips rather than go on smooth to moisturize. Now, when making lip balms I like to use natural beeswax sparingly blended with oil infusions, especially calendula for its emollient properties and comfrey for extra healing. I also add lemon balm and St. John's Wort for even more healing benefits because they are both known to be anti-viral and aid in healing cold sores.

There are many products and ways to nourish



your skin to avoid drying and cracking but also things that may need to be avoided. The first bit of helpful wisdom is that soap is one of the biggest enemies of skin in the winter. Your skin is stripped of all its natural oils and protection each time you use a detergent based soap though a glycerin or castile soap takes away less of the oils and is more gentle.

If my face is really dry, instead of soap, I use oils &/or herbal water to cleanse my face. My favorite oil, I have coined the name of Moon Glow Skin Serum. I use it as a moisturizer and as a cleanser when necessary. Cleansing oils work by applying the oil to your skin and then wipe with a warm washcloth. Herbal water cleansing is done by steeping lemon balm, calendula and/or lavender flowers in hot distilled water for fifteen minutes, wet a cloth with herbal water and then gently wipe your skin. You can even use eggs and fruits to cleanse your skin. Fruits can simply be mashed, applied to the skin and rinsed with warm water. Fruits are a natural source of Alpha Hydroxy Acid and mashed bananas are particularly good for dry and sensitive skin.

Egg Cleansing Formula
You can find organic and pasteurized eggs in order to protect against salmonella.

1 beaten egg, 1 tsp of honey, 1 tbsp ground almonds or coconut, 1 tsp lemon juice-- use immediately by rubbing into your skin and rinsing with warm water.

When it comes to moisturizing I have had great success with keeping my skin healthy naturally using moisturizing oils rather than lotions. Lotions, even if they claim to be all natural, still often contain alcohol, synthetic preservatives and perfumes.

These lotions often leave your skin feeling better immediately but dry a short time after they are applied and a need to apply again and again. Also these lotions do not provide nourishment for the skin to heal once the winter has caused a problem whereas oils such as jojoba are emollient and penetrate to the deepest layer of skin. As a result these oils moisturize for up to four hours even if you wash your hands.

Natural emollients (products that soften, lubricate & provide a protective barrier to skin & hair) such as botanical oils (Almond, Jojoba, Olive, Grapeseed, Apricot Kernel, Avocado, Rosehip Seed Oil) will provide relief from winter skin woes. If I have had to do lots of wood handling, dish or hand washing then I often reach for my moisturizing hand salve, which combines these oils with herbs, essential oils, beeswax and cocoa butter for extra protection and healing.

Aromatherapy Sprays, Bath oils & moisturizing oils are also very healing this time of year. Supplying your dry skin with needed oils can prevent problems such as ingrown hairs and rash. Bath and Moisturizing oils also help prevent premature aging that happens as a result of skin dehydration--dry skin is prone to develop fine lines and wrinkles. There is a noticeable difference to skin texture and appearance when moisturizers that nourish the skin with proteins and other nutrients are used regularly. Aging is inevitable though it is possible to slow the process with a regular regimen and using skin cell regenerating herbs such as- Lavender, Comfrey and Calendula.

What you put in your body as well as what you put on your skin is important to skin health. Any time of year you should to drink a half gallon of water per day to help maintain suppleness to the skin & overall health. Eating more oils containing essential fatty acids (hempseed, flax seed, fish oil or supplements containing EFA's) in combination with eating foods like brown rice that are high in b-vitamins (and/or taking a b-complex supplement) is great for skin health all year but particularly during winter stress.

Make Your Own Preparations

Exfoliate:

Lemons are a great to exfoliate oily skin.

Moistened Oatmeal and honey is good for dry skin.

Masks:

Oatmeal, eggs & fruit for all skin types.

Clay for oily skin

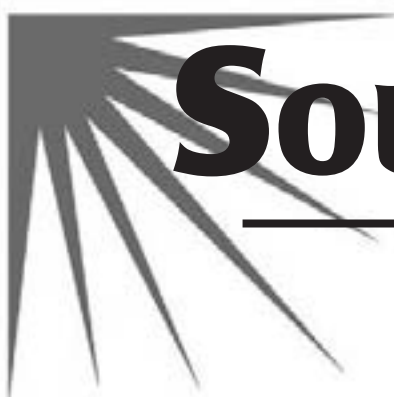
Moisture Creams or Lotions:

4 ounces infused oil, ½ ounce bees wax, 4 ounces distilled water, 2 tablespoons vitamin E, desired essential oil. Melt oil and beeswax in a double boiler. Remove from heat pour in water, mix until creamy. Stir in Vitamin E and essential oil. The shelf life is about 6 months refrigerated.

CRAGSMERE
M - A - N - O - R

Spacious Lodging for up to 16 Guests
Ideal for Events: Weddings, Showers, Parties, Retreats
Combine Rooms & Events for a Magical Gathering

(256) 634-0006 cragsmere Manor.com



SOUTHERN PROPERTIES

Agency, Inc.

256-845-6000

www.southernpropertiesagency.com

 3BR/1BA · \$89,900 4 lots · MLS #830573	 2BR/1BA · \$70,000 6 Lots · MLS #931993	 2BR/1BA · \$249,000 9.58 Acres · MLS #328583	 1BR/1BA · \$110,000 4 Acres · MLS #564870	 3BR/1BA · \$799,000 45 Acres · MLS #815966	 4BR/2BA · \$209,000 1.5 Acres · MLS #523510
 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
 3BR/2BA · \$269,900 1 Acre · MLS #902940	 3BR/2.5BA · \$199,000 1 Acre · MLS #326959	 1BR/1BA · \$465,000 .42 Acre · MLS #970196	 2BR/2BA · \$279,500 2.3 Acres · MLS #332033	 3BR/3BA · \$179,000 1.6 Acres · MLS #526384	 3BR/3BA · \$298,500 2.37 Acres · MLS #421306
 3BR/2BA · \$299,900 7.2 Acres · MLS #450846	 3BR/2.5BA · \$165,000 5 Acres · MLS #917245	 5BR/5BA · \$545,000 .95 Acres · MLS #338039	 1BR/1BA · \$279,900 8.3 Acres · MLS #412695	 3BR/3BA · \$229,000 1 Acre · MLS #594685	 3BR/1BA · \$99,500 .27 Acre · MLS #483441

LOTS AND LAND

3.22-acre lot in West Fork Subdivision. \$29,000. 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.



Diary of A Chicken Lady

By Kristen Emory

What's a girl to do on a Saturday night? Well...doctor chickens of course, Dad and I were up to our old tricks again last night. Those pesky scaly leg mites just came out of nowhere and grabbed a hold of dad's chickens. When the scaly mites hit a chicken leg it can soon look like a Godzilla leg. Jim called and said, "I need a little help with my chickens."

He had the Taj Mal Hal Hen House prepared for treatment. Warm soapy water, gloves, some kind of special spray he read about in a book and me, his trusty chick assistant. I glove up and go into the house to catch my first victim, black buzzard #1. She squawks and wakes the neighbors but I do not give in to her drama. I set her down in the warm water and she immediately relaxes but of course she has all the other hens in a literal uproar. There we sit, Dad and I, across from each other in our flannel shirts, blue jeans and boots. We are such the farmers as we soak the first of our four chickens legs. I hold the chicken and he tries to wash the scales off. First chicken done, second chicken done, third chicken done, THUMP! Second chicken, Louise, has fallen off the roost! The culprit, the slippery spray bought especially for scaly leg mites. Dad goes running. She is okay, it seems that chickens don't land on their feet but they can survive a pretty good fall.

As we sit there across from each other I begin to go way back in time. To a time when I still lived at home with my parents, a time when I was young, innocent, and naive. Dad would wake me up on a Saturday morning and say, "Today is Father-Daughter bonding time. We are going to rake leaves." Look how far we have come. We are now bonding over chicken legs. In all of this I wonder where was my mother? When we were bonding over leaves she was in the house doing something domestic

other than raking leaves. Last night we were bonding over chicken legs and she was in the house wrapping Christmas presents. Luckily, when mom and I have bonding time it does not require manual labor. But to all my girl friends out there if you want to bond with your father, put on a flannel shirt and grab a tool or in my case a chicken.

Chickens wearing sweaters, the one thing that I have not brought myself to attempt with my girls. Chickens in sweaters have been a rather common topic lately among my readers, my peeps. It started me thinking. Am I missing something here? Do my girls need sweaters? Could I pull that off? Clothes for dogs, cats, house birds, and all assortments of critters...I guess chickens need clothes too. Camp Riverview dresses up their mini horses in clothes and little shoes for camp and its super cute! Why not my chickens? I gathered my supplies and my husband! We are making some chicken sweaters. After a bit of trail and much error my birds were cloaked in their new threads. They look so cozy, cute, and ridiculous at the same time. A matter of days later the sweaters were shed about the yard and my girls were back to their naked feathers like nature had intended. But how cute they were strutting about in their bird sweaters!

Over the past couple of years I have received many notes, emails, and face book messages with kudos and kind comments of how folks enjoy our chicken antics. Your comments have been very much appreciated; it has brought me joy knowing that my foolishness has been

entertaining. As this year whines down and winter is upon us I look forward to what spring offers but the chickens and I are going to roost and rest awhile. I wish all of you a cozy and warm New Year! That goes for your animals too...maybe a sweater for you both?

As well as raising chickens, Kristen and Tom Emory are also the owners of The Mentone Market.



**GIVE YOURSELF
OR SOMEONE SPECIAL
THE GIFT OF HEALTH!**
**GIFT CERTIFICATES AND
APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE.**
CALL NOW!

Kerry Breithaupt LMT
www.mentonemassagetherapy.com
256-254-9802 We're on Facebook!
Lic. Massage Therapist #456

B & B Truck Crane Repair Service



Sales, Service & Parts
Authorized Auto Crane Dealer
New & Used Crane Sales
Service, Repair & Parts for all
Telescopic Truck-Mounted
Cranes
Crane inspection/certification
services by appointment

Wide Variety of Parts in Stock
We accept your old crane as
trade-in toward any new or used
crane purchase
We Make Hydraulic Hoses

Eddie "Cannonball" Davis
3394 Alabama Highway 117
P. O. Box 426, Mentone, AL 35984
Phone: 256-634-4000
Fax: 256-634-4023 Cell: 205-746-5135



Charlotte Gentry
Broker/Owner
256-996-5995



Holly Watson
Assoc. REALTOR®
256-996-0552



Ben Johnston
Assoc. REALTOR®
256-996-1774



Heather Nicely
Assoc. REALTOR®
256-276-8422

www.mentonerealty.com
Office: (256) 634-4767

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.....

5 WOODED ACRES WITH STREAM - Unrestricted or a commercial access. \$200,000 (89846)

4.42 ACRES WITH CREEK. Build just the right getaway or mountain home. Wooded. At the end of the road. Lightly restricted. Public water slated to be installed soon. \$36,000 (564362)

19.76 ACRES w/hardwoods, mostly level topography. Paved road frontage. Rough-cut driveway. \$59,280. (985997)

NEW LISTING! LAKEFRONT ACREAGE. Solitude & nature await your getaway on this lightly restricted 4.33 acres on Full Moon Lake at Laurel Creek. Property is 2 lots sold as one. Priced at \$49,900.

BOULDERS, SUNSETS & BIG TREES mark this 1.5-acre lot, just a short walk away from Mentone center & Brow Park. Paved road frontage & city water at road. Build your dream getaway today. \$60,000. (738834)

AFFORDABLE BROW LOT within walking distance of Desoto Falls at Tutwiler Gap. Large hardwoods; level; conveniently-located parcel was recently surveyed with perc test & permit for septic. \$79,900. (937836)

ALMOST 5 ACRES - Unrestricted, with various old home, huge, & met the possibilities there. \$30,000 (898833)

Health & Prosperity
in the
NEW YEAR



GET AWAY TO LAKE LAHUSAGE, Mentone's own mountain lake where the East & Middle Forks of Little River come together. Beautiful, 3-level, cedar-shake and stone-sided cottage with custom-designed granite kitchen; vaulted living area w/stone fireplace (gas logs); hardwood floors; 2BR/2BA with sleeping loft & full, mostly-finished walk-out basement for add'l BRs or games. Screened porch; outdoor deck area w/fireplace & stone BBQ; covered stone patio; stone walkway to dock. Best buy on the lake at only \$239,000 (MLS#558629/PLS#23024)



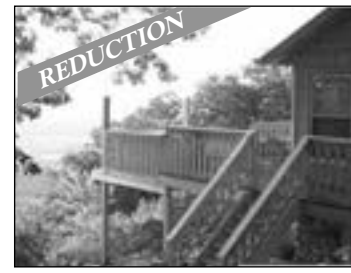
THE HARMONY OF WATER, TREES AND EARTH, a place to get away from the day-to-day hustle and bustle, unwind and be at peace. Listen to Brush Creek flow, watch it wend its way along the North boundary of the almost 2 acres (over 300' on creek). Two lots, one mostly cleared, the other wooded, go with this 3BR/2BA, 2-story frame cabin featuring screened porch, sunrooms (one off Master BR), balcony off huge upstairs BR/gameroom, welcoming front porch and lovely interior. Partially furnished. Called "Grace Glen" by its owners. \$182,500 (MLS#400932/PLS#23020)



8.9 ACRES WITH APPROX 136' BROW FRONTAGE on Citadel Rock Rd, just down the road from the back entrance to DeSoto State Park. Several lovely building sites on the property. Beautiful, mostly-wooded land with large paved road frontage. Very good price, too. Only \$89,000 (MLS#692925/PLS#23016)



REMARKABLE CRAFTSMANSHIP. Log home on 27.7 rolling acres with stocked, spring-fed lake brings to mind many possibilities. Winery? B&B? Lodge? Farm? Residence? 5BR/3BA, 4500 sq ft cabin has pro-grade appliances & granite in fab kitchen; huge master suite (heated floor in MABA); full basement w/WB fireplace & 4-person, cedar sauna room; southern exposure for passive solar heat in winter; full-house attic fan; elevator-ready shaft & much more! 30'x60' shop w/30' covered porch. Multi equipment sheds & 2-car detached garage. Dream it, live it here! \$485,000 (MLS#449728/PLS#22771)



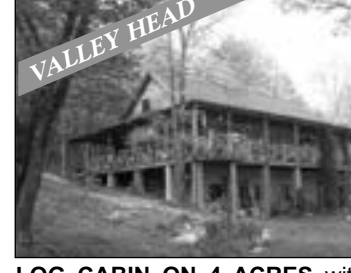
BREATH-TAKING VIEWS of the valley below, mountains beyond and those fabulous sunsets! Over 185' Mentone brow frontage. 4BR/2.5BA home, new acacia wood hardwood flooring, new stainless steel appliances, 2-car garage, hot tub on back deck, 1.46 acres of land. Less than a mile from downtown Mentone. Residence, retreat or rental! \$259,900! (MLS#580676/PLS#21259)



OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS! Residential or Commercial property. Rustic cabin-style building could be a residence. Currently structured as a campground w/14 RV sites & 8 primitive campsites (water & power at each site); bathhouse; barn; picnic areas; country store/office building with a large front porch, tin ceiling & rustic decor inside with counter space, sep office & bath; 1BR/1BA apartment in basement. Multi-use business property, residence or whatever one might envision. 4 acres w/300' frontage on Hwy 117. \$175,000 (MLS#479473/PLS#22845)



LARGE COUNTRY HOME ON 8 ACRES perched on a hill with dramatic views of Lookout Mtn. 2581 sq ft, 4BR/2.5BA home; 3/4 wrap-around porch & back deck; full walkout basement w/safe room; main-level Master BR suite; large sunroom; vaulted great room; b'fast room w/bay window; wood-burning fireplace. 8 acres. Garden spot & raised beds. \$187,500 (MLS#861278/PLS#22976)



LOG CABIN ON 4 ACRES with views of gorgeous lake & farm across the road, the beauty of Lookout Mtn beyond. 3BR/2.5BA, custom-built, 2400 sq ft; 1800 sq ft walkout basement. Interior is rich with wood, 25' vaulted ceiling in open KI/LR. Less than 40 minutes to Chattanooga on Hwy 11 to I-59. \$234,500 (MLS#425138/PLS#22886)

Rhododendron Garden Club

By Linda Brown

How many people does it take to have a good time? The answer in this case is the number of members of the Rhododendron Garden Club who showed up at the home of Melanie Tuttle at 11:00 A.M. on December 10, 2013. The meeting was small in attendance but large in excitement. It has long been the custom of the club to celebrate the holidays together at the December meeting. The president, Peggy Roark, expressed the club's gratitude to the Tuttle family for the use of their home. She called the meeting to order for any business that needed attention.

Martha Wood gave the Horticulture Report on leaf cuttings. She stated that many plants can be grown from leaf cuttings, especially those from tropical regions. African violets can be grown by the petiole cutting method. Simply remove a leaf from the plant and trim the stem (petiole) back to one or two inches long. Make a small hole in the potting soil deep enough to insert to the leaf base. Firm the leaf into place in the potting mix so that it will remain upright. It is best to make a tray full of leaves to root at the same time. You will need to cover the tray with a tent of clear plastic film and store it in a bright warm place out of direct sunlight. A new plant will form at the base of the leaf. Several other methods are available for growing new plants.

The members discussed an idea for a project in conjunction with an organization, "America Responds with Love." The organization will give the club bulbs if the members will plant them in public places. The club will get some of these bulbs and plant them in the town along Alabama Highway 117. The club will plant in front of Mentone Town Hall, on MERF property and at the Mentone signs. Business owners will plant on the edge of the highway in front of their

businesses.

Martha Wood presented a program, "Alternative Plants to use at Christmas." When it comes to live plants for the holiday season, we have nothing against the poinsettia but there are other plants you might want to consider. The cyclamen is pretty, with its butterfly-like flowers which range in color from snowy white to soft pink to deep crimson. There are always the forced bulbs such as amaryllises and paperwhites that you nurture into bloom.

If your taste leans toward the modern, an orchid is an excellent choice. Orchids can be found in white, pink and other color combinations. You may like the Christmas cactus, a tough houseplant that can live on little water and light and blooms in winter, hence its name. You can find small potted heathers with their sprigs of vibrant magenta, and Lenten rose, or hellebore, whose subtle beauty will impress your gardener friends.

Dianne Kuehl gave the meditation, which was a history of the song "It Came upon the Midnight Clear," and then read the verses. This served as the lead-in to a meal together. What never happens happened. The hostess furnished the drinks and desserts, another member had said that she would bring a ham, and the others were to bring a side dish. Well, all of the side dishes were potatoes! There were candied sweet potatoes, two potato salads and scalloped potatoes. All were reported to be very good, and the small group had a wonderful time together.



The club year is starting in January, so now is a good time to join. Contact any club member or come to the meeting at the MERF Community House on January 14, 2014, at 10:00 A.M.

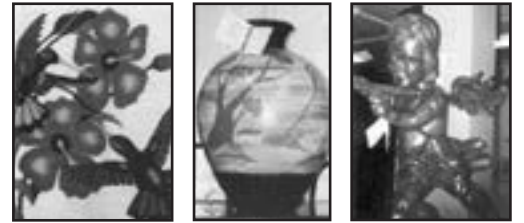
The Rhododendron Garden Club is a member of Northeast Alabama Federation of Garden Clubs, The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc., District II, Deep South Region and National Garden Clubs.



The Inca Connection

Highway 117 downtown Mentone
"across from Mentone Market"
(256) 634-3076 or (256) 645-9036

**Museum-Quality Inca Arts,
Crafts and Textiles**



Owner: Catherina Collings

Hours: Sat. 10am-4pm, Sun. 12 noon-4pm
or by appointment

www.artisansincaconnection.com

**BURT
FUNERAL HOMES**
Home Owned & Operated for over 50 years

John I. Burt
Licensed Funeral Director & Manager
Valley Head • 256-635-6247
Fort Payne • 256-845-3232



Mentone Mountain View Inn

Presents

Sweet & Simple Celebrations

Sensational Three State Views

Weddings, Showers,

Family Functions & Special Events

www.mentonemountainviewinn.com

888-560-0492 706-413-0533

Carolyn & Paul Todd Innkeepers

2 Private King Suites

Serving Northeast Alabama for 50 Years!

877-272-1451

BUILDERS SUPPLY CO., INC.

Fort Payne
(256) 845-1451

www.bsupply.net

Sylvania
(256) 638-2244

Andersen 

Concrete Block
Roof and Floor Trusses
Clark + Kensington Paint
Lumber and Building Materials

In-House Factory Certified Technician

Pallets & Crates
Plumbing & Electrical
Window and Screen Repair
Industrial Janitorial Supplies

Angela J. Wood
Owner and AL/GA Broker

6090 Highway 117 S.
P.O. Box 44

Lookout Mountain Parkway
Mentone, AL 35984

Chelsea Carrier Manning
AL/GA Realtor

chelzoe@yahoo.com
706-859-1227

Email:

AngelaWood@centurytel.net

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

Preferred Realty, L.L.C.

L M P R

Office: 256-634-4672

Cell: 256-997-8138

Fax: 256-634-4702

Toll Free

1-888-256-1276

Websites:

LookoutMountainProperties.com

alabamamountainliving.com

dekalbcountyrealestate.com



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)

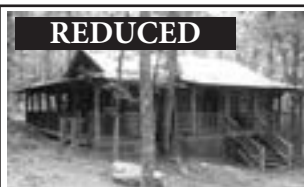


NEW LISTING

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)



REDUCED

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)



NEW LISTING

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)



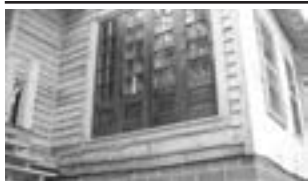
NICE LEVEL WOODED PROPERTY with partial drive and homesite cleared. Previous perk test. Easy access to the middle fork of Little River. Restrictive cov. apply. Located in Mountain River Estates. \$65,900 (20892)



NEWLY REMODELED from top to bottom, inside and out. In town charmer with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Open living room and kitchen. Original hardwood floors, new HVAC, covered porch and side patio. \$69,000 (22979)



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 Shinnel 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 1updated 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



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)



NEW LISTING

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.

NICE WOODED 4 ACRES on Cloudmont Lane. Wildlife, trees and rock formations \$34,000.

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, jpcotile1@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.



BUYING GOLD, SILVER,
DIAMONDS & COINS!

We Pay More!

Same Location Since 1959

Pruett Jewelers

**69 Main Street East
Rainsville
256-638-3210**

ATTENTION GROUNDHOG READERS!

Copies of The Groundhog are available at the following locations:

FORT PAYNE

Alabama Fan Club
ALFA Insurance
Brown's Cleaners
Bruce's Foodland
Country Hearth Inn
Days Inn
DeKalb Library
DeKalb Tourism
First Federal
Ft. Payne Chamber of Commerce
Hampton Inn
Holiday Inn
Off The Boat Seafood
Ole Heritage Realty
Priceless IGA
The Spot Coffee Shop
The Strand
Southern Properties
Waffle House
Waffle King

VALLEY HEAD

Alabama Organics
Big Jim's
Burt Funeral Home
Citizens Bank

Country Boys
Dave's Antiques
Hammondville Quick Stop
Headquarters Beauty Salon
Miracle Pottery
Sunshine Café
Tigers Inn
Valley Head Drug
Valley Head Food Mart
Valley Head Town Hall
Victory Fuel
Water Board

MENTONE

Body Maintenance
Clip Joint
Community Library
Crow's Nest
Gourdie Shop, The
Helena's
Kamama's
Little River Hardware
Lookout Mountain Realty
Mentone Hotel
Mentone Inn
Mentone Market
Mentone Realty

Mentone Springs Hotel
Moon Lake Trading Company
Moonlight Bistro
Mountain Properties
Sassafras
Southern Style Log Furniture
Town Hall
White Elephant
Wildflower Cafe

GEORGIA

Auto Parts (Menlo)
Cloudland Trade Center
Menlo Lucky's
Mountain Top Country Store
Restaurant (Menlo)
State Line Store

OTHER

5 Points Handi-Mart
Alabama Welcome Center
DeSoto St. Park Lodge
DeSoto State Park Store
Fisher X-Roads Store
Little River Canyon Center
Ralph's Grocery

Live Well
with
Alfa[®] Life



Lisa Parker-Obenlander
315 Gault Ave. S.
Fort Payne, AL 35967
256-845-3811
www.lobenlander@alfains.com

When we think of life insurance, flowers and funerals usually come to mind. But what if life insurance meant relaxing vacations or driving your dream car? With an annuity from Alfa, you can enjoy your golden years instead of worrying about the future. Add an annuity to your economic plan today. Call Alfa.[®]

ALFA
INSURANCE[®]
AUTO • HOME • LIFE
www.alfainsurance.com

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 sunrises 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.

[Candle Lite Ceremonies • Music • Photography]
[Flowers • Receptions • Lodging • Limousine]
To arrange your wedding or renewing
of your wedding vows, call

256-634-4181

Body Maintenance

**Alternative Therapies
for Natural Health**

Donna Sutton (LMT #95)

(256) 634-3032

AL Hwy 117 • Mentone, AL 35984



Therapeutic Massage
(by appointment only)

Gift Certificates Available

A Life of Art: Joyce Hoffman

By Sandra Padgett



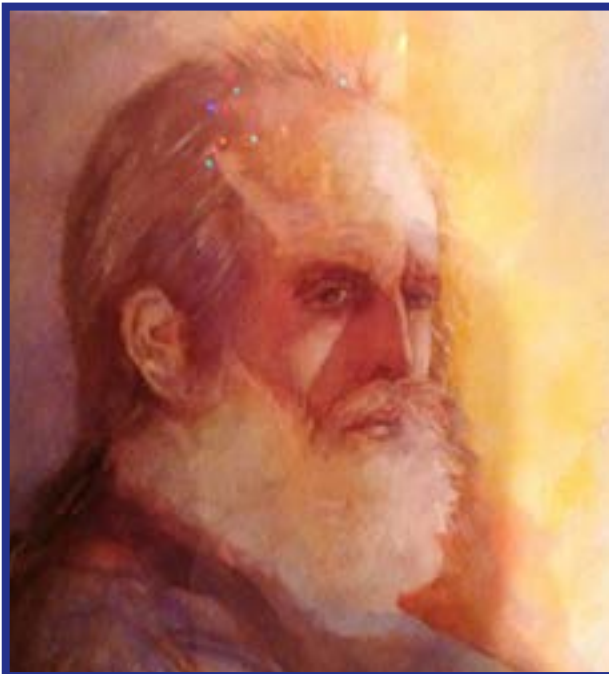
The little girl in the mirror told Joyce Hoffman's mother that Joyce had a special gift. Joyce was six years old when she drew the picture of a girl looking in the mirror. The girl's back was in the foreground and the perfect face was in the mirror. A very complex concept for a six-year-old future artist.

Joyce was born in Guntersville, Alabama and lived there through high school. After years in floral design, interior design and faux painting, she focused on watercolor. She and husband Bob retired in 1999 and left Huntsville to live in Melbourne, Florida. In Florida Joyce took watercolor lessons and that became her choice of medium after years of painting primarily with oil. She loves painting people and animals; but her range of subject includes landscapes, abstracts and botanicals. Joyce and Bob moved to Mentone fulltime last year.

While visiting her new studio, just added to her home, I was impressed with the diversity of style and range of color that she has mastered. Her palette can be soft pastels, brilliant primary colors or earthy neutrals depending on her subject and mood.

One of my favorites is a white horse that, on closer look, has touches of lavender intertwined in its mane. Her painting of a homeless girl with a single tear on her cheek is very emotional. When viewing, you want to know the little girl's story. Another thought provoking painting was of a bearded man, obviously from another century. He seemed familiar to me. I felt he was a

historical figure, perhaps a master painter from the 18th century. When I asked, "who is he?" Joyce replied, "he is not a modern man, he is close to my heart." She admitted he was inspired - "I am in a special place when I do people." The homeless girl was also created when she was in that special place. Not a real girl, just an inspired creation. Joyce declared, "Art comes from your soul." That apparently is true, because one word that I felt while enjoying her gallery is "soulful."



A trip to ArtGallery@Mentone in her charming cottage on Alabama Highway 117 at the Cove Road triangle across from the Post Office is very worthwhile. You will feel inspired and at the same time at peace, after a visit. Joyce and Bob are a delightful and talented couple. Bob's talents are in the complex world

of computer and website design. He is responsible for dozens of local websites, in fact he is responsible for the Mentone Area Arts Council (MAAC) website. Drop by for a visit. You can also visit on-line at ArtGallery.Mentone.com or ArtByJHoffman.com.

Joyce, a cancer survivor of stage 3 breast cancer, is a very giving and community oriented lady. She gave the Mayor of Cape Canaveral a portrait of himself to honor his work in hosting art shows through the Central Brevard Arts Council. She is now a full time Mentone resident and a real asset to our community. Her own cancer experience made her so thankful for a second chance. She admits that the ordeal heightened her determination to give back to the community through her talent.

The little girl in the mirror that awed her Mother long ago has become a multi-faceted artist with one of the most unique palettes that I have encountered. She is a wonderful addition to our community of artists and a great Mentone neighbor. We are proud to claim her as one of our own.



2014 - A GREAT YEAR COMING

New Kitchen, New Dining Room, Same Great Chef
Enjoy our Food and Browse Through
Some of Mentone's Great Works of Art

Open Thursday-Monday, 10:00 til 4:00

Join Us For Lunch - Thursday-Monday, 10:00 til 2:30

Music and Dinner Every 1st and 3rd Thursday,
 Dinner at 5:30, Music 7:00 til 9:00

Dinner served from 6:00 til 9:00 on Friday and Saturday evenings.
 Each Dining Experience Prepared by Chef Jimmy Rogers
 Reservations Requested

On Lookout Mountain
 5951 Alabama Hwy. 117
 Mentone, Alabama 35984
 256-634-3001