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THE GROUNDHOG

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

Volume 33, No. 3

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

March 2014

Andrea Brandon: Lookout Mountain Art and Soul

By L. C. Moon

Andrea Brandon says her passion for art is like blood in her veins. "If I couldn't do it I would probably die. It keeps me going. The more I paint the more I am in love with painting."

I asked Andrea when she first discovered her love of art and she responded, "As soon as I was able to hold a crayon." Andrea originally taught herself by copying drawings from cartoon books and said she carried around Child Craft Encyclopedias like a Bible. All her techniques are strictly self-taught. At the age of 4 years old she sold her very first work of art to one of her mother's friends.

Andrea traded in her crayons for paint and as a result for over 20 years she has been selling paintings, becoming known by art collectors across the United States and in Europe. Her most prestigious rewards, and one of her most validating moments, was being asked to create an ornament for the White House Archives to commemorate the Russell Cave National Monument and as a result enjoyed a visit to the White house for its induction.

Much of Andrea's inspiration to paint comes from seeing beauty and her desire to express it, especially nature scenes. She feels strongly she is a part of nature and believes her Native American heritage helps her create authenticity in her work. She says her original inspiration to be an artist is largely because she is "from a family of artsy folks," all of which are native to Lookout Mountain. Andrea reflected on the great artists of her family such as her great grandmother Mary Goodrich who was a wonderful seamstress. She also reflected on her

"Crow lineage" including, but not limited to, rock masons who helped construct the original rock wall leading to Mentone on Hwy. 117 and Fanny Jane Crow who crocheted, often cleverly using bread sacks as replacement for her yarn.



People came from all over to get seeds from Fanny Jane's flowers. Andrea says she can remember how she loved to touch her grandmother's beautiful African Violets.

Andrea's family especially inspired her when they bragged on her. "The more they bragged the more I wanted to please them." She laughed and said, "I am glad I got being an artist from my grandmothers rather than their names, Fanny Jane and Mary Tennessee. I could have

been Tennessee Fanny!"

Andrea's paintings reflect the beauty, art, heart and soul of the southern Appalachians. She has a sharp eye for the character and details. Her art captures the essence of nature and mountain living. It reflects the charm of simple life. Often I succumb with awe to the overwhelming beauty around me on Lookout Mountain and many times I feel like I am living or dreaming within an Andrea Brandon painting, whether looking upon the river, pastures, barns, cabins, creeks and/or the skyline.

Andrea's style is uniquely her own and made even more so because as she says, "I utilize what is available creating paintings on canvas, vases, bottles, wood, gourds, rocks or whatever I can find." Andrea also utilizes a unique style by not only using traditional paintbrushes but also paintbrushes made from her own hair. She loves using her fingers to paint. She said, "I feel more a part of the painting when I use my

fingers. It is like the paint moves my hand and helps me reveal what is already there."

Andrea said she often has literally 150 projects going on at once. The biggest hurdle of being an artist has been being so inspired she needs more things to paint on even as creative as she is with

mediums. Her husband Terry Brandon learned quickly that a life with Andrea meant that the dining room table and coffee table would forever be for art projects only. To her kid's and Terry's

(cont'd on page 4)



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 501(c)3 non-profit corporation.

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**Have a Letter to the Editor
or a story idea? Send
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Mentone Matters

By Mayor Rob Hammond



February brought two snow storms and a tornado warning. There are many people I would like to thank for their work during the snow events. Our police officers were out constantly monitoring AL 117 and working with ALDOT and our volunteer firemen in keeping traffic safely moving. ALDOT treated 117 several times and brought scrapers out. The town

contracted for snow removal on some other streets in Mentone. When road conditions were at their worst, our firemen led traffic up and down the mountain. With the threat of ice looming, Sand Mountain Co-op prepositioned men and equipment at Mentone. The crewmen spent the night at town hall. In response to the tornado warning, Chief Lamar Bray, Kirby Johnston and Jimmy Phillips were all out patrolling and checking for damage.

Jay Skinner of Birmingham is in the process of creating a 501(c)3 non-profit to be the legal entity to apply for grants for the proposed Mentone multi-use arts/history/community events center. Four generations of Jay's family have enjoyed coming to Mentone.

Clean-up day for Mentone will be Saturday April 5. Volunteers should meet Lyle Nicely at the parking lot of the Mentone Inn at 9:00 AM. Electronic recycling will take place at town hall.

From The Editor

Well, February was an eventful month, wasn't it? With icy roads, 10-12 inches of snow, and bitterly cold temperatures, things have been pretty quiet in Mentone. We can hardly wait for spring, and thankfully it will make its official appearance this month. Let's hope we have an uneventful spring season!

Our annual Rhododendron Festival is coming up quickly. The 2014 festival committee has already begun meeting weekly to organize and plan this year's event. As always, we need all the help we can get! Join us Wednesdays at 1:00 PM at Kamama to see how you can get involved. Volunteers are needed before, during and after the festival.

If you're interested in reserving a festival booth for your handmade arts & crafts, you'll find an exhibitor application in this issue of The Groundhog. Applications will also be available online at www.mapamentone.com, and on several Facebook pages: "Mentone Alabama Festivals", "Mentone Area Tourist Information", "Mentone Area Preservation Association", and "The Groundhog."

Do you have an idea for an article in the Groundhog? Feel free to contact us. We cannot guarantee to publish everything that is submitted to us, but we'd love to hear your ideas. Remember that the deadline for

submissions is the 20th of each month.

By Doreen Crow Waters

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



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Mentone, AL 35984

Rhododendron Festival Plans Underway

By Ray Padgett



Tired of the snow and ice – think Rhododendrons in full bloom. That vision carried us through our first Rhododendron Festival planning session. The usual suspects and some new volunteers met to identify jobs and assign responsibilities for this year’s big event. As it has been for the past 30 plus years, Mentone’s Rhododendron Festival, sponsored by the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA), is planned for the third weekend in May, with music and “dinner on the ground” on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Working Committees resulting from the meeting are:

- Exhibitor Coordination – Doreen Waters agreed to contact potential arts and crafts exhibitors, collect applications and track participants.
- Site Planning & Exhibitor Set-up – Once again, Beverly Bates agreed to assign all festival spaces, develop an events and exhibitor festival map and with the help of Elaine and Jack Gauldin coordinate exhibitor set-up.
- Entertainment – As she did for Colorfest, Lisa Crow will arrange for local musicians to perform during the festival.
- Festival Marketing – Kayla Worthey agreed to head our festival marketing effort. As in the past, this will include press releases, story solicitation, public service announcements, social media and signage. Rick and Debra Fey, Robert Moehr and Scott Thomas agreed to help.
- Taste of Mentone – Thomas Qualls agreed to coordinate our Mentone “Chefs” in this popular part of our festival.
- Festival Sponsors – Elaine Gauldin agreed to assemble a Sponsor Benefits Package and coordinate our sponsor solicitation efforts.
- Parking and Clean-up – As has happened over the past 25 or more years, our local Boy Scout troop, headed by David Gilbreath, agreed to clean up the festival site, park cars, build bonfires and clean up after the festival. THANK YOU SCOUTS!
- Doreen Waters, our MAPA Treasurer, will handle financial/accounting tasks for the festival.

Thanks to the efforts of Susan Chernes, Sacred Harp music will grace our festival for the second year. This promises to be a real treat for lovers of this old time music.

The Rhododendron Festival brings our community and visitors together to celebrate the joy of spring in this special part of the world. Mentone volunteers and sponsors make it all possible. We still need folks to volunteer, so if you can, volunteer, if you don’t have time then be a sponsor.

Festival volunteers meet every Wednesday at 1:00pm at Kamama Gallery to plan and review plans for this year’s festival. Information about the festival will be posted on our website MAPAMENTONE.COM and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MentoneAreaPreservationAssociationmapa and www.facebook.com/MentoneAlabamaFestivals.

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Category (please circle): Artist Crafter Retailer Business Food

Please provide a complete list and description of art, craft, products, food _____

Circle if needed: Electricity Water (\$25 extra)

Other Special Needs_____

Number of Spaces_____ Amount enclosed_____

This year’s Rhododendron Festival will be held all over Mentone, but the vendors will be located primarily at Brow Park. Show hours will be 9am-5pm Saturday and 11am-5pm Sunday. You may set up your space on Friday, May16, 12-5pm or Saturday, May 17, 6:30-8:30am. Please be ready for the show to start at 9am. If you participate in the show, please plan to be set up for both days. You may break down beginning at 5pm on Sunday. Cars should be moved to the parking area after unloading.

If you require water or electricity, please indicate on the application. **There is an additional charge for electricity and/or water in the amount of \$25. To avoid outages, electricity is reserved for food vendors and artists who require it to show and demonstrate their art or craft. (i.e. not for lighting or fans). No generators will be allowed.**

You will be notified of your acceptance no later than May 7. Spaces will be assigned the week prior to the show, so please come by the information tent and get your space number. All spaces will be on a first come, first served basis, and no spaces can be reserved from show to show.

Send completed application form to:

MAPA, P. O. Box 50, Mentone, AL 35984

Make Checks payable to MAPA



On Sunday March 16th, the day before St. Patrick's Day, the ECW will be serving a Traditional Irish Dinner after church from 12:00 'til 2:00. Tickets are \$8.00 each along with a non-perishable food item for the Food Cart. The Dinner will be corned beef, potatoes, carrots, cabbage with buttered bread, a drink and a dessert. The proceeds will help support the outreach ministry of feeding the hungry in our parish. The long running Food Cart program is a great compliment to the Food Bank Program. The Food Cart is intended for families who are in need of one or two meals to get them through to the next paycheck. It's available 24/7. The Food Bank is a more comprehensive outreach program serving approximately 30 families each week. So buy a ticket from any ECW member or the Mentone Market, enjoy this Traditional Irish Dinner, and help feed our hungry neighbors. Questions? Please contact Marsha Merrell, Annette Williams, Joan Byrum, Katie Ferguson, or Kat Griffith.

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Andrea Brandon (cont'd from page 1)

dismay, she keeps painting on all their dinner plates in the kitchen.

Andrea says one of the lessons she has learned being an artist is to be frugal. She says she is grateful for her life and "if I were rich I may not work as hard." Without one moment of feeling sorry for herself, Andrea has really been working hard by necessity because in 2013 Terry had a heart attack and she lost her son Richard Chadwick "Chad" Worthey in a car accident. It was a tough time for her but God's gift of art helped her through the recent most trying moments of her life.

Andrea's hope for the future is certainly to paint until the day she dies and continue to get better and better. She believes she will never stop growing as an artist and wants for people to feel like they could walk right into one of her paintings. She would also like to start teaching again. Plans are underway for a luncheon workshop with Andrea Brandon where you can create your own style of art using some of Andrea's techniques and inspiration. Information will be available soon in The Groundhog and at the Wildflower Café where you can find Andrea's art for sale and on display.



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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Winter Storm Pax

By Kayla Worthey

Winter storm Pax raged through the south the week of February 10th, bringing the potential for catastrophic storm conditions including snow, ice and chaos to the area. Tuesday brought reports of 6"-8" of snow that blanketed the mountain in a beautiful white winter wonderland. Along with that came Alabama Department of Transportation (AL DOT) de-icing trucks and crews and brought out our local volunteers, the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District (NLMFPD). Wednesday brought freezing rain, a half-inch of ice and Sand Mountain Electric Co-op (SMEC) trucks and crews. SMEC kept crews on-site in Mentone on Wednesday in preparation for the freezing rain that was beginning to build up on the power lines. Thursday was a repeat of Tuesday with another 6"-8" inches of blinding white snow! I

think everyone was singing, "Do you want to build a snowman?" (Do you know Olaf from the Disney movie *Frozen*?) I saw small Olaf-looking snowmen, snow forts, igloos, 10' snowmen and everything in between. Our area hasn't seen snow like this in a while. And as we all know, with all of the fun and beauty winter storms like this usually bring, they also bring just as many complications and issues like school closings, impassible roads, power outages, fallen trees, accidents and more. While we did face some of those obstacles in our area, I would say that we fared pretty well overall; and we have our local police departments, AL DOT, SMEC and NLMFPD to thank for some of that! We would like to say THANK YOU to AL DOT for their quick response time in treating the roads and combating the ice, saving us from additional

accidents. THANK YOU to SMEC employees for preparing for the worst and being on high alert. They were able to quickly respond to the minimal power outages that we did have and clear them in record times. THANKS to our local police departments for patrolling all hours of the storm, directing traffic and heeding warnings of poor driving conditions. We would also like to acknowledge our local VOLUNTEER fire department for all of their hard work and long hours they dedicated to this storm. They assisted our local police departments, SMEC crews, AL DOT crews, removed downed trees and still fought fires in between. Please take a moment to say THANK YOU to these volunteers if you see them around town. Or, you can say Thank You by making a donation to the NLMFPD. You can mail your donation to P. O. Box 154, Mentone, AL 35984.

2013 Fireman of the Year

By Kayla Worthey

Congratulations to James Rhodes, Jr. of the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District (NLMFPD) for receiving 2013 Fireman of the Year Award. James has been a resident of Mentone for the past 10 years and decided to join the fire department 6 years ago to give back to the community and also saw it as a way to get to know his neighbors. James says, "I really enjoy working with these guys. They encourage

me, and I appreciate everything they have done for me." He also says that he appreciates this award and wants to thank his fellow firemen for honoring him with this achievement. He encourages each of them to strive to achieve this goal themselves. This award was created by current Fire Chief Joseph Lee and Assistant Chief Toby Manifold as an incentive and motivator for these hardworking volunteers and also to show appreciation from the department. This is the third consecutive year the award has been given and is decided by a vote of the department each year. 2012 Fireman of the Year Kaleb McMunn presented James with his hard-earned award. Congratulations Mr. Rhodes!



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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.

It's been cold this winter but I know spring is coming because the daffodils are peeking out of the ground and Senior lunches have started back! What a great way to start off our spring lunches with a more than full meal from Alpine Camp. It was so great to have everyone back together and having fun. Lunches are every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. until April 23rd.

The MERF board has been working hard and is excited about hosting the 2nd Annual Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction on April 5th. To make sure you are on the invitation list, contact MERF at merf.mentone@gmail.com. See more in the accompanying article in this issue of the groundhog. MERF is also sponsoring workshops with local healthcare navigators

before the March 31st sign up for insurance deadline. Kristen Emory will have notifications of places and dates soon. Take advantage of this opportunity if you have questions about healthcare options and stipends or you need access to the website. The navigators will have a computer for participants to use or you may bring your own. MERF is thankful for Margaret Baker and Jan Newhoff being so willing to work with us.

Pancakes and bacon for dinner? Oh yes. On Tuesday, March 4th, St. Joseph's on the Mountain Episcopal church will host a free, annual Fat Tuesday pancake supper from 5:30 until 7 p.m. at the church. As is the tradition, the meal is free and open to the community. There is always an option for making a donation and this year St. Joseph's ECW has graciously decided that these donations will go to MERF. So come by the church for some pancakes and fun.

MERF appreciates the many ways our Mentone community supports all of our endeavors with time, with talents and with financial means.

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.

Affordable Health Care Helps Local Residents

By Jan Newhoff

When my friends Margaret Baker, Toni McGriff and I became volunteer certified Navigators for the Affordable Care Act, I had no idea how gratifying the work would be. Our experiences have included some extremely inspiring results. It has been fun to watch many, who doubted the efficacy of the Affordable Care Act, singing its praises after enrolling for insurance. Here are a few examples:

The first woman I met was 60, on a widow's pension, and had never had health insurance. With her subsidy, her insurance cost \$21/month. A poultry farmer and his wife had been informed that their private insurance policies would cost them \$840/month in 2014. With the Affordable Care Act, they now have insurance for the two of them at \$275/month. A 28-year-old plumber could not afford private insurance and now has insurance at \$28/month. A city employee who lost her insurance six years ago when she was cut to part-time work now pays \$128/month for her policy. A father with two children got insurance for \$261/month for the three of them. A woman, whose son and husband already have insurance, got insurance for herself for \$11/month.

Most of these people either have never had insurance or have not had it in many years. When people have no health insurance, it affects the quality of their lives and their family's lives as well. Many children are covered through ALLKIDS, the state Medicaid program for children, but their parents have no insurance. The Affordable Care Act makes insurance affordable for almost everyone who wants it. However, not every story has a happy ending.

Because the state of Alabama has not accepted the Medicare expansion that would give our poorest citizens free insurance, some Alabamians are being given no options for affordable insurance. Consumers must make a minimum amount of money in order to be eligible for subsidies. Telling people they do not qualify is a sad part of this work. Fortunately, these people will not be penalized.

A misconception is that the insurance is substandard. In truth, it is a very good Blue Cross Blue Shield policy. The subsidy comes from the government, but the insurance is private. All information shared is completely confidential.

The Affordable Care Act is for anyone that is not already receiving government-subsidized health care such as Medicare.

We expect to be very busy as the March 31 deadline for 2014 insurance nears. Many people call to ask questions; but, if they need assistance enrolling, we meet with them personally to help them enroll.

For assistance, call 256-674-3145 or email pwnanavigators@gmail.com.

Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction fundraiser for MERF

Going, Going, Gone!

That will be heard soon in Moon Lake's gym at MERF's second annual Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction on Saturday, April 5th, at 6 p.m. The MERF board and volunteers are working hard to present another magical night by transforming the gym into an elegant setting to delight guests with wonderful tastes of Mentone's culinary artistry from local chefs, with unbelievable artwork from Ms. Paula's Moon Lake Elementary School artists and with a few special gems from local artists. All proceeds from the evening will benefit MERF's community programs. Tickets, available from board members, are \$30 each or \$200 for a table of eight. The more the merrier, so gather up a group and come enjoy a wonderful evening for a great cause. For more information, contact MERF at merf.mentone@gmail.com or 256-634-4673. Come join MERF for this fun

night to celebrate the artistic endeavors of our community whether it is a tomato pie, artisan bread or a masterpiece from a budding artist.



Hanging in town hall is a picture of DeSoto Falls bought in last year's MERF auction by Mayor Hammond.

Changing Moods -- Fifty Years in Black & White

By John Dersham

Over the last 50 years I have traveled the back roads of America photographically documenting beautiful scenery and carefully preserving on film the look and feel of Americana as can only be found on the roads less traveled. I use large format 4x5 and 8x10 cameras and film. Film in these sizes are capable of documenting detail, tonality, contrast and mood like no other medium in smaller film or digital. The subtle nuances of a scene come alive as if you are standing in the scene.

My exhibit, "Changing Moods-Fifty Years in Black & White" is currently on display at the Evelyn Burrow Museum in Hanceville/ Cullman, AL. There are 60 framed prints in this exhibit covering a variety of subject matter shot over these many years from coast to coast. All prints in the exhibit are from medium and large format film and all processed and printed in my darkrooms over the years. There are no color pictures and there are no digital images in this exhibit, despite the fact that I shoot a lot of those too.

To accompany this exhibit, I will be

presenting a lecture series with an accompanying PowerPoint presentation of this work at photo workshops and seminars scheduled for this spring and summer in Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee.

You can help me continue my project to document an era of time that is passing away. I am interested in continuing my efforts to photograph people and places that are historical in nature, that carry the ambience of former generations. They have a story to tell that needs

to be documented on 8x10 film before it fades away into history. You know the places I am talking about. If you know of historic locations with people who have possibly owned these places for generations please contact me to discuss the potential of setting up a time to photograph this valuable part of our past. For information about my upcoming presentations or if you have a photo op idea please send me an email at jdersham@mindspring.com.



Remember When...

By Angie Carden

You read in the March 1984 issue of the Groundhog:

Mentone's 100th Birthday Celebration Proclaimed By Mayor And Town Council

"With unanimous consent of the Town Council at it's February meeting, Mayor Rob Hammond pronounced 1984 as the year of the Centennial of the Town of Mentone, suggesting that all local organizations take part in commemorating in various observances the 100th anniversary of the founding of the

community. A steering committee is being appointed by the mayor which will begin plans for coordinating the event.

Suggestion for the celebration resulted from conversations between the editor of THE GROUNDHOG and Sandra Padgett concerning the recent acceptance of the Mentone Springs Hotel on the National Historic Register. When Sandra mentioned that the 100th anniversary of the building was forthcoming, the editor checked available historical sources. The historians generally conclude that both the laying out of the town and the building of the hotel occurred in 1884.

A memo was sent to the mayor and the leaders of local organizations requesting that the Mayor and Town Council declare 1984 the Year of Centennial."

I personally was just beginning the 7th grade that year and really don't remember a lot about that event, but I know how proud it makes me now. I was born and raised here, and I would never want to be anywhere else! I would like to say Happy 130th Birthday Mentone!



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W FORK LITTLE RIVER 3.11-acre waterfront lot. Conveniently located just north of Mentone, just above Taylor's Ford. Wooded; 150' frontage. Get away to this private sanctuary today priced at \$54,900. (735107)

19.76 ACRES w/hardwoods, mostly level topography. Paved road frontage. Rough-cut driveway. \$49,400. (985997)

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. \$49,900 (387932)

BOULDERS, SUNSETS & BIG TREES mark this just a stone's throw from the 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 per test & permit for septic. \$79,900. (937836)

3.07 ACRES W FORK LITTLE RIVER with 205' of river frontage on a beautiful hardwood wooded lot. Building is not available separately. \$54,900. (812438)

TRANQUIL CREEKSIDE PARADISE, walking distance to downtown Mentone. Inviting, 3.7-acre, wooded lot. Access on both sides of the creek. Privacy w/light restrictions & covenants. \$55,000. (564423)

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY



LITTLE RIVER CANYON area. 40 acres with 2 streams on Lookout Mountain. Just down the road from DeSoto State Park & LRC Center; only minutes from downtown Ft Payne. The land is part wooded, part pasture and has 2 creeks with beautiful waterfalls and ledges. Nature's beauty, privacy and room for whatever the outdoor enthusiast wants to do! Just listed for \$130,000. (335437)



RENTAL OR PERSONAL GET-AWAY. 3BR/2BA cabin w/large front porch offers a view of Lake Lahusage. Inside is a wonderful mixture of convenience & mtn rusticity. Stone WB fpl; pine floors, walls & ceilings; hand-hewn, wood-beamed entry to kitchen w/pantry & stainless appliances. Split BR design. Hot tub deck. Up to 6.12 acres avail. Cabin & 2 acres \$199,900. (562232)



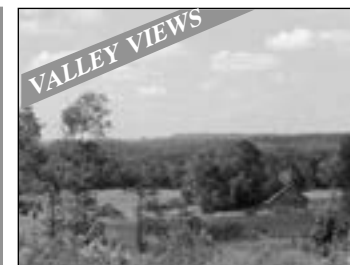
AMAZING NEW LOW PRICE for a place on the brow! This is about the closest thing to a condominium one would find on the mountain at Mentone. Tucked away behind a rustic stone hedge and a dogwood-filled garden along scenic Desoto Pkwy, this property is part of what was once a "traveler's motor court," now transformed into a charming, 2BR/2BA cottage. The views from this place are amazing and the sunsets are downright awe-inspiring! The single-car attached garage is a great bonus, too. Priced to sell at only \$200,000. (423110)



VIEWS OF SUNRISES, SUNSETS, sparkling water from several awesome vantage points. Approx 106.5 acres w/approx 1400 ft frontage on Ft Payne Reservoir. Paved road frontage on Hwy 137 & Oakwood Ave. Joins lots along Portobello Rd and the Highlands! Beautiful woodlands, beautiful views & beautiful potential. Great hunting property! \$532,500 (694745)



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. Now \$150,000. (479473)



BUILD YOUR FARM ESTATE on this 57.98 acres. Majestic water oaks, 2 year-round springs & a great building site on the first ridge w/water, power & septic in place. Ideal for horses or hunting, w/distant views, pasture, future pond site & woods. Well-marked lines ready for fencing. Mature trees; hand-dug well; old stone spring head are remnants of an old homeplace. \$225,000. (428133)



A REMARKABLE BEGINNING, waiting for just the right finish. What could it be? The possibilities are endless! A wedding venue with a stately, antebellum flavor? A B&B with additional cabins on the grounds? The groundwork is laid & the "bones" are in place to create something magnificent! 2-story, approx 5000+ sq ft home, currently configured as a 4+BR/4+BA w/expansive upper level to create a ballroom? fellowship hall? banquet room? Existing small cabin & sheds and small creek on 7.5 private acres. Approx 2 miles N of downtown Mentone. Offered for \$175,000 (498126)



NOW'S THE TIME. How often does anything come up for sale in downtown Mentone? Exactly. This is one of those rare opportunities to own a place right in the heart of the Village of Mentone. 1BR (or 2 if you finish the loft)/1.5BA; KIT; LR; sunroom; side porch; private back yard; front show-room/office/studio. Multi-use space perfect for weekends, festival times, part-time, all the time. \$125,000 (415301)



INVESTMENT PROPERTY WITH GREAT POTENTIAL, ready to produce. Vintage bungalow, completely remodeled, zoned Commercial/Residential w/250ft along Hwy 117. Charm galore! Bright & sturdy, 1940's-era, 3BR/1BA gem. Wood walls; period trim details. Updated electrical, plumbing, floors & cabinets. Back deck & screened porch. Live, work (or both!) within walking distance of town. \$125,000. (518993)

Also look for our listings at AlabamaMountainLiving.com

Spring Into March!

As we enter March, hope “Springs” eternal! And after the harsh winter we have had, I would deduce that just about everyone is ready for spring to bound in! Although I have to admit, I will miss the radiance of Mentone glistening in the snow and ice! Then again, she is just as beautiful when she’s busting open with every color imaginable! On that note, green comes to mind! Grass, trees, plants, flowers and, of course, St. Patrick’s Day! I hope you all have a fantastic start this spring and a happy celebration of St. Paddy’s Day with this wonderful Irish stew!

Slow Cooker Guinness Stew

This recipe is for a slow cooker. If you don’t have one or would prefer to make the stew in the oven, just cook everything in a large Dutch oven and after you add the liquid, bring it to a simmer on the stovetop, tightly cover and then put it in a 225°F oven for 6 hours (or a 300°F oven for 4 hours)

In a large skillet, heat 2 Tbsp butter in a large sauté pan over medium-high heat. Brown 2 pounds cubed chuck beef roast in the butter, starting with the fattiest pieces of meat, fat side down in the pan. This will allow fat to render out. Work in batches so not to crowd the pan. Sprinkle salt over the beef as it browns.

Once browned on all sides, transfer the beef pieces into the slow cooker. Add 2 cups chopped onion and 2 celery stalks, chopped to the pan in which you just browned the beef. Sauté the onions and celery until they begin to brown at the edges, about 5 minutes. Add 2 Tbsp tomato paste and mix well. Cook for a minute or two, then add a little bit of a 1 pint (16 ounces) Guinness stout, enough to make it easier for you to scrape up any browned bits at the bottom of the pan. Transfer the celery and onions into the slow cooker.

Add the rest of the Guinness and 3 cups beef broth, 2 large carrots, peeled and cut into chunks, 2-3 parsnips, peeled and cut into chunks, 1 pound young turnips, peeled and cut into chunks, 2 teaspoons dried thyme and 2 teaspoons of salt. Cover and cook on “high” for 4 hours, or “low” for 8 hours. When done, add more salt to taste and sprinkle with fresh parsley (optional) to serve.



THE RECIPE CORNER BY ANGIE CARDEN



The Times of Our Lives

Welcome Boys!



Liam Sylas Nichols was born January 20, 2013 at DeKalb Regional in Fort Payne. He weighed 8lbs 15 oz and was 20 inches long. He is the son of Matthew and Suzann Fletcher Nichols of Fort Payne. Grandparents are Sammy and Diane Fletcher of Hammondville, Craig Nichols, of Ider and Frank and Jane Lukenbaugh of Ottamawa, Iowa. He has one brother Sam Nichols.



Trent Ethan Blake Smith born on January 16, 2014 at 5:15p.m. He weighed 6lbs and 15oz. and was 20 1/4 in long. His mother is Emerald Smith and father is Joshua Smith. Grandparents are the late Amy Sharp Poe, Lebron Poe, Darlean and Pete Swindall, and Larry Smith. Aunts: Megan Poe, Katelyn Poe, Stephanie Poe,

and Alyssa Poe. Uncles: Daniel Poe, Justin Smith, Dylan Newberry. Cousin: Avah Poe. Psalms 139:14 - I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

March Birthdays

- Mar 1 – Ally Smith

Mar 2 – Jimmie Sue Beason

Mar 3 – Kama Jade Blalock

Mar 3 – Dawson Bone

Mar 4 – Corey Ingram

Mar 4 – Jeff Bain

Mar 4 – Lance Woods

Mar 6 – Annabelle Grace Grider

Mar 8 – Whitney Smith

Mar 10 – David Rape

Mar 10 – Autumn Hulgan

Mar 10 – Frances Day

Mar 11 – Bo Hammond

Mar 12 – Jeremy Hope

Mar 12 – Krystal Johnson

Mar 12 – Tommy Hairel

Mar 13 – Josh Pullen

Mar 13 – Kelsey Wade

Mar 15 – In memory
of Eugene Potts

Mar 16 – Raymond Coots

Mar 16 – Jesse Bone

Mar 18 – Sydney Johnson

Mar 18 – Jeremy Henderson

Mar 19 – Dean Freeman

Mar 19 – Olivia Harrison

Mar 20 – Zach Jones

Mar 20 – Hobson Kirby

Mar 21 – Mary J. Chambers
- Mar 22 – Kallie Ingram

Mar 22 – Lue Smith

Mar 22 – Jon Bain

Mar 23 – Guy “Squeak” Smith

Mar 23 – Wyatt McGee

Mar 23 – Lori Manifold

Mar 23 – Roberta Cash

Mar 24 – Dylan Lee

Mar 24 – Jimmy Phillips

Mar 25 – Vickie Blackburn

Mar 25 – Evelyn Graves

Mar 25 – Skylar Haney

Mar 26 – Anna Carden

Mar 26 – Stephanie Worthey

Mar 26 – Sandra Boehringer

Mar 27 – Abby

Mar 28 – Holly Owen

Mar 28 – Cindy Bethune

Mar 29 – In Memory
of Sam Collins

Mar 31 – Marlana Beasley
- Mar 3 – Darrin & Amanda Smith

Mar 4 – In Memory
of Coy & Betty Butler

Mar 11 –Hobson & Martha Kirby

Mar 18 – Rodney & Christine
Ballenger

Mar 19 – Tommy & Joan Harrison

March Anniversaries

What To Do Around Here!

March 2014 Community Calendar

Mar 1-2 - Spring Survival Class. One World Adventure. An early spring survival class for Wilderness Survival 101. A weekend long class with a specific for the lower Appalachian mountain range and spring weather conditions. We will cover a broad range of topics from clothing, kits, shelter, fire, water and rescue. Saturday at 9 a.m. to Sunday at 3 p.m. 256-634-8370.

Mar 1, 8, 15, 27, 29 - Rappelling Adventure. True Adventure Sports. 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.

Mar 1, 2, 5, 17, 25 - Wild Cave Tour. True Adventure Sports. 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, Manitu Cave, in the heart of Fort Payne. Adventure includes helmet, cave lamps plus a fun informative guide. 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Mar 1 - Early Spring Frog Pond Adventure.

Experience "love" from a frog's point of view! Join the one-and-only, "Dr. Frog" George Cline, for an unforgettable



evening of romance and songs from the first amphibian voices of the season. Learn to identify frog songs and get a hands-on experience with these slippery creatures. Participate in Frog Watch USA. Subject to water level/drought conditions. 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. \$3 per person Call JSU Field Schools at 256-782-5697.

Mar 1 - An Evening with Coach Gene Stallings. Come enjoy dinner and a keynote address from former University of Alabama Football Coach Gene Stallings. DeKalb County Schools Coliseum in Rainsville. Advance tickets \$75. 5 p.m. 256-601-1801.

Mar 1 - DeKalb County Bridal Showcase. This event is organized by the Women's Care Center and sponsored by Zoom In

Photography, Snap Fitness, Regions Bank, and Dixie Salvage, Inc.

This will be an opportunity for brides, grooms, and family members to talk with exhibitors for all wedding needs in one location. There will be wedding and event planners, caterers, photographers, florists, beauty consultants, home furnishing advisors, and more. Twenty minute marriage seminars will be offered during the event. There will also be drawings for door prizes. The event will be at the First United Methodist Church Christian Life Center in Fort Payne from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission will be \$5 For more information: 256-845-0838



Mar 3-9 - Mounted Shooters of America. MSA competitions at the Northeast Alabama Agri-Business Center. Free admission for spectators. 256-638-1650.

Mar 3 - Celestial Navigation. True Adventure Sports. 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. \$20 per person 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Mar 4 - Extreme Night Hike. True Adventure Sports. 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. 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Mar 6 - Chris Roberts & Discover DeKalb

Music. 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.



Mar 6, 26 - Sky Swing Adventure. True Adventure Sports. This is an adventure of a lifetime. Enjoy the thrill of the swing. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before the adventure. \$45 per person. 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Mar 8 - Sculpt Your Own Flower. Orbix Hot Glass. Have you ever wanted to actually sit at the gaffer bench and feel what it is like to shape hot glass? It's 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.

Mar 8 - Green & Gray Saturday. Little River Canyon Center. 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! 10 a.m. Free and open to everyone. 256-845-8548.

Mar 7 - Rock Climbing Adventure. True Adventure Sports. 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. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Mar 10 - Afternoon Rock Climb. True Adventure Sports. 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. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Mar 11 - GPS Basic Training and Navigation Class, Part 1. True Adventure Sports. 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. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$45 per person. 256-997-9577.

Mar 11 - GPS Basic Training and Navigation Class, Part 2. True Adventure Sports. 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 \$45 per person 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. 256-997-9577.



Mar 12 - Treasure Hunt Adventure. True Adventure Sports. Do you enjoy trying to solve riddles and clues? This 5-hour adventure will take you deep into the heart of Manitu Cave. You will have to solve and follow each clue in order to find the next one, and ultimately the Treasure! True Adventure Sports \$65 per person 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Mar 13 - Rock Climbing Adventure. True Adventure Sports. 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.

Mar 15-16 - Home & Garden Expo. Enjoy dozens of displays featuring products for home improvement, gardening, housewares, recreation, etc. Northeast Alabama Agri-Business Center. Free admission. 256-638-1650.

Mar 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.

Mar 14, 26 - Extreme Night Hike. True Adventure Sports. 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. 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Mar 15-16 - One World Backpacking Series. Backpacking basics & Eco-friendly etiquette: The first trip of our series will cover all the backpacking basics. After reaching our camping site, you will learn how to pick and set up your camp site. Some backpacking friendly etiquette and for the new backpackers the business behind the tree. All in all it is a fun opportunity to learn some basic knowledge and have some fun outdoors. Spaces

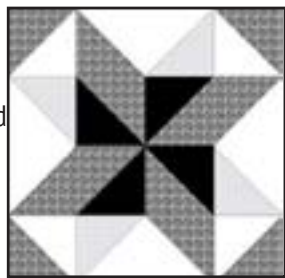


Spaces are limited and discounts are given for taking all seven classes. Ages: Adults and youth 14 and up. Youth under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Cost: \$110 per person includes meals and all equipment. \$85 per person includes meals (must provide your own equipment). \$65 per person includes instruction (must provide own equipment and food). Group max: 6 Upon registration, you will be sent a packing list. To register, call 256-634-8370

Mar 15 - Waterfall Hike. DeSoto State Park. Join staff and volunteers for a fun day of hiking throughout the park to see some of DeSoto's waterfalls, big and small. See Lost Falls, Laurel Falls, Indian Falls, Lodge Falls, and even more water features like Laurel Creek and the West Fork of Little River. Moderate Terrain over 5-6 miles. Meet at the DeSoto State Park Country Store. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free and open to everyone. 256-997-5025.



Mar 15 - Menlo Spring Quilt Show. Lawrence Center on Edison St. Two categories: Hand quilted and machine quilted. Ribbons and prizes for 1st and 2nd place entries. Deadline



for all entries is March 14. Refreshments, quilt demonstrations by Ellen Harris, country store and vintage displays. For information, contact Diane @ 256-294-3663 or Glenda @ 706-862-2240.

Mar 15 - Moon Lake School Talent Show. Open to children from Mentone, Valley Head & Fort Payne Schools. Ages 5-13. Talent show begins at 3:00pm with a live baked good auction at intermission. Light concessions

will also be sold. Come out and enjoy a great show and support the school!

Mar 15, 21 - Night Zip Line. True Adventure Sports. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Enjoy the thrill of the zip line at night. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before the adventure. \$50 per person. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Mar 18-20 - High Adventure Trip. True Adventure Sports. 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

Mar 18 - Zip Line & Sky Swing Adventure. True Adventure Sports. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Enjoy the thrill of the swing and zip line. Pre-registration required by 6 pm the day before adventure. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Mar 20 - James McKinney & The Night Travelers. 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.



Mar 21 - Rock Climbing Adventure. True Adventure Sports. 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. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Mar 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.

Mar 22 - Basic Pine Needle Basketry Class.

DeSoto State Park Nature Center. Learn the basics of pine needle basketry, an old craft with a long history. Join DSP staff 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. Ages 12 and up. 9:30am-1:30pm. \$10 (All materials will be furnished.) Class size is limited so pre-registration is required. 256-997-5025 or brittney.hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

Mar 22 - Tripod, Hobo Pot & Bail, Cowboy coffee, and Bannock Bread Demonstration.

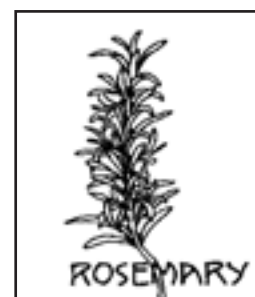
DeSoto State Park Picnic Area. Join Robert Wilson for this fun demonstration where he will be showing how to lash a basic tri-pod to use in making some good ol' cowboy coffee in a hobo pot and bail. He will demo how to make bannock bread on a stick and in a pan over the campfire. 10am-12noon. Free and open to the public. 256-997-5025 or brittney.hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

Mar 22 - How to Make a Soda Can Alcohol Stove. DeSoto State Park Picnic Area. Join Robert Wilson to learn how to build an ultralight portable stove from an aluminum can. These simple designs are also called hobo stoves, and are useful for outdoor use. At the end of the class there will be a demo of one in use. All supplies will be provided. 1-3pm. Free and open to the public. Pre-registration is required as class size is limited.

256-997-5025 or brittney.hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

Mar 23 - Spring Herb Walk. DeSoto State

Park Country Store. Join Robert Wilson and Brittney Hughes on an easy meandering walk along the trails of DeSoto State Park to see early blooming species



of plants and learn some of the ways that plants have been used for food and medicine in the past. Bring a day pack with water and snacks if you wish. 10am-12noon. Free and open to the public but pre-registration is required. 256-997-5025 or brittney.hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

Mar 24, 31 - Rock Climbing/Rappelling

Adventure Combo. True Adventure Sports. 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.

Mar 28 - Orienteering Class. True Adventure Sports. 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. \$20 per person. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Mar 29 - The Florida Boys. The Pickin' Post in Fort Payne.

Southern Gospel Quartet. 6pm. Tickets \$10 each. 256-657-3817. or 256-996-8910.



Ongoing Calendar

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

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

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

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 3rd 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.

Winter Wonderland - February 2014

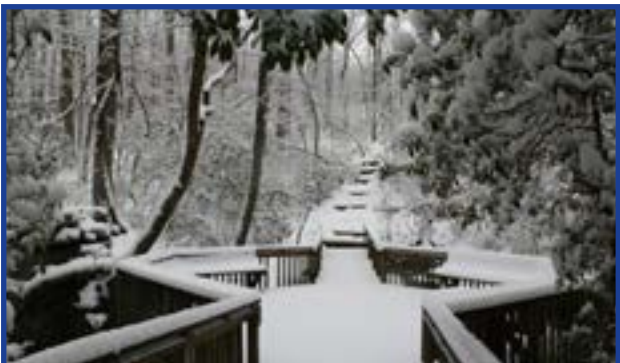


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Worship

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 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. Bible Study

Wednesdays at 6:00PM.

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

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

Cove Road Baptist Church, County Road 631, Mentone, Alabama. 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.

In Remembrance

Fred Timothy Castleberry (12/22/1990 – 03/28/2012)

Dear Fred,
It's already been two years...
I thought of you today, but that is nothing new. I thought about you yesterday and every day before that too.
My heart aches when I think of you, a piece of it is gone. And tears still fall at times when I quietly speak your name.
I know you're with God the Father and His loving Son. For you there is no pain or sorrow, no cancer, nor no fear...
But I still wish you were here.
Fred, I can only hope and pray that you can hear me when I tell you daily...I love you and miss you...
So very much.

Mom

HOWARD FINSTER'S PARADISE GARDEN VISITOR CENTER TO HOST STATE OF GEORGIA ART COLLECTION

**By Jordan Poole
Executive Director**

The Paradise Garden Foundation (PGF) will host a reception at the Paradise Garden Visitor Center on March 7, 2014 (Friday) from 6 P.M. till 8 P.M. to welcome in the state art collection titles Inspired Georgia. This reception, free to the public will spotlight the newest exhibition and the state's first traveling art exhibit. Featuring 28 pieces from Georgia's state art collection, the exhibit is sponsored by the Georgia Council for the Arts in partnership with the Georgia Department of Economic Development's Tourism Division and the Georgia Humanities Council.

"I am thrilled about this exhibition. I as a native of this county can admit real pride in saying that another local of the county, Howard Finster, is being exhibited with the top talents of the state art collection and we are able to host the collection here in Chattooga county," says C. Sutton Connelly, President of the PGF Board of Directors.

About the Exhibition

"The traveling exhibit is an opportunity to use the state art collection as a springboard for additional arts and culture activities that serve to celebrate and increase awareness for the local cultural community and to increase tourism," said Deal. "Sandra and I hope that this collection will inspire visitors and local citizens to learn more about Georgia's artistic heritage and current artists, and to Explore Georgia."



The state art collection, owned and managed by the Georgia Council for the Arts, is an extensive, vibrant chronicle of work created by Georgia artists from the 1970s to the 1990s. The new exhibit, "Inspired Georgia: 28 Works from Georgia's State Art Collection," is the first of its kind in decades, and highlights the diversity of styles, media and techniques in the collection. Original works from some of Georgia's iconic artists including Benny Andrews, Lucinda Bunnen, Herbert Creecy, Howard Finster, Ruth Laxson and Nellie Mae Rowe are featured in the exhibit.

More about the Garden

Paradise Garden Located in Summerville, Georgia, is a maze of buildings, sculptures and displays. The Gardens were built from found objects and recycled materials ranging from bottles, bathtubs and toilets to bicycle frames and cast-off jewelry. The setting is a two-acre

swampland that is drained by numerous canals. The PGF has been working for the past two years to revive the Garden with restoration, preservation and community activities. This year the Foundation will host the Man of Vision Kickoff Show (May 30th) and Finster Fest (May 31st and June 1st).

About the Paradise Garden Foundation

The mission of PGF is to preserve, maintain and showcase Rev. Howard Finster's visionary artistic site, Paradise Garden. The Foundation's primary goal is to serve as a social, cultural, educational and artistic nexus for the benefit of Chattooga County and the Northwest Georgia region. As such, PGF will foster regional economic development via tourism, public service and creative enterprise, each of which adheres to Finster's vision for his garden.

The Paradise Garden Foundation is actively working to restore Paradise Garden and to promote area tourism. If you would like to learn more about the restoration of Paradise Garden, you can contact PGF Executive Director Jordan H. Poole at (706) 808-0800 or email jpoole@paradisegardenfoundation.org or visit www.Paradisegardenfoundation.org.

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Sage Advice - Plants For Spring

Susan Seago, Fine View Garden Center

Officially, Spring does not arrive until March, 20. Yet, we are having spring-like weather right now. We call the warm days 'teaser' days. However, winter is probably not yet over. Yes, put out those cool weather vegetables, but please hold off on the warm season veggies, and PLEASE, unless you have some of that very hard to find extra money these days, wait to put out the summer annuals. If you don't mind buying more, go ahead; but I think you can spend your time and money right now planting shrubs, trees and perennial flowers (those that come back year after year).

For a new tree, I would suggest one of the very pretty maples. The Amur Maple (*Acer genala*) grows to about 35-40 feet tall and presents a spectacular fall show of orange, red, and yellow. It is good for a small front yard, providing shade but not overtaking the space. Most of us are familiar with the "normal" maples - the red, silver and sugar. The Amur maple is, to me, a step above the others and would truly grace your landscape. They can be difficult to locate at the big box stores, so talk to your local garden center. They may be able to special order it for you. And, it is not a very expensive tree--it will

probably run about the same as the new red maples.

For a new shrub, try an old favorite. An evergreen, the Japanese Aucuba will live for many, many years. You can see these around older homes. My mother had about six or eight on the backyard side of her home, and they really were quite nice. You can let them grow for a few years, but will probably want to trim them back after some time. Some can get over ten feet tall, but with some pruning, they do very well under high windows and along a perimeter border. They will produce some new plants to give to friends. If you have the space, plant some lower growing shrubs or

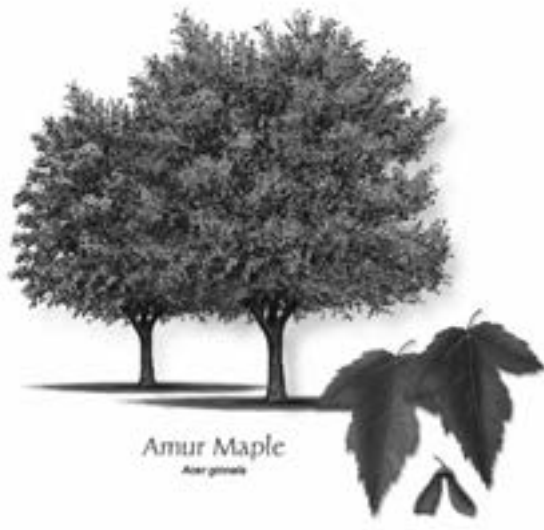
perennials in front of them. They do well in morning sun and afternoon dappled shade. The heat of the summer afternoon sun can cause leaf scorch, so I suggest planting them where they can get some afternoon shade. They can tolerate dry conditions and, once established, can go awhile without water. Do water them regularly, though, when you plant them to

encourage good growth.

For a new perennial, plant one of the colorful echinaceas (coneflower). The purple coneflower has been around for ages but new colors have been propagated and now come in yellow, red, orange, white, pink, even green! Some are tall (to 36") while others are shorter (12" to 24"). They are very hardy in our zone, tolerating drought and heat. Plant the tall ones at the back of the perennial or annual bed and the shorter ones in the middle of the bed. You can depend on them to return year after year. They will produce some new plants but are not invasive.

Now is the time to also divide some perennials, especially the hostas and daylilies. Dig up a clump with lots of soil around the roots. Using a sharp shovel or garden fork, divide the bunch into several clumps. Do not pull apart each bulb or plant. Keep them in groups of three to four or more and replant in good organic soil. Water them thoroughly after planting and regularly (every three days or so if there is no rain). They should just keep on going without wilting.

Ready? Let's go plant something!



Amur Maple
Acer genala

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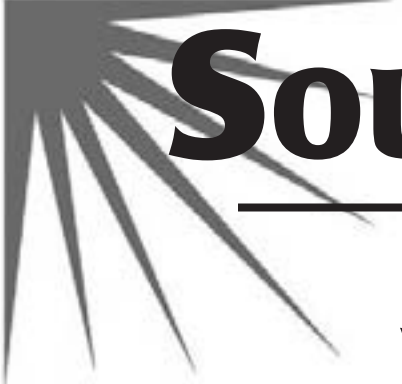
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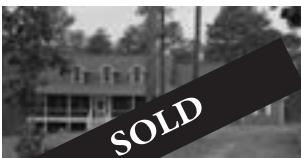


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4.4 acres - located on the North Brow in Mentone. \$190,000. MLS #392849.

Mountain Fog

By DeSoto Red

Hey neighbor! How are you doing? I'm Desoto Red. I'm going to be telling you a few things every now and then about what's on my mind. When they convinced me to talk to you folks from time to time, that Groundhog bunch didn't know what they were getting into!

One thing about Mentone is that you can be yourself. You can relax. You can drop your rat race survival skills. You don't have to be "just another one of the sheep" to fit in. We tend to practice "live and let live" around here. For that reason, you can find some of the most interesting, real people you would ever want to meet right here in Mentone.

For some it's a process of slowly letting go. Others almost instantly drop the defensive tactics they employ to survive in their corporate life. Either way, there are a lot of unique self-thinkers walking the streets of Mentone!

When the metamorphosis is complete, some are so elated with the "new them", the "real them", that they give themselves a new name. Their "Mentone name" is usually accepted by one and all. That's right neighbor, old uptight John P. Bigboss is transformed into "River

January	Wispy	A	Moon	N	Kenobi
February	Sky	B	Dancer	O	Firewalker
March	Rainbow	C	Love	P	2.0
April	Soaring	D	Rocket	Q	Doodle
May	Peony	E	Jazz	R	Flambeau
June	Lightning	F	Daze	S	Zeppelin
July	Butterfly	G	A Go Go	T	Jangles
August	Rainy	H	Sprinkles	U	Convoy
September	Peace	I	Dawg	V	Rainforest
October	Bobcat	J	The Magnificent	W	Revival
November	River	K	Circus	X	Cloudwalker
December	Bear	L	Palooza	Y	De Jour
		M	Unchained	Z	Alfredo

Dawg" or "Johnny Thunder"!

I think it's about time you had a Mentone name. My purpose in being here today is to help you discover just what that new name will be. I know you want one!

All you have to do is find the month you were born in for your first name and the first letter of your old last name to find your new last name. If you don't like it, just pick what you want! Heck, this is Mentone neighbor! I'll see you next time.



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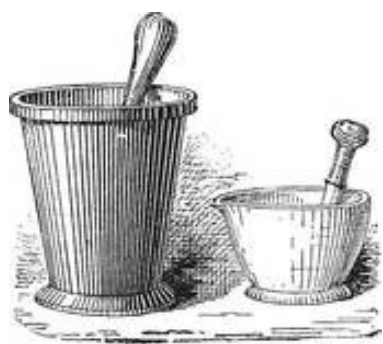
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Mountain Herbalist: Pocket of Wildflowers

By L. C. Moon

At the base of Lookout Mountain there is a paradise abundant with Lookout's native wildflowers- the Pocket. It is called the Pocket because it is a "holler" that holds within itself huge concentrations of native plants and trees. Each spring in the month of March I journey down the mountain to experience the joy of surrounding myself with all of the bountiful blooms. I would like to share some of the blooms my friends and I admired on March 23, 2009 plus share a general overview of some of their uses.

Bloodroot is one of the first woodland flowers to bloom in spring. Its bud pops up out of the ground with one single leaf wrapping itself around the stem. As the bloom opens the leaf begins to open also. When the bloom loses its petals the leaf fully opens showing its unique shape. Bloodroot is known most for its use as a red dye. It is also known for skin ailments.

Hepatica was in full glory. Some of them were bloomed out though the contrasting colors on the leaves make it beautiful to enjoy year round. Folk herbalists and American Indians used hepatica for liver ailments. It can also be used for poor digestion.

Trout lily has a beautiful leaf also. Its texture is so unique--it feels like the belly of a frog. The

root tea has been used for fevers. A poultice of the root is good for helping remove splinters.

Foam Flower has a cone of tiny white flowers at the top of the stem that makes me think of a flower wand. The leaf is good for mouth sores and the root can be poultice for wounds.

Columbine is a magical looking plant with a drooping bell-shaped flower that is salmon colored at the base then transitions into a yellowish color. The bloom always reminds me of a perfect fairy skirt. There is a beautiful specimen of columbine at the pocket sitting so pretty on a rock by the creek with moss and walking fern surrounding it. The root of columbine is known to be good for stomach troubles and to stop uterine bleeding. However columbine is potentially poisonous.

Star chickweed can be used like all other chickweeds. Chickweed is good for nutrition, allergies, coughs, colds, as a diuretic and the list goes on.

There are lots of different types of violets at the pocket and on Lookout. All types of violets are edible. The root of violets can be poulticed for boils and skin afflictions.

There are also many types of trillium. The most commonly used trillium is bethroot also known as red trillium. It is known to be good for female disorders. Bethroot is particularly used for childbirth.

Celandine Poppy has a pretty yellow flower. The root of the plant can be used for the liver and spleen.

Jack in the Pulpit was just about to open its cup like bloom that has a flap and in the center of the cup you find jack standing erect. The root of Jack-in-the-pulpit can be used for cough and

colds, bronchitis and asthma.

Solomon's seal and false solomon's seal look very similar however false solomon's seal has a cluster of white blooms that bloom from the top of the plant whereas the solomon's seal blooms come out at the base of the leaves going down a single stalk. The root of solomon's seal can be used for lung ailments. False solomon's seal root can be used as a stomach tonic and for rashes.

Toothwort leaves are highly toothed. It is a sweet little plant that has white blooms that are very showy. The root can be used for toothaches and throat ailments including hoarseness.

White Baneberry is also known as doll's eyes because its white blooms turn into white fruits with black spots that look like doll eyeballs. The root can be used for pain of childbirth, circulation and colds--though it can cause gastrointestinal irritation.

Bellwort has a drooping yellow flower that is often hid under its drooping leaves. It is quite prevalent at the pocket. The root tea can be used for health of the mouth, throat and gums.

Redbud trees are bursting with color. Red bud flowers are edible and the inner bark is a folk cancer remedy for leukemia.

There are many more details that can be covered about the glory of all of these beauties. After the cold winter, it is such a blessing to witness God's treasure abounding so plentiful and beautiful. My mind, body and soul are always fed each spring. I certainly hope yours is as well.

It is wise for me to tell you to consult your healthcare provider before altering your healthcare regimen with the above herbs. Hope you are able to find many of the beautiful native flowers this spring! Happy Hunting!

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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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Menlo Notes - Quilting Heritage

By Diane Smith Mealer

Why I love quilts is simple enough. It's ingrained in my DNA, passed on by generations of grandmothers, my mother, my aunt and my sister. They were all quilters, and the talent, with much prodding and instruction, was finally adopted into my creative agenda. I still have a lot to learn, and the stitching is far from perfect, but that will never deter me from diving into a project that may or may not be completed.

My mother's quilting frame hung from the living room ceiling. It was a handmade one that could be lifted up when not in use, and lowered just to the right height when she was working. It's wooden slats were rubbed smooth to eliminate splinters that would surely snag the material or to keep little fingers from being hurt. The frame was probably made by my Granddaddy Ward Smith and inherited from Grandmother Jenny.

One of my favorite memories is of time spent

playing beneath the shelter of this old frame while the radio played and mother hummed along with the music, her nimble fingers guiding the needle across the fabric. Some days my Aunt Viola came to visit, and they shared laughter and stories. Caught up in their conversations, they forgot I was underneath, and tiny ears sometimes heard things they should not have heard. I kept their secrets, always being quiet, content and happy. Many times I've wondered about the whereabouts of this old rack. Where did it go? Another mystery of life.

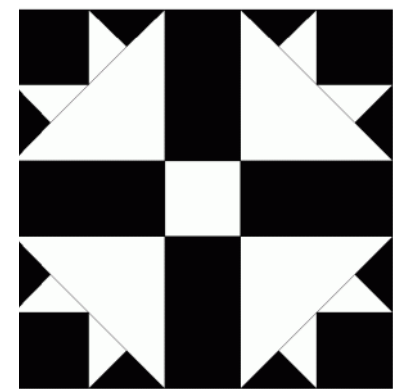
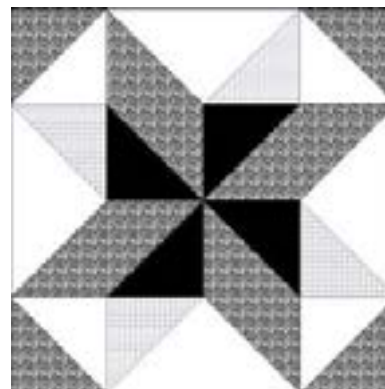
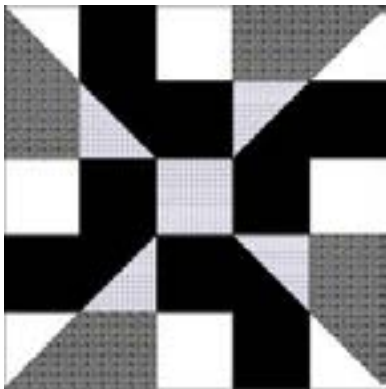
During my childhood, I made doll quilts out of the scraps my mother shared with me. My sister Ruth made lots of doll clothes for us. There is always a use for scraps. Mother liked bright material, and the dancing colors became beautiful pictures. Wrapped in their warmth, I would rub my fingers across the texture and dream of wonderful things.

Each quilt tells a story if you look close

enough. The patterns--dark, light, medium--all melt into an artful treasure. Treasure I do, because I am lucky to still have a mother and grandmother quilt in my possession. They are lovingly displayed on a shelf in my small living room.

Because I love quilts, the upcoming show in Menlo is a project from the heart; and if you have a treasured piece tucked away somewhere, get it out and join us for a day of loving the past and looking with hope to the future of quilting.

The Menlo Spring Quilt Show will be held on March 15 at the Lawrence Center on Edison Street. There will be two categories--Hand Quilted and Machine Quilted. Ribbons and prizes will be awarded for 1st and 2nd place entries. There will also be refreshments, quilt demonstrations by Ellen Harris, a country store and vintage displays. The deadline for all entries is March 14. For information, contact Diane at 256-294-3663 or Glenda at 706-862-2240.



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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)



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)



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! \$250,000.



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)



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)



THE APPALACHIAN CABIN is a furnished log cabin nestled in the woods in Crestline Park Subdivision. 3br/2bt with kitchen/dining combo, open floor plan, and loft. Amenities include CHA, gas log fireplace, hot tub, 3/4 wraparound covered porch, kitchen appliances, furniture, etc. Great investment opportunity or make this your weekend getaway! \$125,000 (23028)



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)



3.8 ACRES located in East fork little River Estates. Nicely wooded with a portion of the historic Dinky Line Railway. 175 ft. on river (Cherokee Co. Mentone). covenants & restrictions. county water & power available. \$53,000

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

The Cracker Line That Saved An Army

By Holley Midgley

During the Late Unpleasantness (known more popularly as the American Civil War), Mentone fortunately avoided the fighting that ravaged so many other areas in the south. But Chattanooga, Tennessee, just 45 miles up Lookout Valley, was a miserable place to be. In the Fall of 1863, forty-five thousand defeated and demoralized Union soldiers under the Command of General William Rosecrans had retreated into the very trenches from which they had chased their Confederate enemies just a few weeks before. Now, after suffering a stunning defeat by the Confederate Army of Tennessee at the Battle of Chickamauga in mid-September, the boys in blue were back in their Chattanooga trenches, cold and very, very hungry. Staring down at them from the top of Lookout Mountain and the sides of Missionary Ridge were 70,000 equally demoralized southern troops under the command of the mostly inept, and highly unpopular, General Braxton Bragg. All in all, it was a study in misery. Something had to give.

That late September and early October of '63, Chattanooga looked very much like a trap to the Union soldiers who were pinned down and forced to live under siege conditions. For a week the Confederate artillery located on top of Lookout fired a near constant blast of shot and shell on the huddled Yankees below. Although almost no one was hit, nerves were rattled and morale took another plunge. The southerners also suffered since they were rarely able to get any sleep themselves because of all the noise they were making. Then, beginning October 1st, it rained for 19 of the next 53 days. And it got cold. One writer estimated that by the time the siege was over, there were a mere 50 trees still standing in the whole city. The rest had all been cut down for firewood or to build fortifications.

Then there was the lack of food. Almost from the beginning of Bragg's siege, the northern troops went on half rations; soon they were reduced to quarter rations. Spirits dropped as Union troops were reduced to following behind supply wagons and picking up fallen corn

kernels intended for their horses and mules. General Rosecrans seemed paralyzed with inaction. President Abraham Lincoln described him as seeming to be "stunned. Like a duck hit on the head." A change in leadership was needed, and General Ulysses Grant, the hero of Vicksburg the summer before, was brought to town to get things going.

The southern troops were starving too, and were much more poorly clothed and equipped than their northern foes. Food was being stored in large quantities just 4 miles away, but General Bragg was hoarding it for some reason. At this point in the siege, southern troops were being issued 3 hard tack crackers and 2 tablespoons of sugar a day. Sam Watkins, the diarist who wrote such a stirring and readable account of his years in the Confederate Army, said, "The soldiers were starved and almost naked, and covered all over with lice and camp itch and filth and dirt. We thought of nothing but starvation." Morale was so low that desertions from the southern army became epidemic. In September and October, almost 2,250 rebels lit out, never to return.

The motivation for the northern troops to get up and run the rebs out of town boiled down to their empty stomachs. As the noose around Chattanooga was tightening in October, resupplying the union forces there got increasingly more difficult. The federal supply base at Bridgeport, Alabama, was a mere 30 miles away as the crow flies. But crows do not deliver supplies. The Confederates held Lookout Valley, the mountains to the south, east, and west of the city, and lined the banks of the Tennessee River. The only way to get food and other supplies to the bottled up yanks was to bring it over a 60-mile twisting, washed out pig trot of a road that ran up and down the ridges to the northwest of the city. Even that route wasn't always dependable. A raid by Confederate cavalry under General Joe Wheeler resulted in the loss of more than 300 yankee wagons full of supplies. John Rawlins, Grant's chief of staff, described the route as "the roughest and steepest

of ascent and descent ever crossed by army wagons and mules." Dead mules literally lined the entire route. Those mules that survived had to be fed almost as much animal feed as they were able to pull to the city. Something had to be done. For the Union troops, it was all about crackers.

When Grant arrived to replace Rosecrans in late October he heard a plan devised by General William F. "Baldy" Smith. It called for a night time amphibious landing at Browns Ferry, located on the Tennessee at the base of the northern end of Lookout, at the head of Lookout Valley. The United States had not conducted a major amphibious landing since the war with Mexico 15 years earlier. But Grant was impressed both with the plan and with the urgency of doing something dramatic to get food and supplies into Chattanooga for his famished men.

On the night of October 26/27, a total of about 1,600 Union troops under the command of General William B. Hazen loaded onto 52 hastily built flat bottomed boats and began the nine-mile drift down river to Brown's Ferry. Surprise was their main concern, so they remained silent for the whole trip. An additional force under General John Turchin, a Russian immigrant, would march across Moccasin Point, be picked up by the now empty landing craft, and paddle across to join Hazen. Five thousand yankees were about to descend on fewer than 200 clueless Confederates.

Browns Ferry was not the Confederate army's greatest moment. Though aware of the buildup of yankees across the river on Moccasin Point, the southern troops at Browns Ferry received no reinforcements from their commanders who were convinced the yanks would come at their mountain top fortifications by way of roads on top of the mountain running up from the area above Trenton, Georgia. Confronted by overwhelmingly superior numbers, the rebels initially drove the Union attackers almost back into the river. Union engineers were frantically

(cont'd on page 24)

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Cracker Line (cont'd from page 22)

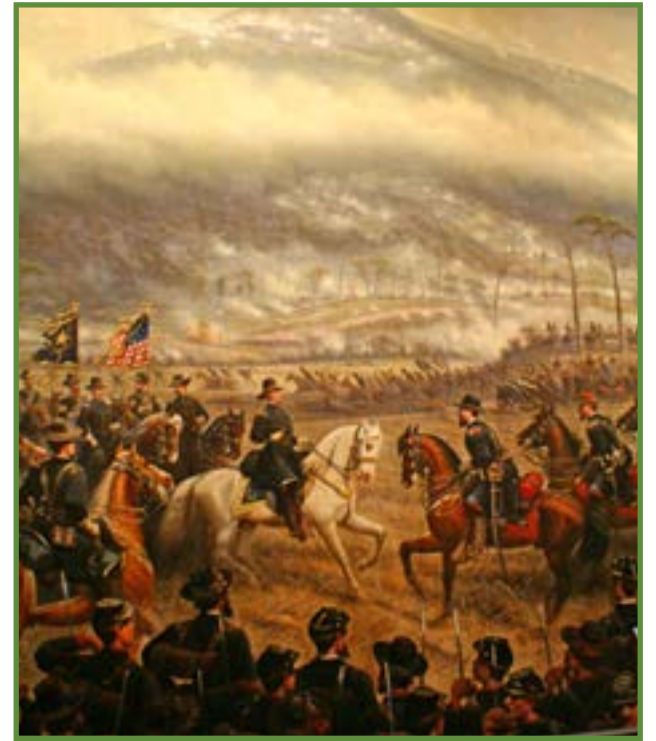
constructing a pontoon bridge across the river from Moccasin Point to the Ferry. By 4:30 AM it was finished, and yankee reinforcements poured across. The Confederates were pushed back, and Browns Ferry was firmly in Union hands. The federals lost only 21 men in the landing and subsequent nighttime firefight. The way was now cleared for a steady stream of supplies to reach the city. On the morning of October 30, 40,000 desperately needed rations arrived on the newly built steamboat Chattanooga. The starving time was over, at least for the federals. The Cracker Line, as the new supply route was dubbed, was in business.

The newly invigorated Union Army quickly got down to business. At a rare night time battle at Wauhatchee on October 28, General Joseph Hooker's federals managed to smash Confederate forces. Then, in the famous Battle above the Clouds in late November, his forces scrambled up the steep sides of the end of Lookout and chased off the Confederates on top. A day later Grant assaulted Missionary Ridge to the east of Chattanooga and pushed Bragg's forces out of Tennessee and into northern Georgia. The siege was over.

Though it's been 150 years since the guns fell silent, it's an easy day trip to visit Chattanooga



and the scene of the three major battles fought there: Lookout Mountain, Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge. No need to take crackers.



More Snow Photos



Photo by Wayne Beard



Photo by Wayne Beard



Photo by Cindy Beard



Photo by Cindy Beard



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