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THE GROUNDHOG

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

Volume 33, No. 5

"Neighborhood News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

May 2014



Debbie Bond

More than 60 Arts & Crafts Vendors and Musicians

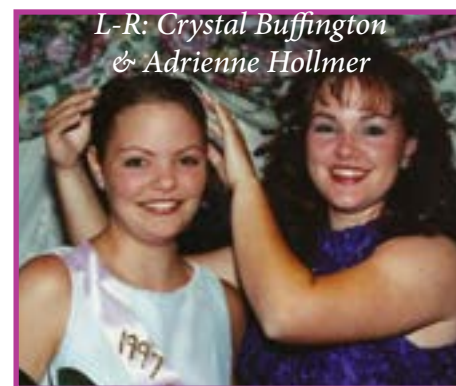
Art and music are the heart and soul of Mentone. This year we are proud to offer nine very talented area musicians and more than 50 visual artists ranging from photography, painting and pottery to jewelry, fiber and sculpture. There will be something for everyone.

The headliner in the music category will be singer, guitar player and songwriter **Debbie Bond** who has been paying her dues in the Alabama backwoods for over 30 years. Her singing has been compared to Bonnie Raitt and Maria Muldaur, both of whom



Charles Holcombe Airplanes

Artists (cont'd on page 13)



L-R: Crystal Buffington
& Adrienne Hollmer

The Return of The Miss Rhododendron Pageant

The Mentone Area Preservation Association announces the return of The Miss Rhododendron Pageant after a sixteen year hiatus. Rachel Smith Hardman was our last Miss Rhododendron, crowned in 1998. This year's pageant will take place on Friday, May 16th, at the Mentone Community Church Family Life Center at 6pm. There will be a total of six age divisions ranging in age from 0 to 18 years old. Contestants will be judged on



A Taste of Mentone Southern Food at It's Finest!

Two words to describe the "Taste of Mentone" at this year's Rhododendron Festival: "PURE GOODNESS!" The "Taste of Mentone" participants located on the brow this year will include The Wildflower Café, Hardware Café's singing chef Jess Goggans and as seen on the Food Network, Bama Q. You can also enjoy these restaurants at their regular locations. Other local restaurants will also be participating in the

Articles continued on page 14



Children's Festival Will Burst With Family Fun!

Apple Spinner, Gyro, ponies, cow train and dunking booth are expected to highlight this year's Rhododendron Festival's Children Festivities! The festival committee's goal this year has been to place specific emphasis on improving and expanding the children's portion of this year's festival. Feedback from past festival attendees indicated festival goers wanted greater activities for children. The committee has delivered!

The Children's Festival will be located in the parking lot of Kamama's Art Gallery. We will have a giant Apple Spinner and a Gyro for kids and adults to enjoy. We will also have a dunking bucket where kids can practice their throwing skills to dunk the bucket on someone or become the DUNKEE! There will be a magician on hand creating balloon art. The Valley Head fourth grade will be grilling up hot dogs, and we will have painted and glitter

THE GROUNDHOG

P. O. Box 387
Mentone, AL 35984

Published monthly by the Mentone Area Preservation Association, MAPA was first conceived on Groundhog Day, 1982, and organized April 5, 1982, for the purpose of preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area, and is chartered as a 501c3 non-profit corporation.

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**Have a Letter to the Editor
or a story idea? Send
it to The Groundhog at
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Mentone Matters

By Mayor Rob Hammond



A lot of civic pride was displayed Saturday April 5. Thanks to all the volunteers who came out for the annual litter pick up. Lyle Nicely again organized this effort. Local Scout Troop 106 was out in force. Thanks to Cynthia Stinson and the Mentone Inn for hosting the cook out and to all who donated and prepared food. Bobby Hamby from Custom Word was on hand at Town Hall to collect electronics for recycling.

MERF's annual fund raiser was held at the Moon Lake gym later that night. A great crowd enjoyed a Taste of the Mountain. The bidding on the art work done by students of Moon Lake Elementary was hot and heavy. It was a successful night for an organization that contributes much to the

community.

The town has advertised for bids for the paving of Cutler Avenue, Douglas Avenue, and part of West River that connects to Cutler. Hopefully this project

Thank You--From Lyle

Once again the Annual Mentone Clean Up was a great success. Our community is such a great place to live because of the continued community involvement at events like this. Thank you to all the hardworking volunteers who came out and cleaned up our roadsides on April 5th. It looks great! A big thanks to all the fantastic cooks that brought food to the community picnic as well. A special thanks to Cynthia Stinson for use of the Mentone Inn and coordinating the food. The food was amazing. The live music was a great gift as well from our own Larry Joe Hall. We would also like to thank the following sponsors who helped make it all possible:

Mentone Inn	Wildflower Cafe
BJ #8	Camp Laney
City of Mentone	BJ #2
AAA Hardware	Ecological Designs
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From The Editor

What a joy it is to see winter come to an end! Like much of the country, we had an unusually harsh winter. It seems like the trees, flowers and plant life were as anxious for warm weather as we were, because spring came a little earlier and has lasted longer than in recent years. New life is emerging everywhere from the dead, cold ground. In my own garden, it never fails to surprise me when all the plants miraculously come back to life in the spring.

May is always a very busy month for Mentone, as we feverishly prepare for the annual Rhododendron Festival during the third weekend of the month. This year's event is especially exciting, as we're bringing back the Miss Rhododendron pageant. Judging from the inquiries, it may be our biggest pageant ever. We're extremely grateful to Northeast Alabama Community College for their generous donation of a leadership scholarship to the pageant queen. The children's area is going to be especially fun, with all kinds of games and rides, art contests and much, much more. We've got some wonderful entertainment lined up for the entire weekend, and applications are pouring in for booth spaces for artisans and craftsmen. By the time this reaches you, our deadline will have passed to apply for space, but there's always Colorfest in the fall!

Enjoy the lovely spring weather, and we'll see

you at the Rhododendron Festival!

By Doreen Crow Waters

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



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MAPA
P. O. Box 50
Mentone, AL 35984

My Memories of The Mentone Springs Hotel

By Amelia Kirk-Lolli

My mother, Mabel Crow Kirk, and my uncle, Paul Crow, would tell me stories of when they worked at the Mentone Springs Hotel. Mom worked in the linen room, and my Uncle Paul worked in the kitchen from 1918 to 1919.

They told me there was a great screened-in porch, and the orchestra would play music that drifted through the town. Several times the musicians would ask my mother to dance, and of course she was thrilled.

Mother and I would leave for San Diego, California, where we lived, and then we would head back to Granddad and Grandmother's house in Mentone for a summer visit. We would arrive in Valley Head by train, and Granddad would meet us in his truck and up the mountain we would go. There was the old gorgeous Mentone Springs Hotel.

In 1978 I bought the Mentone Inn Bed and Breakfast, and met Norville Hall, the owner of the Mentone Springs at the time. The hotel was in sad shape, as Mr. Hall was frequently traveling on concert tours. But when he was there, he would play his beautiful music. Sometimes it



was eerie as it flowed through Mentone on foggy nights.

Mr. Hall also owned the corner lot next to the Mentone Inn, which he finally sold to me. There was at one time a rock building that housed a business there. I took the rock for the pillars surrounding the lot, and for the entrance to the Inn, and buried the rest in the lot.

The Mentone Springs was rather sad looking until Ray and Sandra Padgett bought it. Wow! Sandra and I had many good times just waving or saying good morning. Ray and Sandra turned the hotel into an inspiring attraction, and so many great people would come and go. It was vibrant again--parties with people laughing, talking and dancing, and watching how the beauty came forth again to the hotel.

As a footnote, in all my years at the Mentone Inn, I never saw ghosts walking in the Mentone Springs hotel.

By Lucy Mitchell

During a visit to Tennessee in the fall of 1986 I noted an advertisement for the Mentone "Colorfest" in the Chattanooga Times. I drove my truck early on that Saturday morning up highway 117 and into a wispy fog. Parking around the corner at the art show site I stretched and reached for my coffee. Stepping out and glancing around I was startled to see, across the highway and up the hill, a large and unlikely, even impossible, building; gray and slightly shrouded in the morning mist I felt possibly I might still be dreaming.

During the afternoon I gathered information and made my way over, around and to the back, into the only entrance. I acquired rooms that very day and kept a studio there until 1991 or 2, until the Padgett's sold the building.

I remember the "old" hotel with the fondness of an old friend, a symbol, sentinel and siren call to the many who encountered the magic of the Mentone Springs Hotel.

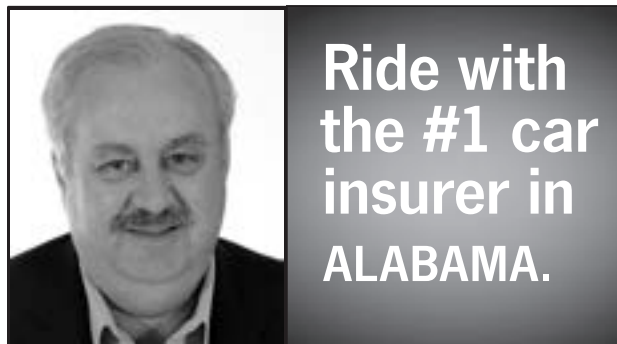
I am grateful to have watched the progress of the transforming years as the hotel became once again the grand experience it was in its beginning and we will remember it this way.



*Mentone City Hall Receives Posters
Wilma Fletcher, City Clerk at Mentone receives a Confederate Heritage Poster. Making the presentation is Oz Aldrich and Gary Carlyle of the DeKalb Rifles Camp 1824; Sons of Confederate Veterans. April is Confederate History Month. Photo by Dale Crawford*



*Moonlake School Receives Posters
Oz Aldrich of the DeKalb Rifles Camp 1824; Sons of Confederate Veterans presents Moonlake principal Brenda Wisner with Confederate Heritage Posters. The materials will help students celebrate Confederate History Month. Photo by Dale Crawford*



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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. I continue to open my doors to the young and the wise so my walls are full of joy, laughter and learning.

Was it Paris or was it Mentone? On Saturday evening, April 5th, the Moon Lake Elementary School Gym was transformed into a Paris sidewalk and café in the midst of spring for MERF's 2nd Annual Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction. Upon entering the café, Kristen Miller checked guests in and sent them on a stroll past all the great art work by Moon Lake Students and local artists. People kept filing in until every seat in the café was full amid the cherry blossoms, park benches, water fountain and the lit trees. The decoration committee, led by Lea Long, Kathy Miller, Kathy McMunn and Paula Easter, transformed an ordinary gym into an extraordinary evening. Thankfully, many busy bees contributed to the Parisian venue. The sidewalk art included 10 paintings by Moon Lake art students with complimentary framing by Renae Lyons of Keepsake Frames in Rainsville, a "Leave Me in Mentone" gourd by Scott Thomas, an Americana quilt by Martha Sprayberry, an oil pastel by Cynthia Luck, a photograph of the hotel by Brad Lackey, a watercolor by Mickey Luck, a wood carving by Jim Marbut, an oil painting by Lydia Randolph. Door prizes donated to the event were a buffet from Country Boys restaurant, a Mentone print from Jonnie Frost a "Leave Me in Mentone" fleece throw and a massage from Body

Maintenance. MERF appreciates all that the works contributed for a wonderful evening.

After walking the avenue, plates were filled with culinary works of art from Rogers Real Homemade, Wildflower Café, Mentone Market, Granny Hester's biscuits, Hardware Café, McMunn Picklery and Mountain Laurel Inn Bed and Breakfast. Tastes of the Mountain included but not limited to Brunswick stew, seven layer cake, homemade hummus, muffins, tomato pie, sweet potato biscuits, chicken salad sandwiches, bleu cheese grits, gooey butter cake, sweet pickles, and baked goods. In the midst of the café, a video produced by Sadler Emory was playing in the background depicting the many programs supported by MERF such as tutoring, senior lunches, the arts program at Moon Lake School and the scholarship program.

The magical evening continued with the always exciting art auction with auctioneer Royal Bruckno (AL license 5313 and GA license AU003991). With interjections from art, music and Spanish teacher Paula Easter, Royal found wonderful homes for our great works of art. MERF loved that one of the paintings was bought by the student's tutor, that Ethan Meadow was in attendance to talk about his painting with some of his favorite items from nature, that the quilt was stitched and donated by one of our senior lunch attendees and that one of the paintings of the Mentone Springs Hotel is hanging in the community house now. The MERF board is so thankful for everyone that bought a ticket and that enjoyed the evening. This event occurred with donations from many such as the artists and the food vendors. MERF is also thankful to Camp Riverview for the linens, to Mentone Community Church for tables, chairs and an electrician, to Moon Lake Trading Company for beautiful plants and stands and to Renae Lyons for the framing. Appreciation also exists for all the busy bees that decorated, sold tickets and helped clean up.



LIBS FROM THE LIBRARY

We want to invite everyone to come and use the Moon Lake Community Library. We have reading material for any age or interest. The library is full of books on all subjects. Go now as I think they will put some of them in the upcoming book sale. We will have a book sale under the tent at the Rhododendron Festival in May. Go by this sale and browse to your heart's content.

MERF is already working on next year's event. Anyone wanting to help, contact us at merf.mentone@gmail.com. Follow MERF on facebook.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at MERF's booth during MAPA's Rhododendron Festival. Stop by, say hello and find a "Leave Me in Mentone" item to brighten your life and to support MERF.

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.

*Photos of Children
and Their Artwork are on page 24.*

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Your New Mentone Business Association

By Robert Hoffman, MBA
President

There have been several discussions among business operators in Mentone over recent months about the need for a group to support the needs and interests of local businesses. In March, a few local business owners decided to begin a Mentone Business Association.

Thus far, we've had three meetings and now have 17 members, including some from downtown businesses, some from slightly out of town, and a few of the local area B&B owners. We've not begun our first project yet, but have a list of about two dozen that we'd like to someday address. We've decided to meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month and have elected a President (Robert Hoffman, Art Gallery @ Mentone) and Vice-President (Debra Fey, The Graceful Giraffe).

The MBA has been formed with the mission of sponsoring or supporting activities that will benefit businesses and business growth in the Mentone area. The objectives of these activities will be anything that will improve the business environment in Mentone, including increasing customer traffic, coordinating for the

(Cont'd on page 17)

MAAC Shares Upcoming Plans

The Mentone Area Arts Council is working on three main projects this spring and summer-- Julyfest, open-to-the-public classes and Color Mentone.

JulyFest 2014 Art and Music Festival

The JulyFest Steering Committee, chaired by Cynthia Stinson, is off to another great start. A juried art and craft show in Mason Park on Saturday and Sunday, July 19-20 will feature the very best artists throughout the area and state, highlighting this year's events. The awards this year have increased as well. Visitors will be able to peruse and shop authentic and unique art pieces. Music will fill the air from Friday evening through Sunday, with many local and regional talented musicians. The Pet Parade continues to be a hit during the Festival and is sure to draw all types of pets again this year.

Interested artists should fill out the form on this page, application deadline is June 21; or go to the website, www.mentonearts.com and print, fill out and mail in the form there. Along with the application and payment, artists should include photos or CD's of their work. A recent website address will also suffice. Anyone interested in being a sponsor should contact Cynthia Stinson at mentoneinn@gmail.com. For additional information on the JulyFest, please visit www.mentonearts.com.

Open-to-the-Public Classes

On tap in May are two "Plein Air Landscape Painting Classes", which means outdoor, on-the-spot painting classes. For both beginners who have never held a brush and advanced students, the all-day events begin with lectures and demos by the leaders and then go to to afternoon landscape painting. They will be held 15 minutes from Mentone in Georgia at incredible Mountain Cove Farms where the scenery is world class. Lunch is on your own in the Manor House Restaurant.

May 10 - Susanne Royal, nationally known portrait and landscape artist from Summerville, GA, will lead and teach.

May 24 - Durinda Cheek of Ringold, GA, who has both studied and taught landscape painting in Europe and the Southeast, will lead and teach.

Make reservations at www.mentonearts.com. Classes are limited. 10 am to about 4pm Central. \$30 each. Directions on the website.

Color Mentone

Now in its third year, Color Mentone provides summer plantings for the public areas of Mentone--the Post Office, Fire Hall, Library, Mentone Inn area, the planted area near Mentone Market and at the three rock "Mentone" signs welcoming people to town. Planting starts the first week in May and continues for several weeks.



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Bankhead Cemetery: Serenity, Legacy, Legend and Lore

By Thomas Qualls

Located on Dekalb Co. Road 632, just south of Alabama Hwy 117 near Mentone, Alabama, Bankhead Cemetery is a place of peace and serenity. Even though traffic from the nearby highway can be heard, it seems far removed, overshadowed by sounds of birds singing and the wind rustling through the Oak trees, Cedars and the Dogwoods about to bloom for Easter weekend.

The sign at the entrance states the cemetery was established in the mid-1800's and rests on approximately 4 acres of land and is overseen by the Bankhead Cemetery Association led by the Board of Directors and Trustees. The current Trustees are Mrs. Jo Carson, Dave Blalock and Walt Pullen. The Board of Directors, led by President Ronnie Jones and Vice-President Don Blalock, seek to maintain the integrity of the cemetery and further the original vision to provide an appropriate resting place for families of the Mentone Community. Bankhead is the oldest of two cemeteries in Mentone (the other is Little River Cemetery) and is a living legacy for the Mentone Community, telling a story and providing historical information of the many families who have lived on the mountain, a connection to times past with the desire to continue its preservation for future generations.

The annual Decoration Day is on the 4th Sunday in May, this year falling on May 26th. Decoration Day is a time of cleaning up the grounds, placing flowers on the gravesites and visiting with many others attending. There will be a Memorial Service at 11:00 a.m. followed by dinner on the grounds and a business meeting. There will be old fashioned singing throughout the day as well. The public is welcome to attend (bring a covered dish).

As in early years, Decoration Day is about community coming together and catching up on the latest news and socializing. Not much has changed



except in the early days the grounds would be covered with horse or mule drawn wagons, as well as folk arriving on horse-back. These events were major gatherings for the community each year.

There is a small chapel on the grounds, built in the 1930s and restored about 5 years ago with financial donations and donated labor.

Of the nearly 450 graves in the cemetery, the earliest discernable dates range from around 1891 and include Civil War Veteran's along with veterans from every war since.

There is one marker which reads "Jonathon Crow, Pvt Derrick's Co Ga MTND Militia. The Indian War 1806 to 1889." Another marker, which appears to be fairly new reads "LUKE SMITH First Person buried in Bankhead Cemetery." No one's quite sure who he was, or where he is actually buried in the cemetery. The board would like to talk with anyone with any information on Luke Smith.

Walking the grounds in recent days, I read the epitaphs containing messages of sorrow and hope on the markers, I noticed many graves of infants, some just perhaps one day old when they died, a few teenagers, a child born in 1937 and died in 1938, a family who lost 2 infant sons buried 3 years apart. Yet another family had baby twins boys who died a day apart in 1955. Of course there are the middle aged and those who lived a long life, dying in their

80's or 90's. I thought about those who had to bury their young children or infants and how difficult it must have been. Each grave site tells a story, sometimes known only to the family. One epitaph which was repeated often was "Gone from our presence, but never forgotten."

We are aware death may come at any time; we are never promised longevity. These gravesites tell the story that it is important for us to live well, to appreciate and enjoy each and every day, while always considering our eternity. Carpe diem!

Our cemeteries hold for us a connection to those gone before us. A place where we gather to reflect, remember and celebrate those who have impacted our community and live on in the lives of those who knew and loved them. Because of caring families and dedicated folk such as the cemetery association, these loved ones will always be remembered.

There are some things which cannot be replaced. We live in a time where we can be quick to dispose of, or replace, things which no longer seem relevant. It is contingent upon those of us still here to maintain such legacies and pass along to future generations of families and community members the importance of remembering, memorializing and celebrating these lives.

There is no fee for burial in the cemetery, which
(Cont'd on page 7)



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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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Bankhead Cemetery (cont'd from page 6)

is open to residents of Mentone and their family members. A donation is requested for burial plots, along with annual donations to help maintain the grounds. Currently, there are up to 20 requests each year, and future goals are to expand the cemetery to allow for continued use for years to come.

Anyone desiring to help continue this legacy for future generations may make check donations to the Bankhead Cemetery Association and mail to Ronnie Jones, President at 2643 Co Rd 165 Mentone, AL 35984, or Walt Pullen, Trustee 2829 Hwy 117 Mentone, AL 35984.

There is one more element to the cemetery, The Tree. Anyone who has ever driven down Co. Rd. 632 is met by this tree, standing at the entrance to the cemetery. A very imposing figure, there is a certain mystique to the tree, almost as if it has a life of its own, watching over the graves of the departed. I



have been intrigued by it since I first encountered it over a year ago.

It is difficult to imagine that the shape is random, or by accident; and after some research, I've come to wonder if it might possibly be an Indian Trail Tree. It seems that certain Indian tribes would bend young trees to manipulate them to grow a certain way and they would become trail markers, showing the trail for others to a certain location. If in fact this is a Trail Tree, there could possibly be others in the area as well. I am not familiar with any others, perhaps someone else may be. The shape of this tree is similar to other well-documented Indian Trail Trees.

Getting to know Mr. Ralph Libby

By Angie Carden

This is the story of Ralph Wescott Libby, as told by his grand-daughter, Jane Kerby.

“Due to the fact that my grandfather Ralph Wescott Libby was an avid reader, kept diaries, and rarely threw anything away, the result was the preservation of information I would have never known otherwise”. She adds that in 1888, he began to keep diaries at the age of eleven. Mr. Libby attended various private schools in the areas of Valley Head and Fort Payne until 1892, located in the Alliance building and the Clark Crow house. She states that the location of some of the other structures is unclear, but includes a list of teachers and professors such as, Reubin Price, Professor Cook, Forrest Lowry, Mr. Taylor, C.L. Dean, Professor Callans, Professor Russell and Professor Berry. The public school of Valley Head, which she says he referred to as “The Academy”, was located in the vicinity of 15 Second Street, Valley Head, until it burned in 1911. Jane states that her grandfather Libby studied philosophy, physics, algebra, and civil government while attending the “Academy”.

There were games and fun as well. She says, “They played baseball, pitched horseshoes, played marbles, threw snowballs and engaged in a game called bull pen”. She further adds, that some of the students would go into town for watermelon or visit a nearby cave during lunch.

Jane mentions that “The Masonic Lodge was located on the floor above them and would occasionally meet for three sessions a day, and he said they made lots of noise above them”.

She also speaks of the outbreaks of measles, whooping cough and other childhood diseases they faced, and the fact that some students would have to stay home to help with crops. Furthermore, when the snow and ice were too slick, her grandfather couldn't walk the trail from his home at the top of the mountain.

According to Mr. Libby's diaries, the Valley Head



Valley Head School and Lodge, 1893. Burned in Fall 1911. Located approximately at 15 Second Ave., Valley Head. Mr. Ralph Libby-top row: 10th from left at 16 years old.



Literary Debating Society was formed around 1892 and met on Fridays. Jane gives a couple of examples of issues that were debated, including the study of mathematics was a better discipline to the mind than that of classics. “ Around 1895, my grandfather apparently took all of the subjects offered. They were graded on a percentage system. He was almost always at the top of his class, which didn't surprise me”.

Of course it's not known if the tree at Bankhead is an Indian Trail Tree (legend or lore), or merely one which has been possibly damaged by storms, but it does add a certain mystique to the area.

But the story of the tree is secondary to the stories

of those loved ones buried there, who influenced past and present generations in our community and will continue to do so for future generations.

So each year we set aside one day to beautify their graves, celebrate our heritage and share life-stories

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Remember When

By Angie Carden

Remember when times were simpler and life was slower? Very few actually do. Life is such a rush from here to there now and everything is at our fingertips, literally! A phone is not a phone anymore. It's an answering machine, camera, video recorder, fax machine, dictionary, library, flashlight, compass, calculator, watch, weather reporter, calender, radio, mailbox, typewriter, road map and much, much more! I do recall a simpler time when people visited each other, sat for coffee or just had a meal together. My youngest daughter just turned 15 and it really makes you think of how fast time goes!

Springtime brings thoughts of the Rhododendron Festival, Mother's Day and fresh garden veggies! So, when I saw this article, I just day dreamed of such a simple time and how much joy and pleasure it must have brought to Mollie Smith to load the wagon and ride along the streets of Mentone selling vegetables! Speaking face to face with your neighbors and bringing them goods needed! I envy those who lived in those times. I hope you all can slow down for a day and just visit someone! And if you're real nice, take them some vegetables!



The Times of Our Lives

Thank Heaven for Little Girls!



Zoey Skye Chambers was born April 14, 2014 at 7:52pm at the Children's Hospital in Birmingham. Zoey weighed 5lbs 1oz and was 17 inches long. Proud parents are Michael Chambers and Jazz Hazelton. Grandparents are John and Mary Chambers, Dianna Hazelton and Kelly Wagner.



Isabella Luna Chaney was born on January 15th at 8:41 P.M at Huntsville Hospital weighing 8 lbs 1 oz and measuring 21 inches long. Proud parents are David C Chaney & Stephani W Chaney. Grandparents are Alan & Kat Johnson of Mentone and Steve & Patti Watkins of Valley Head.

Happy 13th Birthday!

Kaylee Cartwright. April 27, 2001. Parents are Casey and Tracy Cartwright of Mentone, AL. Sisters are Kendra Cartwright and Cecily Knowles. Brother is Caison Cole. Niece is Hayden Knowles. Grandparents are Tim and Candy Garner of Trenton, GA, and Bobby and Shirley Freeman of Flat Rock, AL.



Page 6/ The Groundhog/ May 1998

A SCENE FROM BYGONE DAYS MENTONE'S VEGGIE LADY

By Ernest H. Smith

Mollie Jane Smith, Oct 9, 1941

My favorite grandmother, Mollie Jane Smith, with mule and buggy, was a familiar sight on the streets and byways of Mentone during the 1920s, 1930s, and early 1940s. She, along with many others, were known as door-to-door summer peddlers. She was an Irish Lady, rather portly, with a wide smile and the gift of gab. Her charm, no doubt, accounted for much of her success as a peddler. Known as Miss Mollie by her regular customers who often passed other peddlers on and waited for her.

Peddling was a lucrative business in those days, since most fresh items could not be found at the local store. My grandmother would usually have fresh fruits and vegetables in season, eggs, butter, live chickens, jellies, preserves, sorghum, and even laundry she did for some special customer. Most of her load was usually engaged from the trip before.

During the depression years, the local people depended on the summer jobs to earn a little cash money. They would even vie for menial jobs and felt lucky to get them. There were no handouts in those days. Consequently, the wolf was never very far from the door. And, yes, there were always a few bootleggers plainly visible to those who knew what was going on. I remember one summer regular from Valdosta, Georgia, who said that any given day there were at least three or four bootleggers knocking on his door before eight AM wanting to sell him a pint. He would go on to say that he suggested to them that they should wear some sort of badge for identification in order that they not try to sell to each other.

Were these the good old days? Well, that's highly debatable. Certainly, we hadn't been spoiled by all that we now have. But, I don't really believe that anyone would want to go back to those difficult times.

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THE
RECIPE CORNER
BY
ANGIE CARDEN



“Spring” Form Pans

Sometimes, I just like to have fun with words. And since Spring finally came to stay, springform pans came to mind. They really are fun to work with; and they may be just the ticket to get those sons of yours into the kitchen for some fun on Mothers Day! I mean, they get to build and deconstruct the things! And one thing they love more than building things and tearing them apart is FOOD (and maybe “mom”)! Springforms feature side walls with clasps that tighten and loosen around a bottom plate, allowing you to remove the sides from delicate dishes, showing beautiful layers of food. Though best known for desserts such as cheesecake, you can also use springform pans to cook appetizers, side dishes, pizzas and main courses.

Springform pans come in all shapes and sizes, allowing you to create free-standing dishes with nice, clean lines. You can also make any shape you’d like by connecting different sizes together, such as a Mickey Mouse shaped cheesecake, pizza or quiche. Just have fun with it! I have two very quick and easy recipes for the aforementioned pan; and I hope you let the kiddos handle these for you, especially on Mothers Day! (And guys, that means the dishes too!)

Tortilla Stackers

Preheat your oven to 350.
Dice up about 5-6 green onions or chives, and 2 c. cooked or canned chicken
For topping, chop 1 large tomato ,about 2 c. lettuce and, if you’d like, 1 avocado.
In a 9 in. springform pan, place a 9 in. tortilla shell and top with shredded cheddar or mozzarella cheese. Sprinkle on chopped onion and chicken and season with seasoned salt. Now just continue layering until it’s as thick as you want it, just leave 1 tortilla shell out for topping at the last 2-3 minutes of heating. Bake until warm and properly gooey! Only takes about 5-7 minutes. Remove and let cool, slightly. Take off sides of pan and slice like pie! Top with your lettuce, tomatoes, a few onions, avocado and sour cream!

Strawberry Pretzel Cheesecake

Preheat oven 400.
Crush 2 c. pretzels and mix with 3 tbsp sugar and ¾ c melted butter. Press into a 9 in. springform pan and bake 8-10 minutes. Allow to cool.
That’s the hard part! Now, simply mix up a box of no-bake cheese cake (many come with the topping already in the box!)
When crust is cooled, add cheesecake mixture and let it set in the fridge until firm! Top with strawberry topping or a can of strawberry pie filling! Delish!

May Birthdays

- May 1 – Junior Bell

May 1 – Kathleen Johnson

May 1 – Jennifer Owen

May 2 – Morgan Blalock

May 2 – Ella Voils

May 2 – Cory Dobbins

May 3 – Abel James Baggett

May 4 – Kathy Clure

May 5 – Alex Blackburn

May 5 – Bobby Browder

May 5 – Emily Hilliard

May 5 – Jessie Baggett

May 5 – Jeffrey Bain

May 6 – LA Smith

May 6 – Lee Worthey

May 6 – Phil Harris

May 6 - Carlie Kirby

May 6 – Cody Hodge
- May 6 – Taylor Williams

May 6 – Dewayne Grisham

May 7 – John Johnson

May 7 – Tracy Coots

May 7 – Jessie Baggett

May 7 – Carl Griffith

May 7 – Kelly Blansit

May 8 – Connie Clark

May 8 – Ella Kate Wagner

May 10 – Gail Jones

May 11 – Jessie Coots

May 12 – Allison Kirby

May 13 – Andrea O’Tinger

May 14 – Ann Nelson

May 14 – Madi Owen

May 14 – Logan McGee

May 14 – Raymond Evans

May 16 – Amy Kirby

May 16 - Riley Mae Owen

May 17 – Shuan Flannigan

May 18 – Chad Smith

May 19 – Dillon Brown

May 19 – Gina Hulgan (In memory)
- May 20 – Alexis Manifold

May 20 – Jessica McKenzie

May 20 – Susan Elliott

May 20 – Ellie Stone

May 21 – Lisa Crow

May 21 – Katie Villarreal

May 21 – Desiree Cash

May 22 – Sandy Blalock

May 22 – Caitlin Kirby

May 23 – Terry Pangle

May 23 – Adrienne Guice

May 23 – Nathan Baggett

May 23 – Ronald “Cotton” Baggett

May 24 – Joe Elrod

May 24 – Amber Hilliard

May 24 – Adam Miller

May 26 – Paige Smith

May 27 – Keila Hammon

May 27 – Amanda Smith

May 27 - Christy Voils VanPelt

May 27 - Hunter Villarreal

May 28 – James Cox

May 28 – Mikayla Owen
- May 29 – Mackenzie Willingham

May 29 – Justin Blansit

May 30 – Patti Carden

May 30 – James Tubberville

May 30 – Ethan Webb

May 31 – Richard Barkley

May Anniversaries

- May 8 – Wayne & Angie Miller

May 15 - Doug & Karen Powell

May 15 – Keith & Dawn Langston

May 15 – Shane & Valerie Burt

May 16 – Preston & Amy Kirby

May 18 – Chad & Amber Smith

May 20 – Jeremy & Lindsay Webb

May 28 – Adam & Wendy Haynes

May 31 – Jimmy & Adele Phillips

What To Do Around Here!

May 2014 Community Calendar

May 2 - Zip Line 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. Pre-registration required by 6pm the day before the adventure. 10am-12pm. 256-997-9577.

May 2, 16 - Extreme Night Hike. True Adventure Sports. 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. 7:30-10pm. 256-997-9577.

May 3 - Mountaineering Adventure. True Adventure Sports. This 4-6 hour adventure starts with a rappel into a low light maze where we will stop and anchor part of the way down the rock wall and travel on the rock face mountaineering style to get to our main destination. 10 a.m. 256-997-9577.

May 3 - 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. Pre-registration required by 6pm the day before adventure. 11am-3pm. 256-997-9577.

May 3 - 22nd Annual Wildflower Saturday. DeSoto State Park. Join DeSoto State Park staff and volunteers for a wonderful day of learning about the many species of blooming plants found on Lookout Mountain. Trail Maps and Wildflower Checklists can be found at the Lodge, Country Store and Nature Center. All hikes are free to the public and no registration required! 9am - 1st Hike of the Day; 11:30am - Lunch (on your own); 1pm - 2nd Hike of the Day; 3pm - 3rd Hike of the Day; 7:15pm - plant presentation at Lodge. 256-997-5025.

May 3 - Storytime at the Canyon Center: A Horse Named Funny Cide by the Funny Cide Team. Little River Canyon Center. Staff and volunteers will read aloud unique children's literature every first Saturday of the month. Storybooks will be available for purchase. 11am-Noon. Free and open to everyone. 256-782-5697.

May 4 - High Point Church of God Homecoming. Join us for a day of service, singing, fellowship and dinner on the grounds.

May 5 - Valley Head Tiger CHAMPS Meeting. The new Valley Head PTO is now called Valley Head Tiger CHAMPS, because PTO doesn't describe what we truly are. So, even though we are a parent-teacher organization, we wanted a name that truly reflects what we hope to accomplish. Valley Head Tiger CHAMPS is an organization founded for the sole purpose of improving the education of

the students attending Valley Head School. We will meet at 6pm in the Lowell Barron Gymnasium. Everyone is invited to attend.

May 5, 8, 10, 27 - Rock Climbing/Rappelling Adventure Combo. True Adventure Sports. 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. 10am-2pm. 256-997-9577.

May 6, 17, 24 - Rappelling Adventure. True Adventure Sports. 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. 10am-2pm. 256-997-9577.

May 7, 28 - Treasure Hunt Adventure. True Adventure Sports. This 5-hour adventure will take you deep into the heart of Manitou Cave. You will have to solve and follow each clue in order to find the next one, and ultimately the Treasure! 3-8pm. 256-997-9577.

May 8 - Rock Climbing Adventure. True Adventure Sports. 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. 10am-2pm. 256-997-9577.

May 9, 10, 23, 27, 30 - Wild Cave Tour. True Adventure Sports. 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, Manitou Cave, in the heart of Fort Payne. Adventure includes helmet, cave lamps plus a fun informative guide. 5-7:30pm. 256-997-9577.

May 10 - Blow Your Own Ornament. Orbix Hot Glass. Design and blow your own ornament with the help of one of our glass artists. No reservations are needed. First come, first serve basis. All ages welcome (at least 5 years old). 9am-12pm. Cost is \$35 per ornament blown. 256-523-3188.

May 10 - Help DeKalb Lake. This is an ALL CALL, DeKalb Lake needs our help. Bring your kids and family and tell your friends to join you in giving back to a local landmark that is in need of our assistance. The State of Alabama owns the DeKalb Lake but does not Fund it. This event is to get people from the community to come together on one day and give back to the lake that has been with most of us our lives. If you would like to help, any and all man or woman or child power is needed. DeKalb County Lake, 720 County Rd. 194, Sylvania, 7:30am.

May 10 - Lecture, Demo, and Onsite Landscape Painting, Part 1. Suzanne Royal will lead Lecture in oil paintings. Materials list to be provided for each participant. 10:30am-4pm Eastern Time. Mountain Cove Farms, Ga. (20 minutes from Mentone.) Meet at the Manor House Restaurant and Country Store. \$30, plus cost of lunch at the Manor House. www.mentonearts.org.

May 11 - Mother's Day!

May 12 - 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. 10am-1pm. 256-997-9577.

May 12 - Valley Head Kindergarten Graduation. The 2014 Kindergarten graduates will be presented in the Lowell Barron Gymnasium at 6pm.

May 13 - 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. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before adventure. 10am-2pm. 256-997-9577.

May 14-15 - 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. 256-997-9577.

May 19 - Bouldering Adventure - Atop Lookout Mountain. True Adventure Sports. Come experience first-hand what bouldering is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing or bouldering experience is needed. 2-6pm. 256-997-9577.

May 15-18 - 16th Annual US 11 Antique Alley Yard Sale. Follow the scenic U.S. Highway 11 from Meridian, MS to Bristol, VA for more than 500-miles of yard sales! Explore charming historic communities and downtown districts like the 1889 boom town district of Fort Payne, Alabama. 888-805-4740 & 877-871-1386.

May 16 - Miss Rhododendron Pageant. Mentone Area Preservation Association announces the return of the Miss Rhododendron Pageant this year as part of the Rhododendron Festivities. The Pageant will take place at the Mentone Community Church Family Life Center at 6pm. The pageant is open to everyone and has no residency restrictions. There will be six age divisions for girls ages 0 to 18. Miss

Rhododendron will receive a scholarship. Entry deadline is Monday, May 12th at 5pm. Entry fee is \$40. Photogenic Fee is \$5 per photo, you can enter up to 5 photos. For more information, email missdekalbjackson@gmail.com.

May 16-18 - Mentone Rhododendron Festival. Presented by the Mentone Area Preservation Association. This year we are excited to announce the return of the Miss Rhododendron Pageant on Friday night at 6pm. Enjoy an event that highlights the best of Mentone! Local musicians, arts of all mediums, horse drawn carriage rides, a children's festival with rides, games and activities, ponies, sidewalk chalk art contest, a cow train, and a "Taste of Mentone" are some of the things you can expect for this year's festival. 256-845-3957.

May 17 - Sculpt Your Own Flower. Orbix Hot Glass. It's all about a 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. 9-10am. Reservations are required. 256-523-3188.

May 17 - Dutch Oven Cooking Demo. DeSoto State Park. Dutch ovens have been in use for hundreds of years; especially when our country was expanding and families were on the move. Unable to bring their large cook stoves with them, women learned how to cook entire meals from stews & soups to bread & desserts, in their Dutch ovens. Stop in anytime and check out the basics of cooking in a Dutch oven, and sample any food we have coming off the fire! DeSoto State Park's Country Store & Information Center Free & open to everyone; Starts around 12noon to 4pm. Great for all ages! 256-997-5025.

May 17 - Native American Tools & Weapons Demo. DeSoto State Park. Join National Park Service archaeologist Larry Beane for a demonstration of how Native Americans utilized natural resources to hunt and gather food make weapons, start fires and more! DeSoto State Park's Country Store & Information Center. Free & open to everyone. Great for all ages! 12noon to 4pm. 256-997-5025.

May 17 - Campfire Talk: Hernando DeSoto in Northeast Alabama. DeSoto State Park. Hernando DeSoto landed in North America 475 years ago on May 25, 1538. Jacksonville State University's Dr. Harry Holstein will take you through the amazing adventures of Hernando DeSoto, one of the first European explorers, as he searches for the ancient town of "Coosa." DeSoto State Park's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground (In case of

inclement weather will be located in Nature Center) Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish. Free and open to the Public; Great for all ages! 256-997-5025.

May 17 - Book Signing with Joy Ratcliff Cagle. The Book Shelf. Joy Ratcliff Cagle coming for a book signing. 5-7pm. 256-844-8663.

May 17, 26 - 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. Pre-registration required by 6pm the day before the adventure. 7:30-9:30pm. 256-997-9577.

May 19 – Moon Lake Elementary School Awards Day.

May 21 – Moon Lake School Kindergarten Graduation. The 2014 Kindergarten graduates will be presented in the Moon Lake Gymnasium at

May 23 – Moon Lake Sixth Grade Graduation. The 2014 Sixth Grade Graduating Class of Moon Lake Elementary, will be presented in the Moon Lake Gymnasium at

May 23 – Valley Head High School Graduation. The Valley Head High School Graduating Class of 2014 commencement exercises will take place at 7pm in the Lowell Barron Gymnasium in Valley Head.

May 24 - Paperweight Class. Orbix Hot Glass. Feel the heat, gather from the furnace, sculpt the glass into you own design. It is ultimately about the experience, some experimentation and a couple nice paperweights to take home or to the office to show your friends. Maximum class size is five students so everyone has adequate time 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. Reservations required. \$130 per person. 9am-1pm. 256-523-3188.

May 24 - Lecture, Demo, and Onsite Landscape Painting, Part 2. Durinda Cheek to lead Lecture, Demo, and Onsite Landscape Painting class in your choice of media.

Manor House Restaurant and Country Store. \$30, plus cost of lunch at the Manor House (about \$10). Materials list to be provided for each participant. 10am-4pm Eastern Time. Mountain Cove Farms, Ga. (20 minutes from Mentone). www.mentonearts.org.

May 24 - How to Make a Roycroft Pack Frame. DeSoto State Park. This craft is an excellent lesson in self-sufficiency, outdoor survival skills, knife craft, lashing, and the use of natural materials. All supplies will be provided for this class, tools may need to be shared or you can bring a knife and handsaw for your use. DeSoto State Park Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground Free & open to everyone. This class will be open until all supplies are used up. 10am-12noon. 256-997-5025.

May 24 - How to Make a Roycroft Stool. Join Robert Wilson to learn how to make a Roycroft camp stool of his own design. This craft is an excellent lesson in self-sufficiency, outdoor survival skills, knife craft, lashing, and the use of natural materials. Similar to making the Roycroft packframe, this class will teach a few basic knots & how to do a little weaving. DeSoto State Park Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground Fee: Free & open to everyone. This class will be open until all supplies are used up. 1-3pm. Call 256-997-5025.

May 24 - Legends on the Lookout Series: Civilian Conservation Corps. DeSoto State Park. The Legends on the Lookout is a series of casual 1-hour programs in DeSoto State Park, featuring the histories of the people & the places around Lookout Mountain, Alabama. Series showcases everything from the story of Spanish Conquistador Hernando DeSoto to the history of the Civilian Conservation Corps that built DeSoto State Park. Read about the Legends on the Lookout at www.Alapark.com/desotoresort 8 p.m. 9 p.m. Where: DeSoto State Park's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground Fee: Free and open to the Public; Great for all ages! Call 256-997-5025.

May 25 - Tri Stick and Knife Safety Class. DeSoto State Park. Join Robert Wilson for a class about the different types of knives

used in survival. A knife safety briefing will be taught during the first portion of the class, and participants will be making a version of the Mora Kochanski tri stick, which teaches you how to use a knife and different notches. Participants may bring their own full tang or rat tail knife (No pocket knives for safety reasons please). A few knives will be available on a first come-first serve basis. DeSoto State Park Picnic Area pavilion. \$10 supply fee. Pre-registration is required, as class size is limited limit to 15. 10am-12noon. 256-997-5025.

May 25 - Civilian Conservation Corps History Hike: The CCC Quarry. The Civilian Conservation Corps was one of the better known and most successful of the New Deal programs following the Great Depression; one that did a lot of good for forests, recreation, and the men for whom it provided short-term jobs. Between 1933 and 1942, an average of 30 camps operated across Alabama. CCC boys helped fight fires, reforest lands, protect the state's then newly acquired national forests and build roads and recreational facilities in Alabama State Parks. In celebration of DeSoto State Park's 75th Anniversary of its dedication day, join DSP Staff on a moderate to mildly-strenuous hike to the CCC Quarry. Learn how the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed the original structures that you can still see in the park today. Roughly 2 miles round trip. Meet at DeSoto State Park's Country Store. Free and open to the public. 10am-12 Noon. RSVP 256-997-5025.

May 25 - Walking and Tracking Sticks Class. DeSoto State Park. Robert Wilson will be teaching this fun carving class. Participants will be carving their own walking/tracking stick for their own use. A few sticks will be available, or preferred wood sticks may be brought from home. Some knives will be available on a first come, first served basis. A knife safety briefing will start the class, so participants will need to arrive early. DeSoto State Park Picnic Area. \$10 supply fee. Pre-registration is required, as class size is limited to 15. 1-3pm. 256-997-5025.

May 26 – Memorial Day!

May 28-29 - Overnight Camping Skills Class. True Adventure Sports. Most needed camping skills are brought to you as well as advanced skills such as how to find dry fuels, how to build a fire without smoke, how to start a fire without matches or flint, lean to construction, and safety barriers. True Adventure Sports \$15 per person 5-9pm. 256-997-9577.

May 29 - 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. Meet at True Adventure Sports 2-4pm. 256-997-9577.

May 30 - Campfire Talk: The CCC. DeSoto State Park. The CCC boys helped fight fires, reforest lands, protect the state's then newly acquired national forests and build roads and recreational facilities in its state parks. DeSoto State Park's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. Free and open to the Public; Great for all ages! 8-9:15pm. 256-997-5025.

May 31 - Igniting the Firewall 5k Race for YWEA missions at High Point Church of God. For more information please call or text Adam Haynes at 256.465.1260. DeKalb County Lake, 720 County Rd. 194, Sylvania. Race begins at 8am.

Enjoy
The
Rhododendron
Festival
May 16-18

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.

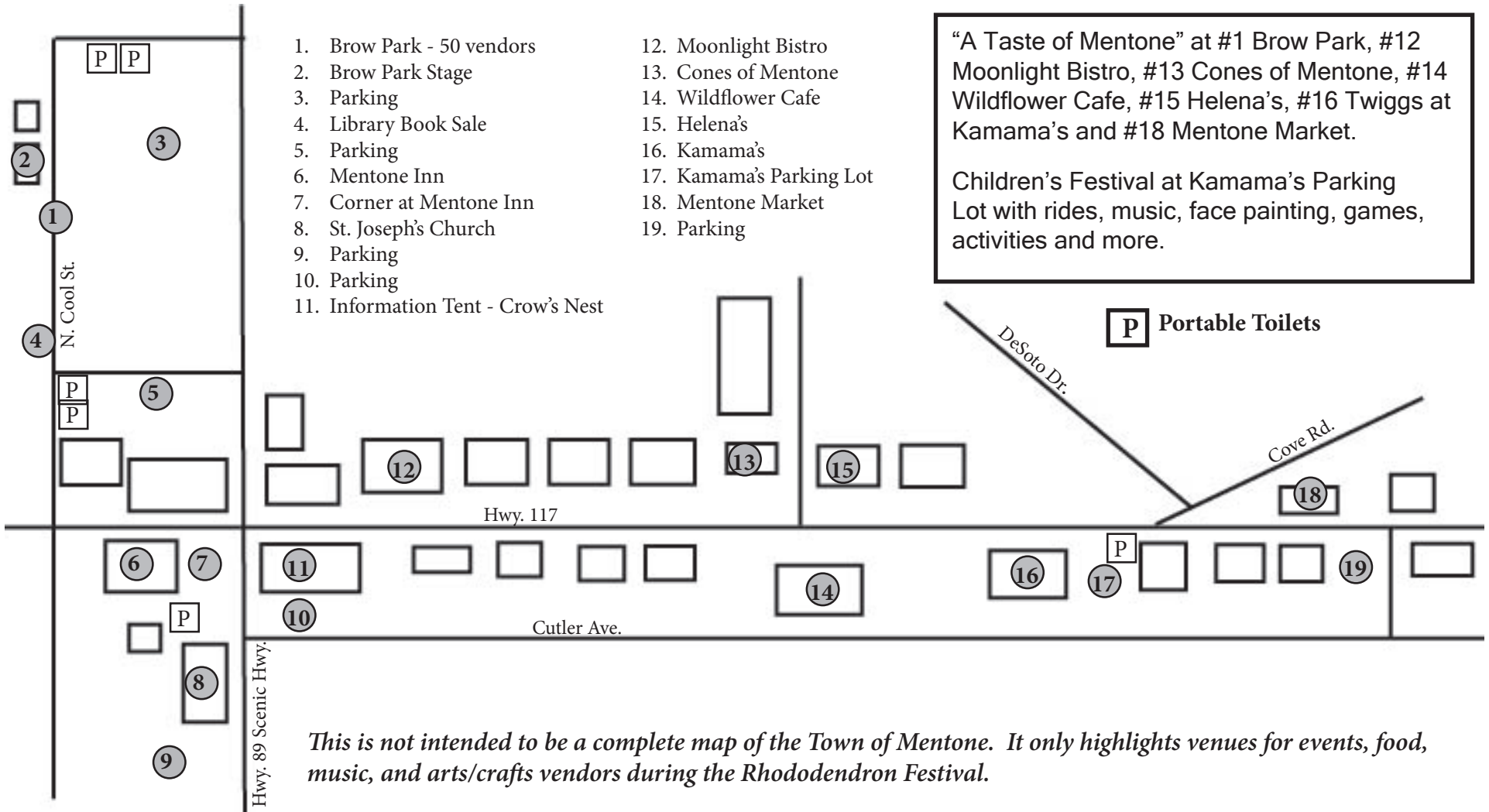
NPS Green & Gray Saturday every second Saturday of each month at the Canyon Center. 10am. Free. 256-782-5697.

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.

2014 Rhododendron Festival

May 16-18

RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL SCHEDULE			6pm	Hot Dogs and Chili by Moon Lake School	Mentone Inn
Friday			6pm	Debbie Bond in Concert	Mentone Inn
Noon	Vendor Check-In (til 6pm)	Brow Park	Sunday		
1pm	Boat Rides - \$10 (till 7pm)	DeSoto Falls	10am	Robby Jordan	Brow Park Stage
6pm	Miss Rhododendron Pageant	Mentone Community Church	11am	Boat Rides - \$10 (til ?)	DeSoto Falls
Saturday			11am	Marc Womack	Brow Park Stage
6:30am	Vendor Check-In (til 8:30am)	Brow Park	1pm	Silvio Constantino	Brow Park Stage
9am	Festival Begins (til 5pm)	St. Joseph's	2pm	Jess Barker	Brow Park Stage
9am	Sacred Harp Singing (til 12pm)	DeSoto Falls	3pm	Larry Joe Hall	Brow Park Stage
10am	Boat Rides - \$10 (til 7pm)	Brow Park Stage	Ongoing Events:		
10am	Lisa Crow	Brow Park Stage	Taste of Mentone –Mentone chefs		
11am	Daniel Hughes	Brow Park Stage	(and at local Mentone dining establishments)		
12pm	Jared Cushen	Brow Park Stage	Arts and crafts Vendors		
1pm	Amy Snyder	Brow Park Stage	Quilt Raffle		
1pm	Sacred Harp Singing (til 2:30pm)	St. Joseph's	Native Plant Sale		
2pm	Jess Goggans	Brow Park Stage	Farmers Market		
3pm	Terry Hutcheson	Brow Park Stage	Library Book Sale		
4pm	Jerry Bloom	Brow Park Stage			



ALPINE CAMP
FOR BOYS

Camp DeSoto

CAMP LANEY

Riverview
Group for Girls
Mentone, FL

CAMP
Skyline

Present

The Miss Rhododendron Pageant



Art & Music (Cont'd from page 1)

she cites as being influences on her music. The truth is that Debbie does it her way, playing a dynamic mix of house-rockin' covers and searing originals. Her impressive musical story includes years of performing with older traditional Alabama blues musicians, including

Johnny Shines, Eddie Kirkland and Willie King. Her immersion in the blues has deeply flavored her guitar playing, soulful voice and original song writing; yet her sound is contemporary and original, incorporating soul, blues, rock, jazz and even country influences. This unique musical synthesis can be heard on her latest album, *That Thing Called Love*.

She was the co-founder and executive director of the award-winning Alabama Blues Project, an educational non-profit devoted to preserving and promoting Alabama's rich blues heritage.

Be sure to catch appearances of the following musicians on Brow Park stage during the weekend.

Jerry Bloom is a 51 year old vocalist guitar player and a harmonica player. He has been playing music for 30 years and enjoys music from the 60's and 70's. Some of his musical influences have been Neil Young, Bob Dylan and Eric Clapton.

Silvia Costantino was born in Cosquín, Córdoba Argentina. She has been singing since age 3...she remembers that because her dad made her a recording at that age...and has always sang with her sisters. She sings from her heart, songs that inspire her, that have touched her heart, or that she has written herself. Beautiful sounds in her native language, Spanish.

Lisa Crow, 40, of Mentone Alabama will be kicking off our musical stage this year. A singer from birth (just ask my dad, the entire hospital could hear me), I decided to learn guitar at 24. Although writing hasn't quite taken hold yet, I do sing songs that truly touch my heart, in one way or another. I look forward to sharing the weekend with some of the area's most talented bunch of folks.

Jared Cushen is a singer/songwriter /guitarist, and he has little else to show for his 27 years. You may contact him via his Facebook page for booking or other information, but he has no available recordings. He is very pleased to be playing in the excellent company of his friends at the Rhododendron Festival. He lives with Jessica and Cortez in a farmhouse in Henagar, AL.

Jess Goggans is a singer/songwriter from Lookout Mountain known locally as the "Singing Chef" from the Hardware Cafe. She is 33 years old and comes from a family of local musicians. The Jess Goggans Band will have their debut album available for purchase! Jess's style has been described as funky folk blues. Find her via Facebook or at www.jessgoggans.com.

Born in Atlanta, GA, **Larry Joe Hall** says that music has always been very important in his family. His Mother used to

(cont'd on page 14)



DeKalb Tourism
Welcomes You To
**Rhododendron
Festival**




Presents
**The Taste of
Mentone**



Welcomes You To
**The
Children's Fair**

2nd Annual Rhododendron Festival Sacred Harp Singing

On Saturday, May 17th there will be a Sacred Harp singing at St. Joseph's on the Mountain Episcopal Church in downtown Mentone. Rather than offer a "demonstration," the singers are gathering for an authentic singing and Mentonians and festival goers are welcome to drop by for a listen. The singing will start at 9:30 and go til about 2:00 with short breaks every hour and an hour long break at noon for lunch. Anyone who sings Sacred Harp is welcome to join in and everyone is welcome to come listen. Sacred Harp is an ancient form of shape note singing that was preserved since 1844 by singers in our area. After the popularity of the movie Cold Mountain, which featured two Sacred Harp songs recorded in Henagar, the joy of singing this rousing, athletic, a capella music has gained world notice. Almost every state now has Sacred Harp singing and there are singing conventions as far away as Ireland, Britain and Poland! There are many from our county who are 6th generation singers of this unconventional & exciting music. As the world discovers this soul-stirring art form, we are most fortunate to have them in our midst; people the world over make pilgrimages to Dekalb County for the opportunity to sing with them. They are coming to you May 17th-Join us! Contact Susan Cheronos for more information: 706-859-1124 or TrueSu@aol.com, or learn more about Sacred Harp singing on the website www.fasola.org.

Pageant (Cont'd from page 1)

Beauty, Poise and Style, with the addition of Private Interview and On Stage Question for the Teen and Miss Contestants. Young girls from Mentone and all surrounding areas will compete for these titles. Our judges have been chosen from throughout the state of Alabama and will come with very extensive pageant knowledge and excellent resumes. The winner of Miss Rhododendron will receive a Scholarship towards her education to Northeast Alabama Community College. Our new winners will be crowned by one of our former Miss Rhododendrons and the pageant will be emceed by the reigning Miss DeKalb-Jackson, Lacey Gossett. If you are interested in participating in the pageant or would like more information, you can contact us at MissDeKalbJackson@gmail.com. The deadline for entry is Monday, May 12th at 5pm.

Art & Music (Cont'd from page 13)

sing with her sister on a local Atlanta radio station. Some of his earliest memories are of aunts and uncles gathering at the house on Saturday nights, singing country songs until the wee hours. From the age of 12, he was involved in bands and making music, as were both of his brothers. In 1975, he received a music degree from Columbus State University and spent a few years as a drummer with various Jazz groups. In 1978, he became a music teacher, during which time he never stopped playing music and writing songs. In 1996, he gave up teaching and traveled all over the U.S. and Canada with groups of Tibetan monks. He was the presenter and driver for "Sacred Music, Sacred Dance," as his friends shared their music and culture with western audiences. He became a monk himself, taking monastic vows in 1997 from H.H. the Dalai Lama in Dharamsala, India. He returned to the U.S. and has spent most of the last eight years in semi-seclusion, and teaching at various Buddhist centers. In 2005, it was time to be more in the world again, so he returned his monastic vows; hopefully taking what he had learned and sharing it in a different way. Larry credits his monk years to giving him the focus and fearlessness to make some NOISE!

Terry Hutcheson's singing, songwriting and guitar skills have been enjoyed by audiences for over 50 years. Starting at his Grandfather's knee in south Alabama, Terry has developed a style and a repertoire that includes Americana, Classic Country, Rock & Roll standards and Western Cowboy music. This Mentone entertainer is guaranteed to appeal to music lovers of all ages.

Robby Jordan is from Oxford, Alabama, where he lives with his wife Leigh. He has adopted Mentone

Taste of Mentone (Cont'd from pg 1)

"Taste of Mentone" directly from their locations. Those restaurants include the Moonlight Bistro, Twiggs at Kamamas, Mentone Market, Helena's Deli and the Cones of Mentone.

All festival goers will have the opportunity to enjoy all of these restaurants staple dishes and several new dishes. Mentone is home to the finest cooks in North Alabama. "The Taste of Mentone" allows each festival goer to get a "taste" of all in one visit!

The Volunteer Fire Department will also be selling their famous barbecue, and there will be many other food vendors set up in various places at the festival. Make sure to bring your appetite!

as his second home and is there any time his playing/work schedule permits. He performs regularly in Calhoun, Etowah and DeKalb counties. His music is heavily influenced by singer/songwriters such as Steve Earle, Chris Knight, and Guy Clark. He is working on a recording of his original songs and hopes to be finished in the near future.

Amy Snider, formerly of Anhedonia, has been playing live music for 18 years. She has won several songwriting awards and is planning to release her newest album, "Homegrown", within the next few months. She also runs a home studio called Hippie Hilton Studios and you can find her on Facebook and YouTube under the name Amy Snider Music.

Marc Womack, 44, is a musician from Collinsville, AL, now living in Pine Ridge. He plays many shows locally as a solo act, as well as collaborating with many other musicians/friends. Although his musical interests are diverse, he plays mostly classical rock/pop/folk. Many of the songs he performs are recognizable classics, but perhaps not typically heard in local venues. Marc is married and has 5 children.

Children's Festival (cont'd from page 1)

tattoos! Pony rides will be located at the Mentone Volunteer Fire Department, and this year we are excited to offer "Carriage Rides on the Brow." The carriage will be loading in the Mentone Springs Hotel parking lot.

Mentone is famous for its unique and talented artists. This year, we want to harness the artist in all with our first annual "Sidewalk Chalk Art Contest." What better way to display artistic talent than on the sidewalks of Mentone for all visitors to admire!

To support and commemorate the life of Jay Parker Darwin, we will be sponsoring a fundraiser for his Memorial Scholarship Fund, "Hoops to Help." Donations will be accepted to shoot hoops in Jay Parker's memory, a first grader at Valley Head School. Our festival goal is 1,000 shots!

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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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Jun 1-6 - Moon Lake Baptist Church VBS. Join us for a Mountain Top Adventure that is Rock Solid. Games and hot dog supper the first night of activities. Each night we will be on a new Mountain Top Adventure. Friday, June 6, will be Family Night complete with a program by the children and a fellowship meal. Classes for children 3 yrs. old to 6th grade. Bus pick up will be available. For more information watch for flyers and posters.

Happy Father's Day

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NEW PRICE



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. \$149,900 (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)

NEW LISTING



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



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)

REDUCED



STUNNING MOUNTAIN HOME and Retreat. Newly renovated kitchen, 2 living areas, and Gas FP. Open loft above the 2nd living area and open kitchen design. MBR has separate entrance to the deck, guest BR, and 2 BA. 700 sq ft. 2 rm guest cottage and a glassed Greenhouse/artist studio. Many possibilities with this wonderful property. Now \$189,000 (20562)



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. \$255,000 (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/ Hot tub. 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)

NEW LISTING



PALM HARBOR HOME on 6 acres w/ artesian springs, fenced pasture land. 3bdr 1.5 bth living room w/ Gas log FP separate dining area, kitchen with island bar, all appliances CHA, full deck on rear of home. \$130,000. (23030)



SOLD

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)



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)



"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! \$110,000 (23028)

NEW LISTING



ONE ACRE on Scenic Lookout Mountain Parkway. Level, great building site for that weekend getaway. \$30,000. (23037)



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 and 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.
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

Rhododendron Garden Club

By Linda Brown

Early in the month of April, these six ladies were brave enough to travel from the M.E.R.F. Community House to The Pocket in Walker County, GA. They were Mellanie Tuttle, Madelon Houghland, Dianne Kuehl, Marsha Merrell, Jo Beube and Martha Wood, representing the Rhododendron Garden Club. I didn't think I could last through the trip so this article is from pieces from here and there. Pictures of The Pocket show it as just that, a pocket hidden and protected by rocks. It has become famous for its abundance of wildflowers.

The members saw and identified these wildflowers: Virginia blue bells, spring beauty, celadine poppies, trillium, bellwort, hepatica, tiarellas, violets and more. Some of the more

adventurous ladies walked to the falls which were spectacular because of the two days of rain.

Pocket Camp Ground is probably Georgia's most used. It is surrounded by Horn and Mill Mountains. It is on the former site of Civilian Conservation Corp F-16. All of the amenities you would need when camping are available.

On the way home, the ladies stopped and ate lunch at the restaurant in Cove Ranch. They enjoyed the day and enjoyed being together.

Next meeting: May 13, 10:00 a.m. Home of Marsha Merrell. Everyone bring a salad. The program will be entitled "Attracting Butterflies" presented by Mellanie Tuttle, club member and flower show Judge.

MBA (cont'd from page 5)

methods, improved communication with local town leaders to help bring about such changes, and other activities to enhance the health and success of our local businesses. Although all businesses are encouraged to join us, membership is entirely voluntary. MBA activities and projects will be undertaken that benefit the entire business community in and around Mentone, both members and non-members.

Anyone in the Mentone area is invited to join, but especially those that own and/or operate businesses of any kind. No dues are currently being charged but may be determined as necessary in the future and our membership agrees. MBA meetings and progress are currently being documented online at website MBA.MyMentone.com. To join, send your name, mailing address, email address, and phone number by U.S. mail

to Robert Hoffman, PO Box 321, Mentone, AL 35984. The form may optionally be completed online at MBA.MyMentone.com.

Why join the MBA?

If you have some suggestions and ideas on ways to improve the operation of your business and others in Mentone, you may want to join. The MBA provides a forum for presenting and discussing these ideas with like-minded individuals who will provide support and suggestions as to the best way to implement the ideas. We're all looking for things we can do to bring more customers into our shops and then to convince them to buy something once they're in.

If you think there are ways that we could work with the Town Council to improve the overall appearance and accessibility of our shops and businesses, you may want to join. Since the MBA plans to work closely with the Town Council on future projects, you may stand a better chance of your voice being heard by being an MBA member.

If you're interested in hearing how nearby towns are bringing in new customers and enhancing their business situation, you may want to

RADIO

By Doug Kiker

Remember listening to the radio?
You know – that talking box before TV and disco?
We heard programs of music, news and drama, Done so well, who would believe it wasn't so. I would hurry to get my "night work" finished, Racing with the sun - I had no watch - we were po', Just to get in to listen to stories of my heroes. There were The Great Gildersleeve, Gunsmoke and Zorro, And my favorite of all, The Lone Ranger. To me he certainly was no stranger. He was the best over all the nation. I marked the dial-less radio with ink so no time would be lost finding the station. This was a time when I really used imagination. In some ways, radio was better than TV. It made your mind see. And when the lone ranger was riding, It was just him and me. There were often 'goose bumps' on my arms and head. I could see my hero long after I went to bed. Once, when he got shot – Granddaddy who was always listening exclaimed "I'll bet that hurt like Ned!" The plot was so good, I could see the red. There was a hush – we thought he was really dead. But no – the Lone Ranger survived! It was the bad guy that was no longer alive. I know, because the ranger was back again - though it did give my head a spin. And, thoughts of no ranger gave me a whirl, For who would save the world? The golden age of radio – Imagination made it so.

join. Since the MBA is in close contact with the Fort Payne Chamber of Commerce and their Merchants Association, we continue to get suggestions from them on what techniques they've found to be successful.

So, if you think you might like to hear more, attend our next meeting at the MERF House on Tuesday, May 13, from 4:00 to 5:00 PM.



For Sale: 3-BR, 3-BA on East Brow in Cloudland, just minutes from Mentone, on Ga Scenic Hwy 157. Impressive pastoral, wooded and farm view (no industry). Recently-built, top-of-the-line log cabin on approx. 2 acres. 2 Fplc, 5 covered porches, custom wood cabinetry w/ granite countertops. Too much to list.

More info and photos at:

www.browcabin.webstarts.com.

Priced to sell at \$389,900.

Ph: 706-862-6322

(Will cooperate with buyer's agent at 3.5% commission)

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Idler
657-5122

Mentone
634-4744

Member FDIC

Welcome To Mentone!!



Stop by our Log Cabin office in the heart of Mentone. Porch sitters welcome!

Mentone Realty Welcomes Lauri Pine To Our Real Estate Family



Lauri@mentonerealtyinc.com

Lauri Pine brings with her a strong background in public relations from a most interesting perspective: For 32 years she has been a mobile dog groomer. This has also given her a strong background in business and customer appreciation. Lauri's goal is to help folks who are looking to make a change find the perfect home here in the mountains of NE Alabama. Lauri has been active in both Residential and Commercial Real Estate, is a member of the DeKalb County Association of Realtors, Alabama Association of Realtors and the National Association of Realtors. She is the Mother of two boys and Grandmother of two girls. Come by and visit with Lauri at Mentone Realty's log cabin office, or give her a call 256-630-0589.



Charlotte Gentry
Broker/Owner
256-996-5995



Holly Watson
Assoc. REALTOR®
256-996-0552



Ben Johnston
Assoc. REALTOR®
256-996-1774



Heather Nicely
Assoc. REALTOR®
256-276-8422



Lauri Pine
Assoc. REALTOR®
256-630-0589

www.mentonerealty.com

Office: (256) 634-4767

"The Natural Choice"



FAMILY SUMMER RETREAT. Spectacular East Fork Little River-front cottage where vacations take on a whole new meaning. Well appointed with just the right combination of rustic mountain charm & elegance; 3250 sq ft; 4BR/4BA; sleeps up to 16 easily (or more!). Open floor plan w/vaulted living. Indoor & outdoor fireplaces; loft; recreation/bunk room; outdoor fully-equipped kitchen; multilevel covered & open decks; screened porch & easy-walking stairs to the river. Quiet, secluded, peaceful. Fish, kayak or swim some of the most amazing river in the area. \$425,000 (951472)



LAKEFRONT RETREAT: 5BR/4BA in all! MAIN CABIN w/2BR/1.5BA, WB Fpl, lg screened porch; GUEST CABIN w/2BR, one a 3-bunk rm), open KIT, bath, etc. (over, 2 CO, etc. & upstairs studio BR. Grilling shed, 2 fire pits & a fish pond w/fountain forged in 1860. 1.55 acres. \$279,900. (799345)



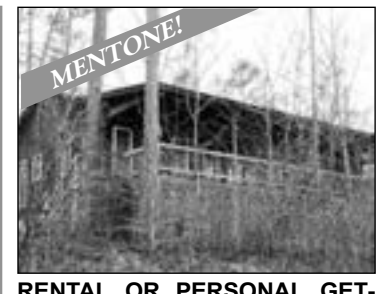
PRIVATE, PEACEFUL, PERFECT! Escape to the mountains! Sit on the screen porch, relax in the hot tub or swim or kayak in the river (common area path to E. Fork Little River goes right by the cabin). Full-time, part-time, any time's just right to enjoy this 3BR/2BA, frame cabin, tucked into almost 2 acres with small stream! Your own private Shangri-la or great rental! \$179,000 (640512)



THE ESSENCE OF THE MOUNTAIN in stone and wood. One of the last remaining stone cottages, tucked into the boulder-strewn woods, in historic East River Park developed by Col. Milford Howard himself before it became Camp Alpine area. Little River is just across the road. Main house has 1BR/1BA, detached 1BR guest house; small shop/storage bldg. Fully furnished. \$125,000 (965674)



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



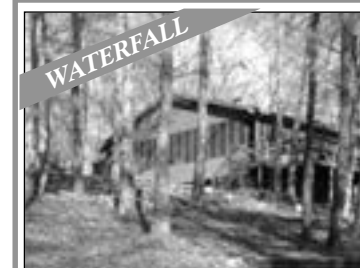
RENTAL OR PERSONAL GET-AWAY. 3BR/2BA cabin w/large front porch offers a view of Lake Lahusage. Inside is a wonderful mixture of convenience & mtn rusticity. Stone WB fpl; pine floors, walls & ceilings; hand-hewn, wood-beamed entry to kitchen w/pantry & stainless appliances. Split BR design. Hot tub deck.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



A PROPERTY RARE. You can buy wooded acreage. You can have brow-side views. You can have abundant wildlife. BUT, where else will you find 44 acres of hardwood mountainside, forever views, several level building sites AND a registered cave? Tally Cave, Lookout Mtn, in Valley Head & Mentone, explored & mapped by cave groups across the SE. Don't let it get away. \$119,000 (785767)



OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS! Residential or Commercial property. Rustic cabin-style building could be a residence. Currently a campground w/14 RV sites & 8 primitive sites (water & power at each site); bathhouse; barn; picnic areas; country store/office building.; 1BR/1BA apartment in basement. Four acres w/300' frontage on Hwy 117. \$150,000. (479473)



NATURAL SANCTUARY near Desoto State Park. Private, 35 acres total, with approximately 1300' of creek frontage. Main house is approx 1500 sq ft; 2BR/2BA; fireplace; 2 remodeled baths; screened porch; deck; 2-car garage. Fruit trees and vines. Also includes a rustic cabin located in a separate area that has great potential for guest quarters or rental (needs TLC). Trails lead past intriguing natural rock formations, abundant rhododendron and mountain laurel along the creek & waterfall behind the home. Several sites for future cabins, too. \$299,000. (660310)



Also look for our listings at AlabamaMountainLiving.com



ON A CLEAR DAY...you really CAN see forever! Tucked away behind a quaint stone entry & dogwood-filled garden along the Scenic Pkwy. Once a "traveler's motor court," now an inviting getaway. 2BR/2BA; dining area w/stone Fpl (gas logs); sun room w/vintage stone floors & wall of windows. Screened, brow-side back porch & deck. Single garage. Best brow price of \$200,000 (423110)



YOUR MENTONE CABIN, a place to get away from the day-to-day hustle & bustle, unwind. Over 300' on Brush Creek. Listen to it from the screened porch (complete with porch swing) Almost 2 acres. Two lots, one mostly cleared, the other wooded, 3BR/2BA, 2-story frame cabin w/screened porch, sunrooms (one off Master BR), balcony; huge upstairs BR/game room, Partially furnished. \$182,500 (400932)



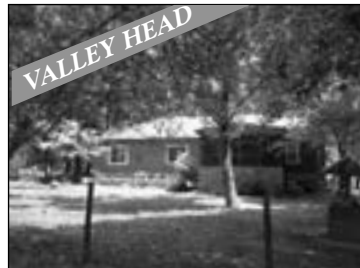
BROW COTTAGE/CONDO approx 1600 sq ft; 2BR/2.5BA, large sunroom on brow side to enjoy views any time. Furnished (except some family pieces) and ready for you to make it your own. Part of what was once Brow Park Lodge. The most private of the cottages. Located along the Scenic DeSoto Parkway, near Camp Comer, between Mentone and DeSoto State Park. \$219,900 (970236)



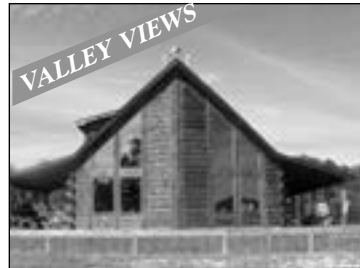
NEED SPACE? Try on this spacious, one-level, 4BR/3.5BA, rambling ranch-style home for size! Family room w/woodburning Fpl; Den w/gas log Fpl; LR; formal DR; huge KIT w/b'fast bar & dining area; new roof; new heat/AC combo unit in semi-detached office. Back deck; att single carport; 2-car garage/shop;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



LOG CABIN LUXURY. That may sound like a paradox, but this is one VERY nicely-appointed log home! Three levels, including a walk-out basement apartment. Lake view & common access to canoe or fish. 5BR/3BA (large loft used as 5th BR). Top of the line fixtures, beautiful HW & tile floors. Great rental or full-time residence. \$269,000 (541512)



YOUR OWN PRIVATE PIECE OF PARADISE nestled on 15 acres of fenced pasture & woods at the end of a private road complete with pond, large barn & out-buildings. 3BR/2BA, 2-story frame cabin w/screened porch, sunrooms (one off Master BR), balcony; huge upstairs BR/game room, Partially furnished. \$115,000 (385250)



40 WOODED ACRES, LOG CABIN & panoramic views across mountains & valleys. Private, secluded; a true getaway. Beautiful log home w/28' vaulted great room w/mtn stone, masonry Fpl & stunning wall of windows; cherry cabinetry; pro appliance pkg; peeled cedar tree loft supports; "man cave" basement (w/shop & garage); porches & decks. Hunter's dream. Minutes from I-59 & Hwy 11. \$375,000 (609396)



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 showroom/office/studio. Multi-use space perfect for weekends, festival times, part-time, all the time. \$125,000 (415301)



A REMARKABLE BEGINNING, waiting for just the right finish. What could it be? The possibilities are endless! Create something magnificent! 2-story, approx 5000+ sq ft; currently configured as a 4+BR/4+BA w/expansive upper level to create a ballroom? fellowship hall? banquet room? Existing small cabin needing TLC & sheds & small creek; 7.5 acres. \$175,000 (498126)



REMARKABLE CRAFTSMANSHIP & VERSATILITY. Log home on 27.7 rolling acres with stocked, spring-fed lake brings to mind many possibilities. Winery? B&B? Lodge? Farm? Residence? Add to the mix: 30x60 shop w/30' covered porch; equipment sheds & 2-car det garage. Full, walkout basement w/WB fireplace & 4-person, cedar sauna room. Dream it, live it here! Now \$449,900. (449728)



SIMPLE, SOLID & SWEET! Simplify your life in this homey, light-filled, little cutie that offers BIG niceties: fireplace with bookshelves on either side; sunny & spacious country kitchen w/all appliances & b'fast bar; huge sunroom; 2BR/2BA; cedar-lined closets; detached "Dutch barn" workshop (future guest house?); 3.68 acres. 2-car carport. Add'l land w/barn & rental house avail. Now \$79,900 (833075)



ECONOMICAL GETAWAY! Nicely-appointed RV on 4.43 wooded acres with septic tank and utilities in place (intended for 3BR/2BA future construction). Enjoy the RV now until you're ready to build a more permanent cabin. Private drive off winding country road (also has paved road frontage on Hwy 117) gives this place lots of privacy! Only \$45,000 (420051)



AMAZING VALUE! 3066 sq ft brick ranch home. Hardwood floors; 3BR/2BA; eat-in kitchen & family room w/fireplace; large bedrooms w/generous closets; split plan; separate den; living room; dining & large laundry/pantry; 3-car carport; workshop; fenced yard; patio & motor home hookup; large fenced yard w/electric gate & a view out to Lookout Mtn. \$137,500 (519884)



WELL, IT'S A PLACE TO START in Mentone. Little house, privately tucked into 2.4 mostly-wooded acres. Started out as a simple mobile home, and a little more. A cute little house with a lot of potential. No, it isn't ready to move into and it needs some work. That's the reason it is priced so reasonably \$29,000. (707652)



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



Join Us For Rhododendron Festival



May 16th - 18th
.....
LOTS and LAND

4.04 ACRES ON E FORK LITTLE RIVER. Lots 4, 5 & 7 in Hunters Ridge offered for one price. Private; wooded; 350' river frontage & historic. The last remnant of the "Dinky Line" RR bed is still in evidence along the river (most of the old trestle bed is still in place). \$125,000. (835298)

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)

LITTLE RIVER CANYON area. 40 acres with 2 streams; part wooded, part pasture; 2 creeks w/beautiful waterfalls & ledges. Nature's beauty, privacy & room for whatever the outdoor enthusiast wants to do! \$130,000. (335437)

LAKEFRONT ACREAGE. Solitude & nature await your getaway on this lightly restricted 4.33 acres on Full Moon Lake at Laurel Creek. 2 lots sold as one. \$49,900 (387932)

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)

EAST RIVER ROAD. River View parcel near the bend in West Fork upstream from Desoto Falls. Approved for building a small cabin. Town limits of Mentone in nostalgic area. \$44,000. (959304)

3.01 ACRES W/270' RIVER FRONTAGE in West Fork Subdivision. Building site already prepared. Public water in place. Just the right place to build your riverfront retreat! Just listed for only \$48,500. (808634)



The Mountain Herbalist

By L. C. Moon

Wildflowers & Weeds: Forest, Fields and Streams

Spring green has settled in across the mountain landscape like welcome friends for us all. Beneath the canopy and in the fields there are wildflowers and "weeds" abounding.

One of my favorite quotes is "May all your Weeds be Wildflowers." We use this as a slogan at my restaurant the Wildflower Café often; and when I say it, I mean it in every sense. What appears to be a weed in life can often have unexpected virtues and blessings.

Poke root (phytolacca) is one such "weed" many people want to eradicate. Poke is actually edible and medicinal, though it is known by many to be poison and a nuisance. In Europe, poke is served in fine dining restaurants. The young stalk can be cooked and eaten like asparagus. The leaves, before they get a reddish color, can be cooked and eaten like spinach. The key to removing the poisonous qualities is to boil the plant in several changes of water for about five minutes each time.

Pokeberries and the root have medicinal properties. The berries are edible after being boiled but the small seeds are known to remain poisonous regardless of cooking. Those who believe the berries will help with arthritis and back pain add the juice of the berries to other homemade fruit jams. I met a lady once who swore her mother ate a berry

everyday, and it relieved her arthritis pain. A berry a day for 7 days is also said to help cure gout and boils. The roots are always poisonous like the seeds yet it is the dosage that makes something toxic. Internally, 2 oz of root tea daily for 7 days is known to help cleanse the lymph glands. Externally, a hot compress of the boiled root is an excellent remedy for boils and inflammation.

While some plants are toxic based on the dosage, other blooming beauties are just plain dangerous. Two of Lookout Mountain's greatest botanical claims to fame are the Mountain Laurel and Catawba Rhododendron and both are fatally toxic. Cherokee knew the Mountain Laurel as the suicide plant.

We do have some beautiful bloomers such as the Oak Leaf Hydrangea, Ashy hydrangea, Wild Hydrangea and Joe Pye Weed (Eupatorium purpureum) which have very little side effects and require much less caution. The hydrangeas and joe pye are known to have restorative and healing properties for the bladder, kidneys and kidney stones. Joe pye is also known historically to have been drunk as a cure for typhoid fever as well as used as a poultice for burns.

Joe pye has a beautiful purple bloom and is found by the river and streams where you will also find Neverwet aka Golden Club (Orontium aquaticum). Golden Club, as I often refer to it, is a unique prehistoric looking plant that grows on the banks. The root, best harvested in spring, is situated deep in mud and difficult to harvest but it can be dried and pounded to a starchy powder for biscuits and such. The root can also be cooked in the same way as pokeroor. If you eat it before boiling or drying, then it will feel like thousands of tiny needles poking your mouth. Boiling and drying the roots breaks down the calcium oxalate that causes the side effect. The seeds can also be eaten and are best boiled, like the pokeroor, so as to lose the acrid taste and make them

taste much like a pea.

May 3rd is Wildflower Saturday. I will be one of the guest speakers at Desoto State Park taking folks on a hike to the Little River on the Indian Falls trail. I will identify plants and share more plant information. We will most likely see all of the plants on the trail. If you have any questions about the hike or Wildflowers, send me a message via Facebook on the Wildflower Café page. May your spring be blessed and "May all your weeds be Wildflowers."





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(sorry, no texting)



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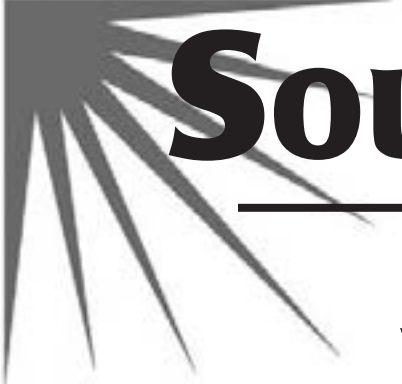
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 2BR/2BA · \$129,900 2.7 Acres · MLS #837473	 4BR/4BA · \$324,900 2.36 Acres · MLS #924137	 3BR/2BA · \$289,000 7.2 Acres · MLS #450846	 1BR/1BA · \$59,900 Lot · MLS #499665	 SOLD 3BR/2BA · \$298,500 2.83 Acres · MLS #649658	 2BR/2BA · \$247,500 .68 Acre · MLS #654813
 3BR/2BA · \$269,900 1 Acre · MLS #902940	 SOLD 3BR/2.5BA · \$159,000 5 Acres · MLS #917245	 1BR/1BA · \$465,000 .42 Acre · MLS #970196	 2BR/2BA · \$279,500 2.3 Acres · MLS #332033	 5BR/5BA · \$545,000 .95 Acres · MLS #338039	 3BR/3BA · \$274,500 2.37 Acres · MLS #421306

LOTS AND LAND

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

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

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

1.95-acre lot at Lake on the Brow Subdivision. \$44,900. MLS #984141.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



2BR/1BA · \$169,900
2.42 Acres · MLS #741059

Mountain Fog

By DeSoto Red

Hi neighbor. I knew I would see you here today. I guess it is about time I told you a little something about me you probably don't know. Who am I kidding? Of course you don't know! I know you don't know! I am a psychic!

Well, now you know. I'm not one of them "give me a hundred dollars and I'll see if I can deliver a message to your grandmother on the other side" kind of psychics! I don't do spooky! I don't do it for money either. In fact I've got a little something free for everybody. It's the Official DeSoto Red Mentone May Horoscope!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): While pumping gas at the Mentone Market, Elvis will pull up across from you in his Cadillac. Be cool about it this time! You remember what they did to you the last time you saw Elvis don't you? Keep this one to yourself. Avoid banana pudding in May.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Steer Clear of The Farmer's Market on Saturdays this month. You-know-who is still you-know-what! Reach out to that person you have had on your mind lately. They are thinking of you too.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): In the parking lot of The Wildflower Cafe you will see a short, balding man with a slight limp wearing a "Lynyrd Skynyrd" tee shirt. Do not look directly at his scar! Lighten up a little on the tanning bed!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): That person you just friended on Facebook: Really? Have you lost your mind? Avoid people with a first name ending in Y this month.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): I know it may be hard for you to comprehend but there are more than just a few people walking around here that were not even born when "Grand Funk Railroad" had hits on billboard's top 100. Do the math! Eat your eggs scrambled this month.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): We both know you march to the beat of a different drummer. Heck, the whole town knows it! Quit flaunting it so much. You are beginning to scare the tourist. Back off on the tie dyed apparel just a little too.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22): "The Rolling Stones" are not sending messages to you in the words of their songs. They dropped you like a bad habit 3 years ago and moved on to some dude in North Dakota! You are no longer the honky tonk woman you used to be.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21): As shocking as it might be, the game "FarmVille" does not have a grudge against you and it does not know when you, personally, are playing. That clown you think you might catch a glimpse of out of the corner of your eye every now and then is real though! He is very real. Watch your step. Avoid butter beans this month.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will encounter a man with a bad hair comb over in Mason Park that will offer you a candy bar if you will get in the '76 Lincoln with him and help him find his lost puppy. Do it! I know what your mama said but this poor soul needs your help. Stay out of Valley Head the next few days.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19): Let's see if you can go the entire month without throwing a Toga Party. They were fun the first 15 or so years but they are beginning to get just a little old. The fact that you have been the only one at the last 3 should have been a pretty good clue! Cut back on them Little Debbie snacks just a little slick.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20): The "Little Lucille" they serve you at Kamama will look just like Bob Marley to you. Fight the urge! Don't try to sell it on EBay. We both know the "Bob Marley pancake" from Cracker Barrel was a big flop. Stop doubling down on Aunt Fanny's Fudge.

AIRES (March 21-April 19): Y'all are not June and Ward and those kids of yours are not Wally and The Beaver! TV people are not real, especially the ones that claim to be. You two are doing a fine job! Keep doing what you are doing. Take Wally and The Beaver to the Rhododendron Festival!

Well, that's about it for now neighbor. I sure hope your insurance is paid up!....I'm just kidding. Everything is looking good for you neighbor. I'll see you next time.



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First Row - Kindergartner Zane Crouse with "Kinders do Kadinsky;" First Grader Cayden Collins with "Flowers in a Vase;" Second Grader Autumn Rhodes with "The Bridge;" Third-grader Nick Ferguson with "The Fall;" Fourth Grader Zach Wallace with "Kayaker on Little River." Second row: Fourth Grader Ethan Meadows with Honorable Mention for "Nature Scene;" Fifth grader Bryson Morgan with "Little River Canyon;" Fifth Grader Emma Kirby with Honorable Mention for "DeSoto Falls." Third Row: Sixth Grader Laura Boehringer with "Peace;" and Third Grader Jameson Rhodes with "Purple Mountain Majesties."

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