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Volume 32, No. 11

"Neighborhood News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

November 2013

The Reverend Howard Finster's Paradise Gardens: A Vision in Summerville, Georgia

By Duncan Black

He worked on his daddy's farm in Valley Head, Alabama; he janitored at the cotton mill in Trion, Georgia; he pastored churches in and around Summerville, Georgia; and along the way, he became one of the most famous folk artists in the United States.

Reverend Howard Finster never lived far from the rocky brows of Lookout Mountain, but he went on to appear on the Johnny Carson Show and Good Morning America; he was the subject of profiles in the *New York Times*, *Rolling Stone*, *Life*, *Esquire*, *Time*, and *People* magazines; and his work is exhibited worldwide in museums like the American Folk Art Museum in New York City and the Smithsonian Institution with permanent installations in the Library of Congress and the High Museum of Art in Atlanta. Presidents, Governors, Hollywood stars and rock and roll legends own his paintings.

In November 2012, his life's work, Paradise Gardens in Summerville, Georgia, reopened



to the public with the caveat that restoration on the four-acre attraction is just beginning to get underway. Very little maintenance had been done to the property after Finster's death in 2001. Nonetheless, it is a visual delight and a unique experience to walk through Howard Finster's version of the Garden of Eden.

At its center is the five-story World Chapel of Folk Art where the Reverend Finster occasionally preached in his last years and performed christenings and weddings in a multi-tiered exuberance of tin, cast-off windows, plywood, masonry, gingerbread trim, and colorful murals. Nearby is his classic Cadillac painted with biblical verses, illustrations of flying angels, and whatever inspired him at the moment. Also on exhibit is

his more somber Lincoln, which he used when he wanted to travel without fanfare.

He was a master of utilizing found objects and, there are towering metal towers made of bicycle parts and hubcaps. A number of walls throughout the gardens are made into a mosaic of broken mirrors, china dolls,

(Cont'd on page 24)

Colorfest 2013

By Thomas Qualls

The streets of Mentone came alive Saturday and Sunday, the third weekend of October, during the 31st annual Colorfest, sponsored by the Mentone Area Preservation Association. This event drew visitors from all across the Southeast and from around the nation.

The activities actually began Friday evening, with a fish fry held by One World Adventure and live music by Gypsy Begonias, at the Pavilion of the Mentone Inn. A great crowd showed up. Our own Boy Scout Troop 106, under the direction of scout leader David Gilbreath, built a roaring bonfire, warming folks

around it on a cool evening.

The nearly 80 arts, crafts and business vendors began arriving Friday afternoon, setting up their booths on the Brow Park and throughout town. Early Saturday morning, there was a bustle of activity as volunteers were making last minute preparations for the festival.

Preparations for Colorfest began back in July, when the Colorfest Steering Committee, comprised of members of MAPA and community volunteers, began its planning sessions. Committee members undertook a multitude of responsibilities to put together this



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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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**From
The Editor**

The mountain is really in her glory. Mentone is still festive from its 31st annual Colorfest and festooned in all the shades of autumn. Late asters cheer and scarecrows still adorn. October's outward bustle is turning into November's hearth and home. Thanksgiving thoughts prevail and wood stoves are being fired up. Wood heat is so efficient that it warms you twice, once when you cut it and again when you burn it. Here's hoping you're spending time in the glorious out of doors and dragging lots of beautiful bits in, that your heart and hearth are warm and that you have much for which to be thankful.

Best, Susan



**Remember to "Fall Back" one hour
this Saturday evening, November 2!**



Mentone Matters
By Mayor Rob Hammond

ALDOT has completed work to level out the "dips" on AL 117 on the side of the mountain. ALDOT is planning on putting a weather monitoring device at the top of the mountain on 117. The equipment will monitor weather conditions and transmit them directly to ALDOT. This should help greatly in planning and responding to winter weather events.

Unfortunately, the town's grant application for a walking track and restrooms at Mason Park was not funded. We are meeting next week with officials from TARCOG (Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments), our grant writers, to consider our next step.

The town was advised not to submit the application for a CDBG grant for the paving of Cutler Avenue. It was the opinion of the folks preparing the application that we would not meet the criteria required to be funded. Therefore, we will undertake this project on our own—most likely in phases. The first step will be to remove brush and debris from existing ditches and trim back overhanging limbs. This should begin soon. There are no plans to widen the existing road. We plan to resurface the existing street with plant mix.

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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.

Giggle Giggle--love the tickling of the leaves as they fall on my roof this time of year. The beauty of the mountain is beaming, and my red roof looks great among all the leaves. Thanks to Walt Pullen for keeping my grounds so beautiful too. I have to look good for all of the wonderful fall activities. Tutoring, senior lunches, piano lessons and Harvest Festival activities are keeping me busy, and I love it.

Thanks to everyone that supported MERF and its programs at Colorfest by purchasing "Leave Me in Mentone" caps, shirts and fleece throws. Thanks to MAPA for all of its hard work for a wonderful weekend. Didn't you enjoy seeing the children's artwork at the booth and hearing Ms. Paula's excitement on what great artists are in her class at Moon Lake Elementary? Thanks to Lea Long, Joyce Smith, Paula Easter, Shirley Hussel and Linda Lawton for manning the booth.

If you missed MERF's booth, "Leave Me in Mentone" items can be purchased at DeSoto State Park's country store, Little River Hardware or Mountain Laurel Inn. A fleece throw can make a wonderful Christmas gift this year!

If you are a current college student, applications for the Sue McLaurin Henry Scholarship spring semester scholarships will be due December 1, 2013. . Check with your

school counselor or email merf.mentone@gmail.com for information. Applicants must be Mentone or Valley Head residents, enrolled in a college or technical school for spring semester, and have a minimum of a B average.

The MERF board is pleased to announce that Kristen Miller graciously agreed to coordinate volunteers, to maintain the calendar and to run MERF's programs such as senior lunches and tutoring. Contact her at merf.mentone@gmail.com to offer your services or to use the house. She is doing a great job keeping everything running smoothly. Thanks Kristen!

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.



Want to know more about Mentone's early years?

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

Wildflower Cafe . Kamama Gallery
Crow's Nest Antiques

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

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



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Colorfest (cont'd from page 1)

festival which celebrates the fall season as well as Mentone’s rich heritage of craftsmanship, art, music and traditional mountain life.

Each year, MAPA’s goal is to provide an atmosphere where visitors can meet atop Lookout Mountain for family-oriented fun and an opportunity to take home handcrafted treasures such as jewelry, pottery, folk art, live plants, paintings, quilts, baskets, candles, and soaps. Colorfest provides some of the most diverse offerings of any festival in the area. In addition to the arts and crafts, the Farm Fair offered hands-on demonstrations of Native American tools, traditional fire building, weaving and quilt making as Larry Beane, a local park ranger, provided the history and background of Native Americans who lived in this area. Mentone residents Don and Rhea Pirch brought alpacas from their farm and sold socks made from alpaca wool. (I just happened to wear a pair of these socks on my weekly hike this morning, and they are ever so comfortable!) Nearby was the Children’s Fair, where there were pony rides, face painting, pumpkin painting and crafts to delight the children.

Of course, all of Mentone’s shops and restaurants were open, displaying their wares and providing services to all of our visitors. Taste of Mentone, highlighting the signature dishes of many of Mentone’s unique and quaint restaurants, is sure to bring visitors back for some more of our delicious local food.

Colorfest is really about more than just food, music and shopping. Colorfest is about local folks extending a welcome to the world to gather for a weekend getaway, enjoy the beautiful fall colors atop Lookout Mountain, get together with old friends and make new friends. Colorfest is about people enjoying wholesome fun, sharing new experiences and making memories that will last a lifetime.

Families were seen picnicking under the many shade trees in beautiful downtown Mason Park, spreading out blankets on the ground to enjoy a leisurely lunch under the watchful eyes

of the spooky, scary and whimsical scarecrows displayed in “Scarecrow Holler.” This was the first year for the display contest, and it was a great success! We expect it to become bigger and better in the years to come. There were prizes for the best scarecrows, selected by popular vote. The first place winner of \$100 was awarded to The Wilderness, with their “Leaf My Corn Alone” bow hunter in the tree. Second place, and \$50, was awarded to Amanda Lea for “Edgar Alan Scare Poe”. The third place winner, MP3, received \$25 for their very creative mermaid scarecrow. The voting was very close. Accompanying the scarecrow displays at the park were more than 200 pumpkins painted and decorated by local children from Moon Lake School.

Pumpkin Patch Jubilee was a fall display contest for local residents and businesses. Once again, everyone’s creativity shone through! Our first place winner and \$100 went to Mentone Market. Moon Lake Trading Company took the second place prize of \$50, and the \$25 third place prize went to Rocky Top Pottery Too. All of the displays made our town feel even friendlier.

Throughout the weekend, people were having fun, children were walking around town laughing and showing off their fall costumes and painted faces, while others were finding special treasures to purchase that might only be available at Colorfest. Then there was the second bonfire Saturday night at the Mentone Inn Pavilion, along with a pig roast and music by the Dawn Osborn Band, all sponsored by The Wildflower Café and owner L.C. Moon.

Early Sunday morning, the Colorfest Color Craze 5K Run was held, sponsored by One World Adventure. Later that morning and throughout the day, adults and children were seen sporting the colored powders bestowed upon them during the race.

All day Saturday and Sunday, visitors were treated to live music at the Brow Park pavilion, where local musicians, including Taylor Poff, James Roberts, Jordan Brown, Jared Cushen,

Marc Womack, Eric McKinney and Friends, Jess Goggans, Terry Hutcheson, Amy Snider, Curtis Strange and Paul Shirey, shared their songs and music. It was a comfortable place to stop, sit and listen to good music and relax a few minutes before heading back out to scout out more arts and crafts.

Colorfest 2013 was a huge success, with everyone enjoying themselves in so many ways. This and every Colorfest is possible only by the tireless efforts of our committee members and the many dedicated volunteers who helped bring it all together. There are too many to name, but they are all greatly appreciated. Ray Padgett and I were the co-chairs of the steering committee this year, and we want to thank everyone who served in any way during these past few months and at Colorfest. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to all of our local residents and business owners who went out of their way to make everyone feel welcome.

Lastly, we would like to recognize our sponsors this year. Without their support, Colorfest could not have been successful. Please make note of them and show your appreciation by supporting their businesses. Our major sponsors were DeKalb Tourism, the Mentone Camps (Alpine Camp, Camp Laney, Camp DeSoto, Camp Skyline and Riverview Camp for Girls), Roger’s Music, and Dr. Aimee Skelton. Our supporting sponsors were Mentone Inn, Kamama Gallery, Wildflower Café, Moonlight Bistro, Mountain Top Books, Mountain Top Country Store and Snead Ag Supply.

You will find some color pictures of the festival and scarecrows on pages 12.



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LIBS FROM THE LIBRARY

By Liz Baker

Representative Todd Greeson met with Moon Lake Community Library Board and friends on Thursday, Oct. 17, and presented the board with a check for \$2,000. Moon Lake library is an independent library which is sustained by donations and fundraisers. It is one of only two libraries in Alabama which are jointly operated by the local school system and the community. The library board hopes to expand its summer enrichment services to school age children in the coming year.

Dr. Bill Berry, former principal of Moon Lake Elementary, expressed his appreciation for



Rep. Greeson’s steady support of Moon Lake Elementary during his thirteen year tenure as principal and for his support of the library during its early stages.

Pictured above are, left to right, Donna

Sutton, Sue Schwarz, Jim Byrum, Bill Berry, Dianne Kuehl, Rep. Greeson, Mickey Luck, Board Chairperson Liz Baker, Barbara Blalock, and Jerome Stephens.

The Moon Lake Community Library Board of Directors and FRIENDS of the library would like to thank all our calendar sponsors for 2014. The calendar is a primary source of funding for the library since we receive no state, federal or local funds. Our advertisers are as follows:

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Thanksgiving Memories

By Sandra Padgett

Thanksgiving is a time for being grateful for our good fortune and happy life. It is also a time for remembrance. Newcomers to our community missed the opportunity to know some bright, energetic and unique individuals. I want to share a few stories from my 80's decade in Mentone. They are in no particular order.

Colorfest always makes me remember Maggie Cordell who was an extraordinary quilter. She loved everyone and everyone loved her. She donated two quilts a year for Rhododendron and Colorfest festivals. She was dedicated to MAPA and donated her time freely and joyfully. She made the quilts and sold raffle tickets for chances to win the quilts.

Maggie was born America Magadaline Gifford on January 12, 1912, in Valley Head, Alabama. She married James Floyd Cordell on January 21, 1939. James was born in Pea Ridge on Sand Mountain, taught at Berry College and was a builder. They moved to Mentone in 1979. She reunited with old friends such as Mable Crow Kirk who had known her since childhood. Their husbands, Frank and James, had also been lifelong friends. Mabel and Frank had lived in California for 46 years. The Kirks and Cordells moved to Mentone within a few years of each other.

Mable was also a good friend and worked tirelessly for MAPA and Mentone. Maggie and Mable are symbols of a friendship that bookends a life--beginning and ending together.

A memorable example of lasting marital



love was that of Issac Arthur "Lightning" and Flora Goss. They were married for more than 65 years, and he treated her like a sweetheart throughout. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary a year before I moved to Mentone. During my eleven years in Mentone, I watched him get elderly, but he never lost his good nature. He was bearded and wore overalls and usually a plaid shirt. The former mail carrier repaired lawn mowers when I knew him. Flora had ten children, seven whom survived. The thing I recall is how loving and attentive he was toward Flora. They lunched at Tiger's Inn often, and anyone paying attention could witness their tenderness towards each other. You might even see him give her a kiss as he led her to the car. He always conducted himself as a true southern gentleman who was unafraid to show affection to the love of his life.

Another sweet soul and true believer was

Eula Cash. She was born Eula Eugenia Rose in Cloudland in 1911. She married Jody Cash when she was almost 15. She loved her dad, Jess Rose, who was in the logging business. Eula had the sweetest face and most optimistic attitude. Her ten children were her life. She lost one at 2 months and her daughter Rennie died when she was 12, but her faith helped her overcome adversity. Eula loved to tell about the early days. She attended Moon Lake School in the old two-story building, and she remembered when they were building Hwy. 117. Eula was a gardener and a good cook, and she loved canning vegetables and making jellies.

So with the leaves turning and holidays approaching, my remembrance of these long gone friends is bittersweet, but it makes me thankful for all my new friends and those who are still with us from my decade in Mentone in the eighties.

Zora Strayhorn, Bernice Crow, Eula Cash, Jack Jones, Angelo Rosario, Mary Strickland Winn, Dr. Charles McGeehee, William Blackburn, Dr. James Quimby--they are all gone; but I had the privilege to know them. There is a story with each of these citizens that left their mark on Mentone and on me. I keep them and the memories close to my heart.

This Thanksgiving I hope you do the same and say thanks to your friends and look back fondly on those who have left us.

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New Businesses Open in Log Cabin Village

Fancy Me Fashion Boutique, owned and operated by Vanessa Green, is now open in the Log Cabin Village next to Lookout Mountain Preferred Realty. For more information, call 256-635-8995 or nessa.30753@yahoo.com.

Mountain Top Books, owned and operated by Rebecca Parish, is also open. In addition to a variety of books, you will also find photography, soaps, greeting cards, hand-painted glass and 100% wool needle felted items. Hours are

Saturdays 11am-5pm and Sundays 1-5pm. For more information, call 205-807-7910 or bwparrish3@gmail.com

Silver Crystal, owned and operated by Tony Wilson (former Windwood Farms operator) is the newest addition in the Log Cabin Village. He offers all kinds of high-quality handmade jewelry, including rings, necklaces and bracelets. For more information the email address is silvercrystalstudio@yahoo.com.

GEM MINE OPENS

Crossroads Trading Company, owned and operated by Hank and Nancy Sturm in Log

Cabin Village, purchased the gem mine from Sequoyah Caverns, and it is open for the public's enjoyment Friday-Sunday, 10am-4pm. For more information, contact 706-949-0211.



MAAC Hosts Members at Annual Open Meeting

The annual Mentone Area Arts Council open membership meeting was hosted by The Mentone Inn and MAAC Board members on September 25. Current MAAC President, Cynthia Stinson, welcomed the guests and gave a recap of projects MAAC accomplished in the years 2012 and 2013 to date. The installation of three rock 'Mentone' signs have beautified the various roadways entering Mentone, and the planting of colorful annuals and perennials also beautified Mentone. The Annual Home Tour was a huge success, Julyfest (despite

having a do-over the last weekend of July due to inclement weather) proved to be a successful Juried Art Show; and many people enjoyed classes from permaculture and Trail of Tears to wreathmaking and painting. MAAC also paid for the paint and supplies for the children's pumpkin painting activity during Colorfest.

The Board Officers for the upcoming year were announced as follows: Cynthia Stinson-President, Hank Willet-VP, Beverly Bates-Secretary, Tammy Beane-Treasurer. Board members include Brad Lackey, Elaine Gauldin,

with covered dishes brought by some of the members. The pavilion was decorated with fall flowers, table cloths and candlelight. The night's entertainment was provided by Jerry Bloom and friends.

MAAC's plans for the upcoming year include The Shakespeare Traveling Troupe to perform for Moon Lake Elementary School, Julyfest Juried Art Show, the Home Tour, continued classes open to the community promoting the arts and the continued planting of annual and perennial flowers throughout Mentone.

Scott Thomas, Thomas Qualls, Rhea and Don Pirch, Harriet O'Rear and Harry Ohme.

The Mentone Inn provided a dinner buffet of Mid-Western Beef Stew and cornbread which was served



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Valley Head Tiger Football

By Kayla Worthey

The Valley Head Tigers played host to Coosa Christian on October 4th for the 2013 Homecoming game shutting out the Conquerors 47-0. During the week leading up to the game, students participated in a number of Homecoming events. Each day during the week students had themed days, such as Duck Dynasty Day, Nerd Day, and Purple & Gold/Spirit Day! On Thursday, classes and clubs displayed their floats in the parade around town

followed by a community pep rally at Tiger Stadium and a bonfire. Before the game, parents and fans watched as Cooper Kirby and Braylie Callahan were crowned King and Queen of the Elementary Homecoming Court. During halftime of the football game, the High School 2013 Homecoming Court was presented, and the 2013 Homecoming Queen Madi Owen was crowned.

Congratulations to the Valley Head Tigers Football Team and cheerleaders on this season's success, and to both elementary and high school Homecoming Courts for being honored. The Valley Head Tigers now have a record of 9-0 after a huge win over the Collinsville Panthers in week 9, giving the Tigers the title of 1A Region Champs! GO TIGERS!!

See photos on Page 13.

Valley Head Band Rocks!

By Charlotte Gentry

Most folks around here don't realize that the Mentone/Valley Head area is blessed with one of the state's (perhaps the country's) most unique high school bands. The Valley Head High School Pep Band, which plays for all the home games, is unique in that, not only is it made up of volunteer student members, but it is also led by a student. Daniel Smith and his mother, Lesa Smith, are the team who keep the band rockin' and rollin' for the Valley Head Tigers. In the stands or on the field, the band's strong drum line beats echo throughout the stadium, giving an extra OOMPH! to the Tiger players, coaches and cheerleaders. According to Mrs. Smith, the coaches, players and fans are all very supportive of the band and enjoy having them as part of the games. With the Tigers having garnered the top position in regional 1A play, the band is hoping to be able to travel along to playoff games not played at Tiger Stadium. They are waiting to see if permission is granted for the band to travel by bus. If so, funds are already available through a local, anonymous donor for the band to travel on one of the school's buses.

The student-led band came about because

there was no longer a band program at VHS and Daniel Smith wanted to continue playing drums. His mother is a bus driver, so she was already a school employee. Together, they decided in the 2012-13 year to approach Principal Bill Monroe about organizing a pep band. He gave a nod to the idea and the band had five members last year. This year, there are some sixteen members of the band. They are: Daniel Smith, quads, cymbals and keyboard; Andrew Gentry, snare drum; Nathan Sanchez, snare drum; Isaiah Espendoza, snare drum; Melissa Freeman, bass drum; McKenzie Jenkins, bass drum; Jaimee McGee, bass drum; Dylan Pannell, bass drum; Hunter Blalock, bass drum; Dakota Gentry, Electric guitar; Kylie Montene, electric guitar; Marcus Pardue, acoustic guitar; Hannah Jordan, acoustic guitar; Abby Romero, keyboard; Angela Huskey, keyboard; Candy Manuel, keyboard. According to Lesa, Daniel Smith "just has a natural ability for the drums. " One of the band members gets the guitar tabs for the songs they play and Daniel listens to the song, makes up the drum parts and teaches these to the other drummers. They practice three or four afternoons a week in the VHS band building,

after Lesa completes her bus route. She is co-director, chaperone and all-around go-getter for the band, too. And, since the band gets no money from the school, all instrument repairs, travel, etc. are through money she has helped the band raise. Come out and support YOUR Valley Head Tigers as they go for the state championship and listen for the pep band to rock the stands.



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THE
RECIPE CORNER
BY
ANGIE CARDEN

A Thanksgiving Prayer

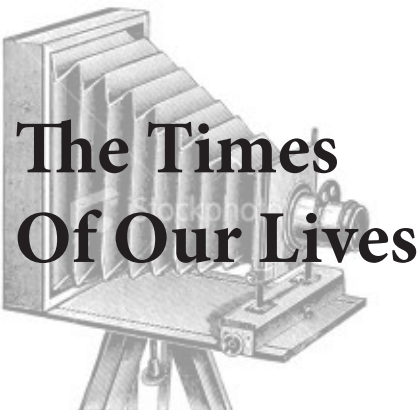
For forests tall and oceans deep
For canyons wide and mountains steep
For sunset skies of pink and gold
For every sunrise we behold
For Winter’s snow and springtime’s thaw
For Summer’s warmth and Autumn’s awe
For roofs that keep the rain away
For walls that hold it all at bay
For work that puts food on the table
For health and rest to keep us able
For friends and family around us
For years to come, may they surround us

For soldiers fighting for our peace
For days to come when wars may cease
For hope, so burdens won’t enslave us
For thy forgiveness which will save us
For feast, and those with whom we share it
For loving hands that did prepare it
For all that makes this life worth living
We take this time on this Thanksgiving
To bow our heads and bend a knee
And pause to look around and see
For all that was, is, and shall be
We have none to thank, Oh Lord, but thee.
Amen.

Sweet Potato Casserole

In a bowl, combine:
3 cups mashed sweet potatoes, 1 cup brown sugar, 2 eggs, lightly beaten, 1 teaspoon vanilla, 1/2 cup milk or heavy cream and 1/2 cup melted butter. Pour into a buttered 1 1/2 to 2-quart casserole dish.

In another bowl mix together:
1/2 cup brown sugar, 1/3 cup flour, 1/3 cup melted butter and 1 cup chopped pecans and sprinkle over top. Bake at 350° for 30 to 40 minutes, until hot and browned.
Serves 6 to 8.



The Times
Of Our Lives

The family of Danny Odell Smith would like to thank friends and family for their support during this time of loss. He passed away into God’s hands on September 30, 2013.

On October 3rd, my father Luke Crouch of Chickamauga, GA passed away at the age of 90 after a brief illness. We would like to thank those of you who might have said a prayer for our family, sent flowers or a card or came to the funeral home for visitation. Dad loved to come to Mentone to visit with old friends and acquaintances during the yard sales and festivals. Please continue to keep our families in your thoughts and prayers. Thank you, Gail Chambers.

November Birthdays

- Nov 1 - Easton Hunter Bain
Nov 2 – In memory of Gladys Goss
Nov 2 – Michael Potts
Nov 2 – Taylor Brown
Nov 2 – Triston Goss
Nov 3 – Aubrey Shields
Nov 4 - Barrett Wilkinson
Nov 4 – Rita Chapman
Nov 5 – Gail Chambers
Nov 6 - Tommy Harrison
Nov 6 - Duane Blalock
Nov 6 - Mike Smith
Nov 7 – Brooklyn Powell
Nov 8 - Michael Harrison
Nov 8 - Toby Crider
Nov 9 – Kowen Worthey
Nov 9 - Laura McKenzie
Nov 10 – Toby Manifold
Nov 10 - Valinda Miracle
Nov 12 – Megan McElhaney
Nov 12 – Major Frost
Nov 13 – Addison Prestwood
Nov 13 – Lendell Chappell
Nov 13 – Kim Langston Raley
Nov 14 - Don Brock
Nov 14 – Austin Harrison
Nov 15 – Laura Boehringer
Nov 15 – Rory Quinn
Nov 15 – Lee Carden
Nov 16 – Dink Tillman
Nov 16 – Jeff Wigley
Nov 17 - Jordan Hammond
Nov 17 – Colton Ditmore
- Nov 18 – George Boehringer
Nov 18 - Kim Foshee
Nov 19 - Caden Blalock
Nov 20 - Brandi Miller
Nov 20 - Kevin McElhaney
Nov 20 – Angel Carson
Nov 21 – Pam Wooten
Nov 21 – Keith Hadley
Nov 21 - Deedra Battles
Nov 21 – Nancy Brown
Nov 22 – Amber Carson
Nov 24 - Pam Baggett
Nov 24 - Hayley Crider
Nov 25 – Billy Tramel
Nov 26 – Krissy Harris
Nov 26 – Heath Kirby
Nov 26 – Renee Pruitt
Nov 27 – Kim Johnson
Nov 27 - Timbo Carden
Nov 27 - Clay Stiles
Nov 28 - Lily Harrison
Nov 28 – Chance Hodges
Nov 29 - Karen Bain Powell
Nov 29 - Brian Blalock
Nov 29 - Kerry Blalock

November Anniversaries

- Nov 1 – George & Kim Raley
Nov 8 – Andrew & Penny Herbert
Nov 16 – Dewayne & Melanie Grisham
Nov 21 - Mark & Deedra Battles
Nov 25 – David & Barbara Rape
Nov 27 – Loy & Beck Langston

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is on page 2.

What To Do Around Here!

November 2013 Community Calendar

Nov 1-2 - Photography Workshop.

Little River Canyon Center. Join Fine Art Photographer John Dersham for a two-day seminar on how to improve your photography by learning tried and true compositional rules. Friday Seminar 7:30-9:30pm & Saturday 8am-3pm. \$20 per person; pre-registration required. 256-782-5697.

Nov 1-2 - Holiday Open House at The Book Shelf.

Come and enjoy refreshments, hourly drawings for prizes, and gift cards. Regular hours Friday and Saturday 10am-5pm and Sunday 1-4pm. The Book Shelf also offers a 90 day layaway plan. 256-844-8663.



Nov 1, 18 - Extreme Night Hike.

True Adventure Sports. This end-of-day adventure does not slow down just because it's dark. Intended for a large group team-building exercise, this hike has a bit of bouldering, some scrambling, some spelunking, and a whole lot of required working together. \$18 per person (headlamp and guide included) 7:30-10pm. 256-997-9577.

Nov 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Blow Your Own Ornament.

Orbix Hot Glass. Come design and "blow" your own ornament with the help of one of our glass artists. Ages 5 and up. No reservations needed! \$35. 9am-4pm. 256-523-3188.



Nov 2 & 3 - Christmas Open House at Tiger Lily Florist.

Catering & Gifts. Come celebrate the holidays with refreshments and storewide discounts for your shopping list! We can also decorate your home or office for the holidays, cater your holiday party, or prepare gift baskets for those on your list. Saturday, November 2, from 9am-5pm and Sunday, November 3, from 11am-5pm. 256-845-5152.

Nov 2 & 3 - Holiday Open House At The Wishing Well.

Come celebrate the holidays with refreshments and storewide discounts for your shopping list! Come and see what everyone in the new booths have to offer. Enjoy refreshments, discounts and more. Saturday, 9am-5pm and Sunday, 11am-4pm. 256-845-7355.

Nov 2 - Canyon Fest: A Celebration of Arts

and Nature.

Little River Canyon Center. Enjoy live music, nature & arts activities, arts demonstrations & sales, great food, vendors, children's activities & fun at this festival designed to celebrate our natural world and to benefit the children of our community. 10am-3pm. No Fee but Donations welcome. 256-782-5697.

Nov 2 - Blacksmithing Demo.

Little River Canyon Center. Join Walter Howell, one of the most talented blacksmith artists in the Southeast, for a live demo of the art of forging and blacksmithing. Walter's artwork will also be available for purchase. 10am-3pm. Free & Open to everyone. 256-782-5697.



Nov 2, 11, 22, 26 - Rappelling Adventure.

True Adventure Sports. Come experience the thrill of rappelling down the sheer sandstone gems of NE Alabama. No previous experience necessary. \$37 per person (includes all gear and instruction). 10am-2pm. 256-997-9577.

Nov 2 - Storytime at the Canyon Center.

Little River Canyon Center Gift Shop. Canyon Center staff and volunteers will read aloud unique children's literature every first Saturday of the month. 11am-Noon. Free and open to the public. 256-782-5697.

Nov 2 - Book Signing with Lynne F.

Scott. The Book Shelf. Known author Lynne F. Scott will sign books 12-2pm. 256-844-8663.

Nov 2 - Moon Lake Harvest Festival.

Come out and enjoy food, fun and games for the kids of all ages. 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. 256-634-4113.

Nov 2, 13, 15, 26, 27 - Wild Cave Tour.

True Adventure Sports. Go beyond where the average tourist explores! This 2.5 hour adventure is for those of you ready to explore on your knees, on your belly, in the mud and through tight tunnels. Explore in one of NE Alabama's most unique all-weather caves, Manitou Cave, in the heart of Fort Payne. \$30 per person (includes helmet, cave lamp, guide). 5-7:30pm. 256-997-9577.

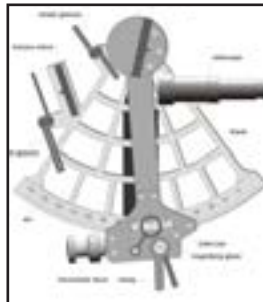


Nov 2 - David Ball at the Pickin Post. Come enjoy a night of great singing. The Pickin Post has moved to it's new location in Fort Payne

next to Gary's TV & Appliance Warehouse on Hwy 11. Tickets are available now at Blacks Tire in Rainsville, Rogers Music and Pawn in Fort Payne. \$20 each. Show starts at 6pm. 256-996-8910.

Nov 4 - Treasure Hunt Adventure. True Adventure Sports. Do you enjoy trying to solve riddles and clues? Ever wanted to find buried treasure? Up for new & exciting challenges? Then our Cave Treasure Hunt is for you. This 5-hour adventure will take you deep into the heart of Manitou Cave. You will have to solve and follow each clue in order to find the next one, and ultimately the Treasure! Are you up for the challenge? \$65 per person. 3-8pm. 256-997-9577.

Nov 4 - Celestial Navigation. True Adventure Sports. This two-hour class is a basic introduction to navigation by the stars. Learn how to navigate without the use of a compass or GPS with the same rules used for almost six thousand years. \$20 per person. 6:30-8:30pm. 256-997-9577.



Nov 5 - Captain Doug Norton Book Signing.

Kamama's. Captain Doug Norton will be signing his book *Code Word, Paternity* between 1 and 3pm. 256-634-3001.

Nov 5, 16, 29, 30 - Rock Climbing/Rappelling Adventure Combo.

True Adventure Sports. Nestled in the NE corner of Alabama are some of the best and unique sandstone cliffs in the country. Come experience firsthand what rock climbing and rappelling is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. \$54 per person (includes all the gear plus basic instruction). No prior climbing experience is needed. 10am-2pm. 256-997-9577.

Nov 5, 14, 16, 22, 30 - Night Zip Line.

True Adventure Sports. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Enjoy the thrill of the zip line at night. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before the adventure. \$50 per person. 6-8pm. 256-997-9577.

Nov 7, 12 - Sky Swing Adventure. True Adventure Sports. This is an adventure of a lifetime. Enjoy the thrill of the swing. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before the adventure. \$45 per person. 12pm-2pm. 256-997-9577.

Nov 7 - Book Signing with Doug Norton. The Book Shelf. Known author Doug Norton will be signing books. 3-5pm. 256-844-8663.

Nov 7-8 - Holly Follies. DeKalb Theatre. The Fort Payne Chamber will be hosting the Holly Follies. Come and enjoy a night with laughter and entertainment for the whole family. You can purchase tickets at the Chamber office or Bruce's Foodland. Tickets are \$15 a piece or 2 for \$20. 256-845-2741.

Nov 7 - Clay States in Concert.

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



Nov 8 - November Meeting and 2nd Anniversary Celebration of The Progressive Women of Northeast Alabama. DeSoto State Park Lodge. 11:30am.

Nov 8 - Cold Weather Survival Class. True Adventure Sports. Learn how to survive in cold harsh conditions. Learn tips to prevent hypothermia and death. This class covers the basics for emergency cold weather conditions and also covers a few tips on how to stay warm and comfortable for everyday cold conditions. \$25 per person 9am-12pm. 256-997-9577.

Nov 8, 22 - Sculpt your Own Flower, Orbix Hot Glass. Sculpt your own flower from an array of colors. Ages 13 and up. A minimum of 3 and maximum of 5 per class. \$65 per person. 6-7pm. Reservations are required. 256-523-3188 or info@orbixhotglass.com

Nov 9-10 - Gun & Knife Show. DeKalb County VFW Fairgrounds in Fort Payne. 350 tables of rifles, shotguns, handguns, knives, edged weapons, modern & antique weapons, and related items. Admission is \$5 per person and children under 12 are free with an adult. Saturday 9am-5pm and Sunday 10am-4pm. 256-845-7140.

Nov 9 - Collinsville Historic Turkey Trot. Join us for food, fun and games. An antique car and tractor show, turkey shoot, cake walk, and historic "turkey toss" from the roof of a building make this an event fun for all ages. Sponsored in part by the Collinsville Historic Association. 10am-3pm. 256-524-2788.

Nov 9 - Night Zip Line & Sky Swing Adventure.

True Adventure Sports. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Enjoy the thrill of the swing and zip line at night. Pre-registration required by 6 pm the day before adventure. \$50 per person. 6-10pm. 256-997-9577.

**Nov 9 - Book Signing with Michelle Lowery.**

The Book Shelf. Known author Michelle Lowery will be signing books. 256-844-8663.

**Nov 9 - Guided Archaeology**

Tour of Cherokee and DeKalb Counties. Come along with JSU archaeologist Dr. Harry Holstein for a guided tour of sites throughout Cherokee and DeKalb counties. Participants will visit the 19th century Cornwall Iron Furnace, a Spanish contact site at Coosa village, a rock shelter in use as early as 3000 B.C., and much more. This will be an unforgettable all-day event. Bring your own food and drinks. Transportation is provided. Space is limited so register early! 9am-3pm. \$15 per person (Ages 14 and over); pre-registration required. Call JSU Field Schools at 256-782-5697.

Nov 15-17 & 22-4 - "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer". Northeast Alabama Community College Theatre.



Join Tom Sawyer, Huckleberry Finn and Becky Thatcher in this classic adventure story that is fun for all ages! Call 256-638-4418 for more information.

Nov 15 - The Winter Excursion. True Adventure Sports. A mystery trip that includes hiking, bouldering, sightseeing, navigation, survival, team building, waterfalls, and just plain fun. You will need to bring a small backpack, compass, flashlight, change of socks, warm clothes, camera, trail mix, water, small first aid kit, emergency blanket and emergency poncho. 10am-1pm. 256-997-9577.

Nov 16 - 1st Annual Hornet 5K Run/Walk. Help support the Ider High School Tip Off Club. Proceeds will help support all of Ider Basketball Programs. Both runners and walkers encouraged to participate. Register before October 25 and receive a free t-shirt (\$25). Race starts and ends at Sylvania Lake. Registration 7am. (\$35) Race begins at 8am.

Nov 16-17 - Hunter Camo & More Liquidation Sale. Northeast Alabama Agri Business Center in Rainsville. If you are looking for great value at a low price come and check this sale out. We will have everything from jackets, coveralls, pants, shirts, bedding and so much more. November 16, 8am-8pm and November 17, 8am-3pm. 256-657-1597 or 256-997-6575.

Nov 16 - Native American Tools & Weapons. Little River Canyon Center. Join National Park Service archaeologist Larry Beane for a demonstration of how Native Americans utilized natural resources to hunt and gather food, to make weapons, to start fires, and more! 10am-3pm. Free to public. 256-782-5697.

Nov 16 - Native American Pottery Workshop. Little River Canyon

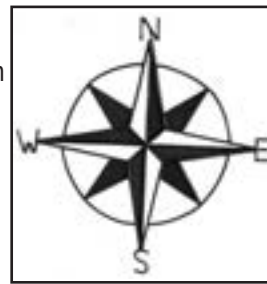


Center. Join expert potter, Tammy Beane, to learn how pottery was made on Lookout Mountain thousands of years ago. We'll provide the clay as well as bone needles and paddles to make designs on your pots. 1-3pm. \$5 per person. 256-782-5697.

Nov 16 - Book Signing with Lee Grimes. The Book Shelf. Known author Lee Grimes will be signing books. 256-844-8663.

Nov 18 - Afternoon Rock Climb. True Adventure Sports. Nestled in the NE corner of Alabama are some of the best and unique sandstone cliffs in the country. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing is all about in the afternoon with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. \$34 per person (includes all the gear plus basic instruction). No prior climbing experience is needed. \$34 per person. 2-6pm. 256-997-9577.

Nov 19 - Orienteering Class. True Adventure Sports. Basic yet essential skills for survival navigation are brought to you in map reading, compass reading, and topography. Bring your own compass or you may purchase one at our store. \$20 per person. 10am-1pm. 256-997-9577.



Nov 20 - GPS Basic Training and Navigation Class, Part 1. True Adventure Sports. Learn how to use a map, compass, and a handheld GPS. Learn basic navigation and how to pinpoint a location for quick return, or quick rescue. Also learn how to search by waypoints or coordinates. 10am-4pm. \$45 per person. 256-997-9577.

Nov 21 - Zip Line & Sky Swing Adventure. True Adventure Sports. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Enjoy the thrill of the swing and zip

line. Pre-registration required by 6 pm the day before adventure. \$50 per person. 10am-2pm. 256-997-9577.

Nov 23 - Rock Climbing Adventure.

True Adventure Sports. Nestled in the NE corner of Alabama are some of the best and unique sandstone cliffs in the country. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. \$35 per person (includes all the gear plus basic instruction). No prior climbing experience is needed. 10am-2pm. 256-997-9577.



Nov 25 - GPS Basics Training and Navigation Class, Part 2. True Adventure Sports. You will learn to find a beacon placed in the woods as a SAR attempt while knowing your position, and the position of your teammates. \$45 per person. 5-9pm. 256-997-9577.

Nov 29 - Night Zip Line. True Adventure Sports. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Enjoy the thrill of the zip line at night. Pre-registration required by 6 pm the day before the adventure. \$50 per person. 6:30-8:30pm. 256-997-9577.



Ongoing

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

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

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

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

Mentone, 0.7 mi No of Hwy 117.

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

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

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

Free food for needy families. New hours:

Tuesdays, 9am - 12pm. The Bank at St. Joseph's on the Mountain Episcopal Church. Recipients and new applicants. Joint effort between St. Joseph's Community Outreach Ministry and North Alabama Food Bank.

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.

Colorfest Memories ...More Pics to Come Next Month!



First Place Winner in Scarecrow Holler Competition: Deer Hunter in the tree...The Wilderness (Bobbie Zakary)



Second Place Winner in Scarecrow Holler Competition: Edgar Alan Scare Poe...Amanda Lea



Third Place Winner in Scarecrow Holler Competition: Mermaid... M3P group (Lisa Schad)



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2013 VALLEY HEAD HOMECOMING



ABOVE: Valley Head Elementary Homecoming Court (left to right) Austin Hernandez, Olivia Burton, Aiden Logan, Arabella Stokes, Braylie Callahan, Cooper Kirby, Nathaniel Bain, Lila Jane McElhaney, Lacey Hall and Ryan Lane.

BELOW: 2012 Elementary Homecoming Queen, Ellie Cox and 2013 Queen & King, Braylie Callahan and Cooper Kirby



RIGHT: 2013 Valley Head Homecoming Queen, Madi Owen

Below: Valley Head Tigers VS. Coosa Christian



ABOVE: Valley Head High School Homecoming Court (from left to right) Rylee Vest, Anna Carden, Shelby Jackson, Maria Hidrogo, Madi Owen, Hayley Crider, Sierra Chambers, Breanna Blalock



ABOVE: 2013 Varsity Cheerleaders – from left to right: Kaitlyn Dean, Stephanie Poe, Meagan Sutton, Courtney Alexis Roden, Morgan Blalock, Brooke Wright, Sydney Vest, Josie Crider, Kanissa Smith, Amelia Saferite, Samantha Blalock

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Worship

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

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

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

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

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 7PM and 9PM. 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. Rev. Tony Gunter is the pastor. The service of Holy Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of each month, the second Sunday is Youth

Sunday and Fifth Sunday is a service of music and pot-luck lunch.

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

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

Cove Road Baptist Church, County Road 631, Mentone, Alabama. Brother Marlin Stames, Interim Pastor, welcomes all to Sunday School at 9AM (10AM GA time) and Sunday night services at 5PM (6PM GA time).

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

Mentone Church of God of Prophecy - regular service times are Sunday School at 10AM, with Worship at 11AM. Evening services begin at 5:30PM on Sunday and 6PM on Wednesday. Rev. Dean Clair 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.



Coming to Mentone: Elvira Fitzgerald

By Liz Baker

Twinkling eyes, porcelain skin, a razor sharp mind—all these and more describe Mentone resident Elvira Fitzgerald. With that wonderful name, how could she fail to be an interesting person? And that she is. Whether she is assembling an outdoor fireplace, knocking out a wall, growing orchids, or explaining how to stain furniture with the liquid from boiled cloves, Elvira is a fascinating, endearing lady.

Like many current residents, Elvira is “not from here.” Born and raised in Philadelphia, Elvira has lived all over the United States, from Brunswick, Georgia, to California. She recalls a strict but happy upbringing. As a teenager, someone encouraged her to enter a beauty contest related to a search for models and actresses. Her father forbade her to enter, but with the prodding of friends she entered anyway. She did not win, but placed high enough to win several prizes including a fur coat. Since her father was unaware of her involvement, she had to give the coat to a friend.

Elvira married before WWII and had two small girls. Unfortunately, her marriage ended due to no fault of her own. To support herself and her two children, Elvira found a job at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, where she worked on a lathe making airplane bombs. She was living in service members' housing in Philadelphia when she met Jim Fitzgerald, to whom she would be married for many years. She was busy repairing a screen door one day when he stopped to help. They became friends, began to date and married one year later. At that time, Jim had one son, who now lives in Fort Payne.

Later in their marriage, the couple moved to Missouri and started a chicken business. Jim clipped the beaks and Elvira did the vaccinations. They had contracts with Armour and Swift and had as many as 5,000 chickens at one time. Jim, who was very inventive, also modified a mail truck into a refrigerated truck so that he could sell independently. He found



areas where he could quickly sell an entire truckload of dressed chickens in a matter of hours.

Later, they moved to California where Jim supervised construction of projects for both the U. S. Navy and for Schlitz Brewing Company. While in California, they enjoyed camping with their children. They had several children themselves, but also cared for numerous foster children. Jim once outfitted a school bus as a camper and the kids painted it in camouflage colors. On one camping trip, a group of true California hippies were drawn to their colorful camper--and to their teenage daughters. Jim repainted the camper after that experience.

The family's first southern residence was Brunswick, Georgia, where Elvira completed junior college at the age of 51. It was her favorite place to live. She enjoyed their home overlooking the water and other aspects of coastal living.

Due to the war, Jim and Elvira did not have a honeymoon, so years later they decided to take a trip to Hawaii. As luck would have it, Jim's mother came to visit not long before they were to leave. She stayed and stayed. Finally, they told her they were about to leave for a trip to Hawaii. She was delighted and declared that she would accompany them! The gracious couple bought an extra ticket. They had booked

a lovely suite with a bedroom and sitting area. Jim's mom took the bedroom and on their belated honeymoon they were left to make do in the sitting room. Undaunted, the couple would wait each evening until Mom was asleep and then enjoy a night on the town.

When they retired, Jim wanted to move to the Mentone area because it reminded him of the hills of Missouri, but had the advantage of a warmer climate. Elvira continued to work for awhile and was employed in home health care and at the hospital in Fort Payne. They first purchased land near Hammondville, and the two of them constructed a log cabin. It was to be a two story cabin, but after raising logs by hand to ceiling level of the first floor, they wisely decided on a single story home. After Jim's death from cancer, Elvira moved to a smaller place in Mentone. Now long retired, Elvira continues to enjoy the beautiful wooded



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LOTS and LAND

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

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

EAST FORK LITTLE RIVER: 3 acres, wooded, riverfront with stream & waterfall. Paved road access. Minutes from Mentone. Just up river from Lake Lahusage. Seller will build to suit. \$99,900. (815833)

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

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

JUST LISTED! ALMOST 5 ACRES, unrestricted, with various old buildings & old homeplace on property. Huge, heavily-fortified enclosure of stone & metal--Imagine the possibilities there! It's an interesting place all-around, as well as private. Septic tank, power & public water in place. Build now or park an RV here for those times you need your Mentone break! \$30,000 (898833)

REDUCED! GET INTO THE WOODS!! 4.43 unrestricted wooded tract holds a lot of promise. But, till you're ready to build & want a Mentone getaway, you can enjoy the RV that goes with the property! Septic tank, public water & power already in place! Now \$45,000 (311288)



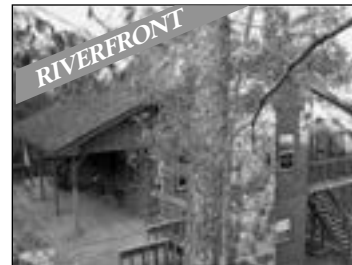
UNSPOILED & SECLUDED Log Cabin on East Fork of Little River. Boulders line the unique 230' river-front pools. Relax to the sounds of water & wildlife after a day of outdoor fun! Cozy, 2BR/1.5BA open floor plan cabin w/wood stove, vaulted living area, sleeping loft, decks & dog pen. Such amazing natural beauty is hard to find. Priced at \$199,000 (646242)



THE ESSENCE OF THE MOUNTAIN in stone & wood, embodied in this quaint, tiny cottage, tucked into the boulder-strewn hillside in historic E River Park, developed by Col. Milford Howard, before it became Camp Alpine area. Constructed entirely of stone w/stone Fpl. 2BR/1BA. Screen porch. Little River is just across the road. Fully furnished. \$125,000 (965674)



PANORAMIC VIEWS across mountains & valleys, 40 acres of woods & fabulous log home. Private & secluded. Beautifully-crafted home features a 28' vaulted great room w/masonry Fpl & stunning wall of windows; cherry cabinetry & pro appliances; peeled cedar tree loft supports; "man cave" basement (w/shop & garage) Hunter's dream property. Minutes from I-59 & Hwy 11. \$385,000 (609396)



STONEHEDGE on E Fork Little River, Mentone. Fabulous stonework accents this 1800 sq ft, 3BR/3BA cabin on 2.07 acres w/326' frontage. Spacious living area, kitchen island & furnishings. Get away from pretty much everything except adventure & fun! \$387,500 (764346)



MOUNTAIN HOME OR RETREAT, 2.5 wooded acres in Twin Oaks at Lahusage, just 7 miles from downtown Mentone. 3BR/2.5BA; vaulted great room; beautiful stone gas log Fpl; lg pantry; wide-plank pine floors throughout; all wood interior; full front porch (half is screened) & screened back porch. Detached single garage/shop. \$219,900 (812341)



GRACIOUS & WELCOMING, designed for living & sharing! Local stone work inside & out, Brazilian cherry floors, granite kitchen, sun-room, large stone fireplace, hardwood floors, rolling hills beyond. Private, on 7 acres. 2 screen porches. \$249,000 (686827)



WELL, IT'S A PLACE TO START in Mentone. Little house, privately tucked into 2.4 mostly-wooded acres. Started life as a singlewide mobile home. Rooms & porch added on. Kinda cute. Great trees, a few flowering shrubs & decent areas for garden spot. No, it isn't ready to move into & it needs some work. But, it's also reasonably priced. Only \$39,900. (707652)



15+ ACRES, POND, BARN & HOUSE. Land is combination fenced pasture & woods at the end of a private road. Fruit trees, large barn & add'l outbuildings. 3BR/2BA, cedar-sided home; approx 1750 sq ft.; spacious living area w/wood-burning fireplace; kitchen/dining combo w/appliances; lg MA BR; screened porches on front & back. Now \$110,000 (385250)



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. Enjoy it when you can, then rent it out at other times. Best of all, it's only 2 miles from downtown Mentone, on a private road. Great rental history! Now \$375,000 (540943)



PRIVATE, PEACEFUL, PERFECT! 3BR/2BA cabin, tucked into almost 2 acres, w/small creek to be savored from the huge, screened back porch. Relax in the hot tub in the screened gazebo; then head back indoors to enjoy a fire in the beautifully-crafted, mtn stone fireplace. Private. Full-time, part-time, any time! Move-in ready. \$179,000 (640512)



WOODLAND CABIN with all the right stuff: spacious porches on front & back; mountain stone FPL (gas logs); 2 (or 3) BR/2BA; lotsa wood inside & out (wide pine plank floors & local poplar in MABR); easy-care lot; great location between Desoto St Park & Mentone, just off DeSoto Pkwy. Excellent rental possibilities. \$169,900 (979406)

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Moon's Medicine Chest

L. C. Moon

During November, the colorful leaves begin to dissipate from the trees and scatter upon the ground, and the cold begins to set in. A comfy chair or couch with a soft blanket and the glow of a warm fire provide comfort and are the luxuries of the season while your body adjusts to the frigid temperatures and lack of sunshine.

A nice walk is also a wonderful remedy for warding off the cold season blues, as well as helping the immune system. Get out and enjoy the sunshine, fresh air and panoramic scenery while the trees are bare in the woods, along the river and all across the mountain. Dr. Stephanie Seneff, professor at MIT, has done research to prove sunlight on the skin is a natural remedy to keep the immune system healthy and relieve depression.

It is important to bundle up and take care of yourself when getting out in the cold season because your immune system can be weakened by the cold. When I was young I didn't listen to my Aunt Eunice and my Grandmother Lois who always insisted I keep my head, hands and feet warm to prevent me from getting sick. I heard at a young age it was an old wives tale

that the cold can cause you to get sick. After researching, my great aunt and grandmother were right. While it is not the cold alone that makes you sick, scientific studies show that the body has to use more energy in the cold to keep itself warm. As a result, while the body is using a lot of energy to keep warm, it has less energy to fight off harmful bacteria or viruses.

Sometimes bundling up, exercise, sunlight and fresh air are not enough to keep us well. Thankfully, there are natural remedies that can help boost the immune system to ward off the sicknesses of bacterial and viral infections. For example, eating a balanced diet and taking vitamin and mineral supplements (Vitamin A, B-Complex, C, D3 & E, Amino Acids: L-Carnitine & Lysine, and minerals Zinc & Colloidal Silver) are helpful to boost the immune system.

Even still, vitamins and minerals combined with a healthy lifestyle sometimes are still not enough to stave off the inconvenience of infections. Luckily, there are plants and trees that can also help keep sickness at bay as well as relieve the symptoms. For 19 years I have loved studying folk and Native American remedies as well as talking with the seniors to learn new local remedies.

Upon moving to Lookout Mountain 15 years ago, I learned first hand experientially about the benefits of native plants such as sassafras, yellow root, elderberry, black-eyed susan and rats vein (spotted pipsissewa) to help boost the immune system and aid in healing cold, flu and many of the things that ail. I also learned more about expectorant herbs such as mullein, pine, rabbit

tobacco, lobelia and most of all wild cherry to heal a cough. Finally, I feel I have discovered just the right combination to make a potent cough remedy with wild cherry that has helped my family, friends and myself. The wonderful aspect of wild cherry is that it not only aids as a cough remedy but also heals the lungs

Through my years of doing herb talks, walks, running an herb shop and Wildflower Café, I have talked to many people who say they have tried herbs but they just don't work. My response is always, in my experience, it is the dosage and consistency that makes the difference, how much and how often.

My daughter and I are living examples of this. By the grace of God, botanical remedies and due diligence, my daughter is going on fifteen years without any form of synthetic drug. Whenever one of us notices we are feeling bad we immediately begin taking 500 – 1000 ml of vitamin c as well as a zinc lozenge every 3 hours. Then we begin taking singularly or a combination of, oregano oil, echinacea (a relative of black eyed susan), elderberry and often pau darco, especially if the sickness seems to be taking hold quickly. I will also drink yellow root but the bitter taste has always been nearly impossible to get her to drink.

If cold or flu set in, my daughter and I increase the intake of botanicals to once an hour for the first day. I also recommend eating a nice hot healing soup with lots of garlic, onions, oregano and a little spice from a pepper like cayenne. Drinking hot teas are helpful and lots of water, preferably without ice because cold

(cont'd on page 21)



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Rhododendron Garden Club

By Mellanie Tuttle

Our beloved Linda Brown is still recuperating, so this article is not her work. We miss her and ask that you keep her in your prayers so she can get back and take this task over again. She offered words to "live life to the fullest" and we will try.

While she has been absent, members of the Garden Club have exhibited at the VFW Flower Show and had our October meeting at the MERF House on October 8, 2013. The VFW Flower Show was crazy and exhausting for those of us who helped and successful for those who entered. Martha Wood won the Sweepstakes Award for most ribbons in the show. Whoo hoo! In the Design Division, Blue ribbons (1st place) were awarded to: Dianne Kuehl's "Fall Blooming Meadows" multi-rhythmic design; Martha Wood's "Moondance" small design; Mellanie Tuttle's "Walk in the Woods" armature design. Red ribbons (2nd place) were given to Marsha Merrell for her "Frost on the Pumpkin" pot-et fleur design. The Rhododendron Club entry in Table Design, "We Gather Together" also placed second. Our very cute children's table with plastic cups and pumpkin plates, 'turkey' napkins filled with crayons and candy corn and an overlay of brown paper for coloring on was a crowd pleaser. Honorable Mention ribbons went to Margaret Baker for a creative design in "Fall Abundance" and Mellanie Tuttle for "Autumn Migration" hanging design. In the Horticulture Division, Martha Wood carried home a rainbow of ribbons. Ask her about them. Mellanie Tuttle's dish garden received a blue and her planter had a blue and a Grower's Choice Ribbon as well.

The highlight of October was our meeting with guest speaker (Mentone's own) Benny Campbell who was introduced by Susanne Wheeler to the 10 members and 14 guests. Benny began by showing us his favorite containers: pottery by Weber, Roseville, McCoy, McCarty, a piece from Mentone's art show and a beautiful vase he found in Italy. His favorite container is a hollowed out log he picked up on

a walk and said has traveled all over the country. He said that the latest fad in containers for wedding receptions is fruit jars, especially the green tinted ones with zinc lids. "It's all about the containers and doing something fun."

For the next hour, we were entertained and mesmerized by Benny's sharp wit and expertise on the techniques for arranging dried plant material, several of which were found by the roadside or in his yard. He was assisted by Paula Tally. His first design used winged elm as a "crutch" to build upon to which he added bittersweet. Using a container with a smaller



mouth opening gave support to the plants and and since the plants were dried, oasis or water was not needed. He likes to replicate the plants in the design with those used on the container. A great tip for hydrangeas is to cut them on the "downside of the full moon", place them in a vase with 2 inches of water and let them dry out naturally in the house. "I love using one bunch in a single vase. The light shines on it and creates wonderful shadows." He did that with several branches of Chinese tallow tree in his Italian vase and the result was simple but stunning. He also pointed out that the Chinese tallow tree is a weed in south Alabama, but clustered makes beautiful wreaths. Another great idea was to use dried items for line and foundation and then add fresh flowers to the design and remove as they fade. The dried part of the arrangement remains and more fresh material can be added. My favorite design was the one that used the hollowed log. His goal was for the design to look like "birds had dropped the plants in". A plastic container holding oasis covered in chicken wire became an anchor for the curly willow. Moss hid mechanics and then potted ferns and ivy and dried mushrooms were added. "I like things very natural, like they are growing in the woods. I guess it's from my days as a boy playing by the 'crick' in the woods." We could have sat there all day watching and listening to Benny, but his Attalla Florist and Design shop lured him away.

We are so thankful to Benny for sharing a few of his secrets and talent with us.

A business meeting followed the presentation. Peggy Rourke presided, Martha Wood gave the meditation written by Gertrude Jekyll. Minutes were read, old business and new business were discussed. Marsha Merrell is spearheading an approach to addressing the devastating spray program along the power lines.

Our next meeting will be November 12, 2013, at the MERF house. We are a friendly group (mostly, we just love on the grumpy ones) and invite you to join us. Mellanie Tuttle will be speaking on Ivy. She promises a few surprises, so please come.

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



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The Diary Of A Chicken Lady

By Kristen Emory

You know your life is too fast when you don't even have enough time to gather your own hen eggs. They take the time to lay beautiful, dark yellow yolked, perfect eggs; and I let them pile up. Sometimes they spoil, crack and go to waste--all that hard work. So, what is a mother of two teenagers, wife and a woman who works two jobs going to do to remedy this situation? Well, she makes a trade of course. I have made a trade with my father. If he collects the eggs, he gets to have them. It seems as though Mom and Dad's chickens (a.k.a. the Buzzards) have not laid an egg in quite a long while. I am afraid they are barren old maids. Did you know that a chicken is born with exactly the number of eggs she is going to lay in her life span? I read that in my book some time ago. I'm thinking it was when I took Charlie, my "Rooster", to be caponized--fancy chicken word for neutered (also from my book). Well, we all know how that turned out...she laid her first egg, a giant white egg! That was a fun day; even the Vet and his staff enjoyed that one.

Back to the point...I still love my chickens very much. They still greet me when I drive into the driveway and come running when I shake

their treats. I keep them fed and watered. They give me joy. I just can't seem to get out to the coop and collect the eggs. I do have somewhat of an excuse. We put a fence around the basketball court and back door area. No more slipping and sliding on chicken poop and now JoJo has a safe place outside. Which means less dodging of JoJo poop inside! Also it has saved the girls from an inevitable flogging from Byrum for continually messing up his basketball court. The girls are now exiled from the area, and my family and I are very happy with the new arrangement. That said, I now have to walk around the fence to get out to the coop. Yea I know, not the best excuse. But that's what I've got. After all, Dad is retired...what else does he have to do.

Occasionally people have asked, "Why do you want to have chickens?" My answer is always free-range eggs. But is that all a chicken is good for? No way, my chicks are very useful. They eat ticks and fleas in addition to laying wonderful eggs. Also they tidy up any left over dog food and make us feel less guilty after wasting salad stuffs, which happens often around our house.

The fence has revealed a new talent; chickens are good for weed eating a fence row! All I have to do is put chicken scratch all along the edge of the fence. My chick-a-dees scratch and eat corn until the grass is gone--magic. The best use of chickens I have found yet. Weed eating, as we all know, is pure torture; but watching chickens scratch around is almost entertainment.



On a completely different note, Tom and I had a great time decorating the Mentone Market for fall this year. I hope you all have had a chance to see the Surrey with the Chicken Lady in the back and her driver waiting for the horses. Many photos have been made in and around the Surrey, and we have enjoyed it greatly. A special thanks must be given to Kirby Johnston for finding a Surrey from the 1800's for us to use. I'm thinking that even back in the 1800's there were Chicken Ladies...there were chickens after all.

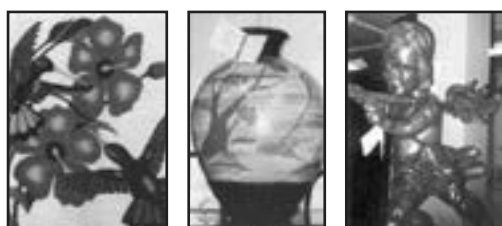
Kristen and her husband Tom own the Mentone Market with their children, Byrum and Saddler.



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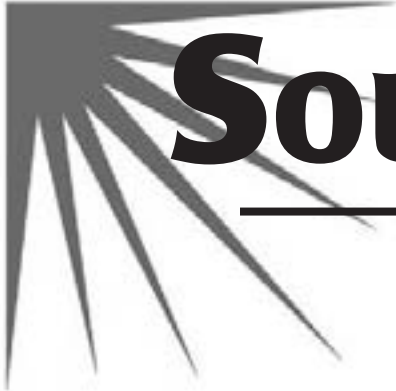
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.49-acre lot with 100' on West Fork Little River. \$168,000. MLS #553323.	1-acre wooded, Lakefront Lot in Private, Gated Subdivision. \$55,000. MLS #945265.	7.8 acres border Armstrong Creek and Webb Branch. \$47,500. MLS #581146.
.78-acre lot with 106' on brow. \$109,500. MLS #403694.	1.7-acre lot at Lake on the Brow Subdivision. \$55,900. MLS #845943.	12.1 acres....mostly wooded. \$48,500. MLS #632461.
7.13-acre lot in Mountain River Esates Sub. \$49,500. MLS #656265.	1.06-acre lot at Hidden Lake Subdivision. \$60,000. MLS #867272.	7 acres - East Fork of Little River. \$38,000. MLS #641045.
1.95-acre lot at Lake on the Brow Subdivision. \$52,900. MLS #984141.	246 acres..woods and stream on Lookout Mountain. \$1,082,400. MLS #928084.	40 acres - off the beaten path, hunters paradise. No restrictions. \$110,000. MLS #752857.
1.02-acre lot in Hidden Lake Subdivision. \$55,000. MLS #762331.	100 to 243 acres on Lookout Mountain. \$3,900 per acre. MLS #785191.	4.4 acres - located on the North Brow in Mentone. \$190,000. MLS #392849.
	3.04-acre lot in Oakwood Subdivision. \$32,000. MLS #980192.	

Medicine Chest (cont'd from page 17)

increases mucous production. I make a tea called Nourish-Mint that contains nettle, anti-viral lemon balm, peppermint and a blend of healing herbs and is mixed with a local honey for great results.

I use myself as a guinea pig for herbal remedies, refusing to take medicine even at the urging of people who think I should, so I can learn more about the remedies and what really works best. In the past five years, as a result of overwork, stress and not taking proper care of myself I have had some serious health issues that gave me more practice than I bargained for. I was diagnosed with severe anemia five years ago, which was healed with a blend of herbs and a healthy diet.

Then over the past three years I had two very serious infections that I was also able to heal solely with botanicals and supplements. Three years ago, I had a bacterial kidney infection, healing it with herbs such as yellow root, oregano oil, uva ursi, buchu and eating foods that would help support my kidneys such as garlic, blueberries and cranberries. Then a year and a half ago I had Bells Palsy and healed the viral infection rather quickly with mainly L-lysine, St. John's wort, oregano oil, echinacea, elderberry, peppermint, vitamins, minerals, herbal teas, healing foods, prayer and rest. The wonderful results increased my passion and belief even more so in natural healing.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. As the winter season approaches, remember the importance of taking care of yourself with exercise, fresh air, sunlight, healthy diet, vitamins, minerals, rest and a nice fire; and be sure to keep your immune boosting botanicals handy. The colder season can be a wonderful time for reflection, peace and quiet. Though it will be much more enjoyable to embrace this time before you are forced to with an illness, as I surely know first hand. Taking care of yourself not only adds to quantity of life, but more importantly quality of life.

It is wise to tell you to consult your health care provider before making changes to your health care regimen.

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"Found Poem" created from words straight out of the August issue of The Groundhog by first-time Mentone visitor, Feral Wilcox

Follow the Water Keeper

We accept your old cranes here, your tiers and beams, your fixtures, pallets and crates, roof and floor trusses, put them here amid blooming shrubs, salvia, monardia, phyllodia, singing Alabama vines. Bring on your rock, brick, block, your bucket trucks, store bought hardscapes, top rope layout and staking, rocket motor traits go bouldering, scrambling and spelunking down, all unwound in chicken sayings, droppings of the black hat poet, the spy who came in from the cold, all dissolving in one bloom of a cluster.

Now follow the water keeper. Follow her past history, its shy parliamentarian crouched low in his high crow's nest, stump grinding out the mess of truth from forests, lost in his environs: a dystopia of moonless corn just past the colorfest he missed in untold jewelweed, just past the boundary survey of Alabama flowers and well under his percolation test of worthiness.

Follow the water keeper and her heart pine in the Little River drift down Shinbone valley lined with trumpet creeper, red hot poker, cardinal flower, red and rust from iron and watercrust, sounds of Mentone winding high by common sweet pea vine and columbine, watercolorists of time, river health as it is written in the South, a path of things her words approximate, all dissolved in Mentone sounds.

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



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 \$219,000 (20562)



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



REDUCED

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



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



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



WILD SCENIC LITTLE RIVER LOTS, privately located off Co. Rd. 628, Mentone. Two lots combined to make 2.2 acres with 337 ft on river. Partially cleared building area. What a View. \$65,000 (21685)



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



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN just off Desoto Pky. 4 bdrms 3 bths, living room, eat-in kitchen, separate dining rm. HVAC 1/2 finished basement storm rm. In-ground pool, barn, pond large yard, and pasture area sitting on 4.4 acres. \$159,900 (22964)



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



NEW LISTING

NEWLY REMODELED from top to bottom, inside and out. In town charmer with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Open living room and kitchen. Original hardwood floors, new HVAC, covered porch and side patio. \$77,500 (22979)



LOG CABIN known as "Knowus Ark" is a hidden jewel of a property on the East Fork of Little river. 2 bdrm 2 bth, loft, screened porch, covered porch and double deck. Adobe wood burning FP, tiled floors. Also a separate artist studio. Trail to the river with a nice swimming hole. Privately located on 6.4 acres. \$299,000 (22069)



NEW LISTING

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



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



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



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



NEW PRICE

HILLTOP SETTING, 2 story maintenance free siding. 4 Bdrms 3.5 baths Eat in Kitchen, Great Room w Gas FP, Den, lots of walk-in closets Wraparound porches. approx 3500 sq ft. landscaped with mature plantings. a must see on 5 acres. Mentone area. \$385,000. (22949)



COTTAGE ON LITTLE RIVER CANYON. Peaceful setting and private 2 bdrm 2 bth with sleeping loft, greatroom with rock fireplace. Screened porch with a view of the canyon rim over 5 acres. A must have. \$160,000. (22865)

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)

NICELY WOODED 5 ACRES on DeSoto Parkway with Stream. Can be Residential or Commercial. Land has old homesite and green house. Large Rock formations.

Possibilities are Endless! **REDUCED TO \$90,000** (19419)

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. \$110,000 (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)



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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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Howard Finster (cont'd from page

Buddha figurines, mantel clocks, and other household detritus. You may be joined by a pair of goats who perform gardening duties as you stroll the cement walkways that are also embedded with broken tile, coins, sewing machine parts, and actual paintings by Finster, who covered them with glass.

There are two particularly interesting structures: the mirror house which is constructed on stilts and was conceived as a viewing platform. The other is a pump house with walls made of mortared clear glass bottles accented with cobalt blue Milk of Magnesia bottles.

Unexpected and unexplained is the grave of an unknown Confederate soldier who was reinterred here.

Everywhere you look, you will see plaques of wood, tin or glass that are hand-lettered with Finster's favorite Bible passages.

It is said that he was inspired to create the gardens when he asked his congregation one Sunday evening in 1961 if anyone remembered the subject of his sermon that same morning. No one did, and he decided to find a medium that would catch people's attention. Thus, the gardens.

Howard Finster saw his first vision when he was three years old in a forty-acre field in Violet Hill, Alabama. He saw his sister descending a staircase through the clouds and she told him he would be a "man of visions." From this early religious experience, he went on to a commitment to Jesus Christ at the



age of 13 and to become an itinerant preacher by the age of sixteen. Soon after, he married his next door neighbor and life-long partner Pauline Freeman and they had five children.

His artistic talent came to him in a vision, as well. In 1976, he wiped some paint on a bicycle with his thumb and saw a face on it. It spoke to him and told him to begin painting sacred art...in fact, it told him to produce 5,000 paintings. Reverend Howard Finster began his career and before his death at the age of 84, he had finished closer to 50,000 works of art.

Howard Finster's Paradise Gardens is primarily staffed by volunteers. To insure that the property is

open when you plan to visit, a call to Whitney Nave Jones at 423-619-8154 is recommended. At the entrance is a charming folk art gallery open to the public with some of Finster's work, as well as those of other regional folk artists. Paradise Gardens is located on the eastern side of Summerville just two blocks off Highway 27 on Rena Avenue. Look for the signs.

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Paradise Garden Visitors Center is Dedicated

The new Paradise Gardens Visitor Center, created from Howard Finster's original studio, was officially dedicated on Sunday, October 20, 2013.

The dedication began with an opening by Foundation Board President John C. Turner of Summerville, who read an amazing poem about Howard Finster. A prayer was given by Howard's daughter Beverly Finster Guinn. Following remarks were then made by Executive Director Jordan H. Poole who introduced Norman Girardot as Keynote Speaker.

This talk ended with a guest-shared recite of Howard's famous poem of objects thrown away and a playing of "Amazing Grace."

Presentation of Awards of Service were made to those who helped in the visitors center creation, and the Four Mile Baptist Church then performed the hymn "On the Old Rugged Cross."

The Dedication and unveiling of the Tony Rajer Courtyard and Visitor Center was then completed with a closing prayer by Chuck Cox.



Fine Art and Antiques – Roam the Gallery Thursday–Monday, 10:00 til 4:00

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