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THE

GROUNDHOG

Mentone, Valley Head, Hammondville, Menlo, Cloudland
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"Neighborhood News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

January 2015

MEMORIES AND RESOLUTIONS

BY RAY PADGETT

How do you describe the thoughts and emotions brought about by the ending of the old year and beginning of the New Year? For me, it can be summed up in two words – resolutions and memories.

The coming of each New Year triggers the desire to do better in this year than we did in the last. Some people make long, detailed lists of what they resolve to do in the New Year and others just make silent promises to themselves. No matter how we show it (or not) New Years resolutions are made by almost everyone. The

simple fact of making resolutions helps us understand what we want from our community and ourselves and what is needed to make it so.

This issue of The Groundhog includes some "Mentone Resolutions" that highlight the promise of Mentone and hopefully will bring about introspection, smiles and even laughter. We hope you enjoy them.

While resolutions spur us on with plans and action, memories bring out our emotional response to last years events. Our memories of last year may trigger feelings of hope, joy,

despair, hate, fear, love, or even pride.

However, when we think of outstanding members of our community lost during the past year we have mixed emotions of pride, love, sorrow and an overpowering sense of loss. Linda Brown and Homer Crow were two such people. We honor their memory with a brief summary of what they did for and what they meant to Mentone. Each gave immensely of their time and energy and subsequently improved the lives of their families and neighbors and made Mentone a better place to live.



The Mentone Springs Hotel

Of course, it is almost impossible to remember 2014 without feeling the tremendous loss of The Mentone Springs Hotel. The old hotel was the centerpiece of our town for the last 130 years. It was built with the anticipation of what tomorrow would bring. She stood the test of time because of her beauty and her relaxed atmosphere of welcome to all who came--rich or poor, young or old, ladies or gentlemen, workers or ne'er-do-wells, and dreamers or schemers.

The Grand Old Lady made money for many, caused broken dreams for others and some she just lured in to paint her face, trim her aging



Homer Crow

Homer Crow loved his wife Bernise, his family and his community. Homer Crow loved the life he lived and wished the same for everyone else. He was born in 1922, grew up in these mountains and served in World War II in Australia and The Philippines. Homer always worked. He began in construction, then created his own company in Chattanooga, "retired" to Mentone and owned and operated Crow's Nest Antiques with Bernise and then began another business in Fort Payne.

While Homer's professional life was full and successful, he found time to contribute to the Mentone community in many ways. He and

All stories continued on page 3



Linda Brown

By Bobby Brown

The year was 1953(September) when Linda Cochran fell on the back steps of Valley Head High School. Her knee was skinned, I was close by and saw what happened--lucky for me. I helped her up and made a bandage from my handkerchief and wrapped her knee. This was the start of a long and loving relationship. Linda became Linda C. Brown on October 17, 1954.

We lived in Gadsden for a little more than a year. This was her senior year in school. She was always determined and finished her senior year by working with her teachers by picking up her class work and then getting it back to the

THE GROUNDHOG

P. O. Box 387
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MENTONE MATTERS

By Mayor Rob Hammond



Mentone had a rough start to 2014. The Mentone Springs Hotel burned in March. Town Hall and Kamama's suffered flood damage in April. There was damage to several town and country roads at the same time. FEMA reimbursed the town for most of the damage we suffered, and the county received FEMA funds to repair the wash out on County Road 631.

Financially, the town continues to operate in the black. Our revenues remain steady. Last

year we were able to pave Cutler Avenue and still keep a little operating cushion. Hopefully we will do some paving this year but it will not be as extensive as the Cutler Avenue project.

There is positive news in town. The camps had good enrollments; our festivals were well attended; and looking at sale tax receipts, most businesses have done better or remained about the same.

Progress continues to be made in creating the Mentone Arts and Cultural Center. Three acres have been donated for the site, and second year architectural students from Auburn University will visit in February for a site visit. They will participate in a design competition for the center.

I had the privilege of sharing a Christmas dinner with our volunteer firefighters, policemen, and their families. It was a great time. We are blessed to live in a community where people give so unselfishly of themselves and their resources.

In his 1962 Christmas address President Kennedy said, "It is a day we remind ourselves that man can and must live in peace with his neighbors and that it is the peacemakers who are truly blessed."

From The Editor

Tomorrow...

Each New Year always brings thoughts of resolutions, promises, and questions about what to do in the coming year. For some reason I usually think of Little Orphan Annie and the song she so aptly and beautifully sang, "Just thinkin' about tomorrow, clears away the cobwebs". Thinking about tomorrow leads to dreaming and sometimes even planning--this helps guide us to where and what we want for our community and ourselves.

Mentone and diversity go hand in hand. Our community is made up of farmers, builders, craftsmen, small business owner/operators, retirees and camp owners/workers galore. The daily celebration of music and art permeates this entire patchwork quilt of backgrounds. While this diversity makes Mentone one of the most interesting and creative communities in America, it sometimes makes it more difficult to agree on a shared vision of what Mentone will be like in 5, 10, or 20 years from now. No matter what road is taken, Mentone citizens have the right and responsibility to determine and create this road together.

Let's grow in a manner that celebrates and respects each others differences, provides a safe place for children and retirees to enjoy our natural world, provides a catalyst for young people to seek their own dreams, and maybe even allow those who wish to remain and earn their livelihood in Mentone.

What would you like to see in Mentone's future? "Oh, the sun'll come out tomorrow", what will our community be like, where will our

children be, and what will our grandchildren think about Mentone? Every citizen has a voice--let's all be heard together in 2015. Let's continue to show the world that we are the friendliest town in Alabama and that we have a dream.

Ray Padgett,
For the MAPA Board



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MAPA
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Memories & Resolutions (cont'd from page 1)

(Mentone Springs Hotel)

petticoats, and admire her immeasurable grace. No matter her individual impact through her 130 years, she was always held up as the symbol of Mentone by town folks and visitors alike. Her legacy will fade quickly for most, but will live in the hearts of a few for the rest of their lives. May the dream of Mentone’s wooden angel live with us and guide Mentone’s future.

(Homer Crowe)

Bernise were among a handful of neighbors who started the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA) in the early eighties and kicked off The Groundhog monthly newspaper-- all volunteer work. For years, Homer led and did yeoman’s work for Mentone festivals and events

One of my favorite stories was about Homers action while he was Chair of the Mentone Colorfest. This particular year, Southern Living included a major article about Mentone and Colorfest in their October issue. Needless to say, Mentone was swamped with people during Colorfest. As always, David Gilbreath led the local Boy Scout Troop in parking cars for the festival. However, there were so many people that cars were stopped and lined up all the way to AL Hwy 117. Everyone began complaining to Homer about the congested traffic so Homer ran up to ask David what was taking so long to get the cars parked. David told Homer the parking lot was full, to which Homer replied, “that can’t be helped, we have to park all these cars, they’re causing a traffic jam”. David still laughs about what he calls the “Southern Living Festival”.

We could all take guidance from Homer Crow’s quiet, hard working commitment to Mentone and it’s people. His steady hand, always-helpful attitude and wry sense of humor are greatly missed by his family, friends and the Mentone community.

(Linda Brown)

teachers. While living in Gadsden she brought into this world our first child, a daughter, Gail. We moved back to Mentone in 1956. We bought our first home in October 1956 on Cove Road, a small white house next to the American Legion Hall. Our second child, Charles, was born in 1957, and in 1961, our third child was brought into this world, a daughter, Carol.

Linda soon became involved in school activities at Moon Lake School and continued to do so until all our children went to Valley Head High School. In later years, she tutored Moon Lake students through the MERF program.

Linda was a member of the Mentone United Methodist Church for 54 years where she was involved in every office of the church. She taught Sunday School classes for both children and adults and worked with Vacation Bible schools, as well as planning retreats and fundraisers.

She was always involved with our children, teaching them how to work and how to play. She taught me, Bobby, about life.

Linda also stayed busy with Garden Clubs at local, county and state levels. She was a charter member of the Rhododendron Garden Club and worked many hours with the area clubs every year putting together the VFW Fair flower shows. She also helped organize a junior Garden Club at Moon Lake School.

Linda was always interested in politics and served Mentone as a council member and as mayor. She finished the term of one mayor and worked tirelessly to get the sidewalk along Highway 117 from the post office to the Hitching post. She was on the committee to bring the community and Moon Lake Library to reality and this became a vital part of the Mentone community. She was a member of DeSoto Rescue Squad in its early years when nuclear fallout was a major concern and was involved with community preparation if this happened.

We square danced for 25 years as members of the DeSoto Squares and danced in Fort Payne and Rainsville. We attended some state and national square dance conventions often camping at the location of the conventions. She enjoyed ‘camper’ camping, except having to pack the camper before and having to clean it out after. We camped throughout the Smoky Mountains and Alabama State Parks.

Linda worked several years delivering meals to those who needed them through a county program. She also worked the voting polls for years where she loved talking to people as they came in to vote. And she was proud of being a ‘yellow-dog’ Democrat. As an originator of the

Mentone Crafts Festival, she served for many years as chairperson to make sure that it was a high-quality festival.

She attended the NACC and taking college courses in the 1980’s by driving to classes for two years. Her desire to learn was never satisfied, and she read anything she could get her hands on. She could discuss any subject and loved a disagreement. Her way of arguing with you would bring you around to her way of thinking and you would never know it.

In 1997, we started building a new house. Linda was in hog heaven selecting materials and going through lots of house plans. She loved selecting paint, wallpaper, cabinets, windows and doors. When the house was finished, she started talking about and looking forward to building again.

Most recently, Linda served as secretary and treasurer for the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District for the past 15 years. She worked every day to keep the records correct and to help the firemen lower Mentone’s ISO rating so the residents could enjoy lower insurance rates.

These are just a few of the many activities that Linda was involved with over the years. She did so much in the community and for people that no one really knew about --- not even me --- until after the fact. But she also enjoyed family gatherings with her parents and siblings. And she enjoyed gatherings with my side of the family. But Linda’s greatest times were spent with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS - 2015

By The Groundhog for Our Town

(Overheard while waiting for Santa Claus.)

1. I resolve to stay friendly and to welcome all who come with a smile and open arms.

2. I resolve to ask God to hold off on the rain for the third weekend in May – may the Rhododendron bloom.

3. I resolve to help Mentone businesses and citizens become more prosperous in 2015.

4. I resolve to fix the potholes or teach our kids how to play puddle hopscotch.

5. I resolve to help concerned citizens build a place for visitors to poop.

6. I resolve to ask God for more snow on our ski slopes and less on Highway 117.

7. I resolve to build walking trails (sidewalks) to make foot and bike travel a little safer for everyone.

8. I resolve to grow in stature but keep my small town grace.

9. I resolve to encourage my citizens to celebrate their differences without forgetting their own uniqueness.

10. I resolve to build a place for kids and adults to learn art and music and show off their own.

11. I resolve to let Mentone citizens and visitors celebrate without breaking the law.

12. I resolve to encourage our fantastic writers to write stories about their families, churches, neighbors, community and lives and send them to The Groundhog.

13. I resolve to encourage parents to stay in Mentone while their kids are in camp.

14. I resolve to start a “Pet-A-Possum Day”. A day where we say nice things about our politicians whether they deserve it or not.

15. I resolve to only say good things about others, especially when it is recorded.

16. I resolve to have a walking bridge to allow folks to see stuff on both sides of our river even if they have no car.

17. I resolve to shed my leaves in winter and dance in the light of the moon.

18. I resolve to make at least one of these resolutions come true. Happy New Year!

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.

What a wonderful fall it has been at the MERF house. Kids have been tutored, pianos have been played, groups have gathered, plans for the future have been made and good meals have been enjoyed. Senior lunches ended on a high note with a wonderful Christmas party on December 10th. Mrs. Long's Kindergartners started the festivities off with fun holiday songs ending with an entrance by wonderful St. Nick. A wonderful meal was provided by Greg Coe followed by poetry from the Black Hat Poet and great singing from everyone. Santa and his elves sent a goodie bag home with each person and a great picture with him. The senior lunch bunch crew always has a good time and the party was



no exception. Thanks to all the elves that made it happen. MERF's facebook page has pictures of many with Santa. Please like us.

Moon Lake students were busy this December getting ready for their Christmas program on December 16th. Hope everyone got a chance to see all the kids at their finest. Not sure who was more excited--the kids or Ms. Paula!

MERF added some energy this fall too with an addition to our board of Yon Hopper. The board meetings just went up another level of fun and vision for 2015. MERF is so thankful for everyone that supports our programs through their time and through their financial support. May this next year bring more enrichment to each of our lives.

Happy New Year to a wonderful Mentone community!

MERF: Mentone Educational Resources Foundation is a local non-profit with the mission "To enrich

Top - Some of the cute elves that worked hard for the MERF senior lunch Christmas party! (not shown are Kristen Emory, Thomas Qualls, Dee Dunkerly and Hazel Bickerstaff).

Left - Walt and Peggy Pullen. Thanks Walt for always having the MERF house at a perfect temp before lunch.

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 PO Box 107 Mentone, AL 35984 or contribute online at www.crowdrise.com/MERF. Contact us at merf.mentone@gmail.com or 256-634-4673.

(cont'd on page 24)



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MBA Year-End Wrap-Up

By Robert Hoffman, MBA President



By the time you read this, 2014 will be over ... or almost over. I thought that an appropriate topic would be to review what the Mentone Business Association has accomplished in 2014 and maybe talk a little about what we plan in 2015.

When we first started the association in April, several of the business people that we talked to told us that it had been tried before and failed. I never heard exactly why the earlier attempts failed, but it's looking like we might "succeed" – depending upon your definition of succeed. I just counted and we now have 39 members representing 26 Mentone area businesses. Many have been unable to attend our monthly meetings because they live out of town, but we've managed to stay pretty well in touch using email and phone calls. We still have no dues, but have asked for contributions now and then to pay for some necessary activities. We continue to encourage more people to join, as each new person comes with some new suggestions as to what we should plan to do. Our monthly meetings are the 3rd Monday from 6:00-7:00 at the MERF House, except for the December meeting, which we held along with a social hour at the Mentone Mountain View Inn hosted by Innkeeper Joe Piscatelli. Our meetings are generally informal, sometimes with an agenda,

but often just talking about whatever the attendees consider important.

We spent our first few months just deciding when to meet, choosing a logo, electing officers, setting up a web page, and putting together a rough plan of activities and events. By July, we were ready for the MAAC Julyfest and set up a booth to publicize the businesses of Mentone and offer some discounts to potential shoppers. We set up a similar booth at the MAPA Colorfest in October, distributing a variety of information to encourage festival attendees to shop in Mentone. At Colorfest, our Vice-President, Debra Fey, coordinated the Scavenger Hunt and another member, Lisa Schad, directed the Pumpkin Patch Jubilee. Both were a great success in familiarizing festival guests with our local businesses and providing them with a fun experience. During the summer months between July and October, we distributed "Business Packages" to our members that managed Bed & Breakfast rentals. The packages contained our Mentone map, rack cards for member businesses, and other information to provide B&B customers with a view of shopping opportunities in the Mentone area.

Our last "big" event of the year was to join with Log Cabin Village and their annual Christmas party to host a Holiday Open House Weekend on November 28-30. We publicized the event throughout northern Alabama and Georgia, and southern Tennessee. It went very well, with only a few minor glitches, and most of our local businesses had a very profitable and fun weekend. Many served cider, cookies, or other snacks, and we had music provided by the St. Joseph's bells, Santa Claus at the Log Cabin Village, and early Christmas decorations all over town. So many people contributed to the success of that weekend that I'd like to thank them here:

Thanks to Karen Beasley for advertising our event. Thanks to Kelly Leavitt for creating and distributing advertising flyers around the

area. Thanks to all who made the donations that allowed us to pay her and to purchase a few Open House signs. Thanks to all of the businesses that took part, decorating their shops real early for Christmas, serving refreshments to the shoppers, and extending their hours a little. Thanks to Mayor Rob Hammond for scheduling the Christmas lights early this year, in time for our weekend event, and thanks to Steve Flannigan for doing the work to get the lights on. Thanks to Melinda Baugh at St. Joseph's Episcopal Church for scheduling the bells to play Christmas songs all weekend. Thanks to Joey Smith for playing his part so expertly at Log Cabin Village. Thanks to the Mentone Market and the Mentone Community Church for the loan of the two Red suits--I understand that parts of each were needed to make a complete and comfortable suit. Thanks to all of these people for making the weekend a success.

And that's 2014. Plans for 2015 are to continue to support the MAAC and MAPA festivals throughout the year and to make our Holiday Open House Weekend an annual event. We also have a list of over 20 ideas that we'd like to implement at some point and we'll continue working to find new ways to accomplish our mission of sponsoring or supporting activities that will benefit businesses and business growth in the Mentone area. For more details on what we did in 2014 and plans for 2015, check out our web page at MBA.MyMentone.com.

We wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and hope you'll spend some of your holiday shopping time in our local shops. You'll be hearing more from your MBA in 2015! Our next MBA meeting is the 3rd Monday of January, the 19th, from 6:00 to 7:00 and you're all invited. It will likely be at the MERF House, but check out our web page to make sure. As we say every month, join us, contribute your ideas, and help us help the local businesses to be as successful as possible.

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Remember When . . .

By Angie Carden

The Groundhog printed a tribute to Sue McLaurin Henry written by Dr. Bill Berry in January of 2010. Ms. Henry was a well loved lady on this mountain. She was a mild 17-year-old freshman at Mississippi State College for Women when she was hired as a tennis instructor for Camp DeSoto's 1948 camping

season. In 1978, she purchased the camp and remained there until she sold it to Phil and Marsha Hurt in 1991. Dr. Berry wrote "Sue's many familiar quotations defined her life and philosophy, and they will always remain part of the Camp DeSoto legacy. Her pithy sayings are perhaps best summed up by the eight words with which she concluded daily staff meetings 'Have a good day, give a good day.' Although simple, these words serve both to recognize and to encourage the goodness that Sue saw in

each person and in each day. Sue's distinctive perspectives on human relationships and life purposes could be defined by four themes--justice, service, peace, love--that she consistently promoted through her words, actions, and instruction."

To me, her wonderful attitude and personality will always be a model for us all. And I do hope we all remember to "Have a good day, give a good day" throughout this New Year!



The Times of Our Lives

Breaking News! Exhausted Stork!

Scott and Brittney Pepper are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Avery Noralee Pepper. Avery was born in Rome, GA at Floyd Medical Center on December 5, 2014 at 10:13 am. Her older brothers are Chandler (11), Thomas (11), and older sisters are Hannah (8), and Adleigh (5).



Dakota and Kalee Baine are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Brantley Allen Baine. Brantley weighed 6 lbs, 3 ozs, and was 20.5 inches long. He was born at 3:56 pm on November 17, 2014.



Aaron and Shelby Britton are excited to announce the birth of their son, Brody Lee Britton. Brody was born on December 12, 2014 at 10 pm. He weighed 8 pounds and was 21.5 inches long.



Matthew and Taylor Smothers are proud to announce the birth of their son, John Brettley Smothers who was born on November 21, 2014 at 7:27 pm. He weighed 6 lbs, 6 ozs, and was 20.5 inches long.



Willie Haynes Birthday 100 Years Old

Willie Haynes of Mentone will be 100 years old on January 13, 2015! Moon Lake Baptist Church will host a reception in her honor on Sunday, January 11th from 02:00 til 04:00 P.M. in the church fellowship hall.

Please come by and wish her a Happy 100th Birthday. There will be refreshments provided by the church. NO gifts please, your presence will be enough. Everyone is invited.

Wedding Bells

Congratulations on the marriage of Dallas Wade Gregory, son of Jason Gregory and Tina Carden, to Morgan Marie McElhaney, daughter of Kevin and Connie McElhaney. Dallas and Morgan were married on November 16th at the Hay Barn in Collinsville, AL.



80 Years Young!

On December 10th, Bobbie Smith had her 80th birthday. She celebrated on November 30th at Jimmy Berry Hall at Mentone Green, in Mentone, Alabama. Over one hundred friends and family were in attendance. Her oldest grandson, Clay Sanders, is shown with her in the photo.





THE RECIPE CORNER BY ANGIE CARDEN

Hoppin' In The New Year!

I know I gave you guys a recipe for Hoppin John about two years ago, but it's such a tradition in my family, I decided to give you another! It's supposed to help bring about luck and prosperity, but honestly, I love it because it's just

delicious! So, I've made a variation for you. I hope you will give it a try and I do wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Happy New Year and Happy Cooking!

Hoppin' John Risotto

Don't be alarmed! Risotto is not hard to make! It just requires some love and time!

In a saucepan, heat 5 cups of chicken stock to almost boiling. You just want it good and steamy. Meanwhile, in a dutch oven or heavy bottomed soup pot, over low-med heat, saute 2 chopped shallots (or 1 small, chopped onion) and 4-5 chopped slices of bacon with 1 stalk finely chopped celery in 2 tbsp of butter. When the bacon is beginning to crisp and the shallots and celery are softening, add 1 ½ c of Arborio rice, stir to coat. Now the love begins! Add ½ c of your hot chicken stock and stir gently until it completely absorbed. And this process you will repeat until the liquid is all used! Be patient and gentle, and I promise you will have a perfect and creamy risotto! When you add the last ½ c of stock, add 1 can of drained black eyed peas. Stir until the liquid is absorbed and VIOLA! You will have a gorgeous pot of creamy Hoppin' John Risotto!

January Birthdays

Jan 1 – Alexis Reed
Jan 1 - Brittany Bates Harrison
Jan 1 – Harold Carden
Jan 1 – Jim Byrum
Jan 1 – Kathy Carson
Jan 1 – April Hurst
Jan 1 – David Tucker
Jan 2 – Donnie Bell
Jan 2 – Kristen Ann Nelson
Jan 2 – Amber Stokes
Jan 2 – Rickey Williams
Jan 2 – In memory of Chris Cooper
Jan 3 – Stacy Howard
Jan 3 – Aiden Logan
Jan 3 – Owen Izell
Jan 3 – Lance Elkins
Jan 3 – Cameron Hunt
Jan 4 – Ed Ringer
Jan 4 – In memory of Loretta McGee
Jan 5 – Angela Chambers

Jan 5 – Tiffany Coots
Jan 5 - Gage Gelfenstein
Jan 5 – In memory of Charles McGee
Jan 6 – Sharron Hatfield
Jan 6 – Laiton Keith
Jan 7 – Kristen Emory
Jan 7 - Madisen Smith
Jan 7 – Jace Carden
Jan 8 – Tyler Carden
Jan 8 – Garnett Smith
Jan 8 – Zachary Wallace
Jan 8 – Emily Stallings
Jan 8 – Jerry Boatwright
Jan 9 – Dallas Lee
Jan 9 – Ashley Jones
Jan 10 – Neal Whitt
Jan 10 – Stacey Worthey
Jan 10 – Nancy Frost
Jan 11 – Josh Shoults
Jan 11 – Robert Green
Jan 11 – Kandis Lawton
Jan 11 – Preston Owen
Jan 12 – Beverly Henry
Jan 12 – Aaron McKenzie

Jan 12 – Bud Atkins
Jan 12 – Thad Heinrich
Jan 13 - Willie Haynes
Jan 13 – Paulette Manning
Jan 13 – Anita Johnson
Jan 14 – Eric Kirby
Jan 15 – Joe “Dude” Brown
Jan 15 – Anna Easler Bailey
Jan 16 – Wynston Keith
Jan 16 – Trent Smith
Jan 17 – Jim Poe
Jan 17 – Joseph Brown
Jan 17 – Michael Owen
Jan 17 – Caiden West
Jan 18 – Nicole Goldsmith
Jan 18 – Bobby Blalock
Jan 19 – Candace Eve Perkins
Jan 19 – Jacie O’Tinger
Jan 19 – Judy McMahan
Jan 19 – Olivia Elkins
Jan 22 – Kyle Carden
Jan 22 – Anna Potts Garrett
Jan 22 – Rosetta McGee
Jan 23 – Scott Gifford
Jan 23 – Melissa Couch

Jan 23 – Dowe Forman
Jan 24 – Sandy Sharp
Jan 24 – Marysa Wigley
Jan 24 – Darrin Smith
Jan 24 – Tommy Harrison
Jan 24 – Lucas Elkins
Jan 25 – Shannon Davis Tolbert
Jan 25 – Sarah Wilcox
Jan 25 – Larry Sonsil
Jan 26 – Shirley Burton
Jan 26 – Seth Norman
Jan 27 – Kaie Facticeau
Jan 28 – Ruth Battles
Jan 31 – Tyler Cooper
Jan 31 – Bill Battles
Jan 31 – Ashton Carpenter
Jan 31 – Nate Bain

January Anniversaries

Jan 4 – Raymond & Heather Evans
Jan 6 – Jack & Peggy Johnston
Jan 10 – Tony & Cindy Tipton
Jan 23 – Kevin & Ashley Gifford
Jan 24 - Taylor & Nancy Brown

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What To Do Around Here!

January 2015 Community Calendar



Jan 1 - 1st Day Waterfall Hike at DeSoto State Park. Join staff & volunteers for a fun day of hiking thought-out the park to see some of DeSoto's waterfalls, big & small. See Lost Falls, Laurel Falls, Indian Falls, Lodge Falls, even more water features like Laurel Creek & the West Fork of Little River. Moderate Terrain over 5 to 6 miles. Meet at the DeSoto State Park Country Store. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free & open to everyone. 256-845-0051.

Jan 1, 29 - The Winter Excursion. The Winter Excursion is a mystery trip that includes hiking, bouldering, sightseeing, navigation, survival, teambuilding, waterfalls, and just plain fun. You will need to bring a small backpack, compass, flashlight, change of socks, warm clothes, camera, trail mix, water, small first aid kit, emergency blanket and emergency poncho. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jan 2, 5, 20 - Extreme Night Hike. This end-of-day adventure does not slow down just because it's dark. Intended for a large group team-building exercise, this hike has a bit of bouldering, some scrambling, some spelunking, and a whole lot of required working together. Headlamp and enthusiastic guide included. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.



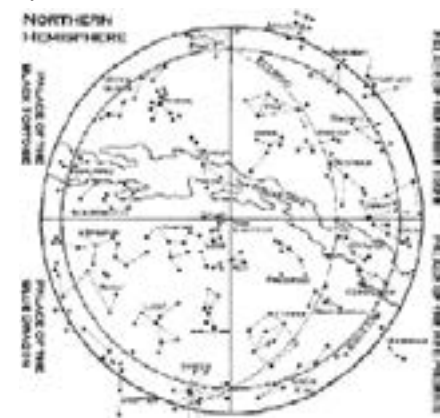
Jan 2-4 - "The Color of Place: Relics and Ruins" by Lydia Randolph. The Big Wills Arts Council (BWAC) proudly announces that it will host an exhibition titled "The Color of Place: Relics and Ruins" by

emerging visual artist, Lydia Randolph. This show will part of the continuing series of exhibitions and events to be presented by the arts council at The Fort Payne Coal and Iron Building on the corner of 5th on Gault Ave. N. The exhibit will be open Friday through Saturday from 10 a.m. till Noon and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. It will also be open from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays. Admission is free and work will be for sale. 256-845-2224.



Jan 3, 5, 9, 17, 21 - Rappelling Adventure. Come experience the thrill of rappelling down the sheer sandstone gems of NE Alabama. No previous experience necessary. Each trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jan 3, 16, 19, 24 - Rock Climbing Adventure. Nestled in the NE corner of Alabama are some of the best and unique sandstone cliffs in the country. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. 256-997-9577.



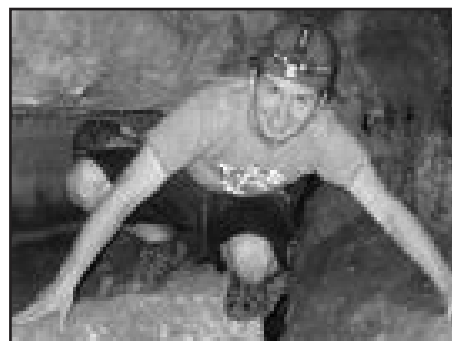
Jan 6 - Celestial Navigation. This two-hour class is a basic introduction to navigation by the stars. Learn how to navigate without the use of a compass or GPS with the same rules used for almost six thousand years. Meet at True

Adventure Sports. 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jan 7, 16, 27, 28 - Rock Climbing/ Rappelling Adventure Combo. Nestled in the NE corner of Alabama are some of the best and unique sandstone cliffs in the country. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing and rappelling is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jan 7, 26 - Hypothermia Class. This three-hour class teaches the extreme dangers and how to treat hypothermia. Learn how quick hypothermia can set in and the signs indicating it is setting in. Also learn steps to prevent hypothermia and how to combat it. \$30 pp. True Adventure Sports 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jan 8 - Treasure Hunt Adventure. Do you enjoy trying to solve riddles and clues? 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! True Adventure Sports. 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. 256-997-9577.



Jan 9, 12, 15, 23, 26, 30 - Wild Cave Tour. Go beyond where the average tourist explores! This 2.5 hour adventure is for those of you ready to explore on your knees, on your belly, in the mud and through tight tunnels. Explore in one of NE Alabama's most unique all-weather caves, Manitou Cave, in the heart of Fort Payne. Adventure includes helmet, cave lamps plus a fun informative guide. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jan 9-10 - Bull Bash 2015. Come and enjoy the thrill! A Rickey West Bucking

Bull Production. Event will be held at the Northeast Alabama Agribusiness Center in Rainsville. Gates open at 6 p.m. and bull riding starting at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 Adults, Kids 6-12 \$10 and 5 & under Free. 256-638-1650.



Jan 10 - Blow Your Own Ornament. This had become very popular here at Orbix Hot Glass. Come design and blow your own ornament with the help of one of our glass artists. No reservations are needed, it is on a first come, first serve basis. For this we welcome people of all ages (at least 5 years old). 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$35 per ornament blown. 256-523-3188.

Jan 13 - Mountaineering Adventure. This 4-6 hour adventure starts with a rappel into a low light maze where we will stop and anchor part of the way down the rock wall and travel on the rock face mountaineering style to get to our main destination. True Adventure Sports 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jan 14 - GPS Basics Training and Navigation Class, Part 2. You will learn to find a beacon placed in the woods as a SAR attempt while knowing your position, and the position of your teammates. True



Adventure Sports 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jan 15 - Orienteering Class. Basic yet essential skills for survival navigation are brought to you in map reading, compass reading, and topography. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jan 15 - 47th Annual Meeting, Rainsville Chamber of Commerce. The Rainsville Chamber cordially invites you, your guests and business associates to attend the Chamber's 47th Annual Meeting. Come enjoy a delicious dinner, fellowship, and music. 256-638-7800.



Jan 15 - Kamama Music Series. Come and enjoy the J. Taylor Jazz Trio. (The trio will be featured on the Duggers Mountain TV program on Alabama Public Television in January.) Kamama stage and seating provide the audience an intimate listening experience where live music can be fully appreciated. Admission is \$10 and seating is limited. Reservations are strongly encouraged. Dinner at 5:30 and music starts at 7 p.m. 256-634-3001.

Jan 17 - Paperweight Class. This class is designed for those who really just want see what molten glass is all about. Feel the heat, gather from the furnace, sculpt the glass into you own design. It is ultimately about the experience, some experimentation and a couple nice paperweights to take home or to the office to show your friends. Class size at the largest will be five students so everyone has adequate time at the bench working. There will be material provided

before the class for you to review and become familiar with concerning safety and basic glassblowing vocabulary. Please join us for some in-depth discovery. Reservations Required \$130 per person. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 256-523-3188.



Jan 17 - Night Zip Line Adventure. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before the adventure. 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jan 19 - MLK/ National Day of Service - River Clean-Up; Details TBA.



Jan 22, 30 - Cold Weather Survival Class. Learn how to survive in cold harsh conditions. Learn tips to prevent

hypothermia and death. This class covers the basics for emergency cold weather conditions and also covers a few tips on how to stay warm and comfortable for everyday cold conditions. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jan 23 - River Dreams - An beautiful new film by Hunter Nichols documenting a 44-day solo canoe trip from Birmingham, Ala., to the Gulf of Mexico. Dekalb Theater, Fort Payne.

Jan 24 - Sculpt Your Own Flower. Orbix Hot Glass. Have you ever wanted to actually sit at the gaffer bench and feel what it is like to shape hot glass? It's all about hands on experience in a safe and fun atmosphere with a final product we know you will love. There is a minimum of 3 people and a maximum of 5 in each class. 10 am. Reservations are required. 256-523-3188.

Jan 24 - United Givers Fund Gospel Singing Fundraiser. Groups include Bloodline, Shadow of the Cross and the Underwood's. Special appearances by Angela Wilson and Hope for Tomorrow. DeKalb Theatre 6 p.m. 256-845-4006.



Jan 25 - Tri-State Paper Crafting Meetup. Join us to learn, create and be inspired while crafting with papers, stamps, inks, punches, and die cuts. This month we

will make Valentine's Day cards suitable for everyone on your list! No experience needed. Kamama Gallery in Mentone AL 1:00-2:30. To learn more or reserve a spot go to - www.meetup.com/Tri-StatePaperCrafters/ or call 205.349-4026.

Jan 28 - Bouldering Adventure - Atop Lookout Mountain. Come experience first-hand what bouldering is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. We will climb on some of the best boulders atop Lookout Mountain. No prior climbing or bouldering experience is needed. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. 256-997-9577.



MOON LAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

HOURS:
TUES. and THURS.
3:00-5:00
SAT. 9-12

NEW CALENDARS
are available
at Kamama's,
Town Hall and the library.

Featuring original art
by a Moon Lake Elementary
School fourth grader!

Ongoing Calendar

MAPA Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm at the MERF House in Mentone.

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

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

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

of the month at 9am at the MERF house in Mentone.

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

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

FREE FOOD for eligible persons and families. Hours: Tuesdays, 9 AM to noon. New applicants welcome during these hours. Joint effort between St. Joseph's on the Mountain Episcopal Church (Community

Outreach Ministry) and the Food Bank of North Alabama.

Mentone Fire Department meets the 3rd Monday of every month at 7pm.

Mentone Town Council meets every 2nd Tuesday at 6pm.

The Lookout Mountain Wholistic Center meets the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of every month at Rock Ridge Retreat Center in Valley Head at 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome! Mentone Farmers Market open year round every Saturday, 10am-1pm.

Storytime at the Canyon Center every first Saturday of the month. 11am-Noon. Free. 256-782-5697.

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

Little River Canyon Center River Rhythms Nature & Art Family Fun Program every fourth Saturday from Jan-Oct. 1pm - 3pm; No Fee. Call Renee Morrison at 256-782-5697.

Valley Head School CHAMPS meet the first Monday of every month at 6pm in the Gym.

The Mentone Business Association (MBA) will meet the third Monday of each month from 6-7pm.

TIGER

C H A M P S

COMMUNICATE HONOR ADVOCATE MOTIVATE PARENTS STUDENTS

On December 5th, the VHS Library was once again converted into a living “Museum of Literature” for Mrs. Lasser’s senior class project. The students divide into groups and choose a book to read. On the day of the Museum enactment, they dress up in character, display programs, present spin-off products, have visual displays, bring props, and must do an oral presentation. This included everything from broken glasses and hand-made gauntlet gloves to rose bouquets and a candle-lit dining table. Why anyone would choose to read “Lord of the Flies” is beyond me, but they did an excellent presentation. The ladies from “Wuthering Heights” transformed half of the library into 2 seperate hotels. A few other ladies ‘proudly’ and romantically portrayed the story of “Pride and Prejudice.” Another group of unexplainable characters from middle-Earth did a great exhibit of “The Hobbit.” I commend all the students on their efforts and am very proud of the teachers for encouraging (um...requiring) these efforts. This will certainly help prepare our students for college curriculum as well as life experiences. ~Anna Mae~



Valley Head Students Learn Native American and Pioneer Skills

Mrs. Crider's 5th grade class at Valley Head has been studying pioneers and Native Americans. Mrs. Crider cooked bacon and Johnny cakes with molasses over a fire and cooked stew on a stone. She also taught the students how to make homemade butter.



Mentone Wedding Chapel

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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.

*To arrange your wedding or renewing of your wedding vows, call
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Worship

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

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

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

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

Wildwood Seventh Day Adventist Church, Mentone Chapter, is currently holding services in the Woodmen of the World Hall in Valley Head. All are invited to attend! Sabbath School and Song Service: 9:30-10:45AM, Worship Service 11:00-12:15. Pastor - Wilbur Atwood; Lay Pastors - James Hartley and Ryan Bunnel.

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church on N. Gault Avenue in Fort Payne holds Sunday mass in English at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in Spanish. Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. in English, Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. bilingual, Thursday at 6:00 p.m. in English, Friday at 9:00 a.m. in English and Saturday at 6:00 p.m. in bilingual.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 1519 Smith Gap Road (County Road 85), Fort Payne. Regular Worship Services are at 10AM Sunday. Bible class or Lent/Advent services every Wednesday at 6:30PM. Steve Schrader, Pastor - 845-4314. Everyone welcome.

Walnut Grove Baptist Church on Highway 11 North of Fort Payne, welcomes everyone at Sunday School 10AM, Worship Service at 11AM, Wednesday night youth meeting at 6PM, and Wednesday night Prayer Meeting at 6:30PM.

The Fort Payne Christian Center and Pastors Ken and Elaine Hollman invite everyone to join in Worship on Sunday at 10AM, Wednesday evening at 6PM. God Bless You.

Grace Presbyterian Church (PCA), 5760 Gault Ave. NE, Fort Payne, AL. Sunday School 9:45AM; Sunday Worship 10:55AM. Church office: 256-845-4756.

Menlo Church of Christ invites you to attend the 10AM and 11AM services and evening services are at 5PM on Sundays and Wednesdays. Visitors are always welcome.

Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Cloudland, GA, welcomes everyone to come and take part in our church services. Sunday School at 10AM; Worship Service at 11AM, Sunday evening at 6PM, and Wednesday evening at 7PM.

DeSoto Church of Christ invites you to attend Sunday Bible Study at 10AM, Worship at 11AM, Wednesday Bible study at 5PM.

Howard's Chapel (Church in the Rock) has regular services 10AM each Sunday. You are invited to attend these services or visit the church at other times. Casual dress is always acceptable.

St. Joseph's On-The-Mountain Episcopal Church, 21145 Scenic Highway, Mentone. Everyone welcome to 10:30AM Sunday service of Holy Eucharist. Open for daily prayer and thanksgiving. Supporting our community with outreach. Call for more information, 256-634-4476, <http://stjosephmountain.dioala.org>

Mentone United Methodist Church, 415 Cutler Avenue, Mentone, Alabama invites you to come and worship with us. Each Sunday, our Worship Service is at 11AM and Sunday School is at 10AM. Tony Gunter is the pastor. The service of Holy Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of each month, the second Sunday is Youth Sunday and Fifth Sunday is a service of music and pot-luck lunch. Bible Study

Wednesdays at 6:00PM.

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

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

Cove Road Baptist Church, County Road 631, Mentone, Alabama, invites everyone in the Mentone and Cloudland Communities to services-- Sunday School 10 AM (GA Time) Morning Worship 11 AM (GA Time) Wednesday Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 5:30 PM (GA Time) Bro. Brian Keith is the pastor.

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

Mentone Church of God of Prophecy - regular service times are Sunday School at 10AM, with Worship at 11AM. Evening services begin at 5:30PM on Sunday and 6PM on Wednesday. Bro. Whitney Smith invites everyone to attend.

Mentone Community Church, 90 Summerville Rd, Mentone, AL 35984. Pastor Tim Miller; Crosswalk Sunday School K through Adult - 9:15am;

Adult Worship Service - 10:30am; JC Kids Worship Service - 10:30am. Van Ministry for Children pick-up/take home, ages k-12, for all surrounding areas 8:15am. For children pick-up and drop-off van, please call Donna Bunn 706-398-0720 Wednesday small group study - 6:30pm.

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.

HISTORIC CHURCH SEEKS HELP

St. Joseph's-on-the Mountain Episcopal Church, whose origin is an 1870 log cabin, now finds that its present building has serious problems. Its foundation is unsound, its walls admit moisture and vermin.

This small church finds itself facing a repair bill of \$ 200,000. The active congregation of 35 members wants to preserve this Mentone icon for worshipers and tourists but cannot do it alone.

The church asks those who would like to help, please send your checks to St. Joseph's on- the- Mountain, P. O. Box 161, Mentone, AL 35984, with a note that it is for the Church Renewal Fund.

Mentone Volunteer Firefighters Honored

Representative Nathaniel Ledbetter attended the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District's Christmas Dinner held at Camp Laney in Mentone on December 15. Representative Ledbetter read a proclamation commending the volunteer firefighters for their outstanding service to Mentone and the surrounding area. Representative Ledbetter presented a check to the NLMFPD for \$1,000 and also presented a check to Mentone police Chief Lamar Bray for \$1,000. This money will go toward equipment purchases for both the volunteer fire department and the police department.



MUDDY ROADS

By: Doug Kiker

Back when I was a boy,
Travel in a car right after a rain
Could be quite a pain,
Not a joy.
Muddy Roads--
I remember when paved roads were rare,
The first time I saw one, it made me stare.
Back then, this kind of road was a "blacktop."
Sometimes a muddy road was so bad,
It really would make you mad,
When you got going, you might not be able to stop,
When you did stop, it was very hard to start.
Ruts--they were there--bless your heart;
Could lead you to the ditch,
Or north or south, ruts determined the way a car would go.
Be that fast or slow,
Often, the second car couldn't choose exactly where it's slipping and
sliding would end.

Much of this on the ruts would depend.
In wet seasons Daddy kept Pearl Mule ready
To aid a distressed neighbor when in the ditch he did spin.
He never took money--to do so he said would be sin.



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Welcome To Mentone!!



Stop by our Log Cabin office in the heart of Mentone for some great coffee and conversation.

.....
LOTS and LAND

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

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

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

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

4.43 WOODED ACRES, unrestricted. Septic tank, public water & power already in place! Great place for RV or to build your getaway. \$39,900. (311288)

RARE DOWNTOWN MENTONE building lot. Remnants of the old stone foundation and hand-dug root cellar still in place. Septic tank of unknown condition also on property. Commercial or residential possibilities! \$45,000. (765396)

NEW LISTING! 2 LAKEFRONT LOTS being sold together with add'l wooded lot. That's 3 lots for the price of 1! Hidden Lakes SD. \$75,000.



SWEET! INVITING LITTLE CABIN in the heart of Mentone; steps away from sunsets & views from Brow Park, dining, shopping & festivals. Wide-plank pine floors throughout. Large laundry/half bath could easily have shower added. Nice front & back porches. Nearly new kitchen appliances. Small, private back yard. There are so many possibilities for this neat little cabin! Great rental, too! \$109,000. (1000723)



CANYON VIEW FOREST! You can hear the river rushing below you from this attractive, quiet & secluded 3BR/2BA cabin, bordered by LRC Nat'l Preserve. The rim of the canyon is just outside your back door. 12x24 deck; balconies off each of the upstairs bedrooms; wood-burning FpC; all appliances, most furnishings remain. \$159,000 (1001006)



TINY CHALET CABIN WITH BIG AMENITIES like an outdoor kitchen; 16x20 shop (designed to be future guest cabin); 14x32 screened back porch; 10x18 front deck; new well house, pump & lines (according to seller, the well water is great! Public water lines & meter are also in place). 2BR/1BA chalet has built-in beds, cupboards, etc. 2.3 private wooded acres, quiet & frequented by wildlife. \$152,500 (1006428)



A WINDING, PRIVATE DRIVE leads to this welcoming, cedar-sided cabin on 2.91 wooded acres with small, wet-weather stream. The 8x42 front porch is great, but wait till you see the 12x42 back porch! Kohler fixtures & Corian solid-surface counters throughout. Spacious LR w/19' vault. Main-level MABR; custom cabinetry; wide-plank floors; huge laundry; on-demand H2O heater; 10x12 shop. So much more! \$228,500. (749941)



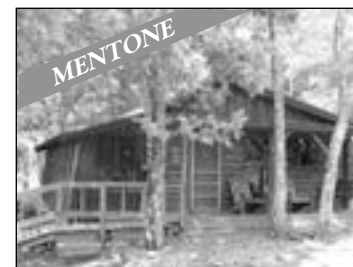
HEART OF MENTONE. One-level, rambling ranch-style home. 4BR/3.5BA; separate office; detached 2-car garage/shop; carport; deck; family room w/fireplace; den /stone gas log fireplace; formal LR; formal DR; huge kitchen w/b'fast bar & dining area. On the corner of Linchpney & Cool St. Brow views & lovely sunsets are only a glance away! \$172,500 (1001780)



STUDIO COTTAGE, DOWNTOWN. How often does anything come up for sale in downtown Mentone? Exactly. This is one of those rare opportunities to own a place right in the heart of the Village of Mentone. 1BR (or 2 if you finish the loft)/1.5BA; KIT; LR; sunroom; side porch; private back yard; front showroom/office/studio. Multi-use space perfect for weekends, festival times, part-time, all the time. \$110,000 (415301)



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



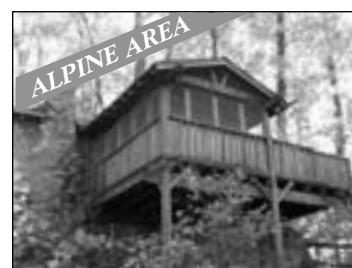
LET'S GO TO THE MOUNTAIN! Hop in the car & spend the weekend in your own log cabin! Small, but just the kind of retreat folks are seeking. Wood interior; new kitchen; 1BR/1BA (new bath); rocking chairs on the front porch (it's being sold fully furnished); wooded backyard, lovely front yard w/fruit trees & garden areas; flower beds; quaint "outhouse-look" well-house. Great rental possibilities, too! \$94,900 (840095)



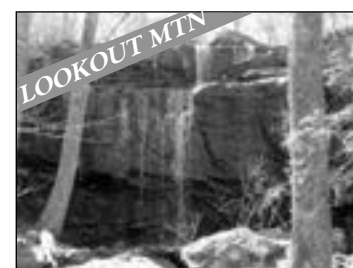
JUST PLAIN ADORABLE! Tiny, "Carpenter Gothic"-style cottage, built to be energy efficient; 896 sq ft; 2BR/1.5BA; screened back porch (to enclose for add'l living area if you choose). Warm, comfortable, cozy & so, so cute! Natural landscaping; low maintenance yard; wet-weather stream; peaceful woods. Between DeSoto State Park & Mentone, just off the DeSoto Pkwy. \$135,000. (1006846)



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



THE ESSENCE OF THE MOUNTAIN in stone and wood. One of the last remaining stone cottages, tucked into the boulder-strewn woods, in historic East River Park developed by Col. Milford Howard himself before it became Camp Alpine area. Little River is just across the road. Main house has 1BR/1BA, detached 1BR guest house; small shop/storage bldg. Fully furnished. Now \$110,000. (965674)



40 ACRES WITH 2 STREAMS not far from downtown Fort Payne, not far from Little River Canyon. That makes this beautiful piece of earth even more attractive! Great potential in its woodland & pasture. Yellow Creek flows through it, as well as another smaller creek. Great natural privacy, just minutes from town. Centrally located between Little River Canyon & Desoto State Park, a prime location for the outdoor enthusiast. \$130,000. (335437)



The Life and Legend of Granny Dollar

By Will Dillard



What constitutes a legend? According to the dictionary 'It is a story in which a kernel of truth is embellished to an unlikely degree'. This I believe is a good description of the legend of Granny Dollar.

This is the 6th and final article about the life of Nancy Emmaline Callahan who became known as Granny Dollar.

Granny's Final Days and Death

During the years that Granny lived on the Master Schools property she became quite a tourist attraction. Anytime a writer or dignitary visited Col. Howard the trip wasn't complete without a visit to meet and talk with Granny. When they arrived they were given the only chair Granny had, a straight-backed chair with a leather seat. Granny would take a seat on a nail

keg.

Granny was known as a fortune teller and would use the blade of a rusty old knife to trace the lines in a visitor's hand and tell their fortune. Granny was also known as a herb doctor and had many natural cures. She claimed that she could cure cancer but told visitors that she couldn't tell a fortune and offer a cure in the same visit because curing was God's work and "conjuring" or "fortune telling" was the Devil's.

Granny survived on her own by raising vegetables and herbs and with donations of food from her neighbors. Her strong constitution was an asset needed to survive during hard times. She said that the problem with the white race was that they spent too much time putting away for their old age and had lost the connection with the earth. Most of the time you would see Granny barefoot and working in her garden, it was this connection that she was speaking of. Col. Howard had once commented that he felt that Granny would succumb to old age during the winter when she wasn't able to be outside and active.

Many of the local residents have told of visits to see Granny and enjoyed her stories of her life. She could almost always be seen with her corn cob pipe hanging out of her mouth and it would miraculously stay in place as she talked and it moved around between the gaps in her teeth. Although her neighbors talked about enjoying their visits with Granny all of them feared her mongrel dog Buster. He was her constant companion and protector. On one occasion

Floyd Cordell and a group of boys came by Granny's cabin at night and decided to taunt Buster. They clapped their hands and began yelling. After Buster came out barking Granny let out an Indian war whoop and yelled, "Get 'em Buster" and the boys took off running.

By January 1931 Granny, now aged 105, had been bedridden for several weeks, her body swollen with fluid from edema, also known at the time as "dropsy." Many of her neighbors came by during this time to take care of Granny. Dee Gilliam and his two sons would come by every day or two to check on Granny since she had been sick. On one occasion when he stopped by Granny told him to look in one of the three trunks that made up the only other furniture Granny had and find a bundle wrapped in blue paper. When he opened it he counted 23 of the old style large dollar bills. She told him she had been saving it to be used to buy a tombstone for her grave. She recounted that she had sold her last cow to buy a tombstone for her husband Nelson Dollar's grave. Sadly

(cont'd on page 18)



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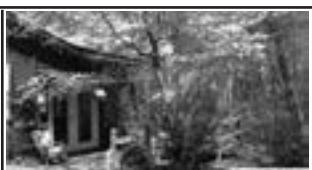
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Mountain Laurel Inn... 7 acres, Main Residence, Guest House and Gathering House. Call for more details. \$479,000 MLS #917483



REAL BARGAIN. Lge 3BR/2BA home blocks from downtown Mentone. Screened porch, lge BRs, open floor plan, garage, lge bonus room, wood burning stove, workshop plus storage bldg, fire pit, and more. \$289,900 MLS#1001478



Custom Log Cabin on 4 secluded acres. This is a great mountain get-a-way for a little price. \$110,000 MLS #564870



45 ACRES on the West Brow of Lookout Mountain. Main house, guest house, rock walls and so much more. \$648,000 MLS #815966



HOME ON WOODED 1/2 acre lot near DeSoto State Park. Open LR/DR/KIT, 2 BR, 2 BA, +office/3rd BR. Screened porch, 2-level deck, 2-car garage, storage bldg. New roof. Some furnishings remain. \$169,000 MLS#1001423.



3 BEDROOM, 1 3/4 bath home on 2.75 acres near downtown Mentone. Kitchen appliances, central heat and air, screened porch. \$167,500 MLS #1003489.



BEAUTIFUL. Mountain Get-Away with gorgeous view year round. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, shake-sided outside w/low maintenance metal roof. Nice eating area in open kitchen. Deck. \$269,000 MLS#1000691.



Investment or Personal Retreat! Open design, 1BR/1BA being sold fully furnished. ONLY \$59,900 MLS #499665



EAST FORK Little River/Lake Lahusage, stone cottage w/FP, new Porch & deck, new doors/windows, new HVAC, new dock & walkway, new fence, new paint. Most furnishings remain! \$229,000 #765166



Lake Lahusage in your back door! Bank owned 2BR/2BA cottage AND 2-car garage with apartment potential. \$247,500 MLS #654813



East Fork of Little River! 200' of water frontage, 3BR/2BA cottage, storage building. \$239,999 MLS #902940



COZY 1 BEDROOM, 1 bath cabin in Laurel Creek Lakes Subdivision. Kitchen appliances, central heat and air, gas logs. \$157,500. MLS #1002623.



LOOK OUT at DeSoto Falls! Building lot with a darling 1 bedroom cottage ready for use. \$465,000 #970196



Secluded, Custom log cabin, 2BR/2BA, wooded lot, 2+ acres, security system, privacy gate, detached storage. \$279,500 MLS #332033



Impeccable Brow View! 5BR/3.5BA home, custom commercial kitchen, with many extra features. Must See! \$545,000 MLS #338039



1400 SQ FT house in Mentone with 3 bedrooms & 2 bathrooms, a landscaped lot, large deck and workshop. Can be residential or Commerical. \$44,900. MLS #1007802



1946 Stone Cottage offering 3BR/2BA, river frontage, AND a 2-story guest house on 4+ acres. \$419,000 MLS #902720



OWL'S ROOST! Adorable cabin in Crestline Subdivision featuring and open living concept. \$128,000 MLS #690326



Daniel Boon Log Cabin on 2 acres! Plenty of room with 2BR/2.5BA, unfinished basement and large balcony. \$225,000 MLS #621178



Highland Springs Subdivision near downtown Mentone! 2BR/2BA cabin on 1.23 acres. \$153,500 MLS #359224



Bear's Lair - Adorable cabin currently in a rental program. 3BR/2 BA with a brow view. \$299,900 MLS#692795



NATURE LOVER'S PARADISE w/views of Lookout Mountain! log home on 5 acres. Bordered by LRC Nat'l Preserve. Wrap around porches, guest cabin, stone fireplace & cathedral tongue/groove ceilings! \$275,000 MLS#1006120.



STONE & FRAME 2-story 5BR/3BA cottage. 80 acres w/2 creeks. 5,000+sq.ft. on two levels. Basement w/workshop and garage. On Lookout Mountain near Mentone. \$299,000. MLS #1000190.

LOTS AND LAND

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

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

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

1-acre lot in Hidden Lake Subdivision. \$50,000. MLS #665968.

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

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

Corner lots in secluded and private subdivision walking distance to East Fork Little River. \$29,900. MLS #939357.

106' of prime brow view with paved road frontage. \$109,500. MLS #403694.

Lakefront! 200' of water frontage and 169' on paved road frontage. \$55,900. MLS #845943.

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

1.47 Acre Lot located in Mentone close to DeSoto Falls and West Fork of Little River. \$25,000. MLS #548635.

12.1 ACRES....mostly wooded on CR641. \$48,500 MLS#632461.



UNIQUE!!! Main House, Guest House, Boathouse and approx. 470' of frontage on Little River. \$850,000 MLS #1007556

OVER 550' OF BROW FRONTAGE. Rock entrance & retaining walls. Features LR w/rock FP, Florida room, dining, screened sleeping porch, in-ground pool & pavilion. ALSO, Guest Cottage with 1400 sq. ft.. \$600,000. MLS #1002249.



Great 5 acres tract of wooded land and paved road frontage! \$30,000 MLS#1004370.

1 acre in Hidden Lake Subdivision. \$45,000. MLS #1007350.

Seven Acres! Beautiful Corner Lot in Subdivision on the East Fork of Little River. \$29,900. MLS#641045.

The Rhododendron Garden Club

By Mellanie Tuttle

The Rhododendron Garden Club met at Madelon Houghland's home on Tuesday, December 9, for our December meeting and luncheon. A brief business meeting preceded the luncheon. The minutes from November were read and approved. Marsha Merrell encouraged members to think of host and nectar plants for pollinators when planting in the spring. Assignments for hostesses, meditations and programs are set for 2015, and it's going to be a very good year! Come learn about bees, wildflowers, moss, crafting a miniature pot, flower designs, horticulture and so much more! "A Partnership with Pollinators" is next year's theme.

Martha introduced Jan Wilkinson, past president, to install the new officers for 2015. She mentioned Joyce Kilmer's poem 'Trees' and compared and contrasted the parts of the tree with the duties and responsibilities of the garden club as well as the officers and members. President Martha Wood is like the trunk in that she provides the stability and interacts with all the other parts/ members. Marsha Merrell, Vice-President, is like the tap root of the tree, supporting the President and anchoring the group. Secretary Mellanie Tuttle is the fruit (boy is that the truth) and maintains the health of the club by recording events and activities. Dianne Keuhl, Treasurer,

is like the sap. Silent, unseen, but without its presence the tree/group can have no life. Members are like the leaves. They indicate the health, beauty, usefulness and breath and must be willing to support the officers and participate. Thanks to Jan for a lovely installation.

The meeting was adjourned, and the delicious part of the day started. Madelon's miniature blue bottle tree, lily and poinsettia blossoms provided a festive holiday atmosphere. She provided ham and others brought sidedishes and desserts. Three former and seven current members enjoyed the meal and conversation. Someone, unnamed, had to start clearing the table so we would leave!

We wish you a very blessed Christmas season and a Happy New Year. The Garden Club meets the second Tuesday of the month at 10:00 am at the MERF House. Please come join us in 2015. You can be the seedling under the tree- providing new life, a tenderness and hope for the future!

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



The Groundhog Needs Your Help

The Groundhog is on the hunt for some missing hard copies of past Groundhog issues and we need your help. We need copies of the following issues:

January 1987	December 1989
December 1989	September 1990
June 1993	July 1993
October 1993	November 1993
March 1994	July 1994
January 1995	September 1995
September 1996	January 1997
May 1997	July 1997
August 1999	March 2000
June 2000	July 2000
October 2000	December 2000
January 2001	September 2001
October 2001	November 2002
Jan/Feb 2003	June 2003
July 2003	September 2003
November 2003	March 2004
June 2004 to December 2004	
ALL ISSUES from 2005 to 2012	

If you in possession of ANY of these issues and would be willing to donate them back to The Groundhog, please contact us by calling 256.465.1107 or emailing us at groundhognews@aol.com. You can also mail your issues to us in a sealed envelope to The Groundhog, P.O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984.



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I spent several years researching Granny and I would like to give some credit to some of the others who provided me access to their research. Anne Young, Elizabeth Howard and the Dekalb Legend were invaluable resources and many times gave me access to interviews and research I would not have been able to obtain on my own. I hope that I have presented facts to verify or contradict many of the aspects of Granny's story so that you can have a true picture of this remarkable Indian woman who endured much pain and suffering in her life but persevered and lived well beyond the average age of the era.

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LOST: Eyeglass case in Mentone/Valley Head area. Color is mostly pink and multi-colors. There is a \$25 reward for the lost case. If any information, please call Charlotte (256)996-5995.

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Memories of MERF's Christmas Party

(cont'd from page 4)



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