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**THE**

# GROUNDHOG

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

Volume 34, No. 2

"Neighborhood News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

February 2015

## INTRODUCING THE MENTONE ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BY RAY PADGETT



Mentone Arts and Cultural Center, Inc. was officially formed as a Non-Profit Corporation in the state of Alabama on October 14, 2014. It is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. Its mission is to educate local citizens and visitors in our areas musical and artistic heritage and to encourage the continuation of these traditions.

The primary purpose of the Corporation is to build, operate and manage a facility (Mentone Arts and Cultural Center) used to teach, to perform, and to exhibit art, music and theatre productions. The Center is envisioned as a vehicle for aspiring artists, musicians and actors to enhance their skills and be exposed to great works from professionals in the field.

The Mentone Arts and Cultural Center's Board of Directors is formed in a manner that

(cont'd on page 3)

## Bryan/Blake Trio to Perform in Mentone By Liz Baker w/ Nancy Blake



Save the date! On Saturday, February 21, Mentonians will have a rare opportunity to hear an iconic trio, The Rising Fawn String Ensemble. For roughly ten years from the mid-70's to the mid-80's, this trio toured the lower 48 states in a wide variety of performances and recordings. Their music was to have a broad influence on musicians for many years.

They have graciously agreed to perform in concert at Moon Lake Community Library at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 21. All ticket proceeds will go directly to the library to support and enrich its ongoing contributions to the community. Admission is only \$10 and will include free refreshments. There is limited seating, so it is expected that all tickets will be sold well before the performance date. CD's will also be available for purchase.

The members of the Library Board are excited about this historic performance and invite you to share in and enjoy the music of this longstanding trio. Tickets will be available soon from library Board Members Jerome Stephens, Jim Byrum, Tom Emory, Donna Sutton, Dianne Kuehl, Barbara Stoll, Bill Berry and Liz Baker.



## THE GROUNDHOG

P. O. Box 387  
Mentone, AL 35984

The Groundhog is published monthly by the Mentone Area Preservation Association, MAPA (Website: [www.mapamentone.com](http://www.mapamentone.com); Email: [mapamentone@gmail.com](mailto:mapamentone@gmail.com)) and was first conceived on Groundhog Day, 1982, and organized April 5, 1982, for the purpose of preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area, and is chartered as a 501c3 non-profit corporation.



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Have a Letter to the Editor or a story idea? Send it to The Groundhog at [groundhognews@aol.com](mailto:groundhognews@aol.com).

## MENTONE MATTERS

By Mayor Rob Hammond



Several years ago I had a friend who said to me, "Hammond, y'all have a bunch of granola bars at Mentone." I asked for clarification and he said you know, "nature nuts." I laughed and said yes, and that's a good thing. In the 80's there was talk of a possible landfill near the east fork of Little River. In response we held a town hall meeting in Mentone. On the panel for the meeting were Talmadge Butler, Superintendent, DeSoto State Park, Jim Russell, Administrator, DeKalb County Health Department, and Dr. Doug Williams, University of Alabama and Alabama Public Television. The topic was "Does Little River Need Protection?" As a result of the meeting The Friends of Little River was formed. It was truly a grassroots organization that attempted

to include all stakeholders. Under the leadership of Desmond Disney and the hard work of many, Little River was designated in 1991 an Outstanding Natural Resource Water (ONRW) which gives the highest level of protection to the river to prevent future pollution. After reaching that milestone the Friends of Little River faded away as an active organization. However many of us still keep a close eye on the river. Angie and Bill Shugart of One World Adventure are Little River water keepers. Mary Shew of the National Park Service has been monitoring the water quality of Little River for many years. The Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments has conducted water quality studies on all three forks of the river.

Unfortunately in today's political climate labels are not always accurate. Today if someone is an environmentalist it is assumed that they are anti-business. In Mentone and on Lookout Mountain nothing could be further from the truth. DeKalb County is selling clean air, clean water, and our natural beauty to get folks to come here, stay, and spend money. We have to protect the crown jewels of our tourism industry—Little River, DeSoto State Park, Little River Canyon National Preserve and the surrounding areas.

We have been blessed with one of the most beautiful areas in God's creation. It is our obligation to be good stewards and protect it.

## From The Editor

Hunker Down,

New Year's celebrations, football games, football games, and more football games seem to crowd out other thoughts and conversations during January. Not much going on in February except Cupid and his little magical arrows on Valentine's Day. When I was young, February was a time for pruning fruit trees, checking the seed supply for spring planting, and making sure we had this year's copy of the Farmer's Almanac to guide our planting time decisions.

Mentone is really "laid back" during February unless weather conditions allow skiing on Alabama's only ski slope. Some hardy souls continue to hike and bike our mountain trails and still enjoy nature with all its wet and foggy cold. For most folks it's just hunker down time with family and friends and go out only when absolutely necessary.

Mentone's volunteer organizations use February as a time to begin planning for this year's many events, festivals and celebrations. While not much of a rush yet, the plans get discussed, made and changed depending on money, talent availability, and inclination and expertise of the planners. The spiritual, emotional, and physical requirements are similar to those exerted by farmers and gardeners getting ready for spring. However, now its lots of meetings, phone calls and e-mails instead of pruning, reading and checking.

My sister gave me an old picture of the kids down on the farm when they were young. The old farm house, the barn, the pond, the fields, even the bumper sticker on the car brought back special, happy memories of times when I thought only my parents were getting old. One little picture brought a flood of happiness--keep your old pictures.

This Valentine's Day relax, hunker down by the fire, hold hands with someone you love, and remember the times when energy ran through your veins like fire-water on Saturday night. Have a happy Valentine's Day.

Ray Padgett,  
For the MAPA Board



Join MAPA Today!  
Help us preserve  
Mentone's history  
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MAPA  
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Mentone, AL 35984  
Website: [www.mapamentone.com](http://www.mapamentone.com)  
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# This Olde House: MERF Community House

*How do I love you (Mentone)? Let me count the ways...*

*I love the beauty of the mountain especially when snow blankets us all.*

*I love the joy of children back at school creating, learning and playing.*

*I love the faithfulness of a community that continues to support MERF financially.*

*I love being able to keep tutors and students warm, focused and successful on cold winter days.*

*I love celebrating special occasions such as Willie Haynes 100th birthday!*

*I love opening the doors again for Senior lunches returning on Wednesday February 18th .*



*I love hearing the excitement of great plans for the Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction coming in April.*

*I love MERF's ability to award local students with Sue McLaurin Henry scholarships this spring.*

*I love that Walmart awarded MERF with a \$1000 grant to continue great programs that build a healthy, vital, forward-looking community.*

*I love being perched on my little hill on 117 and being a part of a caring community.*

*MACC (cont'd from page 1)*

we believe provides a broad base of community input and support. The Board is unusual in the manner of its formation--it is composed of "positions" from other local non-profit and governmental organizations. The Board is made up of: Mayor of Mentone, President of Lookout Mountain Camp Association, President of Mentone Educational Resources Foundation, President of Mentone Area Arts Council, President of Mentone Business Association, President of Mentone Area Preservation Association and Director of DeKalb Tourism and two (2) at large Directors appointed by the President of the Mentone Arts and Cultural Center Board.

Currently, the MACC board includes Rob Hammond, Marsha Hurt, Kristen Emory, Bob Hoffman, Ray Padgett and John Dersham. The two at-large members are Bill Berry and

Hank Willet. The Mentone Area Arts Council President position is currently vacant so that position on our Board is also vacant. They plan to elect a new President at their next meeting. Mentone Arts and Cultural Center officers are: Ray is President, Kristen is Vice-President, Rob is Treasurer and Marsha is Secretary.

We are excited about the potential of the Mentone Arts and Cultural Center and believe it will be a tremendous catalyst for the creation and promotion of art and music in our area. Updates of progress will be included in future issues of *The Groundhog* and other media outlets.

## ABOUT GROUNDHOG DAY



According to Wikipedia, Groundhog Day is a day celebrated on February 2nd each year. According to folklore, if it is cloudy when a groundhog emerges from its burrow on this day, then spring will come early; if it is sunny, the groundhog will supposedly see its shadow and retreat back into its burrow, and the winter weather will persist for six more weeks.

Modern customs of the holiday involve celebrations where early morning festivals are held to watch the groundhog emerging from its burrow.

In southeastern Pennsylvania, Groundhog Lodges celebrate the holiday with *fersommlinge*, social events in which food is served, speeches are made, and one or more plays or skits are performed for entertainment. The Pennsylvania German dialect is the only language spoken at the event, and those who speak English pay a penalty, usually in the form of a nickel, dime, or quarter per word spoken, with the money put into a bowl in the center of the table.

The largest Groundhog Day celebration is held in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, with Punxsutawney Phil.

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# MAAC Has Big Plans for New Year

By Beverly Bates



This is an exciting year for the Mentone Area Arts Council. Not only are we focusing on an ambitious and meaningful year, but we hope you--artists of all kinds and art lovers--will join with us in providing fun, creative and educational events and classes that will help maintain and improve the quality of life here in the Mentone area. Thanks to your input, and with your support and involvement, we plan to once again offer our annual JulyFest Art Festival and Mentone Home Tour. We also want to bring you all types of art-related classes. We want to help support the fine arts program at Moon Lake School. We want to help our artist members get as much exposure as possible through exhibits, website, Facebook, referrals and more. We want to open up four of our monthly meetings to all members this year with informative, creative and educational presentations and demonstrations--

-giving you something to take away from the meetings and apply to your craft.  
We are also planning a brand new event for Mentone which you will learn more about shortly.  
Our success depends on vibrant members and volunteers like you. So, come on board and have a fun, creative year with us!

|                                 |       |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Types of Memberships available: |       |
| Patron of the Arts              | \$500 |
| Organization/Business           | \$100 |
| Couple                          | \$ 40 |
| Individual                      | \$ 25 |
| Student                         | \$ 10 |

You may join or renew online at [www.mentonearts.org](http://www.mentonearts.org) or by filling out the application below and sending it along with a check to:

Mentone Area Arts Council  
P. O. Box 370  
Mentone, AL 35984

If you have any questions, please contact Beverly Bates at 205-520-1556 or email [bjbates@bellsouth.net](mailto:bjbates@bellsouth.net).

# 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](mailto: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.



## MENTONE AREA ARTS COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Are you an artist, musician, writer, actor, dancer, etc? \_\_\_\_\_

If so and if applicable, what is your website address? \_\_\_\_\_

Type of membership:    Student    Individual    Couple    Org/Bus    Patron

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# Shopping in Mentone

By Robert Hoffman, MBA President



Winter--what a great time to be running a business in Mentone. You have plenty of time to relax, take a nap, catch up on email, and try to figure out how to encourage more shoppers to stop by. For most of the year, running a successful business in Mentone is merely a matter of trying to figure out how to get a few of the weekend shoppers to stop by your shop and then having something they might be interested in purchasing. In winter, there's the double challenge of having many weekends with virtually no shoppers. We occasionally get a few hardy souls that come up to check out the ski run and then decide to wander into Mentone to see what's here. Or there are those that come here to eat and happen to notice that there are shopping opportunities here – although many seem to drive in, eat, and drive out. In general, however, many of the local shop-owners often spend much of their weekends twiddling their thumbs, hoping an occasional shopper will stop in. However, for all these same reasons, it actually is a great time to be shopping in Mentone. No crowds and sellers are, as they say, highly motivated.

At our monthly MBA meetings, we often spend time just throwing around ideas on how to encourage more shoppers. We occasionally come up with an idea like November's Open

House Weekend that turns out to be a success and provides a welcome bit of additional income for some of the shops. We're always willing to hear new ideas, so we invite all of you Groundhog readers to come on by if you have ideas you'd like to share. You don't have to own a business to take part in our MBA meetings, just have an interest in helping maintain a successful shopping environment in Mentone.

In my role as webmaster for the MyMentone.com website, I try to keep up with changes in the businesses here as much as possible to ensure the accuracy of my online directory and downtown map. I try to make it uptown every weekend to see what new businesses are starting up, which ones are moving where, and (sadly) which ones are shutting down. One thing I've noticed in the five years that Joyce and I have operated the Art Gallery @ Mentone here is that the shops around town seldom stay vacant for very long. I think that's due to two factors: One is that we have a large number of people in the area that have a talent or product that they want to share, and the other is that Mentone is gaining a reputation for being an artsy-craftsy mountain village where tourists like to visit and shoppers come looking for unusual and fascinating items, thus a good location to start a new business. I think it's great that this is the case and am hoping that the MBA can do its part to ensure that these factors continue to be true. To do this, it's obviously necessary that we need to continue to find ways to help these shop-owners market their products and make enough to sustain a business, and we need to do what we can to maintain and enhance the town's reputation.

One thing that we can all do to help is to shop locally whenever possible. We all know that we can get gasoline a few cents cheaper at Walmart, but isn't it better to fill up here and make sure we continue to have our two, much-appreciated service stations? Likewise, there are many products available in Mentone that

can be purchased a bit cheaper elsewhere; but if the difference is small, why not do your part to help the town and buy those products locally? If you'll go to MyMentone.com and click the Directory menu choice, you'll find all of our businesses listed by category--Art, Clothing, Food, Gifts, Lodging, Storage and Woodcraft. The next time you're planning to drive into Fort Payne to shop, you might want to review that directory to see if what you want might be available right here in Mentone. Many of these shops have websites displaying their products and you'll find links to these sites on the Directory page.

I've often heard complaints about visitors (and locals) not knowing when various shops are open. To address this, we've started producing a Daily Openings List that tells who is open each day of the week. This list is updated every few months or whenever businesses come or go, and when other significant changes occur. A copy of the list can be printed by going online to MyMentone.com, Wilma keeps a copy of the latest one on the Town Hall bulletin board, and there are copies in the Mentone Market's Visitor Information Center.

Shopping locally helps the Mentone shop owners, but it also helps the town. Every time you pay a sales tax here, part of that goes to the town treasury to provide funding for many things around town. So when you shop locally, you're not only helping your friends and neighbors that run the businesses, you're helping yourself and the town by providing the money needed to help keep the town beautiful and functioning.

Our next MBA meeting is the 3rd Monday of February, the 16th, from 6:00 to 7:00 and you're all invited. It will likely be at the MERF House, but check MBA.MyMentone.com 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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Valley Head School Honor Roll

ALL A's

|                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1st Grade</b><br>Antonio Bautista<br>Byrdie Tayloir Furlow<br>Christen Julianna Grace Gilreath<br>Brayden Lee Hughes<br>Cooper Harris Kirby<br>Jaclyn Lowery Owens<br>Savahana Teran | Caitlyn Christine Collins<br>Megan Taylor Foshee<br>Delialuz Francisco Angel<br>Isaac Alexander Gifford<br>Hector Gonzales Mejia<br>Fulton Kyle Miller<br>Samuel Allen Morrow II<br>Alejandro Navarro Molina<br>Abigail LeighAnn Otting<br>Baldemar Teran                  |
| <b>2nd Grade</b><br>Natalie Gracelynn Rae Beasley<br>Catherine Abigail Gifford<br>Olivia Grace Hancock<br>Johnny Wayne Mann<br>Moises Torres                                            | <b>10th Grade</b><br>Brianna LaDia Boozer<br>Anna Grace Carden<br>Katlyn Bree Ewing<br>Madison Michele Hunt<br>Bailey Kira Kirby<br>Brooke Lynn Moore<br>Carol Sthefany Rodriguez Rosales                                                                                  |
| <b>3rd Grade</b><br>Chance Russell Earl Pearson                                                                                                                                         | <b>11th Grade</b><br>Justin Lee Easler<br>Stephanie Paige Poe<br>Mackenzie Shae Willingham                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>4th Grade</b><br>Finley Suzanne Darwin                                                                                                                                               | <b>12th Grade</b><br>Hannah Skye Blansit<br>Olinda Malvina Boyzo-Gutierrez<br>Ashley Shay Gibson<br>Makayla Lynn Jacobs<br>Kaittee Lea Mcgee<br>Anthony Dwayne Mckenzie<br>Ana Lilia Padilla Boyzo<br>Katelyn Marie Poe<br>Amelia Grace Saferite<br>Diana Elizabeth Sontay |
| <b>6th Grade</b><br>Nicholas Hunter Brooks                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>7th Grade</b><br>Sadie Elisabeth-Lyn Durham<br>Joshua Lance Elkins<br>Victoria Gabriella Hidrogo                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>8th Grade</b><br>Vandila Leigh Freeman<br>Haleigh Victoria Gregory                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>9th Grade</b><br>Nathan Elijah Battles<br>Caroline Elizabeth Baty<br>Breanna Rea Blalock                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

ALL A's & B's

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1st Grade</b><br>Toddley Howard Day<br>Luther Carl David Wright                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>8th Grade</b><br>Bryan Frasco Boyzo<br>Erik Frasco Boyzo<br>Cody Alan Brown<br>Katelyn Renae Busby<br>Ronald Jimmy Ray Gibson<br>Madison Lee Gregory<br>Macy Danielle Hirst<br>Julie Kristen Smith<br>Alexis Paige White |
| <b>2nd Grade</b><br>Tristan Daniel Charles Gibson<br>Miguel Angel Hernandez Jr.<br>Kadence Lucas Hurley<br>Christopher Pena<br>Destiny Michelle Pennington                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>9th Grade</b><br>Yenifer Alvarez<br>Austin Luke Huskey<br>Hunter Jay Izell<br>Madison Gayle Jordan                                                                                                                       |
| <b>3rd Grade</b><br>Abdias Adiel Gonzalez<br>Noah Lee Isaac Hulkan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>10th Grade</b><br>Morgan Faith Blalock<br>Angelica Nicole Garner<br>Ethan Richard Harrison<br>Phyllis Alexandra James<br>Alisha Nichole Kellar<br>Sydney Danielle Vest                                                   |
| <b>4th Grade</b><br>Jamie Young Brown Jr<br>Allie Brenae Pritchett                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>11th Grade</b><br>Megan Aislinn Kelley<br>Lucas Killian Nix<br>Gerald Daniel Perez                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>5th Grade</b><br>Gavin Alexander Bain<br>Ellanore Janis Cox<br>Jake Robert Gatlin<br>Lanie Alyssa Henderson<br>Luis Eduardo Hernandex<br>Mason Brock Vest                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>12th Grade</b><br>Taylor Paige Purvis<br>Madelynne Rose Radcliffe                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>6th Grade</b><br>John David Heath Blalock<br>Marlene DeLeon<br>Kaylynn Allison Hulkan<br>Aaron Franklin Millican                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>7th Grade</b><br>Gabriel Dalton Boozer<br>Eden Rayne Cavitt<br>Randall Edward Lee<br>Amanda Lee Garcia<br>Avion Michelle Gelfenstein<br>Jordan Kenleigh Henderson<br>Daisy Pahola Hernandez<br>Kallie Amanda Ingram<br>Yeiko Alexander Rivera-Boyzo<br>Brian Manuel Rosales Nunez<br>Madisen Baylie Smith<br>Steven Teran |                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |



TIGER

C H A M P S

COMMUNICATEHONORADVOCATEMOTIVATEPARENTSSTUDENTS



Tiger CHAMPS will have our first meeting of 2015 on February 2nd at 6pm in the library. Sixth grade will be hosting this meeting. We encourage all parents and community members to attend. A sincere “thank you” to all who continue to support our school and educational program.

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## Food, Love and Valentines



### THE RECIPE CORNER BY ANGIE CARDEN

Authors, poets, and playwrights have attempted to capture “Love” in words for thousands of years. Their work speaks to us all of the enduring power of love throughout history. We woman do enjoy a beautiful poem, sweet words from our beloved, the cards, the candy, perhaps a diamond or two (I had to say it!), but I have always heard that the unfailing way to your man’s heart is straight through his stomach! Now, if you want to invoke the feelings in your true love that make him want to bring those things to you, cook that man a dog gone delicious meal! Nothing says I Love You like a home cooked meal to a man.

I had to have a little fun with this one. But, by all means, if you have a tradition of going out for Valentine’s Day, do your thing. I say, ship the kids out, stay in and you can refill your plate all you want! That’s just my thought! Whatever way you decide to spend your day together, I wish you all a wonderful Valentines this year! And I have said before, don’t save it all for this holiday, show your special ones Valentine’s Love every day!

#### Orange Basmati Rice

The perfect companion for your chops! Just in case you are not familiar with basmati rice, it’s simply a different cut of rice. You can use any rice you have. Just remember, if you are using instant rice, follow the directions for that, as far as amount of liquid. Regular rice, of course is a two to one ratio of water to rice.

In a sauce pan heat 1 tbsp of butter, then add 1 c basmati rice to coat. Now add to that, ¾ c orange juice and ¾ c water. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to simmer, cover and stir occasionally, until rice is tender and liquid is absorbed. I suggest adding 2 finely chopped scallions and a little orange zest if you have it!

I hope everyone has a wonderful Valentine’s Day! Happy cooking!

### Grilled Pork Chops with Apricot Glaze

For any grilled chops, I suggest using bone in, ¾ to 1 in thick cuts. They hold their moisture and are absolutely delicious. Now, I urge you to do a bit of prep for this one. Though it is not mandatory, I highly recommend marinating your chops in the glaze for thirty minutes. And leave yourself time to let them come to room temp (thirty minutes, as well), before you grill them. I assure you, this will leave you with a tender, juicy pork chop, well, if you also let it rest ten minutes after grilled so the juices redistribute! I’m really not asking a lot here I promise!

#### For the Apricot Glaze:

In a gallon size plastic bag, combine: 1/3 c of your favorite BBQ sauce, 1/3 c Apricot fruit spread, 1 tbsp minced ginger (may use ground if you’d like, but fresh is best), 1 tbsp apple cider vinegar (though any vinegar will do), and 1/8 tsp crushed red pepper flakes. Smush it around to combine, then add your chops and set in the fridge for as close to thirty minutes as you can.

Keep in mind, you really want to let them come to room temp before you put them on your grill, that in consideration, preheat your grill to close to med heat, if you have the ability, around 350-375. When you place them on the grill, reserve your glaze. Place them in direct heat for 2 minutes per side to sear them, then move them to indirect heat for 15 more minutes, turning half way through and brushing on more of your glaze. If you have a meat thermometer, the center should read at least 145. When you remove them from the grill, let them rest ten minutes! You will have a delectable piece of pork!

### February Birthdays

Feb 1 – John Lawton  
Feb 1 – Abby Bell  
Feb 1 – Tammy Kirby  
Feb 1 – Walter Brooks  
Feb 1 – Rindy Flannigan  
Feb 1 – Fontana Stinson  
Feb 2 – GROUNDHOG DAY!!  
Feb 2 – Beverly Smith  
Feb 2 – Karen Nixon  
Feb 2 – Zeb Kincer  
Feb 3 – Melanie Potts Garrett  
Feb 4 – Angela Phillips  
Feb 4 – Carson Frost  
Feb 4 – Brittany Akins  
Feb 5 – Yon Hopper  
Feb 5 – Savannah Wallace  
Feb 5 – Cameron Collins  
Feb 6 – Amanda Blalock  
Feb 7 – Jordan Sutton

Feb 7 – Tristan Rodriguez  
Feb 8 – Crystal Smith  
Feb 9 – Kara Goss  
Feb 9 – Jonnie Frost  
Feb 9 – Cayden Collins  
Feb 10 – Joe McClure  
Feb 10 – Leonard Keith  
Feb 10 – Katie White  
Feb 11 – Cayla Wigley  
Feb 11 – Faith Nelson  
Feb 11 – Gentry Grisham  
Feb 12 – Tara Kirby  
Feb 12 – Nicholas Freeman  
Feb 12 – Sydnee Grider  
Feb 12 – Bubba Browder  
Feb 13 – Gretchen Phillips  
Feb 13 – Carol Busby  
Feb 13 – Craig Hall  
Feb 13 – Isaac Pangle  
Feb 14 – Valentine’s Day!  
Feb 14 – Abbi Gifford  
Feb 15 – Ashley Coffman  
Feb 16 – Katelyn Busby  
Feb 17 – John David Blalock

Feb 17 – Trey Moore  
Feb 17 – Tyler Allen  
Feb 18 – Richard Harrison  
Feb 18 – Gail Crider  
Feb 19 – Beverly Bates  
Feb 19 – Danielle Powell  
Feb 20 – Jon Baggett  
Feb 20 – Stella Pierce  
Feb 20 – Joan Byrum  
Feb 20 – Juanity McGuire  
Feb 21 – Wendy Manifold  
Feb 22 – Justin Langston  
Feb 22 – Johnny Mack Ferguson, Jr  
Feb 22 – Corey Blalock  
Feb 22 – Derek McMahan  
Feb 24 – Michael Chambers  
Feb 24 – Tom Emory  
Feb 24 – Payton Day  
Feb 25 – William Beasley  
Feb 26 – Kylee Elkins  
Feb 26 – Johnny Battles  
Feb 27 – Makayla Mullis  
Feb 28 – Derek Davis  
Feb 28 – Ethan Bailey

### February Anniversaries

Feb 3 – Jeremy & Amy Henderson  
Feb 5 – David & Pam Dean  
Feb 7 – Calvin & Myra Lanier  
Feb 7 – Mack & Debbie Flannigan  
Feb 8 – Clark & Genella Tolbert – 50 years  
Feb 10 – Danny & Sible Hopper  
Feb 14 – Joey & Melanie Garrett  
Feb 14 – Kevin & Connie McElhaney  
Feb 14 – Jeff & Amanda Wigley  
Feb 14 – Heath & Kari Miller  
Feb 15 – Leonard & Amy Keith  
Feb 17 – Vance & Patti Carden  
Feb 23 – Jeff & LeAnn Bain



# What To Do Around Here!

## February 2015 Community Calendar

**Feb 3-4 - High Adventure Trip.** This is a 3 day adventure including a Wild Cave Tour, Rock Climbing, An Extreme Night Hike and end with a relaxing canoe trip. Price includes all activities, attractions, permits, fees, gear, and guides. 256-997-9577.



**Feb 4-5 - Loomis Brothers Circus.** Come and enjoy the Show!! Circus features performing elephants, white tigers, dogs, ponies, acrobats, clowns, jugglers, trapeze and more! There are two shows 4:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. Doors open an hour before each show. Tickets are \$15 for adults, two children age 12 and under are admitted free when accompanied by paying adult, additional children are \$8 cash only is accepted at the circus. Shows last 1 hr. 45 min. 256-638-1650.



**Feb 5 - Crochet Class at Alice Circle -** Join us for a crochet class at Alice Circle from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. \$20pp includes all supplies. 256-605-0726.

**Feb 5 - Kamama Music Series.** First and third of each month--an intimate listening experience where live music can be fully appreciated. Admission is \$10 and seating is limited. Music starts at 7 p.m. cst. 256-634-3001.



**Feb 6 - 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.



**Feb 6 - Level 1 Lettering Class.** Join us at Alice Circle for a beginner-level lettering class from 6pm to 7:30pm. Learn multiple lettering techniques and create a hand-lettered sketch to take home. \$20pp with all supplies included. 256-996-1181.



**Feb 7, 21, 25 - 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.



**Feb 7, 9, 20, 21 - Extreme Night Hike.** This end-of-day adventure does not slow down just because it's dark. Intended for a large group team-building exercise, this hike has a bit of bouldering, some scrambling, some spelunking, and a whole lot of required working together. Headlamp and enthusiastic guide included. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 6

p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 256-997-9577

**Feb 8-12 - Customer Appreciation Days for Alabama State Parks.** Alabama State Parks are proud to announce our new 2015 Customer Appreciation Days. All 22 State Parks will offer Free Camping. In addition, we will be providing a 50% discount on all of our lodge hotel rooms, cabins, cottages and chalets at all parks. What better time is there to get out and experience your Alabama State Park campgrounds than when it's free or to enjoy the luxury of our other overnight facilities when discounted 50%. Groups and monthly renters are excluded from this promotion. Call now for reservations! 1-800-ALA-PARK.

**Feb 11 - 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



**Feb 12, 16, 27 - 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.

**Feb 12 - Crochet Class at Alice Circle.** Join us for a crochet class at Alice Circle from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. \$20pp includes all supplies. 256-605-0726.

**Feb 14 - Blow Your Own Ornament.** This has become very popular here at Orbix

**Hot Glass!**  
Come design and literally "blow" your own ornament with the help of one of our glass artists. We welcome people of all ages (okay you have to be at least 5 years old). No reservations needed! 9am-4pm CST. \$38 per ornament. 256-523-3188.



**Feb 14, 24, 26 - 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.

**Feb 14 - Mentone Inn Valentine Special.** "Love is INN the Air." Celebrate with the one you love with a night in one of our cozy rooms. Chocolate-dipped strawberries, home-cooked breakfast for two. \$130 plus tax. Limited space available. Additional night for \$100 plus tax. Roses available upon request. Call Cynthia at 256-634-4836 or email mentoneinn@centurytel.net.

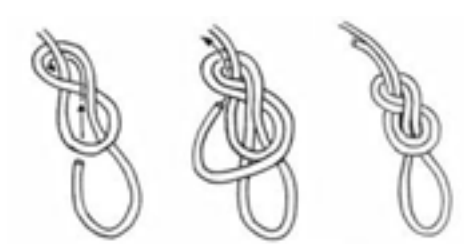
**Feb 15 - Tri-State Paper Crafting.** Join us to learn, create and be inspired while crafting with papers, stamps, inks, punches, and die cuts. This month we will look forward to spring! No experience needed. Kamama Gallery in Mentone AL 1:00-2:30. To learn more or reserve a spot send an email to cottagepaper@bellsouth.net or call 205.349-4026.

**Feb 18 - Advanced Rappelling Class.** Learn special rigging, mechanical advantage, ascending and rope walking, alternate rappel devices, changeovers, knots, safety procedures, special gear, and backup belaying. Meet at T.A.S. Training Center 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 256-997-9577





**Feb 17, 18, 25 - Rock Climbing Adventure.** Nestled in the NE corner of Alabama are some of the best and unique sandstone cliffs in the country. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. 256-997-9577.



**Feb 19 - Knot Class & Application.** Introduction and instruction to essential knots and their application for camping, rappelling, rock climbing, outdoor survival, and other applications. 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. 256-997-9577

**Feb 19 - Kamama Music Series.** First and third of each month--an intimate listening experience where live music can be fully appreciated. Admission is \$10 and seating is limited. Music starts at 7 p.m. cst. 256-634-3001.

**Feb 21 - 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. Maximum class size is four 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 safety and basic

glassblowing vocabulary. 9am-1pm. Reservations and full payment required. Call us at 256.523.3188 or email us at [info@orbixhotglass.com](mailto:info@orbixhotglass.com) for more information or to make a reservation. Cost - \$135. Minimum age is 13 years old with parent

**Feb 24 - Family Trivia Trail With Local Merchants.** This is an event to making shopping fun! Each store that participates in this event will have an in-house discount. There will be trivia maps given to each customer and they can bring their map to be punched if they answer the trivia question at each site. You can pick up a Trivia Trail Map at The Chamber of Commerce or any businesses downtown. The completed map will be entered into a drawing for a grand prize. Some of the merchants participating are The Big Mill Antiques, The Book Shelf, Roger's, S House, The Wishing Well, Addie Kate's, The Strand, Cook's Castle and more. 256-845-2741

**Feb 26 - 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. 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. 256-997-9577.

**Feb 28 - Sculpt Your Own Flower.** Have you ever wanted to actually sit at the gaffer bench and feel what it is like to shape hot glass? In this class, its all about a hands-on experience in a safe and fun atmosphere with a final product we know you will love. After watching us shape glass into a flower, it's your turn to sit at the bench to sculpt your own from an array of colors. Our artists step in and lend a hand or guide you as you shape the glass. Each class is about one hour in length with a class size of 3-5 people. Cost: \$75 per person. Minimum age 13 years old. Reservations and full payment are required. Please call us at 256-523-3188 or email us at [info@orbixhotglass.com](mailto:info@orbixhotglass.com) or more information or to reserve a spot.

## 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.

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## Those Were The Days . . . Happy Memories for Valentines Day



*Roger and Loree Brownfield.  
Married 31 years. Residents of Mentone*



*Hoyt Eugene Potts & Karen Ann Killebrew  
on their wedding day, July 16, 1968*



*Bobby and Sandy Blalock 1973*



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*Louise and Robert Worthey, July 1944*



*Larkin J. and Betty Bell, 1947*



*Claud and Sharon Burke in 1989*



*Sandra and Ray Padgett in 1966*



*Ed and Mary Porter*

## ***Mentone Wedding Chapel***



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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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# 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.

**Gravel Hill Baptist Church**, 14701 Hwy 11 South, Ft Payne, AL 35967 has Sunday School 10 AM & Worship Service at 11 AM each Sunday. All welcome! Wednesdays at 6PM we have supper and a brief devotional time together. Pastor George Moses.

*Send any changes to The Groundhog at [groundhognews@aol.com](mailto: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 worshi- pers 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.



# Willie Grace Harrison Haynes--One Hundred Years Well Spent



One of ten children, Willie was born at home in Mentone on January 15, 1915. Her parents were the late James and Alice Ruth (Ferrell) Harrison, natives of Mentone. Her siblings Hazell, Verdie, Edith, Mamie, Lila, Thomas, Emil, Dewey and Luis are remembered by many native Mentonians. Willie attended elementary school at Moon Lake.

As a young girl, Willie began working in Fort Payne as a housekeeper and there she met Marvin Henderson from the Dogtown area.

They were married in 1932 and welcomed a daughter Sarah Ruth Henderson (Owen) in 1933. In 1934, they moved to Rome, Georgia, where Willie worked at a mill and Marvin, a truck driver at the time, managed a service station and a grocery store. Tragically, Marvin died of tuberculosis at the age of 37. Now a single mother, Willie continued to live and work in Rome where she raised her daughter. She was a hard worker and an attentive mother. A friend of Willie's introduced her to Gordon Haynes and they married in Rome in 1952. Upon retiring, Gordon brought Willie back to her beloved Mentone and built a home on property formerly owned by Willie's aunt and uncle, Ola and Jim McNew.

Besides being a dedicated worker and mother, Willie is known for several other wonderful traits. She was a good seamstress and cook. She is especially known for her wonderful pies, and these have been enjoyed by many friends and family over the years. An avid gardener, both vegetable and flowers, she canned for many years and the colorful and bountiful flowers in her yard attest to her green thumb. She is a quiet woman but big in heart and always took time to visit the sick of the community and take food to the family.

A faithful member of Moon Lake Baptist Church, she rarely misses a Sunday service when in town. She is strong in her faith in God and is always willing to give her time and money to

help the youth and children with their projects and programs.

Willie's daughter, 6 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren and 13 great-great grandchildren hosted a party for her at the MERF House on Jan. 10 where many of her family gathered. Five generations were present. Moon Lake Church also had a birthday celebration/reception for her on Sun. Jan. 11th where many friends came to wish her a happy 100th birthday. We are proud of Mrs. Willie and appreciate her life and the love she has for the people of Mentone.

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day!

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# Remember When . . .

By Angie Carden

One year ago this month, I was asked to write a new monthly column titled "Remember When?" In the first article I spoke of how time flies by us all so quickly. Well, as I sit here now, I have come to the realization of just how true that is. The holidays went by so swiftly, and this school year will be over before we can nod our heads. With that in mind, while you are celebrating Valentine's Day with your loved ones this month, please bare in mind that every day is a gift from God and make it your mission to show your family "Valentines" love all year long! That being said, I will tell a little of what you would have seen in the February 1988 issue of the Groundhog. (That's 27 years passed).

On the cover, you would have seen the very familiar, smiling face of Mr. Max Cash sitting in his mail car, which he served 36 years delivering. The article was announcing his well-earned retirement on February 3rd of that year. It went on to say that he had seen his route grow from 43 miles to 73 miles and how he watched the landscape change almost as much as he had seen the seasons come and go.

It described how he began the route after he was appointed by U.S. Representative Albert Rains when he was 27 years old living with his wife Roberta and their family in the house near Moon Lake that, by this time, had been their home for over 40 years.

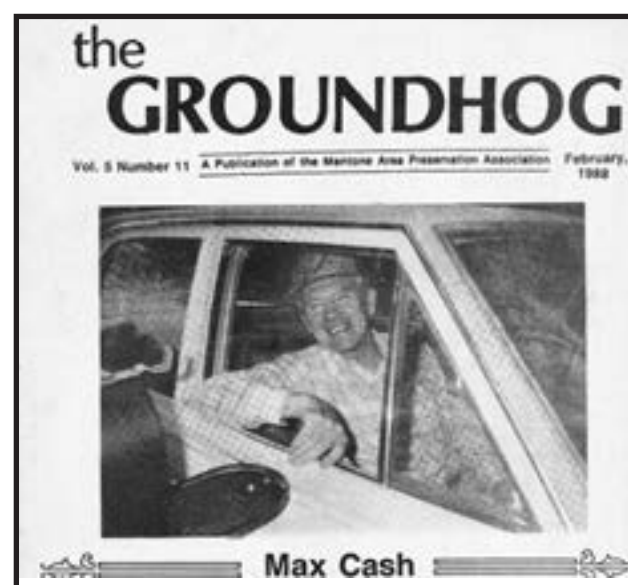
He spoke of two route books which belonged to Mr. York, who carried the mail for many years. There was no date on one of the books, but it was estimated it was kept sometime around the

Depression Era. It read like a "Who's Who" of mountain families and through it we were able to gain insight into not only the mail service of the time, but the family units, friendships, deaths, and moves of the rural people.

Max recalled one of the hardest times he had delivering the mail was in 1960 after a big ice storm left them without power for 18 days. He went on to state that "I went to a meeting of mail carriers years ago, and we were told that we were the nearest thing to a representative of the United States Government that most people would ever see, and for us to treat people right and to help them any way we could and let them have a good opinion of the United States Government. If they needed a gallon of milk, take it to them. Times have changed now, but I remember picking up Mr. John York and giving him a ride with his 100 pound sack of feed and keeping an eye on things for others."

The article ended with the beautiful words, "This loyal courier may have achieved the 'swift completion of his appointed rounds' but there is no one who has lived on a Mentone Rural Route who will not remember his dedication and kindness and who will not wish that this was not the end of an era." Max was indeed one of Mentone's finest.

Another story you would have seen in that edition of The Groundhog, and one of great importance to me, was about my precious Aunt Ruby Stalvey. She had been running the Chevron in Valley Head for a while and was announcing her return to Mentone to run the store again that is now Helena's. Anyone that has lived in Mentone any amount of time has dealt with my Aunt Ruby in one store or another! Even her daughter Phyllis and her husband Jim ran that store, then known



as "Jim's" for quite a while. Many of us were happy when Aunt Ruby was back on the mountain. As she put it, "I have many friends in the valley that I love dearly, but my heart and my home are in Mentone." I couldn't have said that better myself! I, as many of you, have a very special love for this mountain I call home.



## The Times of Our Lives

Lori Manifold and William Blackburn are excited to announce the birth of their son, William Greyson. William was born at Floyd Medical Center on January 1, 2015, at 7:01 PM and weighed 7 pounds and was 20.5 inches long.



5 generations: Ethel Manifold, Connie Bell, Angie Carden, Hope Harrison & Briley Harrison



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# The Rhododendron Garden Club

By Mellanie Tuttle

We lost another member in December. Peggy Roark previously held the office of Vice-President, Treasurer and as last year's President served with kindness, humility and care probably learned during her years as an RN. In the fall, she clerked for the VFW Flower Show, entered a design for the first time and placed second! Not one to draw attention to herself, she quietly pointed out her blue ribbon and had a very satisfied smile on her face. Her steadfastness and all-around niceness will be missed.

The January meeting of the Rhododendron Garden Club was held at the MERF House on Tuesday the 9th. Pledge to the Flag, business meeting and program followed light refreshments served by hostess Mellanie Tuttle. Business meeting news is pretty dry reading but Martha Wood's horticulture report on invasive plants had information worth noting. Invasive plants can quickly overtake native plants (kudzu can grow one foot per day). Hiking boots and boats can transport unwanted 'hitchhikers' so be sure to clean those items after walking or putting into the water. Use native plants and pull up invasive plants already growing in the yard (For a list of plants that are invasive in the state of AL go to [www.se-eppc.org/alabama/](http://www.se-eppc.org/alabama/)). Be aware that algae and flora in a fish tank and that seed you toss on the side of the road can also be invasive.

Our own member and conservationist, Marsha Merrell, presented an informative program on The Pollinator Challenge and distributed an outstanding handout covering: U.S. policies concerning pollinators, lethal neonicotinoids, pollinators in peril, and how to attract pollinators to your garden. Marsha is the

Editor of Conservation Watch, a publication of The Garden Club of America.

Although colony collapse disorder (CCD) has still not been solved, a class of pesticides, neonicotinoids ('neonics') could be part of the cause. In June 2013, 50,000 bumblebees were killed in a Target parking lot after being sprayed

with 'neonics'. Save the Pollinator Act of 2013, called for the suspension of 'neonics' until scientific evidence indicates they are safe. Also in 2013, the EPA released rules concerning 'neonics' and required labeling prohibiting use around bees. 'Neonics' are chemically related to nicotine and can remain in

plants for as long as 18 months. The pesticide acts systemically meaning it is absorbed and then spreads to the entire plant including nectar and pollen, so plants we're buying to help pollinators could be killing them! Before buying host and nectar flowers at your garden center or big box store, be sure to check the labeling. Avoid using products containing imidaclopid, dinotefuran, clothianidin, and thiamethoxam. A great resource for more info about 'neonics' is [www.xerces.org](http://www.xerces.org)

Bee Informed Partnership reported the honeybee loss rate in the winter season of 2013/2014 was 23.2 percent and 7.3 percent better than the previous year but still higher than the acceptable rate of 18.9. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that by 2016, the use of "neonics" and genetically modified seeds (GMO) will no longer be used in its National Wildlife Refuge System. More than half the managed honeybees are in the states of MI, MN, ND, SD and WI and farmers in those states can participate in an \$8 million

incentive program by the USDA to replace common cover crops with "nutritious pollinator forage." In June, President Obama announced a comprehensive federal pollinator initiative to create a federal strategy to save dying pollinators and address the decline in bee populations.

Native pollinators include; bees and wasps, butterflies and moths, flies and beetles (honeybees are not native). Disease, lack of habitat, changing farming practices and use of pesticides have decimated the pollinator population. The monarch butterfly population has decreased by 80%. Milkweed, which is the only host plant of the monarch, has disappeared from meadows, roadsides (power lines in AL) and pastures due to widespread use of herbicides, mowing and urban sprawl.

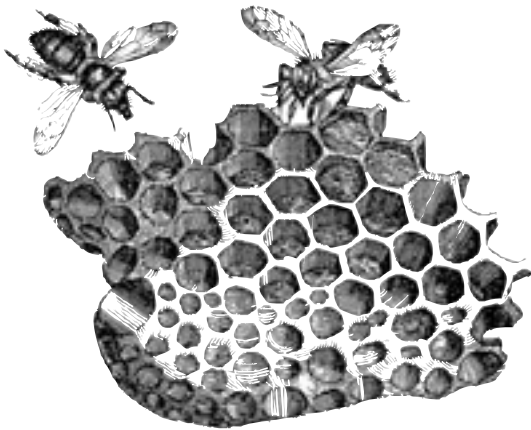
### WHAT CAN WE DO?

Plant a variety of plants (especially natives) with overlapping times of bloom and seasons to attract and support our bees and butterflies. [www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org) gives a list of plants for our growing area. Eliminate or at least reduce the use of pesticides in your garden (NO 'neonics')! Become involved in community policies and urge your local and national representatives to support legislation and funding to save our pollinators.

Here's a safe, alternative spray for roses - Hershey Gardens Safe Rose Spray. Roses should be sprayed once every 7-10 days and following a rain as well. Mix one T. vinegar with 1 cup of water. Add 1 ½ T. of baking soda. Add 1 T. each of dish soap and vegetable oil (any cooking oil) Add all this to 1 gal. of water. Spray on plants' foliage.

Next meeting is Tuesday, February 10th. We will be making pottery containers for small arrangements. Please call Mellanie Tuttle (634-4403) to reserve a space and let that creativity flow! We welcome new folks, no gardening experience necessary!

*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.*



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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**

**180' LAKE FRONTAGE.** Three beautifully-wooded lots being sold together, two of which are on the lake at Hidden Lake Subdivision. Over 3 acres total. Nice walking trails along the lake; common areas with gazebo. Gated entry into subdivision. Near Little River Canyon Nat'l Preserve. \$75,000 (1010792)

**JUST LISTED! 2.2 UNRESTRICTED, WOODED ACRES** in Mentone. Corner property; /hardwoods; excellent areas to walk, bicycle or keep a few chickens. Public water & power at the road. Great building site for one or a couple of cabins for rental, full-time or part-time enjoyment. \$20,000 (1011111)

**BE INSPIRED!** Take the meandering drive along DeSoto PKWY, then onto Citadel Rock Rd (the giant boulders on this road are a favorite of rock-climbing enthusiasts). It will give you that feeling of awe only Lookout MTN can inspire! 3.2-acre hardwood-covered lot. Get inspired to build your mountain home. When the leaves are off the trees, there's also a view of sunsets to be had. It's just a few minutes to downtown Fort Payne, DeSoto St Park & Mentone. \$53,500 (1003658)

**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)

**CREEKSIDE 3.7 ACRES**, walking distance to downtown Mentone. Access on both sides of the creek. Privacy w/light restrictions & covenants. \$55,000.00 (564423)

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



**OVER 300' OF DRAMATIC BROW FRONTAGE** w/views every which way you turn! 3-level main "lodge" house & detached garage apartment offer so many possibilities for large gatherings, 3 sep rental areas & more! Stone pavilion for gatherings/weddings/family events. Decks on every level! Built in the 80s, so there's some updating to be done. At this price, one can afford to do some modernization & still feel great about the price. 2.47 acres, mostly woods w/nice outdoor areas, interesting rock outcroppings & plantings. The best deal on the brow at Mentone. \$199,000 (1010691)



**POLEBARN, PASTURE, CORRAL, 4+ ACRES!** Mini farm with updated 3BR/2BA home. Features incl gaslog FP; Large Master Suite w/12x20 bath & huge, walk-in closet. New windows, water htr, dw, countertops. 14x30 covered back porch; 30x30 garage; 2 septic systems (new field lines); underground elec fence; mature landscaping & more. Get back to the land for only \$147,000 (1004359)



**THE RAREST OF OPPORTUNITIES.** On the Lake at DeSoto Falls, this beautifully-wooded lot offers approx 94' of river frontage in the prime part of West Fork, Little River; the truly navigable part where you can canoe, kayak or pontoon all the way to Mentone! Swim, boat, fish, hike to the falls. Hardwoods, rhododendron, mtn laurel on the property. So much natural beauty. Build your cottage at DeSoto Falls. \$162,500. (355152)



**A CABIN WORTHY OF THE MOUNTAIN.** Seldom-seen craftsmanship & one-of-a-kind materials. Hand-hewn, logs w/half-dovetail corners; massive trees for beams & supports; locally-harvested wood (oak, pine, alder, maple to name a few) used throughout; massive fireplaces in living area & on wraparound porch; private, wooded lot w/wet-weather stream. Quality furnishings & decor incl. \$222,000 (1005582)



**IT'S TIME TO GO HOME.** One-level, country-style 3BR/2BA home with lots of amenities like 2-car garage; eat-in kitchen, b'fast bar; professionally-installed above-ground pool; deck & pool house; spacious, open floor plan; on-demand hot water; alarm system; metal roof; front porch; back deck; fruit trees; private backyard w/garden area; and more! One level acre w/attractive trees & flowering shrubs. \$139,000 (1002526)



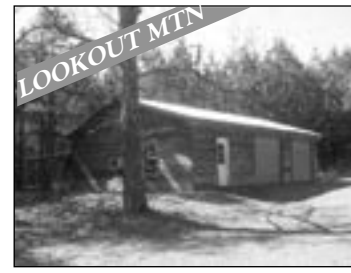
**OWN YOUR OWN LITTLE CANYON** with Johnnie's Creek cascading through the forest below you. 36 acres of mostly-wooded land (on both sides of creek) and a fabulous, custom-built cypress-sided home. Approx 3600 sq ft of deliciously-designed living area inside, tremendous tree-top decks and porches outside! Two wood-burning fireplaces. Brazilian floors, windows galore, fab light fixtures throughout. Huge, open kitchen/living area. Tons of cabinetry, commercial-grade gas range, granite countertops. Simple luxury in a residence, hunting lodge or getaway. \$650,000. (1010510)



**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. (Up to 100 acres avail.) Foundation for 4th cabin in place. Just 2 miles from downtown Mentone, on a private road. Great rental history! \$375,000 (540943)



**THE VIEW IS SPECTACULAR** from this approx 1600 sq ft; 2BR/2.5BA, brow-front cottage. Sunroom w/Champion windows & doors to enjoy views any time. Once a part of the historic Brow Park Lodge, this cottage has a great kitchen & spacious bedrooms. Furnished. Single car garage. Potential Plus! Along the Scenic DeSoto Pkwy, near Camp Corner & DeSoto Falls; between Mentone & State Park. \$219,900 (970236)



**40 ACRES, MOSTLY WOODED** w/single-wide mobile home; three-bay garage/barn/shop (with apartment & dog kennel) and frontage on both sides of paved road. Interesting, beautiful rock formations; wet-weather stream; sweet shrub, blackberries and so many deer! A nature lover's paradise with possibilities as a farm to boot! Located atop Lookout Mtn just a few miles from Little River Canyon; Dogtown area. \$199,000 (316165)





# Sage Advice - Into The Woods

By Susan Seago  
Co-Owner of Earthly Elements Garden and Rock Shop

While I write this article, the forecast for this afternoon is cold and snowy, maybe as much as an inch. It will be the first snowfall of the season and a surprise to me. Yesterday, I thought today would be sunny and some warmer than the last two weeks. That's winter in North Alabama for you. While we wait indoors for warmer, sunnier weather, let's think about our gardens and landscapes. It's a great time to look at the garden catalogs you have received or to pour through all the choices through the internet. I like to do both, although the paper catalogs are the best to me. I can keep them by my reading chair and mark my favorites, then return to them whenever I like without leaving my chair. How's that for laziness!!!



I have already started getting calls from clients about spring planting and landscape ideas. My first suggestion (being on the mountain) is to take a walk into the woods around your house. I think most of us have a lot of trees around our homes. Are they evergreens that provide the same amount of shade most of the year? Or are

they deciduous (drop their leaves in winter)? That means you will have a good bit of sun in your yard until April 1, at least. So, early spring flowers and flowering shrubs can be planted in these areas. For those areas that get at least five to six hours of sun during the day, sun loving plants can be placed there. Perennials, those that return year after year, are your best bet for a year-round garden.

Next, check your soil. Mountain soil can be full of rocks, but some areas have few rocks and great soil. So, the soil is a very big issue in planning a landscape. And, not only will you be removing a lot of rocks but the soil needs to be amended with good organic material to help retain moisture and add nutrients for better plant growth. If you have good soil, your task is half done.

Back to the light issue – Determine the direction of the sun in your garden. North and south sides of your home will allow much more sun. Many plants like morning sun because it is not so hot in summer, so the east side of the building is good for those plants. The west side gets the afternoon sun. Full sun plants will enjoy it. Why do I sound like a school teacher? Learn to garden correctly and you will have many enjoyable years with your garden.

If you know the names of your trees and plants, take a notepad when you walk into the woods and jot down those that you have in your landscape. This helps in deciding what



new or better plants to install. It also helps you determine which plants to remove that are not doing well or need some help. Take your list to your garden center if you need ideas for new or additional plants.

Early February is the best time to prune fruit trees such as apple and pear, but wait until March to prune Peaches. Evergreen shrubs and roses may also be pruned while they are dormant. Contact your local garden center for advice on pruning.

Take a walk into the woods. It will fun and educational!





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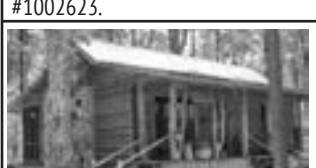
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|  <p><b>3 BEDROOM</b>, 2 bath home on 2.1 acres. All appliances, central heat and air, deck and screened porch, gas logs. \$199,500. MLS #1003499.</p>             |  <p><b>Mountain Laurel Inn...</b>7 acres, Main Residence, Guest House and Gathering House. Call for more details. \$479,000 MLS #917483</p>                                                                     |  <p><b>REAL BARGAIN.</b> 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</p> |  <p><b>Custom Log Cabin</b> on 4 secluded acres. This is a great mountain get-a-way for a little price. \$110,000 MLS #564870</p>           |  <p><b>45 ACRES</b> on the West Brow of Lookout Mountain. Main house, guest house, rock walls and so much more. \$648,000 MLS #815966</p>                                                                                                   |  <p><b>HOME ON WOODED</b> 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.</p> |
|  <p><b>3 BEDROOM</b>, 1 3/4 bath home on 2.75 acres near downtown Mentone. Kitchen appliances, central heat and air, screened porch. \$167,500 MLS #1003489.</p> |  <p><b>BEAUTIFUL</b> 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.</p> |  <p><b>Investment or Personal Retreat!</b> Open design, 1BR/1BA being sold fully furnished. ONLY \$59,900 MLS #499665</p>                                                                                                              |  <p><b>UNIQUE!!!</b> Main House, Guest House, Boathouse and approx. 470' of frontage on Little River. \$850,000 MLS #1007556</p>           |  <p><b>Lake Lahusage</b> in your back door! Bank owned 2BR/2BA cottage AND 2-car garage with apartment potential. \$247,500 MLS #654813</p>                                                                                                |  <p><b>East Fork of Little River!</b> 200' of water frontage, 3BR/2BA cottage, storage building. \$239,999 MLS #902940</p>                                                                                                        |
|  <p><b>COZY 1 BEDROOM</b>, 1 bath cabin in Laurel Creek Lakes Subdivision. Kitchen appliances, central heat and air, gas logs. \$157,500. MLS #1002623.</p>     |  <p><b>LOOK OUT at DeSoto Falls!</b> Building lot with a darling 1 bedroom cottage ready for use. \$465,000 #970196</p>                                                                                       |  <p><b>Secluded, Custom log cabin,</b> 2BR/2BA, wooded lot, 2+ acres, security system, privacy gate, detached storage. \$279,500 MLS #332033</p>                                                                                      |  <p><b>Impeccable Brow View!</b> 5BR/3.5BA home, custom commercial kitchen, with many extra features. Must See! \$545,000 MLS #338039</p> |  <p><b>1400 SQ FT</b> house in Mentone with 3 bedrooms &amp; 2 bathrooms, a landscaped lot, large deck and workshop. Can be residential or Commercial. \$44,900. MLS #1007802</p>                                                         |  <p><b>1946 Stone Cottage</b> offering 3BR/2BA, river frontage, AND a 2-story guest house on 4+ acres. \$419,000 MLS #902720</p>                                                                                                 |
|  <p><b>OWL'S ROOST!</b> Adorable cabin in Crestline Subdivision featuring and open living concept. \$128,000 MLS #690326</p>                                    |  <p><b>Daniel Boon Log Cabin</b> on 2 acres! Plenty of room with 2BR/2.5BA, unfinished basement and large balcony. \$215,000 MLS #621178</p>                                                                  |  <p><b>Highland Springs Subdivision</b> near downtown Mentone! 2BR/2BA cabin on 1.23 acres. \$153,500 MLS #359224</p>                                                                                                                 |  <p><b>Bear's Lair</b> - Adorable cabin currently in a rental program. 3BR/2BA with a brow view. \$299,900 MLS#692795</p>                 |  <p><b>NATURE LOVER'S PARADISE</b> w/views of Lookout Mountain! log home on 5 acres. Bordered by LRC Nat'l Preserve. Wrap around porches, guest cabin, stone fireplace &amp; cathedral tongue/groove ceilings! \$275,000 MLS#1006120.</p> |  <p><b>STONE &amp; FRAME</b> 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.</p>                            |

## 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. \$23,500. MLS #548635.**

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

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

**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.

**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.**





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# Valley Head Women's Club Meets

The Valley Head Area Women's Club held their January meeting at Kamama in Mentone. Members enjoyed a delicious lunch before the meeting. Afterwards, President Judy O'Daniel called the meeting to order and welcomed new members Karen Holcombe and Brenda Cox. Membership Committee member Evelyn Graves administered the new member pledge. Project Chairman Pat Eberhart reported on pecan sales. All pecans have been sold and people are still calling for more. Next year club members think we should order more cases. Sandra Padgett gave a very interesting and informative program about Kamama and her plans for Mentone. The next meeting will be held February 18 at the Boy Scout House in Mentone and Dr. Ron Merrell will give the program.



*Pictured left to right Kamama owners Sandra and Ray Padgett, new members Karen Holcombe and Brenda Cox, Membership Chair Evelyn Graves, and Vice President/Program Chair Marsha Merrell.*

## SCHOLARSHIP

The Valley Head Area Women's Club plans to give a scholarship to a Valley Head High School senior in honor of Kathryn Carden. She was a graduate of Valley Head, a substitute teacher, and active member of the PTA, Boosters Club and the Women's Club. She loved Valley Head, the school, and especially the students. If you would like to join in honoring Kathryn, donations can be made to the Valley Head Women's Club and mailed to Pat Eberhart, Treasurer, P. O. Box 281, Valley Head, AL 35989. All donations will be greatly appreciated.

## SIGNS by Doug Kiker

Signs – designated to instruct or enlighten,  
Sometimes the traveler they might frighten.  
I remember a sign that gave this clue,  
“Sinner Beware – Hell Awaits You.”  
Then there was the sign in front of the country store,  
“Dogs – we have a few - they are all gentle. Won't bite you.”  
Another at that same store –  
“Take your dog home – we don't need any more.”  
One below the board where they wrote the baseball score –  
“Race your motor – dogs like to sleep under a car's floor.”  
A hand painted sign near a cemetery might make you grin,  
“Ward Cemetery – Folks are just a-dying to get in.”  
Maybe that answers another sign I saw flopping in the wind,  
“Can you tell me why this cemetery has a fence six feet high?”  
Seen on a crooked road – “No matter which way you go –  
It has to be slow.”  
On a gravestone of a man named Less  
“The grave took Less – and he's no more.”

*January  
sunrise over  
lookout  
By John Baty*



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