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THE

GROUNDHOG

Mentone, Valley Head, Hammondville, Menlo, Cloudland
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Volume 34, No. 7

"Neighborhood News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

July 2015

VALLEY HEAD HIGH SCHOOL VALEDICTORIAN/SALUTATORIAN

Miss Makayla Lynn Jacobs is the 2015 Valley Head High School Valedictorian! Graduating at the top of her class with a 4.0 GPA has earned her a computer and printer, awarded from the Lookout Mountain Wholistic Center, and a full scholarship to Northeast Alabama Community College where she will have a 16-hour course overload this fall and will be pursuing a Nursing degree. Makayla



has already completed the Healthcare and CNA programs at the DeKalb County Technology Center. She has received CPR certification as well as FEMA's Community Emergency Response Team Certification. She has received numerous high school awards in the Sciences, Maths, Honors English, Driver's Ed, FACS, and Business Technology, as well as the Clinical Excellence Award. Miss Jacobs is a member of the Science Club, SADD, FCCLA, and the Beta Club. During high school, she has served as Student Council Representative, Junior Class Treasurer, both Vice President and President of Health Occupations Students of America, and President of the Bible Club. In 2013, Makayla participated in the Sand Mountain Electric Co-op Youth Tour. Last year, she was a delegate at Jacksonville State University Emerging Leader's Day as well as an American Legion Auxiliary Alabama Girl's State Delegate, where she was the 'Environmental Engineer' for the city of 'Goat Hill'. Girl's

Miss Katelyn Marie Poe is the 2015 Valley Head High School Salutatorian! Northeast Alabama Community College has awarded her an academic scholarship that will cover full tuition. As part of the scholarship application, Katelyn, the daughter of Lebron Poe, wrote an essay about her hometown of Valley Head (which you can read on page 7). She also received the prestigious Valley Head Area Women's Club Scholarship for \$500, and the Lookout Mountain Wholistic



Center graciously awarded her a laptop and printer to help with her future academic endeavors.

Miss Poe has already started on her English major at Northeast by taking her first two English classes through dual enrollment and plans to have a career in journalism or editing. She currently works in the kitchen at the Desoto State Park Lodge Restaurant and is an intern for the summer with the Fort Payne Times Journal, where her first article made the front page. Katelyn played basketball and softball during junior high and most of her high school years; she also enjoys riding horses and spending time with her family (four sisters, a brother, two nephews and a niece). She has taken two trips to Italy to see her boyfriend Andre, whom she met when he was a foreign exchange student at Valley Head High School. Miss Poe is a member of the Beta Club and FCCLA; she is the Senior Class Treasurer

(both stories cont'd on page 4)

2015 Julyfest Art & Music Festival: A Weekend of Fine Art, Great Food & Festive Music

By Rhea Pirch

Plans are set for a weekend of fine art, food and music at this year's Julyfest Art & Music Festival, July 18th and 19th.

The two-day event opens Saturday, July 18th at 9:00 a.m. at Brow Park, where talented artists and craftspeople will gather to show, demonstrate and sell unique object d'art in the area's only juried art show. Visitors can enjoy music at the Brow Park stage, watch artists demonstrate their artistic process and grab a bite



to eat from one of the food vendors as they stroll along and shop the one-of-a-kind items that will be offered at each booth.

Eileen Kunzman, founder of the Magic City Art Connection in Birmingham has been chosen as this year's judge for the art show. Ms. Kunzman has more than 35 years of experience with the Birmingham art scene. She is an educator, entrepreneur and collector of fine arts and serves as consultant and producer of many

(cont'd on page 3)

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; Email: 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.

MENTONE MATTERS

By Mayor Rob Hammond



On June 21, St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church celebrated the renovation

of the church building. The project was from the foundation up and came at a cost of \$200,000. The money for this project was donated by church members, people in the community, and even people from out of town. To celebrate this accomplishment, the church held a community shrimp boil on Saturday, June 20. The official dedication took place on Sunday, June 21. To recognize this accomplishment, we declared Sunday, June 21 'St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Day' in Mentone and the surrounding area.

We are thankful for all of the churches in Mentone. They help people in the community who are in need. They serve not only as places of worship but also serve as social centers for young and old in the community. They have contributed greatly to the strong community spirit that makes Mentone such a great place to live.

From The Editor

Thanks to the MAPA Board and members for the warm welcome to *The Groundhog*. I am grateful to the entire staff for being so helpful as I stumbled along last month (and will no doubt continue to do for a few months). This month has been less stressful and more enjoyable, as I know what to expect. I look forward to growing as a person through this experience. I feel so honored to be able to share these heartfelt stories and memories; to help recognize accomplishments and good deeds, especially the stories of these hard working high school graduates. As I write their articles, I can only imagine what wonderful impact these intelligent, driven students will have on our community and our nation. I know our nation is in good hands. That is a warm feeling as we celebrate another year of freedom--freedom that we often take for granted because we have

become so accustomed to them. As you celebrate this holiday on the 4th, please contemplate and realize one thing that you do on a regular basis that you would not be able to do if you lived in another nation. I am personally grateful for the many freedoms granted to women in this nation that aren't necessarily available elsewhere in the world. I would like to say "Thank you!" to all the men and women who serve, or have served, our dear country. Remember them as you celebrate Independence Day. On a final note, I must ask this question ... what am I doing to make our community and country a freer, safer, and better place to live?

Anna Mae Horn - Editor

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The Groundhog for May 2015 was the best yet! And I have subscribed since 1993! When I left Cloudland in 2007, I kept subscribing and read every word! ...

Thank you- Anne Ransom

Dear Ms. Ransom,

Thank you so much for the beautiful card and kind words. It is good to hear how much you enjoy our paper and of your continued support. May 2015 was indeed a good issue. I particularly enjoyed the Eagle Scout article and the details provided about the Rhododendron Festival- what was going on where, a history of the Sacred Harp tradition, and the details about many of the artists performing. The Groundhog is certainly a group effort (which I joined in June 2015), and we each thank you for your loyalty and compliments. It was wonderful to hear from you.

With much appreciation~ Anna Mae and The Groundhog staff



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JulyFest (cont'd from page 1)

of Birmingham's best fine arts festivals including the Moss Rock Festival and the Blue Hole Arts Fest.

Live entertainment is scheduled for all day Saturday and includes performances by local musicians David Lusk, Chris Hale, Elisha Tatum, Jess McClendon and Dakota Wright.

The music moves to the Mentone Inn Pavilion at 5:00, accompanied by a delectable barbeque dinner prepared by the Mentone Market Barbeque. The Summer Music Series then presents musician James Roberts to kick off an exceptional evening of entertainment followed by the Donna Hopkins Band. Donna Hopkins, an Alabama native now living in Atlanta, offers an impressive mix of Blues, Rock, Roots and Americana in her soulful performance that is sure to have the audience dancing and clapping.

Art and music will continue on Sunday, July 19th, back on the brow from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Festival-goers will once again have the opportunity to shop from the wide array of talented artists and listen to the music of local musicians Mark Womack, Ryan Keith and Mentone's own Jess Goggans.

There is still time for artists who would like to



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participate in this year's show. An application can be found here or at the Mentone Arts Council website, mentonearts.org. Julyfest 2015 Art and Music Festival and the Summer Music Series are made possible by a grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.



SECOND SATURDAY ART MARKET

By Scott Thomas

The June Mentone Area Arts Council's Second Saturday Art Market proved to be another successful event. The Art Market is still in its infancy, with the June event being only number two of the planned six events for 2015. Another great group of local artists were there with their creations and many shoppers went home with their new found treasures.

Local chainsaw carver Jim Marbutt was on hand to demonstrate his carving skills to the crowd and once again, Lydia Randolph worked on one of her paintings between sales and chats with the customers. You are really missing a lot if you do not stop by. It's free and right across the street from The Mentone Market.

With the weather continuing to heat up, we are planning to move the artists back a few feet under the trees for the July 11th market. This will add additional parking for the customers and keep everyone about 15 degrees cooler!

There is something for everyone at Second Saturday Art Market. Our artists range in age from 16 to 86! If you will take a few minutes to drop by on the 11th between 9 AM and 2 PM, you will certainly be glad you did.

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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.

Our first summer social was so much fun as the Moon Lake Youth group joined the senior lunch bunch crew for pound cake, fresh strawberries, homemade ice cream and joyful singing. The youth group entertained the seniors, first with their group singing and then with solos by Hannah and Jerakah. They certainly enjoy singing and entertaining. When they had sung all of their songs, Martha Sprayberry took control of the piano, and everyone sang several of the group's favorites. I'm not sure who had the most fun, the seniors or the youth group! Thanks John Kincer for working with such a great group of kids. Pictured are members of the youth group that were able to come: Dylan Bloyer, Ben Ditmore, Logan Bloyer, Laura Boehringer, Hannah Millican, Kara Goss, Jerikah Ditmore, Tristan Goss, and Phyllis James. Hopefully, the black hat poet will be back on his feet for our Summer Social on Wednesday, July 8th at 1:30 p.m.

Several local students enjoyed an afternoon at the MERF house preparing for the ACT test. Thanks to Paula Tally for sharing her insight and knowledge with these students. More classes will be scheduled soon.

Membership? Several times a year MERF gets asked about "how to be a member of MERF?"

Or "what are the membership dues?" MERF is not based on membership. MERF hopes that everyone in the community feels a part of MERF as our focus is on enriching life here in Mentone. Though MERF doesn't have membership or dues, interested individuals or businesses can support MERF with a financial donation or a donation of their time and services. Volunteer opportunities are available in tutoring, senior lunches, and classes. See our website www.merfhouse.com.



merfhouse.com and see where you can contribute to the mission of MERF. Purchases of our "Leave Me in Mentone" items also support MERF. Mugs, shirts, caps and ornaments are available online or in the following local stores: DeSoto State Park country store, Kamama's Art Gallery, the Wishing Well, Little River Hardware and Mountain Laurel Inn B&B. We are thankful for all the ways MERF is supported in the community.

MERF: Mentone Educational Resources Foundation is a local non-profit with the mission "To enrich the learning and living of the community by identifying needs and coordinating resources." If you would like to support our programs, tax-deductible donations can be mailed to POB107 Mentone, AL 35984 or contribute online at www.crowdrise.com/MERF. Contact us at merf.mentone@gmail.com or 256-634-4673.

Valedictorian/Salutatorian (cont'd from page 1)

Makayla Lynn Jacobs

State is a mock state government set-up; the pretend city name refers to the original name of Capitol Hill in Montgomery.

Makayla, the daughter of John and Tonya Jacobs, has recently started work as a Certified Nurse Assistant (a change of pace from her job at McDonald's for the last two years). Upon completion of her Associate's Degree in Nursing, she plans to work in pediatric trauma or labor and delivery. After gaining a few years of experience, this impressive young lady hopes to become a medical missionary in underdeveloped countries. She currently sponsors two children: a Chinese girl who was abandoned at birth, and an Indonesian boy who lives in extreme poverty. She has participated in Mission Trips with Mountain View Baptist Church at Sylvania for the last three summers and has been a 5k race coordinator for "Money for Missions" to fund these yearly mission trips. Makayla is also very active as a volunteer. She has helped at The Bread of Life as a food server, Youth Day at the Park in Rainsville, the Valley Head 21st Century After School Program (80+hrs), and the DeKalb Animal Hospital (80+hrs), where she also did job shadowing. Ms. Jacobs has also completed internships at Thompson Surgical Associates, Crowne Healthcare, and DeKalb Regional Medical Center (Outpatient, Inpatient, and OR).

Makayla Jacobs has already started making her mark on the world and making a difference in the things she believes in. We look forward to seeing more great things from her and wish her happiness as she pursues her dreams and helps others along the way. Congratulations, Makayla.

Katelyn Marie Poe

and is a Senior Student Council Representative. She has received several high school awards including Precalculus, English, History, Government, Economics, Health, Multimedia Publications, and the National Scholar/Athlete Award. Somehow, in her busy schedule, she has also made time to volunteer at the Holly Springs Riding Stables and the Valley Head High School Library.

Katelyn Poe has worked hard to make life better for herself and those around her. She is already seeing the fruits of her labor as she receives these academic recognitions. Katie, may your hard work continue to bring you much success!

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MBA Mix

By Charlotte Gentry, MBA President



The Business of Mentone: What's Your Sign?

The front porch at our office is a great place to do business. It is also a great vantage point to watch folks as they wander around downtown Mentone. Often times they wind up on our porch, and we visit for a while. One of the topics that comes up quite often is, "What kind of shops are here in Mentone?" Great question, glad you asked!

We have such a variety of shops in Mentone, offering everything from handmade rustic furniture to ice cream; antiques to hand-woven clothing. There are places that sell real estate, gasoline, jewelry, art, carvings, clothing, pottery, knick-knacks, produce, t-shirts and plants. We have restaurants with menus to satisfy almost every appetite and pocketbook. There are

wonderful places to stay including cabins, inns and bed-n-breakfasts.

The problem is that a lot of our businesses haven't had signs on them letting folks know what they have available for sale. Or, if there was a sign, it wasn't readable from the sidewalks or roadways. Is your business open or closed? Where's the sign?

The great news is, we are seeing some shop owners working to improve their sign visibility. There are several creative and attractive banners and signs displayed during open hours. These are great ways to attract potential shoppers to our village shops and businesses. Hey, if you don't tell it, you won't sell it!

For those who are interested in knowing what businesses are open in Mentone and what their open days/hours are, the Mentone Business Association has a list of "Daily Openings" available on the website www.mymentone.com. This list is updated weekly, so it is a great resource to check when you're planning a visit to Mentone. Thank you for shopping, dining and staying in Mentone!

The MBA meets every 2nd Monday at 6:00 p.m. The July meeting will be held at Mentone Realty's log cabin office. Join us and let's all work to make the business of Mentone better for everyone.

Mentone Friendly

By Ray Padgett

Nature provides the beauty that encourages everyone to relax and enjoy life--sunsets, cool spring mornings with freshly-bloomed flowers, and crisp Autumn colors with a shiver in the air. Such visions and feelings bring peace to the spirit and joy to the heart; however, people make places interesting to me, and the people of our area are the most interesting I have met.

Mentone is many times called the friendliest little town in Alabama, and I often wonder what makes a community "friendly". Obviously, Mother Nature plays her part, yet there are lots of beautiful places where communities are not so friendly.

When you first dig into the makeup of Mentone, you notice the unusually high number of very active volunteers - the Boy Scouts, MERF, MAPA, MAAC, MBA, MACC, Rhododendron Garden Club, Community Library Association and the NLMFPD. Our North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District (NLMFPD) not only improves our safety, but also saves our community thousands in insurance costs.

With this many volunteer organizations, you might think there would be constant wrangling to see who gets credit for all the good things done in and for our community on a daily basis - not so in Mentone. There is a universal "help each other" attitude for almost every event, project or need that arises. Acts of kindness run rampant in Mentone. Civic responsibility is a community trust.

I believe selfless acts of cooperation are the foundation of the "Mentone attitude" of friendliness. Working together and not caring for accolades, Mentone sets an example for other small communities across our state and country. Cooperation of our full- and part-time citizens as well as passersby will continue to make Mentone a great place to live and visit. Mentonians are interesting; they care; and they cooperate. Life is good in Mentone!



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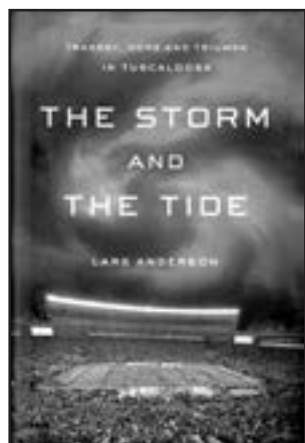
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Moon Lake Community Library

By Jerome Stephens



The Storm and the Tide

By
Lars Anderson

The Storm and the Tide is the moving story of how a shared tragedy affected the town of Tuscaloosa, the student athletes at Alabama, and their parents. The author chronicles the rise of a team, the building of a dynasty, and the resurgence of a town.

The story starts on April 27, 2011, when a powerful tornado ripped through the heart of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, leaving 53 dead and a path of unimaginable devastation. It tells, among others, the story about former Tide player, Shannon Brown, whose daughter was killed before she started her freshmen year, and about Kayla Hoffman who was nearly torn apart by the storm just hours after receiving an award as the number 1 gymnast in Division 1. Diehard fans Bob and Dana Dowling lost their home but saw a new one raised by the muscle of Crimson Tide players. Crimson Tide long snapper, Carson Tinker, endured terrible personal tragedy in the storm and emerged as the public face of Tuscaloosa's resilience.

In the aftermath of the storm, Alabama coach Nick Saban, his wife Terry, and the Alabama football team went out into the community--

sharing its grief and aiding in the recovery. An example of this is Barrett Jones, a 300-pound tackle, and his brother Harrison. They went street by street with a chain saw clearing debris. Other members of the team that were in Tuscaloosa joined in to help the injured find medical care and to hand out food and water to relief workers. Together the team and the community forged an unbreakable bond, and in a place where Saturdays are dedicated to Crimson Tide football, "Let's play for Tuscaloosa" became the team's mantra and propelled them to another National Championship.

The story is not just for Crimson Tide fans, but for anyone who wants to read about "tragedy, hope and triumph in Tuscaloosa."

VALLEY HEAD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT NEW ISO RATING

Valley Head home owners may now be eligible for cost savings on their insurance due to improvements made by the Valley Head Volunteer Fire Department. The Valley Head fire coverage area now has the rating ISO 5/5X. These ratings are given by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) and range from 1 (for superior) to 10 (meaning minimum criteria has not been met). The criteria is comprised of several elements. One half the score is earned by the fire department itself - based on factors such as training, equipment, records, and hydrant maintenance. Forty percent of the ISO score is based on the community's water supply system. The fire department's communication system makes up the final ten percent of the rating.

The improvement process was a long and arduous one. Fire chief Weston Fortner said it was started by the previous fire chief, and he saw the project through to completion. He also said

it is not a one man job- it took the cooperation of the firefighters, city officials, and others. It was the culmination of many factors as well. Much of the updated equipment was purchased with money from FEMA to replace what was damaged in the flood last year. This included five new sets of turn-out gear, a generator, and leaf blowers (used to make a break for grass fires). Over the last few years, they have added vehicle extrication (including jaws of life), thermal imaging, first responder services, and response to disaster situations to the list of services they are able to provide. The most laborious and time consuming part of the improvement process seems to have been the large amount of paperwork that was required. Nonetheless, Weston was glad to do it in order to obtain the updated rating. Procedures are in place to help maintain this rating and improved level of service.

It is fulfilling for Weston and all the firefighters to know they help the community, from putting out fires to saving residents money. The firefighters consider it an honor to volunteer and serve the citizens of Valley Head and the surrounding areas. They strive to be trained well and have the necessary equipment to serve in these capacities. The Valley Head Volunteer Fire Department has been serving the town, the surrounding community, and assisting in neighboring communities for over 61 years and plans to do so for many more. Weston said the most satisfying reward of this job is when people simply say "thank you."

From the Groundhog- "Thank you!" to all firefighters for your selfless service.

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Growing Up in Mentone

By Kacy Corsentino

I came to Mentone several times as a toddler, before initially moving up here, but one trip stood out to me compared to the others. I was about three years old at the time. After conquering the winding curves of Highway 117, cramped in the backseat of my mom's SUV with my siblings, I was more than ready to get out. The rock wall lining the side of the road looked so familiar to me, and I knew it signified we were almost to the top. Once reaching the top, I recall asking my parents if we could visit the "White Castle". The Mentone Springs Hotel first stole my heart as I saw it from my blue car seat as a three-year-old little girl. From that moment on, I could not wait to see the rest of Mentone. It was so green compared to the streets



of Birmingham I was accustomed to. The charm of the ivy and kudzu never ceased to mesmerize me. I remember the first time I heard the church bells of St. Joseph's as I sat on the steps of my grandmother's cabin. She told me that little elves did this with a touch of "magic". As I grew

up and discovered this was not the case, I still believed that Mentone was magical. Everyone within the town seemed so friendly. It amazed me how walking down the street as a stranger, someone could receive so many greetings and smiles. Everything and everyone was so warm and welcoming. Visiting Mentone felt like being taken in by two warm, safe arms. I wanted to stay in these arms forever. It was not long after this trip that my parents decided that this was the best place for me to grow up and made the decision to relocate the family here. Without a doubt, Mentone would become my new home. Thirteen years later, I am still just as amazed as that three year old girl in the blue car seat.

My Hometown

By Katie Poe

Valley Head, Alabama may not be one of the most luxurious or extravagant places in the world, but it is considered my home. I have been living here for more than 18 years and I can say, without a doubt in my mind, that it has been a lovely place to grow up.

Established in 1922, Valley Head was home to a Native American village with a meeting ground on what is now Winston Place Bed and Breakfast. The Winston place is a historical 1831 Antebellum Mansion originally owned by the Winston Family of Yorkshire, England. Their meetings were conducted under a large oak tree that stood on the Winston grounds.

William O. Winston came to town, established his place in Valley Head, and proceeded to devote his time to having a railroad built. Progress was being made

towards the building of a railroad, but it would soon be hampered by a war looming between the states. The Civil



War slowed the forward growth of the town. Not until after the smoke had cleared did the town begin again to push forward. The railroad was finished, bringing trade and population

growth.

Sequoyah, the Indian who developed the Cherokee alphabet single-handedly, moved to the Valley Head area in the 1820's. He had a German father, a Cherokee mother, and was born in Tennessee. Sequoyah Caverns, a magnificent cave located at Valley Head, was named for this famous Cherokee. Although the Caverns have been a popular tourist attraction since 1964, they closed in 2013 and are no longer open to the public.

Historical buildings, Native American culture, and an old railroad are all part of what makes Valley Head such a beautiful place. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to have witnessed life in this wonderful town. Now, as I am going on my own to college and moving away, I will never forget the memories made in my hometown.



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The Times of Our Lives

Honors and Scholarships

Miss Hannah Skye Blansit, a 2015 graduate of Valley Head High School, has received an Encore Scholarship from Northeast Alabama Community College (a full scholarship which requires an audition). She has graced audiences with her beautiful voice at school functions, local events, and ‘Singing with

the Stars’ - a fundraising event for the Children’s Advocacy Center. Hannah is a member of the Beta Club, SADD, FCCLA, and the Science Club; she has received high school awards in English and Math. Miss Blansit plans to major in Salon and Spa Management at Northeast Alabama Community College. She lives in Valley Head, and is the daughter of Scott Blansit and Carla Warren. Congratulations Hannah, and best wishes on your future endeavors!

Paige Mewes Davis, Director of Sales at Holiday Inn Express & Suites in Fort Payne, has earned certification as a “Travel Marketing Professional” (TMP) after completing the three-year program of the Southeast Tourism Society (STS) Marketing College. Davis was one of 37 new TMPs recognized at the Society’s spring meeting in Charlotte, N.C. Course topics include special event marketing, media relations, tourism advertising, vacation research, crisis management, heritage tourism and community/rural tourism. After the classroom work, students also must complete a project that relates to their employment. Tourism ranks as the first, second or third-largest industry in the 12 STS states that stretch from Virginia to Louisiana. Here in the Mentone area we know what a vital part it plays in the economy and how much personal enjoyment we receive from enhancements made by the tourism industry. TMPs are also involved in fundraising- the newest group raised enough to fund twelve scholarships for future STS Marketing College students. Paige, best wishes for future achievements and continued success in the tourism community!



Valley Head High School 2015 Scholarship Recipients

- Congratulations to these young ladies and gentlemen for all your hard work and best of luck as you begin this next chapter of your lives!
- Northeast Alabama Community College Academic Scholarships - Makayla Jacobs and Katelyn Poe
- Northeast Alabama Community College Presidential Host Scholarship - Ben Kirby
- Northeast Alabama Community College Encore Scholarship - Hannah Blansit
- Jacksonville State University Faculty Scholarship - Brooklyn Wright
- Jacksonville State University Gamecock Scholarship - Amelia Saferite
- Don and Martha Smith Memorial Scholarship - Diana Sontay
- Robert Blansit Education Scholarship - Brooklyn Wright
- Willard T. Adcox Achievement Scholarship - Ana Padilla
- Rotary Club of Fort Payne Scholarship - Amelia Saferite
- Altrusa Scholarship - Diana Sontay
- Athletic Club Scholarship - Brooklyn Wright
- Vann McCary Scholarships - Courtney Roden and Brook Wright
- Valley Head Women’s Club Scholarship - Olinda Boyzo and Katelyn Poe
- Kathryn Carden Memorial Scholarship - Madelynne Radcliffe
- Glenn Carden Memorial Scholarship - Thomas Sudberry
- FCCLA Scholarship - Olinda Boyzo
- Jay Parker Darwin Memorial Scholarship - Ben Kirby
- Laptop computers from Lookout Mountain Wholistic Center - Hannah Blansit, Olinda Boyzo, Ashley Gibson, Makayla Jacobs, Anthony McKenzie, Ana Padilla, Katelyn Poe, Paige Smith, Diana Sontay, Brooklyn Wright

To the Graduates

With arms outstretched to you,
The World gives invitation-
To begin all things anew,
With drive and ambition.

The World is at your feet;
Travel where you may.
Be kind to those you meet;
And find happiness each day.

Look up and look ahead,
Your own future awaits.
Not where others have led,
But create your own fate.

May your days be bright,
And your nights have stars.
May you always delight
Knowing you’ve come so far.

It’s a Girl!



Miss Emma Kate McDonald made her grand entrance in this world on May 15, 2015 weighing 6 lbs 7 oz and 19 inches long. Amanda and Dennis

McDonald are her proud and adoring parents. Her grandparents, Loyd and Kathy McSpadden of Mentone and Steve and Sandra Gilbreath of Ider, are very excited about her arrival as well. Welcome Emma Kate!

We would like to thank these great local area businesses for helping us with our cabin:

Alabama Spa & Hot Tub
Eddy Wilson 256-442-0187

Bellora Realtors
Heather Nicely 256-276-8422

Bruce Peek’s Well Drilling & Cleaning
Bruce Peek 256-451-3546

Collinsville Log Milling
Roger Chastain 678-756-8793

DW Construction - Carpentry
David Wallin 256-996-0435

Firewood & Yard Services
Darrin Smith 256-630-9636

Freestone Water Treatment Co.
James Ledwell 256-845-4531

Jeff’s Lock & Key Locksmith Service
Jeff Cornelius 256-638-7744

John Lawton Excavation - Gravel
John Lawton 256-635-8045

Mentone Mountain Getaways
Ron Waits 256-634-4693

Mentone Plumbing
Thad Heinrich 256-899-9555

Probilt Portable Buildings
Herbert Miller 334-412-9095

R & J Heating and Air
Robin Anderson 256-557-9920

Schrader Tree Service
“Junior” Schrader 256-845-5757

Electrician
Soni LaRock 256-996-0948

Target Pest Management
Russell Satterfield 256-845-5428

Your combined efforts have helped make our cabin like new again and ready for many more years of enjoyment.

*Arthur and Yvonne Cole
“Above the Clouds”*



THE
RECIPE CORNER
BY
ANGIE CARDEN

HAPPY FOURTH!

It's time once again for outdoor Fourth of July BBQ'S and picnics, fireworks and parties! And with the heat we are having, we all need some July cool downs! Ice cream, slushies and shaved ice come quickly to mind! So in the spirit of just being SO hot lately, I decided to give you a mellow and cool, yet quirky and fun recipe this month! It is so good that you can change it up a thousand ways and it will never get old!

I do wish each and every one of you a very happy and safe Fourth of July filled with family, fun and FOOD!

Trifle of "Freedom"

Just having fun with the name :)

You will need a chilled bowl for mixing 1 quart of heavy cream, 1 package of white chocolate pudding, 1 (6oz) container lemon yogurt and, if you'd like, 1 tbsp of coconut flavored rum. Beat until fluffy and set aside.

Clean, hull and slice 3# of strawberries; rinse 2 pints of blueberries; and cut a prepared pound cake into 1 inch cubes.

Spread a layer of pound cake cubes into the bottom of a glass trifle dish and, if you desire, sprinkle the cubes with another tablespoon of coconut rum. Cover the pound cake with a layer of strawberries; then, sprinkle blueberries over the strawberries. Spread a thick layer of your whipped cream mixture over the berries. Repeat the layers several times, ending with a layer of strawberries sprinkled with blueberries! Or arrange your top layer of berries as the stars and stripes of the flag!

I hope you enjoy this cool and delicious trifle! It is so refreshing!

Happy Fourth and Happy Cooking!!!



July Birthdays

July 1 – JohnTyler Lawton
July 1 – Marilyn Slaton
July 1 – Patrick Coots
July 2 – Karen Potts
July 2 – Byrum Emory
July 2 – Virgil Battles
July 3 – Nick Black
July 3 – Jared Webb
July 3 – Allison Powell
July 3 – Josh Rosson
July 3 – Craig Hughes
July 3 – Mason Tubberville
July 3 – Reba Coleman
July 4 – Jack Carden
July 4 – Bennett (BJ) Browder
July 5 – Sherry Powell
July 5 – Steven McElhaney
July 5 – Chris Underwood
July 6 – Dawson Crow
July 6 – Dustin Burt
July 6 – Corey Powell
July 7 – Jim Blalock
July 7 – Loretta Bain
July 7 – Marcus Crider
July 7 – LaShae Jones
July 7 – In Memory of Coy Butler
July 8 – Daniel Phillips
July 8 – Kathy Gray
July 8 – Eian Bain

July 9 – KayLee Tucker
July 9 – Skylor Dutton
July 10 – Steve Lanier
July 10 – Addison McClure
July 11 – Kanissa Smith
July 11 – Brooklyn Carroll
July 11 – Lacie Keith
July 11 – Kori Willingham
July 11 – Dylan Carter
July 11 – Garrett Collins
July 12 – Charles Gray
July 12 – Cindy Harrison
July 12 – Juliegh McKenzie
July 13 – Jordan Goza
July 13 – Sissy Crider
July 13 – Brody Battles
July 13 – Myles Battles
July 14 – Will Blackburn
July 14 – Dave Vest
July 14 – Jeffrey Hopper
July 14 – Paul Crawford
July 14 – Teena Bain
July 14 – Bella & Ava Harrison
July 14 – Dylan Flannigan
July 15 – Jason Dean
July 15 – Tatum Lanier
July 15 – Paul Zulker
July 15 – Will Battles
July 15 – Chelsea Stephenson
July 16 – Nathan Hargrove
July 16 – Margie Daniel
July 17 – Christopher Black
July 17 – Valerie Burt

July 17 – Justin Battles
July 18 – Loy Langston
July 18 – Lily Cash
July 19 – Anna Bobo
July 20 – Becky Langston
July 20 – Lindsay Black
July 20 – Bailee Carter
July 20 – Jeff Clure
July 21 – Tonya Hilyer
July 21 – Paxton Harper
July 21 – Brianna Powell
July 21 – Peggy Johnston
July 22 – Jim Bates
July 22 – Linda Clark
July 22 – Ian Hilyer
July 22 – Emily Norman
July 23 – Amanda Smith
July 23 – Taylor Blalock
July 23 – Logan Chambers
July 23 – Emmie Chambers
July 23 – Reid Davis turns 1!
July 23 – Marc Pardue
July 24 – Phyllis Bailey
July 25 – Josephine Blalock
July 25 – Rylee Vest
July 25 – Bill Berry
July 25 – Jeremy Webb
July 25 – Kali Haynes
July 25 – Austin Cuzzort
July 26 – Claire Wilkinson
July 26 – Pam Dean
July 26 – Gracie Carol Butler
July 26 – Megan Smith

July 26 – Maggie Chaney
July 27 – Dexter Smith
July 27 – Kelley Hughes
July 27 – John David Nelson
July 28 – Debbie Flannigan
July 28 – Kelly Owen
July 29 – Trip Battles
July 30 – Zack Dean
July 30 – Zach Bain
July 31 – Hunter Battles
July 31 – Matt Lee

July Anniversaries

July 1 – Casey & Tracy Cartwright
July 2 – Jerry & Merle Stokes
July 9 – Logan & Courtney Chambers
July 9 – Al & Vickie Blackburn
July 15 – William & Mary Beasley
July 16 – Gene & Karen Potts
July 16 – Josh & Ashley Coffman
July 18 – Zach & Tamara Bain
July 20 – Charles & Amanda Gray
July 20 – Mason & Brittany Akins
July 22 – John & Lisa Moore
July 23 – John & Alisha Lawton
July 24 – Jamie & Gequetta Darwin
July 24 – Don & Yvonne Brock
July 25 – Donald & Karen Saferite
July 29 – Heath & Amy Jones

What To Do Around Here!

July 2015 Community Calendar

Jul 1 - Poisonous Plants of Alabama Class. A brief overview of the many types of poisonous plants in Alabama. learn how to spot them and what to do if you are affected by them. Learn the vital role they play in our wilderness. Meet at True Adventure Sports Training Center. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jul 2 - Independence Day Celebration. **FREE** The City of Fort Payne invites you to a celebration with free hot dogs, soft drinks, American flags, live entertainment, and a fantastic fireworks display. Event takes place at the Fort Payne High School football stadium and begins at dusk. 256-845-1524 (Rain out day July 3).

Jul 2 - Plant Discovery Walk. FREE. Join Robert Wilson from Seven Pines Survival for a short nature hike around the boardwalk area identifying some common plants. This is a short basic plant identification class with info about medicinal, edible, and utilitarian uses. Most of the info that will be given will be from the Peterson Field Guide Books (edible and medicinal). It is suggested to bring a camera and note book. Meet in DeSoto State Park Country Store & Information Center, Free, & open to everyone. 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. 256-997-5025.

Jul 2 - Kamama Music Series. James McKinney and The Night Travelers. Dinner at 5:30pm; music starts at 7pm. Reservations recommended. 256-634-3001.

Jul 2, 4, 6, 18 - 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. True Adventure Sports. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jul 3-4 - DeSoto State Park Independence Day Celebration Flag Making Contest. FREE. DeSoto State Park offers its annual star-spangled celebration with a parade, homemade ice cream social, and a flag making contest. Make your own homemade flag to be judged in this fun contest. All ages are welcome to participate! Materials & flag-making rules will be available at the campground pavilion in DeSoto State Park's Improved Campground starting Wednesday, July 1st. Flags MUST be turned in no later than 9 a.m. on Saturday, July 4th at DeSoto's Nature Center. Winners announced at the Ice Cream Social. Free to participate & open to everyone! 256-997-5025.

Jul 3 - Splish & Splash Pool Party. Join the fun at our 3rd Annual Splish & Splash Pool Party at DeSoto State Park! Cool off in our Olympic-size pool, play pool games, enter for door prizes, & eat home-made ice cream! \$1 per person. 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. 256-997-5025.

Jul 4 - DeSoto State Park Independence Day Celebration Parade & Ice Cream Social. FREE. Fun for both children & adults! Decorate your

vehicle to show your spirit! Parade will start at 3 p.m. on Saturday. Begins at DeSoto's Park Headquarters & ends in DeSoto's Improved Campground in time for the Ice Cream Social (4pm). Sit around and relax, eat home-made ice cream. If you wish to ride along, meet at DeSoto's Park Headquarters or Improved Campground Gate a few minutes before 3 p.m. You are welcome to bring your own favorite homemade ice cream recipe or other desserts to share with your fellow guests. We would love to have you join us in celebrating our Country's Independence Day! Free to participate! 256-997-5025.

Jul 4 - The 32nd Annual Sand Mountain Potato Festival. FREE. Sand Mountain is well known for its rich diversity of agricultural products, including potatoes. Celebrate our heritage with live music, arts and crafts, entertainment, games and fireworks. Event begins at 10 a.m. and culminates with a beautiful fireworks display. 256-657-6282.

Jul 4 - Mad Science & Crazy Art. Mad science days may include chemical magic, special effects, bubbling potions, slimes, or high-bouncing balls; while the crazy art days will include a mix of science into art for some crazy but beautiful artistic creations with buttons, strings, recycled materials, dirt paint and more! Kids ages 6-10 can put their hands into mad science and crazy art experiments hosted by the Canyon Center Gift Shop First Saturdays every ODD month. Little River Canyon Center; 11 a.m. to Noon; \$5 per child 256-782-5697.

Jul 4 - 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. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jul 7 - Zip Line & Sky Swing 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 adventure. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jul 7-9 - 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. 10 a.m. 256-997-9577.

Jul 9 - Kamama Music Series. Ken Watters, jazz trumpet. Dinner at 5:30pm; music starts at 7pm. Reservations recommended. 256-634-3001.

Jul 10-12 & 17-19 - "The Foreigner." Northeast Alabama Community College Theatre presents "The Foreigner". Call 256-638-4418 for more information.

Jul 11 - Second Saturday Art Market. FREE. The Mentone Area Arts Council is making it possible for our local artists and musicians to

have a place to showcase their talents that is absolutely free to them. Located in the empty lot across from The Mentone Market. Plan now to attend! 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. www.mentonearts.org.

Jul 11 - Blow Your Own Ornament. 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. We welcome ages 5 years old and up. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$38 per ornament. Orbix Hot Glass, Ft. Payne 256-523-3188.

Jul 11 - Native American Tools and Weapons. FREE. Learn about prehistoric and historic tools at this National Park Service Program. Little River Canyon Center 10 a.m. to Noon or 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Two programs. Free. 256-782-5697.

Jul 11 - Native American Pottery Workshop. Join nationally-renowned potter Tammy Beane to learn how pottery was made on Lookout Mountain thousands of years ago. We'll provide the clay, as well as bone needles and paddles, to make designs on your pots. This workshop is very popular and fills with a long waiting list. Pre-register early to assure your place. Little River Canyon Center 10 a.m. to Noon or 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. \$15 adult/\$5 child; Pre-registration is required 256-782-5697.

Jul 11, 17, 25 - 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. Includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience needed. True Adventure Sports. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jul 12 - The 2015 Southeastern Regional Championship series (SERC) #8. Mountain Bike Race held in DeSoto State Park. Starts at 8am.

Jul 13-17 - Vacation Bible School. Lea's Chapel Baptist Church. Starts at 6pm nightly.

Jul 13-16 - "C.S.I. Cool Science Investigators." Learn about the world around you through Cool Science experiments! Generate electricity, create stalactites/stalagmites, and learn about weather patterns! Our camp staff is certified in the skills they teach and are caring and professional with each camper. Our camps sessions are small and limited to only 20 campers, ages 7-13. Staff to camper ratio is 1:6 with at least 2 instructors per age group. Nippersink Lodge 256-634-8370.

Jul 14, 23, 24 - 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.

Jul 15, 29 - Canyon Center Creative Kids Days: Adventures in Nature. Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbors to creatively learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more with JSU Field Schools. Your children (ages 5-10) will want to attend ALL of these hands-on outdoor adventures! 10am-Noon Little River Canyon Center. Fee: \$5 per child (to cover cost of supplies); pre-registration required. email fieldschool@jsu.edu or call 256-782-5697.

Jul 15 - GPS Basic Training and Navigation Class, Part 1. Learn how to use a map, compass, and a handheld GPS. Learn basic navigation and how to pinpoint a location for quick return or quick rescue. Also, learn how to search by waypoints or coordinates. True Adventure Sports 10am-4pm 256-997-9577.

Jul 15 - GPS Basics Training and Navigation Class, Part 2. You will learn to find a beacon placed in the woods as an SAR attempt while knowing your position, and the position of your teammates. True Adventure Sports 5p.m. to 9p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jul 16 - 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.

Jul 16 - Kamama Music Series. Garry James, outlaw singer/songwriter. Dinner at 5:30pm; music starts at 7pm. Reservations recommended. 256-634-3001.

Jul 18-19 - JulyFest Art & Music Festival. FREE. This two-day event, presented by The Mentone Area Arts Council, opens at 9 a.m. Saturday with the prestigious juried arts and crafts show, featuring the works of about 50 of the area's most talented artists and craftspeople. Enjoy live music throughout the festival including Saturday evening with dinner on the grounds at Mentone Inn. The juried show will be held in beautiful Brow Park in Mentone. Hours are 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, July 18, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, July 19 (CST). Admission is free to the festival. In the event of hazardous weather, the make-up date will be the following weekend, July 25 & 26. The JulyFest Art and Music Festival is made possible through a grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts.

Jul 18 - Campfire Talk: Geocaching 101. FREE. Join us for a fun campfire talk in the Great Outdoors! Do you want to learn more about Geocaching? Geocaching is a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game, using GPS-enabled devices. Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then

attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden at that location. This campfire talk will include a lesson on what geocaching is and how you do it. There will be a live demonstration of geocaching and geocaching supplies will be on display. Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish. DeSoto State Park's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground (In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center) 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Free & open to the Public. Great for all ages! 256-997-5025.

Jul 18, 27 - Blacksmith Forging Demonstration with Walter Howell. FREE. Locally and nationally-known craftsman Walter Howell will demonstrate this interesting art form of usefulness and beauty. See raw materials become works of art using this age-old method of heating and shaping metal known as forging. Some of Walter's finished pieces of art will be available for purchase. DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama-Country Store & Information Center 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free & open to everyone. Stop by anytime! 256-997-5025.

Jul 18 - Appalachian Broom-Making Demonstration with Lenton Williams. FREE. Locally and nationally-known craftsman, Lenton Williams, will demonstrate the interesting art form of making hand-tied brooms and brushes in the Appalachian style. DeSoto State Park Store. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. 256-997-5025.

Jul 18 - Paperweight Class. This class is designed for those who really just want to see what molten glass is all about. Feel the heat, gather from the furnace, sculpt the glass into you own design. 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 concerning safety and basic glassblowing vocabulary. Please join us for some in-depth discovery. Reservations Required \$135 per person. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Orbix Hot Glass, Ft. Payne 256-523-3188.

Jul 18 - Bat House Workshop. FREE. HEY BAT FANS.... COME BUILD YOUR OWN BAT HOUSE! DeSoto State Park Nature Center next to the

Country Store. Free, and open to everyone. Only 10 house kits available per session, so pre-registration is required. Because quantities are limited, we will only allow one kit per family...this lets more people enjoy this free opportunity. 10 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. 256-997-5025.

Jul 19 - Tri-State Paper Crafting. Join us to learn, create and be inspired while crafting with papers, stamps, inks, punches, and die cuts. No experience needed. Kamama Gallery in Mentone AL 1:00-2:30. Reserve by noon Friday the 17th. Cost is \$5. To learn more or reserve a spot send an email to cottagepaper@bellsouth.net or call 205-349-4026.

Jul 20-24 - Summer Youth Workshop at NACC. This workshop consist of five days of intense theatre curriculum. Open for Kids ages 10 – 15. Registration begins in May. 256-638-4418.

Jul 20 - Night Sky Swing Adventure. This is an adventure of a lifetime. Enjoy the thrill of the swing at night. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before the adventure. Meet at True Adventure Sports 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jul 21, 22 - 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. True Adventure Sports. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jul 23 - 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. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jul 23 - Kamama Music Series. Chris Hale, Ol' Time Banjo. Dinner at 5:30pm; music starts at 7pm. Reservations recommended. 256-634-3001.

Jul 24-26 - Little River Canyon Knap-In. FREE. National Park Service will host the 3rd Annual gathering of artists and beginners at chipping

stone tools, often called arrowheads. Little River Canyon Center 10am-3pm.

Jul 24, 25 - 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. 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jul 24 - Campfire Talk: Salamanders of Alabama. FREE. Hidden among the nooks and crannies of the outdoors is a treasure trove of interesting creatures, and salamanders are one of them. There are over 40 of these secretive creatures in Alabama. Join Jacksonville State University's Dr. George Cline and learn what species we have here in Alabama and how to identify them. Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish. DeSoto State Park's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground (In case of inclement weather, will be located in Nature Center) 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Free & open to the Public. Great for all ages! 256-997-5025.

Jul 25 - 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? 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. Reservations are required. Orbix Hot Glass, Ft. Payne 256-523-3188.

Jul 25 - Campfire Talk: Voices of the Night, Frog Calls of Alabama. FREE. Join the one-and-only "Dr. Frog", George Cline, from Jacksonville State University for an unforgettable evening of romance and songs from the amphibian voices of the season. 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. DeSoto State Park's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. Free, open to the public, and great for all ages! 256-997-5025.

Jul 25 - Paracord Survival Bracelet Workshop: Beginner's Class. Paracord has a million uses and is handy to have around. Since it is so

helpful, people like to weave paracord into bracelets called survival bracelets. In the Beginner class, the first bracelet will be an Oat Spike Sinnet bracelet; then, we will move on to the Cobra bracelet. This workshop is for 8 years old and older. All ages welcome. All supplies provided. 10 a.m. to noon. DeSoto State Park \$10 supply fee. Workshop is limited to 10 people, so pre-registration is required. 256-997-5025.

Jul 25 - Paracord Survival Bracelet Workshop: Intermediate Class. Paracord is often called survival cord because it has so many uses. This cord can hold 550lb and can be used for making shelters, rafts, fishing and many more things. We will be making a Survival Belt that has between 40 and 80 feet of paracord woven into it. This workshop is for 8 years old and older. All ages welcome. All supplies provided. DeSoto State Park 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. \$25 supply fee. Workshop is limited to 10 people, so pre-registration is required. 256-997-5025.

Jul 27-30 - "Survivor Camp." Get in survival mode and learn the knowledge to better understand the natural world. Shelter building, bushcraft and nature awareness are just some of the topics we will embark on. As we journey through the beautiful land, your child will learn the mysteries of the wilderness - identifying edible plants and their poisonous look-alikes, hands on skills such as shelter/ fire building, fishing, and tracking. Our camp staff is certified in the skills they teach and are caring and professional with each camper. Our camp sessions are small and limited to only 20 campers, ages 7 - 13. Staff to camper ratio is 1:6 with at least 2 instructors per age group. Nippersink Lodge 256-634-8370.

Jul 30 - Kamama Music Series. Darren Camp, contemporary singer-songwriter. Dinner at 5:30pm; music starts at 7pm. Reservations recommended. 256-634-3001.

Ongoing Calendar

AA Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Thursday at 6:00 P.M. at St. Joseph's on the Mountain Church, Mentone, AL. Questions? call 256-634-3060.

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: Wednesdays, 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.

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

The Rhododendron Garden Club meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 AM at the MERF house in Mentone. (No meetings in June and July) For more information, call 256-634-4403.

MAAC 2nd Saturday Art Market, second Saturday of every month from May-October.

CONGRATULATIONS VALLEY HEAD SENIORS!



Graduation photos
courtesy of
Logan Photography



McKayla Jacobs, Valedictorian Katelyn Poe, Salutatorian



Samantha Blalock



Hannah Blansit



Olinda Boyzo



Caitlyn Bunt



Dustin Burt



Tyler Carden



Ashley Gibson



Travis Gilliam



Josh Gregory



Shelby Jackson



Daniel Kilgore



Ben Kirby



Tiffany Long



Alexis Manifold



Javier Martinex



Anthony McKenzie



Jesse Millican



Ana Padilla

CONGRATULATIONS VALLEY HEAD SENIORS!



Dallas Phillips



Jose Plascencia



Madeline Radcliffe



Courtney Roden



Amelia Saferite



Nathan Sanchez



Alicia Shafer



Jessie Sibert



Patrick Sinns



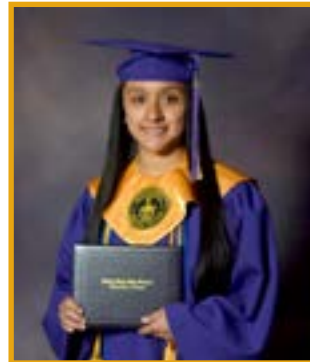
Paige Smith



Amber Stokes



Thomas Sudberry



Diana Sontay



Angel Stanley



Meagan Sutton



Joseph Turner



Brooklyn Wright



Jeremy Young

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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 minister for these services.

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

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

Visitors are always welcome at the **Valley Head United Methodist Church**. Please join us each Sunday morning for a traditional worship service at 9:30AM. 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. in English, 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 or P. O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984.



HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

Jim Farquhar . . . Extraordinary Music, Extraordinary Life

By Sandra Padgett



In the past, if you ate at Dessie's restaurant on Friday night, you likely met Jim Farquhar. He played banjo with the "River Rascals" (Tom Allen and Joe Dedrick). Jim played banjo for 45 years and is in the Banjo Hall of Fame.

The banjo bridges he invented have a unique design and are sold all over the world. Mr. Farquhar works on his banjo bridges daily in his shop in Rome, where he also makes walking sticks and pick holders. His walking sticks require 20 hours of labor, and he said they appear as though "the vine has captured them". They are hand stained and magnificent.

Jim was born 86 years ago, on a cotton farm south of Dallas, Texas in Hill County. The county is the second largest grower of cotton in the state with 78 cotton gins. His forebears lived

in Texas before it was a state. After graduating from college in 1950, he worked for the power company in Oklahoma. When he retired in 1996, he left Tulsa and moved to Rome, Georgia.

Jim is bright and energetic, and he loves history. He is "full Scot", and understands his heritage well. He studied the history of North Alabama, North Mississippi, and Tennessee after the civil war. Your interest could be held for hours with his stories and knowledge from this slice of history. If you are lucky enough to spend time with him, you will be entertained, inspired, and in complete awe of this very lively 86 year old gentleman.

The Heart and Soul of Mentone

My husband, Barry, and I had a most awakening experience one weekend while we were building our home in Mentone, Alabama. Mentone and the Desoto State Park areas were my playgrounds growing up in North East Alabama. When I turned 17, I headed to Tuscaloosa and the University of Alabama, believing that I would never come back to live in this part of the world. And for all my life, I did not- until now. But Mentone had an invisible ribbon, tied to my heart where ever I went, where ever I lived. As I moved from state to state (six in all), the ribbon was always there, and it would pull me back for visits. As I got older, the pull became stronger until, at last, in 2012, we purchased a piece of property in Highland Springs, within the city limits of Mentone. Finally, I had a real piece of Mentone that was all mine! The next year, we started building our home on our property and established a camper as a base here so we could visit and stay overnight when we wanted to. About three months into the process, is where the real story begins. On Saturday of the Mentone Tour of Homes, we arrived at our home site and camper to find the "facilities" inside the camper

were stopped up, and the harder we worked to unstop the situation, the worse it became! We then went to our authority in Mentone, Sandra Padgett at Kamama's Art Gallery. She made my husband a delicious iced coffee, listened to our serious plight, and gave us the name of a plumber in the area. We were thrilled! Going back to our property, we had forgotten that Verizon goes everywhere in the world, except the exact place we were building our home. So, I walked to the highest point I could find in our area and made a call to Mr. Jimmy Worthy. No answer. I left a brief message that went something like this, "Mr. Worthy, my name is Lynna, and we have a kind of emergency with the plumbing system in our camper. Sandra at Kamama's gave us your number. Please give me a call when you get this message." and I left my number. There was no return call, so we proceeded to work on our "problem". Having some success, we were getting ready to head back to our home in Huntsville. On our way out, we stopped by our neighbor (Ralph Harris)'s home, when we saw a pickup truck pull into our driveway. We watched as two men got out and walked around our trailer, attempted to open the

By Lynna Meadows Morton

door, and seemed to be waiting on something. Thinking they might be part of the building crew, we approached them, cautiously, and asked if they needed anything. One hand was politely extended from the older gentleman, as his other one held a hand-fashioned cane. He said, "My name is Jimmy, I'm the plumber. You called me, but I couldn't hear your number. I just came where I thought you were, to help you". We were astonished. We had never had a plumber show up- even with our name, number, address, and appointment! Now, one had shown up at our campsite without even being given an address. We told him how amazing his actions were, and how grateful we were that he had come to help us. Now, here's the heart and soul..... He said, "Here in Mentone, we take care of our own." And that's why the pull is so strong, why the bond here wraps around our hearts. We are part of Mentone's "own".

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MOVE TO MENTONE and live in this wonderful home on the brow. 1.95 acres. 4 bdrm, 3 bth. Open concept living room, kitchen combo, with gas log fireplace. Formal dining room. Separate 30x40 garage/workshop. Native flora landscaping with rock outcroppings, garden fountain pond. Auto sprinkler system. Screened porch with multiple decks for your sunset views. So much amenities. \$339,000



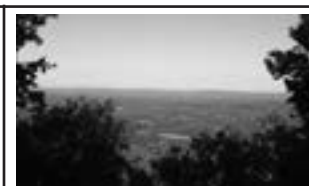
ADORABLE LOG CABIN on the west brow, GA. Open floor plan, stainless steel appliances. 2 bdrm, 2 bth, partially furnished, stone woodburning fireplace, 3 acres, porch and deck overlooking the valley. Great views! \$175k



TUCKED AMONG THE RHODODENDRONS, Hemlocks, Oak trees is a rustic 1 3/4 story, 3 bdrm, 2bth home. on 3.85 acres Listen to the creek run over the rocks from the screened porch. Open floor plan, wood burning FP. Hot tub. Furnished. Located in Cloudland, GA. Seasonal views. \$182,000



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



A SPECTACULAR SUNRISE/ Moonrise on the East Brow in Cloudland, GA. Wooded with 200ft on the brow. Secluded 4.36 acres. A must see!! \$45,000



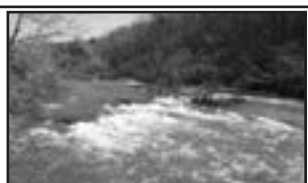
SOUTHLAND LOG HOME, on the East fork little River. 5.5 acres. Deck, lighted walkway to lower property, stone patio half-way to river steps and landing to river. 2 bdrm, 2 bths. loft. Vaulted ceiling with exposed beams. fully equipped kitchen with granite counters, stacked stone FP. 2 story with Basement. Separate 30x40 garage, large enough for motor home. Private but with all the comforts. Price reduction to \$275,000



CHARMING LOG CABIN circa 1920s in Cloudland, GA. Renovated but kept with its original logs, windows, floors & doors. 4 bdrm, 2 bth. Living room with stone FP. 3 french doors leading to the screened porch & large deck, that overlooks stone picnic tables, stone FP, and BBQ chimney. Seasonal view. A must see! \$135,000 (23096)



HIGH ROAD, Cloudland, GA. 5.5 acres with stream and small waterfall. 3bdrm, 2bth, ranch style home. Living room, new flooring, kitchen with built in pantry, CHA. Guest cabin with 1 bdrm, 1 bth. 3 bay garage/workshop. 2 wells. \$148,000. (23152)



3.8 ACRES located in East fork little River Estates. Nicely wooded with a portion of the historic Dinky Line Railway. 175 ft. on river (Cherokee Co. Mentone). covenants & restrictions. county water and power available. \$45,000



1940's VINTAGE Bungalow. 2 bdrm, 1bth. T & G walls, beamed ceilings. Stone gas log fireplace. Heart Pine Flooring, Brow Views, Sun porch, vinyl siding. Old Mentone Charm. \$199,900.



IDEAL HUNTING PRESERVE. Feed plots already planted, and creek runs through property. Hollows, a great spot to build a lake. Wildlife such as bear, deer, turkey abundant. 150 acres available. \$270k (23116)



UNIQUE LOG CABIN. Sunroom, 2 bdrm, 1.5 baths. 2 fireplaces. Living Dining combo, sitting room. Native Landscaped yard. Covered porch. \$197,000. (23143)



COTTAGE ON LITTLE RIVER CANYON. What a peaceful setting and private. 2 bdrm with sleeping loft, 2 baths. Great room with Rock Fireplace. Covered front porch and grilling deck. Adjoins on the back side Wildlife management and in the front the canyon preserve. Private access. Appt Only. \$150k (22865)



RANCH STYLE 3 bdrm, 2 bath, living, dining combo. 2 car garage. Open front and back porches. 4.2 acres. Vinyl siding, handicap accessible. Sold as-is. \$135,000 (23108)



NICE LEVEL WOODED property with partial drive and home-site cleared. Previous perk test. easy access to the middle fork of little river.. Restrictive cov. apply. Located Mountain River Estates. \$57,000



CAPE COD COTTAGE in Cloudland, GA. 2bd, 1.5bt. Living room with stone, gas log fireplace. Enclosed porch. Dining room/office. .62 acres, fenced, outbuilding. \$49,000 (23086)



HISTORIC DINKY LINE Railway runs through the property. 3.8 acres on the East Fork Little river. 175 ft on water with a deep swimming hole, and rapids. Lightly restricted. County water and power available. Located on Lookout Mtn Mentone area. \$46,000



3.77 ACRES located at Canyon View Forest Subdivision. Wooded and joining the bluff of Little River National Preserve. \$60,000

LOTS AND ACREAGE

OLD HOMEPLACE next to Shady Grove Dude Ranch. 1.7 acres. Great building sites. Non-restricted. Reduced \$18,500 (21599)

5.7 WOODED ACRES with a beautiful view across from Lake Lahusage. The driveway has been started to build your Mentone getaway! Paved road frontage, city water available, perc tested. Lightly restricted. Seller is very motivated! REDUCED \$49,900 (19865)

6.1 ACRES with Brushy Creek running through, drive way in place, wooded. \$36,000 (23044)

5 ACRES on the East brow tract overlooking Pleasant Valley. Rock pallecades, wooded. See Weiss Lake in the distance. Private gated

area. Joins National Preserve & Forever Wild protected property. \$60,000 (22866)

NICELY WOODED 5 ACRES with stream located on Desoto Parkway, Mentone. Residential or commercial use. Old Homesite, large rock formations. Possibilities are endless. \$90,000 (22824)

.6 ACRE West Brow lot, 1 mile south of downtown Mentone. Wooded with rock formations. Great building lot. Prime location, great sunsets. 5 lots available. \$114,900. (23043)

.75 ACRE WEST BROW LOT, 1 mile south of downtown Mentone. Wooded with rock formations. Great building lot. Prime location, great sunsets. 2 lots available. \$124,900. (23042)

CAMBRIA BLEU COMPOUND.

California style in serene country setting. 2 story Herringbone brick home complete with archway entrance. Porches overlooking lake, fields, old home place and the ridges beyond. Inside on main level, walk-in to the foyer that opens into the great room, dining with travertine FP. Gourmet kitchen with high end appliances, granite counters, eat-in bar, cherry cabinets throughout entire house. Master with glamour bath, dressing room. 2 additional bedrooms and bath. Large utility w/ built in cabinets, freezer, w/d. Downstairs suite has 2 bdrms, Den and bath. So many amenities and landscaped naturally with flora and fauna. The Guest Cottage is 2 bdrms, 1 bth, living room with ceramic wood burning insert. Heart pine floors, ceilings, and walls. The old home place on property was built in 1895 when the land was homesteaded. Even the African geese stay and all the wildlife abound! Total of 90 acres. \$974,900 (23094)



Remember When . . .

The Groundhog ran a cover article in June of 1986 on one of Mentone's favorites--Luther King. The article was titled "Fourth of July: Those Were The Days" and featured this wonderful picture of Mr. King, and it read as follows:



"Mentone folks planning their Fourth of July celebrations might be interested in knowing what happened here on that day around the turn of the century. Luther King, 91, remembers that everyone in town--year-round and summer people alike--gathered at Ed Mason's Moon Lake.

'Mr. Mason arranged for just about every kind of race you can think of,' Luke King says. 'There was horse racing, foot racing, Indian wrestling, sack races and swimming races—it was a general big day. There was everything you might think of to have a big time, and we did,' he chuckles.

People came from miles around, walking, by horse

and mule, in wagons and in buggies. King recalls Phillipps, Blalocks, Joneses and Smiths. The horses and mules that were raced that day were, for the most part, working horses, having a holiday of their own.

Ice was cut from Moon Lake in the winter and packed in an ice house with straw, mostly for the festivities on the Fourth of July. Then, ice cream and lemonade were the big treats. Most families brought baskets of food to share. As the years progressed into the 1920's, crowds increased, with the local entrepreneurs like the Joneses and Seab Davenport renting horses to the summer visitors.

Luther and his sister Pluma, 88, live today with Luther's son Marvin. He is the father also of Luther King, Jr., called "June", and of a daughter, Lois. He has lived all of his life on or near land where his present home is. He worked in timber, and he has a collection of ancient cross-cut saws used before he had chain saws.

He began his school days in the church house at Little River, finishing at Moon Lake, when the school went through the junior high years. The most exciting time of his youth was in the summer when the mountain buzzed with an increased population and when there was cash flowing into the pockets of year-round citizens.

Summer people required milk, butter, and buttermilk, and the Kings helped to supply them. Vegetables were bought locally, and Luke remembers that Norris Baty sold meat to the summer people.

'My Uncle Willie would kill shoat (young pig) and share it with the rest of us, and this would go on in succession around each individual family until it was cold enough for each to put up his own meat for the winter,' King says.

By Angie Carden

Luke asked *The Groundhog*, 'Do you know why old folks spend most of their time reminiscing about the past rather than participating in the present?'

The answer: 'Because they can't hear what's going on in the present!'

The article closed with this: "It is obvious, despite his poor hearing and eyesight now, that Luther King is a hard working family man who retains an especially good sense of humor and a capacity for enjoying life."

I have lived near the King's my entire life and each one has always lived as Mr. Luther did. And I have seen the same great humor and compassion for this mountain from them.

I found this article to be a wonderful tribute not only to Mr. King, but also to the feeling of the community of Mentone.

From my Mentone family to yours... have a safe and happy Fourth of July!

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.....
LOTS and LAND

CREEKSIDE 3.7 ACRES, walking distance to downtown Mentone. Access on both sides of the creek. Privacy w/light restrictions & covenants. \$55,000 (564423)

2.2 UNRESTRICTED, WOODED ACRES Mentone. Corner property; hardwoods; 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)

TWO ACRES WITH DRIVEWAY, public water at road, building site already prepared. Approx one mile from downtown Mentone on N Scenic Hwy. Unrestricted, wooded, level & just the right size! Just the right price, too. \$20,000 (840634)

BEAUTIFUL 3-ACRE LOT, NORTH-BEND, a woody mountain subdivision right across from the brow, approx one mile from Mentone Brow Park & downtown. Light restrictions; underground utilities; public water. \$24,000 (960201)

BE INSPIRED! Take the meandering drive along DeSoto Pkwy to Citadel Rock Rd (the giant boulders on this road are a favorite of rock-climbing enthusiasts). 3.2-acre lot to build your mountain home. Near DeSoto St Park & Mentone. \$53,500 (1003658)

40 ACRES ON LOOKOUT MTN, Walker's Chapel area; mobile home; 3-bay garage/barn/shop (w/apt & kennel); frontage on both sides paved road; rock formations; wet-weather stream; abundant wildlife & native plants! \$199,000 (316165)

YOUR OWN MOUNTAIN PARADISE PRESERVE of 480 acres, where two creeks converge (3700+ ft of Laurel Creek & 3400+ ft of Gilbert Branch). Create a large estate or a quiet retreat with elbow room aplenty! Private access road. \$909,600. (1011611)

180' LAKE FRONTAGE. 3 lots being sold together (2 of which are on the lake). 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)

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)

1.72 WOODED ACRES at the end of a shady, winding lane. A place to build a tiny house (minimum 800 sq ft) or a larger cabin in the woods. Small, wet-weather creek on the property. Just a hop and a skip to Camp Corner, DeSoto St Pk, DeSoto Falls, camps & Mentone \$38,200 (1019850)



OVER 300' OF DRAMATIC BROW FRONTAGE w/views every which way you turn! 3-level "mid-century modern" main 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, fountain, interesting rock outcroppings & plantings. The best deal on the brow at Mentone. \$199,000 (1010691)



FRESH NEW COLOR SCHEME! WOODLAND COTTAGE, just off DeSoto Pkwy, near the state park, the Falls, Cloudmont skiing, Comer Scout Res & camps. 2BR/2BA; oak floors & cabinetry; all appliances; gas-log fireplace; Master suite w/balcony & upgraded bath. Wrap-around deck; back porch; wood patio & walk to firepit & seating areas. Furnished. Add'l half-acre lot goes with it. \$154,500 (1019490)



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)



CASUAL MOUNTAIN ELEGANCE of an "old" downtown Mentone brow-front cottage, expanded and updated. Standing-seam metal roof; vinyl "cedar shake" siding; composite deck; "smart" system to control utilities when you're away; 3 spacious bedrooms; 2 baths. Gorgeous kitchen! Stone, masonry fireplace. Quaint white picket fence. Right at brow park and so close to everything Mentone. \$317,000. (1022983)



CUTE AND COMPACT little downtown Mentone cottage offers a variety of uses. Currently a residence & art gallery, you could continue using it for this, or as a shop, or as a vacation rental... or all of the above! All the furnishings (including locally-crafted pieces) will remain. Move-in ready! Nice landscaping, artsy cedar railings on the porch (the rocking chairs go with it, too!) \$147,000 (1022969)



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-crafted pieces (one a fireplace, one a wrap-around 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 w/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; so much more! One level acre w/attractive trees & flowering shrubs. \$129,000 (1002526)



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. \$205,000 (970236)



A TINY CABIN, 4 wooded acres, over 410' frontage on Brushy Creek, and an old wagon road creating easy walking through the delights of this property and down to the year-round creek. Perfect for wading and splashing in the heat of summer. Private getaway or vacation rental. Mountain laurel, rhododendron, ferns, yellow root. 2BR/1.5BA one-owner frame cabin. \$130,000 (1021278)



APPLE ORCHARD, PEAR TREES and a place to just laze back & enjoy life on the screened porch of this 2BR/1.5BA board-n-batten cottage situated perfectly on 30 acres. Enjoy open living space with a bright kitchen, complete with all appliances. Several outbuildings for tinkering; mature landscaping & flowering plants galore! Lovely meadow, strewn with wildflowers. Land is combination field & heavy timber. A rustic log cabin with antique wood-burning stove, vaulted ceiling, & bath completes this fantastic country retreat! \$155,000 (1019046)



Sage Advice: Classic Containers

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

Whether you live in a condo, apartment, tent, or sprawling home with lots of land, container gardening is the answer for color and foliage. If you want to stay up-to-date with the in-crowd, container gardens are the way to go. There is a container for every need or want, from classic concrete to resin to wood to coconut liners. Choose your color to match your house or surroundings. Sizes range from very small to humongous (very large)! They come in shapes of round, square, rectangular, or other odd shapes. Strawberry pots have holes in the sides for the plants to grow and hang from the pot. There are even containers for water gardens, so plants can grow in the middle of the pond!

Choosing the container is the first step. Next is choosing the plants to go in the containers. Will the container sit in the hot sun or the cool shade? Installing the wrong plant will cause you grief because it will not do well and you will think nothing will grow. Giving up is not an option!!

Some wonderful ideas for sun gardening are lantana, any of the sedums, Portulaca (also a succulent), rosemary, daylilies, some coleus, marigolds, verbena, and vinca. Shade plants include coleus, wax begonia, impatiens, ferns, heuchera, and tiarellas. Accent plants, like short or tall mondo grass or dusty miller, add height

and drama to the container. Ivy and ice plant add that draping effect in tall containers. The look of something tall and something growing over the side really adds to the appearance of the container.

Maintenance is the biggest issue of container gardening. Beginning with very good soil is so important. There are some wonderful potting soil mixes available for containers. Be sure your containers have good drainage holes in the bottom. Water is the next issue of maintenance. Most containers, even those with succulents, need some water every day. Succulents can sometimes go two or three days, but you must remember that, unless rain falls, the plants depend on you for their water. They cannot get it from the ground like the plants in the

garden. Fertilizer is also important, especially for those plants that give continuous blooms all summer. Adding a good time-release pellet is your best bet. But, a water soluble or granular fertilizer for blooms (the middle number in the formula being higher than the first and last), is also good. Do not add too much fertilizer. A little bit goes a long way. Just read the package to determine the right amount for your container.

Okay, you like containers filled with plants, but you are still unsure about doing them yourself. Most local garden centers will be glad to prepare your containers for you or assist you in making them look as if they came from the florist.

Containers can be filled with seasonal blooms to

be changed from spring/summer to fall/winter, or they can be a mixture of perennials that return each year with some annuals added for seasonal color. Some large containers may even have a small tree or shrub with surrounding smaller flowers or foliage. Whatever your desire, container gardening may be the low maintenance, space saving answer to your landscape needs.



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RUSTIC CABIN near Mentone. 1-1/2 story, 2BR/2.5BA home, open floor plan, large vaulted ceilings. Loft guest bedroom overlooking living areas. Lge screened in porch. \$239,000. MLS #1017671.



ENJOY LIFE in this custom log get-a-way on 4 secluded acres. Loft bedroom and 1 bath with wood floors offering a cozy atmosphere and a front porch complete the picture. \$110,000. MLS#564870



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, open floor plan, garage, bonus room, workshop plus storage bldg, fire pit, and more. \$289,900 MLS#1001478



West Brow of Lookout Mountain. 3BR/2BA, 2,500+/- sq. ft. main house, rock walls on 2.9+/- Acres. \$349,900 MLS #815966



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FIVE APARTMENTS. large retail space and storage building located on Hwy 117 minutes from downtown Mentone. 1.5 acres, totally fenced. Appointment only! \$187,500. MLS #1013991



BEAUTIFUL Mountain Get-Away with gorgeous view year round. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, shake-sided outside w/low maintenance metal roof. Deck. \$239,900 MLS#1000691.



18-hole Golf Course situated on 92.5 acres w/3 stocked ponds, inviting 3BR/2BA home built over Pro-Shop. 7440 sq. ft. metal bldg.; excellent investment for civic or religious camp. \$925,000. MLS# 1010954.



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



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. \$149,900. 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



Waterfront Property! 2 story home w/ 3BR/2BA. Master on main level. Large fireplace in main living area. Big screened in porch w/ gorgeous view of the river! outdoor stone pizza oven! \$129,900. MLS #1016195



MANY POSSIBILITIES! This commercial building offers office space w/ restrooms, open warehouse space & covered back open area. 4.5 acres with plenty of parking. \$185,000. MLS #1015365.



Owl's Roost! Adorable cabin on wooded lot, furnished with brass bed and country antiques. \$118,000 MLS #690326



Daniel Boon Log Cabin on 2 acres! Plenty of room with 2BR/2.5BA, unfinished basement and large balcony. \$215,000 MLS #621178



Highland Springs Subdivision near downtown Mentone! 2BR/2BA cabin on 1.23 acres. \$143,500 MLS #359224



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



One bedroom, one bath cottage on DeSoto Parkway with 2.7+/- acres AND a BROW view! Surrounded by mature landscaping and rock walls. \$299,900. MLS #1018162



BROW PROPERTY with spectacular VIEW! 3 br/ 3 ba with finished basement, and Large bonus area with outdoor access to admire the view. \$249,900. MLS #1010897.



1946 stone cottage on 5 acres w/river view. 2 BR/1 BA, lge kit with walk-in pantry, breakfast and dining areas, FP and wood floors. Huge bunk room downstairs with fireplace and bath. 2-story guest house with FP. \$419,000. MLS #902720



NEAR LITTLE RIVER CANYON. 3BR/3BA log cabin w/lake, wood floors/walls/ceilings, open living/dining/kitchen, rock woodburning FP, screened porch, deck, Loft/basement/gameroom. \$249,500. MLS #1017450.



HANDCRAFTED WOODWORK throughout this 2BR/2BA mountain home. Great room w/ cathedral ceiling, full front & back porches, Lge utility room all on a wooded lot. Located in laurel Creek Lakes w/ access to 3 lakes & walking trails. \$174,500. MLS #1017650.



Ready for the person yearning to be self-employed. Thriving convenience store and restaurant in a small resort town. Covered gas pumps and newly paved parking lot. \$375,000. MLS #1015475.



BROW PROPERTY! 2BR/1BA home on 2.3 +/- acres. Lots of wood features inside the house, enclosed porch and more. \$239,000. MLS #1015755.



LOG HOME minutes from DeSoto State Park & Mentone. One of a kind built in 2006 & constructed of 6x12 Pine Logs w/ Dovetail cornering. Tongue & groove cathedral ceilings, exposed beams & beautiful oak floors. \$182,500. MLS #1016783.



Beautiful Log Home near Mentone & DeSoto State Park features vaulted ceilings and wood burning FP. Kitchen has all appliances. Main level Master BR/BA. 2BR/ BA upstairs. Screened porch, deck and carport. \$210,000. MLS #1018895



Cedar cabin on 3.48 acres. 2 BR plus loft, 2.5 BA, living/kitchen/dining area, some hardwood, wood heater, covered porch and side deck. BBQ pit, 2-car garage, utility shed and pole barn. Most furnishings negotiable. \$214,500. MLS #1019354



Little River/Lake Lahusage/Mentone! East Fork of Little River, cottage has FP, wood floors, P&B ceiling in living area, NEW porch, deck, some doors & windows, HVAC, dock, walkway, fence, paint! Most furn. remains! \$245,000. MLS #1019742



This 4,000 sq. ft. brow home on 7.5 acres is suited for private home or bed&breakfast. 6 BR's w/private BAs & exterior doors. Common area w/rock FP & industrially-equipped kitchen. \$525,000. MLS #1018579



Cabin overlooking the water features pine walls & floors, vaulted 23' ceilings and fireplaces. Enjoy your own relaxing paradise w/plenty of Mountain Laurels and rocks. Built to preserve the property's natural beauty. \$495,000. MLS #1019610



LAKE ON THE BROW. 4-5 BR, 3.5 BA, LR w/vaulted ceiling, hardwoods, FP. Screened porch. Main level master & guest BR's w/ full BA. Bonus room w/2 balconies. Basement w/ Rec/Media Room, 2BR, BA. \$362,300. MLS #1017985

SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR LOTS AND LAND LISTINGS

Mentone, CA meets Mentone, AL

By L.C. Moon

Mentone, AL holds a place in my heart like a dear friend who held my hand as I grew into a woman. I arrived in Mentone, AL in June of 1998, (by way of West Hollywood, CA and Birmingham, AL) prepared to live off the land with no power or running water. The dream became a reality on July 6th, 1998, when we purchased 20 acres on the river from Jack and Olive Jones. We built a cabin from trees harvested from around the home site on the East Fork of the Little River, in the middle of nowhere Cherokee County.

Fortunately, after arriving on the mountain the Jones family saw the sparkle in my eye for Mentone and gave us the opportunity to purchase the land (owner financed), to rent a shop in the Log Cabin Village (in order to sell art and herbs via Angela & Marsha), and even gave me a job at the Ski Resort (and Valley View Ranch via Nancy Jones) while I was pregnant. Then later after my store was broken into and everything stolen they provided me a place to reopen a shop (via Cindy Jones).

The Jones Family, as well as Alex and Honey Glover, altered the course of my life in



a very blessed way when they exhibited the sort of community kindness and connection found in Mentone, AL. The charm of rustic "downtown" Mentone was what first drew me in and made me want to stay--it just had a feeling. Connecting with the residents and the visitors of Mentone fed my social, communal

nature in an awe-inspiring way. The beauty of the nature surrounding Mentone capped off my love for the area because it nourished the parts of me that only God could penetrate during my quiet times in the wild.

My love for, and growth in, Mentone, AL has led me to be curious about the other Mentone's of the world. And so, I have now been to three Mentones, (Mentone, AL, Menton, France and Mentone, CA). I visited Menton, France (the namesake of our town) in July 2014. After my visit, I discovered that Menton, France was not only the inspiration for Mentone, AL but also is what inspired the namesake of Mentone, CA.

Menton, France and Mentone, CA are nestled at the base of a mountain range, so you have the view of the mountains, while Mentone, AL is on the top of the mountain with the view of the valley. Menton is on the coast of the Mediterranean between Monte Carlo and San Remo, Italy. The highest elevation of Menton, France is under 1300 feet. Mentone, CA is nestled into the valley beneath the San Bernardino Mountains. Even though Mentone,

(cont'd on page 22)

BUSINESS & ORGANIZATION NEWS

Headquarters Salon now in Valley Head

The Town of Valley Head would like to welcome Headquarters Hair Salon! The shop only had a short move from Hammondville, where it has been for the last 3 years. Prior to that, owner and master cosmetologist Jennifer Owen worked several years in Fort Payne. She is excited to have the extra space that the old post office building in downtown Valley Head offers, and everything is on ground level. She has a tanning bed and is looking for another stylist to rent a booth. Jennifer's family- husband Michael, children Madi and Preston, and mother Kay Sentell- are very supportive of her business endeavors. Friday, June 12th was the official grand opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony, refreshments, and door prizes. Mayor Scott Gifford, new council member Jake Brown, town clerk Debra Rhodes, and several townspeople joined Jennifer, her family, and friends in the celebration.



Pictured Left to Right: Suzan Gifford, Council Member Jake Brown, Mayor Scott Gifford, Kay Sentell, Owner Jennifer Owen, Michael Owen, Madi Owen, Dot Crow, Doris Chamlee, Pam Dean, Debra Rhodes and Wesley Rhodes.

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Mentone, CA (cont'd from page 21)

CA is not on top of the mountains, ironically, the elevations of Mentone, AL and CA are essentially the same, around 1700 feet median levels.

The year-round beautiful weather in Southern California is not a secret. As a result, the drive to Mentone, CA on the interstate is full of congested traffic. There were very few trees in the scenery but lots of towns spread out on a desert landscape with building after building as far as the eye can see until they stopped at the base of the arid mountains.

However, as soon as you enter San Bernardino County, you see the love and pride the community takes in the presentation of their county. Similar to Menton, France, flowers greet you as you enter into the county, like they are promenading the quality of life you are entering. While the weather was sunshiny and the temps were in the upper 70's in Southern CA, in the distance I saw the snow capped San Bernardino Mountains cascading in the background.

Getting off Interstate-5 on University Boulevard heading in the direction of Redlands College, we ended up at a Walgreens to get some supplies and to talk with the locals about the town. The fact that they had a corporate store within the city limits let me know the town itself was not going to be quite as "quaint/rustic" as Mentone, AL or Menton, France.

The people there proved to be as cordial and friendly as Alabama folks. They said the place to go for a unique yet authentic Mentone, CA experience was Mill Creek Cattle Co. They assured me it was locally owned and that the menu dawned a lot of homemade goodness. Being a lover of fresh foods and Mentone, I took their advice.

On the way to Mill Creek, we passed a sign that brought back memories of Menton, France. It said "Mentone Home of the Oranges." Mentone, CA, like Menton France, is known for its citrus. In Mentone, CA, along the sides of the road there are citrus orchards. We were there in April, and the orange and lemon trees were so full that the branches were bending low and fruit was scattered across the ground.

The biggest difference between the Mentones I have visited thus far is water. In Menton they have the ocean, in AL we have the Little River and a rich source of underground springs, while in CA they are about to run out of water. The shortage of water, while it is no laughing matter, added some humor to the story we heard from the owners of Mill Creek. One of the men who actually put Mentone, CA on the map sold land in Mentone representing it as "Mentone Beach".



Maribeth, Jim and Moon

In the 1800's, this gentleman started selling land to people in the eastern USA on the premise that it was a healing place like Menton, France. Mentone, CA claimed it had healing springs, and while that may have been true then, there was not a "beach" as he claimed. It is actually at least an hour from the ocean. The beach he referred to was a "creek" wash going through town. Even though the "Mentone Beach" area is pretty well dried up today, and is now solely used to quarry rocks, there are still businesses dawning the name Mentone Beach, like the Mentone Beach Thrift Store across the street from the Mill Creek Cattle Co.

The water supply in CA is limited but the friendliness and creativity of the people, as well as the quality of food, are plentiful just as in AL and France. Arriving at Mill Creek Cattle Co., it is an impressive attempt to recreate a Wild West Scene. It had the appearance of an old saloon. Later, I found out famous men of the Wild West, like Wyatt Earp, spent time in Mentone. Wyatt Earp was apparently a friend of one of the sheriffs in Mentone. So it was a true blue Wild West town back in the day, which made the décor of Mill Creek even more intriguing.

"Mentone Beach" was flowing enough back in the day to be the source of a mill sight, which inspired the name Mill Creek Cattle Co. As the name implies, they have lots of beef, but they also serve up pork and chicken, all smoked in house. They are well known for their homemade onion rings, twice baked potatoes, bbq

sauses (which were AL/Texas style) and salad dressings. My personal favorite was their signature side salad topped with garbanzo beans, kidney beans and pickled cabbage.

Like the restaurants of Mentone, they were not just selling food--they were selling an experience. Throughout the restaurant the walls are lined with antiques, vintage instruments, signs, tools, etc. They created a charming, fun restaurant out of an old dilapidated building and chicken houses. Now Mill Creek Cattle Co is restored into a rustic dining room with a grand entrance into a separate bar/stage for local artistic performances.

Mill Creek Cattle Co, owned by Jim and Maribeth, is largely family operated with some of the family actually living on site. Maribeth has her own little gift shop with wonderful goodies, and there she creates gift boxes and bags for people in the area. Like the Wildflower Café, it had a vintage, shabby chic feeling.

My dining experience at Mill Creek Cattle Co. was excellent, and Jim and Maribeth took time to show real "southern" hospitality. They suggested that, before leaving, I should go to the book binding shop down the way. And so when I walked into the book binding shop, there was a thin man who seemed a bit suspicious of me at first. As soon as I mentioned I was from Mentone, AL, and how much I love Mentone, he warmed up to me real fast. I asked how he got to Mentone. He said he went to a party in San Francisco and never left CA. He was an attorney but decided to retire and wanted a book binding business. He found his book binding business for sale in Mentone, CA, bought it, and has been

(cont'd on page 23)



Mentone, CA (cont'd from page 22)

there since.

As we talked, there was actually a man hand binding books. It was like stepping back in time. On the walls were all sorts of historical Mentone memorabilia; showing the unfolding of a town developing over time. Mentone, CA was “established” in 1887, which ironically is the supposed year the current location of the Wildflower Café was built. Ten years later, the Mentone Hotel was built, twelve years after the late Mentone Springs Hotel of Birmingham. Couldn’t help but wonder if the residents of both knew about each other. I was intrigued that “Mentone” is a phenomenon capturing the hearts of many around the world as I reflected with the owner of the store about the Mentones all over the world, from Europe, to America to Australia. As I looked at the memorabilia, he eagerly told me about his stay at the Mentone Hotel in London, England, and that he sent a postcard to the Mentone, CA post office where it is still on display today.

Food, connecting with people and nature are pervading themes in my travels, and the Mentones I have visited thus far have all satisfied some variation of that. I must be honest, the rest of Mentone, CA, as far as what I saw, did not draw me in to decide to stay more than a half day. The next day I was surfing in Huntington Beach grateful for another Mentone experience.

As much as I loved Menton, France and Southern California, the specialness of Mentone, AL always calls me home. The community is so rich in character, and the people who are drawn to Mentone, AL, I am often drawn to. Then there is nothing better than being on the Little River, feeling the sun on my face, listening to the birds and contemplating the beauty of the plants, trees, wildlife, etc. May Mentone bless us all and may we all bless Mentone.

If you have any questions or comments write to P.O. Box 224, Mentone, AL or find me on Facebook via the Wildflower Café of Mentone.

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Lunch - Fri. - Mon.: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner - Thur., Fri. Sat.: 5-8 p.m.
Summer Hours (May thru Oct.)
Lunch - Everyday: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Dinner - Thur. Fri. Sat.: 6-9 p.m.

GALLERY
Winter Hours - Fri. - Mon.:
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Summer Hours - Everyday:
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

MUSIC
Every Thursday: 7-9 p.m.

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