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THE

GROUNDHOG

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

Volume 34, No. 11

"Neighborhood News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

November 2015

COLORFEST 2015

Colorfest 2015 was made possible by about 10 volunteers working hundreds of hours under the direction and financial support of the MAPA Board to make this festival a success. We owe the dramatic increase in vendors and visitors primarily to a consistent on-line presentation and to the increased attention of local press on the festival as well as the Mentone Springs Hotel site clean up – of course Mother Nature played her part.

If you live in a community whose economic survival depends on tourism, Colorfest was the best ever--more vendors, more visitors, more events, more space (MSH site), and more financial benefit to vendors, musicians, sponsors, area businesses, government, and non-profits. Colorfest has been a mainstay festival for the Mentone area for the last 34 years and is always enjoyed by thousands of local residents and visitors. This year was no exception.

According to DeKalb County Tourism Director John Dersham, there were over 15,000 Colorfest visitors--almost all in a great mood and money in their pockets. An additional surprise was that all available hotel, motel, cabins and bed and breakfast rooms for rent in DeKalb County were booked the weekend of Colorfest. Of course, many or most of these tourists come to our area anyway; our Colorfest event just added to the excitement and enjoyment.

The Alabama Department of Tourism will publish official economic impact numbers

soon. For now, we will give you a small sample of statements about Colorfest 2015 made by visitors, vendors and local business owners. From the vendors: "was the best one yet", "I sold over \$1,200 of pottery ...and the food was great", "had more sales than any event I've been to in the last four years", "been going to festivals across the Southeast for over twenty years and had more sales on Saturday than any time before", "really impressed with the organization

of the process", "I sold out on Saturday and spent the night making more". From the visitors: "My wife and I had a great time today!", "What a weekend!", "the kids area never looked better". We had many more comments such as "More porta-potties and garbage cans",

"more directional signs to Brow Park". However, everyone wanted to come back next year. We had over 80 vendors and turned away over a dozen more--no space available.

Local business owner comments: "This was the highest sales for a single weekend since I came to Mentone in 1982. My shop has been in the same location for over thirty years and I was just about to the point of closing, but this weekend encouraged me so much. Keep up the good work.", "most money ever made at a festival",..... All this means more money in the pockets of local citizens and government and adds to our Mentone economy.

The massive influx of tourists obviously

(cont'd on page 12)

Moon Lake Harvest Festival



Moon Lake Harvest Festival is Saturday, November 7th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the school. This is a favorite event in the area and encompasses all the favorites of Mentone... friends, family, fun, and fall colors. A lot of activities will be outside this year, weather permitting of course, but there will still be plenty going on inside the gym as well. There will be all of the traditional games like bingo, a cake walk, hayride, jailhouse, face painting and a lot of raffles including, of course, the popular chance at \$1,000! There will also be several new games this year that sound very interesting as well--the pumpkin tic-tac-toe, spider web, hair dye, football throw, and plinko. At the concession stand, hot dogs, bar-b-que, nachos, popcorn, and all the trimmings will be available.

This is a fun community event that supports the school. Harvest Festival is hosted each year by the PTO and funds are used for the basic needs of the school as well as to enhance the school by providing activities and needed resources for the students. In the past, PTO funds have helped provide covered sidewalks, playground equipment and improvements,

(cont'd on page 22)



Colorfest crowd was estimated to be around 15,000.

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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MENTONE MATTERS

By Mayor Rob Hammond



Congratulations to the members of Mentone Community Church on their 100th anniversary celebration! We are thankful for the im-

portant role they play in creating a community spirit in Mentone and for the help they give local citizens in need.

According to ALDOT district engineer Curtis Lowe, AL 117 through Mentone is scheduled for repaving in 2016. Whether or not the repair of the rock wall can be included in this project has yet to be decided.

Colorfest drew the largest crowds in its over 30-year history. This was good for our local merchants, for the vendors, and for our non-profits. However, on Saturday, we experienced traffic/parking problems that we did not have in past festivals. I apologize to our residents and visitors who were inconvenienced. The town will work with festival organizers to alleviate this problem in the future.

From The Editor

Fall is the perfect attire for Mentone. It is comfortable and diverse; it is cool breezes and warm sweaters; it is time for family and friends as well as a time to meet new friends who touch your soul; it is togetherness, laughter, and nurturing; it is the harvest time--the reward of hard work done the rest of the year as we gather the fruits of our labor.

Colorfest is everything Mentone. It is togetherness and diversity in a comforting natural environment. It is the fruit of a labor of love for those who love Mentone and want to share her gifts with the world; a chance to show her off to those not fortunate to live among her every day; a time of harvest where others bless the area lodging facilities with laughter and joy, the townspeople with their shopping dollars, and non-profit organizations with attention to their needs. For an area that depends on tourism, successful events such as Colorfest mean a lot for her survival. It means a house payment for a local merchant, Christmas for local kids, school programs, scholarships, and so much more. It also means that the streets are full, area stores are packed and the roads are heavily travelled. Colorfest this year was very successful--somewhat overwhelmingly so. We were delightfully amazed at the dramatic increase in vendors as well as visitors this year. From a personal point of view, it is wonderful to live in an area that offers so much beauty and festivities all through the year.

Fall, in particular though, is a busy time for the area. Besides Colorfest, there have been car shows, the home tour, bake sales, Halloween events, workshops, dinners, musical performances, and the list goes on. My calendar has been so filled, that I must choose what to attend, but there is never a dull moment. Moments of relaxation, yes, but there is something fun in the area to do almost any day of the week that you choose to go out. There is something for any budget--from free to extravagant--almost any week. This means a lot to me. It touches my heart that a community

as small as Mentone has so many businesses that give back and non-profit organizations that help so many people. It touches my soul when I see people at fundraising events that love what they do for others. It makes my heart happy to meet new people and instantly connect with them, which happens a lot in Mentone. It brightens my soul to drive along the brow, be mesmerized by the colors, and breathe in nature.

Fall in love with Mentone this season..it is easy to do.

Anna Mae



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MAPA
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MAPA NEWS

By Ray Padgett

The Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA) Board and Colorfest Committee had a wild and crazy October. What with the new Hwy 117 Overlook (spearheaded by Harriet O'Rear), Mentone Springs Hotel site clean up, and trying to manage the biggest Colorfest ever- we were all constantly running. Maybe we can spend a few weeks resting and reconnecting with family during Thanksgiving, and regrouping before our next planning sessions begin.

Harriet keeps us informed about progress of the new overlook and you can personally see the work being done by the big Mentone rock sign at the city limits going down the mountain. This is a great addition--it adds another point of interest for our visitors and residents as local groups continue to enhance Mentone's beauty and mystic.

The Mentone Springs Hotel site clean up was a collaboration between our town, owners Jim and Darlene Rotch, and MAPA. MAPA coordinated agreement between Mentone and Jim Rotch, and did clean up and set up a tent and stage for Colorfest. Thanks go out to the county prison system for allowing inmates to help with clean up. Plans are to leave the tent and stage for future use by our community. MAPA believes this protects and displays the ruins of the hotel as a way to remember the once proud centerpiece of Mentone.

Our Colorfest celebration was the biggest ever; however, we now have traffic issues that must be addressed before our next festival. Obviously, we

believe that having thousands more than expected is a great problem to have and traffic control will be improved. Bringing more tourists to the area equals more improvements to the town and more services than can be offered by the non-profit organizations.

MAPA thanks the local Boy Scout Troop for doing yeomen's work of cleaning up the festival area, setting up and keeping garbage cans empty, moving chairs, building bon fires and managing festival parking. It had to be a little overwhelming this year, but they were up to the task. Thank you!

Once again, the MAPA Board thanks everyone for their long-term support of MAPA, its events and its publication of The Groundhog. Our MAPA Board meets the first Tuesday of every month, 06:00 P.M. at the MERF House. Visitors and members are welcome to attend.



Update

By Anna Mae Horn

Alabama is blessed to have many beautiful natural areas throughout the state. Our own citizens enjoy them, and many people from other states and countries come to see the wonderful sites. The Alabama State Parks system strives

to preserve, maintain, and improve a variety of parks throughout the state. However, after budget cuts again this year, the park was forced to implement a new contingency plan in October. They regretfully announced the closing of five parks: Bladon Springs, Paul Grist, Chickasaw, Florala and Roland Cooper. Fortunately, nearby DeSoto State Park was allowed to stay open, not without changes though. Many of the parks that remain open will reduce staff and operational hours. Those include: Desoto and Cheaha Lodge & Restaurant will operate on weekends only during the winter; closure of Bucks Pocket campground and its transition to an unmanned, day-use only park that will be managed by a nearby resort park; Rickwood Caverns and Blue Springs to be closed during fall and winter. Also, the system

is taking bids through November 5th for out sourcing the operation of Lakepoint's golf course in order to prevent its closure. There are also several additional revenue changes that include: day fees increases; eight percent increase on select base lodging rates, coupled with a new 5 percent discount for Alabama residents; increase in marina slip rentals; new resort fee for maintenance costs; new park pass program; and a new back country permit. Hopefully, these changes will prevent more closings in the future. Be sure to visit DeSoto State Park, participate in the activities they offer, and contact your legislatures to help keep the park open for years to come.



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This Old House: MERF Community House



My boards may be a little creaky and my paint a little flaky but I am full of life. I continue to open my doors to the young and the wise so my walls are full of joy, laughter and learning.

While reflecting during this season of Thanksgiving, MERF is grateful for many things. MERF is grateful to MAPA for putting on another wonderful Colorfest and allowing us to participate. MERF is grateful to all who have purchased "Leave Me in Mentone" items this fall. MERF is grateful to all the volunteers that enable great programs such as tutoring and senior lunches. MERF is grateful for good working relationships with local businesses and Moon Lake Elementary School. MERF is grateful for community and for its history in Mentone. Here's a brief look at our wonderful journey.

In February of 1993, a small group of citizens united to discuss the dream of creating an organization designed to identify and address educational and health needs of Mentone, Alabama. Within three months, the Mentone Educational Resources Foundation (MERF) was organized, comprising a board of directors who were already actively involved in the local community and school in such roles as teachers, Parent-Teacher Organization president, volunteer sports and drama coaches, business owners, and town council members.

During the summer of 1995, the board purchased half of a 4.2-acre plot of land, which enabled the local school to acquire the other half for improvement and expansion of its

infrastructure. MERF's portion of the property held a dwelling that was converted into a multipurpose facility that became known as the Community House.

Non-profit status as a 501(c) (3) organization was obtained in December of 1995, increasing opportunities for the solicitation of funds and the implementation of programs. MERF soon opened the Community House to a wide variety of activities, including free afterschool tutoring, senior citizen lunches, annual health fairs, and a meeting space for civic groups and family reunions.

MERF extends its reach beyond the walls of the Community House. A paved quarter-mile walking track that winds through the foundation's property was designed and constructed as a Boy Scout Eagle project in 1997, allowing a new dimension of facility use.

MERF sponsors ongoing learning opportunities for local students, both on and off the neighboring school campus. The foundation sponsors innovative teacher in-service programs and enriching student field trips to museums and performances in nearby cities. The Sue McLaurin Henry Memorial Scholarship was established in 2009 for local residents to receive need-based monetary assistance toward the cost of college or technical school.

For 15 years MERF has supplied salary and materials for an arts teacher on the adjacent campus. This program provides weekly classes for all students (kindergarten through grade six), with 12 weeks of art, music, and Spanish. An annual art exhibition displays student art work, with the money raised through the sale of this work going into MERF programs.

In 2013, with financial support from donors, the board took on three new projects to determine needs and to increase effectiveness. A health-assessment survey of the local community was produced and implemented to determine future needs and opportunities. The merfhouse.com website and a video to tell

MERF's story and to recruit volunteers and donors was created. A part-time executive director was hired to coordinate and develop programs, to promote MERF and to discover new avenues for fundraising. In June 2014, the executive director position developed into a full-time position and responsibilities, dependent upon a specific funding level. MERF is grateful for the trust and the support of the Mentone community and friends as plans continue to make the mountain a wonderful place to grow up and to live.

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.

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Your Library News Your Library News Your Library News



By Barbara Stoll

Grab The Popcorn!

Well, it's that time again. The weather has turned cooler, and soon we will be hunkering down for winter. This is the time many people catch up on their movie watching, and your library is just the place to get your favorite movies or one you haven't seen that will become your new favorite. This month, let's review some of the 'new to us' movie DVDs that the library just received.

Prometheus: For fans of the *Alien* movies, this one is sure to please. Writer/producer Ridley Scott has done it again! This sci-fi is a prequel

of the *Alien* series and attempts to answer the question where did they come from. Michael Fassbender plays David, the android with aplomb, along with Charlize Theron, Noomi Rapace and Guy Pearce. This stellar cast is on a thrilling journey to the farthest corners of the universe. They find a dark, twisted world that hides a terrifying threat capable of destroying them and all of mankind. Rated R.

Short Circuit: A great movie for youngsters--older and younger--is the story of a lost robot with a heart as big as he is. Steve Guttenberg and Ally Sheedy co-star in this high-tech comedy adventure about Number Five, a robot who escapes into the real world after he short-circuits in an electrical storm and decides that he's human. Because he's carrying destructive weapons, the defense department and his designer are desperate to find him. But Number Five is being protected by a young woman who is teaching him a gentler way of life. Rated PG.

Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps: And who doesn't love Michael Douglas in his former role as Gordon Gekko? This sequel to the original

Wall Street is another thrilling spin around the world of high finance. After a lengthy prison term, Gekko finds himself on the outside looking in at a world he once commanded. Gekko's daughter Winnie (Carey Mulligan) and her fiancé Jake (Shia LaBeouf), learn that Gekko is still a master manipulator who will stop at nothing to reclaim his rightful place at the top of Wall Street. Rated PG-13.

Letters to Juliet: This romantic comedy will warm the heart. In Verona, Italy--the beautiful city where Romeo first met Juliet--there is a place where the heartbroken leave notes asking Juliet for help. It's there that aspiring writer Sophia finds a 50-year-old letter that will change her life forever. Starring Amanda Seyfried and Vanessa Redgrave, this movie was called "A classic Hollywood love story", by Jake Hamilton of Fox TV. It is sure to become a favorite. Rated PG.

All these DVD's and more are at your Mentone Community library. So grab the DVD remote, the hot cocoa and, of course, the popcorn and enjoy the cooler weather.

Public Involvement Meeting Bridge Replacement on Hwy 117 in Mentone

The Alabama Department of Transportation will conduct a Public Involvement Meeting for ALDOT Project BR-204 (512) on Thursday December 3, 2015 from 4:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. at the gymnasium of Moon Lake Elementary School on 5866 E. River Rd, Mentone, AL 35984. The proposed project is the replacement of the bridge over the West Fork of Little River on Alabama Highway 117 in The Town of Mentone in DeKalb County.

This meeting is to ensure that any interested parties have had an opportunity to provide input regarding this project and share their views and comments regarding potential impacts. The first half will be an informal session and the second half will be a public forum format. Persons wishing to speak must register at the sign-in table. Representatives will be available to answer any questions relative to the project. Preliminary maps, tentative schedules and a draft copy of the Categorical Exclusion and Section 4(f) will be available for review. In addition, the draft of the Categorical Exclusion and Section 4(f) are available for review at the local ALDOT District Office (3417 Alabama Hwy 71, Dutton, AL), the ALDOT Area Office (23445 US Hwy 431, Guntersville, AL) and on the ALDOT web site (dot.state.al.us) prior to the meeting.

Comments, which will become part of the official project record, may be made at any time prior to, at, or within ten days following the hearing. A recorder will be available for anyone wishing to leave recorded comments. Written

comments may be left at the hearing or mailed to: Johnny L. Harris, PE/PLS Region Engineer, ALDOT 1525 Perimeter Pkwy NW Ste 400 Huntsville, AL 35806-3575 or E-mailed to: bellt@dot.state.al.us Any individual requiring special assistance due to a disability or sensory impairment should contact Troy Bell at the

above address, by phone at 800-819-7418 ext. 7263, by fax at 256-582-8922 or by E-mail at bellt@dot.state.al.us Requests for assistance should be made no later than 5:00 pm on Tuesday, December 1, 2015.

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Volunteers Needed

Little River Canyon National Preserve is seeking volunteers.

We can make use of a variety of talents from giving a guided tour or talking about nature in a classroom to answering the phone or doing behind-the-scenes work.

You can volunteer several days a week, once a month, or for a one-time event, such as Canyon Fest or Native American Heritage Weekend. Volunteering can help you meet people and become part of the community. You can make a difference in not only someone else's life but your own. Call Sarah at (256) 845-9605 extension 201 and ask about volunteering.

MBA Mix - Falling In Love With Mentone



By Charlotte Gentry
MBA President

Whew! Record numbers of folks came to Mentone in the month of October for Colorfest weekend, the Mentone Tour of Homes, and for the beautiful fall foliage we've seen on Lookout Mountain this year. The visitors were in town throughout the week, not just on weekends, to enjoy near-perfect weather and our scenic beauty.

Business owners who have given feedback about this year's Colorfest were pleased with the increased sales, but were most of all delighted to have so many first-time visitors to Mentone who vowed they'd be coming back. When one discovers Mentone, one finds friendly people, fantastic arts and crafts, delicious food, great music and some of the prettiest scenery imaginable. Needless to say, they fall in love!

Thank you to all the business owners who participated in the Scavenger Hunt that was a part of Colorfest 2015. Kids and adults alike

participated in the hunt, and it was fun to watch as they eagerly gathered clues to find items at each business. Some of the participants said they had done the first scavenger hunt last year and were happy to see it was a part of the festivities this year. Their grandchildren had been looking forward to it as well. Plans are for scavenger hunt to be a part of Colorfest next year as well.

MOVIE NIGHT UPDATE: The MBA's Mentone Movie Night, featuring "Southern Heart," was a huge success. An enthusiastic crowd of about 100 folks came on that chilly August evening to hear music by Curtis Strange; then, enjoy free popcorn and a movie. Donations for drinks brought in \$72. This money is the first part of our "Mentone Relief Fund," which will be used to build public restrooms in the downtown Mentone area. Due to popular demand, MBA is planning on making the movie night an annual event for August. "Southern Heart" film festival, if we get approval from the movie's owners, is something we believe will get local folks and visitors involved.

HAIL AND FAREWELL: Mentone, like the seasons, is seeing changes in the business landscape. Helena's Gas and Deli now has a new owner, Renee McKenzie. We welcome Renee and wish her the best. Please go by and meet Renee and support this local business. Robert and Joyce Hoffman, who were instrumental in getting the MBA started, have closed the Mentone Art Gallery and are moving back to Florida for reasons of family and health. We will all miss the Hoffmans, but hope their plans will include visits back to see us in Mentone.

The MBA meets every 2nd Monday of the month. The November meeting will be at Mentone Realty's log cabin office, November 9, 2015 at 6 pm. Anyone who has an interest in Mentone can join, and there is no cost. Our mission is to work together and find ways to help every business, large and small, in the Mentone area to be more successful. For more information, visit mentonebusiness.com or visit our Facebook page.

VETERANS DAY

By Anna Mae Horn

Each year, we set aside November 11 to honor our veterans, those who have made a commitment to put our country's needs before their own. We would like to thank each and every veteran for your service. One local veteran, as many others do, still continues to serve others. Mr. Ed Ringer from Valley Head is a 91 year old WWII veteran who is still very active in community affairs and still answers the call to serve others; sometimes using training he received in the army.

Ed joined the army on June 3, 1943 at Ft. McClellan. After receiving his shots and orientation at Ft. Mc Pherson, he was transferred to Texas for basic training in heavy aircraft artillery. He learned to operate the 40mm and 90mm cannons. He was then sent to electrical school in Chicago, followed by air control school, and then, became a chief radar operator. After receiving advanced infantry training in Texas and Mississippi, he boarded a liberty ship to Pearl Harbor in September of 1945. He

(cont'd on page 17)

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Remember When . . .

By Angie Carden

The Groundhog did a cover article in 1984 titled "Recognition Comes: Super Inn, Super Town"? When I came across this article, it made me think about the tragedy of losing the Mentone Springs Hotel and I realized that we have another beautiful Mentone feature just across the street. The Mentone Inn holds many, many childhood memories for me, and it has been shadowed for years. It may not be as majestic as the Mentone Springs Hotel was as she stood on her hill welcoming guests and residents daily, but it is a beauty just the same. I hope you enjoy re-reading about some of its history from this 1984 article.

"The roots of Mentone continue to reach deeply into the soil of history. Windward Inn, Howard's Chapel and the Mentone Springs Hotel were already listed in the Alabama Registry of Landmarks and Heritage. At one time "The Mentone Resort Area" was listed on the same Registry. Earlier this year, the Mentone Springs Hotel was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Now, we celebrate the latest listing-- the Mentone Inn, now officially incorporated into the Alabama Registry of Landmarks and Heritages. Thus, it is that a visitor arriving atop Lookout Mountain at Old Hotel Square can look to the left and right and see a significant landmark on both sides of Highway 117.

Amelia Brooks, who owns and operates the Inn, provides The Groundhog with the following historic background on this unusual structure:

Around 1873, H.B. Gillette built a two-storied house on the site of the present Mentone Inn. A store was on the western edge of the property, probably built by Ed Mason, who ran the first post office there. Mr. and Mrs. James Huron and family moved to the mountain in February,

1899, buying the store and running the post office until June 1900 when they returned to Indianapolis, Indiana.

The Hurons moved back to Mentone in 1903, buying back the store and boarding house (known as the Gillette property) from P.K. Smith. It was operated as a summer inn where people from many states came to escape the summer heat of the cities, often staying several weeks or months.

Mrs. Huron grew a great variety of vegetables in the garden, raised chickens, pigs, and kept milk cows. One entry in a journal she kept describes her setting some of her hens in the ladies' toilet and putting baby chicks on the back porch to keep them warm.



The boarders looked forward to the excellent country meals. Mrs. Huron ran the establishment until her death in 1920.

At the time, Hal Howe rented the property with an option to buy. The purchase was made in 1922. He converted the store into a kitchen and dining room, operating it until the fall of 1927 under the name Hal's House. In 1927 Hal's House burned and was immediately rebuilt and opened in June 1928 under the new name Hal's Hotel.

Later, the name changed to DeSoto Hotel. In September 1954, it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. H.H. Plotts of Coral Gables, Florida.

They changed the name to DeSoto Lodge and ran it until 1976, when it was purchased by Mrs. Robert Brooks who changed the name to Mentone Inn. It was operated by Mrs. Brooks for two years, then sold, leased and sold again.

'Somehow it was meant to be that we should run it,' says Mrs. Brooks. So in 1982 Amelia Brooks opened the Mentone Inn as a Bed 'n' Breakfast. The new operation has steadily grown.

The Inn's interiors are all tongue-and-groove, clear-grain pine from Mississippi. There are twelve rooms, each with its own bath. In addition, there is a three-bedroom cottage with baths, sitting room, and porch. Most of the individually decorated rooms include iron beds; the bathrooms have clawfoot tubs.

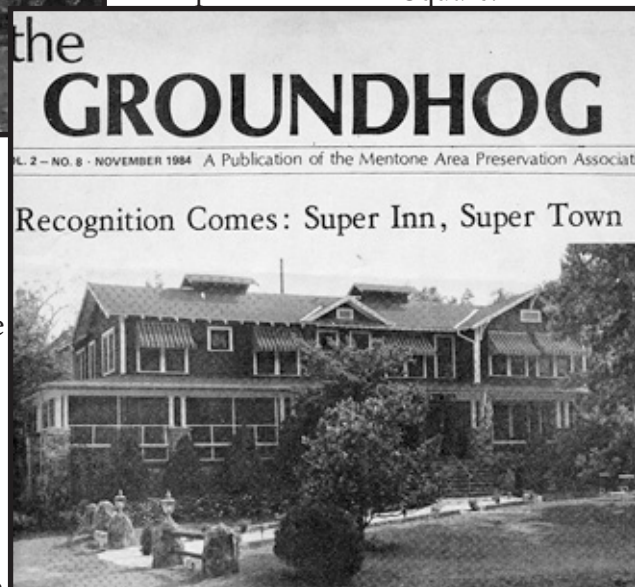
The living rooms contain comfortable sofas, chairs and color TV. A wide porch across the entire front is an excellent place for relaxation, viewing the valley and events in Old Hotel Square.

Amelia Kirk-Brooks' background and inclination seem to have conspired to make her an innkeeper, especially of an Inn in Mentone. She and her husband were impressed with the inns of Europe while traveling on the continent. This prompted them to change the name from 'hotel' to 'inn.'

The article continued with a bit more of Mrs. Amelia's personal background. I certainly am glad she was

inclined to run the Inn.

Mentone has, without a doubt, some of the most beautiful features and structures. I have always loved this town and have felt very blessed to have been born and raised here. I encourage all who are from here or have lived here for a while to stop, take a moment, take a deep breath and take in the mountain air and gorgeous views we are surrounded with each and every day.



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**THE
RECIPE CORNER
BY
ANGIE CARDEN**

It's officially fall. Time has taken a "fall" back, and soon winter will be on it's way! This is my favorite time of year! I love cold weather (as I made clear last month when I jumped the gun on cold weather food!). I find something so comforting about fuzzy blankets, hot meals and the possibility of everyone being snowed in at home! I love to cook when it's cold; I can spend all day in the kitchen! Childhood memories come flowing back of the old days when we had ice storms and mom would cook on a fire or the

top of the wood heater! The smells, the flavors and family all together! Then everyone would bundle up and go "hood sledding"! It doesn't get much better than coming in frozen and having hot chocolate or coffee while fighting each other over the heater! I just LOVE Mentone in the cold!
I made some potato soup the other week during a cool spell, and I must say, I think it turned out to be everyone's favorite around here! I hope you will enjoy it too!

Bacon and Potato Soup

In a large soup pot, brown 6-8 slices of chopped bacon with 1 small chopped onion (I added a little olive oil and butter to the pan). When the bacon is browned and the onions are soft, add 2 stalks sliced celery, 2 peeled and diced carrots and 4-5 large potatoes, diced. Then add 1 tsp salt, 2 tsp black pepper and season salt, 1 tsp turmeric, 1 tsp thyme and 3 tbsp flour. Cook for about 4-5 minutes; then, add 2 quarts chicken stock (you can use water) and simmer for 20 minutes, or until potatoes are tender. Then, I added about ½ c of half-n-half and simmered another 5 minutes.
I truly hope you will try this one and I hope you like it as much my family did! I must say it freezes well! Enjoy the cold weather with family and Happy Cooking!

November Birthdays

- Nov 1 - Easton Bain
- Nov 2 - In memory of Gladys Goss
- Nov 2 - Michael Potts
- Nov 2 - Taylor Brown
- Nov 2 - Triston Goss
- Nov 2 - J.R. Hurst
- Nov 2 - Larry O'Tinger
- Nov 2 - Gequetta Darwin
- Nov 2 - Taylor Brown
- Nov 3 - Aubrey Shields
- Nov 3 - Sandy Hulgan
- Nov 4 - Barrett Wilkinson
- Nov 4 - Rita Chapman
- Nov 5 - Gail Chambers
- Nov 6 - Tommy Harrison
- Nov 6 - Duane Blalock
- Nov 6 - Mike Smith
- Nov 6 - Jeffrey Manning
- Nov 7 - Brooklyn Powell
- Nov 8 - Michael Harrison
- Nov 8 - Toby Crider
- Nov 8 - Mary Beasley
- Nov 8 - Gibson Roberts
- Nov 8 - Bob Tate
- Nov 9 - Kowen Worthey
- Nov 9 - Laura McKenzie
- Nov 9 - Bonnie Easler
- Nov 9 - Emily Hodge
- Nov 10 - Toby Manifold
- Nov 10 - Valinda Miracle
- Nov 11 - Amber Griffith

- Nov 12 - Kynlee Baggett
- Nov 12 - Megan White
- Nov 12 - Major Frost
- Nov 13 - Addison Prestwood
- Nov 13 - Lendell Chappell
- Nov 13 - Kim Raley
- Nov 14 - Don Brock
- Nov 14 - Austin Harrison
- Nov 14 - William Hughes
- Nov 15 - Laura Boehringer
- Nov 15 - Rory Quinn
- Nov 15 - Lee Carden
- Nov 15 - Ian Roberts
- Nov 15 - Chris Stallings
- Nov 15 - EJ Bickerstaff
- Nov 16 - Dink Tillman
- Nov 16 - Jeff Wigley
- Nov 16 - Johnny Mann
- Nov 17 - Jordan Hammond
- Nov 17 - Colton Ditmore
- Nov 17 - Judy Kean
- Nov 18 - George Boehringer
- Nov 18 - Kim Foshee
- Nov 19 - Caden Blalock
- Nov 19 - Margo Tate
- Nov 20 - Brandi Miller
- Nov 20 - Kevin McElhaney
- Nov 20 - Angel Carson
- Nov 21 - Pam Wooten
- Nov 21 - Keith Hadley
- Nov 21 - Deedra Battles
- Nov 21 - Nancy Brown
- Nov 21 - Rachell Givens
- Nov 21 - Yvonne Blalock
- Nov 21 - Ashley Manning
- Nov 21 - Brandy Clure

- Nov 22 - Amber Carson
- Nov 24 - Pam Baggett
- Nov 24 - Hayley Crider
- Nov 24 - Sarah Bone
- Nov 25 - Billy Tramel
- Nov 25 - Billy Shugart
- Nov 25 - Ginger Kearney
- Nov 26 - Krissy Harris
- Nov 26 - Heath Kirby
- Nov 26 - Renee Pruitt
- Nov 27 - Kim Johnson
- Nov 27 - Timbo Carden
- Nov 27 - Clay Stiles
- Nov 27 - Charlton Bell
- Nov 28 - Lily Harrison
- Nov 28 - Chance Hodges
- Nov 28 - Almeda Bickerstaff
- Nov 29 - Karen Bain Powell
- Nov 29 - Brian Blalock
- Nov 29 - Kerry Blalock
- Nov 29 - Kyleigh Barkley

- Nov 29 - Steve Barkley
- Nov 29 - Aric Collins
- Nov 30 - Sandy McNutt

November Anniversaries

- Nov 1 - George & Kim Raley
- Nov 1 - Matt & Jana Sharp
- Nov 8 - Andrew & Penny Herbert
- Nov 12 - Brittany & Adam Wooten
- Nov 14 - Ronnie & Sandy Hulgan
- Nov 16 - Dewayne & Melanie Grisham
- Nov 16 - Dallas & Morgan Gregory
- Nov 21 - Mark & Deedra Battles
- Nov 21 - John & Michele Kincer
- Nov 23 - Kenneth & Carol Busby
- Nov 25 - David & Barbara Rape
- Nov 27 - Loy & Beck Langston - 50th



What To Do Around Here!

November 2015 Community Calendar

November 1 - Spookapalooza Critter Show.

Join Naturalist Mandy Pearson to discover some of the native creatures of Alabama (as well as non-natives) in this fun uncaged presentation. Meet some live critters! Be sure to bring your own comfortable camp chair or blanket, as seating is limited. 9 a.m. DeSoto State Park's Campground at the Campfire Ring. Gate will be open to the public. In case of inclement weather, the program will be in the DSP Nature Center (next to the Country Store). Free & Open to everyone. 256-997-5025.

November 2 - 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! TAS. 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. 256-997-9577.

November 2 - Celestial Navigation. This two-hour class is a basic introduction to navigation by the stars. Learn how to navigate without the use of a compass or GPS with the same rules used for almost six thousand years. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

November 2, 4, 9, 16, 18, 23 - Play Bridge. Join us at the DeKalb County Council on Aging for a game of bridge. 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Call for more information. 256-845-8590.

November 3 - Business Plan Workshop. Join the Fort Payne Chamber of Commerce for a Business Plan Workshop. 256-845-2741.

November 3, 7, 14, 27, 28 - Rock Climbing / Rappelling Adventure Combo. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing and rappelling is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. TAS. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

November 3, 12, 14, 20, 27, 28 - Night Zip Line Adventure. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before the adventure. 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. except Nov. 27th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

November 5 - Made in DeKalb Expo.

Manufacturers and craftsmen from across DeKalb County, Alabama will showcase their products. High school students will have the opportunity to review local manufacturing career options. Northeast Alabama Agri-Business Center. Free admission to the public. November 5, 10 - 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. 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

November 5 - Kamama's Thursday Night Music Series. "The Locals" - Liz Wood's Duo Project with Jimmy Henderson. Dinner will be served from 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. Music starts at 7 p.m. \$10 admission. 256-634-3001 for music & dinner reservations.

November 5, 12, 19 - Bridge Class. Seniors can learn to play bridge at the DeKalb County Council on Aging. 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Call 256-845-8590 for more information.

November 6 - Cold Weather Survival Class. Learn tips to prevent hypothermia and death. This class covers the basics for emergency cold weather conditions and also covers a few tips on how to stay warm and comfortable for everyday cold conditions. TAS. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. 256-997-9577.

November 6 - 8 & 13 - 15 - "Nonsense." Northeast Alabama Community College Theatre presents "Nonsense". Call 256-638-4418 for more information and tickets.

November 6 - Campfire Talk: Parasites of Little River. Join us for a fun campfire talk in the Great Outdoors! Microbiologist Dr. Benjie Blair from Jacksonville State University returns to talk about plants, such as Indian Pipe, Mistletoe, & Indian Paintbrush, parasitic organisms, and more creepy crawlies that would like to make a home...inside of you! Seating is limited. DeSoto State Park's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground (In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center). 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Free & open to the Public; Great for all ages! 256-997-5025.

November 7 - Moon Lake Harvest Festival. Moon Lake Elementary School will host their Annual Harvest Festival this year. This family friendly event is always a community favorite. Bring the kids down for lots of kid's games, tons of raffles, a hula hoop contest and of course, the infamous hay ride! There is no better way to break in the fall season than a good old fashioned hay ride. Bring your jackets and snuggle in the hay with a blanket for a fun ride in the neighborhood. The cafeteria will be open serving BBQ plates and the concession stand will have all of your favorite concessions available. All proceeds from this event go to Moon Lake PTO. Please come out to this family fun event and show your support for our historic "little" school with strong community involvement. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-634-4113.

November 7 - Mother's Day Out 5K & Red

Light Fun Run. Join FUMC Mother's Day Out for their 2nd Annual 5K & Fun Run. Check in will be in the parking lot of First United Methodist Church. Registration the day of the race will be from 7 a.m. until 7:45 a.m. Race beginning at 8 a.m. Registration fee for the 5K is \$25. Fee for Red Light Fun Run is \$20. 256-845-6221.

November 7, 14, 21, 28 - Blow Your Own Ornament. Come design and blow your own ornament with the help of one of our glass artists. First come, first serve basis. Ages 5 and up. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$38 per ornament. 256-523-3188.

November 7 - 7th Annual Canyon Fest: A Celebration of Arts and Nature. Little River Canyon Field School and Interpretive Center want you to come and enjoy live music, nature and arts activities, arts demonstrations and sales, great food, vendors, children's activities and more. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 256-782-5697.

November 7 - Valley Head Cruise In. Come join us for a day of great entertainment, food & fun. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the day in downtown Valley Head. 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Hope to see you there. 256-717-8244.

November 7 - Mad Science & Crazy Art. Mad science days may include chemical magic, special effects, bubbling potions, slimes, 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. Little River Canyon Center. 11 a.m. to Noon. \$5 per child. 256-782-5697.

November 7 - Little River Canyon Trivia Challenge. Join Dr. James Rayburn (JSU Biology) for this fun trivia challenge which includes questions (and answers) about the Natural History of Little River Canyon and Lookout Mountain. Participants will be divided into teams and use "clickers" to answer questions during this fun competition. "Prizes" will be awarded to the top performers. Little River Canyon Center 11 a.m. to Noon. 256-782-5697.

November 7 - 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 p.m. the day before the adventure. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. 256-997-9577.

November 8 - Bryson Strong 5K & Fun Run. We are inviting you to join us for the 1st

Annual BRYSON STRONG 5K and Fun Run! All proceeds will go to the Bryson Richey Fund. The race will begin at the Rainsville Civic Center. The entry fee is \$25 for the 5K and \$20 for the Fun Run. Your deadline to receive a shirt will be October 31st! Go to www.racesonline.com/events/bryson-strong-5k-fitness-walk to register for the race! We hope you join us for a fun celebration for Bryson. 2 p.m.

November 9, 24 - Rappelling Adventure.

Come experience the thrill of rappelling down the sheer sandstone gems of NE Alabama. Each trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

November 9, 30 - TARCOG Attorney. An attorney will be available at the DeKalb County Council on Aging to help citizens with certain legal issues. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please call for information. 256-845-8590.

November 11 - Veteran's Program in Mason Park. Mentone will be honoring all veterans as well as paying special tribute to Earnest Smith. There will be a ceremony placing a wreath on the veteran's marker, a brief history of Veteran's Day by the mayor, music, and a chance for veterans or others to speak. Also, the United Daughters of the Confederacy will assist in serving lunch for veterans. 11 a.m.

November 11 - Veteran's Meet and Greet. Come and enjoy a Veteran's Meet and Greet Social at Landmark's Hunt Reception Hall on Gault Ave. in Fort Payne 11 a.m.

November 11, 24, 25 - 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. Adventure includes helmet, cave lamps plus a fun informative guide. True Adventure Sports. 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

November 12 - Kamama's Thursday Night Music Series. Clare & Stephen - NY Jazz Singer meets Southern Jazz Guitarist and WOW! Dinner will be served from 5:30-7 p.m. Music starts at 7 p.m. \$10 admission. 256-634-3001 for music & dinner reservations.

November 12 - Edible Plant Class. Join Robert Wilson from Seven Pines Survival for a short demonstration and taste testing of some wild harvest food. Plant identification and safe gathering practices will be taught. Some gathering is permitted for this class. Everything will be made in the class, so you can try it. Meet in DeSoto State Park-Country Store & Information Center; Free & open to everyone. 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. 256-997-5025.

November 13 - 14 - Rainsville Holiday Open House. Rainsville retailers will welcome shoppers with a variety of activities such as décor, refreshments, music, door prizes and more. 256-638-7800.

November 14 - Collinsville Historic Turkey Trot. Join us for food, fun and games. An antique car and tractor show, turkey shoot, cake walk, and historic "turkey toss" from the roof of a building make this an event fun for all ages. Sponsored in part by the Collinsville Historic Association. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 256-524-2788.

November 14 - Listen, Look and Learn! Hernando DeSoto and Little River Archaeology. Join Dr. Harry Holstein from Jacksonville State University to learn more about Hernando DeSoto and Little River Archaeology. Listen, Look and Learn programs held at the Canyon Center most Saturdays at JSU's Little River Canyon Center. 11 a.m. - Noon Little River Canyon Center Free & open to the public, great for all ages! 256-845-3548.

November 15 - 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 Sat the 14th. Cost is \$5. To learn more or reserve a spot send an email to cottagepaper@bellsouth.net or call 205-349-4026.

November 16 - Afternoon Rock Climb. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing is all about in the afternoon with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. TAS 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. 256-997-9577.

November 17 - Orienteering Class. Basic

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

November 18 - 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. TAS. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 256-997-9577.

November 19 - 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.

November 19 - Kamama's Thursday Night Music Series. Kenny Finlayson & The Late Night Anthems. Dinner will be served from 5:30-7 p.m. Music starts at 7 p.m. \$10 admission. 256-634-3001 for music & dinner reservations.

November 21 - Rock Climbing Adventure. 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. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

November 21 - NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE WEEKEND: Native American Tools & Weapons. Join National Park Service archaeologist Larry Beane for a demonstration of how Native Americans utilized natural resources to hunt and gather food, to make weapons, to start fires, and more! Little River Canyon Center. Demonstrations throughout the day from 10

a.m. to 3 p.m. 256-782-5697.

November 21 - NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE WEEKEND: Native American Pottery Workshop. Join expert potter Tammy Beane to learn how pottery was made on Lookout Mountain thousands of years ago. We'll provide the clay as well as bone needles and paddles to make designs on your pots. Little River Canyon Center. 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. \$5 per person 256-782-5697.

November 23 - GPS Basics Training and Navigation Class Part 2. You will learn to find a beacon placed in the woods as a SAR attempt while knowing your position, and the position of your teammates. TAS. 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. 256-997-9577.

November 26 - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

November 26 - Plainview Science Club's Turkey Trot 5K. Join Plainview Science Club for their annual Turkey Trot 5K at the coliseum. Race day registration will be 7 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. \$25 pre-registration ends November 9. Race day cost will be \$30. Pre-register at racesonline.com, 8 a.m.

November 27th - Kamama's Music Series. "Cooltrane" - you heard them at Colorfest, now check them out for this special Friday night performance! Dinner will be served from 5:30-7 p.m. Music starts at 7 p.m. \$10 admission. 256-634-3001 for music & dinner reservations.

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Ongoing Calendar

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

AL-ANON family and friends support group. Meets every Tuesday at 6:00 pm at St. Joseph's on the Mountain Church in Mentone, AL. Same time and location as the AA Meeting. Come join us and help us grow!

Ballroom dancing lessons offered at DeKalb County Council on Aging on Monday nights from 6pm to 8pm. 256-845-8590.

Line dancing lessons offered at DeKalb County Council on Aging on Tuesdays from 1:30 to 3:30pm. 256-845-8590.

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 Beville Center in Rainsville by Duos and Solos Dance Club.

256-638-2780.

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

FREE FOOD for 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.

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.

Valley Head Band meets on Tuesdays 4-6 pm at Smith Nursery at the top of Sand Mountain off of Hwy 117. 256-605-5404.

Fall at Moon Lake Elementary

CONGRATULATIONS to Moon Lake students and Ms. Paula on winning a BLUE RIBBON at the fair! They won 1st place in their category using this year's theme "Freedom is not Free." Younger kids made crows from their hand and feet prints and the older students helped put the patriotic scarecrow together. The Moon Lake Elementary Fine Arts Program is generously sponsored by MERF, Mentone Educational Resources Foundation. And, as the sign says... "It's 'WISE' to say...Moon Lake students know their freedom is really something worth 'CROWING' about!"

This year, the Moon Lake PTO Harvest Festival will be on November 7th from 10am until 2pm. Weather permitting, many activities will be outside. There will be some new games and also vendor booths, but don't worry, the traditional Harvest Festival games and activities will be there as well -such as the cake walk, hay rides, delicious food, raffles and prizes.

Moon Lake Elementary School's



Veterans Day program honoring all veterans will be November 10th at 9 a.m. in the gymnasium. Community members are invited to attend the program. All current or past service members from any branch of the armed forces, along with their family members, are invited to attend and remain for brunch following the program.



Valley Head 2015 Homecoming Court



Homecoming Queen - Stephanie Poe
 Senior Attendant - Emily Brown
 Senior Attendant - MiKayla Lugo
 Junior Attendant - Brooke Moore
 Sophomore Attendant - Bayle Jordan
 Freshman Attendant - Vandalla Freeman
 8th grade Attendant - Bailee Carter
 7th grade Attendant - Lashae Jones



Colorfest (cont'd from page 1)

had a great time--tons of handmade items to select from, great local and festival food, constant sounds of mountain music (after all we are a "Musical Mountain Spring"), children's events, and some exceptional and unusual local decorations. While many tourists complimented Colorfest staff, our tourists spoke mostly with their pocketbooks, and it was a nice sound.

After every festival, our Festival Committee meets and identifies ways to improve marketing, logistics and finances. Obviously, the big issue of this year's festival was that we were not prepared for traffic generated by the massive increase in tourists attending Colorfest. We believe it is relatively easy to have a dramatic improvement in traffic control during any festival – we just need to plan and take action. MAPA will be working with town, county and state government to develop a plan to better control our festival traffic jam. Mentone has only had tourists in such numbers during the World's Longest Yard Sale, and we cope with that. We improved traffic congestion greatly on Sunday simply by moving vendor vehicles to parking lots along Hwy 117. However, there are many options for improvement for future years.

Colorfest 2015 may have been the biggest financial success for the entire Mentone area in our event history. However, because of the expansion of events, Mentone Springs Hotel site clean up with tent and stage, increased signage, and festival and Children's Fair supplies, MAPA made very little money from the event and of course no one on the committee gets paid. They volunteer because they enjoy the festival, the art



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COLORFEST

and the music, and doing good things for their community – they do it for Mentone.

Mentone Area Preservation Association and the Colorfest Committee would like to say THANK YOU to our many, many visitors, great vendors, talented performers, tireless volunteers, generous sponsors, committed business owners and employees, dedicated Police and Fire Departments, supportive Town of Mentone, and anyone else who played a role in making this Colorfest one of the most successful ever! *THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!*

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HOLLER

Mentone Wedding Chapel



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Limousine

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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(256) 844-2210

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COLORFEST CONTEST WINNERS

By Lisa A. Schad, LMT

Mentone was ready for fall and enjoyed all of her Colorfest visitors and shoppers this year. Besides activities, vendors, and music, there were several contests going on around town. A huge thank you to all who participated, to our guest judge Olivia A. Myers, an artist from Summerville, GA, and to MAPA for providing the prize awards.

Fourteen businesses hosted a very successful

Scavenger Hunt. The winner of the raffle from all completed game sheets was Colton Hadley.

Local businesses that decorated for the festivities were entered into the Pumpkin Patch Jubilee contest. Cash prizes were awarded to the top three. First place winner was the "Moon Lake Witches" at Moon Lake Trading Co. Second place award went to Hair @ Village. Third place prize was "trapped" by "Charlotte's Web" at Mentone Realty.

Mason Park was filled with entries from the Scarecrow Holler contest. First place award and the People's Choice Award went to "Trashy Taylor" made by Meranda Febes Longshore. Second place was awarded to "Se-Crow-Ya's Corn-bet" - a very creative play on words for Sequoyah and his Cherokee alphabet (made in corn) by Amanda Pope.

Congratulations to the contest winners, and, again, a huge thank you to all participants.

PUMPKIN PATCH JUBILEE



SCARECROW HOLLER



SCAVENGER HUNT



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. bilingual, Thursday at 6:00 p.m. in English, Friday at 9:00 a.m. in English and Saturday at 6:00 p.m. in bilingual.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mentone United Methodist Church, 415 Cutler Avenue, Mentone, Alabama invites you to come and worship with us. Each Sunday, our Worship Service is at 11AM and Sunday School is at 10AM. Tony Gunter is the pastor. The service of Holy Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of each month, the second Sunday is Youth Sunday and Fifth Sunday is a service of music and pot-luck lunch. Bible Study Wednesdays at 6:00PM.

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

Alpine Community Church, 115 Hwy. 337, Menlo, GA. Pastor and Rev. Rodney Blaylock 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. 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.

Greater Vision Ministries Church of God, 38623 US HWY 11, Hammondville, AL 35989. Come as you are . . . LEAVE CHANGED! Sunday School 10 am, Sunday Worship *10:45 am, (*Nursery & Kid's Church). MidWEEK re-charge Wednesday 6:30pm. Loving God & Serving Others. Pastor Tim Coppock. 256-601-0679.

Send any changes to The Groundhog at groundhognews@aol.com or P. O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984.





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311 Gault Ave. N., Fort Payne

 608 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.	 623 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	 617 TWO FURNISHED CABINS on 6.4 ACRES.... One Price! Minutes from DeSoto State Park and Downtown Mentone. Down Home offers 2BR/2BA. Southern Charm offers Loft, 1BR and 1BA. Space for approx. 7 additional cabins. \$279,000. MLS #1026581.	 603 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. \$264,900. MLS#1001478	 606 West Brow of Lookout Mountain. 3BR/2BA, 2,500+/- sq. ft. main house, rock walls on 2.9+/- Acres. \$329,000. MLS #815966	 208 Custom Home. 4500 sqft+ w 5BR/3.5BA, LR, wood burning Isokern fireplace. Master w/sitting room. Pro landscaping, screened porch, courtyard, 2 decks on 1.37 acres. community lake. \$499,900. MLS #1011520.
 612 COZY, COMFORTABLE charmer. Open great room w/built-in bookcases & stone fireplace w/gas logs. Kitchen has Corian countertops and custom cabinets. On 2 brow lots w/ storage building and greenhouse. \$399,00. MLS #1024616.	 602 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.	 211 "Like New" near DSP & Mentone, LR w/ vaulted ceiling, hardwoods, wb fireplace. Custom kit w/stainless appliances (includes w/d). Covered front porch, lge back deck. 1.22 acres. \$188,000. MLS#1021858	 600 UNIQUE!!! Main House, Guest House, Boathouse and approx. 470' of frontage on Little River. \$850,000. MLS #1007556	 607 Lake Lahusage in your back door! Bank owned 2BR/2BA cottage AND 2-car garage with apartment potential. \$247,500. MLS #654813	 601 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
 704 This 4,000 sq. ft. brow home on 7.5 acres is suited for private home or bed&breakfast. 6 BR's w/private BA's & exterior doors. Common area w/rock FP & industrially-equipped kitchen. \$499,000. MLS #1018579	 614 LOOK OUT at DeSoto Falls! Building lot with a darling 1 bedroom cottage ready for use. \$465,000 #970196	 909 Secluded, Custom log cabin, 2BR/2BA, wooded lot, 2+ acres, security system, privacy gate, detached storage. \$279,500. MLS #332033	 1400 3BR 2BA home in Hidden Lake Sub. Use of 14 acre lake. LRw/hardwoods & FP. Open kit/breakfast, DR w/built-in cabinet, screened front porch, back deck, 2-car garage. Adjoins Little River Canyon. \$230,000. MLS#1025640.	 710 3BR 2BA, open floor plan, spectacular brow views. Master & guest BR's have own screened porches. Kit has custom cabinet, granite counter tops, a breakfast bar, all appliances! \$199,000. MLS #1026080.	 1418 COZY MENTONE CABIN! 2BR/1BA, open kitchen & living room, rock fireplace, covered front porch & partial back deck, hot tub, newly renovated, view of adjoining lake and so much more! \$97,000. MLS #1028831
 624 Owl's Roost! Adorable cabin on wooded lot, furnished with brass bed and country antiques. \$118,000. MLS #690326	 611 2BR/3BA. 3+/- year old roof. Garage apt w/BR & BA. Balcony, gallery w/storage, winter sunsets, downtown location, gas heater in kitchen, garage and apartment. WB fireplace. 2-car garage. Built in 2004. \$289,000. MLS#1029587.	 615 GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY! Let tenants pay your mortgage. 5 apts, lge retail space & storage bldg on Hwy 117 minutes from Mentone. 1.5 acres, fenced. Appointment only! \$187,500. MLS #1013991.	 604 Bear's Lair - Adorable cabin currently in a rental program. 3BR/2 BA with a brow view. \$299,900. MLS#692795	 605 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	 2BR/2BA off Desoto Pkwy. near Mentone & DSP. Amenities include kitchen apps, breakfast area, new central HVAC, HW floors, ceramic baths, bonus room & Studio/Guest House. \$159,900. MLS #1029563.
 908 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! \$225,000. MLS #1019742	 910 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.	 610 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.	 619 LIVE & PLAY ON THE WATER! 200' of frontage on East Fork of Little River featuring 3BR 2BA, rock floors, some carpet, all appliances, WB fireplace, & storage building. Call for more details. \$239,900. MLS #902940.	 618 BROW PROPERTY! 2BR/1BA home on 2.3 +/- acres. Lots of wood features inside the house, enclosed porch and more. \$219,000. MLS #1015755.	 707 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

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Veterans Day (cont'd from page 6)

served in several cities in Japan before being discharged from active duty in February of 1946. He remained in the reserves until 1953, but continued to serve his country and community in many ways.

That same year, Ed received his Master's degree from Alabama Polytechnic Institute (which became later known as Auburn University). During this time, he joined an amateur radio club, still maintains his license, and is active in a group. When the devastating tornados hit the area in 2011, Ed and other licensed radio operators were called on to work communications after the phone lines and cell towers had been disabled. Ed worked in the emergency room at DeKalb Regional throughout the night relaying life-saving messages during a

critical time. When he was receiving his training in the army, he never imagined he would be using those skills in a hospital emergency room.

In 1959, Mr. Ringer became the principal at Moon Lake Elementary and joined the American Legion in Mentone. The group had been organized around 1947 and the building that was started by the charter members has been a continual work in progress. Throughout the 1960s, Ed and the other members put board and batten siding on the structure, a ceiling, and later a hardwood floor. In the 1980s, members added a room for the ladies auxiliary. Currently, they are raising funds to do much needed renovation to maintain the building. They also rent the building for local events. Ed once served as Adjutant, a military equivalent to the civil position of Secretary of the post. The Mentone American Legion Post gladly helps in

the community and often recognizes firemen, policeman, and other outstanding citizens.

In 1961, Ed was transferred to the Valley Head School as elementary principal, which also meant teaching in those days. He served in this position until 1980. He is currently retired, but between radio club meetings, American Legion post meetings, and other civic duties, he keeps a very busy schedule. Thank you Mr. Ringer for your service to our country, our schools, and our communities.



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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. \$329,900



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!! \$30,000



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! \$130,000 (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



DIXIELAND DELIGHT Farm in Mentone, AL. Beautiful 19.3 acres with open pasture, 2 ponds, wooded area with trails for horseback or ATV. Barn with tack or equipment storage. Fenced for livestock. City water and paved road frontage. What a setting! \$150,000



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. \$1,650 an acre. 100-150 acres available. (23116)



THE SHADOWS, A 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)



NESTLED AMONG LARGE ROCK FORMATIONS is a quaint 2 bdr, 2bth cottage with open living/dining room with gas fp. Sunroom/office off master suite. Screened front porch multi level decks, outdoor shower, garage workshop. Quiet and Serene this setting makes for a great getaway or home. \$153,900 (23164)



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



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



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)



LOTS AND ACREAGE

OLD HOMEPAGE 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. \$33,000 (23044)

5 ACRES on the East brow tract overlooking Pleasant Valley. Rock pallacades, wooded. See Weiss Lake in the distance. Private gated area. Joins National Preserve & Forever

Wild protected property. \$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)



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

Facts That New-to-Medicare People Need To Know

Every day at least one person will turn 65. If you are new to Medicare or about to become Medicare eligible, you may have many questions that you may need information on.

Medicare is a federal health insurance program for most people age 65 and over, certain people younger than 65 who qualify for Social Security disability benefits, or people of any age with end-stage renal disease (ESRD), also known as permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant. If you are receiving Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits, you will automatically get Part A and Part B starting the first day of the month you turn 65. (If your birthday is on the first day of the month, Part A and Part B will start the first day of the prior month.) You will get your red, white, and blue Medicare card in the mail 3 months before your

65th birthday or 25th month of disability benefits.

Medicare Part A covers health care services and items that are medically necessary and reasonable such as inpatient hospital stays, inpatient skilled nursing facility stays, home health care, and hospice care.

Medicare Part B covers outpatient medical services such as doctor visits, diagnostic lab tests and preventive care. Home health care and durable medical equipment are also covered.

Medicare Part D covers most prescription drugs.

Medicare Part C refers to Medicare Advantage, which is an alternative way to receive your Medicare benefits. You receive them through a Medicare-approved private insurance plan instead of Original Medicare. Usually includes Medicare

prescription drug coverage (Part D) as part of the plan. Part C may also include extra benefits and services for an extra cost.

If you are covered by an employer group health plan due to active employment, you may delay enrolling in Part B. If you have credible prescription drug coverage (meaning it is as good as or better than the standard Medicare Part D drug benefit), you may decide not to enroll in a Medicare Part D plan or to enroll later. Some people supplement their Medicare with some other form of coverage, such as a Medigap plan.

To learn more about your Medicare Coverage or receive assistance please call the DeKalb County Council on Aging and talk to Lynn Hixon, a SHIP counselor, at 256-845-8590.

Affordable Care Act Enrollment Begins November 1 Volunteer Navigators Offer Assistance

By Jan Newhoff

Open Enrollment for health insurance through the Affordable Care Act begins November 1 and closes January 31, 2016. Four certified Navigators of the Progressive Women of Northeast Alabama will again volunteer to assist with enrollment for: people enrolling the first time; people reenrolling in health care; and people wanting to change their health care plan. The Navigators will be available at the DeKalb County Library in Fort Payne every Thursday 2-4 and at the Scottsboro Library every Tuesday 9-11. No appointment is needed, and there is no charge. If an individual does not qualify for assistance at this time but believes they may meet income requirements later in the year, they must establish an account during Open Enrollment. Navigators can assist with this. If someone wants to enroll for the first time, they need to bring their personal data such as name, address,

phone, email address and password, as well as date of birth and social security numbers for everyone in their household. It is also helpful if they bring some way to verify income for everyone in the family, such as a paycheck stub, a W-2 form or income tax return. If a person wants assistance reenrolling or changing their plan, they should bring all letters they have received from the government and insurance company.

In order for coverage to take effect on January 1, enrollment and payment of the first month's premium must be completed by December 15. The penalty for persons who can afford coverage but do not enroll in 2016 will be the higher of these two amounts: \$695 per adult and \$347.50 per child in the household, up to \$2085; OR 2.5% of the yearly household income. Penalties are imposed when income tax is filed for 2016.

Persons already enrolled in healthcare through their employers may qualify for assis-

tance if the premium is more than 9.5% of their income. Individuals who are enrolled in another government healthcare plan such as Medicare, Tricare or Medicaid are not eligible for assistance through the Affordable Care Act.

If someone is unable to come when the Navigators are at the library, they can make an appointment for another time. For appointments and information, the number is 256-254-8120 or they can send an email to pwnanavigators@gmail.com. Enrollment can also be done on one's own at the government web site at healthcare.gov or by calling the government directly at 1-800-318-2596.

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Rhododendron Garden Club

By Mellanie Tuttle

The Rhododendron Garden Club met at 10:00 AM at the MERF House on Tuesday, October 13th. Members were treated to cranberry juice, delicious Georgia Cornbread and Banana Chocolate Chip Custard Bread (Yum!) provided by hostess Brenda Cox. Brenda also wrote the meditation on "Harvest" that she shared with us.

Norm Haley III, Regional Extension Agent, presented the program on "Wildlife Damage Management Around the Home and Garden" and gave a handout with valuable suggestions for deer management and a cost analysis of various deer repellents and the effective application/usage of those repellents. Deer, squirrel, rabbits, groundhogs, armadillos, chipmunks,

coyote, bear, vole, mole, rats, wild boar, bats - pest or welcome guests? Mr. Haley's slide show pictured damage caused by the various critters and then the particular trap/method that was most effective for each pest. He stated that Alabama has reported increased incidents of rabies and stressed that if live traps are used, one must determine a humane method to euthanize the animal because live trapping and releasing can spread rabies from one area to another. Other control methods include habitat modification, scare tactics (motion detection lights or sprinklers), exclusions (fencing), resistant plantings, repellants and culling (check laws and regulations for legal hunting seasons). Mr. Haley recommended aces.edu as an excellent resource for all things Alabama and lcwdm.org for info on identification and control of

mammal, bird and reptile pests. He showed a nifty and child-safe way to make a mouse/rat bait station using PVC pipe. Mr. Haley's presentation was informative and occasional use of humorous slides was amusing and appreciated (especially after seeing all those

traps when one is of the 'welcome guest' persuasion).

A short business meeting followed the program and, then, we congratulated each other on a successful VFW Fall Flower Show. We have to brag a little! The club had 80% participation with members entering design and horticulture, clerking, providing food, setting up and breaking down the staging and checking in the horticulture for placement. The entry in the Scarecrow Contest was a "Gold



Star" mother holding her baby and won a red ribbon (2nd place) for our category. The words "Freedom is Not Free" written across the baby's bunting and the pair standing next to a cross was a poignant reminder of the sacrifices that service members and their families make to maintain America's freedom. Congrats to Moon Lake Elementary with their First Place covered scarecrow! Flower Show entry results were: Martha Wood with 2 first places in Design as well as the Designer's Choice Award and nine first places in Horticulture; Mellanie Tuttle had three Blue Ribbons in Design and won the Petite Award; Marsha Merrell placed 3rd in her Design Class and had three firsts in Horticulture; Dianne Kuehl and Carol Alt (Carol's first flower show!) both received seconds in their

Design and the Club placed second in the Functional Table Club Design. Martha Wood won the Sweepstakes Award for Horticulture and Mellanie Tuttle received the Sweepstakes Award in Design. The show theme, "Dixieland Delights" certainly turned out to be delightful for the garden club!

Next month's meeting will be at 10:00 on November 10th at the MERF House. Club President and Master Gardener, Martha Wood will give the program "Christmas Green" and everyone is to bring an evergreen branch or its cone. Thanksgiving is soon and then it's time to start thinking about that Christmas decor!

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

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"Harvest" Meditation

By Brenda Cox - Rhododendron Garden Club

We always set resolutions at the first of the year around New Year's Eve ...but ask these questions this fall: What have you achieved this year? What do you consider to be your own personal harvest? Who helped you realize your harvest? How could you thank them? Like leaves of the trees, what do you want to let go of this year ... maybe outworn modes of behavior, old patterns, and/or habits holding you back. Focus on the new shoots that will grow from these actions!!! Visualize cutting yourself free of them. Happiness comes from gratitude for the gifts in our life. When God is silent, what do you do? ..."keep up the Hope for the next Harvest"... keep moving forward!

Sage Advice: Fall is Time to Plant

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

I get so excited about gardening in the Fall season! There are so many possibilities of improving and adding to the landscape during this cool season. After the hot, humid weather of summer, it is refreshing to be able to work outside without sweat and mosquitoes!

Of course, fallen leaves are everywhere on the mountain. If you have an area in your landscape where you can rake (or blow) the leaves and let them compost, you will have an excellent source of nutrition for your garden next spring. Fresh, fallen leaves need

to be removed from shrub and flower beds because they can cause mold and other problems for the plants. Composted three to six months, they become a benefit to the landscape. Remove all weeds from the beds and cover with a mulch of pine straw or wood mulch. I prefer the wood mulch as it allows the plants to be seen easily.

November is a great time for planting. Yes, we may have frost, even freezing temps at night, but, as long as the ground is not frozen, trees, shrubs, and perennials can be planted. If you want annuals such as pansies, they need to be planted NOW. The ornamental kale and cabbage also add beauty to the winter garden.

Be sure to add a good soil amendment to your planting area. Our mountain soil ranges from a decent loamy mixture to a lot of rocky, compacted soil. Adding three to four inches of a

good amendment will really help your plants. A time released granular fertilizer can be added to the bottom of the hole when you plant. This will help the root system to develop during the cold periods.

Bulbs, such as daffodils and crocus, should be planted now. They need a good period of cold weather before beginning their spring growth. Plant the bulbs to a depth of two to three times

their length, i.e., a one inch bulb should be planted to a depth of three inches. A two inch bulb needs six inches of soil above it. One great way to plant bulbs is to walk slowly through the planting area and drop several at a time onto the ground, then dig the holes under them. This will produce a "naturalized" look.

Do you want some winter color in your garden? Hellebores, or 'Lenten Rose', is my all-time favorite winter flower. It is an evergreen and produces its blooms beginning in January and lasting through early spring. The hellebores orientalis is the most common of the species but there are numerous new varieties. Common colors of blooms are pink, lavender, purple, and white; while new colors include yellow, red, and two colors on one flower.

Other evergreen perennials are the 'Tassel fern', 'Autumn' fern, and 'Christmas' fern. Heuchera, or cora bell, as well as tierella and heucherella, are also beauties in the winter garden. Tall perennial grasses should be left with their plumes to give a great look in snowy conditions. They come in small, medium, and large sizes. Planted behind or in the middle of a

bed, with the evergreen perennials around them, produces a magical look to the landscape.

Hollies and conifers are great winter garden plants. As they are also evergreen, they provide beauty as well as a place for birds to nest and be protected. And, the red berries of the hollies add to the holiday decorations.

Finally, if you are one of those gardeners who are like me, and like to propagate your own plants, winter is a good time to try your hand at evergreens such as hollies and azaleas. Please e-mail me at earthly_elements@aol.com to learn how to do this.

Happy Gardening!



Harvest Festival (cont'd from page 1)

constructing and maintaining the gymnasium, field trips for the students, and learning activities, such as Earth Day on campus as well as any other expense needed by the school. Currently, the school is working on bringing in additional computers for the children.

Harvest Festival brings everyone together for the benefit of the students. The community has a wonderful legacy of supporting the school and Moon Lake is very appreciative. Many local organizations, parents, teachers, alumni, and community members raise money, donate talents and time, and work with school staff to give students the best possible education. The school continues its high standards while preparing our future leaders and always remains firmly planted, forward moving. We hope to see you all at Harvest Festival to help PTO reach their goal again this year. Come out and support our future leaders!

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Mentone's American Legion Preserving Traditions

Mentone's American Legion building stands as a longtime landmark along Cove Road--and as a lasting legacy for Mentone veterans. Dating from the 1940s, the structure was built by the post's charter members Max Cash, LeLand Cox, Luther King Jr., and then-commander Sammie Cash. The building was constructed of trees cut from the property and dressed at a Mentone sawmill. Its fireplace and mantel were built of local mountain stone. A meeting room for the post's ladies auxiliary, which formed during the early 1980s, was added later.

Mentone's American Legion has served its community in various ways through the years, such as providing a place for fellowship among veterans and placing flags on the graves of fallen comrades. The post is now making plans toward preserving and perpetuating these traditions for future generations of local veterans.

Several fundraisers have already been held for the purpose of much-needed renovations to the building, but additional funds are still needed. Anyone wishing to donate to this worthy cause can make a tax-deductible contribution to the "Mentone American Legion Building Fund" account at Citizens Bank in Mentone or Valley Head. As an additional source of funding toward these renovations, the American Legion building is available as a rental site for meetings, reunions, parties, showers, etc., with space for as many as 60 people. Hobson Kirby can provide additional rental-related information at 256-634-4446.

After the American Legion building renovations are complete, a dedication ceremony honoring the post's charter members will be open to the public.

Meanwhile, all local veterans are cordially invited to join Mentone's American Legion post. Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month.



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“Wheel of Fortune” Spinning for Mentone Resident

By Anna Mae Horn

“Welcome to the Wheel of Fortune” our contestant from Mentone is Royal Bruckno! “What an experience!” He only signed up to please his wife Ronda, who has been telling him for years to try out for the show as she watches him solve the puzzles quickly from the couch. So, he decided to send in a video. Less than two months later, he was in Los Angeles for taping! Try outs in Atlanta included a few rounds of puzzles, a written test, and a pretend show. He thought that was the end of it, but he feels like a door opened fifteen days later when he received a notice to be in Los Angeles in two weeks. When he reached L.A., it was a full day’s work! He went to the studio at 7:45a.m. for taping at noon. His prep work included legalities and some practice time. (Who knew they teach them to spin the wheel?) It also included a pep talk from Vanna--everyday Vanna--in jeans, without makeup, being as kind and as genuine as the folks in Mentone. She wished all the contestants lots of luck and reminded them “It’s only a game. Have fun!” And Royal did. At the taping, there were three contestants for each of six shows and a couple of

extras from L.A. -just in case someone got stage fright or what have you. Royal said he was a little nervous, and it is more difficult playing on the



stage than on the couch, but his work skills came in handy! He owns Royal Auctions Unlimited LLC and was glad he had experience speaking and being in front of people. (I thought his stage presence was wonderful--very well spoken, with a little sense of humor.) In between puzzles, contestants stepped down for some water, to be “freshened up,” and were always given lots of encouragement to win big! On one of the puzzles, Royal had played it safe. The next time, he decided to take the advice and try to win big. He knew one of the puzzles before it was even his turn, but he decided to spin a couple of times to increase his winnings. Unfortunately, this resulted in him losing the round. He will never look at a “backyard bird feeder” without wondering how much more he could have won. He missed the final round by only fifty dollars but was well pleased with total winnings of \$10,500 (not bad for a day of fun in L.A.). Royal is still a big winner in the eyes of friends and is still excited about the trip. This was probably a once in a lifetime event, but that’s okay... the memories will last a lifetime.

Congratulations Royal!

COMMUNITY NATIVITY PAGEANT

By Charlotte Gentry

The annual Community Nativity Pageant is coming up December 4th and 5th, 2015, at the NACC Tom Bevill Lyceum in Rainsville. Director/narrator Christina Wise is looking for cast members to fill various roles, including the “Parade of Nations,” who will dress in costumes from around the world and carry their candles representing those who come to honor the Christ Child. There are roles for all ages, so the entire family can be a part of the play. Practices are being held at the Wills Valley Community Church in Fort Payne every Tuesday evening at 6:00. Practices are followed by a meal and fellowship time for cast members. The nativity play features live animals (including sheep, a donkey which Mary rides, and a camel for the wise men). This year’s pageant will also feature a bagpiper to play “Amazing Grace” at the end of the play. A concert of holiday/seasonal music will be presented by Northeast’s chorus and concert band each night prior to the play. Tickets will be available at NACC and at the door. Admission is only \$5.00, which includes the concert and play. For more information, contact Christina Wise at 256-273-4467.



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