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THE GROUNDHOG

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Volume 35, No. 12

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

Dec 2016/Jan 2017

FIGHTING A GOOD FIGHT

By ANNA MAE HORN

This Thanksgiving brought out the goodness of the Mentone people. Amid the tragedy and devastation of two weeks of fires, they found something to be thankful for. The community is thankful for the firefighters. The firefighters, though, are thankful for the community. Thus is the character of Mentone. It is truly a place where people come together for the benefit of the whole community.

Everyone was most thankful that no homes or lives were lost on the brow of the mountain or the mountainside. However, as residents began to breathe a sigh of relief, the day before Thanksgiving, we did lose the Mentone Market building in an unrelated incident.

When I say "firefighters," I use the term loosely and refer to all the people who literally fought against the flames, made telephone calls, drew up plans, and directly supported those who did these things. When I say community, I speak of people who span far past the town limits, onto the brow, across the mountain, through both valleys, and far beyond any geographical borders. Words of support poured in, along with food, items, and money.

The first fire for our area started on November 9, near the Georgia line on the west brow of Lookout Mountain, south of the area where Georgia was already fighting another fire. Flames consumed

approximately 200 acres the first day, with a total of about 500 by the end of the day Friday, and so it began. Others were to come. Sometimes the fires would be contained. At other times, they would jump the fire lanes cut by firefighting crews, foresters, and volunteers.

A strong stand on the southern most fire line came on Friday, November 21. Crews were in a position at the last access point down the mountain



between the fires and County Highway 117. All possible water resources were unleashed to stop the fire before it raged further across the mountain and into town. By this time, the northern fire lines had converged and were contained, so the southern line

was a primary concern.

Water was dropped, dumped, sprayed, and poured on the mountainside. Fire tankers shuttled water from a designated point behind the Hitching Post. Reservoir pools were set up at a home on the brow, and both the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency helicopter, with a capacity of 180 gallons, and National Guard Black Hawk helicopter, with a capacity of 530 gallons, made continuous water drops.

By the end of the day Friday, approximately a half-million gallons of water had been used to drench the mountainside. Even as the Black Hawk was refueling, flames begin to flare, but workers fought strong, even though it would have been easy to give up. The plan worked. By Monday, the Forestry Commission was able to announce 80-percent containment on the fire. They followed up on Tuesday with thermal imaging by airplane and on the ground, as needed, and doused any and all hot spots. Hopefully, this first week of December there will be rain in Mentone.

Fires from several different locations across northeast Alabama, northwest Georgia, and southern Tennessee filled the air with smoke for days on end. You couldn't see the beautiful valley below the brow, and you couldn't see the side of Lookout Mountain – not even from homes directly

(cont'd on page 3)

Memories From the Market

By Kayla Worthey

For as long as anyone in this town can remember, the Mentone Market has been a huge part of the community. No one can really remember when the building was built or who opened it originally, but everyone seems to think it was somewhere around 100 years ago. Some say in its early years, it was owned by Bill Smith. We also heard that Peanut Bell had some sort of cafeteria there. I am sure there were others, and I guess the building itself was the only one who knew the whole story!

What we do know is that in 1961, William & Willa Blackburn bought the store from Mitchell Oil Company and named it The Mentone Superette. William ran the Superette for 30 years before passing it on to his son, Al Blackburn. In those 30 years, the store was guarded by a boxer

named Tootsie and an English Bulldog named Brutus. Anyone that ever visited during the Blackburn's days knew Tootsie and/or Brutus. Al had the store until 1998 before he sold it to Hobson Kirby, who then sold it to Benny Goss, and finally in 2002, a sweet young family from Selma, Alabama, decided they wanted a piece of Mentone to call home.

Benny and Brenda Goss had the store for sale and after many visits helping Kristen's parents remodel their home here in Mentone, Tom and Kristen Emory decided to buy the store and make the move themselves. And so, in April of that year, Tom and Kristen, with two little blonde toddlers named Byrum and Sadler, bought the

(cont'd on page 15)



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



November was a rough month for Mentone. On Election Day--of all days--the contractor made the decision to pave on Hwy. 117 in front of Town Hall, the polling place for Mentone and the surrounding area. ALDOT was notified sometime after 8:00 AM that this was a problem, and they notified the project manager. Many people had a long wait in the single lane traffic lines to even get to the polling place. Some people who had only a small window of time to vote ended up not being able to vote at all. Representative Nathaniel Ledbetter and Senator Steve Livingston are looking into the decision to pave on Election Day and the delay in suspending operations.

The fires north of Mentone were finally contained after a massive effort. More than 1,000 acres were burned. Our Mentone volunteer fire department (officially the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District) joined with the Alabama Forestry Commission, fire departments from all over DeKalb County, Fort Payne Water, and helicopters from the forestry commission and the National Guard in battling the fires. The team

From The Editor

Thanksgiving is technically passed, but it should always be in our hearts. I am thankful lives were spared along with properties on the brow and in the valley. I am sorry for the loss of the Mentone Market building, but thankful that the spirit still lives on as many talked about rebuilding even while the building was still smoldering. I am inspired by this to have an enjoyable Christmas holiday with family in the atmosphere of a close-knit part of the country where folks help others every day, not just during special times. It is a nice feeling to live in a special place.

The Groundhog staff would like to wish you all much happiness throughout the holiday season and into the New Year! May the joys of the season bring warmth to your heart and your hearth!

~Anna Mae

The Groundhog
is burrowing through January.
We'll see you in February!

work and cooperation were outstanding. Local and state EMA officials were on the scene. Representative Nathaniel Ledbetter and Senator Steve Livingston were here and were in contact with the governor's office and EMA.

The community support of the firefighters was phenomenal--neighbors helping neighbors. The DeSoto Rescue Squad, deputies from the DeKalb County Sheriff's Department, Mentone Police, and Valley Head Police were all assisting. Renee McKenzie, Mentone Outpost, made sure everyone was fed. Many of you donated food, water, money, and drinks for the cause. At the Monday night meeting at the fire hall, Terry Ezell of Alabama Forestry was hopeful the fire was mostly contained. The helicopters returned the following day to work on the remaining "hot spots." No structures burned and thankfully no one was injured.

Many people have asked me what they can do to support the volunteer fire department. These men leave their families and jobs to protect our lives and property. We should not ask them to do the job with outdated equipment. Please donate generously to the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District.

In the early morning hours of Wednesday before Thanksgiving, the Mentone Market caught fire. Despite a quick response from the volunteers, the building was a total loss. The market was more than a business—it was a local gathering spot and a happy part of our daily lives. Let us support Kristen and Tom Emory and their family in the effort to rebuild the Mentone Market.

It is time to put November behind us and to look forward to celebrating Christmas and welcoming in the New Year!



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MAPA
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

In my opinion, Mentone's Presidential election on November 8th could have been a more positive experience for voters. I am not speaking about who won or did not win the election. I am concerned about the actual conditions of where we vote and, also, the road construction that was blocking easy access to a Federal Presidential election.

I would like to present a vision of what I would like to see for our voting experience in Mentone. I envision a much larger building than our current city hall. This space would allow us all to have privacy when we are voting. There would be enough tables and/or voting booths to accommodate all voters without anyone that is waiting in line standing over someone else's shoulder who is trying to fill out their ballots in private. There would be a large enough room or space that would allow the poll workers to speak with the people that are stating their names and signing papers to do this process in another part of the room, so there is quiet and silence in the voting area.

On November 8th, I could not find a place to vote in our Town Hall where I felt that there would not be someone looking over my shoulder. I chose to go to the interior of the square of tables that had been set up so that I could "feel" a little space of privacy. But when I took up my seat at the interior opening of the square of tables, I realized that I was blocking the other people already in the interior of the square who were now standing up and wanting to leave. Now, they were standing over my shoulder. I then stopped my voting process and stood up to let two people out of the interior of the square.

There was a noisy atmosphere in the town hall on November 8th and a noxious smell came from the open door into the Town Hall from the road construction outside. In my vision, besides a quiet room, we would have ample parking and the location would be able to be accessed easily from all directions around Mentone. Here are some of my suggestions for a new polling place for our next election:

Moon Lake School Gym
MERF House
Mentone Community Church Gym
Camp DeSoto Dining Room

I admit I do not know what is involved in changing the polling place or if any of these places are available, but I am willing to work with a group of people to make the voting experience as positive as possible for all of our citizens. If anyone else feels the same, please write to me at havenhoward1@gmail.com.

*Reverend Cathy Haven Howard
Mentone, Alabama*

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Rev. Howard,

First of all, let me commend you on voting. Also, I respect you for speaking up for the changes that you would like to see happen. That is always the first step for improvements. My voting precinct is in Valley Head, not Mentone, so I can not personally relate to the conditions in Mentone. I can, however, appreciate some of the issues you mentioned.

We all certainly want to feel we have privacy and the ability to concentrate while voting. I think you have taken a terrific first step by reaching out to the public to contact others who share your opinion. Even with a small group, you will be able to look into options and procedures for effective improvements, bounce around different ideas, and divide the tasks that need to be accomplished.

My husband and I found a sample ballot prior to election. We were able to mull over all the positions and ALL those amendments to make a decision from the comfort of home. This can make the actual voting process a little quicker. I believe voters can take a marked sample ballot with them inside the poll. However, they can NOT leave it in the polling place- in order to maintain a neutral environment.

Honestly, I am also unfamiliar with the process of deciding the location and set up of polling places. I do know, after helping with this year's municipal election, that it all is a big process! I am much more appreciative to those who work an election. My first suggestion to you is to become more involved in this process, if possible.

My next suggestion would be to talk individually to the clerk, the mayor, or a council member and see what they know about the process. They, too, may desire improvements but not realize how to go about making it happen. Then again, it may be a council decision. In that case, you would need to ask the town clerk to be put on the agenda for a council meeting. They generally have a deadline for this- usually a few weeks before the next meeting.

The DeKalb County's Probate office organizes the poll worker training, sets up the machines, and generally oversees the elections. They should be a great source of information about the polling process. Also, look at the Alabama Secretary of State site (sos.alabama.gov). You will find plenty of voter information and links to the Constitution and Code of Alabama. All things considered, I honestly think the best place to start is with your city officials.

As far as the inconvenience of the road construction, I feel your pain! One day, it took us an hour to get home from school- which usually is a ten minute drive. I did notice that the paving machines seemed terribly near the town hall during the election. Please read what Mayor Hammond had to say about this (p2). On the up

side, the roads are in much better condition, and for that, I am thankful. I am also very appreciative of the care and diligence to restore the rock wall and keep its character.

I strongly encourage everyone who shares your opinion on the election to contact you and work to find a better solution. It may be as simple as reorganizing the setup of the room. With the help of volunteers, some different arrangements might be "tried out" before the next election. Also, poll workers can sometimes suggest "slow times" when voting might be easier. Whatever the answer, now is the time to start the process. Thank you for using your right to vote and for reaching out to make improvements to the process. I look forward to hearing the results of your efforts!

~Anna Mae

Fighting A Good Fight (cont'd from page 1)

in the valley below. We were only left to wonder how bad the fire was ravaging the mountainside and claiming the beauty we hold so dear.

All in all, more than 2,000 acres of Alabama mountainside was burned. There is approximately a 10-mile swath across the western Alabama and Georgia mountainside that has been blackened and damaged by these fires. Because of the foliage that is still hanging on and extending the fall view, much of the damage still remains hidden when you look from the valley. If you drive north along County Road 89 atop Lookout Mountain, you will see the scarred remains in plenty of detail. You will see miles of black ground, scorched undergrowth, blackened trees, and stumps that remain, some possibly smoldering. The full extent of damage to the vegetation will not be known for sometime.

You will see the charred grounds surrounding several homes. I can only imagine how scared these people were as the flames leapt so close to their home, some within a few feet of their door. I met one set of homeowners while they watched from the valley below as the smoke encircled their property. They tried desperately to peer through the smoke and see their home. The lady of the house had awakened in the middle of the night to the smell of smoke from a new set of fires farther south than the original fire. Firefighters came quickly and started working. Later in the morning, things seemed under control. The homeowners went out to lunch, only to be blocked from re-entering their property due to the dangerous situation that had flared up. Winds that day seemed only slight, but

(cont'd on page 4)



Fundraisers for the Firefighters

By Anna Mae Horn

Many people have asked "How can we help these firefighters?"

These volunteer firefighters are out there simply because they "want to help a neighbor." It is a difficult task physically and emotionally. Some were on site for over 20 or 30 hours straight. Some miss work when called to fire duty; some use vacation time; most, however, work a full shift then report to the fire site, sleep a few hours, and start again. They faced the hot flames, the cold nights, the steep mountain, the woods, and the briars. They risked their lives. They missed their families who support their tasks that place them in the face of danger. To-date, not a single structure has been lost along a five-plus mile radius on top of Lookout Mountain. This, in and of itself, is a true testament to the hard work and dedication of our firefighters.

These volunteers have really sacrificed for their community, and it's time for us to give back to them in their hour of need. The wildfires on Lookout Mountain have taken a large financial toll on the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District (NLMFPD) in Mentone. Expenses have been incurred in fighting these fires.

Not only were the typical expenses of a single fire multiplied by days and days of firefighting, but additional expenses came about due to the conditions and lengths of the fire. The NLMFPD's fuel bill alone is projected to be astronomical for such a small fire department. They use it for the trucks (which have to run continuously), chainsaws, and other equipment. Due to the rough mountainous terrain and hazardous night time firefighting conditions, some of the NLMFPD's smaller equipment was lost down the side of the

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Blower Backpacks - \$500 (all more than 10yrs old)

Turn Out Gear - \$1,500 (pants and coat)

Brush Truck \$\$\$

mountain and needs to be replaced. In addition to bills, all engines and tankers will need maintenance performed after this extended use. Much of the protective gear that volunteer units use are out of date, and the old equipment needs extra work. About 95% of their necessities are purchased through a fire supply company.

The other 5% are more common items that can be purchased, if one would rather help out in that way. Band-aids and first aid supplies are always needed, batteries (AA & AAA), soft leather work gloves, head lamps (for non-fire duties), grease rags, and soap, sponges, and paper towels for washing the trucks as well as items for the general upkeep of the fire hall and the trucks.

Barbara Tillery challenges each of us: "I urge each and every one of you to make a donation today to the NLMFPD. If you are able to volunteer, they also need volunteers. Not every volunteer

needs to be able to fight fires. There are many jobs that do not require firefighting." Barbara is a prime example; she has volunteered to become their fundraising coordinator going forward. There is also a need for clean up help, truck washing/detailing, mechanic duties, and maintenance around fire hall. They could especially use help with grant writing to purchase big ticket items like vehicles. The \$12,000 hand held thermal imager used to locate hot spots is available because a dedicated firefighter struggled through the process of writing a grant. With expertise, much more equipment could be obtained.

Barbara has set up an account online at gofundme.com/lookout-mountain-wildfires to benefit NLMFPD (a nonprofit organization). This is a very convenient way to donate; however, there is a small processing fee. If you would prefer to send in a donation via check, all funds will directly benefit the fire department. Please make all checks payable to the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District (may be abbreviated as NLMFPD) and mail to P.O. Box 154, Mentone, AL 35984.

Locally, Marsha Merrell has started Christmas for the Firefighters fundraising campaign at the town hall, convenience store, and restaurants throughout the month of December. For a donation by cash or check, you can sign a paper ornament that will be placed on a tree in the fire hall. As the firefighters see this tree being decorated, they will know their efforts are appreciated and feel the community's supportive spirit.

(cont'd on page 6)

Fighting A Good Fight (cont'd from page 2)

were enough to encourage the fire.

She spoke of the courageous firefighters and all they had been doing. She knew they were doing their very best to save her home, and they did. I spoke with her a few days later and she was so very thankful that her home and her treasures remained and that no one had been injured in saving them. The same is true for many homeowners and cabin owners along the brow.

One set of homeowners I spoke with has lived here less than a year. They were amazed at the dedication of these volunteers and at the outpouring of support from the community. Firefighters from Valley Head, Hammondville, across the county, other counties, Fort Payne, and Georgia all came out to help NLMFPD fight the fire or answered other calls while departments were busy at Mentone.

The DeSoto Rescue Squad volunteers were on hand for medical needs, and they did whatever they could to help onsite. Members of the Alabama Forestry Commission stayed in the area for a long time. They left with a special place in their heart for Mentone and a renewed respect for volunteer firefighters. Mayors and law enforcement officers from the area lent a hand for traffic control and other tasks. Legislators came onsite when the fires started and stayed in touch with firefighters as well as the governor's office to get all available help from the state. One legislator stayed up an entire night

filling out paperwork. Alabama EMA was on site much of the time, and ALEA provided needed resources. The Mentone community appreciates each and every bit of effort extended to fight these fires. Yes, there is much "thanks" to give this season.

The community not only spoke words of gratitude, but also supported the firefighting with action. Local stores, service stations, and restaurants donated meals and served as drop stations and couriers for supplies- everything from Chap-stick to socks, from meals to sweets, from cool drinking water to warm gloves for cool nights. The wives of volunteers took in food and supplies. Displaced homeowners and workers were provided accommodations; local ponds and lakes were used; money was donated. Approximately \$8,000 was donated locally and another \$5,000 online. Firefighters and workers were overwhelmed by the response. They send thanks to all.

Mentone Fire Chief Joseph Lee and all the firefighters continue to praise the community support received through out the weeks of fire fighting. One said, "We are humbled by the care shown by the public. To know that people appreciate what we do means a lot."

The firefighters are thankful this holiday for the lack of injury and loss, for the ability to do their task, and for the foundation of a good community both near and far. It took the effort and support of many for this operation to be successful. It's what

being a community is all about.

As the Chief said, "I wouldn't want to live any where else in the nation. This is home."

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MAPA NEWS

By Ray Padgett

In the October issue of *The Groundhog*, the MAPA News article was about a unique and rare tree that was brought to Mentone and planted--we thought about 100 years ago. It is a non-native species, once thought extinct. This Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) was planted right outside the current Mentone town limits

on Alabama Highway 117--East of Moon Lake Elementary School.

Our quest was to identify the person who brought the tree (or seed) to Mentone and planted it. To that end, a couple, Charlie and Nancy Brown, stopped by to see the tree and deliver the news and solution to the mystery. Charlie remembers that the couple living in the house at the time, E.T. and Louise (Cash) Lyday, vacationed in California, mostly to visit the Giant Redwood forests. E.T. (folks called him T) so admired the trees that he wanted to bring one back to Mentone. He acquired a Redwood seedling and brought it back to Mentone -- turns out it was not a Giant Redwood, but a newly sprouted Dawn Redwood.

This all happened in about 1952 according to

Charlie. He said that E.T. wrapped the seedling in mulch and cloth, kept it well watered all the way back to Mentone and planted it in their back yard. This leaves us with the fact that the tree is NOT quite a hundred years old--more like sixty-five. It also means that within eleven years after their discovery in China, the Dawn Redwood was thriving in California and then brought to Mentone by a couple who so admired the Redwood that they brought one back to share with their Mentone neighbors.

Thank you E.T. and Louise. Mentonians and their visitors still admire our Redwood's beauty. A special thanks to Charlie and Nancy for solving the mystery and enlightening everyone about this ancient, majestic tree.

Mentone Arts and Cultural Center - "Help Wanted"

By Ray Padgett

Fund raising for the Mentone Arts and Cultural Center is in its infancy, yet we have donations and grants of over \$200,000 and over fifty people have donated to the cause. As of November 2016, all our progress is the result of people who believe in this project, donating their time and talent to bring this shared vision of a multiuse facility for Mentone area residents and visitors to fruition. Many others have expressed an interest and desire to help with materials, in-kind donations and financial assistance. During the next year, we plan to renew our fundraising focus and ask everyone to step up to the plate and contribute to a cause that will highlight the musical and artistic talents of our community. We need your help!

The Mentone Arts and Cultural Center will provide a vehicle that helps channel Mentone growth in a way that builds on the foundation of a community that has a rich and diverse background in the arts and welcomes visitors with open arms. It will enhance the happy memories for children and adults alike, and they will return for generations. Folks are increasingly choosing Mentone as a place to visit and settle down. Unlike the Las Vegas slogan, we hope that what happens in Mentone does not stay in Mentone, but is shared with families across the South.

We would like to recognize our volunteers and contributors by listing their names here. They are in no particular order. Each person and company has given either time and talent or financially to our project. We appreciate every person who has participated and wish them wellness and happiness at Christmas and in the coming year. You can be a part of something amazing by contacting any one on our Board of Directors or calling Ray Padgett at 850-974-3271.

Board members are: Rob Hammond, Marsha Hurt, Kristen Emory, Hank Willett, Bill Berry, Susan Hooks, Kaye Kiker, Charlotte Gentry, John Dersham, Philippe Lathrop, and Ray Padgett. Board members are all contributors. Contributors/Volunteers are: Jetpolymer, MAPA, Dr. and Mrs. C.O. Sennett, Ann Benton, Grace Jones, Thomas Cobb, Joanna Bazemore, Barbara Hope, Karole and Harry Ohme, James Fletcher,



Douglas Crowe, Sharron and Claud Burke, Catherine Howard, John Bailey, Nancy Haukohl, James Chesser, Judy Crittenden, Paula Tally, Sandra Lefstad, Carolyn Nail, Samuel Erwin, Jane Schlachter, Sandra Padgett, Doug Hoyt, Kayla Worthey, Neil Whitt, Kerry and Sheila Akins, Keith and Jane Arendall, Martha Hoover, Ken and Kay Sunseri, Ethelyn Bellande, James Whitt, Mike and Genie Thompson, Charlie and Linda Munoz, Mary Page, Trish Strawn, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Don David, Clay Birchfield, Dan Chambliss, Cynthia and Mickey Luck, Eleanor Casler, Elizabeth Hunter Harrison, Eric Smith, Kevin Worthey, Dixie Salvage, Daniel Millican, Lowe's, Jonathan Glenn and Mario Garcia.

To date, we have received more than \$200,000 in donations and commitments, with receipt of \$36,500 toward the \$50,000 3-to-1 matching grant.

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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.

It's a party! Once again, the seniors of our community will celebrate the season with a Christmas party at the MERF house on Wednesday, December 7th. If everyone behaves between now and then, maybe a special visitor will make a stop on that red roof and have some of his youngest elves for some special entertainment. Joyful noises will be made!

Scholarship applications are due on Monday, December 5th. The Sue McLaurin Henry Scholarship is offered to Mentone and Valley Head residents pursuing a college or technical school degree. Students with a B average and financial need should apply. Applications are available from merf.mentone@gmail.com or the Mentone Market.

MERF has two fundraising events each year with the annual fundraising letter in December and the Art Auction in April. MERF has been able to provide services to Mentone for the past 23 years due to our faithful and giving contributors such as you. Please consider offering financial support for another year. Funds are needed to continue great programs for the young and

mature, to maintain services of a director, and to make needed renovations to the MERF house. Donations can be mailed or submitted online. If you are not on our mailing list and would like to be, please let us know.

Two for the price of one! If you would like to support MERF and give a great gift, consider giving a "Leave Me in Mentone" mug, shirt, ornament or hat found at DeSoto State Park country store, Little River Hardware, Moon Lake Trading Company, Kamama or from Sarah. Also, your gift giving can support MERF at Amazon through smile.amazon.com when you choose "Mentone Educational Resource Foundation" as your charity for a percentage of your purchase. Thanks to everyone that supports MERF and this community. Have a wonderful holiday season and a fabulous New Year!

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.merfhouse.org. Contact us at merf.mentone@gmail.com or 256-634-4673.

**Applications for MERF's
Sue McLaurin Henry
scholarship are due by
December 5th.**

Fundraising (cont'd from page 4)

Chief Joseph Lee knows that the numerous volunteer fire departments that came to their aid will have expenses as well. He encourages everyone in the county to help their local fire departments as much as possible. Valley Head and Mentone are in desperate need of firefighters along with money and supplies.

Sometimes people want to know exactly where their money is going when they donate. If you have questions about the fundraisers in this article, give me a call at The Groundhog. If you would like to make a large contribution for a particular item, contact Chief Lee (256-899-4027) and let him know. He will be happy to oblige if possible. The fire fighters are overwhelmed at the generosity already shown through donations and help from everyone, but there are still needs. Any donations, no matter how small, will be very helpful, greatly appreciated, used wisely, and tax deductible!

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Your Library News Your Library News Your Library News



By Barb Stoll

Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas...

Hello everyone. Well, that time of year is upon us again, and how wonderful it is. Here at your local Community Library, we have some great holiday reads and movies. This is the time of year for family, hot cocoa, and curling up for some family fun. We have some wonderful new books and movies just waiting for you to bring home and enjoy. And don't forget, we also have great books and DVD's for sale for that special Christmas gift, and all proceeds go to the library. So, let's see what the elves have dropped off this month for your enjoyment.

DVDs

Ghostbusters-Answer the Call - Ghostbusters makes its long-awaited return with Director Paul Feig's unique and hilarious take on the classic supernatural comedy, led by the freshest minds in comedy today: Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig, Kate McKinnon, Leslie Jones, and Chris Hemsworth. Together, they team up to save Manhattan from a sudden invasion of spirits, spooks, and slime that engulfs the city. This is the perfect movie for family night...hey, I think I smell popcorn!

Independence Day Resurgence: Twenty years

after mysterious aliens nearly wiped out humankind, they're back with a vengeance in this explosive sequel to the original blockbuster hit, *Independence Day*! Using recovered alien technology and led by brilliant scientist David Levinson (Jeff Goldblum returning in the role), the nations of Earth developed a vast defense program to protect the planet. But, nothing could prepare us for a new invasion of unprecedented scale-and only the ingenuity of a few brave men and women can save our world from extinction. Co-starring Liam Hemsworth, Jesse T. Usher, and Bill Pullman, *Independence Day: Resurgence* is an action-packed thrill ride start to finish. I think this movie goes well with eggnog and homemade cookies!

Books

Home - A decade ago, kidnappers grabbed two boys from wealthy families and demanded ransom, then went silent. No trace of the boys ever surfaced. For ten years their families have been left with nothing but painful memories and a quiet desperation for the day that has finally, miraculously arrived: Myron Bolitar and his friend, Win, believe they have located one of the boys, now a teenager. Where has he been for ten years, and what does he know about that day, more than half a life ago, when he was taken? And most critically: What can he tell Myron and Win about the fate of his missing friend? Drawing on his singular talent, Harlan Coben delivers an explosive and deeply moving thriller about friendship, family, and the meaning of home. Read this one in front of a warm fire with hot chocolate!

Order To Kill - Mitch Rapp is used to winning; but thanks to several scheming and unscrupulous members of the Pakistani secret service, he finds himself chasing false leads from continent to continent in an effort to keep Pakistani nukes from falling into the hands of terrorists. Together with friend and colleague Scott Coleman, Rapp struggles to prevent the loss of these lethal weapons. Soon it becomes alarmingly clear that the forces in Moscow are bent on fomenting even more chaos and turmoil in the Middle East, and Rapp

must go deep into Iraqi territory, posing as an American ISIS recruit. There, he uncovers a plan much more dangerous and insidious than he ever expected--one that could have far-reaching and catastrophic consequences.

Written with the same breathless tension and relentless action as Vince Flynn's greatest novels, Mitch Rapp's latest adventure is as timely and provocative as ever. You will go through an entire box of candy canes with this one, so come prepared!

Two By Two - With more than 100 million copies of his books sold, Nicholas Sparks is one of the world's most beloved storytellers. His new book, *Two By Two*, is no exception to his amazing works.

At thirty-two, Russell Green has it all--a stunning wife, a loveable six-year-old daughter, a successful career as an advertising executive, and an expansive home in Charlotte. He is living the dream, and his marriage to bewitching Vivian is the center of that dream. But underneath the shiny surface of this perfect existence, fault lines are beginning to appear... and no one is more surprised than Russ when he finds every aspect of the life he took for granted turned upside down. In a matter of months, Russ finds himself without a job or wife, caring for his young daughter London while struggling to adapt to a new and baffling reality.

When a chance encounter with an old flame tempts him to take a chance on love again, he will navigate this new opportunity with trepidation and wonder. But with the loyal support of his parents and his wise older sister, Marge, and in the hard-won lessons of fatherhood, Russ will finally come to understand the true nature of unconditional love--that it is a treasure to be bestowed, never earned. I am predicting a few boxes of Kleenex may be needed for this one and some holiday sweets!

How's that for some holiday goodies? I think Santa would be proud, but most of all, here at your Community Library we hope you enjoy these new additions. We at your library want to 'Thank you' for a wonderful 2016 and wish everyone a very, very Merry Christmas!



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HAPPY DAY!

December Birthdays

Dec 1 – Gayla Blalock
Dec 1 – Mark Hatfield
Dec 1 – Morgan Crane
Dec 1 – Marcia Tucker
Dec 1 – Christine Brooks
Dec 1 – Megan Kelley
Dec 2 – Ladon Willingham
Dec 2 – Dwayne McKenzie
Dec 2 – Angel Baggett
Dec 3 – Karen Saferite
Dec 3 – Austin Battles
Dec 3 – Angie Bell Young
Dec 3 – Cherita Holman
Dec 4 – Lloyd McElhaney
Dec 4 – Nichole Williams
Dec 4 – Lydia Gifford
Dec 4 – Heath Blalock
Dec 4 – Sibyl Sadowski
Dec 4 – Raymond Beasley
Dec 5 – Jess Goggans
Dec 5 – Brian Howard
Dec 5 – Berkley Chambers
Dec 5 – Barbara Neel
Dec 6 – Austin Potts
Dec 6 – Judy Johnson
Dec 6 – Tonja Bell
Dec 6 – Sharon Crouch
Dec 7 – Gavin Myers
Dec 7 – Keesha Burgess

Dec 7 – Reagan Owen
Dec 7 – Nathan Owen
Dec 7 - Olivia Burton
Dec 8 – Bailey Pryor
Dec 8 – Trish Clink
Dec 8 – Ross Hulan
Dec 10 – Kevin Worthey
Dec 10 – Tammy Frost
Dec 11 – Christine Ballenger
Dec 11 – Toni Freeman
Dec 11 – Hannah Blansit
Dec 11 – Christy Cordell
Dec 11 – Kaelan Shankles
Dec 12 – Valerie Logan
Dec 12 – Jeff Nelson
Dec 12 – Connie Nelson
Dec 13 – Moria Potts
Dec 13 – Deborah Mason
Dec 13 – Crystal Poteat
Dec 13 – Jerrod Landers
Dec 14 – Ginny Zulker
Dec 14 – Jim Phillips
Dec 15 – Jessica Van Pelt
Dec 15 – Brody Baber
Dec 15 – Justin Shankles
Dec 17 – Holly Day
Dec 17 – Chris O. Smith
Dec 18 – Ashley Pounders
Dec 18 – Daniel Brown
Dec 18 – Scot Sharp
Dec 19 – Brynda Hopper
Dec 19 – Jake Nelson
Dec 20 – Shelley Meadows
Dec 20 – Denise Carden

Dec 21 – Tyler Dean
Dec 21 – Jordan Henderson
Dec 21 – Coby Harrison
Dec 21 – Lydia Roe
Dec 22 – Dale Howard
Dec 22 – William Beasley
Dec 22 – Briana Kilgore
Dec 22 – Ashlee Smith
Dec 22 – Weston Carter
Dec 22 – Bryan Roe
Dec 23 – Daniel Gray
Dec 23 – Aubrey Smith
Dec 24 – Caleb White
Dec 24 – Joe Kent
Dec 24 - Emma Lee
Dec 24 – Avion Gelfenstein
Dec 24 – Susie Southerland
Dec 24 – Sophia Sharp
Dec 24 – Anthony O’Shields
Dec 25 – The Birth of Christ
Merry Christmas!
Dec 25 – Mary Porter
Dec 25 – Irene Willingham
Dec 25 – Justin Easler
Dec 26 – Jason Goss
Dec 26 – Melanie Grisham
Dec 26 - Sheila LaRock
Dec 27 – Melissa Shoults
Dec 27 – Houston Downer
Dec 27 – Jennifer Blalock
Dec 28 – Avice Pearson
Dec 28 – Annette Chappell
Dec 28 – Brooke Morris
Dec 28 – Elizabeth Turner

Dec 29 – LeAnn Bain
Dec 29 – Christie Langston
Dec 30 – Dawn Langston
Dec 31 – Kiley Shankles
Dec 31 – Michael Kelley Jr.

December Anniversaries

Dec 1 - Cotton & Pam Baggett
Dec 1 – Hoyt & Helen Ashley
Dec 2 – Joe & Donna McClure
Dec 8 – Alvin & Sherry Durham
Dec 12 – Walter & Christine Brooks
Dec 13 – Ron & Valerie Logan
Dec 13 – John & Jennifer Chambers
Dec 14 – Benny & Brenda Goss
Dec 14 – Mike & Barbara Neel
Dec 15 - Johnny & Sissy Crider
Dec 17 – Rob & San Hammond
Dec 18 – Jim & Joan Byrum
Dec 20 - Dave & Jamie Vest
Dec 23 – Heath & Tara Kirby
Dec 23 – Eddie & Mary Porter
Dec 23 – Doug & Kaye Kiker
Dec 28 – Lendell & Annette Chappell
Dec 28 – Danny & Julie Mewes
Dec 28 – Howard & Tonya Hilyer
Dec 28 – Chad & Ashley Wooten
Dec 30 - Matt & Ginger Lee
Dec 30 – Bryan & Melissa Roe
Dec 31 – Steve & Patti Watkins

January Birthdays

Jan 1 – William Blackburn
Jan 1 – Alexis Reed
Jan 1 - Brittany Bates Harrison
Jan 1 – Harold Carden
Jan 1 – Jim Byrum
Jan 1 – Kathy Carson
Jan 1 – April Hurst
Jan 1 – David Tucker
Jan 2 – Donnie Bell
Jan 2 – Kristen Ann Nelson
Jan 2 – Amber Stokes
Jan 2 – Rickey Williams
Jan 2 – Gideon Grisham
Jan 3 – Stacy Howard
Jan 3 –Aiden Logan
Jan 3 – Owen Izell
Jan 3 – Lance Elkins
Jan 3 – Cameron Hunt
Jan 3 – Tressie Thomas
Jan 4 – Ed Ringer
Jan 5 – Aidan Dupree
Jan 5 – Angela Chambers
Jan 5 – Tiffany Wallace
Jan 5 - Gage Gelfenstein
Jan 5 –Steve Sharp
Jan 6 – Sharron Hatfield
Jan 6 – Laiton Keith
Jan 6 – Amanda Dyar

Jan 6 – Emily Guin
Jan 7 – Kristen Emory
Jan 7 - Madisen Smith
Jan 7 – Jace Carden
Jan 7 – Hoyt Ashley
Jan 8 – Tyler Carden
Jan 8 – Garnett Smith
Jan 8 – Zachary Wallace
Jan 8 – Emily Stallings
Jan 8 – Jerry Boatwright
Jan 8 – Ryker Abernathy
Jan 9 – Dallas Lee
Jan 9 – Ellie Shugart
Jan 10 – Neal Whitt
Jan 10 – Stacey Worthey
Jan 10 – Nancy Frost
Jan 10 – Heath Miller
Jan 11 – Josh Shoults
Jan 11 – Robert Green
Jan 11 – Kandis Lawton
Jan 11 – Preston Owen
Jan 11 – Allen Powell
Jan 11 – Freda Pike
Jan 11 – Ryan Wooten
Jan 11 – Avah Poe
Jan 11 – Annabelle Ferguson
Jan 12 – Beverly Henry
Jan 12 – Aaron McKenzie
Jan 12 – Bud Atkins
Jan 12 – Thad Heinrich
Jan 13 – Paulette Manning
Jan 13 – Anita Johnson
Jan 13 – Erin Dean

Jan 14 – Eric Kirby
Jan 14 – Isabella Chaney
Jan 14 – Larry Johnson
Jan 15 – Joe “Dude” Brown
Jan 15 – Anna Easler Bailey
Jan 16 – Wynston Keith
Jan 16 – Trent Smith
Jan 17 – Olivia Bowman
Jan 17 – Jim Poe
Jan 17 – Joseph Brown
jan 17 – Michael Owen
Jan 17 – Caiden West
Jan 18 – Nicole Goldsmith
Jan 18 – Bobby Blalock
Jan 19 – Candace Perkins
Jan 19 – Jacie O’Tinger
Jan 19 – Judy McMahan
Jan 19 – Olivia Elkins
Jan 21 – Ryley Smith
Jan 22 – Kyle Carden
Jan 22 – Anna Garrett
Jan 22 – Rosetta McGee
Jan 22 – Alvin Durham
Jan 23 – Scott Gifford
Jan 23 – Melissa Couch
Jan 23 – Dowe Forman
Jan 24 – Sandy Sharp
Jan 24 – Marysa Wigley
Jan 24 – Darrin Smith
Jan 24 – Tommy Harrison
Jan 24 – Lucas Elkins
Jan 25 – Shannon Tolbert
Jan 25 – Sarah Wilcox

Nov 29 – Aric Collins
Nov 30 – Sandy McNutt

January Anniversaries

jan 2 – Jim & Cynthia Connor
Jan 4 – Raymond & Heather Evans
Jan 10 – Tony & Cindy Tipton
Jan 23 – Kevin & Ashley Gifford
Jan 24 - Taylor & Nancy Brown
Jan 25 – Greg & Nikki Wheat
Jan 28 – Robert & Annette Johnson
Jan 29 – Bubba & Martha Browder



THE RECIPE CORNER

~

Dec/Jan

Cranberry Relish

This is a family recipe from Mark Elaqua of the Mentone Springs Hotel. Submitted by Susan Van Apeldoorn for all those who enjoyed it at the MERF lunch. It is very easy and lasts forever in the fridge!

3 cans whole cranberry sauce
1 small can mandarin oranges, drained-reserve liquid
1 small can crushed pineapple, drained
1 box orange or pineapple Jello
3-4 stalks celery, diced
1 ½ c. chopped walnuts or pecans, optional

Boil orange liquid and use just enough to dissolve Jello.
Add all other ingredients and mix.
Refrigerate at least 24 hours.

Baked French Toast Casserole

It's great for Christmas morning. While the kids are opening presents, you just put it in the oven to bake, and you don't have to be in the kitchen and miss all the excitement.

Contributed by Cynthia Stinson at the Mentone Inn

1 Loaf French bread
8 large eggs
2 cups half and half
1 cup milk
2 Tablespoons granulated sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
Dash of salt

Praline Topping

1 cup butter
1 cup packed light brown sugar
1 cup chopped pecans
2 Tablespoons light corn syrup
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
½ teaspoon ground nutmeg

Slice French bread into 1 inch slices. Arrange slices in a buttered 9x12 dish, overlapping slices. In a large bowl, combine the eggs, half and half, milk, sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt. Beat with a whisk until blended but not too bubbly.

Pour mixture over the bread slices, covering evenly. Cover with foil and refrigerate over night.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix together the topping mix, spread evenly over the bread, and bake 25-30 minutes, until puffed and lightly golden.

Serve with maple syrup. Serves 12-14.



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What To Do Around Here!

December 2016 Community Calendar

Dec. 1 - DeKalb County Children's Advocacy Center Holiday Market & Open House. We are so excited about doing our Open House and Holiday Market here at the CAC! We will have dinner theatre tickets on sale, t-shirts, refreshments, Santa and more. 10 am to 6pm. We will also have information available to those who would like to "adopt a child" for Christmas. 256-997-9700.

Dec. 1 - 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. 2-6pm. 256-997-9577.

Dec. 2 - 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 6pm the day before the adventure. 10am to Noon. 256-997-9577.

Dec. 2 - "Christmas Peace" at Papa Joe's Coffee House. It's back! St. Joseph's is hosting another coffee house event especially for the holidays. Brenda Johnson and Tena Cryer are returning along with Jane Faile and other favorites. Local author Greg Starnes will also be at this event along with other new faces. Everyone is welcome to bring their own Christmas story, poem, and/or music as we expect to have time for open mic performances. Starts at 6:30pm.

Dec. 2, 14, 17, 22 - Extreme Night Hike. This end-of-day adventure does not slow down just because it's dark. Intended for a large group team-building exercise, this hike has a bit of bouldering, some scrambling, some spelunking, and a whole lot of required working together. True Adventure Sports. 6 to 8:30 pm. 256-997-9577.

Dec. 3, 10, 17 - Blow Your Own Ornament. Orbix Hot Glass. Design and blow your own ornament with the help of one of our glass artists. No reservations are needed. First come, first serve basis. We welcome people at least 5 years old. 9am to 4pm. Cost is \$38 per ornament blown. 256-523-3188.

Dec. 3, 6, 27 - Rappelling Adventure. Come experience the thrill of rappelling down the sheer sandstone gems of NE AL. Each trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. 10am to 2pm. 256-997-9577.

Dec. 3 - Henagar Christmas Parade. Bring your family to this fun festive event. Parade begins at 10am. 256-657-6282.

Dec. 3 - Turkey Shoot. The Hillbilly Saddle Club in Fyffe will be hosting the turkey shoot. Prizes include a \$25 gift card from Foodland. 12pm (Noon). Special shoots will be held for children 12 & under. 256-623-3276.

Dec. 3 - Valley Head Christmas Parade. Bring your family to this fun, festive event. Parade begins at 1 pm. 256-635-6814.

Dec. 3 - Ider Christmas Parade. Bring your family to this fun, festive event. Parade begins at 1pm. 256-657-5717.

Dec. 3 - A Cheery Canyon Christmas. An

enchanting day full of holiday programs such as winter wildlife feeding, sustainable giving, Christmas arts & crafts, secret Santa gift shop, photos made with SANTA, storytelling and more!! Little River Canyon Center. Most programs are free. Call for specific schedule. 256-782-5697.

Dec. 5 - 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. 10am to 2pm. 256-997-9577.

Dec. 6, 28 - Hypothermia Class. This 3-hour class teaches the extreme dangers and how to treat hypothermia. Learn how quick hypothermia can set in and the signs indicating it is setting in. \$30 pp. True Adventure Sports. 1pm to 4pm. 256-997-9577.

Dec. 7, 14, 21 - "From Jerusalem, to Bethlehem, to Alabama". St. Joseph's and St. Philip's are partnering to present a series of classes that begin on Nov. 30th with a study of the Old Testament texts that lead up to Christmas. Together, we will study what these texts (probably) meant originally, how the church has used these texts over the centuries, and what these texts might be saying to us today. Our guide will be Rev. Dr. Rebecca Wright, the Old Testament professor at the School of Theology in Sewanee, TN. Dec. 7 class will be held at St. Philip's in Fort Payne. Classes on Dec. 14 & 21 will be held at St. Joseph's in Mentone. Soup and beverage will be served at 6pm before each class which will begin promptly at 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend this enlightening class. Free. For more information, email stjom@centurytel.net or call 256-634-4476.

Dec. 7 - 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. 9am to 12pm. 256-997-9577.

Dec. 8 - A Joyful Ring Hand Bell Concert. The Grand Avenue Bells would like to invite you to a One-of-a-kind Christmas experience. Enjoy beautiful music of hand bells and hand chimes from several different churches in the community playing familiar Christmas music. There will be refreshments following the concert. In the Sanctuary of The First United Methodist Church of Fort Payne. 6:30 pm.

Dec. 9 - NASA Star Party. Join us at the Canyon Center for a night of stars. Educator John Weiss from NASA will be leading this star party. There will be opportunities to see meteor and lunar samples, look at stars through the telescopes, and have hot chocolate, cookies, and apple cider. Little River Canyon Center. 7-10 pm.

Dec. 9 - 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 6pm the day before the adventure. 2 to 4:30pm. 256-997-9577.

Dec. 9 - Fort Payne Christmas Parade and Christmas in the Park. Join in the festivities in Fort Payne City Park. Free soft drinks, hot chocolate, refreshments, caroling, then there will be a huge parade to make this annual event tons of fun! Festivities start at 4pm. Parade starts at 6pm. 256-845-2741.

Dec. 9 - Cook Castle 3rd Annual Christmas in Dixie Tour. Take a tour of the fabulous Cook Castle at Christmas. We look forward to sharing this place with you during the holidays. 6-9 pm. \$30 per person. 256-845-2286 ext 7.

Dec. 10 - Educator Workshop: NASA Lunar and Meteorite. Teachers, you are invited to become an authorized borrower of NASA lunar and meteorite sample disks for education. This workshop will prepare k-12 educators to borrow lunar and meteorite samples for use in educational settings. Information will focus on lunar exploration, lunar and meteorite origins, sample security, and classroom linkages for physical and Earth and Space Sciences. Hands-on activities for the classroom will be taught and teachers will receive free educational materials to use in their classrooms. Little River Canyon Center. Preregistration required. Call 256-845-3548.

Dec. 10-11 - Dixie Long Riders - Cowboy Mounted Shooters Assoc. At the Northeast Alabama Agri-Business Center in Rainsville. 256-638-1650.

Dec. 10 - Fyffe Christmas Parade. Bring your family to this fun, festive event. Parade begins at 12pm. 256-623-2222.

Dec. 10 - Sylvania Christmas Parade. Bring your family to this fun, festive event. Parade begins at 2pm. 256-638-2604.

Dec. 10 - Geraldine Christmas Parade. Bring your family to this fun, festive event. Parade begins at 2pm. 256-659-2122.

Dec. 10 - Collinsville Christmas Parade. Bring your family to this fun, festive event. Parade begins at 3:30pm. 256-524-2135.

Dec. 10 - Rainsville Santa Dash. Proceeds will be donated to Plainview School to be used to bring a Merry Christmas to children who might miss the excitement of receiving gifts on Christmas Morning. The one-mile fun run/walk will take place at the start of the Christmas parade at Sand Mountain Electric Coop, line up at 3:30pm in front of the Rainsville Christmas Parade. The cost to participate is \$30 per person. Visit the event's page on racesonline.com to pre-register by credit card or cash/check. Or, get registration forms at Body Vision, First State Bank, and The Carpet Center. Business donations will be recognized via social

media. Contact Jerry Clifton at 256-717-5650.

Dec. 10 - Annual Rainsville Christmas At the Crossroads and Parade. Come and enjoy a celebration of the season with this fun, festive annual event. Parade begins at 4pm. 256-638-7800.

Dec. 10, 23 - Night Zip Line & Sky Swing Adventure. All our zip lines and sky swings 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 6pm the day before adventure. 6-10 pm. 256-997-9577.

Dec. 12, 20, 26, 30 - Wild Cave Tour. Go beyond where the average tourist explores! This 2.5 hour adventure is for those of you ready to explore on your knees, on your belly, in the mud, and through tight tunnels. Adventure includes helmet, cave lamps, plus a fun informative guide. True Adventure Sports. 5-7:30pm. 256-997-9577.

Dec. 13 - Sky Swing Adventure. This is an adventure of a lifetime. Enjoy the thrill of the swing. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6pm the day before the adventure. Meet at True Adventure Sports. Noon-2 pm. 256-997-9577.

Dec. 13, 19, 24 - Bouldering Adventure - Atop Lookout Mountain. Come experience first-hand what bouldering is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. No prior climbing or bouldering experience is needed. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 2-6pm. 256-997-9577.

Dec. 15 - Knot Class & Application. Introduction and instruction to essential knots and their application for camping, rappelling, rock climbing, outdoor survival, and other applications. 1-5 pm. 256-997-9577.

Dec. 16 - GPS Basic Training and Navigation Class, Part 1. Learn how to use a map, compass, and a handheld GPS. Learn basic navigation and how to pinpoint a location for quick return, or quick rescue. Also, learn how to search by waypoints or coordinates. True Adventure Sports. 10am-4pm. 256-997-9577.

Dec. 16 - Evening 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 6pm the day before the adventure. 6:30-8:30 pm. 256-997-9577.

Dec. 17 - The Winter Excursion. The Winter Excursion is a mystery trip that includes hiking, bouldering, sightseeing, navigation, survival, teambuilding, waterfalls, and just plain fun. You will need to bring a small backpack, compass, flash light, change of socks, warm clothes, camera, trail mix, water, small first aid kit, emergency blanket and emergency poncho. 10am-1pm. 256-997-9577.

Dec. 21 - Morning 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 6pm

the day before the adventure. 10am-Noon. 256-997-9577.
Dec. 31 - Zip Line & Sky Swing Adventure.

All our zip lines and sky swings 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 6pm the day before adventure. 10am-2pm. 256-997-9577.

What To Do Around Here!

January 2017 Community Calendar

Jan. 2 - Rappelling Certification Class. This class covers rappelling basics indoor and outdoor. The basic indoor class teaches you about rappelling safety/rappelling gear and its application, rappelling knots and application, and rigging points needed for rappelling. The basic outdoor class reviews safety procedures, knots, gear, and rigging points; then you learn how to safely rappel and do several rappels before returning to the office for the rappelling test and knot exam. Meet at T.A.S. Training Center. \$165/person. Note: You will receive a class 1 rappelling certification photo ID card upon request and successful completion of this class and exams for a card processing fee of \$15.00. 10 am to 6 pm. 256-997-9577.

Jan. 3, 26 - 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. 9am-12pm. 256-997-9577.

Jan. 4, 14 - The Winter Excursion. The Winter Excursion is a mystery trip that includes hiking, bouldering, sightseeing, navigation, survival, team building, waterfalls, and just plain fun. You will need to bring a small backpack, compass, flash light, change of socks, warm clothes, camera, trail mix, water, small first aid kit, emergency blanket and emergency poncho. 10am-1pm. 256-997-9577.

Jan. 5 - Bouldering Adventure – Atop Look-

out Mountain. Come experience first-hand what bouldering is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. No prior climbing or bouldering experience is needed. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 2 pm to 6 pm. 256-997-9577.

Jan. 6, 16, 27 - Extreme Night Hike. This end-of-day adventure does not slow down just because it's dark. Intended for a large group team-building exercise, this hike has a bit of bouldering, some scrambling, some spelunking, and a whole lot of required working together. True Adventure Sports. 6 pm to 8:30 pm. 256-997-9577.

Jan. 7, 9, 13, 21, 25 - Rappelling Adventure. Come experience the thrill of rappelling down the sheer sandstone gems of NE AL. Each trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. 10am-2pm. 256-997-9577.

Jan. 7 & 8 - Northeast Alabama Cutting Horse Association Competition. Enjoy the team cutting competition at the Northeast Alabama Agri-Business Center in Rainsville. 256-638-1650.

Jan. 7, 12, 23, 28 - 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. 2pm-6pm. 256-997-9577.

Jan. 10 - 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 pm to 8:30 pm. 256-997-9577.

Jan. 11, 20, 24, 31 - 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. 10am-2pm. 256-997-9577.

Jan. 11, 30 - Hypothermia Class. This 3-hour class teaches the extreme dangers and how to treat hypothermia. Learn how quick hypothermia can set in and the signs indicating it is setting in. \$30pp. True Adventure Sports. 1-4pm. 256-997-9577.

Jan. 13 & 14 - West Bucking Bulls. Come and enjoy the thrill! A Rickey West Bucking Bull Production. Event will be held at the Northeast Alabama Agribusiness Center in Rainsville. Gates open at 6 pm and bull riding starting at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$15 Adults, Kids 6-12 \$10, and 5 & under Free. 256-638-1650.

Jan. 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. 1:00-2:30pm. 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.

Jan. 17 - Mountaineering Adventure. This 4-6 hour adventure starts with a rappel into a low light maze where we will stop and an-

chor part of the way down the rock wall and travel on the rock face mountaineering style to get to our main destination. True Adventure Sports. 10 am to 1 pm. 256-997-9577.

Jan. 18 - GPS Basic Training and Navigation Class, Part 2. You will learn to find a beacon placed in the woods as a SAR attempt while knowing your position, and the position of your teammates. True Adventure Sports. 5-9pm. 256-997-9577.

Jan. 19 - Orienteering Class. Basic yet essential skills for survival navigation are brought to you in map reading, compass reading, and topography. 10am-1pm. 256-997-9577.

Jan. 21 - 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 6pm the day before the adventure. 6:30-8:30pm. 256-997-9577.

Jan. 21& 22 - Tennessee Valley Roping Association. Enjoy the team roping competition at the Northeast Alabama Agri-Business Center in Rainsville. 256-638-1650.

Jan. 30 - Wild Cave Tour. Go beyond where the average tourist explores! This 2.5 hour adventure is for those of you ready to explore on your knees, on your belly, in the mud and through tight tunnels. Adventure includes helmet, cave lamps plus a fun informative guide. True Adventure Sports. 5pm-7:30pm. 256-997-9577.

Ongoing Calendar

The Little River group of Alcoholics Anonymous is adding another meeting. They will meet every Saturday and every Tuesday night at 6pm at St. Joseph's on the Mountain Episcopal Church, Mentone, AL. Both meetings are Open AA Discussion Meetings. Anyone who thinks they might have a problem with alcohol is welcome. The meetings are also open to members of Al Anon. 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.

Mentone Town Council meets the 2nd

Tuesday every month at 6pm in the town council room. Everyone is welcome.

MAPA Board meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:00pm at Kamama Gallery.

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

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

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

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

FREE FOOD for eligible persons and families. Hours: Wednesdays, 9 to 11:30am. 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 on the second Tuesday at 10:00AM at the MERF House. 'Green thumbs' and 'brown thumbs' welcome! For more information, call 256-634-4403.

Scrabble Club will meet the first Monday of the month from 11-1 at Kamama Gallery and Cafe. Call Kaye Kiker 205-609-8100 or Clare Donohue 954-292-8130 with questions.

The DeKalb County Genealogical Society meets the second Saturday of every month in the DeKalb County Public Library, 10 AM.

Health Insurance. Free assistance with the Affordable Care Act is available every Tuesday 9-11 at the Scottsboro Library and every Thursday 2-4 at the Fort Payne Library through January 31, 2017. For more information call 256-254-0668.



Mentone Wedding Chapel

*Candle Lite Ceremonies
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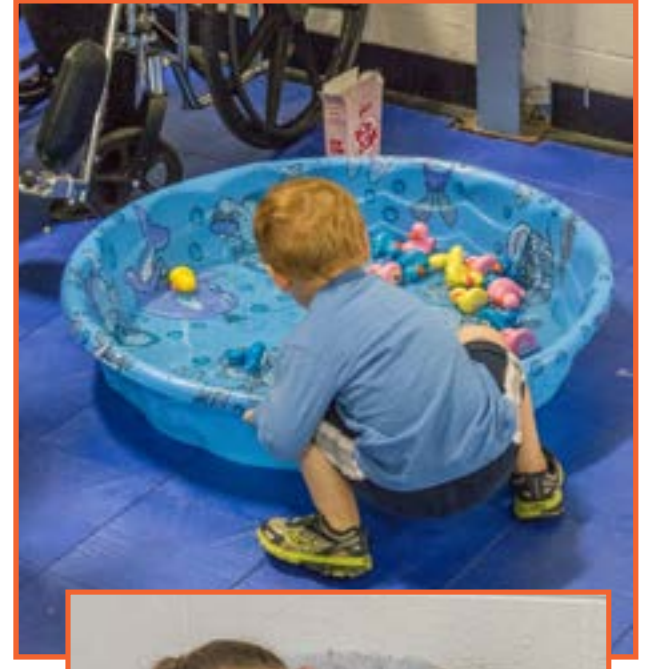


Nestled in the woods atop Lookout Mountain, near Mentone, Alabama, this quaint little chapel is surrounded by ferns, forest and flowers. The chapel is a scaled version of traditional Appalachian churches of days gone by. Stained glass windows filtering soft forest sunrays and soft organ music accent an ambience fitting the wedding ceremony. Inside, wooden pews will seat approximately 60 guests.

Linda Patterson, owner of the chapel, said the idea for it began with a bell, and now that bell rings as newlyweds exit the door of the chapel.

To arrange your wedding or renewing of your wedding vows, call
256-634-4181

Moon Lake School Harvest Festival



Moon Lake 2016 Harvest Festival King and Queen:

John Tyler Lawton and Emma Harrison

Top 5 Essays each for Harvest King and Harvest Queen

- #1. I would like to be Harvest Festival Queen, because I've never been it. There is a bunch of girls that hasn't been it. I've never been one of those kids that's popular and so this might be my chance to prove to myself.
- #2. I would be a good Queen because we would have a lot of fun. I have not been here long. I came in the middle of 4th grade. But I would love to win to make the school a great place to be at.
- #3. I should be Harvest Festival Queen because I want to wear a big crown.
- #4. I think I'd be a great Harvest Festival Queen

because I'm trustful and a good leader. If you have a problem I'm here to help. I'm friendly and I will never turn my back on you. I love all people. I'm caring. If you're sad, I'll try and cheer you up, or if you're mad, I'll calm you down. I never thought of running for Harvest Festival Queen, but if I win, I can't say it was luck or anything because I know it was God who let me win.

#5. I am in 6th grade. I have been at Moon Lake since Kindergarten. This year, I am going to push myself to be the best I can be. I have made some great friends since I've been here. This year, I will do my best and make good grades. I am very helpful to people who need my help. I also have great friends that are with me no matter what. I have courage and confidence in myself and others.

#6. I should be the Harvest Festival King because I'm very helpful and kind to little kids and help them on the hay ride. That's why I should be King of the Harvest Festival, and vote for me, please.

#7. I think that I should be Harvest Festival King because I do my work at school, I hold the door for

people, and I try to be as nice as possible even to people that are mean to me. I try to be on my best behavior for teachers, and a good influence for other kids, and that is why I think that I should be the Harvest Festival King.

#8. I should be the Harvest Festival King because I have really good sportsmanship

when I am playing baseball, football, and basketball. I am very nice to everybody and my family. I do good in school and have all A's. This is why I should be the Harvest Festival King.

#9. I should be the Harvest Festival King because I could help with games. I could help set up. I could tell people the rules of games. I can help make things.

#10. I should be the Harvest Festival King because I will not make a mess. I am responsible and dependable. I am not mean, and I don't bully people. I will do what I'm told. Please consider me to be Harvest Festival King; thank you.

Much thanks to Charlie Stone for the photographs.

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Worship

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

Valley Head Baptist Church invites you to come and worship with us. On Sunday, Bible Study is at 11:00 AM & Morning Worship is at 11:00 AM; Kidz Connection is at 5:00 PM, Evening Worship at 6:00 PM. Kidz Connection & Youth meet on Wednesday from 5:00 – 6:00 PM & a snack supper is provided. On the second Wednesday of the month, there is a church wide covered dish Fellowship Meal at 6:00 PM.

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. John Inman 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 just off Desoto Parkway 1/4 mile south of Fischer Crossroads. We would like to invite you to worship with us on Sundays. Sunday School for all ages 9:45am, Traditional Worship 11am, and

Sunday Evening Service 6pm. Sunday Evening youth meet at 5:30pm. We have Wonderful Wednesdays during the school year with Bible studies for all ages, meal at 5:30pm and classes at 6:15pm. We also have Wednesday morning Bible study at 8:45am, and knitting every Tuesday at 9am. Pastor Ian Conerly. Address 1204 New Oregon Drive NE, Fort 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.

Menlo Presbyterian Church (ECO) invites everyone to attend services with us. Sunday School at 10am (EST) and Worship Service at 11:15am (EST). Dr. Roger Kvan is our pastor. We are located at 70 North 6th Ave., next to the park in Menlo, GA.

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



St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain is planning a full and joyous Advent season. The Nativity will be back. The church is always open for prayer and meditation. Our services are bright and inclusive. On Christmas Eve, December 24, there will be a very special service at 6:00 PM and all are invited. HOWEVER, there will no service on Sunday, December 25. We wish you all the very best for Advent and Christmas and give thanks for our people, the nation and Mentone!!!



The Times of Our Lives



Corbin Alan James Thomas was born on October 25, 2016, at DeKalb Regional Hospital to Alan Thomas and Hayley Crider. He weighed 6 lbs 11 oz and was 20 1/2 inches long. Corbin's grandparents are Chester and Kim Crider, Shane and Jan Thomas, and Junior and Denise Stalvey.

Photo by Little River Photography



In Memory of Family and Friends in the Mentone Area

George Campbell Smith III

George Campbell Smith III was born on June 15, 1949 to George C. and Frances Smith. Campbell died on November 4th surrounded by his family. He graduated from Fort Payne High School in 1967, where he was actively involved in the marching and concert band. He graduated from Jacksonville State University with both his bachelor and masters degree. Campbell was the band director at Plainview High School, Ider High School, and Valley Head High School. He also served as Guidance Counselor for Fyffe High School for a short time and then half-time guidance counselor at Valley Head High School. Campbell retired from teaching in May 2000. He was a life-long member of First Presbyterian Church in Fort Payne, where he served as a ruling elder and choir director. Campbell also worked in radio for 43 years, working at WFPA in Fort Payne, WKEA FM, and 101.7 the Storm. He retired in July 2011 to become a full time Paw Paw for his grandchildren. He loved to pick up his grandchildren at daycare and school. This was the highlight of his day to get to spend time with them. Emma Campbell and Liam were his proudest accomplishments.

He is survived by his wife, Lisa Smith; his daughter, Rebecca Smith Crawford, and husband, Paul; step-daughter, Beth Gillispie, and husband, Tim; his grandchildren, Emma Campbell Crawford, Liam Crawford, and T.J. Gillispie; brother, Dexter Smith, and his wife, Janet; 3 nieces, Megan Smith, Savannah Smith McGuire, and Shannon Smith. The family would like to say a special thank you to his precious caregivers, Dottie Wood and Paulette Keller and to Amedisys Hospice.

Memories From the Market (cont'd from page 1)

store, changed the name to the Mentone Market, and transformed the little convenience store into a local market, a restaurant, a coffee shop, an art gallery, an information center, a gathering place, a community hub, and an integral part of the town, among other things.

They have honored some of Mentone's favorites with rocking chairs, plaques, and photos. They have supported the community by hosting fundraisers for local clubs, groups, schools, and organizations. They have given monetarily, donated food, their time and so much more for this little community that has become their home.

Early November 23rd, North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District (NLMFPD) received a call at around 3am that the Mentone Market was on fire. They arrived on-scene in about three minutes, but despite their best efforts, the fire had already done too much damage. The building was a total loss; a devastating loss for the Emorys and their family...a heartbreaking loss for the community.

It is unclear what caused the fire, but the fire marshal is still investigating. Sadly, no matter what the outcome, Mentone has lost another iconic community treasure. Everyone wants to know, "Will they rebuild?" Well, the Emorys would love to rebuild, but the question remains- how do you replace something that was so precious? Can you really bring back what was once there? Or do you just start fresh with something new? What the

Photo from 1968



future holds, it is too early to tell and no one really knows, but we do know that we will always have our memories to hold dear.

The Sunday before the fire, my family and I stopped by for one of our favorite meals -- the loaded BBQ potato. I hope to one day be able to enjoy a meal, socialize, and watch my kids play a game of checkers again; whatever, wherever and whenever that may be.

As we all know, Mentone is home to many summer camps and the Mentone Market became the welcome mat to many of those campers, counselors, and parents. One of those counselors, Samuel

Henderson Hardin, says that Mentone and the Mentone Market mean the world to him so he has set up a Go Fund Me account for the Mentone Market. If you would like to support them, you can do so by going to gofundme.com/help-the-mentone-market and making your contribution. This town has been fortunate to call the Emorys neighbors for almost 15 years, and now, we can't imagine this town without them!

P.S. I heard that Santa Claus may still be coming to town this year, so be on the lookout!

Quotes from the Mentone Market Community -

Sad day for our little town. -John Chambers

I am sad today, still in shock. The heart of Mentone has burned. Our lives have changed, that may sound a little dramatic to those who didn't visit all the time, but it's true. Everyone say a prayer for the Emorys. No time is a good time, but it feels worse at the holidays. I wish I knew what to do for them like all the times they have done for me. This was the last time me & Winford sat on our stools. Mentone loves you Emorys.....especially me. - Rachel Lusk

Such a special place, run by such special people! Thinking of and praying for ya'll. - Margaret Wilbourne

The Mentone Market is and has been a very special place to our family for a long time. - Kathy & Jay Skinner

(cont'd on page 16)

Fascinating Firefighters

By Ben Shurett



It was fascinating to observe. Each Monday is set aside for the regular meeting of the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District (NLMFPD). That's the fancy name for what most

of us call Mentone's Volunteer Fire Department. It was important for me to attend the most recent meeting to meet this impressive group.

As we waited for the meeting to begin at the fire station across from the Mentone Market, I was struck by how normal things seemed. The men were milling around, laughing with each other and board members, telling stories of their adventures of the past 20 days.

Everyone seemed incredibly relaxed, especially given what the almost 20 volunteers had been through, even that day. It seemed like any of the other scads of board meetings I've attended over the years.

NLMFPD Chief Joseph Lee knows it is different.

"We've gotten such incredible support, and it just shows what a good place this is to live," Lee understated as all nodded in agreement. "People provided food, water, and even offered places to sleep for those coming from far away to help."

Those far-away folks included Terry Ezell and other workers and volunteers from the Alabama Forestry Commission. Ezell heads up the North District of the AFC and has a lifetime of experience fighting the types of wildfires that have frightened so many of us.

On November 21, Ezell said, "Don't get overconfident about this fire. It's about 80 percent contained and still dangerous, especially with the incredibly dry conditions we have here."

He certainly surprised me when he said rain wasn't a simple solution to our situation.

Ezell explained that while a rain would help, the ground fire – Ezell called them "hot spots" – still smolders under mounds of dry leaves and dust, layers that might be as deep as several feet under the ground surface. These may ignite new fires days after novices might think the fire had been

extinguished.

We all saw the Alabama National Guard helicopter as it ferried loads of water to fight the fire but, as Ezell taught me, there's a new tactic now. It's a high-tech method of fire fighting.

The National Guard helicopter was replaced by one supplied by the Alabama State Troopers, and it is equipped with thermal-imaging cameras. That will help locate and provide GPS coordinates for the hot spots. The problem is that the coordinates help get firefighters very close to the hot spots but only within about 50 feet or so of actually finding them.

Fortunately, and through the graces of federal grants, talented grant writers and meaningful donations from people like you and me, the NLMFPD has a handheld thermal imaging camera. That handy and vital device should lead our brave and dedicated volunteers right to the hottest of spots.

Once found, Ezell said "we'll make mud pies out of 'em."

All state and local agencies have been fighting cutbacks in funding. The Alabama Forestry Commission is no different. There are now less than half the people protecting the state from fires than in years past. A truth we need to face is that we, in Alabama, don't pay enough property taxes to maintain the level of services we need to protect us. It's come home to roost now.

Still, the women and men who are part of the NLMFPD volunteers and board do a magnificent job, and they weren't alone in fighting this most-recent fire. The cooperation has been incredible, and the Mentone VFD was joined not only by the AFC but also by volunteers from fire departments from Valley Head, Hammondville, Henagar, Collinsville, Fyffe, Shiloh, Powell, Kilpatrick, Sylvania, Ider, Geraldine, Gaylesville, Aroney, Blaze, Dog Town, DeSoto State Park and Fort Payne.

Don't underestimate how dedicated the wives and families of the volunteer firemen are. They are there at every turn with incredible support and, let's face it, a measure of fear as they wonder if their loved ones will return home safely after answering a call. That's especially true for firefighters who volunteer. They work with less equipment and equipment that is often less than perfect.

Our community must find a way to thank, honor, and support our Volunteer Fire Department. We owe it to them to help provide

them with more and better equipment to fight this fire and all that will come. You'll find information about how you can be a part of that on page 10.

Since moving to Mentone, my Mary and I have told many people the same thing, and it's become not only a saying we enjoy sharing, but an expression of our feelings about our town. Mentone isn't for everyone, but it's certainly for us.

There is no better example of why that is true than how everyone banded together to protect each other during this fire. Isn't that wonderful?

Ben Shurett was publisher of 5 different newspapers in his 34-year career and president of the Alabama Press Association in 2004-5.

The Hat By Doug Kiker

I remember like it was yesterday,
Looking and longing for that hat, with no money to pay.
I told Mother and Granddaddy and even my dad.
Mother and Granddaddy looked sad,
Daddy just looked mad and walked away.
Sometimes when things were bad
And Pearl mule was eating hay,
I sat with her and secretly told of my day.
Without my knowledge, Mother came by and heard what I had
to say.
Later that night, without her knowledge,
I passed by her on the stairs.
She heard me not-she was deep in her prayers.
Not wanting to intrude-for I knew this would be very rude-
I tip-toed lightly around the chairs,
But these words I chanced to hear -
As my mother sat on the stairs so dear.
"Father, I won't keep you long but I need your advice
About something-a gift-not for me, that wouldn't be nice.
My son has his heart set on a certain hat,
And we don't have the money-not enough to feed a cat.
But-if you could-well, he really wants that hat."
WOW! I really felt odd-
I told Pearl mule- and Mother told God!
Days and days went by, but no hat came to my eye.
I was disappointed, but tried not to cry.
Then one day- there came a knock on the door.
Somehow, we didn't answer right away-
But when we did- there was just a box on the floor.
There was no name, so who would claim this box of brown-
And the deliverer could not be found.
Inside this box, there was another box,
On this box there was a note -
On this was written "Coat". It was not a good coat-
Through it we could see holes of air,
But the sleeves, oh, those sleeves,
They were made of beaver hair.
Suddenly, Mother cried.
"Will you look at that! I have found your hat."
So, that old coat was reborn,
In its new life it never looked forlorn.
Later, when I saw "the other" hat-
I knew mine was better by far-
Because it was sent by one who was born under a star.

Memories From the Market (cont'd from page 15)

Please pray for my friends in Mentone. I've stopped here countless times going to and from camp over the years. Kristen and Tom Emory are precious people, and Mentone Market is a place that "takes you back" to times when life was simple and not so fast paced. Praying they will be able to rebuild this wonderful landmark/business. – Beth Parker

I can remember, as a kid, riding my bike through the streets of Mentone with the rest of the kids in town. Stopping in to see Mr. and Mrs. Blackburn (great folks) and getting a coke and a snack. Buying bottle rockets

so we could shoot them at each other! It had a hand in a lot of our childhood memories. It was a place of fellowship for the community. Lots of memories for lots of folks at the Superette/Mentone Market. I hate to hear and see what happened for the community. And for Tom and Kristen! The structure itself can be rebuilt... it's the people that make the memories. – Jeremy Hope

UNDERSTANDING MEDIGAP BASICS

A Medigap policy is standardized supplemental health insurance that pays for part or all of the Original Medicare cost-sharing gaps that you owe. You may hear Medigaps referred to as Medicare supplements or supplemental health insurance. The costs that Medigaps cover include deductibles, coinsurance amounts, and copays. For example, a Medigap pays for your Part B coinsurance charges, meaning that it will pay for the 20% coinsurance you normally owe when you receive Medicare-covered physicians' services.

It is important to know that Medigap policies only work with Original Medicare Parts A and B. If you get your Medicare benefits from a private Medicare Plan, known as a Medicare Advantage Plan, you cannot purchase a Medigap. Medigaps only pay for Original Medicare cost-sharing gaps. In fact, if you already have a Medicare Advantage plan, it is illegal for anyone to sell you a Medigap policy unless you are switching back to Original Medicare.

There are ten different types of Medigap policies, referred to as "plans", which are named after letters of the alphabet. Though the coverage

offered within each plan is set by federal law, insurance companies do not have to offer all ten. Regardless of the company selling them, plans with the same letter must offer the same benefits. However, each company may charge a different monthly premium for the same-lettered plan. Here is a scenario to illustrate that point: Medigap Plan A offered by Insurance Company (1) provides exactly the same benefits as Medigap Plan A offered by Insurance Company (2), but Insurance Company (2) charges a higher premium. You can get the same coverage with Insurance Company (1) for a lower monthly premium. That's why you can benefit from shopping around. Contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program – called "SHIP" – to learn more about how to compare Medigap policy coverage. If you have any questions, please call Lynn, the SHIP Counselor at the DeKalb County Council on Aging, at 256-845-8590. Remember, open enrollment ends Dec. 7.

Affordable Care Act: What To Do Now?

By Jan Newhoff

Since the election of a president who has promised to repeal the Affordable Care Act, some citizens are in a quandary about what they should do about their insurance. Here are some things to consider:

1. At this time, the law is still in effect as written. Open Enrollment for 2017 is still underway through January 31, with no changes from before the election. Tax credits are the same; policies offered are the same; deadlines are the same.
2. If you need health insurance, it makes sense for you to take care of those needs now. You can address changes in the law that occur if and when they take effect.
3. There are over twenty million Americans who did not have health care before and now have it under the Affordable Care Act. It is hard to imagine that our leaders in Washington, D.C., will leave all of these people high and dry. They

have promised to replace the law with a new one, but that does not mean that assistance will not be available or that your policy won't be effective.

4. It is recommended that everyone who already has insurance with the Affordable Care Act revisit their account to make sure all information is current and to reconsider the policies offered to be sure you have the best one for you.

Updating your information can often make a positive difference in how much you pay. The three certified Navigators available in DeKalb and Jackson Counties are volunteers, receiving no compensation. They have no motivation to encourage enrollment in health care except that they believe that all Americans need and deserve health care. They will be available through January 31 on Thursdays (2-4) at the Fort Payne Library and on Tuesdays (9-11) at the Scottsboro Library. Information is available at 256-254-0668. You can also call the government at 1-800-318-2596, or go to healthcare.gov.

SAGE ADVICE:

By Susan Seago



Mulch is Good

I love mulch! What is mulch? It is protection and weed prevention for landscaping. It also helps to retain moisture in the ground for the plants. Plant roots are protected from extreme temperature in winter and summer. Who wants to water more than necessary? This has been a severe drought year, so any help for the landscaping is a very good thing. Maybe you spend some up front for the mulch, but you save a lot of time, money, and worry about your landscape.

If you already have mulch on your beds, now would be a good time to check for sufficient coverage before winter. After the first frost (which may have occurred between the writing of this article and the printing of this paper), apply a new or fresh layer of mulch. A three to four inch layer of mulch should be applied around trees and shrubs as well as in all flower beds. Keep mulch six inches from the trunks of trees and about 2 inches from shrubs to prevent suffocation of the roots. Spread mulch to the drip line of trees or at least in a four to five foot diameter from the tree. The roots go out many feet from the trunk and that is what you are trying to protect.

Avoid "volcano" mulching around trees- piling up around the trunk. A level layer will suffice. Too much of the mulch around the trunk will cause decay from the moisture held by the mulch and invite pests to the bark. The trunk is the lifeline of the tree to carry food and water to all the branches and must be protected as such.

Natural mulch, such as leaves, can be applied three to six inches deep. It feeds the soil as well as protects the roots and retains moisture. The leaves will break down through the winter and more mulch will be needed come spring. It is not costly in money, but in time and work. Pine straw can be applied as another mulch. Again, it needs to be at least three inches deep after settling. It will break down within six months and need additional amounts applied. It feeds the ground, but it adds acidity to the soil, so those plants that need a higher pH will not grow as well.

My favorite mulch is ground or shredded hardwood. Experience has shown that this type of mulch will last much longer before needing a new application. It is more costly than pine straw, but, as it lasts so much longer, it is economical in the long run.

While the weather is still somewhat comfortable for working outdoors, mulch your landscape. It will be very pretty and save you time, money, and effort through the entire year.

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



TWO CABINS minutes from DeSoto State Park and Mentone. Cabin 1 has approx 640 sq ft. Cabin 2 has approx 432 sq ft. Both cabins have 1 BR/1BA and sold furnished with all appliances. \$114,900. MLS #1036084.



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.



CUSTOM CABIN w/vaulted great room and kitchen, oak flooring, and wood burning fireplace in this 2BR/2 1/2BA home. Sleeping porch w/FP. Secluded w/ gated entrance near downtown Mentone. \$248,000. MLS #1051679.



TWO Residences on the Brow with 45 +/- acres! Rock walls, walkways and patios. Call for more details. \$495,000. MLS #815966



ENJOY LIFE UNINTERRUPTED in this custom-built log get-a-way on 4 secluded acres. Loft BR and 1 BA with wood floors and a front rocking chair porch. Hurry before someone buys the cabin of your dreams for only \$110,000. MLS #564870



ENJOY THE BROW VIEW from porch of this Two-story home with vaulted and open living has 3BR/2BA, furnished and gas log fireplace. \$279,900. MLS#1048786



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.



Vintage bungalow, completely remodeled, zoned Commercial/Residential w/250' on Hwy 117. Bright & sturdy 1940's-era, 3BR/1BA gem. Wood walls; period trim details. Updated with new electrical, plumbing, floors & cabinets. \$125,000. MLS #1046940.



LIKE-NEW CABIN, 3BR/2.5BA on 11 +/- acres. Living area w/wall of windows and wb fireplace. Open kitchen & dining area. Screened porch & a deck accessible from 3 rooms. Workshop/Storage room below. \$283,500. MLS #1056091.



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



3.3 ACRES of historic property in the heart of Mentone. Starting at \$325,000. Call for details. MLS #1045206.



3BR/3BA HOME on 2.8 acres w/brow view walking distance to town. 2 master suites, each w/access to porches & views, lge screened porch, open deck, irrigation system, full-house generator. MLS #1037784. \$350,000.



UNBELIEVABLE brow home on 1.95 acres. 4BR/3BA, open living/kitchen area, formal DR., numerous decks and screened porch. Many gorgeous rock formations, a detached 2-car garage/workshop and more. \$329,900. MLS#1048899.



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



UNIQUE CABIN with a VIEW in Valley View Forest. 3BR/3BA, Den and Formal living area with lots of rustic features. Open kitchen and Den. Living area w/rock FP and built-ins. \$279,900. MLS #1054116.



THE HISTORIC CRAGSMERE MANOR, on 5+ acres serves as rental lodging and/or event hosting. Perfect setting for large or small groups, 6BR/4BA, Large kitchen, dining, and living area, covered pavilion. \$775,000. MLS#1053226.



CHARMING RETREAT! 2 BR/2BA vintage log cabin in Mentone. Master suite has private screened porch leading to native rock water fountain. Included are 2 guest cabins connected by decks & walkways. \$197,000. MLS #1046823.



Owl's Roost! Adorable cabin on wooded lot, furnished with brass bed and country antiques. \$116,000 MLS #690326



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.



BROW PROPERTY! 2BR/1BA home on 2.3 +/- acres. Lots of wood features inside the house, enclosed porch and more. \$209,000. MLS #1015755.



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. \$239,999. MLS #902940.



In the heart of Mentone, this updated 3BR/2BA home features hardwood floors, custom cabinets, FP & storage space. New carpeting upstairs. Barn w/storage & workshop. \$219,900. MLS #1051222.



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..\$459,900. MLS #1019610



GATED COMMUNITY! 3BR/2BA in cul-de-sac of Hidden Lake Sub. Access to 14-acre lake. Living w/hardwood floors & FP, open kitchen & breakfast, formal DR, screened front porch, back deck, 2-car garage. Property adjoins Little River Canyon Preserve. \$215,000. MLS #1025640.



RUSTIC CABIN with gas fireplace, kitchen, and sleeping nook, private porch downstairs. Lge BR/BA and sitting area upstairs. Laurel Creek Lakes with access to lakes & walking trails. \$139,900. MLS#1041437



DOWNTOWN MENTONE. Enjoy sunset from this brow side cabin. Open design living/dining w/wall of windows, vaulted ceilings, wide plank floors & gas FP. Kitchen has stainless, granite & breakfast bar. Main level Master BR/BA. 2BR, bath & loft upstairs. \$255,000. MLS #1055545.



Golden Opportunity! Let the tenants pay your mortgage. 5 apartments, large retail space and storage building located on Hwy 117 just minutes from downtown Mentone. Sitting on 1.5 acres, totally fenced. Appointment only! \$187,500. MLS #1013991.



WHIPPOORWILL FARM. 2BR/2BA rock/log home w/sunroom, FP, updated kitchen. Historic barn, 2-stall stable w/1BR/1BA apt. Screened sleeping cabin, dbl garage, fenced pastures, trails, rock walls/patio, gazebo, outdoor shower, old spring house & fire pit. \$995,000. MLS#1042624



EXECUTIVE HOME w/300 +/- of brow frontage. Approx. 7,000 sq. ft. 4BR/3.5BA, open kitchen, living and dining room, bonus room, back up generator, dual heating, 2-car garage, guest house, shop/barn w/apt., tractor shed, shop vacuum system, 18 acres, gated. \$549,000. MLS#1044145.



One of the most photographed landmarks in Alabama....The iconic "Red Boathouse" sits on Little River less than 500' from Desoto Falls. One-acre w/186' on the navigable part of the river. Mid-century all-wood cabin w/living & dining area, 3BR/2BA, eat-in kitchen, rock FP, & screened porches. \$389,000. MLS #1054645.



2 BR/2 BA with full appliance package, storage building, screened front porch, back deck. TOTALLY remodeled with an addition within the last 5 years to include windows, doors and wiring. FURNISHED! \$149,900. MLS #1056385

LOTS AND LAND

#392849 - 4.4 acre tract on brow. \$190,000
 #403694 - 106' of prime brow view. \$109,500.
 #656265 - 7+ WOODED ACRES in Mtn. River Estates. \$39,000.
 #665968 - 1 ACRE LOT in Hidden Lake Sub. \$40,000.
 #762331 - 1.02 ACRE lot in Hidden Lake Sub. \$40,000.
 #845943 - 200' of water frontage \$42,000.
 #945265 - 1 ACRE LOT in Hidden Lake Sub. \$49,000.
 #1011734 - .69 ACRE wooded lot on Brush Creek. \$27,900.
 #1014183 - 1.5 ACRES. Brow Lot on CR 89. \$124,900.
 #1021165 - 2 ACRE LOT offering lake and brow footage. \$59,900.
 #1027934 - Lot on River Lane. \$29,900.
 #1032720 - 2.8 acres with travel trailer, water, septic, dock. \$82,500.

#1034997 - Approx. 6 ACRES on middle fork of Little River. \$48,900
 #1038089 - 6.4 acres on Co. Rd. 89, Lot 8, in Mentone. \$155,000
 #1039769 - 6.32 +/- waterfront building lot in Mountain River Estates! \$49,950
 #1045110 - 7.9 acres on brow. \$169,000.
 #1046743 - .81 acres, Hunter's Ridge, Mentone. \$19,900.
 #1053367 - 9.93 acres in Mentone. \$45,000.
 #1056358 - 3+ acres on Brow Property. \$369,000.
 #1057191 - 2 acres, Co. Rd. 922. \$15,000.
 #1057228 - 5 acres overlooking Little River Canyon
 #1057429 - 4 acres in Valley View Forest. \$79,900.

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Rhododendron Garden Club

By Mellanie Tuttle

The Rhododendron Garden Club met on Tuesday, November 8, at the MERF House. Hostess Carol Argo welcomed fall with creatively displayed pumpkins on a wooden crate and more eats than required. The mulled cider was especially tasty and much appreciated since a decided chill was in the air.



President, Martha Wood, called the meeting to order. The pledge to the flag was followed by the roll call. This month, members were to bring a piece of fall foliage. Oak, dogwood, sumac, redbud, hydrangea and Bradford pear leaves provided shades of red/ purple, and the yellow/ oranges were seen in the hickory and maple leaves. We were amazed by the intensity and variety of colors since the weather had been so hot and dry. We welcomed visitor Jo Anne

Glover and new member Karen Kruse. For the meditation, Martha read a poem, Sewing Seeds of Service by Trece Chancellor and passed out a timely handout about forcing bulbs to bloom indoors. Committee reports, old and new business followed.



Club member Madelon Hoagland asked members to bring a low bowl to use for the hands-on part of her program "How to Force Bulbs Indoors." She provided rocks and Paperwhite Narcissus bulbs that were ready for forcing. They do not require chilling and only need water as the medium for growing. (Amaryllis and Freesia also require no chilling but are usually planted in soil.) Pots should be wide and have at least 2 inches below the bulb for root growth. Potted bulbs look best when crowded- so snuggle those bulbs together (close but not touching). We loaded the containers with pebbles, placed the bulbs on top, and added a few more pebbles to cover where the roots would emerge. The final instruction was to put enough water in the container to cover the bottom quarter or third of the bulb. Now to wait patiently for the blooms to appear!

Other bulbs that may be forced are Crocus, Daffodil, Hyacinth, Iris, Lily of the Valley, Snowdrop and Tulip. The bulbs require a "chilling period" which tricks them into blooming out of season. The ideal chilling temperature is 40 degrees, and the chill time varies with bulbs. Most bulbs need 12-16 weeks of cold before the embryonic

flower starts to develop. (If chilling in the refrigerator, be sure NOT to put the bulbs near fruit as the released ethylene gas reduces bloom. Store the bulbs in a ventilated mesh bag.) Use a good quality potting soil, and make sure the container has excellent drainage. Tops of bulbs are just covered in soil, and the soil should be kept moderately moist in a cool location. When the green sprouts appear, move to a bright window and, soon, a little springtime in the winter!

After the program, members put together six fall containers to decorate the tables for the Senior luncheon on the following day at the MERF House. Orange, yellow and white containers were filled with Mums, Boxwood and Pine boughs. The hope is to make decorative units each month to improve our design abilities and provide the seniors with lovely arrangements for each table. We'll see how that goes!

The December meeting is a luncheon held in the home of Mary Shurett. Officers will be installed and programs and plans decided for the upcoming year. The club always meets on the second Tuesday of the month. Some of us are Master Gardeners, some Master Talkers, and others are Master Killers of plants, so visitors or possible members should be able to find a comfortable niche and are always welcome.

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



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CEDAR CABIN in the woods, open floor plan with great room, eat-in kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 2 tiled baths, pine floors, tile counter and island in kitchen, loft, tung and groove walls, covered deck with hot tub. Fireplace. Stainless appliances. Nice quiet setting. Appt Only. \$219,000 (22973)



LEVEL WOODED LOTS in Crestline Park Subdivision in Mentone. Lot 24. 1.27 acres. Great area to build that getaway cabin in the woods. \$25,000 (23184).



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



TREETOPS is a wonderful rustic log cabin nestled amongst giant boulders and hardwood trees. A large stone fireplace is the centerpiece of this cozy cabin. The timber walls and antiques add more charm to this mountain get away. The large bedroom has a vaulted ceiling and expansive views of the tree tops. A full width screen porch and multilevel decks provide plenty of room for outdoor entertaining. Fully renovated bath with stack w/d. This charming cabin comes fully furnished and includes all appliances. It's ready for your enjoyment! \$112,000.



8.75 ACRES with 200 ft on West Fork Little River. Hardwoods, hollies, and easy access to river. Level to rolling terrain. \$89,000 (23183).



SOLD
THE SHADOWS, A UNIQUE LOG CABIN. Sunroom, 2 bdrm, 1.5 baths. 2 fireplaces. Living Dining combo, sitting room. Native Landscaped yard. Covered porch. \$169,000. (23143)



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! \$115,000 (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. \$40,000 (23152)



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. \$140k (22865)



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



THE WHITE COTTAGE. Adorable 2 bdrm 1.5 bath. Completely Remodeled. Walk to the shops and restaurants in Mentone. Living room, updated kitchen, and cute breakfast nook. Established rental property and a great investment. \$128,500 (23209)



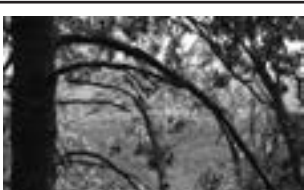
NESTLED AMONG LARGE ROCK FORMATIONS is a quaint 2 bdr, 2bth cottage with open living/dining room with gas fp. Sunroom/office off master suite. Screened front porch multi level decks, outdoor shower, garage workshop. Quiet and Serene this setting makes for a great getaway or home. \$148,900 (23164)



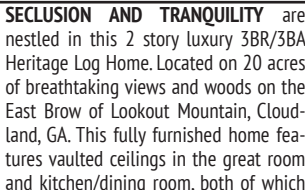
HISTORIC DINKY LINE Railway runs through the property. 3.8 acres on the East Fork Little river. 175 ft on water with a deep swimming hole, and rapids. Lightly restricted. County water and power available. Located on Lookout Mtn Mentone area. \$46,000



LAKE WINDMILL ESTATE.. 103 ft. on 13 acre lake on the brow. Wooded, sloped. Build your home here restricted. \$45,000.



Hidden Brow Tract. 5.1 acres of level, wooded East brow views of Shinbone Valley. Located in Cloudland, GA. \$127,500 (23213)



SECLUSION AND TRANQUILITY are nestled in this 2 story luxury 3BR/3BA Heritage Log Home. Located on 20 acres of breathtaking views and woods on the East Brow of Lookout Mountain, Cloudland, GA. This fully furnished home features vaulted ceilings in the great room and kitchen/dining room, both of which have handcrafted rock fireplaces. Fully equipped kitchen with granite and concrete countertops, stainless steel appliances, and eat-in bar. Amenities include 4 CHA units, laundry room, and separate potting shed/workshop. The detached 2-car garage has a full upstairs 1BR/1BA and extra storage room. An ideal mountain escape! Craftsmanship and attention to detail makes this property one of a kind. Appointment only. \$825,000. (23208)



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 (23155)

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)

3 County Road 66. (23186)

Oakwood Subdivision - 6.1 acres. Wooded, level, lightly restricted. \$39,500

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)

VALLEY VIEW FOREST East Brow view 6.7acres \$31,915

Holiday Healing Arts Circle

By Lisa Schad, LMT

Circles can be complete to themselves, like an island. Even an island is made of many connected parts (land, trees, animals) that must interact with the rest of the world for survival (sun, rain, fire). Many of us, particularly at this holiday time of year, can feel isolated and alone and forget that we are an integral link in the circle of life—in this small mountain community as well as in this vast Universe.

The drought and fires of the past month have reminded us of our connection to our town, our neighbors, and the local community. At the same time, the recent election is changing our political landscape. Meanwhile, every morning the sun shines, and the leaves change, and my dog needs to go for a morning walk to gather the neighborhood news. Whether these changes seem large or small to each of us, they do connect us by the power of their occurrence.

Our community has so many healing artists of such a variety of modalities. For our December meeting, we will be hosting a Holiday Healing Arts Circle at Kamama on Friday, December 9th, from 5 to 8 pm CST. Tohi is sponsoring the event in celebration of their first year of business in Mentone and will be having an open house with mini massage sessions and introduction of their two new massage therapists. Locally prepared light snacks will be served, and some local healing arts vendors will provide mini presentations and opportunities to purchase their products. Local music will be side by side with poetry, prayers, and meditation during our open mic time.

I am so excited to be celebrating a year of my business in the heart of Mentone, at Kamama!

Thank you Ray and Sandra Padgett for your support this time last year when I asked if I could rent the room in the back of the gallery to offer chair massages for shoppers through the holiday season. Although I was entering my 6th winter in Mentone, I hadn't really rebooted my massage



practice full time after having taken a brief hiatus. A one month holiday stint turned into a rental agreement and the installation of a private room for the table massage. And now, a calendar cycle later, my "island" is growing with an additional relaxation station and two more therapists--Orion and Sonya.

Orion Nicely, LMT, has completed his Massage Therapy Certification as part of his Associates Degree in Applied Sciences from Northeast

Alabama Community College in Rainsville, AL. Since obtaining his Alabama Massage License in mid-October, he has been providing therapeutic massage sessions in and out of the office to fantastic reviews. We will enjoy and benefit from his services until Spring 2017, when he returns to his studies to become a physical

therapist. I am honored to have him as part of the Tohi team and to support his professional and personal goals. From Orion: "I have lived in Mentone all my life and... would ask for love and support in my new profession. I can never give back everything this town and its people have given me. I hope that many of you can support... my practice so I can continue to further educate myself in order to become a better healer."

Sonya Henderson, LMT, just graduated from the Therapeutic Massage Program at Gadsden State Community College. She was Licensed by the State of Alabama in mid-November and immediately joined me here at Tohi. She brings her Mom skills (mother of 3), sales skills (Akins Furniture), and hostess skills (Wildflower Cafe) 'to the table'.

Sonya believes "in a holistic approach to health and whole body wellness, with therapeutic massage being a big contributor to our health. I look forward to being a part of the Tohi team and serving the community with healing touch."

These two new massage therapists are the best birthday present I could imagine for Tohi's first birthday! From our tables to yours, throughout these holidays: breathe, relax and may you go with the flow. And if not...please make an appointment. :) Gift certificates make great presents.

We are all looking forward to seeing visitors and the variety of healing artists that will be joining us for our birthday celebration and healing arts circle. Please contact me at 256-635-8855 if you are interested in presenting at the program or in donating door prizes. All healing arts are encouraged; from song and dance to a group Reiki or water blessing....please come and express your creative, healing self.



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Welcome To Mentone



Stop in and see us at our log cabin office in the heart of Mentone. Best coffee around!

.....
LOTS and LAND

19 ACRES beautiful woodland with Laurel Creek running through it. Level to gently sloping. Perfect for someone seeking a true getaway. Wild turkey, deer, bobcat, foxes...just about any kind of mountain wildlife one could imagine has been spotted on this property by the owner. Mountain laurel, rhododendron, cucumber magnolia, wild azalea. Some restrictions. \$60,000

ACREAGE WITH A SMALL LAKE HIDDEN IN THE WOODS. Lightly-restricted 4.33 wooded acres on Full Moon Lake, Laurel Creek Lakes SD, that also features walking trails and 3 lakes. Two lots being sold as one. 45,000. (1048869)

2.2 UNRESTRICTED, WOODED ACRES Mentone. Corner property; excellent areas to walk, bicycle or keep a few chickens. Public water & power at the road. Great building site for one or a couple of cabins. \$18,000 (1011111)

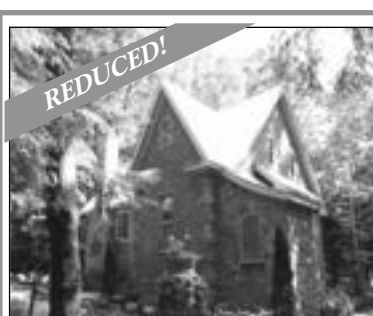
WOW! Build your dream home with a view! 3-acre building lot overlooking beautiful Weiss Lake. Already cleared & ready to build upon with mature trees left for shade, utilities at the road. \$30,000 (1051832)

A PROPERTY RARE. Yes, you can buy wooded acreage. Yes, you can have a brow-side view. Yes, you can have abundant wildlife. BUT, where else will you find 44 acres of hardwood mountainside with forever views, several level building sites AND a registered cave? Tally Cave. Don't let it get away. Priced at \$119,000 (785767)

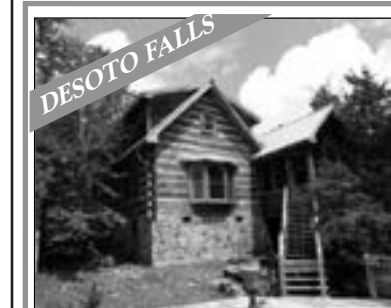
4.43 WOODED ACRES, unrestricted. Septic tank to accommodate a 3BR/2BA home, gravel drive, public water & power already in place! Great place for RV, ready to build. You'll not find a better price in Mentone. Now only \$33,900. (311288)

VIEWS OF SUNRISES, SUNSETS, sparkling water below from awesome vantage points! Approx 106.5 acres & 1400' frontage on Ft Payne Reservoir. Paved road frontage on Hwy 137 & Oakwood Ave. Joins lots along Portobello Rd, Feathersound and the Highlands! This property has it all! Beautiful woodlands, beautiful views and beautiful potential. Roads already cut in, public water on property. An estate in the making. \$550,000 (1045845)

2 WOODED ACRES with a tiny little rustic "cabin" (no plumbing!) Hardwoods, picturesque boulders, wild turkey, deer...most any kind of wildlife found in these hills. A quiet place to find yourself returning at the end of the day, or as a weekend getaway. \$39,700. (1034503)

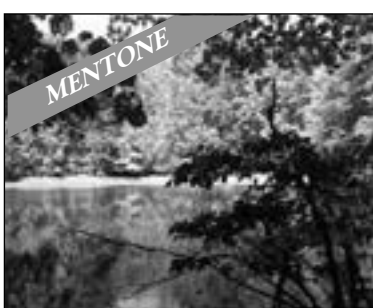


TALL MEADOW RUE. A new cottage with an "old world" look and feel. Details that are seldom seen: English chimney pots; transom doors; tall windows; stained glass; craftsmanship in stone & brick-work; arched entry & front door; curved lines; storm room; custom cabinetry & quartz counters; antique mantel & brick fpce w/bookshelves both sides. Main-level bath w/clawfoot tub. Extensive, professionally-landscaped gardens w/fishpond, tea house, lighting and tiny chapel. A place words fail to adequately describe; and to see it one finds endless wonders to take in. Exquisitely furnished, with most items to remain with cottage. Discover it for yourself. You'll be enchanted. Intriguing price, \$321,500 (1045090)



HOW DOES ONE PUT A PRICE ON SOMETHING SO SPECIAL?

To be right there at DeSoto Falls. To hear it, to see it, to be able to experience it from your private back deck. It's an amazing thing. To be able to fish most any time or put in a kayak most any time from the public launch at DeSoto Falls Lake. Nothing compares. Then there's the log cabin home with its heart pine floors; 3BR/3BA; library; wood-burning mtn stone fireplace; large kitchen; hand-made doors... the list goes on. Rock formations, woods and a fence separate the property from State Park-owned land. So much beauty. So seldom does something like this come on the market. \$725,000 (1052152)

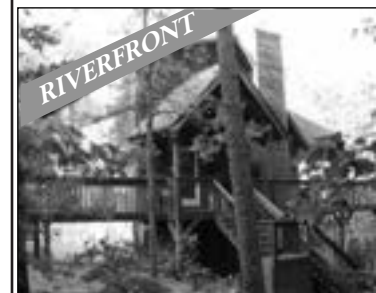


FANTASTIC NEW PRICE! 9.5 ACRES WITH A BEAUTIFUL POND; hardwoods. Adjacent to DeSoto State Park. Build a dream cabin overlooking a pond. The pond is the park's most beautiful feature. Minutes from the park. Perfect for more than one cabin? Maybe a compound for multiple tiny cabins? This location would be ideal for rentals! Buy it, dream it, build it! Now offered at only \$79,400. (1040913)

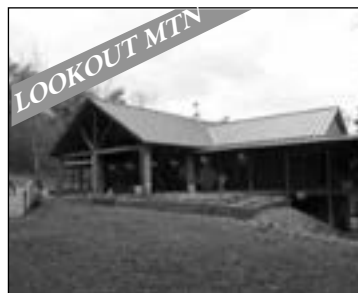
SOLD



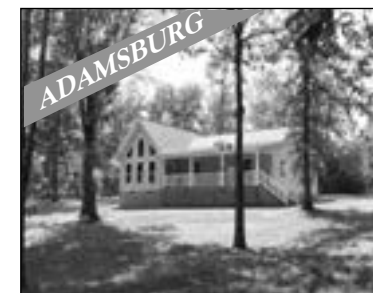
EXPANSIVE VIEWS & PLENTY OF ROOM INSIDE & OUT make this Mentone brow-front home a fantastic possibility for your personal family getaway, residence or rental. 4BR/2.5BA; beautiful hickory floors in KI/DI/LR; newer stainless appliances; 2-car attached garage (convert it into a huge den w/brow view?); Needs a bit of updating, but with approx 170' brow frontage, this place could be the best buy on the mountain! \$239,000 (1038210).



SPACIOUS, IMMACULATE & BEAUTIFUL CABIN on 3.81 acres w/frontage on Middle Fork, Little River. 2640 sq ft; woodburning Fpce; pine floors; high-end windows & doors; pro-quality gas range w/elec convection oven; on-demand hot water; 3BR/3BA+loft 4thBR. Main-level Master suite. Move-in ready! Screened porch, covered and open decks on two sides. 3 levels, each with private bath/bedrooms. \$249,900 (1019875)



OWN YOUR OWN LITTLE CANYON with Johnnie's Creek cascading through the forest below. 36 acres & a fabulous cypress-sided home. Approx 3600 sq ft of deliciously-designed living inside, tremendous tree-top decks & porches outside! Brazilian floors, 2 fireplaces, fab light fixtures throughout. Tons of cabinetry, commercial-grade gas range, granite countertops. Simple luxury in a mountain retreat or residence. \$599,000. (1010510)



WELL-MAINTAINED LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN HOME on two acres inside Ft Payne City Limits. Vaulted living room w/stone gas log fpce. HW floors in living, kitchen, dining & breakfast room. In-law suite w/2 bedrooms, full bath, kitchen, laundry, & large Master suite with in-the-wall gas log fireplace. Nice front porch. Back deck. Det 14'x12' storage bldg/shop. One-owner, built in 2011. \$157,500 (1053364)

SOLD



THREE ACRES, 2 BARNs, CREEK FRONTAGE on Anna Branch & 2BR/1BA house. Mostly pasture, some woods; 2 barns. House has a large, screened-in porch; sun room; country kitchen; utility room; laminate flooring. Charming wood fencing at entry, stone sidewalk and stone foundation. Well water & city water. Unrestricted land. It isn't perfect, needs some spiffing up, but there is a lot of potential here. Priced right, too. \$75,000 (1053845)

Classified Ads

WALL BEDS (Murphy Bed style) - We have all size Wall Beds. Great for spare room and small areas. Come see our showroom in Collinsville, AL on Hwy 68 at the Alabama Mattress Outlet. Store 9-5 Mon. – Sat. Call 256-523-3622 or Andy Crow 256-490-4025.

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COX TILE - 706-766-2758 - Sunrooms, marble, baths, shower pan repair. James Pleas Cox, jpcoxtile1@gmail.com.



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Moon Lake School
December PTO Meeting
Christmas Program

Dec 15th - 6 pm
Moon Lake Gym

Buy Chances on
Gift Card Give Away

Moon Lake Basketball

Saturdays in December
Games @ 10am & 11am
December 3, 10, 17

ATTENTION GROUNDHOG READERS!

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FORT PAYNE Alabama Fan Club Big Mill & Vintage 1889 Brown’s Cleaners Bruce’s Foodland Chow King Days Inn DeKalb Library DeKalb Tourism First Federal Ft. Payne Chamber of Commerce Hampton Inn Holiday Inn Huddle House Priceless IGA Quality Inn Southern Gold & Silver Southern Properties The Spot Coffee Shop The Strand The Wishing Well Waffle House Waffle King	VALLEY HEAD I-59 Flea Market Alabama Organics Burt Funeral Home Citizens Bank Dave’s Antiques Hammondville Quick Stop Headquarters Beauty Salon Miracle Pottery Tigers Inn Valley Head Drug Valley Head Food Mart Valley Head Town Hall Victory Fuel Water Board MENTONE Body Maintenance Clip Joint Community Library GracefulGiraffe Gourdie Shop Hair @ The Village Kamama’s Little River Hardware Lookout Mountain Realty	Lookout Mountain Trading Post Mentone Inn Mentone Realty Moon Lake Trading Company Mountain Properties Southern Style Log Furniture Town Hall Wildflower Cafe GEORGIA Auto Parts (Menlo) Menlo Healthmart Menlo Lucky’s Mountain Top Country Store Restaurant (Menlo) State Line Store OTHER Alabama Welcome Center DeSoto St. Park Lodge DeSoto State Park Store Fisher X-Roads Store Little River Canyon Center Ralph’s Grocery
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The recent Creative Spirit Market hosted by the Little River Arts Council & DeSoto State Park drew more than 350 visitors on its first day. This event was a new twist on the traditional art fair. It was designed as an open-air showcase, with artist demonstrations, locally & regionally created fine & folk art, premium hand-crafted goods, live acoustic music, as well as interactive kid's art area. Shoppers watched more than 30 artists in their creative process, listened to music, plus purchased goods from fine and folk artists such as painters, potters, quilters, weavers, basket makers, fabric spinners, culinary artists and other craftsmen.



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