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THE GROUNDHOG

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Volume 36, No. 1

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

February 2017

Moon Lake School--Full STEAM Ahead

By Anna Mae Horn

Moon Lake School is right on track and making great progress! Results are in on last year's academic year and the 21st Century After School Program is engaging young minds through STEAM activities.

Recently, the DeKalb County School Principals met with new Superintendent Jason Barnett. The school's received their report cards from the state and the results were discussed. Moon Lake Principal Mary Lance proudly displays the report card on a bulletin board near the office, with several other items of interest to parents. Moon Lake's overall grade is 94. Mrs. Lance attributes the good results to the dedication and effort of the staff. Last year there were a lot of staff development classes as well as new ideas used to address the areas where students needed the most help. Mrs. Lance says "We will do this each year so that we keep working on what the kids need. That's why we are here- to help the kids."

Moon Lake scored higher than both the county and state averages for the 2015-2016 school year.

Student Achievement reflects the percentage of students who are proficient (know the material they are required to know for their grade level) in the subject area. 74% of Moon Lake students tested proficient in reading skills, compared with 46% in DeKalb County Schools and 56% statewide. For math skills, Moon Lake received 90%, the county 52%, and the state 63%. The Learning Gains category describes the growth of individual students in reading and math from one year to the next. Moon Lake scored 100% in both reading and math- the only school in the county to achieve this. This means that EVERY child tested showed improvement from last year in both areas! This is encouraging. Kids are learning at school, as they should be.

Mrs. Lance has a motto, "Teach every child. Meet them where they are and bring them to where they need to be." She believes in helping each child in the way that will best help them succeed. Her staff supports this idea as well.

(cont'd on page 12)



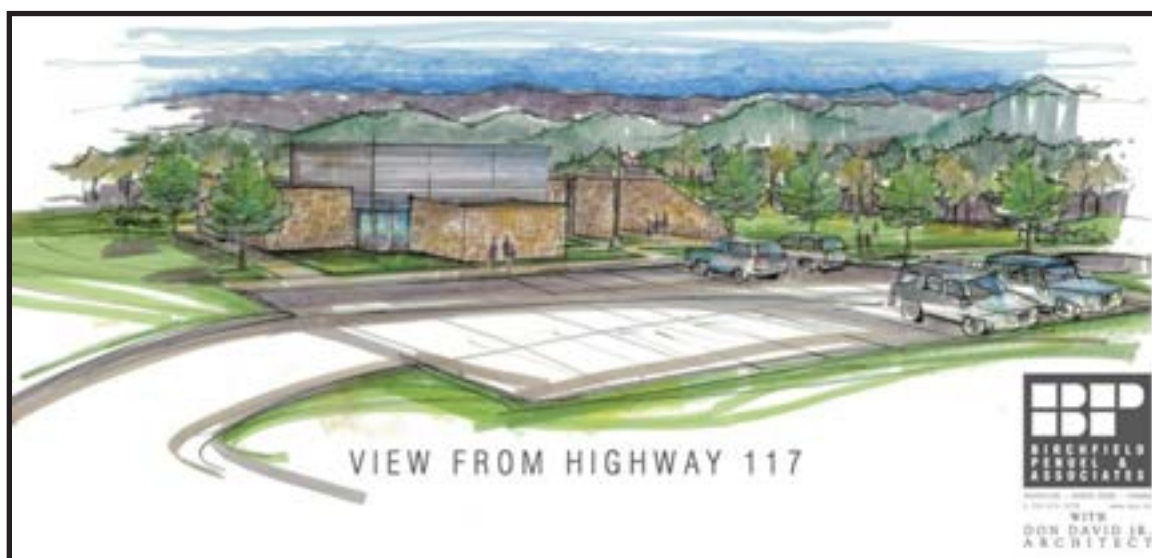
MENTONE ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTER . . . ENVISION A PLACE

By Ray Padgett

For the last thirty-five to forty years, Mentone citizens and friends have discussed and dreamed about a place to house local historical artifacts, a place to educate and pass on their cultural heritage of art and music, and a place to show off local and visiting talent.

After all this time, these dreams and visions resulted in an action plan about three years ago. A broad-based community effort of volunteers formed an organization, developed a business plan, donated a building site, and created conceptual facility plans for a center that would bring these dreams to fruition - The Mentone Arts and Cultural Center.

Because of the critical need for an emergency safe room for Mentone residents, the plan incorporated a "Community Safe Room" into the



center design. This part of the facility will double as an area museum.

While the primary purpose of the center is to educate and preserve area culture, the facility will also house a full commercial kitchen needed to host art and music related conferences, conventions, and special events.

A stage and multipurpose room with a capacity of 200 people is the key central feature.

Classrooms surround the main room and all rooms may be used independently.

After fire destroyed the Mentone Springs Hotel in 2014, Mentone needed another iconic building to represent the community. Plans are that the Mentone Arts and Cultural Center will build on the dreams of past visionaries. It has a foundation of public support and ownership that reflects Mentone's historical creative spirit, tolerance, and

community values and carries them forward for future generations.

The Center's primary use is for area residents and visitors. Art and music education and museum features will be particularly helpful to young children, economically disadvantaged,

(cont'd on page 4)

THE GROUNDHOG

P. O. Box 387
Mentone, AL 35984

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**Have a Letter to the Editor
or a story idea?
Send it to
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MENTONE MATTERS

By Mayor Rob Hammond



Senator Steve Livingston and Representative Nathaniel Ledbetter set up a meeting with ALDOT North Region Engineer Curtis Vincent and representatives from Wiregrass Construction concerning the paving of AL 117 in front of Town Hall in Mentone on Election Day. Valley Head Mayor Lamar Bray and I also attended the meeting. All expressed sincere regret for the inconvenience to voters. In planning work for the day, the fact that the polling place was Town Hall was overlooked. Once ALDOT and Wiregrass were notified of the problem it was difficult to stop the paving

because of the asphalt that was already "in the pipeline."

In my lifetime the United States has always been a great, though not always perfect, country. It still is. Making the United States better will remain a struggle that never ends--one of the prices of living in a democracy and a free society. The foundation of a great country begins at the local level.

During the November wildfires, the fire fighters, law enforcement, DeKalb EMA, DeSoto Rescue Squad, and citizens did an outstanding job in working together to contain the blazes. We had tremendous help from all over DeKalb County and were supported by state EMA officials and the Alabama Forestry Commission. Our state senator, Steve Livingston, and state representative, Nathaniel Ledbetter, were in contact with the governor's office to help us get all the resources we needed. The effort and teamwork displayed on the local level can be an example on how to get things done at the national level. JFK said in his inaugural address, "In your hands, my fellow citizens, more than mine, will rest the final success or failure of our course." We better roll up our sleeves.

From The Editor

Two months--that is how long it's been since the droughts and the wildfires. Now, we are amidst a flash flood. My driveway has been largely consumed by a river of water that flowed for several hours.

Sixty or so days ago, we were watering trees, not shrubs or newly set flowers, but trees that had been in the ground for over 6 months, because we were afraid of loosing them due to lack of water.

Life changes; it changes fast; it changes with little or no notice. We must adapt; we must change fast; we must be flexible and diverse.

As I drive on the wet highway with the liquid whishing through my tires as they roll over the pavement and the wipers sway back and forth, to and fro, and we pass the swelled river beds, I recall the low water ponds and waterfalls that were not flowing and only barely visible a short time ago. In the span of a life or of a nation, one-sixth of a year is relatively brief. During this time, the Earth seems to have renewed herself in our little area.

Only a short time ago, the hotness and dryness made Her seem barren and desolate and harsh. Now, She weeps. Her tears which now ravage the mountainsides and roadways will soon bring life to the plants of spring.

Even Mother Nature has drastic mood swings. From the heat that seemed to spark fires from mere wizardry to the drenching of the downpours that wash away the very residue of those fires. When the spring comes anew there will be blossoms and blooms and even new life springing forth from the wildlife that have

survived all the devastation.

As we start into this new year, let's face it with the hope of renewal, strength from our trials, perseverance through it all, and a dedication to the best future possible.



**Join MAPA Today!
Help us preserve
Mentone's history
and impact its future.**

Individuals - \$20 a year
Couples - \$30 a year

MAPA
P. O. Box 50
Mentone, AL 35984



By Anna Mae Horn

MAPA is looking forward to the Rhododendron festival, and we are sure you are too! As soon as one festival is over, people start asking about the next one. Plans are being discussed for the Miss Rhododendron Pageant and all the wonderful vendors that will be showing off their handmade items and their delicious food. Musical talents are being lined up as you read this.

Yes, it's a few months away, but these terrific festivals take a lot of planning and a lot of effort from wonderful volunteers. Meetings have started, but it isn't too late to join in. The camaraderie at the meeting is always lively. Does this sound like fun? Be at Kamama at 1 pm on Thursdays!

We are excited to welcome a few new volunteers this year. One is David Killian, who will be coordinating the Boy Scouts assistance. Their help is always appreciated, and it is a great way to represent our community to visitors who come to the festival. Boy Scouts make a great first impression as they kindly assist visitors with their parking. They can be seen doing a lot of other clean up and service duties as well.

We are still in need of help with a few certain areas. We need someone to help with the signs that will direct visitors to the festival and advertise the event for us. If you have suggestions for new activities for this springtime event, those are welcome. Also, we would like to have some additional sponsors for this year's festival. If you own a business and would like to sponsor, please contact us. If your workplace sponsors events, please inquire on behalf of MAPA or let us know and we will make the inquiry. Remember, funds raised are used to support many activities in Mentone and to preserve our culture and heritage. It's a wonderful cause to support financially and through volunteering.

If you are a vendor and are interested in having a booth, be sure to sign up ASAP! Spots are limited and are on a first come, first serve basis. This year's application is included in this issue of The Groundhog and is also available online. This year, the application can be completed and the fee paid all online. You still have the option to print it out and mail it in, or request that a copy be mailed to you.

Visit mapamentone.com for a vendor application or more information. Also, be sure to like us on facebook at Mentone Alabama Festivals for all the latest information and all the exciting plans for the third weekend (20th and 21st) of May.

2017 RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL
SHOW APPLICATION
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APPLICATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 1

Contact Name _____
Business Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
E-mail _____
Website Address _____ FB Page _____
Type of Vendor: ___ Art/Craft ___ Food (see pg. 2) ___ Business(promo only) ___ Organization
Description of Art/Items _____
Electrical - Show number of outlets needed: ___ 110V Electricity (\$25) ___ 220V Electricity (\$50)
Water - ___ Water (\$25)
Vendor Special Needs _____
Handicap Accessibility Needs _____
Number of Spaces _____ Amount enclosed _____

This year's Rhododendron Festival will be held all over Mentone, but the artists will be located primarily at Brow Park. Show hours will be 9am-5pm Saturday and 11am-4pm Sunday. You may set up your space on Friday, May 19, 12-5pm, or Saturday, May 20, 6:30-8:30am. Please be ready for the show to start at 9am. If you participate in the show, you **MUST** set up for both days. Cars **MUST** be moved to specified vendor parking area after unloading. You may break down beginning at 4pm on Sunday--no earlier.

If you require water or electricity, please indicate on the application. **There is an additional charge for electricity and/or water. To avoid outages, electricity is reserved for food vendors and artists who require it to show and demonstrate their art or craft. (i.e. not for lighting or fans). No generators will be allowed.**

You will be notified of your acceptance no later than April 15. We reserve the right to limit the number of vendors within a category. Spaces will be assigned the week prior to the show, but please check in with the information tent when you arrive as space numbers can change. No spaces can be reserved from show to show. We reserve the right to deny your application.

If you are an artist and this is the first time you have applied for the Rhododendron Festival, please provide photos of your work or a current website or Facebook address. Your application will be declined if there is no way to view your work. **ALL ART MUST BE HANDMADE BY THE ARTIST. NO READY-MADE MERCHANDISE IS ALLOWED.** The Rhododendron Festival is strictly an arts and crafts festival; therefore, no political or religious organizations will be accepted. Please contact RhododendronFestival@gmail.com if you have any questions. Thank you.

Send completed application form to:
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Make Checks payable to MAPA

For Food Vendors Only

Name/Business Name _____
Please specify exactly the type and quantity of electrical outlets you will require:
 ___ 110V Electricity (\$25)
 ___ 220V Electricity (\$50)
 What amp do you need? _____

If bringing a food trailer:
 Length (including tongue) _____
 Service window opens from: ___ Passenger Side ___ Driver Side

Please list all food and drink items you will be selling:

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Contact List _____ Rec'd _____ Ck# _____ Emailed _____ Approved _____ Declined _____
Reason _____

MACC (cont'd from page 1)

at-risk youth, and remedial students. This is a driving force behind our plans and efforts.

The Mentone Arts and Cultural Center will be a giant step toward protecting and sustaining Mentone's cultural and artistic heritage.

The design calls for a state-of-the-art facility that will boost the area's already great reputation as a tourist destination. Specific programs planned for the center will provide tourists with quality events that will extend their stay and keep them coming back for more. This is a natural extension of Mentone's phenomenal Summer Camp programs for kids.

Specific practical programs included in our Five-Year Business Plan are described in the following paragraphs. These programs will result in diverse experiences that are participatory, entertaining, intellectual, and educational.

We'd like to teach the world to pursue their artistic dreams, play their favorite musical instrument, and write about things that feed their soul. In addition, participants will have the opportunity to dance and perform great theatre, preserve and foster their cultural heritage, grow, preserve and prepare food that sustains their



To date, we have received more than \$240,000 in donations and commitments, with receipt of \$74,500 toward the \$150,000 3-to-1 matching grant.

health, and to understand and appreciate other cultures. And of course, we'd like to teach the world to sing.

The Mentone Arts and Cultural Center will play host to musical events, local and traveling art shows, plays, readings and recitals, traveling exhibits, art and craft fairs, and arts-related meetings and conventions. An amphitheater and the facility open air design will enhance overall event possibilities.

To share our programs with a much wider audience, the MACC Board envisions future uses of the Center to include video and sound production, area radio station, and on-line TV and radio stations that can be connected to social media outlets. With these capabilities, we can record our programs and indeed tell the world about Mentone's culture and heritage.

The Center would provide the catalyst that assures the preservation and sustenance of the regions cultural, historic and natural resources, and help boost the economy of the surrounding area. It will be the culmination of almost four decades of dreams for Mentone's citizens and friends.

Mentone Market . . . Returning Soon

By Anna Mae Horn

Back and better than ever! That's the plan for the Mentone Market. The debris from the devastation of the fire has been removed. However, fond memories of good times there still remain, along with the anticipation of what is next in the life cycle of this place near and dear to all of Mentone.

Early in December, when their busy schedule slowed a bit, two State Fire Marshals and two Insurance Investigators determined that the Mentone Market Fire was an electrical fire. One of the freezers in the storage room was the cause. With that technicality out of the way, clean



reminisce about the Mentone Market.

On January 21st, Kristen announced what so many had been waiting for: "We will be building soon!!" Excitement is filling the air to see what the future holds as her and Tom start building from scratch. This opens the door for them to use their creative ideas to conceive and build the structure that will once again hold smiles and laughter; food and fun; love and friendship. We can't wait!



up could start. And it did. In only a few days, the main structure was cleared away leaving room for rebuilding the business, lives, and a representation of the camaraderie of Mentone folks and visitors.

A kinship so strong that even a burnt building will not keep them apart. In the true spirit of Mentone, a gathering was held at the MERF building and all friends, family, and family in spirit were invited to visit the Emory family and

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Your Library News Your Library News Your Library News



By Barb Stoll

Happy New Year!

Hello everyone and Happy New Year. Hope everyone's holidays are full of fun and merriment. Now that the holidays have passed we can sit back and hunker down for the winter. This is a great time to visit your Community Library and enjoy our newest additions and the rest of our large selection of bestselling books and DVDs. Here a glimpse of what's new this month.

DVDs

Finding Dory - From the Academy Award-winning creators of *Finding Nemo* (Best Animated Feature, 2003) comes an epic undersea adventure filled with imagination, humor, and heart. When Dory, the forgetful blue tang (Ellen DeGeneres), suddenly remembers she has a family who may be looking for her, she teams up with Marlin (Albert Brooks) and Nemo (Hayden Rolence) to take off on a life-changing quest to find her family. They also get help from Hank, the cantankerous octopus; Bailey, a beluga whale who's convinced his biological sonar skills are on the fritz; and Destiny, a nearsighted whale shark! This is sure to be a family favorite.

Star Trek: Beyond - From Director Justin Lin and Producer J.J. Abrams comes one of the best-reviewed action movies of the year. Dispatched

on a rescue mission to the farthest reaches of space, the USS Enterprise is ambushed by Krall, a ruthless enemy sworn against the Federation. Crash-landing on an uncharted hostile world, Captain Kirk, Spock, and the crew are separated with no means of escape. Only Jaylah, a rebellious alien warrior, can help them reunite and find a way off the planet in a race against time to stop Krall's deadly army from triggering all-out galactic war.

BOOKS

***The Whistler* By John Grisham** - We expect our judges to be honest and wise. Their integrity and impartiality are the bedrock of the entire justice system. We trust them to ensure fair trials, to protect the rights of all litigants, to punish those who do wrong, and to oversee the orderly and efficient flow of justice.

But what happens when a judge bends the law or takes a bribe? It's rare, but it happens.

Lacy Stoltz is an investigator for the Florida Board on Judicial Conduct. She is a lawyer, not a cop, and it is her job to respond to complaints dealing with judicial misconduct.

A corruption case eventually crosses her desk. A previously disbarred lawyer is back in business with a new identity. He now goes by the name of Greg Myers, and he claims to know of a Florida judge who has stolen more money than all other crooked judges combined have.

It seems the judge was secretly involved with the construction of a large casino on Native American land. The judge is taking a cut and looking the other way. But now Greg wants to put a stop to it. His only client is a person who knows the truth and wants to blow the whistle.

Lacy Stoltz immediately suspects this one could be dangerous. Dangerous is one thing; deadly is something else.

***The Chemist* By Stephanie Meyer**

She used to work for the U.S. Government, but very few people ever knew that. An expert in her field, she was one of the darkest secrets of an agency so clandestine it doesn't even have a name. And when they decided she was a liability, they came for her without warning.

Resolving to meet the threat head

on, she prepares for the toughest fight of her life but finds herself falling for a man who can only complicate her likelihood of survival. As she sees her choices being rapidly whittled down, she must apply her unique talents in ways she never dreamed.

In this tautly plotted novel, Stephanie Meyer of the *Twilight* series and the *Host*, creates a fierce and fascinating new heroine with a very specialized skill set. And she shows once again why she's one of the world's best-selling authors.

***The Mistress* By Danielle Steel** - Danielle Steel illuminates rarely glimpsed precincts of unimaginable wealth and power, where love and freedom are the most dangerous desires of all.

Natasha Leonova's beauty saved her life. Discovered on a freezing Moscow street by a Russian billionaire, she has lived for seven years under his protection, immersed in rarefied luxury, while he pursues his activities in a dark world that she guesses at but never sees. Her home is the world and her only job is to keep Vladimir happy, ask no questions, and be discreet.

From Moscow to the Riviera, Paris, and London, *The Mistress* is a reviewing tale of vast fortune, cruelty, creative genius, and daring courage, as uncompromising individuals chart a course for collision.

Well, there you have it folks, that should keep ol' man winter at bay for awhile. Come on down and gather up some books and movies, pile on the blankets, and enjoy the winter weather.

The library board was saddened to hear of the passing of Gethryn Giles. She served as a great addition to the board for several years as did her husband, Gene, prior to her. Results of their involvement are still evident, and they will always be remembered.

Remember your Community Library has lots of books and movies to suit everyone's taste. Plus, we like your company, so stop by and say hello. We have great books for sale too. Until next month...stay warm!



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LET ME MANAGE YOUR CABIN FOR YOU - Ron Waits

Windy Hill Farm Events Kick Off Spring Season By Tema Flanagan

The Farm at Windy Hill is excited to announce that it will kick off its spring 2017 season with two special events the first weekend of March: the first of our weekly, seasonal open farm markets on Friday, March 3, and a Soup and Song event (live concert and lunch) on Saturday, March 4. Beginning on Friday, March 3, Windy Hill will reopen its weekly on-farm market from 3:00-6:00pm, with plans to be open every Friday through November. At the weekly markets, visitors can view the gardens, meet the Windy Hill farmers, and stock up on seasonal



Atlanta singer-songwriter Caroline Herring will perform at The Farm at Windy Hill on Saturday, March 4.

produce, pastured pork, grass-fed beef, free-range eggs, and fresh flowers raised on the farm. For the first farm market of the spring, we hope to have plenty of salad greens, cooking greens, and some root crops (like radishes and sweet potatoes) in addition to meat and eggs. To mark the beginning of this year's on-farm market, visitors are invited to join us on a tour of the farm beginning at 4:30 on March 3. The next day (Saturday, March 4), the farm will host a Soup and Song event from 11:00am-2:00pm, with live music and a farm-to-table soup and sandwich lunch. The event will take place in the farmhouse at Windy Hill and will feature a performance by Atlanta-based singer-songwriter Caroline Herring. Called "fearless and uncompromising" by Mary Chapin Carpenter (who appears on Herring's most recent album), Herring's country-tinged folk music is best known for exploring historical figures and moments. Herring has appeared on A Prairie Home Companion and NPR's All Things Considered, as well as numerous music festivals internationally. Concert tickets are \$5.00 for adults (children 12 and under are free), and the concert is free for adults with the purchase of a lunch meal. Lunch will include a selection of soups

and sandwiches showcasing seasonal produce and meat grown at Windy Hill. A complete meal (including a bowl of soup, a sandwich, a drink, dessert, and admission to the concert) will cost \$16, with some reduced price and a la carte options available, too. Tickets can be purchased the day of the event, but we are requesting that folks RSVP in advance to megan@thefarmatwindyhill.com. The farm market will also be open during the Soup and Song event. We hope you will join us in celebrating the start of a new spring season in the life of our farm!



The Farm at Windy Hill's weekly on-farm market will reopen Friday, March 3, and be open every Friday from 3:00-6:00pm through November.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Little River Arts Council Annual Meeting & Social

Sunday, February 19 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Kamama Gallery

Open to members and all those interested in the arts!

Join us as we:

- Explore ideas for potential events and educational opportunities
- Discuss this year's events:
Summer Music Series 2017
2nd Annual Creative Spirit Market
10th Annual Home Tour & Silent Auction

- Consider how the Little River Arts Council can best further its mission for artists, and appreciators of art, in Mentone and the Little River area
- Induct new officers

Refreshments will be available. Plan to attend and bring a friend!

SEE YOU THERE!

Southeast's Largest Antiques Show & Sale By Kathie Scobee Fulgham

Most people don't think about American history when they think about glass, but the featured speaker at the 2017 Houston Museum's Antiques Show & Sale, Anne Madarasz, says that glass production made Pittsburgh the national center of the glass industry, as well as one of the nation's first gateways to the West. And those westward travelers transported Pittsburgh glass – both industrial and art forms – as they made their trek across the country.

"In fact, at one time, Pennsylvania produced more than 40 percent of the entire nation's glass supply, with the first two factories opening in 1797," said Madarasz, director of the curatorial division and chief historian and director of the Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum at the Senator John Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, Penn. "With more than 200 years of production in the region, it's very easy to see the interplay between the glass objects and the larger context of history."

Visitors have an opportunity to meet Ms. Madarasz at the Houston Museum's most popular fundraiser, which is scheduled Feb. 24–Feb. 26

at Stratton Hall, 3146 Broad St. in Chattanooga. Admission is \$10. Both professional and novice antiques collectors from all over the region flock to Chattanooga each February to shop at and hear from glass experts. For lecture times from Ms. Madarasz, please visit thehoustonmuseum.org.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear from a nationally-recognized speaker and historian



with expertise in Pennsylvania glass making," said Amy Autenreith, Houston Museum executive director. "Pennsylvania was the hotspot for first adapting coal and natural gas for fuel, leading to the innovation in manufacturing, design and marketing of glass."

"You also see the development of pressing of glass on a mass consumer scale in the 1830s and 40s that really changed the customer for glass in America that lead to its ubiquity," Ms. Madarasz added.

She also will conduct limited periods of glass identification for attendees who bring pieces with them to the show and sale. (Note: This does not include valuation of items, and attendees must purchase a ticket to enter.) Unlike pottery and silver, glass is a challenge to identify because it is rarely marked, said Ms. Madarasz.

"Learning about glass is like learning a new language; It takes hard work to be fluent," she added. "I look for clues into how each piece is made

(cont'd on page 8)

T.A.D. of Jazz Returns to the Canyon Center for Second Year

By Anna Lindsey

Aniston's T.A.D. of Jazz is back again for a second dinner show at the Canyon Center. This year's concert is set for Saturday, February 25, 2017 at 6:00 pm at Jacksonville State University's Little River Canyon Center. T.A.D. of Jazz has become the regions leader in the contemporary and traditional jazz. With a unique mixture of soul, gospel, jazz, and funk roots, the band produces a sound of it's own. This year's event will feature a three course seated dinner catered by Tina Whiteside & Regina Henderson. This exclusive event is sure to

please and an annual fundraiser for environmental education.

"Last year's event was amazing with a full house filled with excitement, and this year's event is shaping up to be even better," Says Director, Pete Conroy. "This dinner-show is a fantastic way to raise awareness of the arts and environment."

"We expect a sell-out event again this year, so make your reservations early," Says Sales & Services Manager, Anna Lindsey. She continued, "We encourage guests to let us know if they have any special needs so we can accommodate and make everyone as comfortable as possible."

Advanced tickets are available online, onsite (at the Canyon Center Gift Shop), or by calling (256) 845-7213. Online tickets are \$35 in advance. Please make your reservations by Tuesday, February 21, 2017. For more info visit www.canyonconcerts.com

Doors open at 5:00 pm and the show begins at 6:00 pm. Admission includes both a meal and entertainment. Seating is first come first serve, so guests are encouraged to arrive early. Reserved tables available for parties of six or more. Coolers are welcomed.

THE RENDEZVOUS EVENT SPACE HOSTS THE FIRST ANNUAL "STARVING ARTIST BOOTH SALE"

By Amanda Pilotte

Join us on Saturday, April 1, 2017, for the "Starving Artists Booth Sale" presented by Rendezvous Event Space. This will be an arts, crafts, music, and food event showcasing local, handmade artists only. The "Starving Artist Booth Sale" is a wonderful change of pace. It is an opportunity to bring together those in the community to view and experience art in all forms. During the event, the Rendezvous will serve as a venue presenting local musical talents and local food vendors as well.

Admission for all shoppers visiting the "Starving Market Booth Sale" is free! Browse from a selection of handcrafted items and meet the artists who created them. You'll be provided with a ticket when you arrive to fill out for a chance to win a door prize as provided by our vendors. A purchase from any one of the vendors will earn you an extra entry for door prizes.

Any artist who is interested in becoming a vendor will find an application located in our photo album on the Rendezvous Event Space Facebook page.

Please submit your application as quickly as possible to secure a booth at our first annual "Starving Artist Booth Sale." Vendors can offer no item over \$99, and all items must be handcrafted. The Vendor space is 8'x8' and the cost is \$50. The Vendor must also provide a handcrafted item of their choosing for our door prize drawing. Spaces are limited! For additional information concerning the "Starving



Artist Booth Sale" or reserving the Rendezvous Event Space for a special event, please call (256) 273-6686.

The NEW Rendezvous Event Space is located at 202 Gault Avenue North Fort Payne where Haralson's Pharmacy was located for almost a century. As what was once the only pharmacy in town, the building provided more than medication; it served as a welcoming place for townspeople to gather and share experiences.

Moon Lake second grade teacher Sloan Pope and her husband Jon purchased the space to continue the tradition and draw people to the downtown area of Fort Payne. It can be booked for all types of events--parties, weddings, meetings. "We just thought the Starving Artist event would be a fun way to bring local artists together and give them a place to showcase their work." Join us on Saturday, April 1, 2017, for the "Starving Artists Booth Sale" presented by Rendezvous Event Space. This will be an arts, crafts, music, and food event.

Medicare - - Who Pays First?

By Lynn Hixson

Medicare has rules about how it works with other insurance you may have. Depending on this other insurance, Medicare either pays first (primary) or second (secondary) on your health care claims (Bills). Insurance from your or your spouse's current employment pays primary to Medicare if you: are eligible for Medicare because you are 65 or older, and the company has 20 or more employees or you are eligible for Medicare because you have received Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) payments for more than 24 months, and the company has 100 or more employees. Note: If you have Medicare due to disability, the insurance based on current employment can also be from your family member's current work.

Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB) based on current work always pays primary to Medicare because the government has more than 100 employees. Further, unlike other retiree insurance, FEHB retiree insurance will also pay primary if you do not sign up for Medicare Part B; however, you may face penalties and delays in accessing Part B if you don't enroll when you are first eligible.

TRICARE military insurance for active duty service members and their families always pays primary to Medicare – active duty is considered current work.

Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits do not coordinate with Medicare. Rather, VA benefits generally pay for services at any VA facility, and Medicare generally pays for services at any non-

VA facility. There may be some exceptions, such as for emergencies.

Before delaying Medicare enrollment, you should determine whether your other insurance will pay primary to Medicare and also whether you will face penalties and/or delays if you sign up for Medicare later. If your other insurance will pay secondary, it is not advisable to delay Medicare enrollment. This is because your secondary insurance may refuse to cover you until you are also enrolled in Medicare, or it may take back any payments it made when you were eligible for Medicare but not enrolled. To avoid a Part B or (Part A, if applicable) late enrollment penalty (LEP) you need to qualify for a Medicare Special Enrollment Period (SEP). You will qualify for a SEP to sign up late for Medicare if you lose current employee coverage, such as through retirement. You can use the SEP while you are still covered or up to eight months after losing coverage.

Contact Lynn at the DeKalb County Council on Aging for personalized, one-on-one counseling and assistance at 256-845-8590.



Houston Museum (cont'd from page 7)

--its color and design help me research it to find out who made it and when."

There are several ways to create glass: Handmade blown glass, pressed glass (which is the first machine technology) and automated machine-made glass.

"Some of the extraordinary blown and cut art pieces in the Houston's collection have inspired pattern glass for a mass market," Ms. Madarasz said. "The collection is impressive. I'm looking forward to seeing it for myself and learning from it."

The lecture draws in many visitors, Ms. Autenreith said, but most attendees come to the show and sale to shop at the dozens of richly adorned booths from some of the country's top antiques dealers and specialists. Attendees will find everything from pottery to furniture, books, and maps to china and silver, linens, blown glass and many other artistic creations.

Tindell's Restoration also will be on hand at this year's show. The Nashville-area team will perform repairs to glass and ceramics onsite and also take items back to their offices to work on them there. Glass and ceramics are only a portion of what they repair; they also repair metal, sculptures, and paintings.

The Houston Museum in Chattanooga's Bluff View Arts District is a small but stunning gem in the city's arts crown. Created with the astounding collection of Anna Safley Houston, who during her lifetime amassed more than 15,000 antique pitchers and thousands of other glassware pieces and antiques, the Victorian house on High Street housing the museum has become a national mecca for antique lovers and glass collectors. Visitors take a docent-led tour through the Museum to marvel at the beautiful amberina, overlay, cameo, Burmese, Satinglass, and cranberry glass collected by "Antique Annie," shown in and alongside priceless antique furniture.

REMEMBER

By: Doug Kiker

Remember???

Clorox came in brown glass jugs.

Boys over the age of ten didn't like to be hugged.

When a snail was a slug

And a slug was not a drink of whiskey from an old brown jug.

An old man's ugly face was a mug,

And not a drinking glass in an English pub.

A hunter had to make every shot count,

'Cause shotgun shells were never free no matter how low the amount.

A person of low morals was no account.

It was proper to sing in public schools "Come Thou Fount."

When a person turned the lights off by blowing out the lamp.

A charlie horse was a leg cramp caused by hard work

Trying to make a living, not training to be some kind of champ.

Schools were never armed camps.

All cameras were called "Kodak."

Disabled people really had a bad back.

A bag was called a sack. It was not a bed; there was neither a foot nor a head.

Some good things of old language must be said.

I liked it better when red was red and we knew what it meant,

And we would never hit the bed.

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THE
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February

By
Tema Flanagan
of The Farm
at Windy Hill

I started making hominy hummus -- which uses hominy in place of chickpeas to create the classic, garlicky Mediterranean dip--when I was working on a cookbook about the many uses of corn in southern cooking. While hominy has a very distinctive corn flavor (more like tortilla chips than fresh corn to my mind), the texture reminds me of cooked chickpeas,

and that's how the idea for hominy hummus came about. I promise it's not a gimmick: the taste is definitely that of hummus, but with a hominy twist that is delicious served up with celery sticks, pita, or even tortilla chips. This recipe and others can be found in my Corn Cookbook, which will be available in March.

Hominy Hummus

Makes about 2.5 cups of Hummus

Ingredients:

- 1 15.5-ounce can white hominy (about 2 cups), drained and rinsed
- 3 tablespoons sesame tahini
- 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for garnish
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 2-3 garlic cloves
- ½ teaspoon sea salt, plus more to taste
- ¼ teaspoon ground cumin
- ¼ teaspoon paprika, plus more for garnish
- ⅛ teaspoon cayenne pepper

Combine all of the ingredients in a mixing bowl. Blend using an immersion blender (or in an upright blender) until the hummus is smooth. Adjust seasonings to taste and serve garnished with drizzled olive oil and a dusting of paprika.

February Birthdays

- Feb 1 – John Lawton
- Feb 1 – Abby Bell
- Feb 1 – Tammy Kirby
- Feb 1 – Walter Brooks
- Feb 1 – Rindy Flannigan
- Feb 1 – Fontana Stinson
- Feb 1 – Thomas Blevins
- Feb 2 – GROUNDHOG DAY!!
- Feb 2 – Beverly Smith
- Feb 2 – Karen Nixon
- Feb 2 – Zeb Kincer
- Feb 3 – Melanie Potts Garrett
- Feb 4 – Angela Phillips
- Feb 4 – Carson Frost
- Feb 4 – Brittany Daniel
- Feb 4 – Loree Brownfield
- Feb 4 – Aubree Lewchuk
- Feb 5 – Yon Hopper
- Feb 5 – Savannah Wallace
- Feb 5 – Cameron Collins
- Feb 5 – Brylen Deal
- Feb 6 – Amanda Blalock
- Feb 6 – Allie McElhaney
- Feb 7 – Jordan Sutton
- Feb 7 – Tristan Rodriguez
- Feb 7 – Haley Stinson
- Feb 7 – Carley Verdon
- Feb 7 – Jase Kirby
- Feb 8 – Crystal Smith
- Feb 8 – Helen Brown
- Feb 8 – Annette Johnson
- Feb 8 – Sandy Tate
- Feb 9 – Kara Goss
- Feb 9 – Jonnie Frost

- Feb 9 – Cayden Collins
- Feb 9 – Heath Jones
- Feb 10 – Joe McClure
- Feb 10 – Leonard Keith
- Feb 10 – Katie White
- Feb 10 – Luke Hulgán
- Feb 11 – Cayla Wigley
- Feb 11 – Faith Nelson
- Feb 11 – Gentry Grisham
- Feb 11 – Amanda Ditmore
- Feb 11 – Elizabeth Rich
- Feb 11 – Rhett Davis
- Feb 12 – Tara Kirby
- Feb 12 – Nicholas Freeman
- Feb 12 – Sydnee Grider
- Feb 12 – Bubba Browder
- Feb 13 – Gretchen Winder
- Feb 13 – Carol Busby
- Feb 13 – Craig Hall
- Feb 13 – Isaac Pangle
- Feb 14 – Valentine's Day!
- Feb 14 – Abbi Gifford
- Feb 14 – Eddie Manning
- Feb 15 – Ashley Coffman
- Feb 15 – Diane Smith
- Feb 16 – Katelyn Busby
- Feb 16 – Mary Jane Gray
- Feb 17 – John David Blalock
- Feb 17 – Trey Moore
- Feb 17 – Tyler Allen
- Feb 17 – Renee Peek
- Feb 17 – Tom Tate
- Feb 18 – Richard Harrison
- Feb 18 – Gail Crider
- Feb 18 – Braden Villarreal
- Feb 19 – Beverly Bates
- Feb 19 – Danielle Powell
- Feb 19 – Aaron Goss
- Feb 20 – Jon Baggett

- Feb 20 – Stella Pierce
- Feb 20 – Joan Byrum
- Feb 20 – Juanita McGuire
- Feb 21 – Wendy Manifold
- Feb 22 – Justin Langston
- Feb 22 – Johnny Mack Ferguson, Jr
- Feb 22 – Corey Blalock
- Feb 22 – Derek McMahan
- Feb 22 – Jordan Bethune
- Feb 24 – Michael Chambers
- Feb 24 – Tom Emory
- Feb 24 – Payton Day Lewis
- Feb 24 – Melinda Easler
- Feb 24 – Susan Collins
- Feb 25 – William Beasley
- Feb 25 – Emily Tate
- Feb 25 – Pam Bettis
- Feb 26 – Kylee Elkins
- Feb 26 – Johnny Battles
- Feb 26 – Kate Smith
- Feb 27 – Makayla Mullis
- Feb 27 – David Hilliard
- Feb 27 – Holden Smith

- Feb 28 – Derek Davis
- Feb 28 – Ethan Bailey
- Feb 28 – Russell ODell
- Feb 29 – Ethen Battles

February Anniversaries

- Feb 3 – Ray & Sandra Padgett
- Feb 3 - Jeremy & Amy Henderson
- Feb 4 – Larry & Kathy Gray
- Feb 5 – David & Pam Dean
- Feb 7 – Calvin & Myra Lanier
- Feb 7 – Mack & Debbie Flannigan
- Feb 8 - Clark & Genella Tolbert
- Feb 10 – Danny & Sible Hopper
- Feb 14 – Joey & Melanie Garrett
- Feb 14 – Kevin & Connie McElhaney
- Feb 15 – Leonard & Amy Keith
- Feb 17 – Vance & Patti Carden
- Feb 23 – Jeff & LeAnn Bain

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What To Do Around Here!

February 2017 Community Calendar

Feb. 2 - Groundhog Day

Feb. 2 - Beginner Wheel Class. Learn



everything from throwing and trimming to Glazing and loading the kiln! Meet in Valley Head at the Hands on Learning Art Center on Thursdays starting February 2nd to February 23rd! From 5 pm-7 pm. Call to reserve your seat!! 256-635-6863.

Feb. 3 - Night Zip Line Adventure. All



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

Feb. 3 & 4 - Loomis Bro. Circus. Come and enjoy the Show!!

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



Feb. 4, 18, 22, 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. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577

Feb. 4 & 5 - Alabama Arena Cross. At the Northeast Alabama Agri-Business Center in Rainsville. 256-638-1650.

Feb. 4, 6, 17, 18 - Extreme Night Hike. This end-of-day adventure does



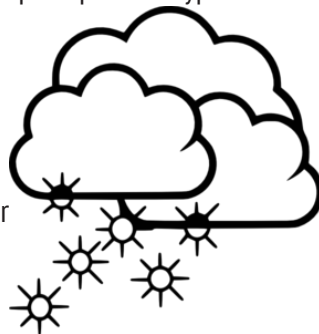
not slow down just because it's dark. Intended for a large group team-building exercise, this hike has a bit of bouldering, some scrambling, some spelunking, and a whole lot of required working together. True Adventure Sports. 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Feb. 7 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. True Adventure Sports 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28 - Adult Landscape Oil Painting Class.

Classes held every Tuesday of February. Everything is furnished. Walk away with an oil painting in one class! \$60 per class! Call to reserve your seat! Hands on Learning Art Center in Valley. 256-635-6863.

Feb. 8 - 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. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. 256-997-9577.



Feb. 9 - Hand Building Slab Class. Fun for the whole Family at the Hands on Learning Art Center. \$40 per person. Call to reserve your seat 256-635-6863.

Feb. 9, 20 - Afternoon Rock Climb. Come

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



Feb. 9-11, 13, 16-18 - Children's Advocacy Center Annual Dinner Theater. The Children's Advocacy Center presents the 23rd annual dinner theatre. "Cheering for Auburn Can Be Murder" The play will be held at the First United Methodist Church. Ticket prices vary and are by reservation only. For more information or tickets, 256-997-9700.

Feb. 11 - The DeKalb County Geneological Society. Join us at St. Philip's Episcopal Church at 10 AM. The program will be presented by Charles Shipp on Notable Women of the CSA. This presentation will focus on nurses, spies and women soldiers. Everyone interested in genealogy is invited to attend this free event.

Feb. 11 - Sculpt your Own Flower. Have you ever wanted to actually sit at the gaffer bench and feel what it is like to shape hot glass? In this class, it's all about a hands-on experience in a safe and fun atmosphere with a final product we know you will love. After watching us shape glass into a flower, it's your turn to sit at the bench to a sculpt your own from an array of colors. Our artists are the to step in and lend a hand or guide you as you shape the glass. Each class is about one hour in length with a minimum of three people and a maximum of five. Cost: \$75 per person. 10:30 to 11:30 am or 12:30 to 1:30 pm. For more information or reserve a spot, email info@orbixhotglass.com or call 256-523-3188.

Feb. 11, 23 - 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. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Feb. 13, 24 - Advanced Rappelling Class. This class reviews rappelling basics then teaches advanced rappelling. Learn special rigging, mechanical advantage, ascending and rope walking, alternate rappel devices, changeovers, advanced knots, safety procedures, special gear, and backup belaying. You will also do several rappels and a change over before returning to the



store for the rappelling test and knot exam. Meet at T.A.S. Training Center \$135/person. Note: You will receive a class 2 rappelling certification photo ID card upon request and successful completion of this class and exams for a card processing fee of \$15.00. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Feb. 14 - Happy Valentine's Day!

Feb. 15, 22, 27 - Rock Climbing Adventure. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Feb. 16 - Made in DeKalb Expo. Business representatives will have the opportunity to network with peers, representatives from education, the Alabama Department of Commerce - Export Alliance, the Small Business Administration, the USDA, the Fort Payne Career Center and others. Students (9th and 12th graders) from DeKalb County and Fort Payne Schools will have the opportunity to learn about local business career options and about DeKalb County's manufacturers. At the Northeast Alabama Agri-Business Center in Rainsville. 256-638-1650.

Feb. 16 - Knot Class & Application. Introduction and instruction to essential knots and their application for camping, rappelling, rock climbing, outdoor survival, and other applications. 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. 256-997-9577.

What To Do Around Here!

February 2017 Community Calendar

Feb. 18 - Hot Chocolate 5k & Fun Run

Hosted by the FPHS Track & Field Team 5K begins at 8 a.m. and Fun Run begins at 9 a.m. Fees and Deadlines: 5K - \$30 and Fun Run - \$20 Register by Feb. 10th to ensure a t-shirt! Go to racesonline.com/events/hot-chocolate-5k-fun-run to register for our race! All of the money that is raised will benefit the FPHS Track & Field Team.

Feb. 18 - Birding Hike: Great Backyard Bird Count.

JSU professor, Dr. Robert



Carter, will be leading this birding hike at the Little River Canyon Center. This hike is for new and experienced birders. This will be a part of the Audubon's annual Great Backyard Bird Count weekend. Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count was the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real-time. Now, more than 160,000 people of all ages and walks of life worldwide join the four-day count each Feb. to create

an annual snapshot of the distribution and abundance of birds. Things to Bring: Plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks/lunch, sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended), binoculars (if you have them). Please be sure to dress appropriately according to seasonal temperatures/weather. 9 a.m.

Feb. 18 - Paperweight Class. All Paperweight Classes Saturdays from. This class is designed for those who really just want see what molten glass is all about – feel the heat, gather from the furnace, sculpt the glass into you own design. It is ultimately about the experience, some experimentation and a nice paperweight to take home or to the office to show your friends. Class size is maximum of four students so everyone has adequate time at the bench working. There will be material provided before the class for you to review and become familiar with concerning safety and basic glassblowing vocabulary. Please join us for some in-depth discovery. Cost – \$135. 9 am-1 pm. For more information or reserve a spot, email info@orbixhotglass.com or call 256-523-3188.

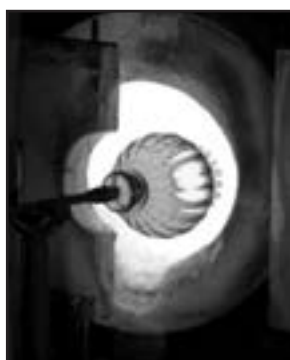
Feb. 19 - Tri State Paper Crafting. Join us to learn, create and be inspired while crafting with papers, stamps, inks, punches, and die cuts. No experience needed. Kamama Gallery in Mentone AL 1:00-2:30. Reserve by noon Sat the 18.th. Cost is \$5. To learn more or reserve a

spot send an email to cottagepaper@bellsouth.net or call 205-349-4026.

Feb. 20 - Presidents Day

Feb. 20 - Fee-Free Day at LRC. The Canyon Mouth Picnic Area part of the Little River Canyon National Preserve will offer free admission to all in honor of President's Day. Just another reason to enjoy all that the Preserve has to offer.

Feb. 25 - Blow Your Own Ornament. This has become very popular here at Orbix Hot Glass. Come design and blow your own ornament with the help of one of our glass artists. No reservations are needed. First come, first serve basis. We welcome people at least 5 years old. 9 am to 4 pm. Cost is \$38 per ornament blown. 256-523-3188.



Feb. 25 - Hotel California: Salute to the Eagles. Tickets available at eventbrite.com DeKalb Theatre 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Feb. 25 - A T.A.D. of Jazz. Join us for dinner and a show featuring A TAD of Jazz at Little River Canyon Center. Southern Cuisine by Tina's Cakes and Catering. Advance tickets are \$35 until Feb. 21st.



Doors open at 5 and show starts at 6. For more information, visit canyonconcerts.com or call 256-845-3548.

Feb. 28 - Rappelling Certification Class.

This class covers rappelling basics indoor and basics outdoor. The basics indoor class teaches you about rappelling safety/rappelling gear and its application, rappelling knots and application, and rigging points needed for rappelling. The basics 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 a.m. to 6 p.m. 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 Beville 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.

Moon Lake PTO meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Everyone is invited to attend.

JHH & CLC meet at 9am each Friday at the DeKalb County Council on Aging followed by a quilt making class that is open to the public.

Exercise Room open at the DeKalb County Council on Aging Monday through Friday (except for certain holidays) from 8 am to Noon..

Moon Lake School--Full STEAM Ahead (cont'd from page 1)



They utilize professional development classes to learn new techniques. They are learning to use technology to bring the world to Mentone. They coordinate with MERF to offer free after school tutoring to those who need it. Also, a new edition to the Moon Lake educational plan this year is the after school program.

Through a grant, the 21st Century After School Program provides academic help, snacks, and activities- STEAM activities. STEAM is the fairly new term reflecting lessons that focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. Moon Lake after school staff is finding fun and creative ways to bring these concepts to the students in a free or low cost environment- no more than \$5 per week. These activities also bring education to reality. Students are building their own bridges. They research and plan, do the math and engineering calculations, and literally build a bridge. They are building catapults. They are also learning about dance and archery (thanks to DeSoto State Park). With the gracious help of the Rhododendron Garden Club, they are learning to garden. The staff uses a lesson plan that incorporates as many of the STEAM ideas

as possible prior to each activity. Then, the fun begins. To keep the program low cost, the supply list gets creative. They use things like popsicle sticks, spaghetti, marshmallows, gumdrops, and duct tape, of course.

This incredible program offers extended hours



Daniel Hawkins is a Boy Scout, enjoys playing his drums and guitar, and loves music and cars, both new and old. His favorite color is green, and his favorite subject at school is Science.



Sydney Ingram likes PE and her kitten. She wishes she could have a new 4 wheeler.

for working parents, homework help for the kids, a healthy snack, and an air of excitement to the educational process. Obviously the staff at Moon Lake is doing something right for the kids, based on the state report cards. They have definitely earned their 'A' through dedication and personal attention to the students. Encouraged by the students' success, they face each school day full STEAM ahead!



4th Grade Team: Grayson Plant, Gracie Pullen, Isaac Crow, Hannah Perrydore, Ethan Bailey, Madeline Perkins, Jayken Lawton, Kane Bates.



6th Grade Team: Tyler Perrydore, Kendra Burgess, Victoria Brown, Alexis Burt, Daxson Crow, Lexi Reed, John Tyler Lawton, Hannah Golden.

Mentone Wedding Chapel



*Candle Lite Ceremonies
Music • Photographs
Flowers • Receptions
Lodging
Limousine*

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

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

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

256-634-4181

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.

December was fabulous at the MERF house with a fun-filled house full of big and little elves at the Seniors Christmas Party! Santa even had a chance to stop by and enjoy the crowd. Thanks to Mentone Community Church for a great meal and the little elves from Mrs. Lea



Congratulations to the 2017 MERF scholarship recipients Carol Rosales, Devin Leps, Brooke Moore, and Josie Crider (not pictured)."

Long's class singing for the crowd. Lunches couldn't happen without the wonderful kitchen elves every week: Pat Peterson, Shirley Hussel, Kathy McMunn, Thomas Qualls, Carolyn Nail, Hazel Bickerstaff, Kristen Emory, and Dee Dee Dunkerley! Speaking of the fun lunch crew, regular Wednesday lunches for the seniors will start back on February 15th! So hope to see all you sweethearts then!

The MERF Scholarship committee also met in December. The Sue McLaurin Henry Scholarship was established in memory of Sue, who was one of several Mentone residents that envisioned and established MERF over 20 years ago. She believed strongly in the value of education for lifelong learning as well as offering opportunities to be successful and effective citizens. The committee awarded Josie Crider, Brooke Moore, Carol Rosales, and

Devin Leps with a check to help with school expenses at Jacksonville State University for Josie and Northeast Alabama Community College for Brooke, Carol, and Devin this spring. Congratulations on being deserving students!

Find your adventurous spirit and save the date for a wild night at MERF's Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction on Saturday, April 22nd in the Moon Lake Elementary School gym. Contact Sarah Wilcox if you want to join in the planning and the fun to help make this evening a great fundraiser and celebration! Stay tune for more information next month.



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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 Bunnell.

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.

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Favorite Teacher is Key to Double-Secret Password



By Ben Shurett

Cyber security has risen near the top of the fret level of many Americans these days. That's understandable.

Emails disappear, high-security servers, whether personal or private, have been hacked, and you'd better be certain your personal passwords are encrypted to the point Vladimir Putin can't decipher them.

My Mary gave me a personal Internet Password Logbook. That was terrific, really thoughtful of her. The problem was I had only one password, or at least I did at the time she gifted me with the handsome, spiral-bound book encased in genuine pleather.

I thought one password would last me forever. My password of choice was easy to remember, like great country songs that have three chords and the truth. My password had four characters and was notably absent of upper-case letters and Symbols.

That was fine until my advancing age caused me to begin to investigate my options with

Social Security. Suddenly, my simple password--WD40--that had served me faithfully for years was woefully insufficient. Now, I needed upper case and lower case letters including some combination of numbers, letters, and symbols.

The book Mary gave me began to look much more like a necessity rather than a luxury.

The situation was only annoying, just a minor problem until I came upon a new requirement that caused a stark realization. The Social Security insisted on such encrypted passwords and worse, the SS required me to change my double-secret password every six months.

My system of one password to fit all situations faded into oblivion like eight-track tapes and cassettes.

It's not for nothing that every sophisticated and password-protected website offers a golden parachute of sorts. Each, it seems, routinely has a click-through passage with the cue, "Forgot your password?"

That should be simple enough. Those who could not recall their specific combination of numbers, symbols and letters and which to declare in upper and lower case should simply check a box that said, "Yes, thanks for asking. I did forget my password. Please tell me what it is."

I wish it were that easy, as it should be. No. At the next step, you are asked to remember the answer to a personal question, one that particularly fits you and likely no one else.

What is the first name of your best childhood friend? What street did you grow up on? What's the name of your first pet? What is your favorite sports team?

I always bypass all those options and select the one I'll never forget. Who is your favorite teacher?

I'll make you a bet. If you've read this far and got to the "favorite teacher" query, you've just now thought of your favorite teacher. Good for you and thanks for playing along.

Mrs. Hendricks was my favorite, a sixth-grade teacher at Verner Elementary in Tuscaloosa. You may remember that school if you're familiar with the Druid City. It was located where the high-rise Tutwiler Hall, the largest women's dorm, is now.

She was quite the no-nonsense educator, one who had "the look," a stare that would snap a classroom of knucklehead children back on task.

She was a genius at classroom management and not even two dozen 11- and 12-year-old students bursting through the seams of puberty dared to challenge her authority.

And my, could she teach. Mrs. Hendricks made us, all of us, want to learn, and she made learning fun. My classmates and I were engaged in the teaching/ learning process every day and she was a blessing in that regard.

She had the gift -- some might say it was spiritually given to her from above -- of teaching but there was more. It was that extra measure, that "more" that elevated her to the top of the list of some really fine educators I've had in my life.

In spite of her toughness and because she made learning fun, Mrs. Hendricks would make the top three on the list of favorite teachers of any number of students. She taught me in 1962. She taught my sister in 1955 and my brother in 1969, and she taught quite a few years beyond that before she retired.

Furthermore, she volunteered at what Tuscaloosans call "new Verner" school well beyond her eightieth year before her death.

But beyond all else, even past the respect she commanded and deserved, Mrs. Hendricks inspired a generation of students to want to please her by doing their very best. Bettye Hendricks earned her place as the key to my double-secret password.

What teacher earned that place in your life?

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

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SAGE ADVICE: Gardening in February

By Susan Seago



It's February. There will be "teaser days" this month with lots of sunshine and warming temperatures. Those of us who love to garden will be itching to get our hands in the dirt. What can we do this month to get ready for spring?

My first suggestion is to go outside on one of the sunny days, find a great spot to see your landscape, and observe the different areas. First, determine which direction the sun is located and how much light is in various areas. Look closely at those trees that are bare of leaves, remembering how much shade they will cast in the morning and afternoon. All plants like morning sun, but some of them want full afternoon shade. So, choose shade tolerant plants for afternoon shade.

Sun loving plants need about six hours of sun a day. If you have established gardens, make a list of what is planted in each. Did some of them die during the drought last year? Do some of

the beds need more color or more year-round (evergreen) plants to make the beds more attractive?

Water requirements also determine where to plant. Big shade trees such as oaks require about 500 gallons of water a day so those other smaller perennials and shrubs are the last to get the water. Just remember this as you look for new plants and check their water needs--low, medium, or a lot.

Look through your new plant catalogs or on-line as you plan. Your local garden center usually has someone on staff with plant knowledge.

Other tasks during February include spreading a weed preventer over the landscaped areas to prevent early weeds like chickweed, henbit, poa annua (annual blue grass), crabgrass, and others. With the very warm temps in January, many weeds and some shrubs and flowers are emerging now. Put out the pre-emergent as soon as possible.

Roses can be pruned in February also. Cut them back by 1/3, no more. Again, ask your local garden center for more help. Dead stems and excess leaves can also be removed in February. Too many leaves can cause fungus and problems.



Some early flowers and shrubs are beginning to bloom now. We have forsythia and winter jasmine (both yellow) now blooming, as well as hellebores beginning to bloom. Soon, the winter honeysuckle bushes will show their very fragrant white blooms. The camellia japonica will also present their flowers in the next couple of weeks. And, I have seen bulbs poking through the ground so they will be showing their lovely colors.

Finally, enjoy winter! It is a great season for the landscape!

THE HEALTH BENEFITS OF DECLUTTERING By Clare V. Donohue

Psychologists are starting to recognize that having a clean, organized home is an essential part of the wellness equation. Cluttered spaces are chaos for the mind, overwhelming already taxed brains with too much sensory information--according to Psychology Today. With the excess stimuli created by a disorganized home, your brain becomes easily overwhelmed. Clutter can become a vicious shame spiral: it increases stress making you more ashamed or embarrassed about your home.

To get on the right track start small: toss your junk mail one day, hang up all your clothes the next day, and so on. One drawer a day and one room a month even! As you work, consider what you want to get rid of. Make sure you're not hanging onto something you don't really want or need, or because you think you might use it someday.

If your house is a mess, you're probably familiar with searching frantically for your keys, wallet, or purse on your way out the door in the morning. That annoyed feeling can completely change how you see your home. Instead of thinking of home as a place of rest and peace, it's a source of stress.

Dust, dander, and pet hair can pile up in

unexpected place. Those unused items sitting in the garage or spare room aren't just taking up space--they are also increasing the number of allergens in your home.

Clutter can impact your finances. Late fees, bank fees, tax penalties, misplaced checks, lost cash, lost or expired gift cards, missed appointments and cancellation fees, and the cost of items you meant to return but never did are just some of the ways being disorganized erodes your budget. If you're so disorganized that you can't find your stuff, you'll end up buying duplicates and triplicates of the same item, whether it's kitchen tools, clothing, sports gear...the list is endless. Anything you can't find, you'll pay to replace.

While not always a sign of larger mental health issues, chronic disorganization can be symptoms of bigger problems, such as depression, anxiety disorder, or obsessive-compulsive disorders, says David F. Tolin, Professor of Psychiatry at Yale. How we deal with our stuff has a lot to say about our emotional state; so take a thoughtful approach about how they affect you. Half completed paintings and half-finished remodels can suggest an unsustainable

perfectionism and may provoke a sense of failure. Take stock of all the projects you currently have "in process." Then be willing to let go, clean up, and move on.

My parents were from the depression era and held onto lots of things, just in case or "the minute I let it go, I'll need it," but they were also very charitable people if they had two of something. My father and mother would give new young couples and people just arriving to the states lots of things they had two of. Also, each of us had desks in our room as a quiet place to study and to organize our books and work. I appreciate them for these very important life skills that served me well.

As we age, "managing stuff" and multitasking become harder and harder. The younger generation has to work harder and harder -- both partners working, managing kids, and multi-tasking just to stay afloat, this is important for you too. We can only manage so much. There is goodness and true wealth in GIVING away what we don't need. No one on their death bed ever wished for more money or stuff. Happy New Year!



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The Mountain Herbalist

By L. C. Moon

In honor of remembering love in February, we will take a look at hearts in the wildflower and botanical world. The classic heart shape means love to people of all languages and when the heart is referenced in literature, it is in regard to love. Hearts-a-Bursting or Hearts-a-Busting (*Euonymus Americanus*) is the first wild botanical that comes to mind when I think of hearts. It is a shrub that's also called Strawberry Bush. Its unique beauty strikes love into the heart of any plant enthusiast.

The small, pale green flowers of Hearts-a-Bursting are very discreet in comparison to the (four lobed) seedpod that forms and gives the shrub its common name. The seedpod develops into a shape and texture that resembles a strawberry and turns a similar a red color. As the seedpod matures, it begins to open up, eventually bursting out dangling bright red berries from its strawberry colored seedpod.

Most herbalists I know, because of the potential side effects, do not commonly use the medicinal benefits of Hearts-a-Bursting and often classify it as poisonous. The seed tea is a very strong laxative but it can be too strong and lead to severe dehydration. A tea has been made of the roots for such things as uterine prolapse and painful urination. The bark has been added to cough remedies as an expectorant and used in powdered form to eliminate dandruff. Other folk uses for Hearts-a-Bursting have been treatment for malaria, liver congestion, and stimulating menstruation.

Wildlife incorporate Hearts-a-Bursting in their diet but it is not a primary food source for any. Wild turkey and birds will occasionally eat the seeds, while deer and eastern cottontail rabbit will eat the leaves.

Another wild heart shape that comes to my mind when I think of nature is the violet leaf.

It is one of my favorites because it is abundant, beautiful, healthy, a great wild food and a patch of violets feels great on my bare feet. Since this winter has been so warm, I have been checking the grass to see if I see any violet patches are waking. I have found some small leaves but no flowers yet.

When the sweet smelling dainty flowers appear and the leaves are larger, I will harvest them to make a refreshing healthy spring tonic. Wine can be made from violet flowers as well as



sweet vinegars and syrups. They were used by the Athenians 'to moderate anger, to comfort and to strengthen the heart,' according to *A Modern Herbal* by Patricia Kyritsi Howell.

There are so many varieties of violet on Lookout Mountain though; all species are edible and have similar medicinal qualities, so no need to be concerned about exactly which one you need to harvest. Violet leaves and flowers are healthy with minerals and vitamins, especially A and C.

The leaves can be eaten both raw and cooked. Cake decorators commonly use candied violets. I add fresh leaves and flowers to salads or cook the leaves in a sauté or soup, then garnish with the sweet and tangy fresh flowers.

Violets are classified as an alterative (helps the body restore) and blood purifier (helps eliminate toxins). They are known to stimulate the lymphatic system and are useful for swollen glands. Violets are known to help with stubborn skin issues such as acne, eczema, psoriasis, skin inflammation, and rashes, as well as to support the immune system in warding off infections such as sinus, bronchitis, sore throat, and cough.

Violet leaves have even been known to help

to shrink tumors and cancers. There are cases where violets have been effective (when used regularly and taken both internally and used externally as a poultice) for skin cancer, tumors, growths, and lumps such as cysts, mastitis, and fibrocystic breasts.

I have a great affinity for heart shapes and it endears me even more to the plants that represent the heart. Daily I see heart shapes in rocks, clouds, the bark of a tree and many other random places. It is one of the things I like to use as a reminder to focus on sharing love and compassion in all things I do. Of course, sometimes it is easier than others and that is why I am even more grateful for the serendipitous heart shaped reminders.

Next month I will continue the heart shaped theme and write about Wild Yam and Little Brown Jug, two more heart shaped leaved wildflowers that live in our Lookout Mountain forest. Until then, visit MentoneWildflower.com for a link to color photos of a dish I created with violets and other "weeds" such as ground ivy, dandelion, and henbit. "May all your weeds be Wildflowers"

**Disclaimer- It is wise to contact your health care provider before making any changes to your health care regimen.*

\$10K Grant Awarded to VHS

The Tillotson-Menlo Charitable Foundation awarded \$10,000 to Valley Head High School to be used to upgrade technology at the school.

Thanks to Tara Kirby for submitting the grant proposal, VHS students and teachers will be better equipped for today's learning environment.

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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. \$33,900. (311288)

WEST FORK AT DESOTO FALLS. Located just down from the picturesque "red boat house," this beautifully-wooded lot offers approx 94' of river frontage in the prime part of Little River; the truly navigable part where you can canoe, kayak or pontoon all the way to Mentone! Hardwoods, rhododendron, laurel. So much natural beauty, so rarely available to be purchased. \$162,500 (355152)

READY FOR YOU TO BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME! 2.75 unrestricted acres with underground utilities, & septic tank! Just minutes from downtown Mentone, but tucked quietly into the woods! Call today before this one's gone! \$35,000 (1054586)

2 WOODED ACRES with a tiny little rustic "cabin" (no plumbing). Build your getaway cabin here amongst the hardwoods, picturesque boulders, wild turkey, deer...most any kind of wildlife found in these hills. Restricted. \$39,700. (1034503)

4.33 ACRES ON SMALL LAKE. Property consists of two lots being sold as one on Full Moon Lake in Laurel Creek Lakes, Mentone, \$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. \$18,000 (1011111)

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



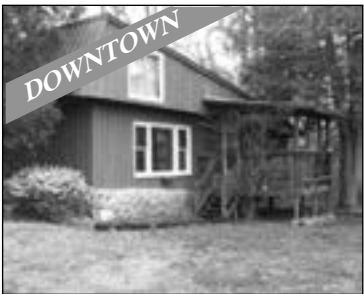
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CEDAR-SIDED HOME ON 6.3 EQUESTRIAN-FRIENDLY ACRES. Rugged good looks, inside & out, with all the creature comforts. Full, covered front porch; screened back porch. Pine walls & ceilings; vaulted living w/stacked stone, gas-log Fplce; tile kitchen; 3BR/2.5BA. Main-level Master suite. Property is open & gently rolling w/perfect site for barn & pens. Add'l acreage avail. 5 min from downtown Mentone. \$215,400 (1060588)



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PRIVATE PRESERVE ON 64.26 ACRES WITH GREAT VIEWS! 3BR/3BA w/pine plank floors; wood-burning fireplace in living area; spacious kitchen w/gas range & lots of cabinetry! Main-level Master BR & bath. Sunroom w/deck access. Full basement, mostly finished, w/large rooms, work areas & garage. Quaint red barn; equipment shed; workshop w/studio apartment overhead w/pine floors & lots of potential. Yes, there's work to be done, but the privacy, views, woods & space offer much for the person wanting privacy & elbow room! 10 miles from downtown Mentone in Cloudland, GA. Only \$250,000 (Co-brokerage with Georgia-licensed company, Lookout Mtn Preferred Realty, Angela Wood) (1060014)



REDUCED!
CHALET-STYLE CABIN on Middle Fork, Little River. Pine floors; stone, woodburning Fplce; high-end windows & doors; gas range w/elec oven; 2640 sq ft; 3BR/3BA+loft 4thBR; on-demand hot H2O. Screened porch, covered deck. Three levels, incl walk-out basement guest suite. Bluff areas & an intriguing wet-weather stream bed w/fabulous stones, ledges & multiple falls; then on to beautiful Little River. 3.81 acres. \$237,500 (1019875)



DOWNTOWN
COTTAGE OR SHOP? OR BOTH? Downtown Mentone. This is one of those rare opportunities to own a place that has been used for a business & living quarters right in the heart of the village. Built as a beauty shop & residence. 1BR (or 2 if you finish the loft)/1.5BA; kit; LR; sunroom; side porch; private back yard; front showroom/office/studio. Multi-use space perfect for the weekends, festival times, part-time, all the time. \$110,000 (403324)



REDUCED!
YEAH IT'S SMALL, BUT WHO WANTS THE IN-LAWS TO VISIT ANYWAY? Join the Tiny House revolution in this open floor plan home + workshop tucked away in the woods on 2 acres surrounded by private hunting land. Add'l power meter + concrete pad for future bldg, a place to park your camper or whatever! Sold fully furnished (including John Deere riding mower), all you need is your toothbrush! Only \$67,900??!! That's just amazing! Call today before your get-away, well, gets away!! (1049483)



MENTONE
TALL MEADOW RUE. Charming "storybook" cottage in the heart of Mentone. Details, details, details! Transom doors; tall windows; stained glass; craftsmanship in stone & brickwork; arched entry & front door; curved lines; English chimney pots; storm room; custom cabinetry & quartz counters; antique mantel & brick fplce w/bookshelves both sides. Main-level BA w/clawfoot tub. Professionally-landscaped gardens w/fishpond, tea house, lighting & tiny chapel. \$321,500 (1031360)



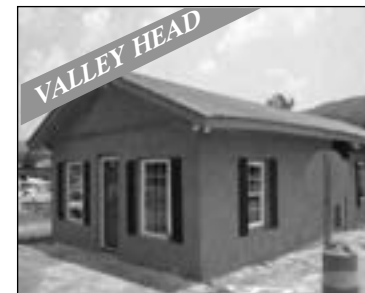
MENTONE
CHARMING BUNGALOW WITH SCREENED FRONT PORCH; lots of old-fashioned flowers & plantings; big shade trees. Deep lot; private backyard, woods & small stream. 3BR/1BA; nostalgic knotty-pine kitchen; enclosed back porch w/laundry & storage room. Heart pine floors. New siding. Workshop w/metal roof & new siding. Most furnishings/appliances can stay. Location lends itself to possibilities for commercial as well as residential/rental uses. \$79,900 (1043685)



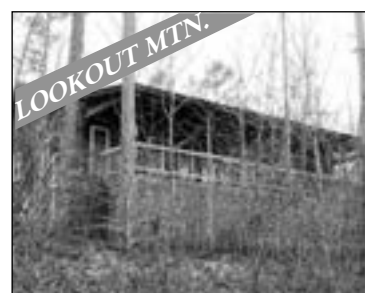
MENTONE
"THE BURREN." 3BR/2.5BA mountain retreat cabin, just off DeSoto Pkwy, nestled among intriguing rock formations, surrounded by woodlands. Metal roof; screened porch; wood-burning mtn stone fireplace; private back deck w/hot tub; 2nd floor balconies. Convenient to DeSoto St Park & Mentone. 1.9 acres. Large screened porch offers expanded living area outdoors. Furnishings negotiable. Active rental. \$199,900 (1052151)



FORT PAYNE
REDUCED! THE CLASSIC LOOK & THE LOCATION! Spacious, 4BR/3.5BA home w/ delicious, large open kitchen w/new appliances, island, & bfast area; formal living & dining rooms; family room w/reclaimed barn-wood walls & antique mantel; HW floors main level; Master suite w/sitting area, walk-in closet & Juliet balcony. Full basement w/garage; HUGE carport; concrete drive; private backyard. \$230,000 (1059562)



VALLEY HEAD
COMMERCIAL BUILDING, with CH/A, new paint, new windows, new flooring, new fixtures in bathroom & kitchen area, and much more! Drive-thru car wash, Valley Head, etc. Great potential for many type business! If you've always thought about being a small business owner, here's an economical place to get going. \$39,900. (562362)



LOOKOUT MTN.
OVERLOOKING THE RIVER AT LAKE LAHUSAGE! 3BR/2BA cabin on 6.12 acres. Large front porch affords you a view as well as a place to relax. A wonderful mixture of convenience & mountain cabin rusticity. Beautiful stone fireplace; pine floors, walls & ceilings; hand-hewn, wood-beamed entry to kitchen w/oak cabinets, pantry & stainless appliances. Split BR design. Most furnishings incl. Hot tub deck. Great rental history. \$194,900 (562232)

SOLD



Rhododendron Garden Club

By Mellanie Tuttle

The Rhododendron Garden Club met December 13 at the home of Mary Shurett for a luncheon and installation of officers. The "pot-luck" meal was well planned with ham, a variety of delicious side dishes, and several desserts. JoAnn Glover came as a guest and joined the club; she is a welcomed addition. Ann Houston presided over the installation of officers and charging each with the responsibility of her office. New officers are: Mellanie Tuttle, President; Marsha Merrell, Vice-President; Brenda Cox, Secretary; and Dianne Kuehl remains as Treasurer. The club has added members, successfully competed in flower shows, become more involved in the Mentone community, and gained an increased knowledge of horticulture under the tutelage of out-going President, Martha Wood. Thank you, Martha.

The January meeting of the RGC was held at the MERF House on Tuesday the 10th. Several members were out of town so attending members tried to do justice to the food that hostess Dianne Kuehl prepared. President, Mellanie Tuttle, called the meeting to order and led the Pledge to the Flag. For the meditation, Brenda Cox shared a poem "Sunward With God" written by Sybil Ames. Roll call included naming sources for seed catalogues. Everyone agreed that Stark Bro's Nurseries and Orchards catalogue and website was an excellent source for information on fruit, nut, landscape trees, and berries. In the 'Growing Guide' section is a fascinating article that tells how "one of the world's most familiar apples, Red Delicious, was discovered by chance; an event that vaulted Stark Bro's into the chronicles of apple lore." (Someone should make a movie.)

Committee reports were given and old and new business was discussed. Horticulture Chairman, Martha Wood, explained that the Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) was named the 2017 Perennial Plant of the Year. A native plant, it is deer resistant, drought resistant, and grows best in well-drained soil. Well named, the Butterfly Weed is a butterfly magnet. The flowers are a nectar source for many butterflies and leaves are the primary larval food of the Monarch. The roadside to Desoto Falls used to be covered with Butterfly

Weed, but spraying has diminished the plant and sightings of butterflies as well. Please be judicious in use of pesticides and repopulate the native Butterfly Weed.

Club members are very excited about a joint project with other Master Gardeners to meet with Moon Lake Elementary school children once a week for an after school program. Two raised beds will be constructed, filled with soil, and planted with vegetables and flowers. Students will learn about maintaining those beds and all things horticulture as well as occasional floral design instruction. Our goal is to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and environmental responsibility.



Marsha Merrell presented a 'delicious' power point program about the history of apples. *Malus pumila* is a deciduous tree in the rose family and propagated by grafting onto rootstock. This is the preferred method since trees grown directly from seeds can reach sixty feet, and the seeds do not consistently produce trees that will bear apples true to the parent tree. Now cultivated worldwide, the ancestor of the modern apple, *Malus sieversii*, grew wild in Central Asia and China and spread to Europe. Colonists brought apples to North American where Rev. William Blaxton planted the first orchard in Boston in 1625. The Crabapple is the only U.S. native apple tree. The popular

image of Johnny Appleseed spreading seeds randomly as he walked is not true. John Chapman actually planted nurseries, fenced them in, left a local person in charge to sell trees on shares, and returned yearly to check the stock. He left an estate of over 1200 acres of nurseries from Pennsylvania to Indiana. Thomas Jefferson grew 18 varieties. The 'Esopus Spitzenburg' was his favorite and is one of the best for making pies. He also grew the 'Newton Pippin', which was so popular with Queen Victoria that she removed the import tax! In 1928, 14,000 varieties were known, today 90 or so are grown commercially. The refrigerated railcar enhanced the popularity of the apple to become the 'American' fruit we all know and love.

Club members were saddened by the death of Gethryn Giles. Since her move to NC, club business has not always been in compliance with the Robert's Rules of Order. She will be missed.

The next meeting will be held at the MERF House on February 14 starting at 10:00 am. "Be Our Valentine" and learn about "Berries of Many Colors."

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.



New officers left to right: Dianne Kuehl, Brenda Cox, Marsha Merrell, Mellanie Tuttle, and Ann Houston.

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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.



FURNISHED CABIN on Parkway! Minutes from DeSoto St. Pk. and Downtown Mentone. Approx. 864 sqft with 2BR/2BA, wood-burning FP, wood floors/walls, fully equipped kitchen, W/D, CH&A, 5-person hot tub.. \$135,000. 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. \$268,900. 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. \$323,900. MLS#1048899.



GORGEOUS 11.27 acre lot with fabulous view of the valley. Included is a 2BR/1BA mobile home with a screened porch and deck. 2 rock bluff points with trails for easy access. \$144,900. MLS #1052557



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. \$269,900. 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



LESS THAN ONE MILE from downtown Mentone. 3BR/2BA house w/new range, microwave and dishwasher, instant heat hot water, front porch, above ground pool with decks, 2 out buildings, hobby greenhouse. 1.35 acres. \$139,900. MLS #1060570.

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.
#1026589 - Build on the water's edge....approximately 100' of waterfront on West Fork Little River. \$162,000.
#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



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



Furnished Cabin on Parkway! Minutes from DeSoto St. Pk. & downtown Mentone. Approx. 650 sq ft w/loft BR and downstairs BR, 1 BA, wood floors/walls, fully-equipped kitchen, W/D, CH&A, 5-person hot tub. Currently in rental program. \$125,000. MLS #1059325.



Water Front Vacation Home. 2BR/2BA 1-1/2 story cabin located in the Laurel Lake subdivision, Mentone. Open floor plan. Master Suite has its own entrance to a large screened in back porch that could serve as a whole new living area in pleasant months. \$174,500. MLS #1017650.

#1038089 - 6.4 acres on Co. Rd. 89, Lot 8, in Mentone. \$138,000

#1039769 - 6.32 +/- waterfront building lot in Mountain River Estates! \$49,950

#1045110 - 7.9 acres on brow. \$149,000.

#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.

#1058121 - 2.07 Acres in Laurel Creek Lakes, Mentone. \$24,500.

#1059301 - 5 Acres in Gaylesville. \$135,000.

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Our Small Town Makes National News Impact

By Cathy Haven Howard

On Saturday January 21st over 70 people gathered from five different states and many towns in Alabama to participate in the Sister March to the Women's March on Washington DC on the sidewalks of Mentone. Organizer Cathy Haven Howard and her Leadership Team of deJoly LaBrier, Sharon Habin and Lisa Schad wanted to express their solidarity with the national Women's March in DC. They approached the Town Council and Cynthia Stinson of the Mentone Inn to see about the possibility of having a march here in



Mentone. The affirmative answers kept coming and in a few short days the team of women had pulled together a March that was FOR Human and Women's rights and strictly followed the national guidelines of non-violence.

The weather that morning was a dense fog on the mountain which quickly turned to a rainy downpour, but people kept coming and braving the elements. We were so grateful to have the Pavilion behind the Mentone Inn as a dry gathering place before the March and also where we listened to passionate speeches afterwards. We were able to have an opportunity to really connect with each other and to hear the variety of reasons why people were marching. These reasons ranged from equality to marching for our grandmothers, daughters, granddaughters and those women who do not have a voice.

The rain let up right at the time we took to



the sidewalks of Mentone, walking with many colorful and meaningful signs, and chanting slogans of equality and peace. As we walked to the Post Office the wind picked up and we had to hang on to our signs, but our spirits were buoyed as drivers honked and yelled affirming thoughts to us.

We returned to the Pavilion and were able to listen to inspiring speeches and watch an awesome



peace dance from a Crow Native American veteran woman, Julia Kelly, who danced in her traditional jingle dress. With each speech the feelings of connection, unity, and momentum built and we linked arm in arm and sang songs like "We Shall Overcome, and "I will be Your Standing Stone." We ended our time together by having a wonderful, delicious lunch in the Gallery of Kamama provided by Fontana of the Wolves Den restaurant.

A photo taken of Mentone area resident Susan Cheronos before she made her speech was posted on Twitter and went viral; at the time of this writing it had received over 50,000 likes. The post has received many encouraging words from all over the world. They range from: "Don't give up. Proud of women around the world"; to "Thanks to all you awesome folks representing in small towns." One of those that wrote to us stated, "I'm hoping to bring my nieces (who are 2 and almost a year) someday to this amazing city and to show them places like NYC and DC so they know there are different types of people out there and that we must all seek equality." Another said, "I know it likely wasn't your intent when you organized the march, but it has garnered attention from people all over the country who are now asking where to eat and stay not if, but when, they visit our little mountain gem."

We are so grateful for the support we received from the town and all the participants! Thank you so much.



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In Memoriam

GETHRYN S. GILES

Gethryn S. Giles, age 80, of Black Mountain, NC died peacefully at her home at Givens Highland Farms, January 4, 2017.

Gethryn was born in Decatur, AL on July 11, 1936 to Roger Benjamin and Rubye Reeder Steverson. She attended Huntington College and obtained her Masters of Social Work at the University of Tennessee School of Social Work in 1968, where she received the Rhoda O'Meara award for exhibiting the most promise for contributions to her field. She began her career as a social case worker in Tuscumbia, Huntsville, and Talladega, AL and retired in 1996 as Assistant to the Commissioner for the Alabama Department of Human Resources in Montgomery.

Upon retirement, she and her husband Gene moved to Mentone, AL, and she continued her service with Alive Hospice in Scottsboro. Gethryn was involved with many of the ministries at St. Joseph's on the Mountain including serving as

the President of the Episcopal Church Women there. She was also President of the Rhododendron Garden Club (2005 - 2007), and was involved with Friends of the Moon Lake Library.

Among other offices she held (too numerous to mention them all), she was past President of the Alabama Conference of Social Work, President of the Episcopal Church Women in the Diocese of Alabama, and served on the Vestries of Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, Montgomery and St. James, Black Mountain. Most recently she was President of the Residents' Corporation at Givens Highland Farms, Black Mountain.

Gethryn sought to serve in all aspects of her life. Described by many as a "force of nature," she was the ultimate administrator and organizer. She was also a kind, caring, generous, supportive wife, mother and grandmother who took great pride in her family's accomplishments. She lived a full and joyous life entertaining, playing bridge, bird watching, and

attending the symphony.

She is survived by her children, Kim (Jeff) Strickland of Nashville, TN; Kelly (Jonathan) Stephenson of Black Mountain, NC; four grandchildren in whom she took such pride – Riley and Maggie Stephenson and Anna and Audrey Strickland; and one sister, Dr. Gayle (Jack) Steverson Kent of Lakeland, FL. She was predeceased by her husband of 39 years, George E. (Gene) Giles.

A Celebration of Life service was held at St. James Episcopal Church, Black Mountain, at 10am on Monday, January 9. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Resident Assistant Ministry at Givens Gerber Park, 2360 Sweeten Creek Road, Asheville, NC 28803.

DR. JAMES HAYWOOD BAKER

Dr. James Haywood Baker, 75, of Mentone, Alabama, died December 18, 2016, after a brief illness. A memorial service was held at St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church in Mentone followed immediately by a luncheon for friends and family. Dr. Baker was born in Opp, Alabama, on June 7, 1941. He graduated from Opp High School, where he was known as a great sportsman and a gentleman even in youth. Following graduation from the University of Alabama and the University Of Alabama School Of Dentistry,



Dr. Baker served two years in the U.S. Navy Dental Corps, including a brief stint at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station. Dr. Baker practiced private dentistry in Huntsville before becoming Chief of Dentistry at Searcy Hospital in Mt. Vernon, Alabama. Dr. Baker and his wife, Margaret, lived in Orange Beach from 1986 to 2000, but he continued the lengthy commute to Mt. Vernon in order to enjoy beach living. During his time in Orange Beach, Dr. Baker was an active community member. He served on the Orange Beach Planning Commission and was elected to the City Council. He and his wife were charter members of St. Andrew by the Sea community church in Gulf Shores. In February 2000, he and his wife traded life at the beach for life in the mountains when Dr. Baker acquired an Affordable Dentures practice in Albertville. He ran the practice for 15 years before retiring in June 2015. Over the last decade, Dr. Baker served on the University of Alabama College of Arts & Sciences Leadership Board.

Dr. Baker was the family protector and beloved patriarch. He opened his heart and home regularly to abandoned cats, dogs, friends, and family members. An avid reader of newspapers (3-4 a day) and lover

of knowledge, Dr. Baker often served as a "personal Wikipedia" to those around him. Selfless. Gentle-spirited. Determined. These are some of the ways his loved ones describe him. He treasured spending time with family and friends, being Paps/Papi to his grandchildren, cheering for University of Alabama sports teams, working daily with his caring and committed staff, playing his Martin guitars, attending weekly breakfasts with fellow ROMEOs (Retired Old Men Eating Out), running errands with his yellow lab Milo and ensuring that his home was well stocked with quality paper

products, Diet Coke and light ice cream.

Dr. Baker is preceded in death by his parents, J. V. and Sarah Pittman Baker of Opp. Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Margaret Riggs Baker, of Mentone; son James H. Baker II (Andrea) of Franklin, Tennessee; daughter Suzanne Baker (Britt Cloud) of Atlanta, Georgia; grandchildren Elizabeth Baker of Atlanta, Matthew Baker of Basking Ridge, New Jersey, and Hayden Cloud of Atlanta; sister Janice Greer of Santa Clarita, California; brother Thomas Baker (Ann) of Castle Rock, Colorado; and a host of adored nieces, nephews, cousins and in-laws.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Tapestry Public Charter School, 3130 Raymond Dr., Atlanta, GA 30340 (tapestrycharter.org), Atlanta Lab Rescue, P.O. Box 250206, Atlanta, GA 30325 (atlantalabrescue.com) or the St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church Memorial Garden Fund, PO Box 161, Mentone, AL 35984.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN MEMORIES

A. Jerry Akridge

Oh, I've traveled the world all over,
And been from the East to the West,
But of all the places I have ever been,
There's only one I can call the best.

This place lives within my heart,
Lookout Mountain is its name.
People there are all your friends;
There is nowhere else the same.

No place on planet Earth.
Speaks better of God's creation.
For here it is His sure delight,
To show His own such adoration.

At DeSoto Falls and Mentone town,
Rhododendron and mountain laurel grow,
And in my mind and its canyons deep,
Swift blue waters of Little River flow.

While pausing on a canyon's rim,
One can seem to slow the clock,
Or meditating at Howard's Chapel,
A church built solid on the Rock.

The faith of our founding fathers,
Is reflected in the people here.
They mirror love of a saving God;
Their trust in Him is so clear.

It's a place dreams are born from,
Where sorrows and troubles cease.
There on top of Lookout Mountain,
Are found beauty and precious peace.

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.

HANDY-MAN AND CARETAKER SERVICES. Dependable and trustworthy. Anything from changing light bulbs to yard work, home repair to room additions. Can oversee your property while out of town. 256-273-2009 (Have References).

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

Volunteers Needed

- Little River Canyon Center needs event staff as well as program assistants for environmental education to help with field trips and other educational programs.
- MAPA is looking for people to help with the Rhododendron festival for planning as well as during the event.
- MERF is in need of people to help with tutoring K-6 students in Math and Reading for 2 hours per week.
- Mentone Community Library is asking for helpers 2-3 hours per month.



ATTENTION GROUNDHOG READERS!

Copies of The Groundhog are available at the following locations:

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	Lookout Mountain Trading Post Mentone Inn Mentone Realty Moon Lake Trading Company Mountain Properties Southern Style Log Furniture Town Hall Wildflower Cafe
	MENTONE Body Maintenance Clip Joint Community Library GracefulGiraffe Gourdie Shop Hair @ The Village Kamama’s Little River Hardware Lookout Mountain Realty	GEORGIA Auto Parts (Menlo) Menlo Healthmart Menlo Lucky’s Mountain Top Country Store Restaurant (Menlo) State Line Store
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Healing Artists Circle--Love Yourself Through Health

by Lisa A. Schad, LMT

Our last gathering of 2016, held in December, brought together about 25 folks interested in networking with each other to learn more about and share their interests and talents in the healing arts. Rather than a formal meeting, our meet and greet joined with celebrating Tohi Spa and Massage Studio's one-year birthday party. Several local vendors donated door prizes and gift certificates for their services which were awarded as every one of us introduced ourselves and shared our connections to healing arts. All shared their joy in meeting new folks and learning new things about folks they already know. Who knew we have a therapeutic clown in our midst that helps folks heal through laughter and exploring their facades and many faces? Clare Donahue taught us about the power of our voices; Lisa Crow played and sang for us; Sharon Habin shared a group tarot card reading she did for us, and many others shared.

Debbie Happy Cohen was our presenter



for January with her topic of The Power of Appreciation and Honor on Health and Longevity which included discussion and experiential exercises.

presentation by the Tohi team- Lisa, Orion and Sonya- on the topic of Loving Yourself through Health. We will discuss and demonstrate the healing benefits of essential oils, massage, and energy techniques. Please bring your business cards and samples if you are a provider/ business owner and your interest and healing stories if you are a layperson.

Please contact Lisa A. Schad, LMT at 256-635-8855 for more information.



February's circle will meet at Tohi at Kamama on Thursday, February 16. Meet and greet at the Wolfe's Den, 5-6:30 for a Dutch style meal and 6:30-8 there will be a



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