



Standard Mail (A)
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 1
Mentone, AL 35984

Address Service Requested

THE GROUNDHOG

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

Volume 36, No. 5

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

June 2017

"Music for the People" Returns for Fourth Year

By Rhea Pirch



The Little River Arts Council is pleased to announce they have received a grant in the amount of \$1,300 from the Alabama State Council on the Arts to benefit

the fourth annual summer music series, "Music for the People." The series offers four concerts, free of charge, to the residents and visitors of the Little River area during the summer months. This program allows amateur, local, and professional musicians to share their talents, ranging from bluegrass to blues, country to soul to rock and roll.

The first concert will be held at the Mentone Inn Pavilion on Saturday, June 24th. Local singer/songwriter Craig Hendricks will take the stage at 6:00 p.m. with a blend of his own traditional country songs mixed with 70's classics, country favorites from the 80's, and

modern country hits. Hendricks, who moved here last year with his wife, has entertained audiences throughout Georgia and Maine and looks forward to performing in Mentone, his new home town.

Following at 7:00, "Backwoods Revival" bluegrass band from Geraldine, Alabama, will perform their mix of original and classic Americana and bluegrass tunes. The six-man group, whose members have opened for such



(cont'd on page 5)



A "Bright Light" Shines Among Us

Mentone native Kayla Worthey has been recognized as a "Bright Light" by Alabama Newscenter for her contributions to and her passion for the Rhododendron Festival, Mentone, Lookout Mountain, and the entire county.

Kayla usually hides behind the scenes but her light still shines. She dedicates numerous hours helping plan, budget, and carry out festivals in Mentone--both the Rhododendron Festival and Colorfest--year after year. Kayla has been chosen as an Alabama Bright Light

(cont'd on page 8)

MACC Continues Toward Goal; Hosts Special Events in June

By Randy Grider

The Mentone Arts & Cultural Center (MACC) is coming off a very productive couple of months.

In the past few weeks, donors stepped up to the plate with more than \$36,000 in cash and commitments! This goes a long way in helping us meet our goal of beginning construction on the first phase of the facility in the spring of 2018.

We need approximately \$800,000 to complete the first phase and currently have just over \$224,000 in the bank and almost \$200,000 in commitments. We anticipate a big summer in fundraising efforts. A big thank you to all who have donated! For those planning to make individual contributions this year, this is a great

time to do it because it helps tremendously with our construction planning and gives us more leverage when applying to charitable foundations for additional grants.

Speaking of grants, we expect to hear by June 3, whether MACC made the top 10 in the USA Today's A Community Thrives grant competition. Fort Payne High School student Taylor Theakston created an impressive video that allowed us entry into the competition that gives winners in three categories grants up to \$100,000. Thank you Taylor and to all who voted during the month-long public voting period!

We also recently wrapped shooting on new promotional video, which was sponsored by the Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association.



(cont'd on page 4)

THE GROUNDHOG

P. O. Box 387
Mentone, AL 35984

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



MAPA BOARD

Ray Padgett, President
Kathryn Wheeler, Vice President
Kayla Worthey, Treasurer
Jerome Stephens, Secretary
Laura C. Moon, Parliamentarian, Past President
Courtney Roden
Jeff Rymer

GROUNDHOG STAFF

Anna Mae Horn, Editor
Beverly Bates, Design Manager

Advertise with the Groundhog!

Current Rates & Sizes:

1/8 pg - \$50 (3.25" w x 5" h or 5" w x 3.25" h)
1/6 pg - \$75 (3.25" w x 6.75" h or 5" w x 4.5" h)
1/5 pg - \$87 (3.25" x 8" h or 5" w x 5.25" h)
1/4 pg - \$100 (5" w x 6.5" h)
1/3 pg - \$150 (5" w x 8.75" h or 10" w x 4.25" h)
1/2 pg - \$200 (10" w x 6.5" h)
Full Pg - \$300 (10" w x 13" h)
Upcharge for Color

Ad Deadline for Camera Ready - 16th of the month prior to publication month
Deadline for Ad Creation - 14th of the month prior to publication month
Layout Charge - 10% of ad cost
Classified Ads - \$10 in advance
Birthday/Anniversary/Special Events with photos - \$15 in advance

In case of errors in advertisements, The Groundhog assumes liability only for the actual space that is incorrect in the advertisement.

Contact The Groundhog
P.O. Box 387 256-465-1107
groundhognews@yahoo.com

Have a Letter to the Editor
or a story idea?
Send it to
The Groundhog
at groundhognews@yahoo.com.

MENTONE MATTERS

By Mayor Rob Hammond



Summer is here. Starting with Memorial Day weekend Mentone's population begins to grow and activity increases. The camps open in June. There will be more people driving, walking, running, and biking in Mentone. Please be vigilant and share the road.

Recently the business association has voiced concerns to the town council about traffic, trucks, speeding, and safety on AL 117. None of these concerns are new. We have been dealing with them for many years. When our officers are on patrol and have their radars on there is very

little speeding. We have increased the number of hours dedicated to radar patrol. From time to time several of our officers and officers from other law enforcement agencies will work together to slow traffic down. The first time this occurred (for several hours on a Friday afternoon) 20 warnings were issued to cars—mostly from out of town. No trucks were clocked speeding. During the summer months there will be a greater police presence—day and night. The town will continue to work with ALDOT whenever possible. They have cooperated with the town on many projects—blinking lights at the bridge and school zone, permits for the rock MENTONE signs and the rock columns and fence. ALDOT supplies the congested area ahead signs for both of our festivals.

Harriet and Steve O'Rear are making plans to leave the mountain. Thanks to Harriet we have three beautiful rock MENTONE signs and rock columns and fence at the sign coming up the mountain. She has been instrumental in beautifying Mentone with flowerbeds wherever possible. Steve was always instrumental in getting these projects done. They leave a great legacy and we wish them well.

From The Editor

So many memories filling the air this time of year: graduations filled the school calendars in May, the Rhododendron Festival has just passed as well as Memorial Day, and decorations are being held on any given weekend at cemeteries across the area.

Graduations always flood the mind with memories, and often fill our eyes with liquid memories. Memories for the students, the parents, teachers, and friends. Memories of school days and summers played.

The Rhododendron Festival is mostly about treasuring good times with friends, both old and new. Some old memories come to mind and new ones are most definitely being created.

Over the Memorial Day weekend most people celebrate with family and friends as a way to honor the lives of soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice. We are celebrating memories of bravery, freedom, and lives who made a difference in their death.

Decorating graves at the family cemetery in honor of a loved one's memory is a long standing tradition as well. It brings recollections of loved ones and even memories of past decorations. Mama used to tell us how they were given store-bought dresses and new patent leather shoes for the occasion each spring. Mama always made sure we were dressed especially nice, often with newly made dresses. She also always gave us the

'best behavior' speech before we left the house, as we drove to decoration, and once more, for good measure, before we unloaded from the car. I don't think we were bad kids, but maybe it's because of all those speeches.

Anna Mae Horn



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

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

You may join online at
mapamentone.com



MAPA
P. O. Box 50
Mentone, AL 35984

That's A Wrap!

By Anna Mae Horn

Another fun festival has passed! The 2017 Rhododendron Festival went on despite Mother Nature's unpredictability. A couple of plans were altered or cancelled, but overall it was a great celebration. The official estimate of visitors to The Rhododendron Festival is "Over 5,000"!

Music was heard all over town all weekend long. A mass quantity of delicious food was consumed in true Southern tradition. The fish fry was a big hit both nights! Jewelry and artwork, wood items and caramel corn were taken home. Smiling faces were seen everywhere. Carriage rides and boat rides and pony rides were being taken. There were cloggers and storytellers enjoyed by many.

All the hours of preparation were well worth the result. Many thanks to all the fabulous, committed volunteers for pulling this terrific event together.



All the sponsorships are much appreciated. Many people, businesses, and organizations participated. MAPA is grateful for the entire community's support for the Rhododendron Festival again this year.

Volunteers will take a short break and then start the planning of

Colorfest. Make your plans now, because we all know big crowds turn up to see those beautiful leaves as they change into their autumn attire before falling off the trees. We look forward to seeing the crowds at every festival. Thank you for joining us for the 2017 Rhododendron Festival and celebrating all that is Mentone.



Don't Miss MBA Movie Night!



Once again the Mentone Business Association presents a free summertime music and movie night for the community. Everyone is welcome to join us at the Mentone Inn Pavilion on June 9th—dressing for the 50's makes it even more fun. Free music starts at 6:30 and the free movie starts around 8:30, as soon as it's dark enough. Bring your lawn chairs and your blankets.



Mentone Inn Music a Treasured Tradition

By Anna Mae Horn

It takes more than a little rain to dull the traditions of the Rhododendron Festival. Despite the weather, there was music and fun and friendship at the pavilion of the Mentone Inn for the Rhododendron Festival. One group friends gather each year for the festival in honor of a friend who has passed. They create new memories and share old memories as their children make friendships with each other. Regular visitors like

this are common throughout the town and sort of a population of their own even though they don't own property here. Mentone still owns a piece of their heart. Cynthia Stinson, Innkeeper and General Manager of the Mentone Inn, treasures these gatherings. She treasures the locals, as well, that come out to enjoy the music and play the music, rain and shine. She is already looking forward to next time.





MAPA NEWS

By Ray Padgett, MAPA President

Once Again--It's Volunteers

During the past several weeks I have assembled information for our MAPA IRS tax returns, some of which is new for 501(c)3 organizations such as MAPA. MAPA Board member names and addresses are typical; however, this year we were required to include Board member volunteer

hours. Some MAPA members logged hundreds of volunteer hours in 2016 and I am sure this is true for many other non-profit organizations in Mentone.

Another interesting bit of data required by the IRS is the total number of people who volunteered for MAPA projects during 2016. I counted 75 different folks from our Mentone community who volunteered for at least one of our festivals, The Groundhog, and other projects such as the Highway 117 Overlook. This is truly amazing for a little town of about 400 residents.

A good example of Mentone volunteerism is the just-completed Rhododendron Festival. More than 30 individuals volunteered under MAPA's umbrella of events for the festival--not counting more than a dozen members of our local Boy Scout troop who provided yeoman duty parking, chair set-up, and garbage pick-up. Additionally,

the Mentone Educational Resource Foundation (MERF), the Mentone Arts and Cultural Center (MACC) and the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District volunteers used the festival as a fundraising opportunity.

In addition to planning and volunteering during the festival, artists and photographers donated their work for MAPA's Art Raffle. However, my biggest surprise came when I tried to count the number of musicians who performed -- basically for "gas money". MAPA scheduled over 50 different people to perform during the festival and dozens more performed around town for non-MAPA sponsored events.

MAPA applauds and thanks all the great Mentone community volunteers. Your help makes our town a great place to live and visit. Thank you!

MACC Continues... (cont'd from page 1)

The video is being created by Juergen Beck of Freedom Light Production. We hope to unveil the video in late June.

MACC presented several special events and workshops over the past few weeks including 'Behind the Scenes' with Sandra Lafferty as well as 'Painting Flowers in the Style of Georgia O'Keeffe' with artist Lydia Randolph.

We also were delighted to host a performance by singer/songwriter Chuck Brodsky, which was made possible by MACC's newest board member Ben Shurett, who replaces Kaye Kiker. A big

month from 7-9 p.m. at Kamama. Homemade Jam features local songwriters playing original songs in a format modeled after Nashville's renowned Blue Bird Café. Admission is \$5. Participating songwriters are free. For more information or to reserve your spot, please call Lydia Randolph at 256-630-1597 or Ray Padgett at 850-974-3271.

On Friday, June 16, we play host to an evening of jazz with the Watters/Felts Project featuring Ken Watters and Ingrid Felts from 7-9 p.m., at Kamama. Admission is \$15.

On Sunday, July 2, MACC will present an afternoon of jazz featuring Clare Donohue -- accompanied by Stephen Powers (guitar), Dave Schwab (upright bass), Harry Wilkinson (drums), and Ken Watters (trumpet). The event is from 1-3 p.m. at Kamama and admission is \$15.

Kilgore Express Pharmacy is sponsoring both jazz shows. To reserve your seat at either show, please call 256-674-3366. All proceeds from these MACC-related events go the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center.



Randy Grider is executive director of the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center. Email him at mentoneartscenter@gmail.com.



thank you to Kaye for her service to the board. In other board news, Hank Willett has been appointed treasurer.

Upcoming Events

On Thursday, June 8, MACC presents Homemade Jam, a songwriters' showcase. We held the first informal jam last month and expect it to be a regular event on the second Thursday of each

Valley Head Drugs

114 Commerce Avenue
Valley Head, AL 35989

256-635-6812

Cynthia and Wayne Wooten, Owners

"We appreciate your business"



Mark Mitchell, Agent
17174 AL Hwy 75
Henagar, AL 35978
Bus: 256-657-6252
mark@markamitchell.com

**More
policies.
More
savings.**

**Bundle auto, home and life
for big State Farm® discounts.**
So let me show you how
State Farm can help protect all
the things that matter most --
for a lot less than you think.
GET TO A BETTER STATE.®
CALL ME TODAY.

 **State Farm™**

"Music for the People" (cont'd from page 1)

groups as Diamond Rio and Ricky Skaggs, play their favorites on classic acoustic instruments including the upright bass, dobro guitar, the mandolin and the banjo.

The second concert, slated for Saturday, July 1st, will be held at DeSoto State Park and will feature more



southern bluegrass with Tennessee's favored, "Lost in Tyme". The band has played extensively throughout Tennessee and northern Alabama and returns to this area with a warm welcome.

On Saturday, July 22nd, legendary singer/songwriter Rock Killough will perform at Kamama Gallery in Mentone. Killough's brand of music is an eclectic mix of country, infused with a blend of blues, gospel and comedy, with a touch of rock and roll. His songwriting successes include singles by Randy Travis and Brenda Lee, two gold albums by the Oak Ridge Boys and gold and platinum albums by Hank Williams Jr. He has opened concerts for Willie Nelson and Townes Van Zandt, and has toured with John Prine, Sonny Terry and Brownie McGee, and David Allen Coe.

The final concert, to be held on Saturday, August 19th at the Mentone Inn Pavilion, will feature Kozmic Mama, one of Huntsville, Alabama's hottest bands. Lead singer Carla Russell belts out a variety of original and classic soul, Motown, blues and rock. The band's dynamic appearance in Mentone three years ago drew the biggest crowd ever- filling the grounds behind the pavilion to standing room only.

ASCA grants are awarded through a multi-

faceted competitive review process. These grants signify that the Little River Arts Council provides programs of artistic quality, serves the needs of the community and demonstrates high-level administrative standards, as well as enhancing education of students at all levels.

These grants awarded by the Alabama State Council on the Arts are made possible through funding

from annual appropriation from the Alabama State Legislature and the National Endowment of the Arts. This public support enables the Little River Arts Council to reach new audiences, foster community development, provide the highest quality programming, and demonstrate the importance of arts as a component for quality of life in Alabama.

The Little River Arts Council is happy to be able to provide free "Music for the People" with the use of these grant funds. We look forward to seeing you at all four events of the Summer Music Series!



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS

Save the Date:

June 24 - Mentone Inn Pavilion
Craig Hendricks and Backwoods Revival
July 1 - DeSoto State Park
Lost in Tyme
July 22 - Kamama Art Gallery
Rock Killough
August 19 - Mentone Inn Pavilion
Kozmic Mama

BUYING GOLD,
SILVER, DIAMONDS,
JEWELRY & COINS!

We Pay More!

*Free Ring Cleaning & Check
We Retip Prongs & Repair Jewelry*

Same Location Since 1959

Pruett Jewelers

**69 Main Street East
Rainsville**

256-638-3210



*To better serve your families,
we have added an on site crematory.*

*Our staff members will be
taking care of your loved one every
step of the way.*



Call today to discuss your family's needs.

256-845-9150

www.wilsonfhinc.com

All Pre-arranged Funerals Are Fully Trained According To Alabama Laws.
Alabama Department Of Insurance Certificate of Authority # 13335

Your Library News Your Library News Your Library News

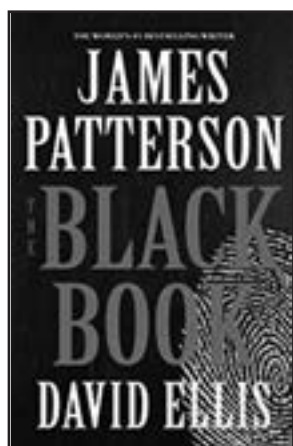


By Barb Stoll

Summertime Fun and your Library

Happy Summertime folks--it is warm and wonderful out there. It is time for cookouts, lemonade and lounging with a great book or DVD, both of which you can find at your Community Library. Here's what we have for you this month.

Books



The Black Book - Bill Harney was born to be a cop. Kate Fenton is his adrenaline-junkie partner. A horrifying murder leads investigators to an exclusive brothel that caters to Chicago's most powerful citizens. What matters most is what's missing--the madam's

black book. As everyone who's anyone in Chicago scrambles to get their hands on the elusive black book, no one's motives can be trusted. *The Black Book* is James Patterson at his page-turning best.

The Zookeepers Wife

- This novel by Diane Ackerman is now a major motion picture. It is 1939, and the Germans have invaded Poland. The keepers of the Warsaw Zoo survive the bombardment of the city, only to see the occupiers ruthlessly kill many of their animals. Opposed to all the Nazis represent, they risk their lives hiding Jews in the now-empty animals cages, saving as many as 300 people from extermination. Ackerman tells a moving and dramatic story of the power of empathy and the strength of love.



Against All Odds - Another great By Danielle Steel. Taking chances is part of life, but when you bet your future against the odds, it's a high risk game. Isabella, a dedicated attorney, is in line to be a partner at her Wall Street firm when she falls for a client she represents in a criminal case. Julie, a young designer, meets a man who seems too good to be true and falls under his spell. Justin is a struggling writer who pushes for children with his partner before they're financially or emotionally ready. Willie, the youngest and a tech expert,

makes a choice that shocks them all, with a woman twelve years older. Can the odds be beaten?

The Fix - David Balducci's detective Amos Decker returns in a stunning new novel. Decker witnesses an execution-style murder just outside FBI headquarters. Even with Decker's extraordinary powers of observation and deduction, the killing is baffling. Critical information may have been leaked to a hostile government--or worse, an international

terrorist group--and an attack may be imminent. Decker's never been one to follow the rules, especially when the stakes are so high. Decker remains laser focused on only one goal--solving the case before it's too late.

DVDs

Rogue One - From Lucasfilm comes an epic adventure--*Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*. In a period of great conflict, a group of unlikely heroes band together on a desperate mission to steal the plans to the Death Star, the Empire's ultimate weapon of destruction. This film is the prequel to the famous Star Wars saga and the reason R2D2 was sent on that initial adventure that made us all fall in love with him so many years ago.

Sing - From the studio that brought you *The Secret Life of Pets* comes an animated comedy about finding that music that lives inside all of us. Stars Matthew McConaughey, Reese Witherspoon, Scarlett Johansson, and Taron Everton make this family movie the musical comedy event of the year.



Fantastic Beasts and Where To Find Them - Okay adult Harry Potter fans, this is for you. Explore a new era of the wizarding world before Harry Potter. Something mysterious is leaving a path of destruction in the streets of 1926 New York, threatening to expose the wizarding world. Eddie Redmayne, starring as Newt Scamander, and a band of unlikely heroes must recover the missing beasts before they come to harm, but their mission puts them on a collision course with Dark Forces.

Game of Thrones, Seasons 3 & 4 - In the thrilling third and fourth seasons, the Lannisters' control over the Iron Throne remains intact, but can they survive their own egos as well as the ongoing threats around them? The battling families of Westeros continue to clash as bonds are strained, loyalties are tested, and cruel fates are met. (Rated R)

So there you are folks. Fun, fun, and more fun for those warm summer days and nights. Come on down to your Community Library and join us for some summer fun and great entertainment. As always, we love your visits.



**Downtown Valley Head
- Breakfast and Lunch -
6am - 3pm, M-F**

256-674-3363

*Soup, Salad, Sandwiches, & Burgers
Plates, Biscuits, Muffins, & More*

DIXIE SALVAGE

3630 N. Gault Avenue
Fort Payne, Alabama 35967

JOHN CROW
Business (256) 845-5475
FAX (256) 845-5475

North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District to Hold Grocery Shopping Spree Fundraiser

How many grocery shopping carts can a person fill in three minutes? One lucky winner will find out on July 11, 2017 when the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District (NLMFPD) in Mentone holds their First Annual Grocery Shopping Spree Fundraiser at the PriceLess IGA in Fort Payne, Alabama.

"We estimate the value of the Grocery Shopping Spree to be around \$1,200. After we pay for the cost of the shopping spree itself, the remaining proceeds will go towards the purchase of new firefighting equipment for the NLMFPD," said a spokesperson for the fire department.

Tickets went on sale May 20th for \$10 each. They can be purchased at the PriceLess IGA location in Fort Payne, online at NorthLookoutMountainFPD.com, or at the main fire station located at 5922 Highway 117 in downtown Mentone every Monday night between the hours of 6 and 7 pm.

Drawing for the winner of the Grocery Shopping Spree will be held on July 5, 2017. The winner need not be present to win. For more information, to purchase tickets online, or for contest rules, please visit our website.

Donations Provide Fire Department With Brush Truck

By Members of the NLMFPD

Due to the outpouring of support and the generosity of many people near and far, the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District has been able to purchase and restore a much needed truck equipped specifically for fighting brush fires. We all recall the raging fires back in November. Thankfully no lives or homes were lost, but equipment was damaged and destroyed.

The community was abundant with it's support for our immediate needs and donations continued to come in after the fires were extinguished. We let the community know that we needed a brush truck, and they graciously provided the funds to make it possible.

It has been a long process, but now, we are so proud to show the community exactly what all the donation money went for. We were able to purchase a '99 Ford 7.3 liter 4 wheel drive with these funds. We were able to use our skid unit from one of the old brush trucks. It took a lot of fabrication and a lot of man hours- all done by volunteer fireman- but we were able to change it all over and get it running. We try to use all funds wisely and sparingly, using volunteer hours for repairs as opposed to paid labor and buying used instead of new when practical.

Fire fighting is a job that requires continuous

maintenance and much equipment. All of our needs are not met; it is an ongoing process to keep equipment up to date. We are currently setting up a way to get our Engine 2 to Florence. The 2 weeks of woods fire was more than the pump could handle. We are going to have it rebuilt. However, we are very thankful for the addition of this much needed brush truck. It



was, by far, our most pressing need.

We want to personally thank our community and everyone who donated for all the food, drinks, and donations made during the wildfires. We want to thank those who gave to the 'Go Fund Me' account online as well as the local collection places. We also would like to thank both The Outpost and the Mentone Market for their hard work and support. We would like to thank the city of Mentone and Mayor Rob Hammond along with the city of Valley Head and Mayor Lamar Bray. We also want to thank Chief Brad Gregg, Chief Nick Weldon, and their departments for countless hours of support. We thank House Majority Leader Representative Nathaniel Ledbetter and State Senator Steve Livingston. We thank The Groundhog for their publicity support as well as everyone who 'liked' and 'shared' on facebook. We want to thank those volunteers who organize fundraisers. (We have so much support, maybe we haven't left out anyone.) Most of all, we are truly thankful for your prayers and your genuine concerns for our safety.

We are blessed to serve a town like Mentone where we have the support we have. We are more blessed to be able to help our friends and neighbors in their time of need. Thank you all for making this possible.

Happy Father's Day



Mentone Massage Therapy



Individual and Couples Massage.
Enjoy the luxury of a Massage
in the convenience
of your cabin or home.

Skilled & Licensed Therapist
Swedish – Hot Stones
Deep Tissue – Reflexology
Gift Certificates

256-254-9802

Kerry Breithaupt - LMT NMT Al#456
www.mentonemassage.com
(by appointment only)

SOUTHERN GOLD • SILVER & JEWELRY

*Full Service Jewelry Store
Specializing in Engagement Rings
& Custom Designs*



We buy estates, diamond jewelry

256-997-7591

layaway & financing available

1706 GLENN BLVD. FORT PAYNE

9-5 M-F (SAT. by appointment only)

Canyon Concert: Bluegrass on the Rim

By Anna Lindsay, Canyon Center Coordinator for Sales and Services

Little River Canyon Center (LRCC) is pleased to announce its 4th annual "Bluegrass on the Rim" concert. The Canyon Center Concert Series is designed to help fund environmental education at LRCC, and is supported by Jacksonville State University. Festival attendees will enjoy top bluegrass performers as they play authentic mountain music guaranteed to resonate with die-hard bluegrass fans as well as followers of folk, country, rhythm & blues and rock & roll.

"The talent line-up this year is phenomenal," said Pete Conroy, Director of the Little River Canyon Center. "We are featuring nationally known bluegrass talent, including Kelli Johnson and 4 in the Fire, Solid Blue, and The Foggy Hollow Review. We also give a warm welcome back to our host Glen Williams."

Kelli Johnson, who is no stranger to the music industry or Bluegrass on the Rim, has partnered up with 4 in the Fire, who is burning up the Americana music scene! Following in the footsteps of such acts as Needtobreathe, these Christian artists are defying labels and blending genres. Their influences range from bluegrass and jazz to motown and southern rock. Take powerhouse vocals from Johnson and Player then blend in Palmer with the tight harmonies and hot mandolin riffs and complete the group by adding steady rhythms from Pledger for a mix that is breaking new ground. They are "firing" up the Southern music scene with Kelli Johnson!

Solid Blue provides driving traditional bluegrass music mixed with unique arrangements of contemporary songs that highlight the tight harmony vocals and instrumental talent of all members. Located in Huntsville, Alabama, Solid Blue takes their unique style to the Tennessee Valley and beyond!

The Foggy Hollow Review brings a unique blend of musicians from several genres. All of the band hail from and live in the foothill area of the Ap-

palachians. Not only do they have a love for the traditional tunes, but have put together a vast blend of musical backgrounds for a fabulously unique sound.



"Our giant outdoor concert stage is designed for big shows, complete with multi-color LED stage lighting," said Conroy. "It's pretty special, but nothing compares to the natural backdrop of Little River Canyon National Preserve."

The concert is set for Saturday, June 10. Advanced tickets are \$12 per person and \$20 the day



of the show. JSU student tickets are \$5 in advance with a valid student I.D. Children 12 and under, accompanied by an adult, are free. Tickets can be purchased online at canyonconcerts.com or on-site the day of the show.

Gates will open at 5 pm, so we recommend guests arrive early to claim a place for their lawn chairs or blankets. There will be some of the South's best BBQ on-site and available for purchase, so come hungry!

A Bright Light Shines... (cont'd from page 1)

because her personality lights up an event and the Mentone area just as a candle illuminates the votive and the entire room--even when you cannot see the flame.

If you commend her efforts, Kayla will be quick to tell you that projects are a team effort. Recognition is not the goal of her efforts. Her goal is simply to make a contribution to her community, to be a help to others. In her interview with Alabama Newscenter, Kayla says, "I really enjoy working with others, working for others, and doing things for people." It's obvious that she does if you know the countless hours she spends volunteering and the doors of possibility she opens for the community and the county.

Kayla often involves her children in her activities and events. Her theory: "My kids get to enjoy this with me, and I hope it encourages them to work for others as well." She is quite a role model and supermom. She is also on the board of the Lookout Mountain Parkway Association and has played a major role in MAPA for several years.

Kayla's career as the DeKalb Tourism Marketing Manager gives her an even greater opportunity to share the beauty of the place she calls home; the place she loved enough to raise her family. She said, "I grew up in this amazing area and had the whole town as a playground, essentially. I moved to Atlanta but really missed the outdoors, so I decided when it was time to settle down and start a family of my own, I wanted it to be here." Now, her kids have this area as a playground, and we all reap the benefits of her passion, her caring, and her bright light.

Alabama Bright Lights captures the stories--through words, pictures and video--of some of our state's brightest lights who are working to make Alabama an even better place to live, work and play. Award-winning journalist Karim Shamsi-Basha tells their inspiring stories. Go to alabamaneewscenter.com and enter "Kayla Worthey" in the search bar to watch her interview and read more details in Karim's own words.

Antiques . Collectibles
Fabulous Vintage Treasures, Fabrics,
Attire & Accessories

"S" - House
Antiques

256-844-2995

Open Tuesday-Saturday
10:00 AM-4:00 PM
& By Appointment

907 Grand Ave. SW
Fort Payne, Alabama

TIGERS INN



Family Restaurant

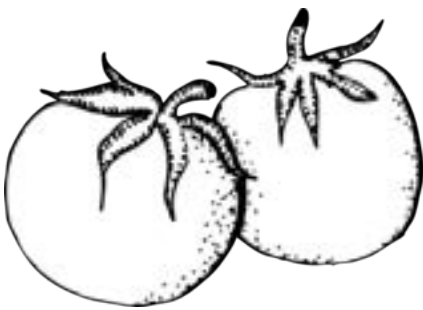
Hours:
Monday-Friday
5:30am-2pm

132 Commerce Ave.
Valley Head, AL 35989

256-635-6800

THE
RECIPE
CORNER
~
June

Karen Whatley Powell sent in this easy and unique summertime recipe.



Tomato Jam

Combine 6 cups of ground green tomatoes with 4 cups of sugar in a pot and boil for 20 minutes. Stir in one 6 oz. pack-age of Jello (raspberry, strawberry or blackberry) and mix well. Pour into sterilized jars and seal.

Do you have a favorite recipe you would like to submit? We would love to share it. Mail it to us at P.O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984, email it to groundhognews.com, or send us a private message through facebook. We look forward to featuring our reader's recipes!

HAPPY DAY!

June Birthdays

- June 1 – Sible Hopper
- June 1 – Kayla Hellums
- June 1 – Rebecca Guinn
- June 1 - Braden Busby
- June 1 – Madie Durham
- June 1 – Josh Williamson
- June 2 - Skylar Venable
- June 2 – Steve Tate
- June 2 – Glen Black
- June 3 – Brittney Coleman
- June 3 – Donald Stephens
- June 3 – Byron Haynes
- June 3 – Jack Johnston, Jr.
- June 4 – Lisa Crowder
- June 5 – Doris Chamlee
- June 5 – Hannah Filmore
- June 5 – Hadley Gregory
- June 5 – Haley Hilliard
- June 6 – Angela Valentine
- June 6 – Keegan Johnson
- June 6 – Christy Harrison
- June 6 - Brayden Harrison
- June 6 – Kenneth Aiden Busby
- June 6 – Caitlyn Collins
- June 6 – Nick Brown
- June 6 – David Dean
- June 6 – Mike Campbell
- June 7 – Luke Johnson
- June 7 – Donnie Goodman
- June 7 – Austin Cox
- June 8 – Ethan Harrison
- June 8 – Gail Smalley
- June 8 – Rachel Lusk
- June 8 – David Dean
- June 8 – Vince Wright
- June 9 – Sydney Vest
- June 9 – Denita Manifold
- June 9 - Brandon Collins
- June 10 – Amanda Gray
- June 10 – Michelle Chappell
- June 10 – Patty Tucker

- June 10 – Joyce Wright
- June 10 – Rebekah Weldon
- June 10 – Lisa Black Smith
- June 12 – Jim Connor
- June 13 – Kristi Chambers
- June 13 – Taylor Gardner
- June 14 – Luke Harrison
- June 14 – Jerry Stokes
- June 15 – Campbell Smith
- June 15 – Brad Wright
- June 15 – Barnabas Bettis
- June 16 – Sara Langston
- June 16 – Kayla Crow
- June 16 – Mason Vest
- June 16 – Emily Hulkan
- June 17 – Hope Turner
- June 17 – Andy Beason
- June 17 – Megan Gilreath
- June 18 – Ashley Ingram
- June 18 – Ozell Thornberry
- June 18 – Josh Smith
- June 18 – Carlotta McGee
- June 19 – Sierra Chambers
- June 20 – Keri Miller
- June 20 – Brandy Rosson
- June 20 – Wendy Holloway
- June 21 – Katherine McDorman
- June 21 – Nick Langston
- June 21 - Nancy W. Smith
- June 21 - Hannah Stinson
- June 21 - Betty S Morrison
- June 21 – Trey Kincer
- June 22 – Judy Smith
- June 22 – Zachary Potts
- June 22 – Nathan Keith
- June 23 – Bo Eltzroth
- June 23 – Benny Goss
- June 24 – Brenda Goss
- June 24 – Kenneth Chambers
- June 24 – Cecily Goza
- June 24 – Patti Watkins
- June 24 – Ethan Black
- June 25 – Briley Harrison
- June 25 – Stephanie Poe
- June 26 – Andrew Crowe

- June 27 – Ashtynn Carden
- June 28 – Josh Baggett
- June 28 – Chris Stokes
- June 28 – Shea Noles
- June 29 – Jacob Bain
- June 29 - JoAnn Bain
- June 29 – Jean Crabtree

- June 29 – Jacqueline Tipton
- June 30 – Cooper Hilyer
- June 30 – Rebecca Crawford
- June 30 – Levi Hulkan
- June 30 – Naomi Garcia
- June 30 – Roy Stalvey

June Anniversaries

- June 1 – Wink & Stacie Painter
- June 5 – Alfie & Kristi Chambers
- June 6 – Tom & Joyce Tate
- June 11 – Ralph & Carolyn Baine
- June 12 – Tom & Jacqueline Tipton
- June 14 – Josh & Angel Baggett
- June 15 – Michael & Jennifer Owen
- June 18 – Phil & Krissy Harris
- June 18 – Benjie & Pam Mason

- June 19 – Josh & Emmy Smith
- June 19 - John & Trish Sprague
- June 19 – Matt & Traci Hulkan
- June 22 – Andy & Jimmie Sue Beason
- June 23 – Rusty & Angela Chambers
- June 30 – Dwight & Jean Powell
- June 30 – Michael & Patty Tucker
- June 30 – Donald & Margie Daniel

PICKLES
by Doug Kiker



Mother made pickles,
tried to sell them, a jar for three nickles.
Some were brought back, an opened jar in a paper sack.
It was sad, that hard work nearly broke her back.
But, who could know,
making pickles-mother just couldn't make it go.
I remember, it was enough to make tears flow.
Well, the pickles weren't wasted.
Daddy said, they would make the hogs grow.
So, in a way, for that work we had something to show.
By this time there was snow.
We did benefit in knowledge.
Just to know mother couldn't sell her pickles...
not even for three nickles.

What To Do Around Here!

June 2017 Community Calendar

Jun 1 - GPS Basic Training and Navigation

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

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

Jun 3 - Movin' for Main Street 5K and Fun Run. Medals to be awarded to the top males and females in the following age groups: (0-12), (13-15), (16-20), (21-30), (31-40), (41-50), (51-60), (61+). Prizes to be awarded to Overall top male & female in 5K race. Ribbons will be awarded to all Fun Run participants. Coal and Iron Building; Registration: 7 a.m. and race begins at 8 a.m. Fun Run begins after the 5k at 9 a.m. You can register online.

Jun 3 - Blow An Ornament. Come design and blow your own ornament with the help of one of our glass artists. No reservations are needed; it is on a first come, first serve basis. For this we welcome people of all ages (at least 5 years old). 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Orbix Hot Glass. Cost is \$38 per ornament blown. 256-523-3188.

Jun 3 - Memories of Mayberry. Join the Valley Head Volunteer Fire Department for a great day for the whole family! Cruise in, food, fun, entertainment and more. Special guest Barney Fife. All proceeds go to the Fire Dept. Valley Head downtown square. 9 a.m. 256-899-3776 or 256-635-6814.

Jun 3, 16 - 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.

Jun 3 - DeKalb County Fiddlers' Convention. Come and enjoy the 108th Anniversary of the DeKalb Fiddlers' Convention. Held at the Rotary Pavillion in Fort Payne. Registration starts at 11a.m. with contests at noon. Proceeds go to benefit the BWAC and Fort Payne City Schools Arts in Education Program. Admission is \$10, Children 10 and under are free. 256-845-2224.

Jun 3 - 14th Annual Latino Festival. Live Mariachi band, pony rides, face painting, authentic Mexican to Tex-Mex food vendors and so much more. Northeast Alabama Community College Campus. 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. 256-638-4418.

Jun 3, 16, 23 - Night Zip Line Adventure.

All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before the adventure. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jun 5 - Tiny Tots: Adventures in Nature. Join the JSU Field School for fun filled classes just for little kids. Your kids (ages 3-5 years) will learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more all while having fun! 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. JSU's Little River Canyon Center: \$5 per child (Limit 10 children) Parents remain with children for this program. Pre-registration required by the Friday before the program is scheduled. 256-845-3548.

Jun 6, 24 - Zip Line Adventure. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before the adventure. 10 a.m. to Noon. 256-997-9577.

Jun 6-8 - High Adventure Trip. This is a 3 day adventure including a Wild Cave Tour, Rock Climbing, An Extreme Night Hike and end with a relaxing canoe trip. Price includes all activities, attractions, permits, fees, gear, and guides. 10 a.m. 256-997-9577.

Jun 8 - Lunch and Learn with James Cowan. Eat, chat and enjoy a dynamic speaker line-up with sponsored training sessions taught by innovative business minds. Each session will provide take-home-and-put-to-use information, which includes topics on leadership, destination retailing, marketing & social media, economic development & incentives, entrepreneurial growth, business processes, and understanding community-initiated development offered to business-minded professionals around Fort Payne. Held at the Vintage 1889; \$15 ticket also includes a house special lunch with drink. For every ticket, \$5 is donated towards funding Fort Payne Main Street project initiatives. 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 256-845-3380.

Jun 8 - MACC presents Homemade Jam, a songwriters' showcase, a regular event on the second Thursday of each month from 7-9 p.m. at Kamama. Homemade Jam features local songwriters playing original songs in a format modeled after Nashville's renowned Blue Bird Café. Admission is \$5. Participating songwriters are free. For more information or to reserve you spot, call Lydia Randolph at 256-630-1597 or Ray Padgett at 850-974-3271.

Jun 9 - 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.

Jun 9 - Full Moon Paddle Experience. Come see Little River at Dusk and watch the full moon rise over the treeline and light up the water. \$20 per person. 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. To register contact 256-634-8370.

June 9 - Free Summer Music & a Movie. MBA hosts this free community event at the Mentone Inn Pavilion. Dress 50s style and bring chairs/blankets. Music at 6:30. Movie at 8:30.

Jun 10 - HamFest/Tailgate. Come join us for the sales and trading of amateur radio gear. Cost is \$5 per person at the gate. Each person gets 1 prize ticket, Everyone welcome. Additional tickets available at the front. Be ready Solar. Hosted by Dekalb County Amateur Radio Club. Held at the DeKalb VFW Fairgrounds. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Jun 10 - Paperweight Class. This class is designed for those who really just want see what molten glass is all about. Feel the heat, gather from the furnace, sculpt the glass into you own design. It is ultimately about the experience, some experimentation and a couple nice paperweights to take home. Join us for some in-depth discovery at Orbix Hot Glass. Reservations Required \$145 per person. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 256-523-3188.

Jun 10, 22, 27 - Rappelling Adventure. Come experience the thrill of rappelling down the sheer sandstone gems of NE AL. Each trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jun 10 - 2nd Annual Farm-to-Table BBQ. We want to welcome friends and neighbors to The Farm at Windy Hill for our Farm-to-Table BBQ. We will be serving BBQ plates featuring our own pastured pork, fresh-picked-vegetable sides, and homemade pound cake. We will also have more of those great local musician as well as lawn games for all! We will be selling plates of food (BBQ plates and sandwiches, with a senior discount offered on plates), and the event is free for all to attend. 10 a.m. til 1 p.m.

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

Jun 10 - Tri-State Paper Crafting. Join us to make cards for 6 different occasions: Male Birthday; Congratulations; Baby; Sympathy; Hello and Get Well. Make only the cards you want and as many of each card as you like. No experience needed. Kamama Gallery in Mentone AL 1:00 to 4:00. Reserve by Tuesday June 6. Cost is \$4.00 per card or 3 for \$10.00. To learn more or reserve a spot send an email to cottagepaper@bellsouth.net or call 205-349-4026.

Jun 10 - Blue Grass on the Rim.

Jacksonville State University presents the premiere Canyon Concert Blue Grass on the Rim at Little River Canyon. Enjoy bluegrass performers play authentic mountain music, guaranteed to resonate with die-hard bluegrass purists as well as followers of folk, country, rhythm & blues and rock & roll. You'll hear bluegrass talent from around the country. Doors open at 5 p.m. – so arrive early and bring lawn chairs, blankets, family and friends, to sit before the new Canyon Concert outdoor stage adjacent to the beautiful Little River Canyon National Preserve. Food vendors will be on hand along with on-site restrooms and the other comforts of home. Advanced Tickets are \$12, Day of the show \$20 and kids under 12 are free. 256-782-5697.

Jun 12-16 - Overnight Family Camp. This is an opportunity for families to explore Lookout Mountain and the surrounding natural places with experienced guides! Each night you will camp under the stars and be amazed each day by the beauty you take it, not to mention the adventure you will experience! Camping, climbing, hiking, canoeing and kayaking in the great outdoors is the perfect way to kick off the best summer vacation ever!! \$1250 per family of 4. Additional members \$250 each. 256-634-8370.

Jun 12 - Zip Line & Sky Swing Adventure. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before adventure. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

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

Jun 14 - Flag Day

Jun 14 - Mountaineering Adventure. This 4-6 hour adventure starts with a rappel into a low light maze where we will stop and anchor part of the way down the rock wall and travel on the rock face mountaineering style to get to our main destination. True Adventure Sports 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jun 15-18 - Alabama Band Fan Appreciation Weekend. Fort Payne's own Country music group ALABAMA invite you to their Fan Club & Museum and weekend activities throughout DeKalb County. Tour the Fan Club, attend an autograph session, enjoy concerts, and much more. 800-557-8223.

Jun 15 - Afternoon Rock Climb. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing is all about in the afternoon with guides who

What To Do Around Here!

June 2017 Community Calendar

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.

Jun 15 - Singing with the Stars. Teddy Gentry and The Children's Advocacy Center Presents Singing with the Stars! Held at the NACC Lyceum. Tickets are now on sale! \$15 for adults (18 & older), \$8 for students (5-18). Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and Show at 7 p.m. All proceeds go the Children's Advocacy Center. 256-997-9700.

Jun 16 - Jeff Cook Fan Appreciation Daze Show. Come enjoy Jeff Cook and the All Star Goodtime Band for their annual fan appreciation concert. Concert held at DeKalb Theatre in downtown Fort Payne. Doors open at 5 p.m. and show starts at 7 p.m. Get tickets now at www.jeffcook-agb.com or pick up at the door. \$20 each 256-845-2286 ext 7.

Jun 16 - An evening of jazz with the Watters/Felts Project featuring Ken Watters and Ingrid Felts from 7-9 p.m., at Kamama. Admission is \$15. Sponsored by Kilgore Express Pharmacy. To reserve your seat, call 256-674-3366. All proceeds go the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center.

Jun 17 - 9th Annual Freedom Fest 5K & 10K. Don't miss the area's largest fun run/walk. Registration and starting of race is at Broadway Baptist Church in Rainsville. For online registration, contact info and more, visit the website www.racesonline.com Race begins at 8 a.m.

Jun 17 - 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.

Jun 17 - Third Saturday Downtown Cruise-In. Come out and enjoy an afternoon of family fun activities in downtown Fort Payne. Includes food, live music, a car show, and more from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. 256-996-3857.

Jun 17 - Fan Club Concert with ALABAMA. The group Alabama will be performing a concert at the Fan Club. Limited number of tickets will be available. Must have current Membership number to purchase, or you can purchase a membership to the Alabama Fan Club and then buy tickets to the show. Show is at 7p.m. Limited number of tickets available. On sale March 31, 2017. 256-845-1646.

Jun 17, 26, 29 - 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. 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jun 18 - Father's Day

Jun 18 - Gospel Singing at the Alabama Fan Club. All proceeds will go to the Town of Rosalie to help with repairing of tornado destruction. Show at 2 p.m. ALABAMA Fan Club & Museum (indoor) Limited number of tickets available. Ticket go on sale March 31, 2017. 256-845-1646.

Jun 19-23 - Overnight Adventure Camp. Kids ages 9 – 12 will trek and camp all week in amazing locations along Lookout Mountain and the surrounding areas, learning how to live among a group and take on a range of adventure sports—rock climbing, bouldering, rappelling, canoeing, and kayaking! \$375 per camper. Additional Siblings \$350 each. 256-634-8370.

Jun 19 - Poisonous Plants of Alabama Class. Brief overview of many poisonous plants in Alabama. Learn how to spot them and what to do if you are affected by them. True Adventure Sports Training Center. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jun 20 - Rock Climbing Adventure. Come experience what rock climbing is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jun 21 - Rock Climbing Adventure. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jun 24 - Sculpt Your Own Flower. Have you ever wanted to actually sit at the gaffer bench and feel what it is like to shape hot glass? It's all about hands on experience in a safe and fun atmosphere with a final product we know you will love. Minimum of 3 people and a maximum of 5 in each class. 10:30 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. Orbix Hot Glass. Reservations and full payment are required. \$75 per person . 256-523-3188.

Jun 24 - "Music for the People" presented by the Little River Arts Council. Free concert. Mentone Inn Pavilion. Local singer/songwriter Craig Hendricks at 6pm with a blend of his own traditional country songs mixed with 70's classics, country favorites from the 80's, and modern country hits. Following at 7pm, "Backwoods Revival" from Geraldine, Alabama will perform mix of original and classic Americana and bluegrass tunes on classic acoustic instruments-- upright bass, dobro, mandolin and banjo.

Jun 27 - The Council on Aging will host Sacred Harp Singing. For more information, please call 256-845-8590. 6:30-8:30 pm.

Jun 30 - Independence Day Celebration in Fort Payne. The City of Fort Payne invites you to a wonderful celebration with free hot dogs, soft drinks, American flags, live entertainment, and a fantastic fireworks display. Event takes place at the Fort Payne High School football stadium and begins at dusk. 256-845-1524.

Jun 30 - Papa Joe's returns! 6:30pm at St. Joseph's Church. Mountain songs and stories. Rear entrance. All welcome! For info, 256-635-8775.

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 First Monday of month at 6:00 P.M. at Kamama Gallery.

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

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

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

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

FREE FOOD for eligible persons and families. Hours: Wednesdays, 9 to 11:30am. New

applicants welcome during these hours. Joint effort between St. Joseph's on the Mountain Episcopal Church (Community Outreach Ministry) and the Food Bank of North Alabama.

The NLMFPD Board meets the 3rd Monday of every month at 7pm.

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.

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

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..

Little River Arts Council meets the third Wednesday of each month at 5 pm at Kamama Art Gallery, newcomers welcomed.

The Farm at Windy Hill hosts an Open Farm Friday Market every Friday from 3-6 pm, March through November. 445 Road 942, Mentone.

Miss Rhododendron Pageant Winners

Congratulations to Our Winners!

Konar Bell, Miss Rhododendron
Sadie Katherine Long, Teen Miss
Marissa Blevins, Pre-Teen Miss
Laura Beth Farmer, Mini Miss
Taylee Ann Keith, Tiny Miss



Konar Bell



Sadie Katherine Long



Marissa Blevins



Laura Beth Farmer



Taylee Ann Keith

MAPA would like to thank our out-of-town judges for volunteering their services for the Miss Rhododendron Pageant. Bethany Little from Kennesaw, Georgia, who has held several pageant titles over the years, Teresa Little (Co-Owner at Glitz and Glamour Consignment Prom and Pageant Dresses in Rome, Georgia), and 2016 Miss Columbus State University Bianca Mobbs.

A big thanks also goes out to pageant sponsor Skelton Orthodontics as well as Mentone Community Church for hosting the pageant. MAPA appreciates Northeast Alabama Community College for graciously providing a scholarship for 2017 Miss Rhododendron Konar Bell. Many thanks also to the participants and the volunteers who organized this event.

Bruce's
FOODLAND
Home Owned and Operated Since 1979
Fort Payne • Rainsville • Section • Ider • Fyffe • Scottsboro
202 Greenhill Blvd., Fort Payne, AL 35967
We're Open 7 Days A Week
7am-10pm
256-845-1970

WIC Vouchers
Quantity Rights Reserved

Snap Benefits
None Sold to Dealers

We Feature All This and More!

- Gift Cards
- Incoming & Outgoing Fax Service
- Postage Stamps
- Copies
- Deli/Bakery
- "Choice" Grade Beef
- Fresh Seafood
- Extended Lines of Gourmet, Specialty and Diet Food

We Accept



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

Former Valley Head Student Receives Highest Honor at NACC



Miss Katelyn Poe was recently chosen as the 2017 President's Cup recipient at Northeast Alabama Community College. This prestigious award is NACC's highest honor and recognizes academic excellence, community involvement, and responsible citizenship.

As salutatorian of her graduating class at Valley Head High School in 2015, Katie was already off to a great start. She was working a part-time job as well as doing volunteer work and participating in community and school activities while excelling in academics under the advanced diploma option.

Immediately upon her graduation from high school, Miss Poe became an intern at the Times-Journal newspaper. After her internship was up, she was hired as a staff writer. She conducts interviews, takes photos, and writes feature articles. Her position also entails updating the calendar and other assignments.

(cont'd on page 15)

Lookout Mountain Wholistic Center is honored to be able to support our graduates at Valley Head High School. We were once again able to provide 10 laptops and printers to outstanding seniors. The recipients are listed in alphabetical order.

Morgan Blalock
Laura Easler
Ricardo Gutierrez
Ethan Harrison
Bailey Kirby
Devin Leps
Brooke Moore
Angeles Moreno
Carol Rosales
Sydney Vest



Special Thanks to Our Rhododendron Festival Sponsors!

Thanks To Our Sponsors

Worship

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

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

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

Visitors are always welcome at the **Valley Head United Methodist Church**. Please join us each Sunday morning for a traditional worship service at 9:30AM. Tony Gunter is the Pastor. All are welcome.

Wildwood Seventh Day Adventist Church, Mentone Chapter, is currently holding services in the Woodmen of the World Hall in Valley Head. All are invited to attend! Sabbath School and Song Service: 9:30-10:45AM, Worship Service 11:00-12:15. Pastor - Wilbur Atwood; Lay Pastors - James Hartley and Ryan Bunnel.

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church on N. Gault Avenue in Fort Payne holds Sunday mass in English at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in Spanish. Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. in English, Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. bilingual, Thursday at 6:00 p.m. in English, Friday at 9:00 a.m. in English and Saturday at 6:00 p.m. in bilingual.

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

Walnut Grove Baptist Church on Highway 11 North of Fort Payne, welcomes everyone at Sunday School

10AM, Worship Service at 11AM, Wednesday night youth meeting at 6PM, and Wednesday night Prayer Meeting at 6:30PM.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Moon Lake Baptist Church invites you to worship with us. Sunday School begins at 9:45AM, with classes for all ages. Morning Worship is at 11AM. The Lord's Supper is observed on the first Sunday of September, December, March and June at the morning

worship hour. Discipleship Training is at 5PM and Sunday Evening Worship at 6PM. On Wednesdays, Team Kids, Youth Bible Study, Adult Bible Study and Prayer Meeting are all at 6:30PM.

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.

Vacation Bible School

Valley Head Baptist
June 5th thru 9th
9am-Noon

Mentone Community Church
June 19th thru 23rd
6-8:45 pm

Moon Lake Baptist
June 4th thru 7th
6-8:30 pm

MENTONE MEMORIES

By Ben Shurett



Living in Mentone is such a treat and, as it turns out, people think it's quite an address.

Life has led my Mary and me to have friends scattered around Alabama and many are interested to learn we have retired to the most beautiful part of our state--and likely the prettiest in our two nearest neighboring states, as well.

Tell someone you live in Mentone and you might as well have said Mountain Brook or Fairhope. Our little village carries its own air of sophistication and, once mentioned, it evokes memories, and, invariably, we are treated--I mean that literally--to stories of other people's love for our town.

People recall tales of dining at Cragmere Manna and are always disappointed to learn it no longer exists as a restaurant. Friends relate their memories of times there, and it makes my mouth water and reminds me of our own good times and fondness for Bonnie when she owned the eatery. So many others mention the Mentone Springs Hotel and are saddened to learn it died on a fiery

night several years ago.

Almost everyone recalls a Rhododendron Festival of the past, and just as many like to talk about a Colorfest visit. This year's Rhododendron Festival was a delight despite the weather.

But you and I both know what comes out of most people's mouths first--camps! Mentone is the "Gateway to the Camps," for sure and, if Google is my friend, there are nine camps for boys or girls in operation atop our part of Lookout Mountain.

Goodness, it was 57 summers ago I made the trek to Camp Laney from Tuscaloosa. That was in 1960, just one year after the camp was founded by Coach Malcolm Laney and his wife, Louise. I attended church with Coach Laney in Tuscaloosa and many, many Tuscaloosa lads had their first away-from-home experience at his camp.

We had a train car full of boys travel from Tuscaloosa to the depot in Valley Head that summer. It was exciting and scary, my first ride on a train of any sort, and I was a bit nervous headed to my first serious road trip--one that was to be a month-long endeavor.

Home sickness set in quickly, to be honest. It took a week of get-used-to-it time before I settled in.

We have a postcard I wrote home during that time. It's framed in a place of honor in our home. In part it read, "I miss everyone and I'm really homesick, Mom. I know I'll want you to take me home with you when you visit next week." It's taken me a long time not to be ashamed of that scrawled postcard. I don't know if it was the admission of my weakness or my terrible handwriting that embarrasses me more. But I apparently overcame my weakness in the

middle of writing that card. The next sentence read, "I really like my counselors. When you come visit, bring me a deck of cards and my other baseball glove, please." I had a great time after that.

I experienced another first in that summer of 1960. It was an exchange with Skyline Camp, when their girls came over to our place for a camp dance in the open-air gymnasium. I've always been light on my feet, especially for a big fellow. I remember dancing about 12 times with a little sandy-haired lass who wore glasses. I was in love for the very first time and certain it would last forever. Two weeks later, the Laney Boys headed to Skyline for another dance, sort of a season-ending soiree of sorts. I could not have been more excited about reuniting with my true love and sharing several more slow dances and, perhaps, a jitterbug or two. If only I could have remembered her name, my life path may have changed forever. I spent the evening in vain, looking for the girl in glasses. What might have been was likely dashed because she thought her glasses hurt her looks--there's a lesson in that, you know.

Not long ago, I ran into one of my fellow campers from Laney 1960. We were both bunked in the Possum Hollow cabin. Bill O'Connor later became president of the Alabama Business Council, and we've been friends for all these years. We reminisced. He and I both recalled how much fun Camp Laney was; both of us recalling the sports, the competitions, the swimming and games. "You know," he said, "I still have all the ribbons I won that summer." Ribbons? They gave ribbons? Really. Who knew.

Former VH Student... (cont'd from page 13)

At Northeast, Katie continued to excel in academics. She recently graduated Summa Cum Laude, receiving an Associate's in Arts Degree in English. She was a member of the All-Alabama Academic Team, Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society, and the Yearbook committee for one year. She has held officer positions in both the Student Government Association and Sigma Kappa Delta National English Honors Society.

While working and attending college, Katie has also participated in Race to Embrace, Bread of Life Ministries, Breast Cancer Awareness Month activities, and she was part of a committee that collected 1,446 books for the Children's Advocacy Center. Katie chaired the 2016 SGA canned food drive and received the Toys for Tots Commander's Award (2016 and 2017) for helping promote Toys for Tots as they collected Christmas toys for needy children around DeKalb County.

"The most meaningful project I did while at Northeast was the children's book drive," Poe said. "Since I am an English major, promoting literacy is important to me, but helping children

through these various projects brings me the most satisfaction."

Not only does Katie touch the lives of others, they touch her heart as well. They are a part of her growth of becoming a better person.

"At Race to Embrace, a field day for special needs students around the county, I worked a bowling game and remember vividly a little girl," Poe said. "Her face would just light up, as if it were the proudest moment of her life when she was able to knock a pin down. I could tell she was out of her comfort zone that day, but she had the time of her life. Looking back now, the girl's experience reminds me of the reluctance I had in becoming more active in college and community events."

As part of her SGA membership, Katie also helped organize other events on campus such as the Miss Northeast Pageant, a Back to School event, the Mustang 5K, Teacher Appreciation Week, and a Presidential Debate -- both the Democrats and the Republicans were represented by NACC students. Katie says the debate was one of the "most entertaining events" she helped to organize on campus, as well as one of the most important. During spring break this

year, she and fellow officers attended the annual International Sigma Kappa Delta Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, where she spoke on a panel about a piece of literature that changed her. She came home inspired.

Even with her busy life, Katie still makes time to enjoy the world. She likes to compete in 5k events, challenging herself to improve with each run, and for quiet relaxation, she enjoys reading. Katie also enjoys visiting her boyfriend Andrea's relatives in Italy. She understands the importance of a well balanced and meaningful life.

Due to her ambition, dedication, and accomplishments, Katie Poe has received several scholarships to cover her college costs, the most recent of which will direct her future toward Mississippi State University starting this fall. She has received a Non-Resident Tuition Scholarship, MSU Phi Theta Kappa scholarship, and a one time MSU Compass Scholarship. We look forward to seeing where the future takes Miss Katelyn Poe and all the many wonderful accomplishments she has throughout life.

AWARDS DAY AT MOON LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Awards Day at school is always a rewarding time. The students at Moon Lake have made their parents, teachers, school staff, and community proud. All grades had several students making all As or only As and Bs. Many students excelled in PE class and Ms. Dixon had a difficult time narrowing down the choices to only a few awards.

Ms. Paula awarded her fine arts awards the next day, prior to the Afternoon with the Artists event brought to us by MERF. Ms. Paula had many awards to deliver including recognizing those who participated in MERF's Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction.

Victoria Burgess was given a special gift in recognition of her commitment to be at school. She was the only student with perfect attendance for the 2016-2017 school year. Principal Lance commended Victoria for making her attendance a priority despite obstacles that occurred.

Mrs. Gower was recognized for all her contributions to the students over the years and will be missed as she goes into retirement. The following week at the Board of Education meeting, we were saddened to learn that Ms. Glenda Ingram will also be resigning. Moon

Lake staff and parents would like to extend many thanks to both of them and best wishes. Also at the board meeting, it was announced that Mr. Harrison and Mrs. Pope will be continuing their educational paths at other schools. They will be sorely missed at Moon Lake and their new schools are very fortunate to be receiving them.

Moon Lake is thankful to have many community members who contribute for different projects. Each year, a few are recognized for their efforts, but all who help our students are truly appreciated. It takes many people to educate students. At Moon Lake School, it truly is a community effort.

Left column top to bottom: Ms. Paula giving Fine Arts awards; Mrs. Pope's class awards; Sixth Grade Top Five GPAs

Middle column top to bottom: Victoria Burgess had perfect attendance!; Happy Retirement Mrs. Gower!

Right column top to bottom: Zane Crouse is showing off his art award; Mrs. Ballenger giving awards.



STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Kansas Lee is the 2nd grade Student of the Month at Moon Lake School. Her favorite subject is science, but when school let's out, she likes to go home and play on her tablet. Kansas loves her family, and people like her because she is sweet and funny.

Moon Lake Elementary teachers getting certified to teach Archery next Fall to our students

Moon Lake School hosted an archery class led by archery instructor Stuart Goldsby for after-school educators from around North Alabama--from as far away as Decatur. These teachers are certified in archery for next year's after school program. Mrs. Kelbi Ballenger, Mrs. Leslie Bunch, and Ms. Karen Prestwood from the Moon Lake staff are pictured here. Watch where you're aiming, Mrs. Bunch!



Mental Health Snippet

By Karole Ohme

Summer: A Balancing Act

School's Out! What To Do With All That Time?

Families with school-age children need a summer vacation plan. Keeping our children safe is the first priority of summer planning. Where will they be? Who will be with them? What will they be doing? In order to answer these questions, families need to make a plan

that fits their life style as well as their wallet.

Then, the balancing act begins. How much time should go to organized activities and how much to free-play? What about time to dream and be creative? Is there time for rest versus physical activity? What about activities that stimulate the mind? Are family activities part of the plan? The key to a happy, safe summer lies in the balancing of many factors.

Planning works best when each person

who will be impacted understands and has a say in how time will be spent. Therefore, a first summer activity could well be holding a family meeting or meetings for the purpose of creating a family summer plan. Each member should have a list of what he/she feels is an important part of his/her summer.

A family calendar can be set up so that dates and times for activities are visible to everyone. Consideration has to be made for cost as well as who has to be involved in order to carry out each part of the plan. Flexibility has to be a part of the planning discussion with everyone understanding that best-laid plans often have to be revised as unforeseen factors arise. Families who plan together in this way gain the added benefit of really talking and listening to each other. When families have a plan that has been created and understood by each member, a happier, less stressful summer is possible for everyone.

Wishing you a safe and happy family summer. If you can plan it, you can do it!

Karole is a Licensed Professional Counselor, a Supervising Counselor, a member of the Alabama Board of Examiners in Counseling and Thanatology Certified.

Cloudmont
Ski and Golf Resort
&
Shady Grove Dude Ranch

721 County Road 614
PO Box 435
Mentone, AL 35984

Accommodations available
For Reservations or Information
256-634-4344
www.cloudmont.com

Southeastern most Ski Resort in the US

The Citizens Bank of Valley Head

Large Enough To Serve You...
Small Enough To Know You

Valley Head
635-6292

Idler
657-5122

Mentone
634-4744

Member FDIC

Mentone Mountain Getaways

Cabin Rentals
1-888-920-8445

LET ME MANAGE YOUR CABIN FOR YOU - Ron Waits



Rhododendron Garden Club

By Mellanie Tuttle

The Rhododendron Garden Club is saddened and wishes to offer again our deep condolences to

Mike Houghland, sons Carl and Clay on the passing of wife, mother, and our friend, Madelon on April 17th. Madelon was born in Orrville, AL, was a member of the Delta, Delta, Delta Sorority and a graduate of Auburn University.

During a memorial service held in the Canterbury Methodist Church Chapel in Birmingham on May 8th, Madelon's sister shared her "Top 10" list that was the essence of Madelon.

#10 – Diet Coke was her beverage of choice. (Madelon would even bring her can of soda to the Garden Club meetings.)

#9 – She was a great conversationalist. She was funny and she could talk to anyone about anything and the reason being

#8 – She was so well read and that passion started in her small hometown. She even skipped a grade in elementary school. Her adult reading took a serious route--no easy romance novels for her!

#7 – She was an excellent cook. (Her Barefoot Contessa's Outrageous Brownies were served at the reception and were delicious!)

#6 – Hosting and playing bridge was a passion for Madelon. Her sister never called on Mondays or Wednesday's during the day because those were the bridge days!

#5 – She had a creative eye for decorating, both in her home and garden.

#4 – Hospitality was her special gift. She was the 'hostess with the mostest', a natural at entertaining and planning.

#3 – She loved her friends.

#2 – She loved her family. She told her sisters that their husbands could learn some things from Mike.

#1 – She loved the Lord. In the story of the sisters, Mary and Martha, she was always Mary, choosing the good part. Her patience and faith is part of her and cannot be taken away.

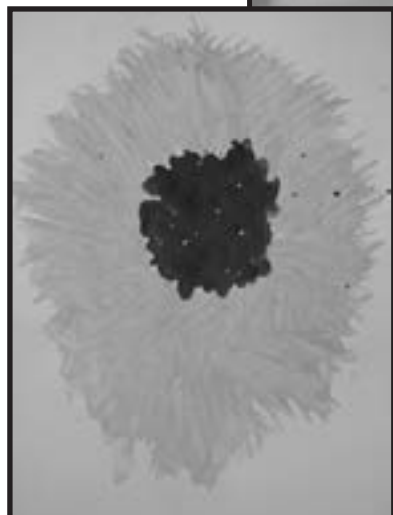
At a club luncheon, Madelon told a story about dressing her boys in those smocked-topped rompers with the peter pan collared shirt underneath and the white leather shoes completing the outfit. She was so descriptive and hilarious, we laughed till we cried and visualized those boys toddling around in their dress clothes. Warm, funny, sensitive and sincere --that was Madelon Oxford Houghland. She is missed but not forgotten.

For the April 11 meeting, members trekked to the Sally Miller Wildflower Trail on Pigeon

Mountain and were thrilled to see Trilliums, Virginia Bluebells, Star Chickweed, Solomon's Seal, False Solomon's Seal, Wood Poppy, Wild Blue Phlox, Rue Anemone, Sweet Anise, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Downy Yellow Violet, Purple Phacelia, Squawroot, and lots of Poison Ivy. We were delighted that Barbara Blalock and Lucy Fowkles joined us for the hike as well as a delicious lunch at Pigeon Mountain Grill.

April 21st was the celebration of Earth Day at Moon Lake School. Volunteers from the DeKalb County Master Gardeners joined club members to host a station where students learned about the Sunflower. Its scientific name is the only flower that is also the common name. Helia is Greek for sun and anthus means flower. Helianthus=Sunflower.

Sunflower seeds are either striped for eating or black for oil production as well as bird food. Students chose either a striped seed or a black seed to pot and take home. Then creativity flowed as sunflowers were 'painted' using a plastic fork (recycled for Earth Day).



The tines were used to make the yellow ray florets (not petals) and the other end used to dot on the brown seeds. A few artists added orange petals and green stems. By the end of the day a gallery of sunflowers was hanging on the fence to dry. It was a stunning display and the 60 varieties of sunflowers were well represented.

The May 9th meeting of the Club was a clean-up day around the MERF House. Eleven members braved the heat by mostly staying in the shade to rake and weed around the hemlock and rhododendrons. The side bed was overwhelmed by the heirloom rose bush and the even more overwhelming poison ivy

so the decision was made to come back; "After all, tomorrow is another day!" Hostess, Brenda Cox, enhanced sack lunches with her delicious Cornbread Salad and Dirt Cake- although a couple of folks had difficulty with the 'worms' found in the Dirt Cake. Mary Shurett read



"God's Transforming Grace" from the book 'Devotions From the Garden'. Horticulture Chair, Martha Wood, shared that the 2013 Perennial Flower of the Year was the Solomon's Seal. She brought the variegated variety to share and explained the rhizomatous, shade-loving perennial grows 18-24' tall. It has alternate leaves and a curving stem with drooping clusters of creamy white flowers, followed by blue-black berries. Because of the creeping rootstock, the plant multiplies rapidly. Conservation Chair, Marsha Merrell, urged that potted plants be checked for neonicotinoid insecticides and recommended the Xerces Society for more information.

Next month, we're on the road again to tour Gloria Majors' Shinbone Valley garden in Menlo, GA. We will meet at the MERF House at 9:00 AM (NOT at 10:00) drive en masse, stroll the garden and then have lunch at one of Summerville's dining delights. Garden tours are the best--get to spend time in nature and with each other. Please join us an hour earlier than our usual meeting time.

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



Moon Lake recognizes gardeners for their contributions to the school.

SAGE ADVICE: SUMMERTIME AND THE GARDENING IS EASY!



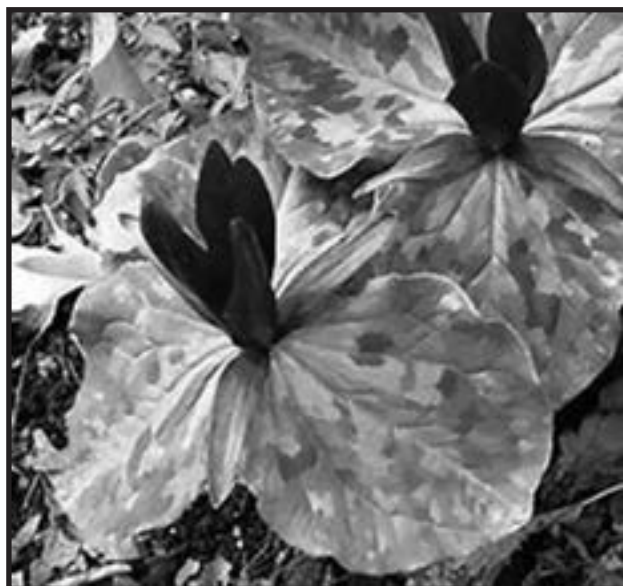
By Susan Seago

As I write this article about plants that can tolerate dry conditions and hot temperatures, it is sixty-two degrees and has been raining for the past three days. Mother Nature never fails to surprise us as gardeners. We are constantly reminded that we depend on the weather for our gardening enjoyment. As we go into summer, most of us are wondering if we will have a repeat of last year's drought conditions. I don't think so but we can discuss some ways to deal with the heat and drier summer days.

The first plant that comes to mind is Lantana "Miss Huff". There is one in the Log Cabin Village that has continued to come back for the last few years. "Orange Crush" and "New Gold" were also developed for the cooler areas of the south. Most others will only grow well in the middle of the state and further south. Lantana is very drought resistant and loves the hot temps. Because their stems are hollow when dormant in winter, they should not be cut back until the new growth at ground level has appeared in the spring. If water gets into the cut stems in winter and freezes, chances are that the shrub will not survive. The one in the village in Mentone is now about two feet tall and will be blooming and drawing butterflies (flying flowers) in the next month or so.

Spirea is a drought tolerant blooming shrub. "Vanhoutte" has long flowing branches with small white blooms all along the stems and will bloom all summer. Another great variety is the "Gold Mound" spirea which has lime green foliage and baby pink blooms. It only gets about four feet tall and wide and is a very dependable shrub. "Bridal Wreath" is another easy white variety. These are deciduous shrubs that go dormant in winter but start leafing out early in spring.

Any of the sedums can withstand heat and drought. Most of them bloom at some time in the summer. The "Autumn Joy" grows to about 20" tall and presents really neat reddish purple blooms in mid to late summer. "Angelina" is a



great lime green groundcover with tiny blooms in mid-summer. Others include "Vera Jameson" with her hot pink blooms, and "Blue Spruce", a blue green variety. There are so many different sedums that one could have a big, beautiful bed of them in full sun. They hardly ever need extra water and come back year after year. They are almost maintenance free with many of them being evergreen, meaning they do not go dormant in winter.

Some other water saving sun lovers are

coneflowers, salvia, dianthus, creeping phlox, daylilies, lamb's ears, catmint, and ornamental grasses. Keep in mind that every plant newly installed will need regular watering for the first summer. Regular means watering deep once or twice a week when there is no rain. After watering and waiting 15 minutes, stick a measuring rod or your finger one inch into the wet ground. It needs to be wet over one inch down.

My favorite garden is the shade garden that can withstand the heat and dry ground. As I now live in the woods, there is a lot of shade so, of course, I am truly enjoying the shade tolerant plants. A number of them are also evergreen so I have green, and even some color, in winter. Those evergreens include heucheras, tassel fern, autumn fern, and hellebores. Others that go dormant include hostas, astilbes, columbine, spiderwort, and Solomon's seal. Two native plants that are so pretty are the trillium and jack-in-the-pulpit, which many of you probably have in your woodlands.

The magic of the mountain is enhanced by the beautiful flowers, shrubs, and trees that grow naturally here. There are many native plants which cannot be bought easily at nurseries, so enjoy yours. Some of these include the grancy greybeard tree, deciduous azaleas, rhododendrons, mountain laurels, fothergilla, and sweetshrub, and many tiny blooming natives. If you are not sure that these plants are growing in your landscape, feel free to call your local garden shop for help.



First Fidelity Bank

The finest traditions of community banking

256-845-1077 256-638-6342 256-657-6255

www.bankffb.com

Telephone Banking 800-436-5103

"We're more than bankers, we're your neighbors and friends."

Member FDIC

"Continuous service by the same family since 1933"

**BROWN'S
CLEANING & LAUNDRY**

"An old company with new ideas"

Vault Storage for Furs & Woolens • Drapery Cleaning with Machine
Decorator Fold • Suede, Leather & Fur Cleaning • Fire Restoration & Odor
Removal • Wedding Gown Preservation • Alterations • Pillow Cleaning

817 Gault Ave. N.

(256) 845-3241

Full Laundry Service

SOUTHERN PROPERTIES

Agency, Inc.

256-845-6000

www.southernpropertiesagency.com

311 Gault Ave. N., Fort Payne



SWEET LIL' MENTONE HOME!

Life is sweet in this two bedroom two bath home! \$109,900. MLS #1068148.



ADORABLE MENTONE HOME with-in feet of Mentone Brow Park and walking distance to downtown. 3 bedroom/3bath, hardwood floors, screened porches & more! \$257,600. MLS #1067063.



EXQUISITE HOME with unique features loved by people who make a home on our mountain! Warm mountain stone cottage offering seclusion yet convenience. \$299,900. MLS #1068113.



ENJOY SUNRISE & SUNSET VIEWS in this cozy Mentone home located on Scenic Hwy. Open family room, dining and kitchen. Call for appointment today! \$325,000. MLS #1069365



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



CUSTOM log cabin, 2+ acres. 2 fireplaces, log/wood walls, floors & windows, lge. loft, sleeping porch, kitchen w/6-burner gas range, detached storage bldg, additional small cabin. \$305,000. #332033.



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. \$235,000 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.



TWO-STORY Mentone cabin w/2 BR/2BA,, loft, dining area & lge. living. Screened front porch, 9' ceilings, pine floors, & fresh paint! Sleeps 10 comfortably. Great rental investment. \$169,900. #1062659.



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.



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.



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! \$139,900. MLS #1056385



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. \$749,000. MLS#1066488.



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. \$247,500. MLS #1051679.



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.



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.



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



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. \$214,900. MLS #1051222.



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. \$199,000. MLS #1017671.



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.



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



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. \$224,000. 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.



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.



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.



BEAUTIFUL MENTONE CABIN w/2BR, 2BA, oak flooring and woodburning fireplace. Extra's include large screened porches, large walk-in closets, marble bathroom floors. \$199,900. MLS#1066473.



MENTONE BROW HOME! Beautiful views in this 3BR/2BA home. Woodburning fireplace, sunroom and large deck! Guest House with a garage! \$299,900. MLS#1066454.



SECLUDED MENTONE CABIN. 2BR/2BA home on 3.25 acres in West Fork Sub. Pine floors & walls, vaulted ceilings, wood burning FP, lots of windows. Lge. deck, screened porches. \$179,900. MLS#1065642.



LAKEFRONT LIVING! Custom decks & walkways to your dock on Lake Lahusage. 2BR/2BA, pine floors, gas or wood burning fp and screened porch, 2-story. 2-car garage w/apt. 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.



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

LOTS & LAND

#403694 - 106' of prime brow view. \$109,500.
#656265 - 7+ WOODED ACRES in Mtn. River Estates. \$35,000.
#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.
#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 w/ travel trailer, water, septic, dock. \$82,500.
#1034997 - Approx. 6 ACRES on middle fork of Little River. \$48,900
#1038089 - 6.4 acres on Co. Rd. 89, Lot 8, in Mentone. \$138,000
#1039769 - 6.32+/- waterfront building lot in Mountain River Estates! \$49,950.
#1046743 - .81 acres, Hunter's Ridge, Mentone. \$19,900.

#1053367 - 9.93 acres in Mentone. \$45,000.
#1057228 - 5 acres overlooking Little River Canyon. \$69,999.
#1057429 - 4 acres in Valley View Forest. \$79,900.
#1059301 - 5 Acres in Gaylesville. \$135,000.
#1061651 - 1.5 acres in Eagle Rock Subdivision. \$89,000.
#1061943 - 5 acres on Hwy 117 just before GA line. \$40,000.
#1065542 - 90 acres on Co. Rd. 89 in Mentone. \$360,000.
#1065504 - One acre on Co. Rd. 89 in Mentone. \$149,900.

www.southernpropertiesagency.com

MEMORIES OF MAYBERRY FESTIVAL

By Anna Mae Horn

On Saturday, June 3rd, take a step back in time at Valley Head with a day of good ole-fashion family fun. It will feel like you're right in Mayberry with special appearances by Barney Fife and Floyd the Barber. All the excitement starts at 9 am.

Deputy Fife's police car will be part of a cruise-in lining the streets. Everyone is welcome to bring their classic vehicles to show off. Willie Underwood and other musicians will be providing entertainment. Local restaurants will be open for the event, and concession favorites will also be available. Several vendors have been invited to sale their wares- various things from jewelry to jam.

There will be pony rides available as well as inflatables for the kids, and a helicopter will



be parked for them to see up close. Sack races, horse shoes, corn hole, hopscotch and more are planned. There will even be watermelon eating and seed spitting contests.

You'll also have a chance to support Valley Head Fire Department. They'll be selling hot dogs and hamburgers. Event t-shirts will be for sale. The volunteer fire fighters would like to thank all the sponsors who have donated and the volunteers who are making this happen.

Admission is free, as well as many of the activities. Come on out, remember the good ol' days, and have fun--Mayberry style!



Cloudland Park July 1st Fun Run/ Walk & Block Party



Cloudland Community is sponsoring a 5K Fun Run/Walk on July 1, 2017. It will begin at 8 am EDT at Cloudland Park at 284 Gadsden Ave., Cloudland, Georgia. Runners/walkers need to be at the park by 7:45 EDT. The registration fee for the run is \$15 (pre-registration) or \$20 (at the event). This includes a free tee-shirt. More information and registration forms can be found on the park's facebook or our website (cloudlandcommunity.wix.com/park).

Come and have lunch with us. We will be serving Holy Smokes BBQ pulled pork sandwich, chips, pickle, and a drink for \$5.00. We will also have a raffle, bingo, and other activities.

Cloudland Community Park is at the heart of this community atop Lookout Mountain. It is here the community gathers for family and community events. There is a pavilion (with kitchen and lavatories), a walking track, picnic tables, tennis court, and playground equipment. It is an old Park and in real need of some repairs and improvements. All proceeds from the Fun Run will go toward these improvements.

MENLO NOTES

By Diane Smith-Mealer

I CALLED HIM DADDY, but He was not my biological father. He came into my life when I was eight years of age, and the first time I met him the father-daughter bond started to grow. He was Daddy and I was "Toad". He was with me until the day he passed away and every moment he gave to me was a precious memory.

He was a big, tall man and I thought he was ten feet tall and hung the moon, could do anything, could make anything, and would have died trying to protect me. Our neighbors would tell us children they would have thought we were made out of gold to hear him talk about us. He loved us as though we were children from his own loins and never failed to show that love by encouraging, correcting when we were out of line, supporting our every effort. He taught me to fish, to hunt, to drive and to treat all people the same.

This gentle giant was born on Lookout Mountain in Cherokee County, Alabama at the beginning of the twentieth century. In his youth

he worked the mines and attended the Martha Berry school. He remained friends with Miss Berry as the years passed on. He lost a lung while trapped on the mountain one cold winter, but never complained. He never had a bad thing to say about anyone and could always find something good in each individual. A man of God, he believed we were all made beautiful.

Being a birth parent does not make a father. It is the love and nurturing, the guidance and character building that stamps the approval on a father. I am grateful to have had this man a part of my life. Without him, who knows.

So, this Father's Day I will be honoring Erskine Howard Gilreath as one of the most cherished Dad's in the Dad Hall of Fame.

Erskine Howard Gilreath
April 15, 1900-October 17, 1973

Drink water that makes you feel good!

The Water Tree of Fort Payne

has alkaline, antioxidant water,
made chemical-free and mineral-rich *naturally*.

Come by and taste the difference!

*We're so confident you'll LOVE it,
your 1st Gallon is FREE!*

In-store Water Refilling Station • Only \$1/gallon
Personal Purification Systems • Whole House Filtration Systems



256/648.5550
2133 Gault Ave. N.

(across from First
Southern Bank)

Open
M-F 10-6 • Sat 10-1

"Best Water I have ever put in my body." -C.L. • "It's the only water I will drink from now on!!" -A.W.





Charlotte Gentry
Broker/Owner
256-996-5995



"The Natural Choice"
Happy Father's Day



Holly Watson-Houston
Assoc. BROKER®
256-996-0552



Ben Johnston
Assoc. REALTOR®
256-996-1774



Melody Sellers
Assoc. REALTOR®
256-996-5297

www.mentonerealty.com
Office: (256) 634-4767

Welcome To Mentone



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

LOTS and LAND

30 ACRES (+/-) IN MENTONE of mostly hardwood forest, some pasture land. Slight slope to offer a great elevation for future cabins, a farm, hunting cabin or whatever your Mentone dream dictates. \$105,000 (\$3,500 per acre)

REDUCED! RARE, PRIVATE CAVE PROPERTY! 44 acres of woodland, with mountainside views, abundant wildlife and a registered cave: Tally Cave. This special bit of earth is looking for a special owner. Don't let this one pass you by! Fantastically priced at only \$99,900. (785767)

DESOTO FALLS AREA LAKEFRONT LOT with approx. 94' frontage on the prime part of W Fork Little River, the truly navigable part where you can canoe, kayak or pontoon all the way to Mentone! So much natural beauty, so rarely available. \$162,500 (355152)

OH MY GOODNESS! COOL Street! Wouldn't that be an awesome address? Just under a half-acre lot with a downtown location & fabulous brow views! The great thing is, it isn't perched on the edge of the mountain, yet it still offers that "WOW!" view! Design it right, and those gorgeous sunsets can come right into your cabin! Mentone's Brow Park is steps away across the road. A unique opportunity. \$87,500 (1062252)

BROW-FRONT LOT WITH STUNNING SUNSET VIEWS; a panorama of the valley & mountains beyond. Ready for your mountain getaway on the brow! Just a mile from downtown Mentone along the parkway. Quaint split-rail fence. Seven lots available. Lot 14 offers 0.68 acres; approx 90' brow frontage. \$107,500 (1055392)

READY FOR YOU TO BUILD YOUR DREAM CABIN! 2.75 unrestricted acres with underground utilities, & septic tank! Minutes from downtown Mentone; tucked privately into the woods! \$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)

BACK ON MARKET! DAY SPRING. One seldom hears of lots for sale in this private, gated community with its common areas of massive, dramatic boulders; walking paths and access to East Fork of Little River. Lot 14, 3.25 acres. Beautiful hardwoods and level-to-gently-rolling topography. A place to build your mountain retreat. Restricted. \$40,000. (1068485)



WHITETAIL CABIN, updated, charming 2BR/2BA; on approx 1 acre; next to Camp Comer. Original heart-pine floors & tongue & groove pine interior retain all the character of yesteryear. New kitchen; new MABA; wrap-around deck; screened porch & ceiling fans throughout. New windows, plumbing, electrical, CH/A, many more upgrades. Fruit & nut trees, plenty of space for gardening. Outbuildings. New price \$143,500 (1062364)



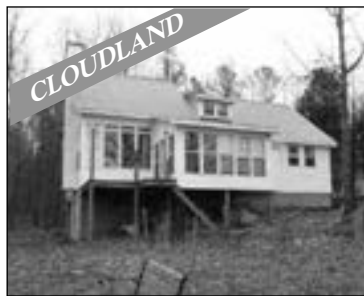
THE VIEWS, THE SPACE, THE LOCATION...it's all here. Lovely frame & stone cottage on the brow at Mentone. Over 3000 sq ft; 3BR/4BA; lg bonus room for 4th BR, office, exercise or play room. Main-level Master Suite with wall of windows to enjoy the view. Huge kitchen is a dream for those who love to cook & entertain: granite counters, commercial gas cooktop, double wall ovens, wine cooler, disposal, compactor, gas fireplace, enormous pantry. Large dining room opens onto brow-side screen porch & decks. New wood floors & ceiling; new paint; new windows in MA BR & Living. Detached 3-car garage w/efficiency apartment & shop. Wrought-iron gated entry; circular, paved drive. Now \$477,500 (1062816)



THOSE WERE THE DAYS...This is one of those classic cottages built just after the turn of the 20th century, meant for relaxation. 2BR/1BA (with great space for 2nd bath off MABR); front sun porch; back screened porch. Lots of windows. Wide plank & area-made clay tile floors. Updated wiring, plumbing, insulation, foundation, roof, & lapboard siding. 2 ac (+/-) w/small stream & big old shade trees. Great getaway or rental. \$177,500 (1069540)



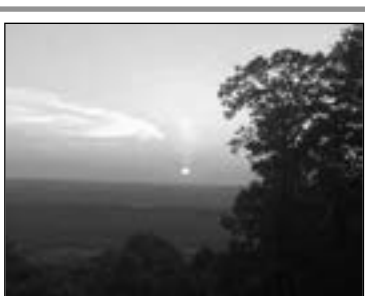
"THE BURREN." 3BR/2.5BA mountain retreat cabin, just off DeSoto Pkwy, nestled among intriguing rock formations, surrounded by woodlands. Metal roof; screened porch; wood-burning mtn stone fireplace; private back deck w/hot tub; 2nd floor balconies. Convenient to DeSoto St Park & Mentone. 1.9 acres. Large screened porch offers expanded living area outdoors. Furnishings negotiable. Active rental. Now \$185,000 (1052151)



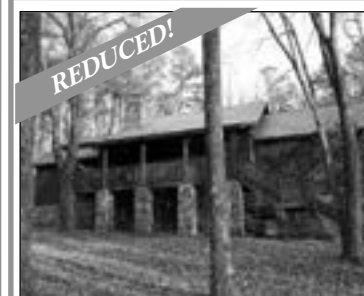
PRIVATE PRESERVE ON 64.26 ACRES 3BR/3BA w/pine plank floors; WB Fplce; kitchen w/gas range & lots of cabinetry! Main-level MA BR & BA; sunroom; full basement. Quaint red barn w/shop w/studio. There's a view of the lake, view of the lake, view of the lake from downtown Mentone in Cloudland, GA. \$250,000 (Co-brokerage w/Georgia-licensed company, Lookout Mtn Preferred Realty) (1060014)



MOUNTAIN CHARM & ELEGANCE ON THE BROW, along the scenic DeSoto Pkwy. 2BR/2BA, one-level home with plenty of WOW factor inside and out. Beautiful stonework inside and out, too. Open great room has eye-appeal with vaulted ceiling, wood beams & stone, wood-burning, masonry fireplace. Practical and pretty Corian-surface work island and counters. Wall of windows & large back deck to take in those amazing views & captivating sunsets. Attached, 2-car garage for future living space. Sited on 1.5 acres (+/-) w/ approx 180' of brow frontage. Dimensional shingle roof & cement board siding less than 3 years old. RV hookups beside house. Brow home, getaway or rental. \$325,000 (1068169)



IT'S ALMOST MAGICAL! 1950s brow-front lodge, surrounded by boulders and punctuated with amazing rock work by mountain craftsmen stonemasons of yesteryear. (The rock work alone would cost this much if done today!) Privately situated on a little-known drive in downtown Mentone; board-n-batten exterior; metal roof; all wood interior; handmade "Dutch" doors; stone-floored sunroom; 3BR/2BA; huge, mountain stone, wood-burning fireplace. Brow-side, in-ground pool and pool house. And everywhere you turn, there's that awesome view! Screened gazebo/sleeping porch. Awaiting a resurrection back to what must have once been a glorious getaway. Discover it for yourself! \$375,000 (1068806)



TIMBER-FRAME CRAFTSMANSHIP in a cabin, privately nestled in 9.5 acres, surrounded by state park land, with small pond, rock outcroppings & majestic woods. Gated drive. Post & beam construction with vaulted, open, living/dining/kitchen. 3BR/3.5BA. Wide-plank pine floors throughout. Mountain stone, wood-burning fireplace with raised hearth. Full front porch, extra-large back porch with ramp. Everything one could want in a mountain escape or residence. No light pollution, no traffic noise...just you, woodland wildlife, and privacy. Worlds away, not miles away. Custom-built, one-owner cabin just reduced to \$259,900 (1062482)



Classified Ads

24.4 WOODED ACRES FOR SALE BY OWNER - over 900 ft on the head waters of the Little River. Will build to suite, 6 miles north of Mentone, AL. Brow road Hwy 89 in GA. \$175,000. Contact 706-859-8211.

COX TILE - 706-766-2758 - Sunrooms, marble, baths, shower pan repair. James Pleas Cox, jpcxtile1@gmail.com.

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.

Your Groundhog

The Groundhog newspaper was started by MAPA as a means to share the local culture, the heritage that is Mentone. It was designed for local events and personalities. It is a way to show off the talent of artists and craftspeople that this area has been blessed with.

Do you enjoy writing? Do you enjoy talking to others about local history or memorable events? Do you recall with fondness certain people who made Mentone what it is today? Do you treasure the talents that new people bring to the area. If so, consider writing for The Groundhog and carrying on the tradition. If you are worried about your writing skills, everything is edited before print. The Groundhog staff and MAPA board are here to help you if you will help us get these fabulous stories and biographies written down to share and save for posterity.

Do you enjoy attending local events like the Rhododendron festival? What about taking photos? Our readers enjoy reading about events and seeing pictures of what's going on. Our subscriptions go all over the country to people who want to see what is happening here in Mentone while they are away and what is being planned so they can attend.

If you like The Groundhog and want to contribute, let us know. Email us at groundhognews@yahoo.com or give me a call at 256-465-1107 to let me know how you would like to be a part of this great paper.

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 "S"-House Antiques Southern Gold & Silver Southern Properties The Spot Coffee Shop The Strand The Wishing Well Waffle House Waffle King	VALLEY HEAD Alabama Organics Burt Funeral Home Citizens Bank Coffee Shack by the Tracks 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	OTHER Alabama Welcome Center DeSoto St. Park Lodge DeSoto State Park Store Fisher X-Roads Store Little River Canyon Center Ralph's Grocery

Subscribe to The Groundhog!

Have The Groundhog delivered to your mailbox!
Subscribe now or renew your own subscription.
Just \$20 a year.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Is this a new or renewed subscription? _____

Is there someone special who would love to have a Groundhog subscription? Just fill in their information above and fill in your name below:

From _____

Send your check payable to:
The Groundhog, P. O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984

WINDOW VISIONS

JELD-WEN
WINDOWS & DOORS
RELIABILITY for real life®

WE SELL ENERGY STAR

New Construction & Replacement Windows & Doors

256-845-3893

162 45th Street NE, Fort Payne
www.windowvisions.us



This Old House: MERF Community House - June



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.

Thanks MAPA for hosting another wonderful Rhododendron Festival! We loved everyone that came by our booth to say hello and to purchase a "Leave Me in Mentone" item. Didn't you just love the new aprons?! Thank you to everyone for supporting MERF and its programs. If you are still in need of a MERF item, stop by DeSoto State Park Country Store or Little River Hardware for tees, caps, mugs and aprons. Kamama and Moon Lake Trading Company have our great handmade mugs too.

Oh what fun we had on May 17th as three local artists spent the afternoon with our Moon Lake Elementary School students. Lydia Randolph, Lenton Williams and Doug Kiker shared their love of their artwork with small groups of students.

Lydia brought two canvases and spent the afternoon creating great pieces with the students. Who doesn't love the freedom to pick up a brush and just paint! Lydia's enthusiasm and creativity was infectious as the students learned to let go and to create.

Lenton Williams, a renowned broom maker and instructor at the John C. Campbell Folk School, gave background history on broom making and agricultural information about broom corn. He crafted brooms in front of the students to show the full process which captivated the students and teachers. He also

showed examples of various types of brooms and explained their usage. Sixth grader Kaden Johnson wondered if the brooms automatically have their shape. Mr. Williams explained that kitchen brooms and whisks receive a "haircut" to make them neat and flat. However, he shapes the cobweb brooms as he lays the broom corn into place. First graders and Kindergarten students gave an "awe" of surprise when they learned that some of his handles are actually just sticks he picks up out of the woods.

The Black Hat Poet, Doug Kiker, entertained the students with poems such as A Boy and a Dog by Ogden Nash, The Pied Piper of Hamelin by Robert Browning and the Cremation of Sam McGee by Robert Service. He has been reciting poetry since he was 15 as a way to inspire his audiences. He also shared poems he had



written with the students loving his one about Watermelon. MERF appreciates the many ways our community and the Alabama Council on the Arts supports each effort to expose Mentone children to different expressions of art in our community.

As you enjoy summer breezes on the mountain, please remember to support our local artists and our restaurants that support so many organizations



in Mentone such as MERF. A piece of artwork is a memorable wedding, graduation or father's day gift. Time having a wonderful meal at a local restaurant or cooking with fresh, locally-grown vegetables and meat is well spent. Let's support our artisans so they can keep creating.

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



SECOND ANNUAL FARM BBQs

come on over, y'all, to The Farm
at Windy Hill's **farm-to-table BBQ picnics**

JUNE 10 + JULY 8

10-1 PM

farm food + live music + lawn games

RSVP to joy@thefarmatwindyhill.com
445 Road 942, Mentone, AL