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THE

GROUNDHOG

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

Volume 35, No. 4

"Neighborhood News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

April 2016

Mentone Rhododendron Festival 2016 Rhododendron – A Lookout Mountain Native

By Ray Padgett

Like its native people, Lookout Mountain native Rhododendron plants are sometimes difficult to find or identify. When deSoto came through the Lookout Mountain area, native Rhododendron colored the riverbanks and streams in a blaze of color. The new visitors marveled at its bountiful beauty. This springtime beauty prompted celebrations and festivals in its honor, and Mentone continues that tradition today.

In the mid 1900's, it was called the Lookout Mountain Rhododendron Festival and covered most of the DeKalb County portion of Lookout. These were festivals that featured horseback and wagon rides, picnics, ball games, and wonderful displays of mountain crafts and artworks. All with

mountain music sprinkled along the way.

This year, Mentone will once again spruce up and dust off the cobwebs of winter to celebrate



the annual blooming of the Rhododendron.

While maybe not as large or lavish as those countywide festivals of yore, our celebration will rival their creativity and spirit.

As usual, the 2016 Mentone Rhododendron Festival will be held on the third weekend in May, beginning on Friday afternoon, May 20, with boat rides up the Little River starting at 1 o'clock in the afternoon through 6 in the evening. There will be music and food at Mentone Inn, and our Miss Rhododendron Beauty Pageant will be held on Friday evening at the Mentone Community Church Family Life Center.

Arts, crafts, music and festival gourmet food will spring to life along Mentone's Brow Park at 9:00 on the morning of May 21st and wind up at 4:00 Sunday afternoon, May 22nd. Local
(cont'd on page 4)

Welcome Green Leaf Grill!

Business owners Jimmy Rogers and Mikell Frechette are refreshing a treasured Mentone classic that has been a fabulous food destination for decades. The Green Leaf Grill is located in the Log Cabin Village carrying on the legacy of its predecessors--Yellow Deli, Log Cabin Restaurant, and Moonlight Bistro. The cabin was originally built as an American Indian Trading Post on Sand Mountain. Jack Jones relocated the building to Mentone in the '70s. It looks natural sitting among the pines in downtown and has become one of the symbols of our community. Renovations are bringing new charm to the rustic cabin.

After having the property for several years, Julie Sisam, from New Orleans, welcomes the chance to add her own touch to this timeless cabin and preserve the characteristics of Mentone that draws so many people in. She and Mikell are decorating and designing with the purposeful intention of extending the feel of Lookout Mountain inside The Green Leaf Grill and recreating the atmosphere

created by Valinda Miracle in the Log Cabin Restaurant. The original Log Cabin Restaurant sign was found on the forest floor underneath the pine needles in the back of the parking lot. It was revived with some tender loving care, as was the back dining room where the rustic sign now hangs with pride. This allows more guests to dine inside. Of course, the porch is always available with a terrific view of downtown.

In true Mentone fashion, The Green Leaf Grill honors the heritage of the cabin while offering modern and varied menu options along with a welcoming ambiance. Jimmy will be working wonders in the kitchen and offering something for everyone--from a fried bologna sandwich to freshly-shipped Alabama wild-caught jumbo lump crab meat dishes; from fresh rainbow trout from Otter Creek Trout Farm (Nantahala, NC) on the weekend to "meat and three" (or one or two if you prefer) during weekday lunches. Loree and

(cont'd on page 8)

By Anna Mae Horn



THE GROUNDHOG

P. O. Box 387
Mentone, AL 35984

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



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

From The Editor

What a marvelous time of year! The Earth is waking from the winter sleep and vibrant colors are surrounding us- various greens on the ground and in the forest, vibrantly colored flowers in bloom, more sunshine in each day. Also, animals are scurrying everywhere gathering food and making new summer homes. What a fabulous time for celebration and festivals.

Final details are being worked out on a weekly basis for the Rhododendron Festival

taking place the third weekend of May. The mountain will come alive with music, activity, and the delectable aroma of festival food. Brow park will become a melting pot for a wide variety of artist and crafters.

Lots of details in next month's issue of *The Groundhog*!!

~Anna Mae

DeSoto Rescue Squad--Serving the Community

By Captain Mike Stone



Many of you may not know who Desoto Rescue Squad is and what we do.

Desoto Rescue Squad is a 100% volunteer organization comprised of members who are dedicated to helping our community and its citizens in whatever way we can. Particularly, we provide Emergency Medical Services first response, which means we arrive prior to the ambulance and provide care to our patient until the ambulance arrives and after if needed. We do not leave a scene until the ambulance has transported and occasionally ride with the ambulance crew to the hospital if they need an extra set of hands. We also provide search and rescue of lost and/or injured persons and response to multi-casualty incidents and disasters, such as tornadoes, ice storms, and snow storms.

We are an Advanced Life Support first response agency with licensed Paramedics, Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians, Emergency Medical Responders and First Responders on our squad. On our trucks, we have cardiac monitors and Automated External Defibrillators (AED's) as well as the medical supplies and other equipment we need to care for our patients. We have members

trained in many different aspects of rescue, including the Incident Command System.

We have recently begun providing CPR classes to the community every few months and will continue to do so as long as they are needed/wanted.

Our organization is recognized as a 501(c)3 and mainly funded by donations and fund raisers. We receive approximately \$1,600 a year from the Dekalb County Commission. We are not a part of the Fire Department, and we do not receive any tax money besides the \$1,600. All of that money goes toward the payment of our insurance for the year, but does not cover it all. The generous donations we have received through the years have allowed us to purchase much of our equipment and day to day supplies as well as fuel and upkeep of the equipment.

We never charge our patients for our services and rely solely on donations and small grants to survive.

This past year and the beginning of 2016 have brought many unexpected expenses to our squad, including \$5,000 in repairs to and replacement of our cardiac monitors. We were fortunate enough to acquire some funding through other avenues, such as grants, but we are still critically low in our current funds.

We greatly appreciate and thank everyone who has supported us through the years and ask that you please consider making a donation to our squad. Donations can be made by mail to Desoto Rescue Squad, PO Box 517, Mentone, AL 35984 or via our website, desotorecue.com.

If you have any questions or would like any further information, please feel free to contact our Captain, Mike Stone, at (256) 755-1023 or our 1st Lieutenant, Gwen Stone, at (256) 364-0150. Our meetings are open to anyone interested and are held the first Saturday of each month at the MERF House at 9:00 a.m.

We will continue to strive to do all we are able for our communities and those in them.



MAPA NEWS

By Ray Padgett

Note: This is the final article of our series to commemorate Mentone folks who kept MAPA and The Groundhog alive for the last 34 years. It should be noted that Evelyn Graves served as The Groundhog Editor for seventeen (17) of these 34 years. A special "Thank You" goes to her for keeping our community connected with Groundhog stories through all those years.

Dessie Brown continued as President of MAPA in 2006. Dessie was supported by Dot Crow (Vice-President), Marie Dillenbeck (Secretary), Leroy Crowe (Treasurer), Bernise Crow (Parliamentarian), and Lucille Crowe and Page Cunningham (Members-At-Large). Evelyn Graves and her *Groundhog* Staff (Marie Dillenbeck, John Baty, Linda Brown, Bernise Crow, and L.C. Moon) once again kept everyone informed about Mentone news and newsmakers.

New Mentone volunteers became MAPA officers in 2007--Amelia Kirk Lolli (President), Jerome Stephens (Vice-President) and Wesley Chesnut served as one of the Members-At-Large. Colorfest took on a new look and new events under the guidance of Co-Chairs Page Cunningham and J.P. Nations with Kerry Breithaupt and Rhonda Bruckno heading up festival publicity.

While the 2008 *Groundhog* staff was unchanged, some MAPA Officers changed positions. Jerome Stephens took over as President, Page Cunningham became Vice-President and J.P. Nations assumed the responsibility of Treasurer. It was noted in *The Groundhog* that the Mentone Arts and Community Council made a mosaic bench for the community house. Moon Lake Elementary School kids under the direction of Linda Munoz, Heather Nicely and Lynn Cox made the bench.

Evelyn Graves and her *Groundhog* staff remained in place in 2009. However, new MAPA officers were sworn in. Gerald Bailey took the reins as President, Dewey Crow became Vice-President, and Amanda Gray stepped up as Secretary. J.P. Nations continued as Treasurer and Lamar Bray, Gail Chambers, and Evelyn Graves became new Members-At-Large.

The 2010, *Groundhog* staff added Sara Jacoway, and Charlotte Gentry as Contributing Editors. Gerald Bailey continued as MAPA President with J.P. Nations remaining as Treasurer. Carrying on the tradition of adding

new volunteers to the MAPA Board, Jim Weathers became Vice-president, and Hobson Kirby joined the Members-At-Large. Other volunteers remained to keep MAPA and *The Groundhog* an important part of our Mentone community.

After a stellar seventeen years as *The Groundhog* Editor, Evelyn Graves resigned in 2011. Her service is a tribute to the fact that *The Groundhog* and MAPA continued to serve the Mentone community over the last 34 years. The new *Groundhog* Editor, Charlotte Gentry, was supported by Diane Sanders (Layout/Design) and contributing editors Linda Brown, L. C. Moon, and Kristen Emory. Gerald Bailey (MAPA President) was supported by new officers L.C. Moon (Vice-President), Robert Green (Secretary), Amelia Kirk-Lolli (Parliamentarian), Ray Padgett (Treasurer) and Members-At-Large, Lamar Bray and Hobson Kirby.

The Groundhog Staff continued with Charlotte as Editor in 2012 and added Dixie Wilson as a Contributing Writer. MAPA officers were almost all new this year with L.C. Moon (President), Scott Thomas (Vice-President), Ginny Zulker (Secretary), Doreen Crow Waters (Treasurer), Gerald Bailey (Parliamentarian), Cynthia Stinson and Jeff Rymer (Members-At-Large). "Chuck T. Groundhog" and "The Chicken Lady" jumped out of *The Groundhog* pages and brought smiles to everyone's faces.

Susan Cheronas assumed *The Groundhog* Editor responsibilities in 2013 and Beverly Bates became *Groundhog* Design Manager and once again, the MAPA Board made changes--President (Ray Padgett), Vice-President (Kayla Worthey), Secretary (Jerome Stephens), Treasurer (Doreen Crow Waters), Parliamentarian (L.C. Moon) and Members-At-Large (Elaine Gauldin and Amelia Kirk-Lolli). Volunteers for *The Groundhog* and the MAPA Board remained in place for 2014.

A new *Groundhog* Editor, Anna Mae Horn, came on board in 2015. Anna Mae also serves as Distribution Manager and Beverly Bates remains as *Groundhog* Design Manager. *Groundhog* articles blossomed with renewed community participation. *The Groundhog* not only reflects current Mentone citizens and events, but also, continues to tell the colorful, rich history of Mentone culture. Mentone festivals grew at an unprecedented pace and record numbers turned out for the 2015 Colorfest. The MAPA Board added Clare Donohue (Vice-President), Amanda Pope and Stephanie Roberts (Members-At-Large) and Kayla Worthey became MAPA Treasurer.

Once again, the MAPA Board thanks everyone for their long-term support of MAPA, its events and its publication of *The Groundhog*.

Our MAPA Board meets the second Wednesday of every month, 6:00 P.M. at Kamama Gallery. Visitors and members are

encouraged to attend. MAPA is a community organization and needs everyone's ideas, energy and input.



Join MAPA Today!
Help us preserve
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Couples - \$30 a year

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Rhododendron Festival

Miss Rhododendron
Pageant Information
and Call for Vendors Application

Miss Rhododendron



Presented by
the Mentone Area
Preservation Association

Friday, May 20, 2016
6:00 p.m. CST

Mentone Community Church
Family Life Center
90 Summerville Road
Mentone, Alabama 35984

Miss Rhododendron is part of the annual
Rhododendron Festival
May 20th, 21st & 22nd

Six Age Divisions for girls ages 0 to 18
Miss Rhododendron (Senior Division)
will win a
One Year Scholarship to NACC.
(NACC Admission Requirements apply)

For more information and entry packets,
please email
rhododendronfestival@gmail.com

Mentone Rhododendron (cont'd from page 1)

troubadours play their own creations at Brow Park Pavilion during the day Saturday and Sunday, and they play them with a mountain flair passed down through the generations. Boat rides will also be held most of the day on Saturday, 10am to 6pm, as well as on Sunday from 1-5 in the evening.

CALL FOR VENDORS RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL 2016 MAY 21 & 22

\$75 FOR A 12' X 12' SPACE
APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MAY 6

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ 2nd Phone _____ E-mail _____

Website Address _____

Category (please circle): Artist Crafter Retailer Business Food
Please provide a complete list and description of art, craft, products, food

Circle if needed: Electricity Water (\$25 extra)

Other Special Needs _____

Number of Spaces _____ Amount enclosed _____

All vendors **MUST** fill out an application to be considered for the festival. Please don't assume an email or prior participation secures your space. You will be notified of your acceptance no later than May 9. You will be notified of your space assignment the week prior to the show, but please check in with the information tent when you arrive as space numbers can change. All spaces will be on a first come, first served basis, and no spaces can be reserved from show to show.

If you require water or electricity, please indicate on the application. **There is an additional charge for electricity and/or water in the amount of \$25. To avoid outages, electricity is reserved for food vendors and artists who require it to show and demonstrate their art or craft. (i.e. not for personal lighting or fans). No generators will be allowed.**

If you are an artist/crafter and this is the first time you have applied for the Rhododendron Festival, please provide photos of your work or a website or Facebook address. **ALL** art/crafts should be **handmade** by the artist. No ready-made merchandise is allowed. The Rhododendron Festival is strictly an arts, crafts, music and children's festival; therefore, no political or religious organizations will be accepted. Please contact RhododendronFestival@gmail.com if you have any questions.

This year's Rhododendron Festival will be held all over Mentone, but the vendors will be located primarily at Brow Park. Show hours will be 9am-5pm Saturday and 11am-4pm Sunday. You may set up your space on Friday, May 21, 12-6pm, or Saturday, May 22, 6:30-8:30am. Please be ready for the show to start at 9am. If you participate in the show, please plan to be set up for both days unless prior arrangements have been made. Please unload your vehicle and move to the parking area prior to setting up your space. You may break down beginning at 4pm on Sunday. Please clean up around your area prior to leaving. Also, if you are a food vendor, please do not dispose of grease on the ground at Brow Park.

**Send completed application form along with payment to:
MAPA, P. O. Box 50, Mentone, AL 35984
Make Checks payable to MAPA**

None of this is possible without help from our loyal, local volunteers and many sponsors. As always, a special thanks goes to our local Boy Scouts Troup who clean up the parking area before the festival, park cars, set up and pick up trash bins, set up chairs for musical events, build bon fires, keep toilets clean and supplied, and clean up after the festival--all with a smile and a "Thank you ma'am". Thanks also go to the Boy Scout leaders who organize, participate, and schedule these efforts while also passing on their community spirit, work values, and heritage to

the next generations of community leaders.

Come on up to Mentone for the Rhododendron Festival. Kick back, relax, sit a spell, and enjoy the sites, flavors, and sounds of our amazing little festival and trade yarns with the friendliest group of natives in the South. Our hope is that you will fondly remember your time spent in Mentone and that when you see a Rhododendron blossom, you will smile and let festival memories flood your thoughts for years to come.

MBA News - Spring Open in Mentone



By Charlotte Gentry
MBA President

It's always satisfying to watch springtime awaken the mountain. The spring greens start at the base of the mountain, then work their way up to the top, interspersed with the colors of redbud and other wild species of flowering trees and shrubs.

We welcome the warmer temperatures and the chance to get outside once more. The warmer temperatures also herald the re-opening of many of the shops in the village of Mentone. Of course, some shops remain open year round, but most are closed during the winter. Shops are aired out, spiffed up, and re-stocked.

Old friends will return, new businesses will

open, and each one will work to make visitors to Mentone feel welcome. One can find most anything in the shops of Mentone: handcrafted items, unique gifts, great food, and interesting treasures of all sorts.

The Mentone Business Association is a part of all this. We are made up of small businesses. We want to encourage each other. We see the Mentone area emerging as more and more of a destination place, and we want to have a voice in the future of Mentone.

If you are a business, or if you are interested in the business of Mentone, we encourage you to join the MBA. There is no cost to join. We meet every 2nd Monday of the month. Our next meeting will be Monday, April 11th at 6 pm at Kamama's, and we'd love to see you there. Also, visit our facebook page for upcoming news and announcements.

Sign up for the Rhododendron Dash 5K Run presented by One World Adventure

Rhododendron Dash 5K Run Saturday, May 21, 2016 8:30am Mason Park - Mentone REGISTRATION FORM



Hosted by: One World Adventure - a community based outdoor education program, connecting participants to the outdoors through adventure programs and eco-tourism. Find out more by visiting our website: www.oneworldadventureco.org. Thank you for attending our fun - raiser!! 256-634-8370

Name	Cell Phone
Address	Home Phone
City, State, Zip Code	Email Address
Division: Child / Teen Young / Adult / Adult Senior	Age Groups - Children: 5-12/ Teens: 13-17/ Young Adult: 18-30 /Adult: 31-50/ Senior: 51 +
Emergency Contact	T-Shirt Size YS (6-8) YM (10-12) AS AM AL AXL
Type of Entry: Individual Team	Team Name:

Forms must be received by Friday May13th for T-shirt order deadline.
*Only limited number of T-shirts on Race Day

Race Details: The Race is a 5K course along county road 648 and county road 89 in Mentone. Sign in & Race Day Registration begins @ 7:30am Saturday morning at Mason Park, adjacent to Mentone Town Hall. Registration Closes @ 8:00am Race begins at 8:30am.

Race Map: <http://www.mapmyrun.com/events/596666/>

First wave of 20 begins @ 8:30, second wave – 8:32, third wave – 8:35
Race ends at Brow Park with awards immediately following race under music pavilion

REGISTRATION FEES

- o \$25 Adult & Teen 5K
- o \$20 Child 5K (5-12) & Senior 5K (65 - older)
- o \$30 Day of Race 5K – Everyone

Please make check payable to One World Adventure and mail form to:
PO Box 106 Mentone, AL 35984 or email to angie@oneworldadventureco.org

Questions: 256-634-8370

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Your Library News Your Library News Your Library News



By Barb Stoll

Spring Has Sprung at the Library!

Well it looks like the warm weather is upon us, and I am happy about it. The daffodils are wonderful! Now is a great time to get outdoors and shake off the winter cobwebs, and your library has just the thing. This month, we have new books and DVDs to delight everyone. Here's what's new...

DVDs

The Martian - This movie is great, and Matt Damon does a fantastic job. It's a sci-fi with light humor that keeps it from making the subject matter too heavy. Matt Damon leads a stellar cast in this Sci-fi adventure from director Ridley Scott (think Alien, Prometheus) based on the #1 New York Times bestseller. During a manned mission to Mars, American astronaut Mark Watney (Damon) is presumed dead and left behind by his crew. But Watney is still alive, and he must now find a way to contact Earth - and survive on a barren planet with meager supplies - in hope that an international team of scientists can devise a near-impossible rescue to bring him home. PG-13

Kingsman: The Secret Service - This unlikely movie is loads of fun with great actors. A super secret organization recruits an unrefined but promising street kid into the agency's ultra-competitive training program just as a dire global threat emerges from a twisted tech genius. A phenomenal cast, including ACADEMY AWARD winners Colin Firth and Michael Caine and OSCAR nominee Samuel L. Jackson, lead this action-packed spy thriller directed by Matthew Vaughn (X-Men: First Class). R

Interstellar - This movie is ripe with great special effects and intrigue. An all-star cast makes this one a joy to watch. From director Christopher Nolan (Inception, The Dark Knight Trilogy) comes the story of a team of pioneers undertaking the most important mission in human history. Academy Award winner Matthew McConaughey stars as ex-pilot-turned-farmer named Cooper, who must leave

his family and a foundering Earth behind to lead an expedition traveling beyond this galaxy to discover whether mankind has a future among the stars. Academy Award winner Anne Hathaway and Academy Award nominee Jessica Chastain also star in the landmark film Lou Lumenick of the New York Post calls "one of the most exhilarating film experiences so far this century". PG-13

Flight - Academy Award winner Denzel Washington stars in this "riveting and powerful nail-biting thriller" from Robert Zemeckis, the Academy Award winning director of Forrest Gump and Cast Away. Airline pilot Whip Whitaker (Washington) miraculously lands his plane after a midair catastrophe. But even as he's being hailed for his heroic efforts, questions arise as to who or what was really at fault. Action-packed, engrossing and powerful, Washington's performance is being hailed as "a triumph" and one that "will be talked about for years". R

A Walk in the Woods - Celebrated travel writer Bill Bryson (Robert Redford) challenges himself to hike the Appalachian Trail - 2,190 miles of America's most spectacular and unspoiled countryside - much to the chagrin of his loving wife (Emma Thompson), who insists he not embark on the trek alone. The peace and tranquility he hopes to find is anything but when the only person willing to join him is his long-lost friend Katz (Nick Nolte), a down-on-his-luck serial philanderer who is one step ahead of the law. These two old friends are about to discover that when you push yourself to the edge, the real fun begins. R

BOOKS

The Wright Brothers - Two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize, David McCullough, tells the dramatic story of the courageous brothers who taught the world how to fly. On a winter day in 1903, on the remote Outer Banks of North Carolina, two unknown brothers from Ohio - Wilbur and Orville Wright - changed history. The age of flight had begun with the first heavier-than-air powered machine carrying a pilot. When the brothers worked together, no problem seemed insurmountable. Wilbur, the older of the two, was unquestionably

a genius. Orville had such mechanical ingenuity as few people have ever seen. In this thrilling book, master historian David McCullough draws on the immense riches of the Wright Papers, including personal diaries, notebooks, and more than a thousand letters from private family correspondence, to tell the human side of a profoundly American story.

The Gangster - Okay, all you Clive Cussler fans, here is the latest from the Man. Clive Cussler brings the past to extraordinary life through the trials of Detective Isaac Bell - a character who refuses to let corruption slip through the cracks in a nation moving from the Industrial Era to the Progressive Era. Cussler challenges his hero to seal up the fissures in his own life by stopping a crime wave he may have put into motion. It is 1906, and Van Dorn private detective Bell has his hands full protecting the most vulnerable New Yorkers - immigrants with nowhere else to turn - from a vicious organization known as the Black Hand. Kidnapping, blackmail, extortion, sabotage -- they take the oldest tricks and add dynamite. When a coalition of the Black Hand's victims hire out the Van Dorn Agency to protect their businesses, their reputations, and their families, Bell forms a crack squad and begins scouring the city for clues. Then the unexpected happens. He spots a familiar face. In *The Gangster*, furious action explodes across the evocative landscape of American history, as only Clive Cussler could envision it.

The Guilty - This latest from David Baldacci is a page turner. Will Robie is the government's most professional, disciplined, and lethal assassin. He infiltrates the most hostile countries in the

(cont'd on page 19)



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Summer Music Series Kicks Off in June

By Rhea Pirch



The Little River Arts Council will kick off their Summer Music Series with a “Downtown Getdown” on Saturday, June 25th at the Rotary Pavilion in Fort Payne. This first concert runs in conjunction with Bike Night in Fort Payne, a summer event sponsored by The Wills Town Rats to raise money for someone in need.

The music starts at 3:00 p.m. and continues on until 10:30 with an impressive list of musical

talents including:

3:00 Trey Headrick
4:00 Elisha Tatum
5:00 Courtney Holder
6:00 Matty Croxton
7:00 Ain't Sisters
8:30 – 10:30 Headliner: STRUNG LIKE A HORSE

Food and beverages will also be on hand during the concert.

Planning is still in the works for the rest of the music series. Dates have been set for July 16th, August 20th, and September 10th with an additional concert on July 9th to benefit the programs of The Little River Arts Council. The Summer Music Series has been made possible by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Several of the board members recently viewed a presentation by Tabatha Jarmulowicz from the Huntsville chapter of the Alabama Women's Caucus for Art. Her goal was to encourage the

Arts Council and area artists to collaborate and join the Caucus in order to offer artists and art professionals more opportunities to show and market their art, not only in the Northeast area of Alabama, but throughout the state.

Tabatha introduced “Intimate Spaces” a juried exhibition sponsored by the Alabama Women's Caucus for the Art from May 21 to July 2, 2016, at Union Grove Gallery in Huntsville. The exhibition is where they will “celebrate the works of Alabama artists as they interpret the meaning of intimacy through art” and welcomes all artists living in Alabama, regardless of gender, to participate. More on the exhibition and the organization can be found on their website, alwca.weebly.com

The Little River Arts Council is open to all artists, musicians, writers, poets, and appreciators of art. To join or renew a membership, visit our new website at littleriverartscouncil.org and click on the Membership link.

New Al-Anon Meeting in Mentone

By Lynna Meadows Morton

A little over a year ago on February 10, 2015, a new Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) group formed in Mentone, Alabama. After many announcements as to its beginning time and date, three people gathered on a very cold and dark night at St. Joseph's Episcopal Church. The group was named the Little River Group, and recently around 15 people celebrated the Group's one-year anniversary with cake and, of course, coffee!

Recently, another group, The Little River Al-Anon Family Group was organized and is meeting at the same day and time as the Little River AA Group. Both meetings are every Tuesday at 6:00p.m. in separate rooms, of course. It's probably a good omen that three people showed up for the first Al-Anon meeting!

A suggested Preamble to Twelve Steps says

the following: “Al-Anon Family Groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength, and hope in order to solve their common problems. We believe alcoholism is a family illness and that changed attitudes can aid recovery. Al-Anon is not allied with any sect, denomination, political entity, organization, or institution; does not engage in any controversy; and neither endorses nor opposes any cause. There are no dues for membership. Al-Anon is self-supporting through its own voluntary contributions. Al-Anon has but one purpose: to help families of alcoholics. We do this by practicing the Twelve Steps, by welcoming and giving comfort to families of alcoholics, and by giving understanding and encouragement to the alcoholic.” I believe that says it all.

Our group here on the Mountain is new and is seeking someone with Al-Anon experience to facilitate the group and help it grow. Our members believe that their benefits are measured by their willingness to share experiences with others; for they know they can never give as much as they receive. Perhaps there are those who have been a member somewhere else and are looking for a new home group or are new to the Al-Anon concept. If so, call 334-202-0600 for more information.

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Local Actress in TV Series

By Anna Mae Horn

Sandra Ellis Lafferty spent her childhood in Ft. Payne, Alabama and was “in love” with the movies--now she is playing in the movies and in a new series starting this month.

Sandra went to elementary school in Fort Payne and middle school at Valley Head. Then, her family moved to Tennessee where she took pre-engineering classes and graduated from Bradley High School in Cleveland, but she always had a love of the movies. Throughout her years as a homemaker, she participated in community theatre to fulfill her love of acting. She had an extensive career with the Denver Center Theatre Company where she was named Best Actress for a Season by the Denver drama critics.

After her children were raised and her husband passed away, Sandra decided to focus on her acting career. She moved to Phoenix, AZ to build up her resume. After about a year and a half and four movie roles, Mrs. Lafferty moved to Los Angeles at age 51 and was hoping to get at least one project per month in commercials or television shows. At that time, there was a movement in LA to get more roles for minorities, the disabled, women, and seniors. Writers and casters had to be cognizant of who they were placing in all roles. This worked in Sandra’s favor.



She played many roles and was even being asked to play guest roles.

Among her movie credits are *A Walk in the Woods* (which stars Robert Redford), *The Hunger Games* (1&2), *Footloose* (the remake), and *Walk the Line* as Maybelle Carter. Sandra said that people all over the world enjoy *Walk the Line*. People in Ireland quoted lines from the movie. She has played on several TV series including *Boy Meets World*, *The Wayans Bros.* and *Melrose Place*.

She has been back in the Fort Payne area for about fifteen years. Earlier this year, a short film was released in which Sandra, along with all the actors and crew, donated their time and talents. *Summer Leaves: A Love Story in DeKalb County* was filmed in DeKalb and Jackson Counties, some of it right here in Mentone. You can find it at summerleavesshortfilm.com to see how many faces and places you know. (I think it is a fabulous representation of our area and the people here.)

This month, Sandra will be playing on an exciting new series presented by The C.W. and filmed on location in Atlanta, Georgia. *Containment* is based on a Belgium series called *Cordon*. The city is facing an epidemic and has been quarantined with families being separated. Mrs. Lafferty will be

in about half of the episodes.

Sandra’s acting list is varied and extensive: theatre, television, and film; from Romance to Horror to Drama; from Fort Payne to Colorado, to Los Angeles and back. Be sure to catch her new series this month and watch for her in the area. Even though she has worked among some of the big stars, she is still down to Earth; she is friendly and very interesting.

Green Leaf Grill (cont'd from page 1)

Roger (from Roger’s Homemade and the Farmer’s Market) have been invited to be a special part of this endeavor as well. They will be extending the menu even more by adding specialty vegan and vegetarian dishes as well as other specialty dishes. They also have fresh bakery items. Jimmy will be reintroducing some of the old Log Cabin favorites; Valinda Miracle has shared her exquisite recipes for Hot Fudge Cake, Peach Cobbler, and her good ol’ Chili Corn Pone. This variety makes for an amazing combination of cuisine for every kind of palate.

Soon, The Green Leaf Grill will be a dining choice seven days a week. For now, lunch is served Tuesday through Saturday, with evening dinners on Friday and Saturday, as well as Sunday Brunches (which are a must in Mentone). The entire staff is working hard to complete the finishing touches and looking forward to a grand opening extended event soon. Watch for signs and check out their Facebook page: The Green Leaf Grill, Mentone. They look forward to seeing you soon!

American Red Cross DeKalb County
Disaster Preparedness
and Volunteer Recruitment Event

Thursday, April 7
12:00–1:00pm at the MERF House

Do you know how to prepare for a tornado?
Do you know what to do if a tornado
is threatening your area?
Do you know what to do after a tornado?

The American Red Cross- DeKalb County will be hosting a FREE disaster preparedness and volunteer recruitment event on Thursday, April 7, at the MERF House from 12:00–1:00pm.

Come and join us for light refreshments and learn how to be “Red Cross Ready!”

Also, you will receive information on how to become a Red Cross volunteer in your local community and help your neighbors in times of disaster.

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THE
RECIPE CORNER
BY
ANGIE CARDEN

APRIL

As some of you know, I have been doing this Recipe Corner for several years now. Suddenly, the other day I had, what I think, is a great idea. So, I propose to you readers that you get involved in this with me! If you have a recipe you would like for me to feature, maybe you have a question about a recipe or maybe you would just like for me to do more recipes about chicken or vegetables. I would absolutely love to hear from some of my readers and answer any questions or help in any way related to food or cooking! I can be reached at weareallcooks@gmail.com I look so forward to hearing from you guys!

Now, back to the Recipe Corner. Being truly Spring now, a lighter menu is what we (at least I) crave. And if you have never had fruit in your salad, (not fruit salad!) you must try it! This is a gorgeous and tasty dish and I hope you will try it!

Strawberry and Spinach Salad

In a large bowl, add 1 bag of Baby Spinach. On top, arrange 1c sliced, fresh Strawberries, ½ c sliced Pecans and ½ c Gorgonzola (you can certainly use crumbled feta or goat cheese or, if you'd prefer, just mozzarella. I will never know!)

In a mason jar (I find it easier) combine: ¼ c Balsamic vinegar, 2 tbsp Honey, ½ c Olive oil, and salt and pepper. Give it a good shimmy shake and pour over that beautiful salad!

A very simple dish, but so delicious! And I truly hope to hear from you guys! Happy Spring and Happy Cooking!

April Birthdays

- April 1 - Michele Kincer
- April 1 - Angie Miller
- April 1 - Calvin Lanier
- April 1 - Kayla Cronnon
- April 1 - Cayson Hughes
- April 2 - Milton Chambers
- April 2 - Ellie Cox
- April 2 - Jayken Lawton
- April 2 - Nancy Lawton
- April 3 - Ray Padgett
- April 3 - Jessica Battles
- April 4 - Jamie Vest
- April 4 - Mina Blalock
- April 4 - Sherry Barkley
- April 4 - Coty Powell
- April 5 - Kaitlyn Dean
- April 5 - Jana Goss
- April 5 - Kenny Chamlee
- April 5 - Steve Rhodes
- April 5 - Chris Black
- April 5 - Donna Busby
- April 5 - Scotty Hulkan
- April 6 - Jennifer Cruse
- April 6 - John Chambers
- April 6 - Ethel Manifold
- April 6 - Sydney Ingram
- April 7 - Shannon Chappell
- April 7 - Kansas Lee
- April 7 - Priscilla Monroe

- April 7 - Kyle Miller
- April 7 - Dori Reed
- April 8 - Angie Lawton
- April 8 - Jackson Rosson
- April 8 - Sharon Coots
- April 8 - Madissen Chitwood
- April 8 - Hayden Knowles
- April 9 - Josh Goss
- April 9 - Justin Kahler
- April 10 - Brittany Bain
- April 10 - Newly Ingram
- April 10 - Paul Ethan Blackwell
- April 10- Lindsey Webb
- April 10 - Lisa Moore
- April 10 - Emily McElhaney
- April 11 - Jordan Beasley
- April 11 - Joey Garrett
- April 11 - Josie Crider
- April 11 - Jerri Ann Tidmore
- April 12 - Corey Davis
- April 12 - Kyle Coots
- April 12 - Tiffany Baker
- April 12 - Jeff Stephenson
- April 13 - Brian Blalock
- April 13 - Tess Gravitt
- April 14 - Zoey Chambers
- April 14 - Carl Tubberville
- April 14 - Jason Baber
- April 14 - Ginger Hammac
- April 15 - Barbara Busby Rape
- April 16 - Preston Kirby
- April 16 - Danny Hopper
- April 16 - Al Blackburn
- April 16 - Sandy Johnson

- April 17 - Ann Cash Harrell
- April 18 - Taylor Verdon
- April 18 - Shan Smith
- April 19 - Butch Manifold
- April 20 - Lane Ingram
- April 20 - Brenda Clinton
- April 21 - Charlene Smith
- April 22 - Thelma Coots
- April 23 - Lauren McGee
- April 23 - Philip Cash
- April 23 - John P. Smith Jr.
- April 24 - Courtney Meadows
- April 24 - Taylee Keith
- April 24 - Adam Dupree
- April 25 - Cooper Kirby
- April 26 - Molly Manifold
- April 26 - Eloise Lance
- April 26 - John Moore
- April 26 - Phyllis James
- April 26 - Evelyn McGee
- April 26 - Cindy Carden
- April 26 - Zack Payne
- April 27 - Kaden Johnson
- April 27 - Emily Miller
- April 27 - Kaylee Cartwright
- April 27 - Tommy Stephens
- April 28 - Stacey Bowman
- April 28 - Austin Reed
- April 28 - Alfred Langston
- April 29 - Linda Stephenson
- April 29 - Katie Hester
- April 29 - Dawson Kincer
- April 29 - John Kincer
- April 29 - Ezra Underwood

- April 30 - Mandi Goza
- April 30 - Anita Meadows
- April 30 - Shane McMahan
- April 30 - Jaimee McGee

April Anniversaries

- April 1 - Raymond & Sharon Coots
- April 3 - Chris & Jennifer Collins
- April 7 -Milton & Gail Chambers
- April 10 - Nathan & Lacie Keith
- April 19 - Corey & Abby Davis
- April 20 - Josh & Brandi Rosson
- April 26 - Ross & Jessica VanPelt



What To Do Around Here!

April 2016 Community Calendar

April 1 - April Fool's Day

April 1 - 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. 10am-1pm. 256-997-9577.

April 1, 4, 12, 20, 26, 29 - Wild Cave Tour. This 2.5 hour adventure is for those of you ready to explore on your knees, on your belly, in the mud and through tight tunnels. Adventure includes helmet, cave lamps plus a fun informative guide. True Adventure Sports. 5-7:30pm. 256-997-9577.

April 2 - Serious Skills Series: Longleaf Pine Needle Basketry Class. Join artist Brittney Hughes to learn the basic steps to making a coiled basket from longleaf pine needles. Each participant will take home their very own creation. All materials will be furnished. Class is for ages 10 and up. JSU's Little River Canyon Center. 9:30am-2pm. \$25 supply fee due day of class. Pre-registration required. 256-997-5025.

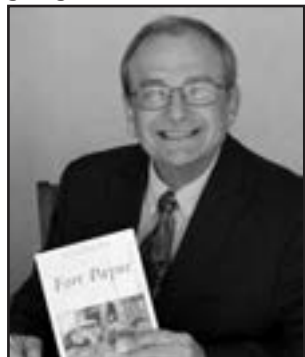
April 2 & 3 - Northeast Alabama Cutting Horse Association Competition. Enjoy the team cutting competition at the Northeast Alabama Agri-Business Center in Rainsville. 256-638-1650.

April 2, 16 - Rock Climbing/Rappelling Adventure Combo. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing and rappelling are all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience needed. True Adventure Sports. 10am-2pm. 256-997-9577.

April 2 - DeKalb Shrine Club 3rd Annual Motorcycle Ride. This will be an escorted ride with a meal included after the ride. Meet at the Rotary Pavilion in downtown Fort Payne. Registration starts at 10am and kickstands up at 11am. \$20 per bike. This ride is to help benefit the Alhambra Shrine activities. 256-630-1246.

April 2 - Book signing with John Dersham.

John Dersham will be at The Book Shelf for a book signing of his new book, "Fort Payne (Postcard History)" from 11:30am-



1:30pm. Come by, meet the author, and get a signed copy. Great gift idea! 256-844-8663.

April 2 - Night Sky Swing Adventure. Enjoy the thrill of the swing at night. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6pm the day before the adventure. Meet at TAS. 7:30-9:30pm. 256-997-9577.

April 4, 9, 23, 25, 26, 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. True Adventure Sports. 10am-2pm. 256-997-9577.

April 5, 30 - Zip Line Adventure. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6pm the day before the adventure. 10am-12pm. 256-997-9577.

April 5 thru 7 - High Adventure Trip. This is a 3-day adventure including a Wild Cave Tour, Rock Climbing, An Extreme Night Hike and ends with a relaxing canoe trip. Price includes all activities, attractions, permits, fees, gear, and guides. True Adventure Sports. 10am. 256-997-9577.

April 7 - Disaster Preparedness and Volunteer Recruitment Event. The American Red Cross- DeKalb County will be hosting a FREE disaster preparedness and volunteer recruitment event. You will receive information on how to become a Red Cross volunteer in your local community and help your neighbors in times of disaster. Join us for light refreshments at the MERF House from 12-1pm and learn how to be "Red Cross Ready!"

April 7 - RadioVisions: OutLaw Country Bert Newton. RadioVisions is a series of musical "House Concerts" that are produced before a live audience for syndication to radio networks and some of the region's finest Americana, Traditional, and Roots Artists are presented. Artist reception- 6pm and concert at 7pm. The Fort Payne Coal and Iron Building. \$10 donation. Reservations suggested. Call 256-979-1910 or 256-845-0203.

April 8, 18, 22 - Afternoon Rock Climbing Adventure. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing is all about in the afternoon with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. True Adventure

Sports. 2-6pm. 256-997-9577.

April 9 - Run for Uganda 5K. Rainsville Community Church is hosting a 5K to raise money to benefit their missions team and the digging of wells in Uganda. Entry fee is \$25 thru day of race. Rainsville Community Church. 8:30am. 256-601-9236.

April 9 - Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction. Join us for a night of great food creations and amazing artwork for auction. Moon Lake Elementary School Gym. Table of eight is \$200 and single ticket is \$30. Call 256-634-4673.

April 9 - Kamama Music Series. Come and enjoy music with Jim Connor. Kamama stage and seating provide the audience an intimate listening experience where live music can be fully appreciated. Reservations encouraged. Dinner at 5:30 and Music starts at 7pm. 256-634-3001.



April 9 - Morgan's Cove on Lake Guntersville Clean Up & Trail Work Day. Volunteers will clean up boat launch area and nearby hiking trail. Some participants will paddle out to collect trash floating along the riverbanks. Rain Date - April 16. If you have questions or would like to participate, contact Angie at One World Adventure. angie@oneworldadventureco.org 256-634-8370. Find us on FB and Like & Share our page!

April 9, 15, 18 - Extreme Night Hike. This end-of-day adventure does not slow down just because it's dark. Intended for a large group team-building exercise, this hike has a bit of bouldering, some scrambling, some spelunking, and a whole lot of required working together. True Adventure Sports. 7:30-10pm. 256-997-9577.

April 11 - 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. True Adventure Sports. 10am-2pm. 256-997-9577.

April 14 - GPS Basic Training and Navigation Class: Part 1. Learn how to

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

April 14 - Meet the Artist Rick Sanders. Come and meet Rick Sanders. His most recent realistic paintings are based on his travels in the Southeast, mostly around Lookout Mountain and surrounding areas in Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee. They have a presence that draws the viewer in the same way one would be drawn in to the actual natural landscape represented. Kamama in downtown Mentone. 12:30-2:30pm. 256-634-3001.

April 15, 20 - Mountain Bike Tour. This tour explores some beautiful trails and paths atop Lookout Mountain or Sand Mountain. Come

have an enjoyable ride without the fear of getting lost. This three hour tour includes a mountain bike rental, instruction, and a guide for safety, direction, and information. True Adventure Sports. 3-6pm. 256-997-9577.



April 16 - Serious Skills: Steel Barn Quilt Workshops. Steel quilts are derived from traditional cloth quilt blocks, except the block is hand cut from reclaimed barn tin and tacked to



a plywood base surrounded by old barn lumber and usually mounted on barns or other buildings. Join artist Nathan Winkler of The Steel Quilt Company for an opportunity to express your own creativity while building your own 1 ft. x 1 ft. steel quilt square to hang at home or give to someone special. 2 workshop times available: 9-12 & 1-4. DeSoto State Park - Meet at the CCC Pavilion in the Picnic Area. \$50 supply fee (all materials supplied). Brown bag lunch available for \$10. Adults only. Pre-registration required by April 13th. Payment due at pre-registration. 256-997-5025.

April 16 - Blow Your Own Ornament. Design and blow your own ornament with the help of one of our glass artists. No reservations are needed. First come, first serve basis. Ages 5 years and up. 9am-4pm. Cost is \$38 per ornament. 256-523-3188.

April 16 - Kamama Class Series with Lydia Randolph. This painting class is figure drawing & painting of Toulouse-Lautrec will be led by Lydia Randolph. Fee is \$60 and includes all supplies. 12-4 p.m. Call Kamama. 256-634-3001.

April 16 & 17 - Billy Berry Benefit Roping Competition. Please come out and support this event. All proceeds go to Billy Berry and his family. Northeast Alabama Agri-Business Center in Rainsville. 256-638-1650.

April 16 - Third Saturday Downtown Cruise-In.

Enjoy an afternoon of family fun activities in downtown Fort Payne. This public event will include food, live music, a car show, and more from 5-9pm. 256-996-3857.



April 16, 22 - 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. 7:30-9:30pm. 256-997-9577.

April 17 - Tri-State Paper Crafting.

Join us to learn, create and be inspired while crafting with papers, stamps, inks, punches, and die cuts. No experience

needed. Kamama Gallery in Mentone AL 1:00-2:30pm. Reserve by noon Saturday the 16th. Cost is \$5. To learn more go to cottagepaper.com or to reserve a spot send an email to cottagepaper@bellsouth.net or call Katie Ferguson 205-349-4026.

April 19 - Boulderling Adventure Atop Lookout Mountain. Come experience firsthand what boulderling is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. We will climb on some of the best boulders atop Lookout Mountain. True Adventure Sports. 2-6pm. 256-997-9577.

April 21 - Treasure Hunt Adventure. Do you enjoy trying to solve riddles and clues? This 5-hour adventure will take you deep into the heart of Manitou Cave. You will have to solve and follow each clue in order to find the next one, and ultimately the Treasure! True Adventure Sports. 3-8pm. 256-997-9577.

April 21 - RadioVisions: Contemporary Country Rock by Jacob Stiefel. RadioVisions is a series of musical "House Concerts" that are produced before a live audience for syndication to radio networks, and some of the region's finest Americana, Traditional, and Roots Artists are presented. Artist reception at 6pm, concert at 7pm. Fort Payne Coal and Iron Building. \$10.00 donation. Reservations are suggested. For info call 256-979-1910 or 256-845-0203.

April 21 thru 24 & 28 thru May 1 - "Big Fish." Northeast Alabama Community College Theatre presents "Big Fish". All seats are reserved, and all tickets are \$5 each. Call 256-638-4418.

April 22 - Earth Day

April 22 & 23 - National Trapping Association Southeast Regional Show.

Northeast Alabama Agri-Business Center in Rainsville. 256-638-1650.

April 23 - 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. Reservations are required. 256-523-3188.

April 23 - Kamama Music Series. Enjoy music with Danika Holmes & Jeb. Kamama stage and seating provide the audience an intimate listening experience where live music can be fully appreciated. Reservations encouraged. Dinner at 5:30 and Music starts at 7pm. 256-634-3001.



April 23 & 24 - Gun and Knife Show.

This event will be held at the DeKalb County VFW Fairgrounds in Fort Payne. It will house 350 tables of rifles, shotguns, handguns, knives, edged weapons, modern & antique weapons, and related items. Admission is \$5 per person and children under 12 are free with an adult. Saturday 9am-5pm and Sunday 10am-5pm. 256-845-7140.

April 26 thru 30 - Spring Carnival. This annual Spring Carnival is fun for the whole family! It is sponsored by the DeKalb County VFW and will be held at the VFW Fairgrounds. The gates will be open from 6-10pm each evening. Saturday, gates will be open from 2pm to close. Price is \$10

per person to ride from open to close each day. Food concessions will be available.

April 27 - GPS Basics Training and Navigation Class: Part 2. You will learn to find a beacon placed in the woods as a SAR attempt while knowing your position and the position of your teammates. True Adventure Sports. 5-9pm. 256-997-9577.

April 28 - Orienteering Class. Basic, yet essential, skills for survival navigation are brought to you in map reading, compass reading, and topography. True Adventure Sports. 10am-1pm. 256-997-9577.

April 29 - Kamama Music Series. Enjoy music with Loree Brownfield. Kamama stage and seating provide the audience an intimate listening experience where live music can be fully appreciated. Reservations encouraged. Dinner at 5:30 and Music starts at 7pm. 256-634-3001.

April 30 - Paperweight Class. Feel the heat, gather from the furnace, sculpt the glass into your own design. It is ultimately about the experience, some experimentation, and a couple of nice paperweights to take with you. Please join us for some in-depth discovery. Reservations Required. \$135 per person. 9am-1pm. 256-523-3188.

April 30 & May 1 - Tennessee Cowboy Mounted Shooters Competition. MSA competitions at the Northeast Alabama Agri-Business Center in Rainsville. Free admission for spectators. 256-638-1650.



Ongoing Calendar

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

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

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

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

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

Gluten Free/Diabetic All Natural Cooking

classes with Brenda Trace will be held at Little River Hardware at 6pm on Wednesdays. Classes \$10.

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

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

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

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

the Gymnasium.

FREE FOOD for eligible persons and families. Hours: Wednesdays, 9 AM to noon. New applicants welcome during these hours. Joint effort between St. Joseph's on the Mountain Episcopal Church (Community Outreach Ministry) and the Food Bank of North Alabama.

Mentone Fire Department meets the 3rd Monday of every month at 7pm. Mentone Town Council meets every 2nd Tuesday at 6pm.

The Lookout Mountain Wholistic Center meets the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of every month at Rock Ridge Retreat Center in Valley Head at 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome!

Mentone Farmers Market open year round every Saturday, 10am-1pm.

Storytime at the Canyon Center every first Saturday of the month. 11am-Noon. Free. 256-782-5697.

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

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

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

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

This Old House: MERF Community House



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

MERF's Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction is just around the corner. Lots of busy bees are making this another spectacular event! Come join us for an evening of creative food and amazing artwork in a Japanese paradise. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Thanks to everyone who is making this evening a great celebration of our community.

Thanks to grants provided by Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, MERF has enabled the students at Moon Lake Elementary school to write and illustrate a book and to enjoy field trips. DeSoto printing is working with MERF to produce this wonderful piece of literature. Thanks to the teachers and students for being creative and working hard on their book highlighting Mentone. Each Moon Lake Elementary School family will receive one copy with extras available for purchase in April. The students have also enjoyed field trips to the Huntsville Orchestra and the Alliance Theater in Atlanta with an excursion experiencing several local artists scheduled in May due to the Arts enhancement grants.

Here's a note from Ms. Paula Easter, who is the Moon Lake Elementary School Arts Program teacher provided by MERF thanks to our supporters:

"What an exciting time we have been having in the Fine Arts Classroom and beyond!

Moon Lake Students have been at their most artistic selves creating beautiful Japanese art for our 4th annual "Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction" on April 9th. I can't wait to share all the beautiful things with you.

Thursday, February 25th, Ms. Higgins's 4th grade class, Mrs. Gorham, and I traveled to Huntsville where we attended the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra's Young People's concert

2016. The Fantasy Playhouse Children's Theater group acted with the Huntsville symphony Orchestra for Mr. Bear, Squash-You-All-Flat and Camille Saint-Saens Carnival of the Animals. The fourth graders all agreed they had a wonderful time and appreciate the Mentone Educational Resources Foundation for providing our transportation for the trip. The biggest problem the fourth graders had was trying to decide which part of the concert they liked the best. After the performance, we were given workbooks and a CD of the music to bring back to Moon Lake with us. When students ask repeatedly to hear classical music again and again-one can't help but smile.

The first weekend in March, I had the opportunity to be a student once again for a weekend of classes sponsored by the Woodruff Arts Center in Atlanta. This past summer, thanks to MERF, I had the opportunity to attend the educators' conference sponsored by the Woodruff Arts Center where I received the scholarship to attend these classes. Have you ever heard



of "STEAM"? (Can't wait to share more on this subject with pictures after our Earth Day celebration.)

Thursday, March 17th, the fifth and sixth grade classes will be traveling to Atlanta to the Alliance Theater for a performance of "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe". The students are very excited and grateful to MERF and the Alabama Council on the Arts for providing them with this wonderful opportunity to see the new adaptation

of this beloved book by C.S. Lewis. Watch for photos from this trip next month. So, lots of excitement and more to come...."

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



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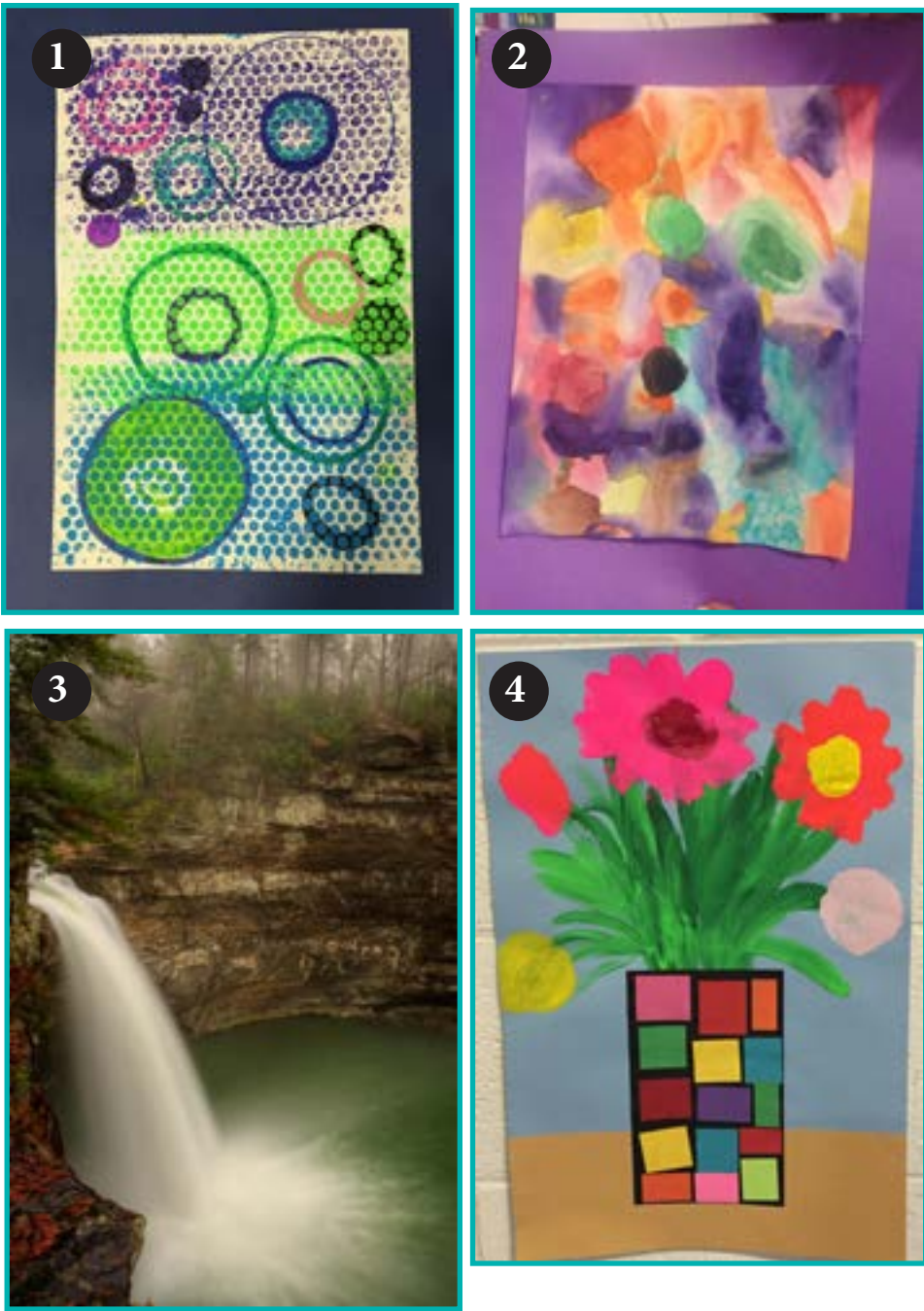
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Reflections by Melissa and Co.

Here is just a sampling of the masterpieces to be discovered at MERF's Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction.



- 1. Bubble Wrap Circles by Aubrey in 1st grade
- 2. Pastel Segura Cactus by Jacqueline in 3rd grade
- 3. 16x24 wrap of DeSoto Falls by Lookout Mountain Photography
- 4. Vase of flowers by Jedidiah in kindergarten
- 5. Cardinals on Pine Tree by Hannah in 4th grade

Happening in April at Moon Lake School

- 9th - MERF Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction
- 18th - School Pics by Color Craft (includes grad pics)
- 19th - Earth Day - Plants and Volunteers needed.
- 27th - Snake Show! \$3 Parents welcome to attend.
- 29th - Field Day! (Alternate weather date - May 6th)



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

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

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

Worship

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Alpine Community Church, 115 Hwy. 337, Menlo, GA. Pastor and Rev. Rodney Blaylock welcome each and everyone to worship service Sunday morning at 11AM GA time; Sunday School 10AM GA time; Wednesday night Bible Study 7PM GA time.

Cove Road Baptist Church, County Road 631, Mentone, Alabama, invites everyone in the Mentone and Cloudland Communities to services-- Sunday School 10 AM (GA Time) Morning Worship 11 AM (GA Time) Wednesday Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 5:30 PM (GA Time) Bro. Brian Keith is the pastor.

Summit Church of God invites you to be in service Sunday morning 10:45AM, Sunday night 5PM, Wednesday Bible Study 6:30PM. Pastor Lance Kincer invites everyone.

Mentone Church of God of Prophecy - regular service times are Sunday School at 10AM, with Worship at 11AM. Evening services begin at 5:30PM on Sunday and 6PM on Wednesday. Bro. Whitney Smith invites everyone to attend.

Mentone Community Church, 90 Summerville Rd, Mentone, AL 35984. Pastor Tim Miller; Crosswalk Sunday School K through Adult - 9:15am; Adult Worship Service - 10:30am; JC Kids Worship Service - 10:30am. Van Ministry for Children pick-up/take home, ages k-12, for all surrounding areas 8:15am. For children pick-up and drop-off van, please call Donna Bunn 706-398-0720 Wednesday small group study - 6:30pm.

Cloudland Presbyterian Church welcomes everyone to come join us for services, with Pastor Roger Kvam. Bible Study Sunday at 9AM (EST) and Worship at 10AM (EST).

Since 1889 worshippers have gathered at the Historic **First Presbyterian Church PC** (USA) at 300 Grand Avenue North in downtown Fort Payne. We invite you to join us for worship this Sunday at 10:55AM. 256-845-2915.

New Oregon United Methodist Church located off DeSoto Parkway, would like to invite you to their services. Sunday School for all ages 9:45AM; Traditional Worship Service 11AM. Sunday evening youth activities 5:30PM. Evening Worship 6PM. We have a variety of activities for all ages including Wednesday evening youth activities; knitting ministry for ladies each Tuesday at 9AM. Pastor Jeff Davis. Address: 1203 New Oregon Dr., Ft. Payne, AL 35967. Phone 256-845-7446.

The Church of God 7th Day in Hammondville located just off Hwy. 11 N. at corner of Hwy. 117 and Palmer Road. Sabbath School classes at 9:30AM and Worship Service at 11AM. Visitors are always welcome.

Gravel Hill Baptist Church, 14701 Hwy 11 South, Ft Payne, AL 35967 has Sunday School 10 AM & Worship Service at 11 AM each Sunday. All welcome! Wednesdays at 6PM we have supper and a brief devotional time together. Pastor George Moses.

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

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



Stephanie Poe Competes in State Leadership Conference

By David Marks
Counselor
Valley Head High School

Valley Head High School is very proud of its students and the accomplishments that they have. One such student that the counselor's office would like to recognize is Stephanie Poe. Stephanie is a senior at Valley Head and, along with being a cheerleader, Stephanie also attends the DeKalb County Career Tech School. As one of those attending students, Stephanie represented DeKalb County in the Alabama HOSA State Leadership Competition, in the category of Medical Spelling.

HOSA is an international student organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Health Science Education (HSE) Division of ACTE. HOSA's two-fold mission is to promote career opportunities in the health care industry and to enhance the delivery of quality health care to all people. HOSA's goal is to encourage all health science instructors and students to join and be actively



involved in the HSE-HOSA Partnership.

HOSA provides a unique program of leadership development, motivation, and recognition exclusively for secondary, post-secondary, adult, and collegiate students enrolled in health science education and biomedical science programs or have interests in pursuing careers in health professions.

Stephanie stated that "I had a great time, and

it was a great experience!" She also explained that the Medical Spelling competition is a category where "You have to be familiar with spelling medical terms, and also their prefixes." She went on to explain that "In the competition, you would be given a paper, multiple choice test, where you are given the definition of a word. You had to choose the correct spelling of the term."

Stephanie had the opportunity to compete and represent not only Valley Head High School, but the DeKalb County Career Tech School. She also had the opportunity to visit the Alabama State Capital. Stephanie was impressed with our state capital and stated that, "It was BEAUTIFUL!" Stephanie added, "I enjoyed staying at the Renaissance Hotel and Spa Convention Center, and getting to dress professionally for the events." As Counselor at Valley Head, it is always my pleasure to recognize the great students we have at Valley Head. We are very proud of our students and the accomplishments they have!

It's SCHOLARSHIP TIME!

By Father Bill Winters

Now is the time to get your motor running if you are planning on revving up for a post high school education this fall!

St. Joseph's is grateful to have the opportunity, by way of its Vann McCary Scholarship Fund, to offer college scholarships again this spring. Our scholarships are available to any student coming out of high school, as well as anyone up to 99 years of age, who desires to continue their education at an accredited college or university. The 2016 Vann McCary Scholarship Committee encourages and welcomes prospective students

to submit their applications for this generous and prestigious award. The student does not need to be an Episcopalian. The Vann McCary Scholarship is solely based on financial need and academic record. Another remarkable aspect of this scholarship is that it is available for up to four years, providing the student fulfills all the very manageable guidelines and submits an application each year.

Packets are available at the St. Joseph's-On-the-Mountain Episcopal Church office in Mentone at the corner of Highway 117 and

Scenic Highway from 9am -2pm, Monday through Thursday, as well as the school counselor's office at Valley Head High School. For more information, our telephone number at St. Joseph's is 256-634-4476. You can also reach us by email at stjom@centurytel.net, on our website stjosephmountain.dioala.org, or call Kat Griffith at 256-634-8091.

Scholarship applications must be completed and returned to St. Joseph's-On-the-Mountain Episcopal Church office, P.O. Box 161, no later than May 1, 2016.

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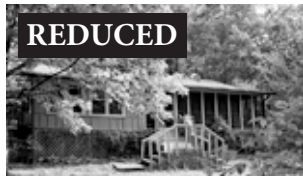
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NEW  CEDAR CABIN in the woods, open floor plan with great room, eat-in kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 2 tiled baths, pine floors, tile counter and island in kitchen, loft, tung and groove walls, covered deck with hot tub. Fireplace. Stainless appliances. Nice quiet setting. Appt Only. \$219,000 (22973)	NEW  LEVEL WOODED LOTS in Crestline Park Subdivision in Mentone. Lot 24. 1.27 acres. Great area to build that getaway cabin in the woods. \$25,000 (23184).	 TUCKED AMONG THE RHODODENDRONS. Hemlocks, Oak trees is a rustic 1 3/4 story, 3 bdrm, 2bth home. on 3.85 acres Listen to the creek run over the rocks from the screened porch. Open floor plan, wood burning FP. Hot tub. Furnished. Located in Cloudland, GA. Seasonal views. \$182,000	 7182 OLD STATE RD. What a view. 11.2 acres with over 600 ft. on brown with 2 rock bluff points. Power, water, septic installed. The mobile home with 2 BR, 1BA and covered deck is a bonus. Place to stay while building that dream home. Nicely wooded. \$172,000. (18543)	 SOUTHLAND LOG HOME on the East fork little River. 5.5 acres. 2 bdrm, 2 bths. loft. Vaulted ceiling with exposed beams. fully equipped kitchen with granite counters. stacked stone FP. 2 story with Basement. Separate 30x40 garage, large enough for motor home. Private but with all the comforts. Price reduction to \$275,000 .(19919)	 8.75 ACRES with 200 ft on West Fork Little River. Hardwoods, hollies, and easy access to river. Level to rolling terrain. \$95,000 (23183).
 CHARMING LOG CABIN circa 1920s in Cloudland, GA. Renovated but kept with its original logs, windows, floors & doors. 4 bdrm, 2 bth. Living room with stone FP. 3 french doors leading to the screened porch & large deck, that overlooks stone picnic tables, stone FP, and BBQ chimney. Seasonal view. A must see! \$115,000 (23096)	 HIGH ROAD, Cloudland, GA. 5.5 acres with stream and small waterfall. 3bdrm, 2bth, ranch style home. Living room, new flooring, kitchen with built in pantry, CHA. Guest cabin with 1 bdrm, 1 bth. 3 bay garage/ workshop. 2 wells. \$148,000. (23152)	 3.8 ACRES located in East fork little River Estates. Nicely wooded with a portion of the historic Dinky Line Railway. 175 ft. on river (Cherokee Co. Mentone). covenants & restrictions. county water and power available. \$53,000	 DIXIELAND DELIGHT Farm in Mentone, AL. Beautiful 19.3 acres with open pasture, 2 ponds, wooded area with trails for horseback or ATV. Barn with tack or equipment storage. Fenced for livestock. City water and paved road frontage. What a setting! \$150,000	 3.77 ACRES located at Canyon View Forest Subdivision. Wooded and joining the bluff of Little River National Preserve. \$60,000	 THE SHADOWS, A UNIQUE LOG CABIN. Sunroom, 2 bdrm, 1.5 baths. 2 fireplaces. Living Dining combo, sitting room. Native Landscaped yard. Covered porch. \$189,000. (23143)
 COTTAGE ON LITTLE RIVER CANYON. What a peaceful setting and private. 2 bdrm with sleeping loft, 2 baths. Great room with Rock Fireplace. Covered front porch and grilling deck. Adjoins on the back side Wildlife management and in the front the canyon preserve. Private access. Appt Only. \$150k (22865)	REDUCED  NESTLED AMONG LARGE ROCK FORMATIONS is a quaint 2 bdr, 2bth cottage with open living/ dining room with gas fp. Sunroom/office off master suite. Screened front porch multi level decks, outdoor shower, garage workshop. Quiet and Serene this setting makes for a great getaway or home. \$148,900 (23164)	 HISTORIC DINKY LINE Railway runs through the property. 3.8 acres on the East Fork Little river. 175 ft on water with a deep swimming hole, and rapids. Lightly restricted. County water and power available. Located on Lookout Mtn Mentone area. \$46,000	NEW  CAMBRIA BLEU compound. California style in serene country setting. 2 story Herringbone brick home complete with archway entrance. Porches overlooking lake, fields, old home place and the ridges beyond. Inside on main level, walk-in to the foyer that opens into the great room, dining with travertine FP. Gourmet kitchen with high end appliances, granite counters, eat-in bar, cherry cabinets throughout entire house. Master with glamour bath, dressing room. 2 additional bedrooms and bath. Large utility w/ built in cabinets, freezer, w/d. Downstairs suite has 2 bdrms, Den and bath. So many amenities and landscaped naturally with flora and fauna. The Guest Cottage is 2 bdrms, 1 bth, living room with ceramic wood burning insert. Heart pine floors, ceilings, and walls. The old home place on property was built in 1895 when the land was homesteaded. Even the African geese stay and all the wildlife abound! Total of 90 acres.	Happy Spring! 	

LOTS AND ACREAGE

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

6.1 ACRES with Brushy Creek running through, drive way in place, wooded. \$33,000 (23044)

5 ACRES on the East brow tract overlooking Pleasant Valley. Rock pallacades, wooded. See Weiss Lake in the distance. Private gated area. Joins National Preserve & Forever Wild protected property. \$60,000 (22866)

6 ACRE West Brow lot, 1 mile south of downtown Mentone. Wooded with rock formations. Great building lot. Prime location, great sunsets. 5 lots available. \$90,000. (23043)

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

3 County Road 66. (23186)

It Takes a Mountain Village

Part II: St. Joseph's Food Ministries

By Elizabeth Baker

From the time it was first organized as a church in October, 1971, St. Joseph's Church has had a food ministry. It began with a grocery cart at the "front porch" entrance to the fellowship hall. Food has been available 24 hours a day, seven days a week ever since. Joan Byrum and others were instrumental in establishing and maintaining this ministry.

Ann Chesnut, along with the minister at that time, first established a partnership with the Food Bank of North Alabama in Huntsville. This partnership has made food available to the church at a much lower cost. At times, FBNA shelves are virtually bare, but many generous individuals and Mentone churches help to bridge the gap.

Ann was a key person in establishing and continuing St. Joseph's Food bank ministry until her recent move back to Florida. Ann and Wes's absence is deeply felt in many ways. But as the program continued to grow, Ann recruited helpers so that the ministry could continue in her absence.

Currently, a very active team of volunteers operate the Food Bank program under the leadership of St. Joseph's current minister, Fr. Bill Winters. Workers maintain the necessary paperwork, check eligibilities, assemble food boxes and bags, greet clients, trudge around the church carrying boxes of canned and dry goods, recycle cardboard, stock shelves, help carry boxes to cars, and travel to Huntsville, Foodland, UGO, Dollar General, Costco, and any other place where food can be found at a reasonable cost. Others travel to Upper Sand Mountain Parish to retrieve extra produce and baked goods that are so generously shared. One very generous Mentone couple arrives faithfully and regularly with donated pet food as well as other essentials such as toilet tissue, soups and meat products. The Pet Food Project has been a very special addition to the program.

Approximately three years ago, St. Joseph's and

MERF representatives established a partnership with Moon Lake School. A matching grant was obtained and backpack snacks were initiated for several children. Subsequently, the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama provided seed money for a similar snack program for children of Food Bank families during the summer and other holidays. This has been a very popular program with the children of the area. Currently twelve Moon Lake students are served during the school year, and approximately twenty Food Bank children are served during school vacations. Each child receives two small meal items such as an individual portion of macaroni and cheese, two servings of fruit, two servings of cereal, two servings of milk, two servings of juice, and a small treat such as fruit gummies. This year, Moon Lake Baptist church members and children assisted with Spring Break snack bags by providing colorful Easter baskets and a "Jellybean" message about the true meaning of Easter.

St. Joseph's is most grateful for the generous support of our neighbors. Without the support of Cove Road Baptist Church, it would have been difficult to provide the large number of holiday meal bags that were needed in 2015. The support of Mentone United Methodist Church has been especially helpful in maintaining funding of our children's snack programs. Other area churches have brought bags of food, and our "Be My Brown Bag Valentine" has been very well supported by individuals and churches.

We have been very blessed recently by donations from area farmers and gardeners. The owners of Mildred's Meadows have generously donated ham hocks and bean soup mix, while Windy Hill Farm and Steve O'Rear have donated lovely produce. Other farmers have pledged to donate excess produce in the coming year. Clients bring things from their gardens and other items to share, as well. It has become a

community of friends helping friends.

According to the FDA, canned goods are safely edible several years after the "use by" or expiration dates. Please remember the Food Bank when you are cleaning out your pantry! To donate food, come by the church during food bank hours, or call to see if someone is there. If needed, we will arrange pickup. 256-634-4476.

The Food Bank operates each Wednesday from 9 until 11:30 AM. All clients must meet Food Bank of North Alabama eligibility guidelines. However, our small food cart pantry is also available for those who may be ineligible for Food Bank services, but simply have a need for an extra meal or two at times.

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LOTS and LAND

BEAUTIFULLY PREPARED, RARE DOWNTOWN MENTONE building lot. Ready for your sweet little tiny cabin or cottage. Newly-planted fruit trees & bushes! Part of old stone foundation still in place. Perfect place for a rental cabin! Easy walk to brow park or downtown shops & dining. New landscaping plus old, comfortable trees makes it pretty as a picture! Commercial or residential possibilities! \$39,000 (765396)

NEW LISTING! 9.5 ACRES WITH A BEAUTIFUL POND; hardwoods. Adjacent to DeSoto State Park. Build a dream cabin overlooking a picturesque pond. Convenient to Mentone. Possibilities for more than one cabin? Maybe a compound for multiple tiny cabins? This location would be ideal for rentals! Buy it, dream it, build it! \$125,000 (1040913)

DAY SPRING. One seldom hears of lots for sale in this private, gated community with its common areas of massive, dramatic boulders; walking paths & access to E Fork Little River. Lot 14, 3.25 acres. Beautiful hardwoods & level-to-gently-rolling topography. \$40,000. (1027151)

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

NEW LISTING! 30.89 ACRES OF GORGEOUS WOODS, with year-round stream & mostly hardwoods; wildflowers; wild blueberries; blackberries; abundant wildlife. Level to gently rolling in topography. Only 2 miles from downtown Mentone. Quiet and private, yet having some 268' of frontage on paved County Road 89 N. Nice spot for a future pond. Unrestricted. \$115,838 (1039175)

2 WOODED ACRES with a tiny little rustic cabin (no plumbing!) & a whole lot of promise for your future mountain home site. Hardwoods, picturesque boulders, wild turkey, deer...most any kind of wildlife found in these hills. A quiet place to find yourself returning at the end of the day, or as a week-end getaway. \$45,000. (1034503)

8.9 ACRES WITH APPROX 136' BROW FRONTAGE on Citadel Rock Rd, near the back entrance of DeSoto State Park. Beautiful wooded land with large paved road frontage. \$89,000 (692925)

FRONTAGE ON WEST FORK, Little River. 3.69 acres, lightly restricted, private. Rhododendron, mountain laurel, sandy riverside bank & seasonal creek. Water meter already in place, adjacent lot also avail. Own your own piece on Mentone, riverside! 65,800. (1032896)

2.2 UNRESTRICTED, WOODED ACRES Mentone. Corner property; excellent areas to walk, bicycle or keep a few chickens. Public water & power at the road. Great building site for one or a couple of cabins. \$20,000 (1011111)



QUALITY SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. Cedar-sided cabin on 2.91 nicely-wooded acres w/small, wet-weather stream & winding, private drive. 8x42 front porch; 12x42 back porch! Kohler fixtures & Corian solid-surface counters throughout. Spacious LR w/19' vault. Main-level MABR. Custom cabinetry. Wide, pine-plank floors. Huge laundry! On-demand water heater. 10x12 shop. \$223,500. (749941)



YOU'VE SEEN IT; ADMIRER IT; WONDERED ABOUT IT. Now's your chance to own it. The Biddle Farm. The land grant goes back to 1910 when the root cellar & log cabin were built. The charming English cottage main house was built in 1921. The 23.5 acres are beautiful, approx 13 acres of pasture, the rest wooded, except for the land across the road with 180' frontage on W Fork Little River (navigable from Mentone to DeSoto Falls). New pine floors in Kit and "Apple Room" BR. Exterior restoration work is complete, inside still needs some TLC. This is the place to start your own Mentone history. Just 5 minutes from downtown Mentone shops and dining on quiet East River Road. Yours for only \$375,000 (1027046)



CARPENTER GOTHIC-style cottage, sweetly-situated on a naturally-landscaped yard with wildflower gardens; a carpet of green moss for most of the yard (no mowing!); wet-weather stream; peaceful woods. Built to be energy efficient. Screened back porch to enclose for add'l living area if you choose. Warm, comfortable, cozy and so, so cute! 2BR/1.5BA. \$127,000 (1006846)



THE BEAUTY OF LITTLE RIVER CANYON! Listen to the river rushing below from this attractive, quiet & secluded 3BR/2BA cabin, bordered by LRC Nat'l Preserve. The rim of the canyon is just outside the back door. Enjoy the changing colors of the mountain from the 12x24 deck or one of the balconies off the upstairs bedrooms. Wood-burning Fplc; wood floors; all appliances. Just reduced to \$149,900. (1001006)



MOUNTAIN ELEGANCE, CHARM AND GRACE, located on deep water on the lake at DeSoto Falls. A rare gem, indeed. Craftsmanship and attention to detail throughout. Intriguing antique door at entry opens to a place that is at once inviting and warm, spacious without being intimidating. Custom cabinetry and shelving. Lots of storage. Wide-plank pine floors taken from the land on which this home is built. Screened house near lake with fireplace and stone patio preserved from original structure on the property. Easy walk to the lake on wide boardwalk, leading to the floating dock with plenty of room for lake-side gatherings. Mooring available for pontoon boat; storage for canoes/kayaks, etc. \$750,000 (1040909)



3 ACRES NEAR CAMP LANE. 4BR/2BA classic 2-story summer home on property that has been in the same family since 1900. Welcoming front porch; spacious LR w/mtn stone & masonry Fplce. Main-level updated (but original heart pine floors remain). Renovations started on 2nd level but incomplete. The 3-acre parcel consists of a level yard & gorgeous, ancient trees. Corner property; great walking/biking area. \$144,900 (1027048)



SPACIOUS, GRACIOUS HOME on 6 acres adjoining a nature preserve (with state park-maintained biking/hiking paths). 3BR/3BA home was completely renovated in 2013. Every room has space seldom found, always appreciated! Open kit/dining w/so much counter space & custom cabinetry! Nicely-landscaped yard; circle drive; fire pit; small workshop; round pen and small woodland. Unrestricted. \$235,000 (1035584)



13.34 ACRES, 3 PONDS, OLD FARM HOUSE, SHOP & OUT-BUILDINGS. Fruit trees of all sorts. Great garden areas. The old house needs a good bit of TLC. Best feature is the stone fireplace. Nice front porch, too. Ponds are stocked and owner says there's good fishing in all of them. Three wells on the property, one of which is clear, freestone water with working pump. (Public water has been run to the house). Older mobile homes on the property could be kept or moved away. There are so many possibilities for this place! We're not saying it's in A1A condition, so don't expect it. There's work to be done. That's why it's priced so well. A great place to start your mountain farm dream. \$100,000 (1040912)



NESTLED IN A PARK-LIKE SETTING w/mtn views, a beautiful, level yard, a great home; great walking/biking area. \$265,000 (1028592)

SOLD

OAK

Original Poem By Douglas Kiker

When I was ten, I watched that old oak withstand the wind.
It stood on a peninsula of ground about thirty feet long, end to end,
Jutting into Gaston Gully, defying gravity and forces of nature
Providing a home for creatures, even shade for children
Far below, playing in the sand.

When I was fifteen, that old oak was still green.
Children still needed shade when in the gully they were seen.
However, times were changing, getting hard.
Elements were downright mean.

When I was twenty, green leaves on the old oak were not many.
Shade was there-scarce-and playing children sometimes not any.
The clay foundation was crumbling
Bumblebee holes there were many.
It was sad in a way. Actually I never thought to see the day
When an old oak tree could make me feel this way.

When I was twenty five, the old tree was barely alive,
And playing children, maybe four or five.
Former children, now grownups, had wives,
And struggled with groceries, mortgages and
Many other things besides.

When I was twenty-seven, several of the children had gone to heaven.
Now, shade was needed for only six or seven--a year--maybe two.
They came, almost never.

When I was twenty-eight, that old tree could no longer wait.
I believe perhaps it sighed and went through the life/death gate.
The hard clay turned loose, into Gaston Gully the old tree went,
To shade empty sand... there was no use.

Library News (cont'd from page 6)

world, defeats out enemies' advanced security measures, and eliminates threats before they ever reach our shores. But now, his skills have left him. Sent overseas on a critical assignment, he fails--unable to pull the trigger. Absent his talents, Robie is a man without a mission, and without a purpose. To recover what he has lost, Robie must confront what he has tried to forget for over twenty years: his own past. To make matters worse, Robie's father, Dan, has been arrested and charged with murder. Unlike the missions Robie undertook in the service of his country where his target was clearly defined, digging into his father's case only reveals more questions. Robie is drawn into the hidden underside of Cantrell, his hometown, where he must face the unexpected, and possibly deadly, consequences of the long-ago choices made by father and son. And this time, there may be no escape for either of them.

NYPD Red 4 - Another bestseller from James Patterson, the man who holds the Guinness World Record for the most #1 New York Times bestsellers. It's another glamorous night in the heart of Manhattan: at a glitzy movie premiere, a gorgeous starlet, dressed to the nines and dripping in millions of dollars worth of jewelry on loan, makes her way past a horde of fans and paparazzi. But then there's a sudden loud noise, an even louder scream, and a vicious crime with millions of witnesses and no suspect-- and now NYPD Red has a new case on its hands. NYPD Red: the elite task force assigned to protect the rich, famous, and connected in the city where crime never sleeps. Detective Zachary Jordan and his partner, Kylie MacDonald--a former girlfriend from the police academy who he hasn't quite gotten over--are the best that Red has to offer-- brilliant and tireless investigators who will stop at nothing to crack a case, even if it means putting their own complicated lives on the back burner. With the city on edge, the mayor out of patience, and the flames of their personal relationship threatening to reignite and ruin everything, Zachary and Kylie are facing down their worst fears -- and their worst enemy yet.

Well, how's that for some springtime entertainment? We have them all at your local Community Library, folks. Hey, while you're at it, don't forget that we have a large selection of large- print books for reading. If you know anyone who would enjoy a great selection of large-print reading this spring, have them come by, and

we can fix them up with some great reading. We also still have our ongoing book sale during open hours at the library. There is something there for everyone. As always, we love our patrons and enjoy your visits, so stop by and say hello, the weather is great!



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608

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



220

TWO CABINS minutes from DeSoto State Park and Mentone. Cabin 1 has approx 640 sq ft. Cabin 2 has approx 432 sq ft. Both cabins have 1 BR/1BA and sold furnished with all appliances. \$119,000. MLS #1036084.



617

TWO FURNISHED CABINS on 6.4 ACRES.... One Price! Minutes from DeSoto State Park and Downtown Mentone. Down Home offers 2BR/2BA. Southern Charm offers Loft, 1BR and 1BA. Space for approx. 7 additional cabins. \$279,000. MLS #1026581.



603

REAL BARGAIN. Lge 3BR/2BA home blocks from downtown Mentone. Screened porch, open floor plan, garage, bonus room, workshop plus storage bldg, fire pit, and more. \$249,700 MLS#1001478



606

West Brow of Lookout Mountain. 3BR/2BA, 2,500+/- sq. ft. main house, rock walls on 2.9+/- Acres. \$329,000 MLS #815966



612

COZY, COMFORTABLE charmer. Open great room w/built-in bookcases & stone fireplace w/gas logs. Kitchen has Corian countertops and custom cabinets. On 2 brow lots w/ storage building and greenhouse. \$399,000. MLS #1024616.



602

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



211

"Like New" near DSP & Mentone, LR w/ vaulted ceiling, hardwoods, wb fireplace. Custom kit w/stainless appliances (includes w/d). Covered front porch, lge back deck. 1.22 acres. \$188,000. MLS#1021858



600

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



607

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



601

CUSTOM Heritage Log Home, 2.5 acres. 3BR/2.5BA, open floor plan. Stone FP, vaulted ceilings, bonus room, 2-car garage, outdoor fireplace, and more. Located in gated Northbend Subdivision. \$379,000. MLS#1035384



613

3BR/3BA HOME on 2.8 acres w/brow view walking distance to town. 2 master suites, each w/access to porches & views. Cathedral ceilings, exposed beams, pine floors, wb fireplace, lge screened porch, open deck for grilling, irrigation system, full-house generator. MLS #1037784. \$375,000.



632

BEAR CLAUS LODGE! Open floor plan, 3BR + loft/3 1/2BA stone fireplace, beamed ceilings, wood floors, granite countertops, stainless appliances. Covered deck w/ fireplace, hot tub, outdoor kitchen, and more on 2.20 +/- acres. \$329,000. MLS#1035859



909

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



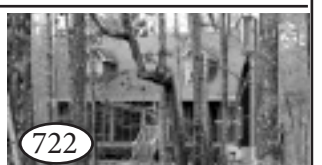
1400

3BR 2BA home in Hidden Lake Sub. Use of 14 acre lake. LRw/hardwoods & FP. Open kit/breakfast, DR w/built-in cabinet, screened front porch, back deck, 2-car garage. Adjoins Little River Canyon. \$230,000. MLS#1025640.



208

Custom Home. 4500 sqft+ w 5BR/3.5BA, LR, wood burning Isokern fireplace. Master w/sitting room. Pro landscaping, screened porch, courtyard, 2 decks on 1.37 acres. community lake. \$499,900. MLS #1011520.



722

1.6 ACRES in Lake on the Brow Sub w/120' water frontage!! 3 BR/2BA home, main level master, walk-in basement, screened front porch, storage bldg, workshop & lge back deck. lake privileges. MLS#1037179. \$198,500.



624

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



611

2BR/3BA. 3+/- year old roof. Garage apt w/BR & BA. Balcony, gallery w/storage, winter sunsets, downtown location, gas heater in kitchen, garage and apartment. WB fireplace. 2-car garage. Built in 2004. \$289,000. MLS#1029587.



615

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY! Let tenants pay your mortgage. 5 apts, lge retail space & storage bldg on Hwy 117 minutes from Mentone. 1.5 acres, fenced. Appointment only! \$187,500. MLS #1013991.



604

Bear's Lair - Adorable cabin currently in a rental program. 3BR/2 BA with a brow view. \$284,900 MLS#692795



605

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



107

Incredible View! Brick home on 5 acres features 5000+ sq. ft. with 5 BR/3BA/2HB, decks, patios, beautiful landscaping. Kitchen with top-of-the-line appliances, keeping room w/ FP, formal entry, living and dining areas, two levels of patios and decks for entertaining and enjoying the view. \$369,000. MLS #1038938.



908

Little River/Lake Lahusage/Mentone! East Fork of Little River, cottage has FP, wood floors, P&B ceiling in living area, NEW porch, deck, some doors & windows, HVAC, dock, walkway, fence, paint! Most furn. remains! \$225,000. MLS #1019742



910

NEAR LITTLE RIVER CANYON. 3BR/3BA log cabin w/lake, wood floors/walls/ceilings, open living/dining/kitchen, rock woodburning FP, screened porch, deck, Loft/basement/gameroom. \$224,000. MLS #1017450.



610

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



619

LIVE & PLAY ON THE WATER! 200' of frontage on East Fork of Little River featuring 3BR 2BA, rock floors, some carpet, all appliances, WB fireplace, & storage building. Call for more details. \$239,999. MLS #902940.



618

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



707

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

LOTS AND LAND

#392849 - 4.40 ACRES on Brow in Mentone. \$190,000.
 #403694 - 106' of prime brow view with paved road frontage. \$109,500.
 #656265 - 7+ WOODED ACRES in Mtn. River Estates. \$41,000.
 #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 and 169 feet on paved road frontage. \$42,000.
 #945265 - 1 ACRE LOT in Hidden Lake Sub. \$50,000.
 #1011734 - .69 ACRE wooded lot on Brush Creek. \$27,900.
 #1014183 - 1.5 ACRES. Brow Lot on CR 89. \$124,900.
 #1016112 - 3.46 WOODED ACRES in Oakwood Sub. \$25,500.
 #1016118 - 3.04 WOODED ACRES in Oakwood Sub. \$25,500.
 #1021165 - 2 ACRE LOT offering lake and brow footage. \$78,000.
 #1026589 - LIBBY LANE. .49 acres West Fork Little River. \$162,000.
 #1027934 - 4.42 ACRES on River Lane, W. Fork Sub. \$29,900.

#1032720 - 2.8 acres with travel trailer, water, septic, dock. \$82,500.
 #1034400 - 1.29 ACRES with gorgeous brow view. \$110,000
 #1034402 - 1.3 ACRES with gorgeous brow view. \$110,000
 #1034997 - Approx. 6 ACRES on middle fork of Little River in Mtn. River Est. \$48,900
 #1037600 - 1037604 - PANORAMIC VIEWS from 6.62-8.9 acre brow lots in scenic Mentone. \$180,000 each.
 #1038089 - 6.4 acres on Co. Rd. 89, Lot 8, in Mentone. \$155,000
 #1038473 - 7.7 acres of brow property in Mentone (2.5 acre building area). \$125,000
 #1038477 - 6.9 acres of brow property in Mentone (.7 acre building area). \$59,900
 #1038482 - 7.1 acres of brow property in Mentone (.8 acre building area). \$59,900
 #1038483 - 7.5 acres of brow property in Mentone (1.2 acre building area). \$69,900
 #1038485 - 7.3 acres of brow property in Mentone (1.7 acre building area). \$69,900
 #1038697 - 7.8 acres of brow property in Mentone (1.9 acre building area). \$69,900
 #1038949 - 5.8 acres of brow property in Mentone. \$95,000
 #1039769 - 6.32+/- waterfront building lot in Mountain River Estates! \$51,750



104

4-acre retreat in Mentone. Vaulted ceiling great room, 2-3 BR (or 2 BR w/office), 2 tile baths, and lge laundry room. Wood walls & floors, fireplace, wrap-around porch, garage/workshop. Convenient to downtown. \$225,000. MLS#1034271.

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Rhododendron Garden Club

By Mellanie Tuttle

The February meeting of the Rhododendron Garden Club was held on February 23rd at the MERF house. President Martha Wood supplied refreshments. She called the meeting to order; the Pledge to the Flag was made; committee reports given; old and new business was discussed, and the program followed.

Martha Wood's presentation on Mason bees was informative and then, very hands on. After the excellent Power Point slides on Mason bees, Martha supplied materials to construct a simple Mason bee house with bamboo. The bamboo holder, about 2 inches in diameter and eight inches long, was 'stuffed' with thinner bamboo or purchased paper cylinders. The finishing touch was tying a wire for hanging (put under an eave with the opening facing south). Mason bees look like overgrown flies with stiff hairs on their abdomen. Sloppy pollinators--one Mason bee can pollinate two thousand flowers while the honeybee average is fifteen a day! Honey bees need warm temperatures, but the early-rising Mason has adapted to cooler weather, so it is the one pollinating the first flowering fruit trees, blueberries and strawberries. Solitary, the female does not build a hive but uses reeds or pre-existing holes made by boring insects for nesting. (No worker bees, no honey). The egg laying is clever and the construction of mud compartments is indicated by the name-- Mason bees. The female gathers pollen, lays it in the tube, lays an egg and then 'muds' it in. This continues until she has filled the cavity. Female eggs are laid at the back and the males in the front so that if the nest is compromised, the species will survive. The larvae consume the pollen, spin a cocoon for the pupa stage, emerge as adults in the fall /winter and hibernate in the cocoon until spring. Leaf mulch versus heavy mulch, planting reed or cane, leaving old wood with holes and putting up

nest boxes will all benefit the Mason bee.

The March meeting of the Rhododendron Garden Club was held at the home of Penny Lyday/ Mellanie Tuttle on the 8th. The meeting was called to order by President Martha Wood; followed by the meditation given by Carol Argo, committee reports and old and new business. Hostess Carol Argo treated members to deliciousness from Edward's Bakery in Birmingham.



Members shared their favorite shrub. Hydrangea, sweet shrub, forsythia, mountain laurel and rhododendron were mentioned. In the horticulture report, Martha suggested planting Serviceberry for its appeal throughout the year. Grown as a bush or tree, it is one of the first to blossom in spring. Its beautiful white flowers turn into tasty berries for attracting birds. Any berries that survive the birds can be made into delicious jelly. Fall leaves turn coppery red/ orange and the winter bark has a silvery appearance.

Mellanie Tuttle presented a power point slide show on Container Gardening with an emphasis on entering those 'potted plants' in the fall flower show. Containers give the gardener so many choices. They can be indoor or outdoor, sunny or shady; anything grown in the ground can be grown in a container with the advantage of being able to control soil, sun, water and pests. Containers can be terra cotta, wood, plastic, ceramic, metal, hanging, concrete, and sized to whatever is being planted. Containers need good drainage so yard/top soil should be avoided. Potting soil is a sterilized blend that drains well, provides proper nutrients and a neutral pH. There are potting soils made specifically for African violets or orchids, and acid or alkaline loving plants may need additional fertilization for optimal growth. When to fertilize is important- to promote growth and leaf development start plants on a high nitrogen fertilizer, then switch

to a high phosphorous solution to encourage blooming. Each plant has its own needs so apply accordingly. A week solution of liquid fertilizer in the watering can is an easy solution to supplement the nutrients. Watering schedule will depend on the type of plant, container used, temperature, and sun exposure - if the plant is wilting, give it water. The National Garden

Club rules state that container grown plants must have been in the exhibitor's possession for at least 90 days and multiple (combines one plant of the same cultivar and color in one pot to improve overall appearance) or combination plantings (terrariums, dish gardens and planters) must have been growing together for at least 60 days. The fall show is the end of September so preparation of container plants needs to start in June for container grown plants and terrariums; dish gardens and planters need to be together by August 1. The container is considered part of the plant culture so care should be given in choosing the proper container. Size, color, type and material should be considered carefully. A clean container is essential. Dirt, sale tags, salt and mineral stains should be removed, but patina and moss is permitted. The container should not overshadow the plant. Double potting is permitted but the inner pot should not show. Top dressing such as sphagnum moss, pebbles, grit or light mulch is permitted and can be used to hide the inner pot. If no top dressing is used, the soil should be clean of debris. A layer of fresh soil will improve the appearance of the soil.

The plant itself must be well groomed. Insect damage may be trimmed from leaves by following the shape of the leaf. (African violet leaves are never trimmed and should not be sponge bathed!) Misting the plant will prevent brown tips from appearing, but if they are present, they should be trimmed off. Wilted or dead leaves, flowers, or branches should be removed. The plant should be free of dust. A good sponge bath will get rid of dust but no "leaf shine" additives are permitted. If the judge is having difficulty choosing between two prime entries, grooming can be the difference between a red and a blue ribbon. Take the time to present the plant, its soil, and the container at its best. The Award of Horticultural Excellence has been denied because the entry card did not contain the Latin binomial name and cultivar (if applicable). When it's time to check in the entries, the process goes so much quicker if the cards are presented already filled out. A correctly filled card would say *Hedera helix*, 'Asterisk' Common name Ivy. Another judging consideration is the plant's position--it should be centered and symmetrical (ex. orchids and bonsais). During the growing season, be sure to turn the plant periodically so it does not become lopsided. Container gardening is convenient, practical, and exciting. Non-natives can be grown, appreciated, and contained so they don't become a nuisance. In the winter, flowering plants indoors give hopeful glimpses of the summer to come.

The April meeting on the 12th is always a favorite --visiting the Shirley Miller Wildflower Trial. Meet at 10 at the MERF House with wildflower identification books in hand, waterproof hiking shoes, and money for lunch afterwards.

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



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DeSoto's Rock

History records that in July of 1540, Spanish Explorer Hernando deSoto arrived in the area of Lookout Mountain. 419 years later in the first year of Camp Laney's operation as a two month summer camp, Warren Coppedge, a student at Emory University from Rome, Georgia, and Jimmy Wood, a student at Mississippi State University from Laurel, Mississippi, were working for Camp Laney as counselors. Warren worked on the water front. Jimmy Wood worked in athletics. Each was a counselor in separate cabins. Each cabin had 2 counselors, and after the campers went to bed at night, one of the counselors had to stay in the cabin, while the other counselor could go to the lodge or the gym. The counselor's alternated. One night, Warren and Jimmy were talking about the history of the area, and the thought occurred that they could find a rock, take it to the craft shack under the gym, and with hammer, chisel and awl, carve the rock commemorating DeSoto's visit. They found a perfect rock - hard, Lookout Mountain weathered sandstone, about 10 inches by 7 inches by 1.5 inches. On this rock they carved "Paso Aqui H dS 1540" translated as "I passed by here," deSoto's initials and the year. The inscription was carved faintly and was rubbed with sand to weather it so that it did not look fresh. There were remains of a sunken boat, some metal and wood buried in the sand at the camp waterfront on Little River. Warren and Jimmy buried the rock in the sand near the boat remains, and poured water to wash away evidence of a fresh dig.

The next morning when campers arrived for swimming and canoeing, Warren made an off hand comment that there might be "treasure buried around the remains of the old boat." The campers took the hint and began digging. They found the rock. Warren translated. The campers excitedly ran up the hill to Loumac Lodge, and the trouble began! Camp owner, Coach Malcolm Laney, called the archeology department at the University of Alabama to excitedly tell them of the find. He also called a Birmingham TV news station. When lunch time arrived and Warren and Jimmy went to the lodge to eat, they discovered the hullabaloo and immediately confessed in time for Coach Laney to thankfully call off the archeologist and the news



team.

For years, DeSoto's Rock occupied a place of honor on the mantle. Earlier last year, Warren and Rob Hammond, the current owner/director of Camp Laney, were talking about camp, camp experiences, and camp memories. Warren asked Rob if he knew about the Rock. Rob answered that it was not on the mantle, but that he thought that it was in storage somewhere. In early September 2015, Warren and Rob met again. Rob had found the Rock.

Mentone has long contributed to wonderful memories of camp life, counselors, campers, and is probably more important to the heritage of Mentone than deSoto's exploration. Every camper, every counselor has memories of time spent on the mountain. Memories of the kindness of Coach Laney, the warmth of Louise Laney, the good, fresh food prepared by Mrs. Vann, a school dietician from Trussville, and many more. Jimmy Wood also invented a sky hook which was partially buried in the athletic field - but that's another story for another day.

The Essence of Mentone Captured Forever

By Kacy Corsentino

In the fall of 2004, a delightful picture was placed on my grandmother's fridge. A woman saw my grandmother walking with a friend in front of the beloved Mentone Springs Hotel. Seeing their smiles, photographer Lynn Barnes felt compelled to capture the special moment with her camera. The two women in the picture, as well as the one taking it, all grew up outside of Mentone. Upon finding how alive and golden Mentone is, they decided to spend time up here. My grandmother, Marie Corsentino, and her friend, Susan Collins, currently reside here, and the spontaneous photographer has a vacation home here.

The picture accurately captured the essence of Mentone. The sun reflected off of the windows of the Mentone Springs Hotel, covering everything in a golden glow. The smile on my grandmother's face showed what kind of affect Mentone had upon her; Mentone was so welcoming that she could not help but be surrounded by merriment. Mentone came to life, in the most charming of ways, in this one photograph. It completely expresses the joy that Mentone gives off.

I was five years old when this picture was placed on the fridge. I had already become pretty accustomed to the delight and good spirits found in every corner of Mentone. Seeing this picture throughout my childhood instilled in me the knowing calm that Mentone would hold a timeless, captivating state of euphoria for all time.

It has been twelve years since this moment in the photograph. A lot has happened since then, but the essence of Mentone has stood against time. The warmth, acceptance, and elation still radiates from that photograph, just as it does from Mentone. The photograph is still on her fridge today, and the love in her heart for a town so lively is still secure. The marvelous nature of Mentone will forever continue to bring sweet content to all who inhabit it.

Dr. Don Brock

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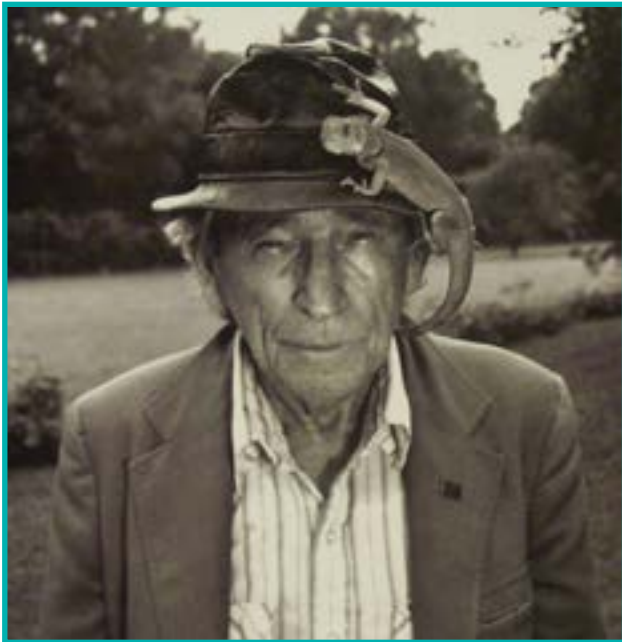
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Finster Fest 2016 in Paradise Garden



Howard Finster's Paradise Garden has had a marvelous restoration. This year, Finster Fest will be somewhat of a homecoming event at the four-acre spiritual art garden. Paradise Garden Foundation has been steadily restoring the property since 2012 and Finster Fest 2016 brings art, music and food back to this magical setting. Finster Fest is one of the most cherished art festivals in the region. You'll find work by self-taught artists that are directly and indirectly inspired by his remarkable legacy.

Born in rural Alabama in 1916, Howard Finster went on to become a preacher, tent revivalist, and "master of 22 different trades." Finster grew up in Valley Head, Al and enjoyed the Native American heritage of the area, collecting unique objects, as well as visits to roadside gardens and museums. Even as a young man, he built a museum to display his collection of American Indian relics and handmade

woodwork.

As an adult, Finster felt compelled to celebrate the inventions of mankind and the unique attributes of individuals whom he felt deserving of recognition. The "Exhibit House" was his roadside tribute to inventors on his property in Trion, Georgia. He assembled tools and curiosities that validated his belief in the creative talents of inventors, scientists, and industry giants. Finster stated: "My Park is a memorial to inventors. The inventors don't get recognition. They don't have an Inventor's Day. To represent them, I'm trying to collect at least one of every invention in the world." (Ronald Reagan also



felt inventors should be recognized and established National Inventor's Day in 1983 on February 11 which is also Thomas Edison's birthday.) Finster would later immortalize these subjects in thousands of paintings.

In 1961, when his family moved to their new home in Pennville (near Summerville), Finster took with him the nucleus of his museum/garden vision. Then, in 1970, he began to construct what many feel was his greatest artistic work: the Plant Farm Museum, later dubbed "Paradise Garden."

In 1976, the self-described "Man of Visions,"

changed his focus. As he was using his fingers to apply paint to a refurbished bicycle, Finster noticed that the paint smudge on the tip of his finger had formed a human face. A voice spoke to him, saying, "paint sacred art." To which he replied: "I can't paint. I don't have no education in that." Then, he taught himself to paint. Finster began churning out thousands of sermon-laden artworks with subjects ranging from historical characters and popular culture icons. To spread his vision to a wider audience, Finster designed record album covers for rock groups such as R.E.M. and Talking Heads, later earning him Record Album Cover of the year by Rolling Stone Magazine. He had interviews, films, and a famous appearance on The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson. He has been called both "the grandfather of Southern Folk Art" and "the Andy Warhol of the South." He was indeed a unique and inspiring individual.

Howard Finster created more than 40,000 numbered works of folk art in his lifetime, but his sprawling and overflowing art environment, a tribute to the creativity of mankind, was inarguably his

greatest achievement. Finster built Paradise Garden to be shared: "My work has a spirit in it. I write it in a spirit and people read it in a spirit and that's the spirit that unifies all humans."

Paradise Garden is a touching display of Finster's work, and many feel the spirit in the air as they enjoy the artwork that surrounds them on the property. Finster Fest 2016 will showcase the amazing restoration of Howard Finster's Masterpiece while also focusing

on local and regional artists. Join us for a folk art homecoming in Howard Finster's lovingly tended and once-again-flourishing Paradise Garden!

This year you can attend Finster Fest at Paradise Garden for just \$5 per adult. Children under 12 are free. Finster Fest will be held on Saturday May 28th from 10 to 6 and Sunday the 29th 11-5 in Paradise Garden.

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