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THE GROUNDHOG

Mentone, Valley Head, Hammondville, Menlo, Cloudland
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Volume 35, No. 2

"Neighborhood News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

February 2016

Cloudmont: An Unlikely Dream Realized

By Anna Mae Horn

"If you don't like the weather in Alabama, wait 15 minutes and it will change!" Often heard; often true. One Lookout Mountain attraction has taken advantage of Mother Nature's unpredictable temperament: Cloudmont Ski and Golf Resort. In the wintertime, you can snow ski, if it's cold enough; if it is too warm to ski, you can golf or hike or take a horseback ride (at Shady Grove Dude Ranch) - activities which are available throughout the year. Here in Northeast Alabama you may be able to snow one day and horseback the next!

As a child, Jack E. Jones enjoyed the camps in Mentone. In the 1960s, he and his wife, Olive, spent the winters in a home in Florida and managed Cloudmont Camp for Boys in Mentone in the summer. His son, Jack Jr., started Saddle Rock golf course adjacent to the camp. The entire family enjoyed their time on Lookout Mountain; so, they decided to find a way to be able to stay in Mentone year 'round. Jack and Jack Jr. visited a ski resort in North Carolina and decided it was doable here in Mentone. They could make it work. So, in 1971, they started a ski resort right beside the golf course. It was the brainchild of a father and his



namesake. Unfortunately, Jack Jr. received a fatal injury while building the slope. Jack Sr. made it a point to carry out the dream.

The plastic slope was one of the first of its kind; it used Astroturf and tiny plastic pellets. It was about 400 ft long, and you could ski all year long. The summer camp kids loved it! You can still see a little of the remnants near Saddle Rock if you look closely, but it has long since been replaced with a more natural slope. On a nice, tall hillside with a small "bump" of land at the bottom, you can ride a "pony lift" up to the top and ski down, with the beautiful golf course terrain and the lake in front of you. Cloudmont Ski Resort is the southern most ski slope located east of the Mississippi River. Mother Nature now determines the ski season. It starts sometime in mid-December- whenever the temperature drops to at least 28 degrees. Then, it is cold enough to start the snow machines on "Snow Mountain." The frozen ground on the hillside is mowed short. Water from the lake on the golf course is pushed into the snow machines by compressors; the colder it is- the more nozzles can be used. When it hits the air, it turns into a fine mist of snow. Weather can be a funny thing,

(cont'd on page 21)

Happy Anniversary MAPA!

By Anna Mae Horn

On February 2nd each year, many people gather in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania to watch the groundhog emerge from his little home and possibly see his shadow. On Groundhog Day in 1982, a group of people emerged from their homes in the charming town of Mentone to possibly see something wonderful develop. Bruce Bon Fleur presided over this first meeting (of many). Sure enough, a delightful organization was formed that looked to the past history of the town and saw something

worth preserving in the shadows... MAPA. The Mentone Area Preservation Association is "dedicated to the preservation and protection of the heritage, natural environment and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area." Each member strives to uphold those values. Since its creation, MAPA has made several contributions to the area.

One major contribution to the preservation of the heritage of Mentone is The Groundhog paper, which also began in 1982. It is a remembrance of times past, a look at the happenings of the present, and a glance into

the future hopes of this pleasant community. It is a way for all those who have a place in their heart for Mentone to stay in touch with it, no matter the distance. It is a group project carried on by the MAPA board, The Groundhog staff members, and some incredible writers who have shared their talent, stories, and ideas over the years.

Since its inception, MAPA has made many other significant contributions to the town: the caution light, a sidewalk, updates to the rock

(cont'd on page 3)

THE GROUNDHOG

P. O. Box 387
Mentone, AL 35984

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



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MENTONE MATTERS

By Mayor Rob Hammond



2016 could be a momentous year for the Town of Mentone. After one more public involvement meeting, the bridge should be closer to reality. ALDOT Division Engineer Johnny Harris feels once this step is completed right of way acquisition can begin.

The town applied for a grant to do a comprehensive plan for Mentone. We received a letter from ADECA Director Jim Byard stating

\$12,600 has been reserved for Mentone, pending final approval by the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Great progress has been made on the Mentone Arts and Cultural Center. The land has been donated, the conceptual architectural plans are complete, and two very generous donations have been received. Kickoff for the capital campaign should begin soon.

The town will be working with Representative Nathaniel Ledbetter and Senator Steve Livingston to secure legislation that would give the town the opportunity to vote wet or dry.

On March 1, Alabama will hold its primaries. One of our most important rights as a citizen of the United States is the right to vote. With every right comes responsibility. As voters, we have the responsibility to be informed—to study the issues and learn about the candidates from unbiased sources and look past the labels and negative ads. Whom we elect at the federal, state, and local levels is crucial to the success of the country. The decisions our elected officials make affect all of us.

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

According to the website (rp.dot.state.al.us/SR117), a Public Involvement meeting concerning the bridge replacement on SR-117 over the West Fork of Little River will be held March 3, 4:30-6:30pm at Moon Lake gym. Look for more details in our March issue.

From The Editor

Valentine's Day is a day to celebrate love. Love for your spouse, your children, your community, and your world. This month, I challenge you all to look inside and see what it is that you are passionate about. Making a difference for something we believe in makes us feel better about ourselves. (It's a good time to celebrate loving ourselves as well!) Check into one of your favorite non-profits in your local area and let them know how and when you are available to help out a little. They will be happy for any resources you can offer. This time of year, Mentone is busy behind the scenes. Organizations are planning events for the upcoming year, working out the kinks from last year, holding inside fundraisers, and sending out donation letters. A lot of folks are cleaning out closets and bookshelves on these cold days. Donate those things to your local shelter or library. Waste not, want not... that's what my grandma always said.

Be sure to watch the woods on February 2 to see if the groundhog sees his shadow. I am thinking he will. Shadow or not, it's been cold enough so far to keep me hunkered down in the warm house. This year is leap year, enjoy the extra day, even if it's a cold day. If you ladies are feeling lucky, make a proposal to your beau! Thank you all for reading the Groundhog and supporting MAPA. I hope you enjoy this issue.

~Anna Mae



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

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

MAPA
P. O. Box 50
Mentone, AL 35984



MAPA NEWS

By Ray Padgett

Note: this is a continuation of our series to commemorate Mentone folks who kept MAPA and The Groundhog alive for the last 34 years.

MAPA and *The Groundhog* received an infusion of new talent in 1992 with the addition of Pat Seymour (MAPA President) and Judith Lollik-Anderson (*Groundhog* Editor). Other MAPA officers were Sherman Gough and Wanda Simmons (Vice-Presidents – I guess they had two), Marie Dillenbeck (Secretary), Dessie Newberry (Treasurer), Homer Crow (Parliamentarian), and Bruce Bon Fleur (Member-At-Large). Contributing Editors for *The Groundhog* were Ruby Brock, Linda Brown, Eloise Brown, Bernise Crow, Evelyn Graves, Doug Hoyt, Bill Schwarz, and Sue Schwarz.

Pat Seymour's column thanked folks who started and kept MAPA and *The Groundhog* going and ended with "Won't you consider joining us in preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone Area? The best is yet to be."

Evelyn Graves accepted *The Groundhog*

Editor's job in 1993 and Jack Jones took over as MAPA President. The editorial staff remained; however, new officers included H.L. Jenkins (Vice President), Sherman Gough (Parliamentarian) and Dot Crow (Member-At-Large). My favorite quote is from the Editors column "we need to be positive in our attitudes and to join forces to make our community the best that it can be through our community organizations, our churches, and our schools; then we will be happier individuals living in a stronger community." Thank you!

1994 brought changes in MAPA Officers (Dessie Newberry – President and Charlyne O'Rear -Treasurer) and some new some new *Groundhog* Staff members (Marie Dillenbeck-Typesetter, and new contributing editors – Ovie Blalock, Madeleine Bullock, Maurine Donahue, and Pat Seymour. Notice how most of the volunteers just change jobs.

The Groundhog staff remained much the same in 1995 with some new contributing editors – Ilene Green, Lisa Moore, and Kim Worthey. Once again Bernise Crow accepted the job of MAPA President supported by Jim Lyday (Vice President), Mickey Gough (Secretary/Treasurer), Homer Crow (Parliamentarian), Ed Disney and Donna Bouldin (Members at Large). A picture of the Colorfest quilt was proudly presented.

MAPA officers and *The Groundhog* staff continued their volunteer work in 1996 with additions of Penny Lyday (Treasurer) and Richard Douthat, Phil Harris, Grady Hammond and Ernest H. Smith (Contributing Editors). Members focused on getting Hwy. 89 paved north to the Georgia line – roadwork is still a

long-term effort.

1997 was a great year for new MAPA officers and new *Groundhog* contributors. MAPA officers were Jerry Waters (President), Homer Crow (Vice President) Susan Cheronos (Secretary), Dessie Newberry (Treasurer) Bernise Crow (Parliamentarian), and Dorothy Crow and Lucille Crowe (Members At Large). *The Groundhog* added new Contributing Editors – Marilyn Campbell, Gail Chambers, Cheryl Crane, Dowe Clifton Foreman and Ray Goggans. Scenes from Colorfest were included in a movie that used Mentone as the backdrop.

MAPA officers were little changed in 1998; Corinne Caplano replaced Susan as Secretary. Phil Harris, Lisa Moore, and Jennifer Smith became contributing writers for *The Groundhog*. The Mentone Planning and Zoning Commission held Public Hearings to review and discuss town ordinances in 1998.

MAPA members were unable to hold the Rhododendron Festival in 1999; they held a "Mountain Craft Fair" instead. However, new volunteers stepped forward to serve on the MAPA Board – Marilyn Mathews (President), Dot Crow (Vice President), Marie Dillenbeck (Secretary), Dessie Newberry (Treasury), Homer Crow (Parliamentarian), and Rovene Truett and Betty Bain (Members at Large). Laura Catherine became a Contributing Editor for *The Groundhog*.

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.

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MAPA Anniversary (cont'd from page 1)

wall on Highway 117 over the years, organizing the Rhododendron Festival and Colorfest each year, and many other projects in town, as well as at the school. At the January meeting, plans were discussed for the contributions the organization will be making to the town this year.

The current board members are Ray Padgett-President, Clare Donohue-Vice President, Kayla Worthey-Treasurer, Jerome Stephens- Secretary, Laura C. Moon-Parliamentarian/Past President, and Amanda Pope and Stephanie Roberts-Members at Large. This group will no doubt continue to carry on the tradition of helping the community and preserving Mentone's environment and heritage.



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.

Congratulations to Sarah Blalock, Josie Crider, and Courtney Roden for being awarded a Sue McLaurin Henry Memorial Scholarship for spring semester 2016. Sarah is pursuing an English and Language Arts degree with a minor in education at Athens State University. Josie is pursuing an English Education degree at Northeast Community College, and Courtney is studying for a degree in business at Northeast Community College. Thanks to generous donations in memory of Sue Henry, Linda Brown, Dorothy Crow, Peggy Roark and Max Cash,

MERF has been able to award 20 scholarships totaling \$9,050 since 2011. Scholarships are based on the academic achievement of a full-time, local student who would benefit from financial assistance in accomplishing their educational goals. MERF looks forward to seeing these students succeed and to enabling other students in the future.

A creative crew has gathered and begun great plans for MERF's Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction on April 9th. Moon Lake students have been creating wonderful pieces of art for the highest bidder to claim. As always, local artists and chefs will make the night spectacular too! Please contact MERF if you have abilities (even sweat equity) to be used to make this evening the best one so far. Watch our Facebook page for updates and for when ticket sales begin. Don't miss out on a great evening that supports all that MERF is doing while highlighting the Arts program.

February is the month of love so the MERF house is ready for the senior lunch bunch crew to get back together again! Lunches will start back on Wednesday, February 24th weather permitting. We look forward to seeing everyone after a long winter's nap.

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.

SAVE THE DATE Saturday, April 9

MERF's Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction 2016

Art by local artists
and students
Food from area restaurants

Valley Head Named Tree City USA

For the sixth year in a row, Valley Head, AL was named a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management. The town of Valley Head achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: a tree board or department, a tree-care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation. The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. Members of the Town of Valley Head Tree Board include L.A. Smith (local nursery owner), John Holleman, Tammy Atkins Cooper (teacher at Valley Head Elementary), John Miller, and Chairwoman Adele Phillips. They work diligently to ensure guidelines are followed and documented as well as caring for the trees correctly to ensure their survival.

"Everyone benefits when elected officials, volunteers, and committed citizens in communities like Valley Head make smart investments in urban forests," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Trees bring shade to our homes and beauty to our neighborhoods, along with numerous economic, social, and environmental benefits." Trees are assets to a community when properly

planted and maintained. They help to improve the visual appeal of a neighborhood, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants, and provide wildlife habitat, among many other benefits. If you do not live in Valley Head, check the website at arborday.org/TreeCityUSA to see if your community is listed. If not, ask your town leaders what you can do to get the program started.

You can also become an individual member, which comes with plenty of rewards. Membership starts at only \$10 and includes discounts on trees, The Tree Book filled with beautiful photos and helpful advice, and a subscription to the Arbor Day bimonthly publication. You also receive 10 free trees for yourself, to gift to a friend, planted in your honor in our nation's forest, or have them planted in a rain forest and receive a rain forest rescue t-shirt. Forests provide wood, habitat, clean air, and drinking water for millions of us. Your trees will help preserve these precious resources for this and future generations. Enjoy the feeling that it is only because of members such as you that our important conservation and education programs are changing the world and people's lives.

Congratulations to the Town of Valley Head for continuing to make a difference and being a great place to live and work!

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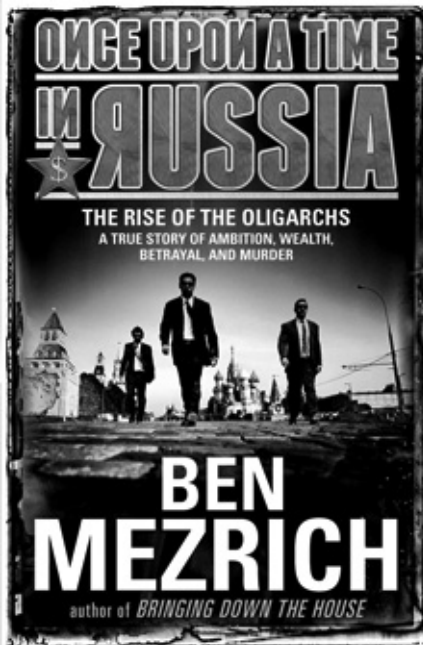
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Your Library News Your Library News Your Library News



Welcome to Winter!

By Barb Stoll



Hello everyone, looks like of man winter is definitely upon us now after a crazy warm December. Well, even if the weather doesn't know what it is doing, your local library does- it is stocking up on books and DVDs

for your enjoyment. We also have a guest book reviewer this month, Sue Marriott, so let's start with her review of the fascinating nonfiction book, *Once Upon A Time in Russia*, by Ben Mezrich.

"A good man, maybe. But it's best to shoot him" - an Old Russian Proverb. When I read that quote at the beginning of the first chapter, I knew it was going to be a wild ride. This fascinating and very well written book chronicles the rise of the Russian oligarchs- a true story of ambition, wealth, betrayal, and murder.

The book chronicles the surprising history behind the unlikely rise of Vladimir Putin, the financial success of Boris Berezovsky and

Roman Abramovich, and other names that you will no doubt recognize from seeing them in the news over the last several years.

In a fast-paced thriller of a book, author Ben Mezrich pulls you into the daily life, yachts, and homes of these Russian billionaires- relating how the largest and fastest accumulation of wealth in modern history occurred when the former Soviet nation lurched into capitalism through a very shadowy process of privatization.

A quick, fascinating, and fun read--highly recommended!

Also new in your community library this month:

The Pharaoh's Secret by Clive Cussler and Graham Brown

This novel from the NUMA files is Clive's latest, and it is thrilling! Kurt Austin makes his exhilarating return in this new adventure. If the legends are true, the dead don't stay that way long in Egypt. For the NUMA crew, the promise of these old stories might be their only hope of survival. When nearly the entire team is exposed to a dangerous substance called the Black Mist, Kurt Austin and Joe Zavala must race to find a cure before it's too late. From Europe to the Middle East and back again, Kurt, Joe, and what's left of NUMA will hunt down a foe more powerful than they can imagine. After all, it's called the City of the Dead for a reason.

The Bourbon Kings by J.R. Ward

The #1 New York Times bestselling author of the Black Dagger Brotherhood delivers the first novel in an enthralling new series set amid the shifting dynamics of a Southern family defined by wealth and privilege-and compromised by secrets, deceit, and scandal.

For generations, the Bradford family has worn the mantle of kings of the bourbon capital of the world. Their sustained wealth has afforded them prestige and privilege-as well as hard-won division of class on their sprawling estate, Easterly. Upstairs, a dynasty that, by all appearances, plays by the rules of good fortune and good taste.

Downstairs, the staff who work tirelessly to maintain the impeccable Bradford facade. And never the twain shall meet. As family tensions-professional and intimately private-ignite, Easterly and all its inhabitants are thrown into the grip of an irrevocable transformation, and only the cunning will survive.

Well, there you have it folks, your new February selections for those chilly days or nights. Many thanks to our guest Sue Marriott for her great review, and remember, if there is a particular author or bestseller you would like to see in the library, stop by, and let us know. I'm off to find more books and movies for your entertainment pleasure. Come in and enjoy your community library. It's a great place to meet with friends keep warm!

I ♥ Reading



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Introducing The Little River Arts Council

By Rhea Pirch



The Board of Directors of the Mentone Area Arts Council met on January 20th to discuss plans for an exciting new year.

First on the agenda was the nominations and voting of new officers. Scott Thomas was elected President, Rhea Pirch, Vice President and acting Secretary, and Tammy Beane, Treasurer. Other board members include Cynthia Stinson, Kaye Kiker and Jess Goggans.

The board talked extensively about changing the name of the organization to distinguish itself from the growing number of organizations

starting with "M" in the Mentone area, such as MAPA, MERF, MBA and the new Cultural Center organization, MACC. The name "Little River Arts Council" was suggested, voted on and passed by all board members present, as its name encompasses the entire area of Mentone and Lookout Mountain. Along with the new name, a new website will be developed, and a consistent effort to support area artists and musicians of all ages will continue through programs designed to promote their works.

On top of the programs planned for 2016 is the return of the Summer Music Series. With the assistance of an \$1,800 grant from the state arts agency, Alabama State Council on the Arts (ASCA), the Little River Arts Council will offer four free monthly concerts from June to September.

Board member Jess Goggans is working extensively with area musicians to bring a diverse line-up to the Mentone Inn Pavilion Stage for the free concerts, starting on June 25th with Matty and the Matadors opening for the band Strung Like a Horse, from the Chattanooga area. Strung Like a Horse offers a blend of their own gypsy/punk/garage/grass music and has shared the stage

with Sam Bush, War, Shooter Jennings, and The Old Crow Medicine Show.

Other bands slated to perform over the summer include the progressive jam sounds of Soul Mechanic, and the southern rock music of Copious Jones. Plans for the series also include open mic opportunities for area youth and jam sessions for all ages. Visual artists who are members of Little River Arts Council are invited to display and sell their work at the concerts.

Plans will continue for the return of the Home Tour and Silent Auction, held in October, and a new festival designed to emphasize Mentone's mountain heritage while serving local artists, musicians and businesses alike.

To renew or join the Little River Arts Council, please visit the website mentonearts.org and click on the membership link. Members are invited to share ideas on how the Arts Council can better serve them and the artistic community of Mentone by attending a monthly meeting, held the third Wednesday of each month at 5:00 at the Mentone Inn.

Groundhog Day Traditions



Gobbler's Knob was made on February 2, 1887. The celebration of Groundhog Day began with the Germans, Pennsylvania's earliest settlers. They brought with them the legend of Candlemas Day,

So the story goes, Punxsutawney Phil was named after King Phillip. Prior to being called Phil, he was called Br'er Groundhog. Punxsutawney held its first Groundhog Day in the 1800's. The first official trek to

which states "For as the sun shines on Candlemas day, so far will the snow swirl in May..." The settlers found that groundhogs were plentiful and were the most intelligent and sensible animal to carry on the legend of Candlemas Day.

If he sees his shadow, he regards it as an omen of six more weeks of bad weather and returns to his hole. If the day is cloudy and, hence, shadowless, he takes it as a sign of spring and stays above ground.

Another February 2nd belief, used by American 19th century farmers, was: Groundhog Day - Half your hay.

New England farmers knew that we were not close to the end of winter, no matter how cloudy February 2nd was. Indeed, that is often the heart of winter. If the farmer didn't have half his hay remaining, there may have been lean times for the cows before spring and fresh grass arrived.

- In 1981 Phil wore a yellow ribbon in honor of the American hostages in Iran.
- Phil traveled to Washington DC in 1986 to meet with President Reagan. He was joined by Groundhog Club President Jim Means, Al Anthony and Bill Null.
- Phil met Pennsylvania Governor Dick Thornburg in 1987.
- In 1993, Columbia Pictures released the movie Groundhog Day starring Bill Murray.
- Phil appeared on the Oprah Winfrey show in 1995.
- In the years following the release of the movie, record crowds numbering as high as 30,000 have visited Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney!
- In 2001, Phil's prediction was shown live on the JumboTron at Times Square in New York City. Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell attended the ceremonies, making him the first sitting governor ever to do so.

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Valley Head High School Plans Fundraiser Featuring Jeremiah Castille

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 February 6, 2016
 at the VHS Gymnasium
 Silent Auction at 5pm - Dinner at 6pm
 Hosted by the VHS Quarterback Club & Open to the Public

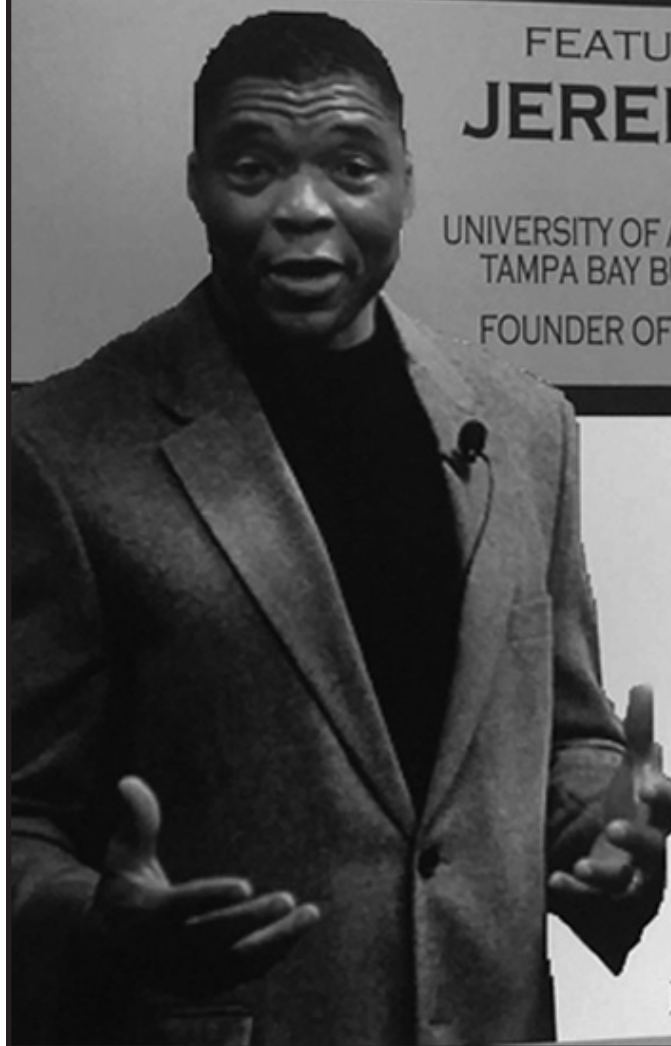
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MOON LAKE SCHOOL

Donate Your Electronic Devices

Moon Lake School's new principal, Mary Lance, is on a mission for the students. She wants to equip them with technology devices at school so they can learn to use them for educational purposes. She said that test results are available months earlier if they test online. The option is available--if they have the devices. By testing online, it lets the educators know sooner where the students need additional instruction. Also, there are many educational resources available for free to use in the classroom. In order to use this though, the school needs more electronic devices.

Anyone can donate their keyboards, monitors, cell phones, computers, tablets, Kindles, or any other type of technology. Rest assured that the school will clear all personal data, apps, settings, etc. from the device. Then they will put the restrictions on them that kids are required to have so that it can be utilized at the school by the children in a safe cyber community.

Thank you in advance! For more information, call the school at 256-634-4113.

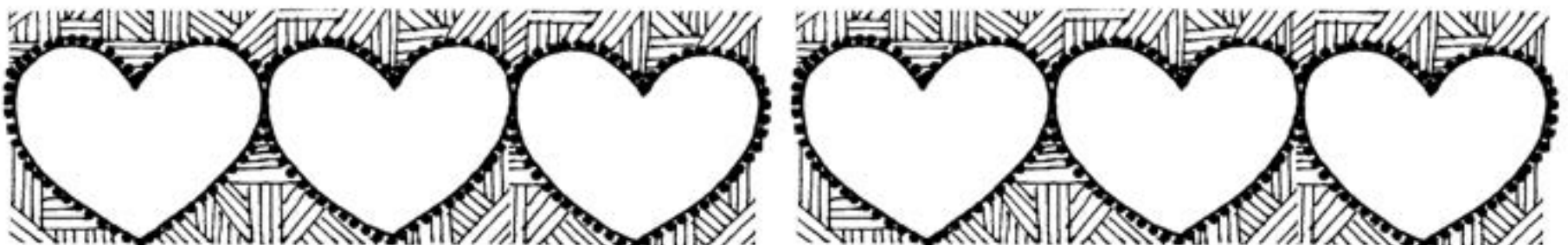
MOON LAKE ELEMENTARY

February 23
Dinner at 5

Talent Show at 6

"Fun-Raiser" proceeds support the school.



February Birthdays

Feb 1 – John Lawton
Feb 1 – Abby Bell
Feb 1 – Tammy Kirby
Feb 1 – Walter Brooks
Feb 1 – Rindy Flannigan
Feb 1 – Fontana Stinson
Feb 2 – GROUNDHOG DAY!!
Feb 2 – Beverly Smith
Feb 2 – Karen Nixon
Feb 2 – Zeb Kincer
Feb 3 – Melanie Potts Garrett
Feb 4 – Angela Phillips
Feb 4 – Carson Frost
Feb 4 – Brittany Daniel
Feb 4 – Loree Brownfield
Feb 5 – Yon Hopper
Feb 5 – Savannah Wallace
Feb 5 – Cameron Collins
Feb 6 – Amanda Blalock
Feb 7 – Jordan Sutton
Feb 7 – Tristan Rodriguez
Feb 7 – Haley Stinson

Feb 8 – Crystal Smith
Feb 8 – Helen Brown
Feb 8 – Annette Johnson
Feb 9 – Kara Goss
Feb 9 – Jonnie Frost
Feb 9 – Cayden Collins
Feb 9 – Heath Jones
Feb 10 – Joe McClure
Feb 10 – Leonard Keith
Feb 10 – Katie White
Feb 10 – Luke Hulan
Feb 11 – Cayla Wigley
Feb 11 – Faith Nelson
Feb 11 – Gentry Grisham
Feb 11 – Amanda Ditmore
Feb 12 – Tara Kirby
Feb 12 – Nicholas Freeman
Feb 12 – Sydnee Grider
Feb 12 – Bubba Browder
Feb 13 – Gretchen Phillips
Feb 13 – Carol Busby
Feb 13 – Craig Hall
Feb 13 – Isaac Pangle
Feb 14 – Valentine's Day!
Feb 14 – Abbi Gifford
Feb 14 – Eddie Manning
Feb 15 – Ashley Coffman

Feb 16 – Katelyn Busby
Feb 16 – Mary Jane Gray
Feb 17 – John David Blalock
Feb 17 – Trey Moore
Feb 17 – Tyler Allen
Feb 17 – Renee Peek
Feb 18 – Richard Harrison
Feb 18 – Gail Crider
Feb 18 – Braden Villarreal
Feb 19 – Beverly Bates
Feb 19 – Danielle Powell
Feb 20 – Jon Baggett
Feb 20 – Stella Pierce
Feb 20 – Joan Byrum
Feb 20 – Juanita McGuire
Feb 21 – Wendy Manifold
Feb 22 – Justin Langston
Feb 22 – Johnny Mack Ferguson, Jr
Feb 22 – Corey Blalock
Feb 22 – Derek McMahan
Feb 22 – Jordan Bethune
Feb 24 – Michael Chambers
Feb 24 – Tom Emory
Feb 24 – Payton Day
Feb 24 – Melinda Easler
Feb 25 – William Beasley
Feb 26 – Kylee Elkins

Feb 26 – Johnny Battles
Feb 27 – Makayla Mullis
Feb 27 – David Hilliard
Feb 28 – Derek Davis
Feb 28 – Ethan Bailey
Feb 29 – Ethen Battles

February Anniversaries

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

*Congratulations
to Ray and Sandra Padgett
on their
50th Wedding Anniversary!*

**To the friends
of Ray and Sandra Padgett,**

**Join us for hors d'oeuvres, light
refreshments, music, and merriment to
celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary
of our parents. Saturday, February 6,
2016, from 1-4 p.m. at Kamama's. In
lieu of gifts, consider donating to the
Mentone Arts & Cultural Center.**

-Duncan and Julia Padgett



Leap Day

By Anna Mae Horn

The Roman dictator Julius Caesar is considered the “father” of leap year. The ancient Roman calendar system was based on a total of 355 days in a year, 10 and 1/4 day shorter than the solar year. He added a transition year that had 3 extra months to catch up the calendar to the sun. After that, the calendar had an extra day every fourth year. Originally, this was on February 25, “the day before the 6th of calends of March.”

In the second century A.D., astronomers learned that the solar year is actually 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds long, but made no changes. By the 16th century, it was nearly ten days off track. In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII reformed the Julian Calendar, added ten days, and produced the Gregorian calendar we use today. According to it, leap year doesn’t occur exactly every four years? That’s right—Gregory was even more precise than that, and made leap year occur in years divisible by four, except for those divisible by 100 and not

divisible by 400. Definitely confusing! But it won’t be skipped again until February 2100. The people in Sweden got really confused and had to add February 30 in the year 1700.



But the good thing about Leap Day is that according to British tradition, a leap day is the only day of the year a woman can propose marriage to a man. As legend has it, in fifth century Ireland, St. Bridget complained to St. Patrick about the fact that women had to wait for men to propose. So, Patrick allowed women one day every four years to take the initiative. The tradition became the

basis for Sadie Hawkins Day in the United States, first dreamed up by Al Capp in his cartoon serial “L’il Abner,” and celebrated on either February 29 or November 15, the day the first L’il Abner comic appeared. So, I guess American women have 2 days they can propose! If you have Greek ancestry though, you might not want to. Greek superstition holds that marrying in a leap year brings bad luck and as many as one of every five Greek couples avoid planning their weddings in a leap year. Therefore, if you want to go to Greece to get married, they may have some specials going this year as incentive!

Whatever you decide to do, enjoy the extra day!





THE RECIPE CORNER BY ANGIE CARDEN

Check out
the Recipes Below
Perfect for A
Valentine Treat!

Toffee Chocolate Chip Valentine's Day Cheesecake

In a large mixing bowl, beat 8 oz. cream cheese and 1/2 cup unsalted, softened butter until fluffy, about 3 minutes. Add 3/4 cup powdered sugar and 2 Tbsp brown sugar; then, beat until completely blended. Stir in 1/2 cup each mini semi-sweet chocolate morsels and (Heath) toffee bits. Wrap mixture in a large piece of plastic wrap and refrigerate for 1-2 hours. Lay on serving tray and shape into a heart, cover with Valentine sprinkles! Serve with graham crackers, pretzels, or animal cookies.

Strawberry Mousse

In a deep bowl, stir together one egg white, 1/2 cup sugar, 5 oz. frozen strawberries thawed, and 1/2 teaspoon lemon juice. Whip with an electric mixer at high speed for 10 minutes. Fold 2 cups whipped cream or whipped topping into the strawberry mixture. Freeze for 6 hours before serving.

Homemade Gumdrops

Combine the 1-cup sugar and 1-cup applesauce in a saucepan. Bring to a boil and cook 2 minutes. Dissolve a 3oz. pkg. of red gelatin in the applesauce mixture. Pour into an 8x8 inch pan. After 24 hours, cut into 1-inch squares and roll in sugar. Roll in the sugar a second time 24 hours later. (*You can puree fruit cocktail, peaches, or pears instead of applesauce.)

FEBRUARY

It's hard to believe that it is February, especially since we've hardly had a winter. But alas, we should continue on enjoying warm, comforting winter food.

Being that it is no mystery I love food, I will freely admit that I love all veggies, with one major exception- mushrooms; I loathe them! Because of this, I completely ignore them in all of my recipes. Even worse, I never even think to state that if you like them just add them to any

dish I write about. They are so far from my mind, it's like they don't exist, that is until one gets near me. The face I make at the mere mention of them isn't, by any means, pleasant. Anyway, for some strange reason, I thought of them today, and before I even write this recipe below, I would like to say, please feel free to add diced mushrooms to the mixture listed below if you so desire...just please don't tell me about it!

Baked Acorn Squash

You may begin by preheating your oven to 350 degrees. Then scrub your acorn squash thoroughly, for we are leaving the skin intact, (yes, intact!). Once it is gleaming, give it a pat down to dry, and cut it in half, from stem to bottom. Scoop out all the seeds and membranes gently with a spoon and discard.

It is time to slice both halves into roughly 1 - 1 1/2 in. slices, as you would a cantaloupe. Place each slice into a well buttered, (yes buttered! Trust me, don't use spray or oil) 13x9 casserole dish, skin side down, drizzle with a little oil, olive if you please, and pop them into the oven for about 25 minutes.

Now, divert your attention to a medium sized mixing bowl, in which you will place:

1 softened stick of butter, 1/2 - 3/4 c of brown sugar, 1/4 c finely diced onion, 1 tsp salt, pepper, 1 tsp Thyme (dry is fine) and, only if I won't know about it, finely diced mushrooms if you'd like.

Smooch and blend everything together. When your 25 minutes is up, remove from oven and with a small spatula or butter knife, smear the mixture along each piece of squash, careful not to burn yourself as I always do, coating evenly. Return to the oven until fork tender, glossy, and melty!

If you like veggies at all, I know you will love this one! And in my opinion, it's a perfect accompaniment to all meats... red, white, and blue. (Maybe not blue!) I hope you will try it soon!

Happy cooking!

No Bake Cheesecake Truffles

Prepare no-bake cheesecake per instructions. Add cherry or strawberry pie filling to the top. Let it freeze for at least two hours. Melt some red candy melts according to the package. Then, use a melon baller to scoop out balls of frozen cheesecake. The key is to scoop a little bit of crust, cheesecake, and topping in each bite. Use a spoon to carefully dip the frozen cheesecake balls in the melted chocolate. If your bites get too warm, pop them back in the freezer for ten minutes. They are much easier to dip if they are frozen. Top with a drizzle of white chocolate or sprinkles. Chill until you're ready to eat.

Strawberry Cool Whip Cookies

Beat together an 8-oz container of Cool Whip and 2 eggs in a medium sized bowl. Add a box strawberry cake mix and stir together. Dough will be thick and sticky. Chill in refrigerator for 30 minutes. Preheat your oven to 350. Spray a cookie sheet with cooking spray or use parchment paper. Pour about 1/3 cup of powdered sugar into a small bowl. Drop chilled dough by tablespoon (I used a cookie scoop) into powdered sugar and roll dough around until covered. Place on cookie sheet and bake for about 9-12 minutes. Cool on baking rack and then ENJOY!

Cherry Fudge with Dark Chocolate

In large saucepan, melt 3/4 cup butter with 1 cup sugar, 3/4 cup heavy cream and a pinch of salt. Bring to a boil over medium high heat. Once boiling, set timer for 5 minutes and add in 1 Tbsp cherry flavored gelatin. After 5 minutes, remove from heat. In mixing bowl, add 2 1/2 cup white chocolate and 7oz jar marshmallow cream. Pour hot mixture over this. Beat with a whisk until smooth and creamy and all chocolate is melted. Fold in 1/2 cup dried cherries. Pour in a parchment paper lined 9-inch square pan. Pour 10oz melted dark chocolate over cherry fudge and refrigerate 4 hours. Cut into squares and enjoy!

Valentine's Popcorn

Heat 12 ounces white chocolate in the microwave or a double boiler until melted. Place 8 cups popped popcorn in a large bowl, and pour the melted chocolate over it. Then, use a spoon to toss the popcorn gently until it is evenly coated with the chocolate. Spread the popcorn out evenly on a baking sheet covered with parchment, wax paper, or aluminum foil. Sprinkle evenly with salt, then sprinkle with as many sprinkles and conversation hearts as you would like. Let cool for 10 minutes or until the chocolate has hardened. Break up into small pieces then serve or store in an airtight container for up to 1 week.

What To Do Around Here!

February 2016 Community Calendar

February 2 - Groundhog Day.

Will Punxsutawney Phil see his shadow?



February 2 - MAPA 34th Birthday.

Thank you for reading our paper and supporting MAPA in numerous ways. MAPA looks forward to bringing good things to the community for many more years!

February 2 - Power of Black History. Come enjoy Senator Hank Sander's presentation on the power of Black History. NACC Music Auditorium-William M. Beck Fine Arts and Health Building 9:45 a.m. Contact Chasley Bellomy for more info. 256-638-4418.

February 5 - 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 p.m. the day before the adventure. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. 256-997-9577.



February 6, 20, 24, 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. TAS. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

February 6, 8, 19 - Extreme Night Hike. This end-of-day adventure does not slow down just because it's dark. Intended for a large group team-building exercise, this hike has a bit of bouldering, some scrambling, some spelunking, and a whole lot of required working together. True Adventure Sports. 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

February 7 - Kamama Chrysalis. Come in and enjoy cider and cookies and meet the new Kamama Partners! Fontana Stinson will be our new Chef and will manage the café. She will be introducing her new menu and have some tastings! Clare Donohue will be the new Gallery Manager (as well as handle all the Entertainment and Classes that we offer). I hear she will be raffling off a few items. Lisa Schad has added a massage studio and will be doing some demonstrations, presenting her Valentine's

Menu of services for February, and even have a drawing for a free massage! Speaking of drawing... come on in, bring your children, and draw a heart for our Valentine's (LOVE) tree! It's all about love--our love for Mentone, education, and the arts! See you there! 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. 256-634-3001.

February 9 - Hypothermia Class. This 3-hour class teaches the extreme dangers and how to treat hypothermia. Learn how quick hypothermia can set in and the signs indicating it is setting in. True Adventure Sports. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. 256-997-9577.

February 11, 22 - Afternoon Rock Climb. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing is all about in the afternoon with guides who are fun, safe, and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. TAS. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. 256-997-9577.

February 11, 12, 9, 13, 15, 18, 19 & 20 - Children's Advocacy Center Annual Dinner Theater. The Children's Advocacy Center presents the 22nd annual dinner theatre "The One That Got Away." First United Methodist Church Life Center in Fort Payne. Ticket prices vary and are by reservation only. For more information or tickets, 256-997-9700.

February 11 - Pottery of Sand Mountain. Enjoy and learn about pottery in our area. 2nd Floor of Library on the NACC Campus. 4 p.m. Contact Blake Wilhelm at wilhelmb@nacc.edu or 256-638-4418.

February 11, 26, 27 - Wild Cave Tour. Go beyond where the average tourist explores! This 2.5 hour adventure is for those



of you ready to explore on your knees, on your belly, in the mud, and through tight tunnels. Adventure includes helmet, cave lamps, plus a fun informative guide. True Adventure Sports. 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

February 11 - Lisa Schad "Healing Power of Love" Presentation. Lisa Schad will demonstrate and teach the community how to love and care for our bodies, minds, and spirits through techniques involving touch, sounds, and movement. \$10 registration

fee. 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Kamama Gallery and Cafe. 256-634-3001.

February 12 - Knot Class & Application. Introduction and instruction to essential knots and their application for camping, rappelling, rock climbing, outdoor survival, and other applications. TAS. 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. 256-997-9577.

February 13 - 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.

February 13 - Blow Your Own Ornament.

Come design and blow your own ornament with the help of one of our glass artists. No reservations are needed, it is on a first come, first serve basis. For this we welcome people of all ages (at least 5 years old). 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$38 per ornament 256-523-3188.



February 13, 23, 25 - Rock Climbing / Rappelling Adventure Combo. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing and rappelling is all about with guides who are fun, safe, and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

February 13 - Kamama Music Series with Chris Hale.

Join us for a romantic night of old time banjo! Kamama stage and seating provide the audience an intimate experience where live music can be fully appreciated. Admission is \$10. Seating is limited, so reservations are strongly encouraged. Dinner from Chef Fontana Stinson is served between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. Music at 7 p.m. 256-634-3001.



February 13 - Alabama Ballet performs "Don Quixote" at NACC. Northeast Alabama Community College is proud to be hosting the performance of Don Quixote by the world renowned Alabama Ballet on

Saturday, February 13, at 7 p.m. in the Tom Beville Lyceum. Tickets are \$10.00 per person and current NACC students are \$5.00 with student ID. For ticket links and more info go to nacc.edu or call 256.638.4418 or 256.228.6001, ext. 2248.



February 14 - Happy Valentine's Day - Be sure to make your reservations in advance at one of our terrific dining establishments! Want to just get away for some romantic alone time? Make reservations at one of our incredible cabins or bed & breakfasts.

February 17 - Rock Climbing Adventure.

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



February 20 - Paperweight Class. This class is designed for those who really just want see what molten glass is all about. Feel the heat, gather from the furnace, sculpt the glass into your own design. It is ultimately about the experience, some experimentation, and a couple nice paperweights to take home or to the office to show your friends. Please join us for some in-depth discovery. Reservations Required. Cost is \$135 per person. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 256-523-3188.

February 20 - DeSoto Falls Basin Clean Up & Trail Work Day

- In partnership with DeSoto State Park. Help remove debris from below the falls and blaze a trail! Work to arrange an airlift. Rugged, picturesque experience awaits seasoned hikers. If you have questions or would like to participate, contact Angie at One World Adventure. 256-634-8370. angie@oneworldadventureco.org



February 20 - Kamama Music Series with Clare Donohue Trio. Kamama stage and seating provide the audience an intimate experience where live music can be fully appreciated. Admission is \$10. Seating is limited, so reservations are strongly encouraged. Dinner from Chef Fontana Stinson is served between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. Music at 7 p.m. 256-634-3001.

February 21 - Tri-State Paper Crafting. Join us to learn, create, and be inspired while crafting with papers, stamps, inks, punches, and die cuts. No experience needed. Kamama Gallery in Mentone, AL. 1:00-2:30. Reserve by noon Sat the 20. Cost is \$5. To learn more or reserve a spot send an email to cottagepaper@bellsouth.net or call 205-349-4026.

February 24, 29 - Rock Climbing

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



February 25 - Cold Weather Survival Class. Learn tips to prevent hypothermia and death. This class covers the basics for emergency cold weather conditions and also covers a few tips on how to stay warm and comfortable for everyday cold conditions. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. 256-997-9577.

February 25 - Kamama Class Series - An Introduction to "The Artists' Way." An internationally acclaimed course that

helps one re-discover their creative self. The Artists' Way is best known to "lift" creative blocks and for people coping with depression. Whether YOU consider yourself an artist or not, this course has tremendous benefits, and it's cheaper than shopping therapy, and contains 0 calories! Facilitated by Clare Donohue, M.Ed. Professor, singer, and recording artist. 7- 9 p.m. Contact Kamama at 256-634-3001 to confirm a spot for yourself!

February 27 - Kamama Class Series - Matt Downer Workshop.

Kamama is delighted to welcome Matt Downer for local, old time fiddle styles and tunes workshop followed by a musical performance.



The workshop will be from 5-6 p.m. Registration will be \$10; however, if you plan on attending the music performance as well, there will be a special deal of \$15.

February 27 - Matt Downer Live Music.

Join us for a performance by Matt and a trip back in time to the "good old days" of early American music. Kamama stage and seating provide the audience an intimate experience where live music can be fully appreciated. Admission is \$10. Seating is limited, so reservations are strongly encouraged. Dinner from Chef Fontana Stinson is served between 6 and 9. Music at 7 p.m. 256-634-3001.



February 27 - Sand Mountain Soirée.

Northeast Alabama Community College invites you to attend the first ever Sand Mountain Soirée. We will host a Brunch, Book Signing, and Demonstrational speech by Southern Living's Editor at Large, James Farmer! NACC Tom Bevill Lyceum. 11 a.m.

For more details, contact Event Planner Chasley Bellomy at 256-638-4418 ext. 2248.

February 29 - Leap Day Enjoy the extra day, it only happens once every four years!

Thank You Jimmy Rogers From Sandra & Ray Padgett

James Lelon Rogers Jr. (Jimmy) returned to his mountain beginnings four years ago. He has made a great impact on the culinary excitement for the town of Mentone. When he entered into partnership with the Padgetts at Kamama Gallery and Restaurant, he elevated it from a humble coffee shop to a fine dining experience. Sandra reminds customers that Jimmy can "cook everything from poke salad to Lobster Thermador." His crab cakes have been praised as "the best" by patrons--from California to Maryland. He plans to venture into a new restaurant that will further the cuisine choices of our Mountaintop town.

Jimmy was raised on Sand Mountain in a family of great cooks. The son of Lelon and Betty Sue Rogers had many great cooks in the family from both sides. His mother's potato salad is still cooked by him, along with Aunt Cora Lee's Mashed Potato recipe. His thirty-year food career began at the Neiman Marcus "Zodiac Room" in Dallas, Texas. He also managed the Chattanooga Choo Choo before moving to Perdido Key Beach, Florida, to open his restaurant "Simply Southern." After ten years at the beach, Jimmy decided to sell the building and restaurant to move back to the area he loved. He built a house in Mentone. He was a friend of the Padgetts and came to their rescue when they needed a new cook. In the beginning, he only had a "cookie" oven, electric grill, and hot plate. For two months, he survived putting out gourmet meals with this limited equipment. After upgrading the kitchen, he began creating elegant meals and preparing large events (wedding dinners, business luncheons, etc.).

Ray Padgett declares, "Jimmy is one of the best cooks in the land. I will always be grateful for his bringing Kamama to the level of excellence that it has reached. I had no experience or knowledge of the business, and he has been my salvation." The Kamama family is looking forward to the opening of his new venture. Mentone might become known for its natural beauty, creative people, and fine cuisine. Especially during tourist season, we need a better choice of eateries.

The new venture will be announced soon, but in the interim, just get your taste buds ready for new delights. Jimmy will introduce a menu that is affordable and geared toward mountain comfort food. It will be spectacular!

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.

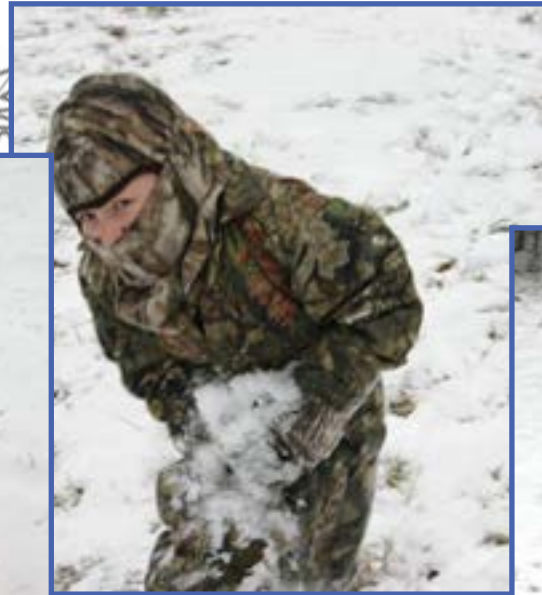
The Mentone Business Association (MBA) will meet the second Monday of each month from 6-7pm.

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 11-2 at Kamama Gallery and Cafe. Call Kaye Kiker 205-609-8100 or Clare Donohue 954-292-8130 with questions.

Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow!



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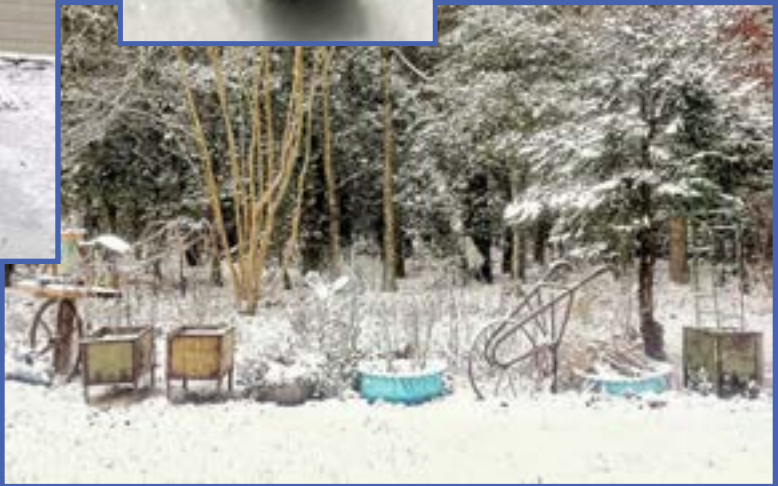
For tours, cabin pricing, floor plans, or to experience an overnight "Try Before You Buy" stay call 706.936.0007 or email info@riverridgeescapes.com
Located @ 11987 Highway 48, Menio, GA 30731

www.LittleRiverEscape.com



Scan for Video

Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow!



Kamama's Valentine's Day Dinner For Two
Sunday, Feb 14
6-9pm

MENU FOR TWO:
Sweatheart Steaks
2 Baked Potatoes
2 Side Salads
Sauteed Veggies

Reservations
256-634-3001

5951 Alabama Hwy. 117
Mentone, AL



Oscar Night At Kamama's
Sunday, Feb 28
6-10pm

Come dressed as your favorite celebrity! A prize will be awarded to the best costume!

Bring a taste of your award-winning recipe and the winning dish will be on the menu the entire month of March!

256-634-3001

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Mentone Wedding Chapel

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



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

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

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

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.



Kamama Changes Taking Place

By Ray Padgett

Kamama is undergoing an exciting transformation in what is offered to their customers and in their management team. In addition to great art and food, Kamama will be the place to go for art and music classes, entertainment of various kinds, and community events. Also, for the healing arts, we are developing a massage and wellness studio.

The new Kamama management team brings years of expertise and talent to each area of operation. A brief description of the team, each manager's background, and their responsibilities follow.

Clare Donohue grew up in Brooklyn, New York and began singing at 4 years old. Clare's childhood was spent singing and working in a pastry shop for extra money. She became a backup singer at 18, worked with Warner Brothers and some of the country's best music producers and managers, and formed her own company, Donohue Management. After years of being totally immersed in the music business, Clare obtained a Masters Degree in Education and taught elementary education for 12 years before moving to the Lookout Mountain area and discovering Mentone. She arranged music for our last festivals and is making Mentone her home. Her background, education, and life experiences bring a new vision and field of expertise to Kamama endeavors.

Clare is now responsible for Kamama Gallery, art and music related classes, entertainment, and Kamama community events. She plans to continue Kamama Gallery as a place for local artists to sell their art in a beautiful setting. Our Thursday night music series started by Russell Gulley will be changed to a lecture/education series and musical acts will now be primarily a Saturday evening event. Plans are to present a different type of music (blues, roots, jazz, classical, etc.) each Saturday. Occasional community nights are being planned for Wednesdays. Kamama events are a work in progress and Clare is fast focusing on entertainers, teachers, and schedules.

Fontana Stinson was born and raised in Butler County Alabama and has lived full time in Mentone for the last two years. When she was 11, Fontana began helping her Mother, Cynthia Stinson, in the restaurant business and later worked in her Aunt Linda's restaurant (Emily's Cafe) in Greenville. She credits those formative years with molding her work ethic, cooking and restaurant management philosophy. Since moving to Mentone, she worked in local restaurants and continued learning the business. Fontana is passionate about this new venture of running her own restaurant and living in a place she loves. She says, "I owe all my inspiration to God, for without him I wouldn't have the



courage to pursue my childhood dream of creating a space where everyone feels like they are at home."

Fontana encourages everyone to come check out her new menu, meet her, and talk about what they would like to see happen at Kamama Restaurant. Beginning February 1, Fontana plans to extend her hours and come up with a menu stuffed with comfort foods for the whole family to enjoy. Fontana's goal: "I want to create an atmosphere and cook food that makes your soul smile."

Lisa A. Schad, LMT was born in Canada, grew up in the Mid-Atlantic States, and travelled around the world, as her father was a world-renowned parasitologist with John Hopkins. She grew up in the country, loving the outdoors. She graduated from University of Pennsylvania with a degree in Sociology, then worked in Philadelphia and Boston in the financial world, and then in HR at Harvard Medical School. After graduating from the Muscular Therapy Institute's program, she has been in the massage and bodywork arena for over 22 years: as a practitioner, instructor and administrator in massage schools/programs. She has built upon her core training as a muscular therapist with many additional courses to compliment her skills and build on her menu of services. These include Myofascial Release, Reflexology, Touch for Health, Reiki, Sound Therapy, Aromatherapy, Crystal Healing, Hot Stone and more.

Lisa relocated to Mentone 5 years ago after falling in love with the healing mountain vibe here, while visiting family in Atlanta. This new venture called Tohi is the Cherokee word for health and peace -one is not attainable without the other. Tohi is designed to meet the needs of everybody from the weekend warriors, who need to work out the kinks from hiking and fixing the cabin, to those in need of some long-needed self-care to improve relaxation, sleep, energy, and overall well-being. Lisa will build on her expertise of massage therapy and education and bring in other professionals to balance out needed services, such as spa services. The space is being designed to accommodate a private

room for services that require disrobing as well as areas for walk-in, clothed, "quickies" like chair massage, foot massage machine, chakra balancing, and Biomat/Infrared sessions. Tohi will create a healing environment and use locally made products as much as possible with regard to lotions and oils. There will be a retail area to purchase these products. She is optimistic that the Massage Studio will grow and evolve into a professional healing space for all to achieve their personal Tohi.

Mentone residents and visitors are encouraged to drop by and talk to the new Kamama management team, sample the food, enjoy the music and art and relax with a soothing massage; then, let them know your likes and dislikes. For current information and details on menus, services, artists, events and schedules please go to KamamaMentone.com or the Kamama Facebook page. When all else fails, you can always call 256-634-3001 for information about everything Kamama.



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By Lisa A. Schad, LMT (AL#3124)

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- Relaxation Station with Biomat, Foot detox, Chi machine, foot massage machine and chair massage.

Remember When . . .

By Angie Carden

In 1987, The Groundhog ran a cover article titled "Emma J. Smith (1864-1937) Ode to a Nightingale," by Mrs. Mickey Strickland. The article read:

"Emma Smith died before many of the residents of Mentone were even born. She was the wife of a simple farmer and began married life in a rude cabin on a rented farm. But her influence is felt to this day. Her teachings were so far ahead of her time that many of them are universally relevant even now, and the depth and scope of her intellect encompassed so broad a field of interest, that her life exemplified the grace, the strength, and the ingenuity of the early pioneers..."

Ms. Emma and her husband, John William, whom she called Will, spent the first years of their married life sharecropping on rented land. They married in 1881, and Ms. Emma's fierce pride manifested itself in her writings during that time. Always the journalist and chronicler of the era, she had many of her works published in newspapers. Her series, "Three Years Experience on Rented Land," printed in The Times Journal in Fort Payne, AL, received some acclaim and was often alluded to in reference to her later works. It begins: "In the early part of 1881, my husband and I started out to begin our fortune by renting land. It being our first year of married life, we were inexperienced in the ups and downs of life, especially a renter's life..." We can get a hint of her feelings about the way she perceived prevailing attitudes about renters: "...there was no yard fence, so we were not troubled with opening and shutting gates. What was the use; we were only renters and were not expected to care for our surroundings..."

She was a small woman, but large in determination and honor. A sense of humor is



Miss Emma - Fourth from Left

tenses, the present, the past, and the future, I could but answer the same, so my answer in the whole was this: 'We are doing as we please. We have been doing as we please. And furthermore expect to do as we please...'

The farm consisted of 160 acres East of Mentone near Bankhead. Ms. Emma lived in that place until her death in 1937. She loved the farm and relished the ownership of land. She was one of the first naturalists in the area, and her love of birds is often evident in her writings. She named her home 'Nightingale' after her favorite bird...

She loved the beauty of the mountain and the mountain people whom she defended with a staunch loyalty: "Some people entertain the idea that it (Lookout Mountain) is settled up with rough, uneducated people, moonshiners, etc., but it is a mistake...we have...intellectual people, well-posted on all the leading topics of the time...as a rule sober, industrious, law-abiding citizens, always ready to respond to the cry of need, no difference who from..." She went on to say, "As to independence...I have never seen as independent people

also evident, as shown in this incident: "And ever and anon, Mr. Logan (the landlord) would send up messages of inquiry as to the state of things in general. At last, I became indignant when he sent a gentleman by with three interrogatives connected this time. His Lordship wanted to know what we were doing? What we had been doing? Also, what we expected to do? As his inquiries involved three

anywhere as in the mountains. And right here let me say, just class me with them."

She eventually opened a small grocery and post office. The last official transaction recorded at the post office is dated 1933.

I hope you all enjoyed this memory lane article. I thought it was wonderful!

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Making An Impact!

By Angie Shugart

“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.” — Jane Goodall

There are several reasons people volunteer. A few of them I hear are; meeting other like-minded folks, giving back, learning new things, and ‘It’s just FUN!’ At One World, we find the #1 reason people volunteer with our organization is to make a difference. “Service is a powerful teacher and an important component of our mission.”

We often talk about lessening our impact, being green, and making a difference. One hot topic on our radar is trash! My peers will say, “Start at home and work outwards.” And I agree with that motto 100%. However, you do not have to master home before working outwards. Especially if you might miss out on a fun opportunity. Also, service is often times more fun with friends.

One World is sponsoring a series of Clean Ups that will take you to some places you probably don’t get to see every day. So! For those reasons mentioned above and more, let’s get together and clean up some really great places. I’ll post the dates, locations, and a short description below as well as the contact information so you can let us know if you would like to attend.

We will celebrate together and report our collective progress at Earth Day in the Fort Payne Rotary Pavilion where you can participate in a special Earth Day event in Fort Payne on April 23, 2015 that includes our 2nd annual Bicycle Parade, live music, green vendors, and great food!

Now, If you are on the fence about participating in an event like this, I have some loose facts (opinions, really) to aid in your decision making process. An imaginary study I made up confirms what most of us already know, “Doing good work in the community raises the quality of

living for everybody.” The study goes on to say, “Even if people might not recognize the direct impact of the project when it happens, they still get the benefit from it.” I was amazed. “I think it feels so good doing something fun with other wonderful people in our community,” said, a future participant. If that could be you, then sign up for these events!

February 20, 2016 - DeSoto Falls Basin Clean Up & Trail Work Day - In partnership with DeSoto State Park. Help remove debris from below the falls and blaze a trail! Working to arrange an airlift. Rugged, picturesque experience awaits seasoned hikers.

March 12, 2016 - Matheny’s Bridge on South Sauty Creek is a tributary to Lake Guntersville- an historic site that many people visit in the summer. The area is heavily used and there is a need to clean up an old dump site. Rain date - March 12

March 26, 2016 - Fort Payne Reservoir/Wills Creek - Help the awesome crew at Fort Payne Water Board protect your drinking water! Reservoir and Wills Creek clean up - Volunteers will remove litter from the reservoir shoreline, roadsides, and bridge near the FP Water Treatment Plant. Rain Date - April 2

April 9, 2016 - Morgan’s Cove on Lake Guntersville - Volunteers will clean up boat launch area and nearby hiking trail. Some participants will paddle out to collect trash that is floating along the riverbanks. Rain Date-- April 16

If you have questions or would like to participate, contact Angie at One World Adventure by calling 256-634-8370, on the web, angie@oneworldadventureco.org or find us on facebook to like and share our page!

THE VISITOR

By Doug Kiker

He came to our door.
I think it was a quarter past four.
Said he was almighty hungry
hadn’t eaten in days
then he slump to the floor.

Mother soon had warmed beans and bread
and spooned it down
while Grandpa held his head.
She managed to feed him just a bit,
Then there came a great sigh...
we thought he was dead.

But no, there was labored breathing,
then a quilt and blanket was his bed.
He was ragged and dirty,
I remember that his hair was red.
Not natural looking, more like ink instead.

How long he did sleep, I don’t know.
Mother made me go on to bed.
Sometime in the night, I awoke with a bad feeling,
I dreamed he was dead.

The morning came, I tiptoed to see
and there he was sitting up and grinning at me.

Daddy thought he might be some kind of retard,
had found his backpack out in the yard.
It, too, was dirty and worn
and had mended places where it had been torn.
There was reason to believe he had traveled far.
Stranger, yet, strapped to that pack was a battered, old guitar.

He grew stronger. Mother’s care was bringing him back,
In a few days, we were amazed in more ways than one,
he not only could walk, but that old guitar...WOW...
he could make it talk.

It was first upside down, then sideways.
He talked and laughed with us,
and unlike many, he did not cuss.
Mother washed and mended his clothes
although he told her not to fuss.

Then, one day, he was gone,
but in our hearts he planted a song.
Mother said he was probably an angel,
sent to ease our pain, in poverty’s way,
and who am I different to say?







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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



704
This 4,000 sq. ft. brow home on 7.5 acres is suited for private home or bed&breakfast. 6 BR's w/private BAs & exterior doors. Common area w/rock FP & industrially-equipped kitchen. \$499,000. MLS #1018579



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.



1400
COZY MENTONE CABIN! 2BR/1BA, open kitchen & living room, rock fireplace, covered front porch & partial back deck, hot tub, newly renovated, view of adjoining lake and so much more! \$97,000. MLS #1028831



624
Owl's Roost! Adorable cabin on wooded lot, furnished with brass bed and country antiques. \$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/2BA 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



502
2BR/2BA off Desoto Pkwy. near Mentone & DSP. Amenities include kitchen apps, breakfast area, new central HVAC, HW floors, ceramic baths, bonus room & Studio/Guest House. \$159,900. MLS #1029563.



908
Little River/Lake Lahusage/Mentone! East Fork of Little River, cottage has FP, wood floors, P&B ceiling in living area, NEW porch, deck, some doors & windows, HVAC, dock, walkway, fence, paint! Most furn. remains! \$225,000. MLS #1019742



910
NEAR LITTLE RIVER CANYON. 3BR/3BA log cabin w/lake, wood floors/walls/ceilings, open living/dining/kitchen, rock woodburning FP, screened porch, deck, loft/basement/gameroom. \$249,500. MLS #1017450.



610
HANDCRAFTED WOODWORK throughout this 2BR/2BA mountain home. Great room w/ cathedral ceiling, full front & back porches, lge utility room all on a wooded lot. Located in laurel Creek Lakes w/ access to 3 lakes & walking trails. \$174,500. MLS #1017650.



619
LIVE & PLAY ON THE WATER! 200' of frontage on East Fork of Little River featuring 3BR 2BA, rock floors, some carpet, all appliances, WB fireplace, & storage building. Call for more details. \$239,900. MLS #902940.



618
BROW PROPERTY! 2BR/1BA home on 2.3 +/- acres. Lots of wood features inside the house, enclosed porch and more. \$209,000. MLS #1015755.



707
Cabin overlooking the water features pine walls & floors, vaulted 23' ceilings and fireplaces. Enjoy your own relaxing paradise w/plenty of Mountain Laurels and rocks. Built to preserve the property's natural beauty. \$495,000. MLS #1019610

LOTS AND LAND

#1026589 - LIBBY LANE. .49 acres West Fork Little River. \$162,000.
#1027934 - 4.42 ACRES on River Lane, W. Fork Sub. \$29,900.
#945265 - 1 ACRE LOT in Hidden Lake Sub. \$50,000.
#1014183 - 1.5 ACRES. Brow Lot on CR 89. \$124,900.
#1011734 - .69 ACRE wooded lot on Brush Creek. \$27,900.
#392849 - 4.40 ACRES on Brow in Mentone. \$190,000.
#762331 - 1.02 ACRE lot in Hidden Lake Sub. \$40,000.
#656265 - 7+ WOODED ACRES in Mtn. River Estates. \$41,000.

#665968 - 1 ACRE LOT in Hidden Lake Sub. \$40,000.
#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.
#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 Mountain River Estates. \$48,900



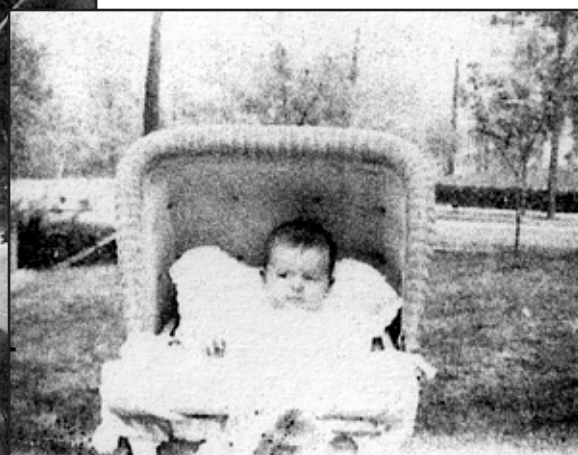
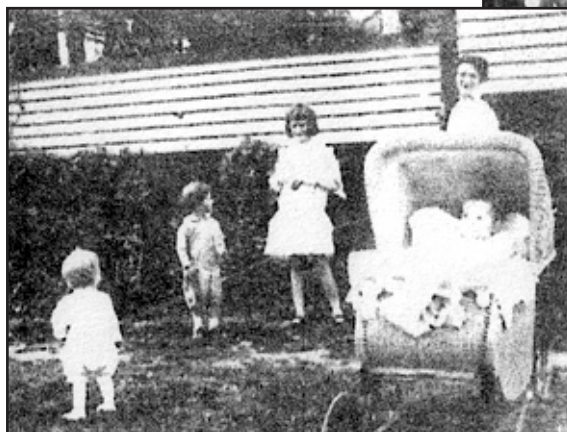
104
4-acre retreat in Mentone. Vaulted ceiling great room, 2-3 BR (or 2 BR w/office), 2 tile baths, and lge laundry room. Wood walls & floors, fireplace, wrap-around porch, garage/workshop. Convenient to downtown. \$225,000. MLS#1034271.

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Reflections of By-Gone Days

(Continuation of notes from a 100-year-old journal)

Flora Caldwell Orr Lathrop, writer of the 1915 journal, lived from 1185 to 1958. She was married to William Romeyn Lathrop. Her mother was Lillian Milner Orr who was the daughter of John T. Milner. After going to California for the San Francisco gold rush, John T. Milner settled in Alabama in 1852. He laid out some of the first railroad lines that ran across Alabama. As a railroad engineer, he was the principal player in choosing the site of the City of Birmingham, based on his assessment of the strategic resources and transportation advantages of Jones Valley in Alabama. It is due to his rail line that Birmingham was brought into existence. Milner represented Jefferson County in the Alabama Senate for eight years. He was the one of the most conspicuous



figures in the creation of Birmingham.

Flora's father Cyrus Pitman Orr was from Ontario Canada and had French ancestors.

They lived in Birmingham, but purchased a home and some acreage in Mentone where Libby Farm is located today. The Orr family enjoyed the cool refreshing air of the mountain. Philippe, Flora's grandson

continues to come to Mentone several times a month, as often as his busy schedule allows. The relaxed atmosphere and beautiful scenery allow him to escape from the demands of his office in Birmingham where he is a lawyer. There were seven daughters in the Orr family so the name was not carried on, but there are still descendants in the area. Many visit, some live here, and some are buried in the area. Philippe can recall the

old train station. In the days when his great-grandfather would have been visiting, they probably rode the train up from Birmingham then took a horse and buggy up the mountain to the home not far from the brow.

In Flora's journal, she did very little writing during the slow winter months. She filled the space with lineage notes, a recipe for grape wine, and miscellaneous photos from various times throughout the year. Stay tuned for more...

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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)

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)

LAKEFRONT LOT; pleasant walking paths & a common area with gazebo for special events. One-acre lot; 139' lake frontage. Restricted, gated community. Adjacent to Little River Canyon Nat'l Preserve. \$40,000. (1023260)

DOWNTOWN MENTONE lot. Remnants of the old stone foundation and hand-dug root cellar still in place. Septic tank of unknown condition also on property. Commercial or residential possibilities! \$39,000. (765396)

2 WOODED ACRES with a tiny little rustic cabin & 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 weekend getaway. \$45,000. (1034503)

257' FRONTAGE ON WEST FORK, Little River. 2.83 acres, lightly restricted, private. Rhododendron, mountain laurel, sandy riverside bank. Water meter already in place, adjacent lot also available. Own your own piece on Mentone...riverside! \$50,800. (1032895)

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)

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)

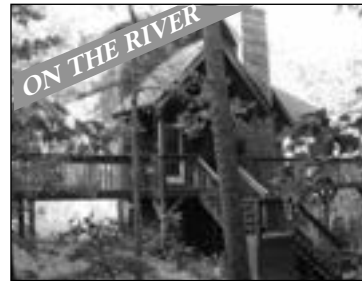
WOW! Build your dream home with a view! 3-acre building lot overlooking beautiful Weiss Lake. Already cleared & ready to build upon with mature trees left for shade, utilities at the road. \$40,000! (1026014)



APPLE ORCHARD, PEAR TREES, 2BR/1.5BA board-n-batten home situated perfectly on 30 acres. Enjoy open living space, a bright kitchen, all appliances, fireplace, and a tin-kettle on the stove. On the property is an antique wood-burning stove, vaulted ceiling & bath completes this fantastic country retreat! \$155,000 (1019046)



CASUAL MOUNTAIN ELEGANCE of an "old" downtown Mentone brow-front cottage, expanded and updated. Standing-seam metal roof; vinyl "cedar shake" siding; composite deck; "smart" system to control utilities when you're away; 3 spacious BR; 2 BA. Gorgeous kitchen! Stone, masonry fireplace. Quaint white picket fence. Right at brow park and so close to everything Mentone. \$299,900 (1022983)



CHALET-STYLE CABIN on Middle Fork, Little River. 2640 sq ft; stone, WB Fplce; pine floors; high-end windows & doors; gas range w/elec oven; 3BR/3BA+loft 4thBR; on-demand hot H2O. Screened porch, covered deck. Three levels, incl walkout basement guest suite. Bluff areas & an intriguing wet-weather stream bed w/fabulous stones, ledges & multiple falls; then on to beautiful Little River. 3.81 acres. \$265,000 (1019875)



WALNUT COTTAGE. Downtown Mentone. 2BR/2BA. From the studs to the rafters & everything in between, this is a new house. Hardwood floors, stainless appliances, vaulted ceiling, quality fixtures, custom-designed interior & exterior. The perfect Mentone getaway or home. Beautiful landscaping, screen porch, fenced back yard & new deck w/pergola. \$148,000 (1023749)



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 Fplce; wood floors; all appliances. \$149,900 (1001006)



SWEET CABIN, TUCKED INTO THE WOODS w/front & back porches & small, covered balcony. Cedar siding & metal roof. Spacious great room w/mtn stone Fplce (gas logs), pine floors throughout. Local poplar on main-level MABR walls. 2nd BR upstairs w/small room used as 3rd BR. Great getaway or rental. Most furnishings stay. Almost an acre. \$164,500 (1030655)



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)



HOME ON 3.31 ACRES with detached guest quarters that could be used as an office, classroom or business. 1-level home; 3BR/2BA; spacious KIT; LR w/mtn stone Fplce (fitted w/gas logs); large sunroom (currently used as office by owner). Plenty of room to build whatever you're needing. If gardening is your thing, the land has great drainage & sun exposure for crops/fruit trees, etc. \$165,000 (1030378)



PRE-CIVIL WAR-ERA LOG CABIN w/additions, plus 2 add'l income-producing, small cabins. Main cabin has 2BR (one is a loft)/2BA; kitchen & dining area; huge living area divided by a Mountford-style fireplace. Fantastic stone work inside & out: fireplace, sidewalks, patio, etc. Handhewn logs & beams. Screened porch. 2-car carport. Stone garden waterfall & ponds. 3 cabins on approx 1.2 acres. \$197,000 (1014789)



TALL MEADOW RUE. A new cottage with an enchanting "old world" look & feel. Details, details, details! English chimney pots; transom doors; tall windows; stained glass; craftsmanship in stone & brickwork; arched entry & front door; curved lines; storm room; custom cabinetry & quartz counters; antique mantel & brick fplce w/bookshelves both sides. Main-level bath with clawfoot tub. Professionally-landscaped gardens w/fishpond, tea house, lighting & tiny chapel. A place words fail to adequately describe; Exquisitely furnished, with most items to remain with cottage. \$375,000 (1031360)



SPACIOUS LOOKOUT MTN HOME on 6 acres adjoining a nature preserve (w/state park-maintained biking/hiking paths). 3BR/3BA; completely renovated in 2013 & still looks like new! Every room has space seldom found, always appreciated! Open kitchen/dining; counters & cabinetry galore! Private, main-level master suite with its own deck & screened porch, plus a room-sized closet. So much more! Just listed for \$235,000 (1035584)

Rhododendron Garden Club

By Mellanie Tuttle

The Rhododendron Garden Club met on Tuesday, January 12 at the MERF House. The meeting was called to order by President Martha Wood. Pledge of allegiance to the United States of America flag followed, and the Meditation was presented by Dianne Kuehl – a funny and specific prayer to God entitled “A Gardner’s Prayer” by K.M.C. Chod. All enjoyed refreshments provided by Hostess, Marsha Merrell.

Committee reports were given; old and new business was discussed. Anatole France says, “When a thing has been said well, have no scruple. Take it and copy it.” Thanks to Brenda Cox for recording the minutes and emailing copies of the handouts! “To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.” Here’s to plagiarism and research!

The program for this meeting, entitled “Winter is For the Birds,” was led by Marsha Merrell. A very interesting slide show was shown with information on housing, feeding, and general care (planting and planning) for our fine feathered friends. A two-page handout was provided presenting seasonal tips and food sources for the local fowl.

For winter feeding of birds, preparation should be started in the fall when birds begin to migrate. Feeders should be placed in spots near shrubbery or trees for bird safety, but should also be easily accessible for refilling. Seed dispensers for songbirds, suet containers for winter energy, and ground

feeders for those heftier birds will offer food to a variety of feathered friends. Check feeders daily, and continue feeding once begun. Clean the feeders regularly. (With all the rain in Mentone this fall, our sunflower seed feeder was sprouting!)

In spring, bird numbers may decrease with natural food sources emerging. Stop suet feeding in late March, and continue seed feeding until April. During the nesting season in May, replace seeds with twine, wool or string for nest building. Summer feeding is not necessary but water is essential. Providing a birdbath can be a lifesaver and entertaining as well.

Plant the garden with birds in mind. Ruby-throated hummingbirds are attracted to flowering bushes (hibiscus, azalea), vines (trumpet, honeysuckle), and flowers (salvia, hollyhocks, foxglove, phlox, bee balm). Tree fruit sources could be dogwood, junipers, hawthorn, mulberry, blueberry, and elderberry. Pines, shrubs, fir and hemlocks provide both seed and cover for our feathered friends.

To me, the garden is a doorway to other worlds: one of them, of course is the world of birds. The garden is their dinner table, bursting with bugs, and worms and succulent berries. Anne Raver

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 9 at 10 AM at the MERF House. Mason bees will be the topic and Martha Wood will be the speaker. Join us for a mason bee house encounter of the best kind!

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.

“Gardener’s Prayer”

By: Karel Matej Capek Chod,
Czechoslovakia (1860 -1927)

O Lord, grant that in some way
it may rain every day,
Say from about midnight until three o’clock
in the morning,
But, You see, it must be gentle and warm
so that it can soak in;
Grant that at the same time it would not rain on
campion, alyssum, helianthus, lavender, and
others which
You in Your infinite wisdom know
are drought-loving plants-
I will write their names on a bit of paper
if you like-
And grant that the sun may shine
the whole day long,
But not everywhere (not, for instance, on the
gentian, plantain lily, and rhododendron)
and not too much;
That there may be plenty of dew and little wind,
enough worms, no lice and snails, or mildew,
and that once a week thin liquid manure and
guano may fall from heaven.

Amen.

Cloudmont (cont’d from page 1)

so there are no definite open and closed days, but up until mid-March, every day that Mother Nature cooperates, there is snow at Cloudmont. The season has been anywhere from 12 to 96 days long, so be sure to take advantage of it when the weather is cooperative.

Jack has passed on but Olive still lives on the resort, which is operated by family, with additional help as needed. Gary, their son, is the resident manager who makes the snow and takes care of all the maintenance on the slopes, as well as Saddle Rock Golf Course (aptly named for the first tee off point, which is elevated 30 feet over the fairway). Daughter Janis Jones-Carrier oversees the lodging and welcomes the guests to the resort. Another daughter, Marsha Jones Hair, is the ski manager, doing a little bit of everything including equipment rental; her son, Doug Jr., is a ski board technician. The skis that cannot be repaired, he “recycles” into benches for guests to sit on- once guests realize they are for use, not just for looks. Doug Sr. is retired now, but was one of the first snow makers for Cloudmont; then, he was the director for over twenty years. Todd Davis is one of the helpers from outside the family, but introduced his own family to the unique establishment. His brother, Mark, was impressed enough to do a documentary

about Cloudmont which showed at film festivals in both Birmingham and Chattanooga telling the history of Cloudmont Ski and Golf Resort, Saddle Rock Golf Course, and Cloudmont Camp for Boys (which was sold in the 80s and became Saddle Rock Camp and is now Riverview Camp for Girls).

There is a lot of diversity at the eight hundred acre resort complex- something for everyone, any day of the year. Local people often take advantage of the ski slopes on the cold days, but so do people from Puerto Rico, Louisiana, Miami, and many other places. Recently, a few ladies from New Jersey were doing a bucket list crossing off ski slopes all over the country. Also, a man from New York was on a fundraising mission to “Ski for Vets” hitting all the slopes in the US. That motto hits home with many people in Mentone who like to give and help. Furthermore, Cloudmont is a good example of what Mentone is about- making the best of what nature has to offer. If you aren’t sure if the weather is cool enough for the

slopes to be open, look on the internet or just head on out. There will be plenty to do. Besides, it’s Alabama; the weather will change soon! If you are like Mark Davis and myself, wondering what would make someone build a ski resort in Alabama, the answer is... for the love of Mentone. The beauty and atmosphere of the mountain speaks to many and draws them in, convincing them this is home.

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Sage Advice: A Fruitful Spring

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

I know many of us have cabin fever after having been confined to our homes for the last few days due to the cold and rain, so I have some suggestions for you gardeners to prepare for spring and give you something to do besides watching TV.

February weather in Georgia and Alabama can be quite nice, some days. On these teaser days, get outside and prepare your landscape for the beauty of spring. If you did not clean your beds last fall, remove all dead and fallen tree branches and rake those leaves into your mulch pile or till them into your vegetable plot to feed the soil. Prepare your garden area now, so that all you have to do is plant later.

Now is a good time to think about fruit and nut trees. Ask your local garden center when fruit trees will be arriving and, to be sure you get what you want, place your order now. Peaches require much more care than other fruit, so perhaps you can choose easier ones such as blueberries, raspberries, blackberry, or fig. Apple trees need a good pollinator, such as red or yellow delicious apple. Some pears do not need a pollinator. Just check with your local garden expert as to which fruits and nuts need a pollinator to produce their fruit.

Pruning of grape vines can be done now. Prune back the long stems to two buds on each stem. Rest assured that these two buds will provide enough growth to produce many grapes. For raspberry and blackberry plants, remove the dead brown canes to make room for the new green ones and tie them to your trellis. Blueberry plants tend to have one or two tall stems in the middle of the shrub. Remove them in February, but leave those within picking distance. The other branches will more than



make up for the removed ones with many berries. Some good varieties for north Georgia and Alabama are Brightwell, Climax, and Premier. We have grown these for many years, and they are very reliable.

Should we have a hard freeze in February after figs have started budding, cover the bush with a layer of black plastic, anchoring it with rocks or boards? However, be sure to remove the plastic in the morning to prevent burning. The sun can cause the temperature to rise rapidly under plastic.

To prevent the underground nematodes from invading your garden vegetables, till the bed when it is cold and windy. Many of the pests will be killed from the exposure to the winter elements. Adding organic matter to the garden as you till will also deter the nematodes.

Have I filled your free time during these winter months? If so, your garden should be plentiful, your exercise will be beneficial to your health, and your landscape will be magnificent come spring. Oh, yes, now is also the time to plant your perennials and ornamental shrubs so they will be ready for their colorful presentations this year.

Mentone: Ever Changing, Always Charming

By Kacy Corsentino

Over the years, Mentone has continually maintained the reputation of being a charming and quaint town. It has always upheld a tranquil, peaceful setting. In the past few years, Mentone has embraced an opportunistic growth that has positively affected the town as a whole.

Prior to moving her family here, my grandmother first came to Mentone in 1978. The word she thought suited it best at the time was "quiet." She was very fond of the town for lacking the hustle and bustle of a big city. She said tourism was very low and very few restaurants were open. The camps were still booming, but everything was quite peaceful.

In the past 38 years, my grandmother witnessed Mentone undergo a few changes since that day in 1978. More restaurants are available, and tourism has grown immensely. The festivals are bigger than they have ever been; Rhododendron Festival, Julyfest, and Colorfest have grown drastically and have become more popular with each passing year.

There are more activities now, which make it easy to be involved in the community. My grandmother pointed out how Mentone is even more of an "artsy" town now. This has been noted by several tourists, resulting in an abundance of rental/vacation homes.

This growth has really been beneficial for Mentone. The community has grown, and the town is reaping the positive results. Despite all this growth and change, my grandmother and I did agree that one thing would always stay the same; Mentone will always be a charming safe haven.

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Visitors to Mentone

My name is Fred Ross III, and I am a Professor of Law at Handong International Law School in Pohang, South Korea. We recently visited Section and the Mentone area of north Alabama to give our students a tour of your beautiful area. We are from Alabama but have lived in Korea for almost four years. We are home for winter break and will return to Korea soon. Every winter, several of our law students receive an invitation to serve as legal interns with the Alabama Supreme Court. So, my wife Reneea and I picked the three Korean students up in Montgomery and the next day started our tour of north Alabama. We ate lunch at Guntersville State Park, and then Derrell Haney gave us a beautiful tour of the bluff area around Section. When we left Section, we headed to Desoto State Park. From Desoto back to Birmingham. All in all, the students thoroughly enjoyed north Alabama. The students fell in love with the people, the food and the natural beauty. The students were thrilled with the spectacular views and friendly people that we encountered. We all had a great time.



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GRANDVIEW - A lovingly restored mountain classic in Mentone offering 7 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 1 gourmet kitchen, and 1 summer kitchen. Fabulous wood floors, ceilings, and walls, and take your pick between two cozy fireplaces on the first floor! Bask in the beauty of the sights from the wonderful porches that offer unequalled views! Also on the grounds is Sunset Rock, an historic landmark that offers more incredible views across the valley. \$650,000



LITTLE RIVER! One of the few properties available on Little River near Desoto State Park and Mentone. This cabin offers wood burning fireplace, 2 bedrooms, vaulted wood ceilings, and a screened rear porch. Rock formations, wooded lot, and river front is a one-of-a-kind in Mentone! Dock area is already in place on the river. \$179,900