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THE GROUNDHOG

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

Volume 34, No. 3

"Neighborhood News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

March 2015

THE STUDENTS ARE COMING! THE STUDENTS ARE COMING!

By Ray Padgett

Second year students and faculty members from the University of Auburn School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Design will descend on Mentone March 9, 2015 to gather background information for creating their concept of our proposed Mentone Arts and Cultural Center. Associate Professor Justin Miller leads the students in the school's yearly Alabama Wood Competition Project in which the students create their design concept for the center. Practitioners and faculty will judge student architectural concepts and the finalists will present their designs to our MACC Board of Directors.

We are honored and lucky to have such a renowned group of young, creative talent working on our project. Past Alabama Wood



Competition Projects include a 12,000 square-foot branch library in the mill town of Bibb City, Georgia (2013) and a new museum and learning center at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Garden in Prattville, Alabama (2012). The Alabama Forestry Association has sponsored this competition for almost 50 years.

These students (approximately 60 of them) will arrive around 10:30 in the morning and depart around 3:30 in the afternoon. While here, their purpose is to visit different sites and buildings in the Mentone area and to meet and talk with local citizens. The MACC Board is currently making a schedule for the students. If you have any suggestions or ideas please let one of our board members know.

Get ready--it will be a whirlwind visit.

Immortal Wildlife

By Sandra Padgett with Betsy Scott

Carl McClesky and Betsy Scott are a husband and wife sculpting team who live on Lookout Mountain in Cloudland, Georgia. They moved from Marietta, Georgia, in 1984 to a secluded tract of land that had been strip-mined. It needed reclamation and the enterprising couple began the task of restoring the land to its natural beauty. They planted thousands of trees, created ponds, and built a house and studio in the deep woods. For several years they had to generate their own electricity because the house was so secluded. The setting is naturally beautiful and alive again. Wildlife run, fly, and swim throughout the land.

They provided the wildlife (which includes deer, bobcats, foxes, rabbits, raptors, and rattlesnakes) with a healthy environ to live. The wildlife in return provides them with inspiration and fuels their creativity. Betsy Scott is a photographer whose portfolio includes some of the most stunning pictures of botanicals and



greenery. Her sculpting is so intricate and meticulous down to the eyelash of the animal she is creating. Carl McClesky's bronzes are magnificent. The husband and wife team have a list of life-sized and monumental sculptures that grace homes, zoos and museums all over the world.

So how did they get started down this path? Carl began sculpting and engraving wildlife images on black granite in the late 1980's. The Dean of the Library at Wofford University saw his work and set up a one man show for him there. His work blossomed. Due to demand, Betsy joined him in creating the larger works. The Audubon Nature Institute in New

Orleans commissioned them to sculpt a gorilla family. That family has grown to include mother baboon and baby, gazelle, a family of lions, a cheetah, and smaller animals and reptiles.

(cont'd on page 13)

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



On February 19, I attended an "Open House and Listening Session" at DeSoto State Park. Greg Lein, Director of Alabama's State Park System, and Ken Thomas, Superintendent of DeSoto State Park, hosted the meeting. Mr. Lein gave a brief history of the parks system and its overall mission. He also gave an overview of the parks budget and how they are funded. Most of us assume that our state parks are funded through taxpayer dollars. In reality our

state parks have to generate most of the revenue that supports the parks. Only a small part of the state parks revenue comes from taxes. Mr. Lein invited public input on how parks might create additional revenue in the future and also presented a variety of new concepts being considered at parks across the state to help create additional revenue. DeSoto State Park is an important part of tourism in DeKalb County. The park generates lodging and sales tax, and park visitors spend money all over the county. Ken and his staff are careful with every dollar while providing outstanding visitor services. Mr. Lein stated "Since Alabama's State Parks System was founded, Alabama's population has increased dramatically and the demand and use of our parks has also changed, which varies park-to-park." All of our state parks, particularly DeSoto State Park, deserve our thanks for allowing people to enjoy nature and the outdoors, and for preserving these beautiful areas for the enjoyment of future generations.

From The Editor

Roads...

We used to joke that Sandra and I had gypsy blood because we were on the road so much. Willie Nelson's "On the Road Again" was the theme song of our family. In part, I think it was because we loved the concept of roads. Roads connected us to places we wanted to see and new, interesting people. Even in the time when they were just trails for horses, people and wagons, they were the life-lines of community and country.

In 1941, when I was born (the first in my family to be born in a hospital - coincidentally the same hospital where Terry Hutcheson was born), all the country roads in my world were dirt roads. I think they first paved the road by our house in 1948. Needless to say most farm families didn't travel far. Mostly just to church on Sunday and to school, about four miles away, Monday through Friday. Roads back then were either muddy or dusty but always seemed to welcome friends and neighbors along their way.

Nowadays, roads are complex ribbons of concrete, asphalt and steel. High-speed interstate highways with dozens of traffic lanes cut through every big town in America. While they are great for travelers and commerce, I don't like 'em. They fray the nerves, dull the senses and wring the diversity out of our landscape. Yet, they are constantly expanding and ravaging some of our most pristine vistas.

Country roads are works of art that hug the hills and valleys and allow all to enjoy the diversity of nature up close and personal. While not many dirt roads remain, they are still my

favorite. Walking barefoot down a dirt road on a summer afternoon always brings thoughts of home. And as another musician, John Denver, so aptly sang "Country roads, take me home". Now, even though they are ribbons of asphalt and not as gentle as the dirt roads of my youth, at least they take me home to the place where I belong ... Mentone.

Ray Padgett, For the MAPA Board



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MAPA
P. O. Box 50
Mentone, AL 35984
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St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Sunday, March 15, the women of St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church will host the 3rd Annual St. Patrick's Day Traditional "Boiled Irish Dinner" in the church parish hall following morning worship. The first two years this event had neighbors from all over the mountain, especially worshipers from the other churches, who joined in the fun and feast of corned beef, potatoes, cabbage, cornbread, and dessert. Tickets are \$8.50 plus one canned food item. Proceeds from the event will go to the support of the St. Joseph's Food Bank Outreach Ministry.

All of the churches of Mentone support this outreach ministry with their gifts of money, food, and volunteers which has been vital in its success. "This has become a Community Outreach effort. We've been able to expand the Outreach Food

Ministry to include the children's "Backpack Snack" Program at Moon Lake Elementary School" said Liz Baker, Outreach Coordinator at St. Joseph's. This Program provides a bag containing two meals plus fruit and snacks that on Fridays is slipped into the backpacks of children in the greatest need as determined by the school staff.

Tickets for the St. Patrick's Day Traditional Dinner may be purchased from Marsha Merrell, Katie Ferguson, Kat Griffith, and Joan Byrum. Tickets will also be available at the Mentone Market and the church office. For more information call Joan Byrum at 256-635-8698.

Remember, on March 15th, wear a bit o' green and come eat some corned-beef and cabbage with us. Because on St. Paddy's Day everybody is Irish!



MENTONE NATIVE LEAVES LEGACY GIFT TO THE MOON LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMUNITY LIBRARY

During her life she was generous in giving, and now the legacy of Gladys Blalock Crane continues enriching her hometown of Mentone through perpetual financial gifts to the Moon Lake Elementary School Community Library and to the Mentone United Methodist Church. Her son, Taylor, has ensured the establishment of these gifts that will help sustain both local institutions.

After attending Moon Lake and Valley Head High School, Gladys graduated from the University of Alabama and then worked as a high school math teacher in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Through the years she would return to

Mentone each summer and hoist her University of Alabama flag so that family and friends would know she was in town.

Gladys was involved in Mentone's Rhododendron Garden Club, and she and her other son, Will, supported the Moon Lake's original computer lab with supplies and expertise. Known for her chocolate cakes, she loved hosting her two granddaughters in Mentone as often as possible. She passed away last June at the age of 84. The library board of directors is extremely grateful that Gladys' legacy will continue to be a vital part of its ongoing services provided for the people of Mentone.

Moon Lake Community Library

**Warm Weather Hours
Return in March!**

Hours:

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3:00-6:00

Saturdays, 9:00-12:00

WELCOME

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

**Bill Berry, Tom Emory,
Barbara Stoll**

Sign Up for MAAC's Artist Registry



The Mentone Area Arts Council is reorganizing and updating its Artist Registry located at www.mentonearts.org. If you are a member in good standing and you are involved in some kind of arts--visual arts, performing arts, book arts, etc. please let us know about yourself. Simply send us an artist bio containing about five to six sentences, the contact information you wish to publish and a photo of your work, and we will gladly include you in the Artist Registry. The Registry lets everyone know that you are a valued member of the Mentone Area Arts Council. It also lets

By Beverly Bates

everyone know what kind of art you do and serves as a clearing house for folks looking for certain types art, music, etc. We hope the Artist Registry will be an important "go-to" tool for members and non-members alike to help facilitate multiple opportunities. The Registry will be promoted through social media.

If interested, simply contact Beverly Bates at bjbates@bellsouth.net. Not a member? Simply go to www.mentonearts.org to become one.

Member Highlight: Judy Rathel of White Elephant Galleries

by Joyce Hoffman, MBA Member



It's been one year since Judy Rathel and two guests in the first-floor lobby of the Mentone Springs Hotel heard a loud popping noise and saw smoke coming from upstairs. That was the start of one of the largest and most devastating fires ever seen in Mentone. Within hours, both the hotel and the White Elephant Galleries were completely destroyed. Judy was the general manager of the 130-year-old hotel at that time and had been operating the White Elephant for over 18 years. At the time of the fire, the White Elephant displayed products from 15 area artisans in the two-story, 24-room structure. A little over two months after the fire, Judy was able to re-open the White Elephant in a house on the Scenic Highway, just North of the hotel site. She again has a variety of arts and crafts, plus a collection of antiques and a few items that were rescued from the fire.

Even now, a year after the fire, Judy still comes close to tears when talking about the fire. For Judy, losing those two buildings was much like losing a good friend or a member of her family. On the night of the fire, Judy was already getting ready to retire for the evening and had just stopped in the lobby to chat with two newlyweds that were staying at the hotel. They were two of the eight guests at the hotel that night. When they heard the popping sound and saw the smoke, the gentleman ran upstairs and tried to put the fire out with a

fire extinguisher, but it had already gotten out of control. They were extremely lucky to get all of the guests out of their rooms and safely outside and, thanks to the prompt response of the fire department, Mentone was also a bit lucky that the fire didn't spread beyond these two buildings. Had it jumped to either the Mentone Inn or the Log Cabin Village, the entire town might have been in danger. Judy says that the firemen showed up within minutes and did all they could, but that the fire was just too strong to be suppressed.

Judy first came to Mentone in 1997 from the Boaz area. Although originally from southwest Georgia, she and her former husband had been living in Boaz through the 90s. They had gotten into the business of buying storage units, then selling the contents at yard sales. Nancy Smith, a good friend of Judy's, had told her about Mentone and what a pleasant little town it was. So, on one occasion when they were delivering some horses near Mentone, they decided to go check out the town. It didn't take long for them to decide to move here and Judy got a job managing the White Elephant. The buying and selling of antiques and local arts and crafts fit right in with her experience dealing in the items she had been finding in their purchased storage units.

Jim Rotch had owned the property since 1976. When Judy met Jim in 1997, he was actually looking for a caretaker for his farm in Pumpkin Center, but then he and Judy decided to open the White Elephant Antiques and Gifts with Judy managing it. In 2010, Jim also purchased the hotel and in 2012, Judy took over management of both properties. By early 2014, Judy, Jim, and his wife Darlene had made a multitude of improvements, including reviving the Rusty Fox Pizza Pub in the hotel's basement, creating an art gallery in the upstairs, offering picnic lunch specials, renting bicycles, and many cosmetic improvements within the hotel. They were in the process of planning some great events in 2014 to commemorate the 130th anniversary of the hotel. Nobody could

have imagined that all of this would be so abruptly destroyed, with all their accomplishments going unrewarded and their plans unfulfilled.

During her 18 years in Mentone, Judy has seen the fortunes of our downtown businesses rise and fall several times. She says that some of the best times were when a local man set up a Mentone billboard on northbound Interstate 59, just South of exit 231. The billboard was up for two years and she says there was a very noticeable increase in tourist business, with many visitors saying they had no idea the town was here until they saw our billboard. There was an effort made to find funding to keep the billboard up after that, but no person or group stepped up to make the investment. At our MBA meetings, we've discussed the possibility of finding a way to erect a billboard, but haven't been able to take any action on that project yet. When asked what she considers most important when operating a business in Mentone, Judy said that she thinks it's to pick the days and hours that you plan to be open and then stick to them. She's heard many complaints over the years from visitors that come to Mentone, expecting businesses to be open during their advertised hours, only to find them closed. She recommends that if you say you're going to be open Friday through Sunday, then you should be if at all possible, regardless of what happens with the weather or how many people do or don't come to shop.

After you've picked your hours and are sticking to them, then the only advice Judy has is to be happy. She is happy and she loves Mentone, and hopes to be part of the town and its development for many more years.

Our next MBA meeting is the 3rd Monday of March, the 16th, from 6:00 to 7:00 and you're all invited. It will likely be at the MERF House, but check MBA.MyMentone.com to make sure. As we say every month, join us, contribute your ideas, and help us help the local businesses to be as successful as possible.

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THE HISTORY OF MENTONE

By Will Dillard

Many of the residents of Mentone know some of the history of the area, especially related to the Mentone Springs Hotel. But many of the new residents and the occasional visitor might not know how Mentone came to be settled, named and the history of the area before and after the building of the Mentone Springs Hotel.

In a series of articles to be published in the upcoming issues of *The Groundhog*, I will attempt to provide historical anecdotes and maybe provide some new information to the many Mentone residents who know some of the story.

The First Settlers

After the forced removal of the Cherokees from the area in 1838 settlers began moving in and establishing homesteads. Around 1850 Robert Vernon built a cabin on Lookout Mountain near the intersection of Alabama Highway 117 and County Road 89. A portion of this cabin is still visible near the center of St. Joseph's on the Mountain Episcopal Church.

The early settlers were attracted to the area due to reports of mineral springs, primarily with iron, that was believed to have medicinal properties, especially for stomach and intestinal problems. One would eventually become known as "Mineral Springs" and the other as "Beauty Springs".

The person who could be called the father

of Mentone was a man named John Mason. He was a native of New York City but had enlisted in the U.S. Calvary and served in the west and eventually became a wealthy wheat farmer in Iowa. After the death of his wife and two of his children during a typhoid epidemic he became ill and began looking for an area with good water and clean air.

He travelled around the South looking for just such a place. Historians say that during one of his trips he was told about the clean mountain air of Lookout Mountain and the mineral springs that held curative powers.

When he emerged from the train in Valley Head he was struck by the beauty of the mountain. In 1872 Mason and his 12 year old daughter, Alice, traveled to the top of Lookout Mountain and settled.

After living in several different communities he finally settled near Moon Lake and built a Victorian Style home and elegant barn. Once he and his daughter had settled Mason remarried. Eventually he convinced his two sons, Ed and Henry to also settle in the area. It was not until

Ed, a surveyor, designed a layout for the town and began promoting the area that the town became known.

He printed ads in the New York Times and brochures that told of the curative powers of the



mineral springs and the mountain air. One of the people Ed encouraged to come and check out the area was Dr. Franklin Caldwell, a New York City physician.

In 1884 Dr. Caldwell came to stay with the Masons. He was so impressed with the region that he stayed and in the summer of 1884 he purchased the mineral springs and land nearby to begin the construction of a health resort. In the next article: The naming of the town and the building of the Mentone Springs Hotel.

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Remember When . . .

By Angie Carden

The cover of The Groundhog in the 1989 February-March edition housed an article titled "The Alabama Reunion-1989 Look Homeward, Alabamians"?

The article read, "On Nov. 18, 1987, the Alabama Reunion became a reality. Governor Guy Hunt extended an invitation to the nation to join him in a year of homecoming whose main goals include the renewal of friendships and the making of new ones. The 1986 legislative resolution sponsored by state Senator Earl Hilliard of Birmingham and Representative Yvonne Kennedy of Mobile called for 'a year long celebration established and planned as a statewide program to promote pride of heritage and the common bond of kinship shared by all Alabamians.'

Alabamians are called to look homeward to their places of birth, to memories of the sun-drenched fields and cool mountains and warm beaches, to times of hope and love and growing like weeds in the fertile soil of this place, to 'a new and unified definition of ourselves...young and old, black and white, rural and urban.'

The Alabama Reunion is organized through Mayors, County Commissioners, and Civic Leaders at the local level. There are now more than 300 committees throughout the state who are busily planning festivities in celebration of the state and its attractions."

The article also stated that, "There are three primary projects that are the thrust of



left to right - Senator Lowell Barron, Groundhog Editor Mickey Strickland and Governor Guy Hunt

the reunion: PRIDE- anti-litter campaigns, beautification projects, roadside planting projects, student awareness programs and more. PRESERVATION- preservation of family and community and family history, preserving old buildings and landmarks. PROGRESS- organizing economic development teams to recruit new industry and help solve problems facing existing industry."

In it's conclusion, you would have read, "The Alabama Reunion is meant to bring old friends together so that they might renew ties that bind in common fellowship and shared interests. It is hoped the year-long celebration will remain in the hearts of Alabamians long

after the cheering has stopped. For to weave something lasting into the fabric of the history of the state is the best for which those who love Alabama can aspire...Alabama has extended a hand of friendship to those who will come; the welcome mat is out, and the lamp in the window glows with a special message of peace and homecoming for all. Let this year be a time of coming home to where the heart is, and in that journey, may each of us find the best and highest meaning in everything we do."

I found this article to be so inspirational and so true of the overall feeling of this great state we live in. Friendliness is around every corner here, and I have never wanted to live anywhere else. Alabama to me, is home and family. I hope you all will be inspired by this article as well.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

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THE
RECIPE CORNER
BY
ANGIE CARDEN

The Hope of Spring

With March finally here, after the February we had, I imagine that most of you are pining for Spring and the sounds of chirping birds! I must confess though, I am always sad to see winter go. Cozy fires, snow and hot cider... Awwww! Well, there's always next winter!

As we enter our new season, we will begin to see some tasty veggies that perhaps we've been missing. I do love the color of fresh veggies! And I'm sure many of us have missed our BBQ's!

I wish you all a gentle spring, and I hope you will enjoy my favorite recipe here for Cornbread Salad!

Cornbread Salad

You may use cornbread of your choice for this recipe. You will just need the size of a large iron skillet (that's the only way to bake cornbread in the south, right?!)

You will need 10-12 pieces of cooked and crumbled bacon, 2 cans of whole kernel corn, drained, 2 cans of pinto beans, drained, 2 medium tomatoes, diced, 1 medium onion, diced, and 1 bag of shredded cheese (any you like).

For the dressing you will mix together:
1 ½ c mayonaise, 1 ½ c sour cream and 1 envelope of Ranch dressing seasoning, and set aside.

Cut your cornbread in half and crumble ½ into a 13x9 casserole dish. Top with ½ of your corn, beans, tomatoes, onions, bacon, cheese and drizzle with ½ of your dressing.
Then repeat with another layer. You should end with cheese. I think it's best when chilled for a bit, but it's fine to just dig right in!

I must warn you, this one is fairly addictive!

Happy Spring! And Happy Cooking!

Angie

March Birthdays

- Mar 1 – Ally Smith
- Mar 1 – Jonathan Cuzzort
- Mar 2 – Jimmie Sue Beason
- Mar 2 – Dewayne Pierce
- Mar 3 – Kama Jade Blalock
- Mar 3 – Dawson Bone
- Mar 4 – Corey Ingram
- Mar 4 - Jeff Bain
- Mar 4 - Lance Woods
- Mar 4 – Clara Lee
- Mar 4 – Becky Stott
- Mar 5 - Ashley Gifford
- Mar 6 – Annabelle Grace Grider
- Mar 8 – Whitney Smith
- Mar 8 – Mayson Bailey
- Mar 10 – David Rape
- Mar 10 – Autumn Hulgan
- Mar 10 – Frances Day
- Mar 11 – Bo Hammond
- Mar 12 – Jeremy Hope
- Mar 12 – Krystal Johnson
- Mar 12 – Tommy Hairrel
- Mar 12 – Emily Allen
- Mar 13 – Josh Pullen
- Mar 13 – Kelsey Wade
- Mar 13 – Gracie Shank
- Mar 15 – In memory of Eugene Potts
- Mar 16 – Raymond Coots
- Mar 16 – Jesse Bone
- Mar 16 – Donnie Smith
- Mar 16 – Johnny Crider
- Mar 17 – Camden Bell
- Mar 18 – Sydney Johnson
- Mar 18 – Jeremy Henderson
- Mar 18 – Kendall Israel
- Mar 19 – Dean Freeman
- Mar 19 – Olivia Harrison
- Mar 20 – Zach Jones
- Mar 20 – Hobson Kirby
- Mar 21 – Mary J. Chambers
- Mar 21 – Paul Peppers
- Mar 22 – Kallie Ingram
- Mar 22 – Lue Smith
- Mar 22 – Jon Bain
- Mar 22 - Steve Patton
- Mar 22 – Robert Baker
- Mar 23 – Guy “Squeak” Smith
- Mar 23 – Wyatt McGee
- Mar 23 – Lori Manifold
- Mar 23 – Roberta Cash

- Mar 23 – Mason Atkins
- Mar 24 – Dylan Lee
- Mar 24 – Jimmy Phillips
- Mar 25 – Vickie Blackburn
- Mar 25 – Evelyn Graves
- Mar 25 – Skylar Haney
- Mar 26 – Anna Carden
- Mar 26 – Stephanie Worthey
- Mar 26 – Sandra Boehringer
- Mar 27 – Abby Davis
- Mar 28 – Holly Owen
- Mar 28 – Cindy Bethune
- Mar 29 – Sara Lee
- Mar 29 – In Memory of Sam Collins
- Mar 31 – Marlana Beasley
- Mar 31 – Lindsey Blalock
- Mar 31 – Chad Wooten

March Anniversaries

- Mar 3 – Darrin & Amanda Smith
- Mar 3 – Jimmy & Gaynell Worthey
- Mar 4 – In Memory of Coy & Betty Butler
- Mar 7 – Tommy & Ruth Battles (50th)
- Mar 8 – Garrett & Amanda Collins
- Mar 11 –Hobson & Martha Kirby
- Mar 18 –Rodney & Christine Ballenger
- Mar 19 – Tommy & Joan Harrison (50th)
- Mar 21 – Shaunathan & Abby Bell
- Mar 23 – Nicky & Tina Langston
- Mar 25 – Tommy & Christie Langston
- Mar 30 – Tylor & Hope Harrison

What To Do Around Here!

March 2015 Community Calendar

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

Mar 3 - 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. Headlamp and enthusiastic guide included. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.



Mar 4, 16, 24 - 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. Explore in one of NE Alabama's most unique all-weather caves, Manitou Cave, in the heart of Fort Payne. Adventure includes helmet, cave lamps plus a fun informative guide. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Mar 5 - Kamama Music Series. Rockin' blues with Larry Grisham. Dinner at 5:30pm cst and concert at 7pm cst. Admission is \$10 and seating is limited. Reservations recommended. 256-634-3001.

Mar 5-7 Rainsville Lions Club 30th Annual Rodeo. The Rainsville Lions Club will be hosting its annual rodeo at the NEAL Agri Business Center. The rodeo will consist of bareback riding, team roping, barrell racing and bull riding. Admission for adults is \$12, children \$7 & children 5 & under free. 256-638-1650.

Mar 6, 20 - Rock Climbing Adventure. Nestled in the NE corner of Alabama are



some of the best and unique sandstone cliffs in the country. 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.

Mar 7, 14, 26, 28 - Rappelling Adventure. Come experience the thrill of rappelling down the sheer sandstone gems of NE Alabama. No previous experience necessary. Each trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Mar 7 - Mad Science & Crazy Art. Mad science days may include chemical magic, special effects, bubbling potions, slimes, high-bouncing balls, while the crazy art days will include a mix of science into art for some crazy but beautiful artistic creations with buttons, strings, recycled materials, dirt paint and more! Kids ages 6-10 can put their hands into mad science and crazy art experiments hosted by the Canyon Center Gift Shop First Saturdays every ODD month. Little River Canyon Center; 11 a.m. to Noon; \$5 per child 256-782-5697.

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

Mar 11 - The Rhododendron Garden Club will have a workday at the MERF house. Bring gloves, tools, a bag lunch and lots of enthusiasm for weeding, raking and gardening fun!

Mar 11 - Treasure Hunt Adventure. Do you enjoy trying to solve riddles and clues? This 5-hour adventure will take you deep into the heart of Manitou Cave.

You will have to solve and follow each clue in order to find the next one, and ultimately the Treasure! TAS 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Mar 12 - Rock Climbing Adventure. Nestled in the NE corner of Alabama are some of the best and unique sandstone cliffs in the country. 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.



Mar 13, 25 - 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. Headlamp and enthusiastic guide included. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. 256-997-9577.

March 14 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 \$35 per ornament 256-523-3188.

Mar 14 - Basic Pine Needle Basketry. Class Learn the basics of pine needle basketry, an old craft with a long history. Join DSP staff and volunteers to learn the basic steps to making a coiled

basket from longleaf pine needles. Each participant will learn the basic skills of pine needle basketry and take home their very own creation. The art of coiling baskets is universally common to indigenous peoples. Coiling is the technique of creating baskets and art from pine needles and was a part of pre-Columbian Native American crafts. Today, pine needle baskets and art are made primarily for decorative purposes. All materials (pine needles, thread, and small center for basket) will be furnished. Class is for ages 12 to adult. DeSoto State Park Nature Center (Next to the Country Store). 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (Central Time Zone). Fee: \$20 supply fee - Payable to DeSoto State Park. Pre-registration required; class number is limited to 10. 256-997-5025.

Mar 14 - Homemade Bow Drill Set & Practice Bow Drill Class. Everything you need will be supplied to make your own bow drill set; Participants may bring their own full tang or rat tail knife. A few knives will be available on a first come first serve basis. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. DeSoto State Park Picnic Area \$20 supply fee. Pre-registration is required, 256-997-5025.



Mar 14, 20 - Night Zip Line Adventure. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before the adventure. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Mar 18-20 - Moon Lake Elementary School Beta Club Convention.

Mar 19 - Kamama Music Series. an intimate listening experience where live music can be fully appreciated. Admission is \$10 and seating is limited. Dinner at 5:30pm and music starts at 7 p.m. cst. Reservations recommended. 256-634-3001.

Mar 20-22 - Home & Garden Expo. Enjoy dozens of displays featuring

products for home improvement, gardening, housewares, recreation, etc. Northeast Alabama Agri-Business Center. Free admission. 256-638-1650.

Mar 21 - Paperweight Class. This class is designed for those who really just want see what molten glass is all about. Feel the heat, gather from the furnace, sculpt the glass into you own design. It is ultimately about the experience, some experimentation and a couple nice paperweights to take home or to the office to show your friends. Class size at the largest will be five students so everyone has adequate time at the bench working. There will be material provided before the class for you to review and become familiar with concerning safety and basic glassblowing vocabulary. Please join us for some in-depth discovery. Reservations Required \$135 per person. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 256-523-3188.

Mar 21 - Woodcarving Class. This bushcraft class will teach you the skill of woodcarving with a lesson on knife safety and proper use. You will learn how to make your own camping utensils and a

walking stick. 10am-3pm (bring bag lunch and personal water bottle) Desoto State Park, Fort Payne, Alabama -Picnic Pavilion 3. \$45 per person ages 12 and up. Pre-registration is required, as class size is limited. Register by calling 256-634-8370.

Mar 21 - Spring Quilt Show. Lawrence Center, Menlo, Georgia, 9am-3pm. Sponsored by the MHA Resident Society. General Admission \$3.00. Everyone invited. More information call Diane Mealer, 256-294-3663, or Glenda Hamilton, 706-862-2240.

Mar 22 - Tri-State Paper Crafting. Join us to learn, create and be inspired while crafting with papers, stamps, inks, punches, and die cuts. Let's celebrate Spring!! No experience needed. Kamama Gallery in Mentone AL 1:00-2:30. Reserve by noon Sat the 21st. Cost is \$5. To learn more or reserve a spot send an email to cottagepaper@bellsouth.net or call 205.349-4026.

Mar 23, 30 - Rock Climbing/Rappelling Adventure Combo. Nestled in the NE corner of Alabama are some of the best and unique sandstone cliffs in the country.



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.

Mar 27 - Orienteering Class. Basic yet essential skills for survival navigation are brought to you in map reading, compass readin g, and topography. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Mar 28 - 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. There is a minimum of

3 people and a maximum of 5 in each class. Reservations are required. 256-523-3188.

Mar 28 - Bunny-Palooza: Spring Fest for Children. Celebrate the season by visiting the Bunny Factory (where children are magically transformed into bunnies & learn all the basics: how to hop, decorate eggs, & more enchanting fun)! Children's Spring Art Show, storytelling, music, baby animals, bunny games, egg hunt with prizes, fairy tales, fairy houses workshop...a day your little bunny will NEVER forget! Little River Canyon Center 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free & open to everyone. Some programs may have limited space so pre-registration is encouraged. 256-782-5697.

Mar 28-29 - Backpacking 101. An early spring backpacking class. A great class for beginners. Topics on the backpacking essentials, camping items to choose and use, fire building, cooking, and more! Check in 2 p.m. on Saturday and check out 12 p.m. on Sunday. DeSoto State Park Nature Center; \$110 per person - includes all equipment and food. Ages 12 and up. Pre-registration is required, as class size is limited. 256-634-8370.

Ongoing Calendar

MAPA Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm at the MERF House in Mentone.

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

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

DeKalb Quilters meet every 4th Tuesday, 9:30am, Second Baptist Church in Fort Payne.

DeSoto Rescue Squad meets the 1st Saturday of the month at 9am at the MERF house in

Mentone.

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

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: Tuesdays, 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.

NPS Green & Gray Saturday every second Saturday of each month at the Canyon Center.

10am. Free. 256-782-5697.

Little River Canyon Center River Rhythms Nature & Art Family Fun Program every fourth Saturday from Jan-Oct. 1pm - 3pm; No Fee. Call Renee Morrison at 256-782-5697.

Valley Head School CHAMPS meet the first Monday of every month at 6pm in the Gym.

The Mentone Business Association (MBA) will meet the third 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.

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We Hope To Build Where You Hope To Live!

Mentone Rhododendron Festival -- May 16 & 17, 2015

By Ray Padgett



The sun will shine, a slight breeze will blow, and the temperature will cooperate--maybe low 70's. That is my prediction for this year's Rhododendron Festival.

Local musicians will fill the air with some of the worlds best invisible art--the Sounds of Mentone. Chefs and cooks and mamas and daddies will mix up some down home southern cookin' that will make your taste buds explode with springtime joy. Artists' and artisans' creations will fill Mentone with beauty only surpassed by Mother Nature.

Activities for our 2015 Rhododendron Festival will begin on Friday evening with the crowning of Miss Rhododendron. Music and a Fish Fry "under the tent" will begin our sounds and tastes provided during this year's festival. As always, music and food and lots of art will fill Brow Park and spill over throughout Mentone.

Plans for a "Low Country Boil" and music on Saturday night add to this year's culinary and listening pleasures. This will also be an outside, "under the tent" event.

A vendor exhibition application is included in this issue of The Groundhog. If you would like to sell your art or other "made by you" articles at this years festival please complete and mail application ASAP.



CALL FOR VENDORS
RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL 2015
MAY 16 & 17
\$75 FOR A 12' X 12' SPACE
APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MAY 1

Name_____

Address_____

City, State, Zip_____

Phone_____ 2nd Phone _____ E-mail_____

Website Address _____

Category (please circle): Artist Crafter Retailer Business Food

Please provide a complete list and description of art, craft, products, food _____

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

Other Special Needs_____

Number of Spaces_____ Amount enclosed_____

This year's Rhododendron Festival will be held all over Mentone, but the vendors will be located primarily at Brow Park. Show hours will be 9am-5pm Saturday and 11am-4pm Sunday. You may set up your space on Friday, May 15, 12-6pm or Saturday, May 16, 6:30-8:30am. Please be ready for the show to start at 9am. If you participate in the show, please plan to be set up for both days. You may break down beginning at 4pm on Sunday. Cars should be moved to the parking area after unloading.

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

You will be notified of your acceptance no later than May 4. Spaces will be assigned the week prior to the show, but please check in with the information tent when you arrive as space numbers can change. All spaces will be on a first come, first served basis, and no spaces can be reserved from show to show.

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

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



This Olde 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.

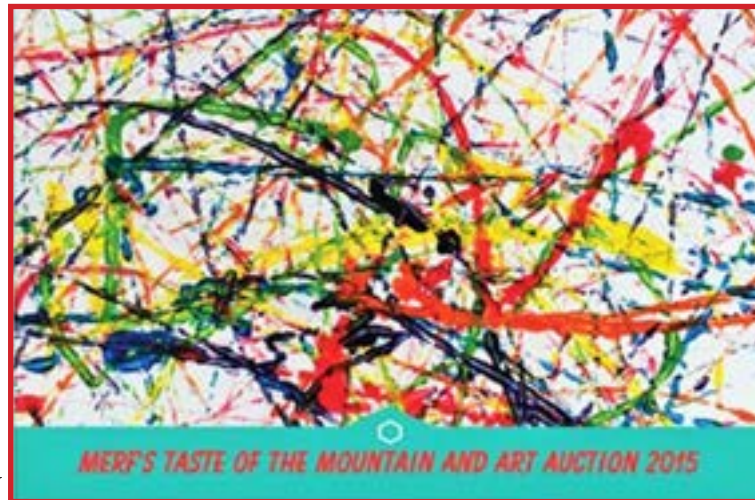
Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction benefitting Mentone Educational Resources Foundation

Join us for a night of great food creations provided by Mentone Area Restaurants and for amazing artwork for auction by Moon Lake Elementary School students and local artist friends of MERF.

Saturday, April 11th
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Moon Lake Elementary School Gym
Table of Eight - \$200
Single ticket - \$30

A table or tickets can be purchased by contacting MERF at merf.mentone@gmail.com or by calling Sarah Wilcox at 256-634-4673.

Don't miss out on a special evening in celebration and support for all of MERF's programs that benefit Moon Lake Elementary School, the senior citizens and the community.



A Note From Ms. Paula Easter:

Hello from the Fine Arts classroom here at Moon Lake Elementary School. What a fun filled year of learning we are having "rockin' & rollin" through the decades. We began our studies with a look into the late 1940's singing along with Bing as he crooned "White Christmas" and watching a video of Jackson Pollock and his unique style of painting. Along the way we have rocked and rolled in the 1950's with Elvis, learned that the Beatles just "wanna hold our hand," Picasso had a "blue period" which later turned to a "rose period," Andy Warhol made sure Pop Art was the norm for the 1960's and disco certainly wasn't dead in the 1970's. Michael Jackson made life a "Thriller" in the 1980's. Whew, there is just so much more to tell you about...and I promised I would be brief! (LOL) (But when it comes to Moon Lake and my students, it just isn't possible!) So, let me just invite you to MERF'S third annual "Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction 2015" on April 11, and you can see for yourself some of the wonderful artwork produced by our Moon Lake students this year.

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

Mentone Wedding Chapel



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

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

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



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Worship

The Sunday morning services at **Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church** are held at 9AM each Sunday, except no services on 5th Sunday. Rev. Jerry Davis is our miniter 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. Tommy Pledger 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; Elderberries for Senior Adults once a month for fellowship and meal. Pastor Jeff Davis, Associate Pastor Keith 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.

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

HISTORIC CHURCH SEEKS HELP

St. Joseph's-on-the Mountain Episcopal Church, whose origin is an 1870 log cabin, now finds that its present building has serious problems. Its foundation is unsound, its walls admit moisture and vermin.

This small church finds itself facing a repair bill of \$ 200,000. The active congregation of 35 members wants to preserve this Mentone icon for worshi- pers and tourists but cannot do it alone.

The church asks those who would like to help, please send your checks to St. Joseph's on- the- Mountain, P. O. Box 161, Mentone, Al 35984, with a note that it is for the Church Renewal Fund.

Immortal Wildlife (cont'd from page 1)

The nationwide "McCleskey and Scott" collection is now over forty larger-than life sculptures. Carl and Betsy's lions are featured at The Toledo Zoo (Ohio); Widener University in Chester, PA, where a small pride now resides and participates in graduation ceremonies; Riverbanks Zoo in Columbia, SC, where a lion trio greets visitors at the zoo's entrance, welcoming children who believe they are finally getting to pet Aslan, and a private home in Chattanooga, TN. There are too many places to list where their work can be found.

The entrance to Shorter College in Rome, GA has Carl's magnificent Red-tailed Hawk greeting visitors. This bronze has a five-foot wingspan. It is breathtaking!

On the Gulf Coast of Florida, the Greg Norman Golf Course commissioned a monumental heron sculpture. The herons are ascending into the sky on a masterful design of windswept trees that depicts their graceful motion. This sculpture serves as a sundial as well as art.

The magnificent work of Wildlife Bronze LLC is not limited to wildlife. Their work includes Wofford University's mascot (a terrier) who welcomes students outside the student union. The Wofford Terrier will soon appear in a book of public art in Spartanburg, SC, by the Hub City Press. That little dog is quite the publicity hound. He found his way onto the cover of Forbes Magazine in an article about Wofford and

other top schools. Spartanburg is also home for a sculpture of a trio of singing children which was commissioned and donated to a church by one of its members as a memorial to his wife, who led the children's choir for many years. The Wofford Terrier isn't the only recipient of public accolade. In 2001, Carl was included in a book, "Wildlife Art - 60 Contemporary Masters and Their Work", by Joan Muyskens Pursley. Carl & Betsy were also featured as a team in Wildlife Art Magazine.

Betsy and Carl recently completed a sculpture of Paul Harris, the founder of the National Rotary Club. The art is so real that you want to sit down for a talk. He is seated on a bench, reading a newspaper. It can be seen in Bay City, MI. Another work is displayed at The Bay City Library and has a Girl and Boy sitting & leaning on a stack of (huge) classic children's books, timeless favorites whose titles were chosen by the librarians. The girl is sitting atop the stack, reading "Charlotte's Web" to the young boy who is leaning on the books, absolutely captivated by E.B. White's transcendent tale.

Carl and Betsy's latest works, soon to be installed, include the bust of J.W. Greenwood, who was a highly revered coach at Trion High School in Trion, GA., and a companion piece for a lioness named Atlanta. She is running across the front lawn toward her home on the outskirts of Chattanooga, and soon her male lion companion, Melanion, will be there to greet her.

When asked why they chose to specialize in

wildlife art, Betsy wrote:

"It seems that as a species we have a stubborn tendency to veer away from any immediate, direct experience of nature whenever our expanding technology provides the means. Nature is seen as peripheral, set apart from our real lives, rather than as an intricate and infinitely complex nexus whose strands suspend and connect us all.

Wildlife art has the power to reforge an awareness of our immersion in the natural world. It lures us into difficult terrain to witness pristine wilderness. It plunges us deep into the heart of a distant forest or swamp. Or it sweeps us across an African savanna in the dry heat of mid-day, saying, 'Come quickly, look closely, you may never see this again.' The works of wildlife artists augment our individual experience of nature and lead us into an even more profound exploration of her mysterious heart."

Lookout Mountain is fortunate to have Carl and Betsy as citizens and artist. It is true that art feeds the soul. It enriches our lives in so many ways. This supremely gifted couple will leave a body of work that will enrich lives for many generations. A fact made even better considering they are also two of the nicest people you could hope to meet. Their art can be bought at Kamama Gallery in Mentone and Vision Gallery in Summerville, GA locally.

Additional information available at www.wildlifebronzeinc.com



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Mentone!!**



Stop by our Log Cabin office
in the heart of Mentone
for some great coffee
and conversation.

.....
LOTS and LAND

NICELY WOODED 1.97
acres. Unimproved. This area
for a river. \$20,000.
(1011111)

**2.2 UNRESTRICTED, WOODED
ACRES** in Mentone. Corner prop-
erty; hardwoods; excellent areas to
walk, bicycle or keep a few chick-
ens. Public water & power at the
road. Great building site for one or a
couple of cabins for rental, full-time
or part-time enjoyment. \$20,000
(1011111)

BE INSPIRED! Take the meander-
ing drive along DeSoto Pkwy to
Citadel Rock Rd (the giant boulders
on this road are a favorite of rock-
climbing enthusiasts). 3.2-acre lot to
build your mountain home. Just a
few minutes to DeSoto St Park &
Mentone. \$53,500 (1003658)

3 ACRES IN NC END.
Wooded. Light
redevelopment. Wood-
ed. Power. \$24,000. (1006711)

CREEKSIDE 3.7 ACRES, walking
distance to downtown Mentone.
Access on both sides of the creek.
Privacy w/light restrictions &
covenants. \$55,000.00 (564423)

4.43 WOODED ACRES, unrestrict-
ed. Septic tank, gravel drive, public
water & power already in place!
Great place for RV or to build your
getaway. \$39,900. (311288)

180' LAKE FRONTAGE. Three
beautifully-wooded lots being sold
together, two of which are on the
lake at Hidden Lake Subdivision.
Over 3 acres total. Nice walking
trails along the lake; common areas
with gazebo. Gated entry into subdivi-
sion. Near Little River Canyon
Nat'l Preserve. \$75,000 (1010792)

RARE DOWNTOWN MENTONE
building 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 possibili-
ties! \$45,000. (765396)

4.3 ACRES W/BOLD STREAM
Convenient for commuting to
Chattanooga, Trenton or Fort
Payne. Just off Hwy 11 on shady
gravel drive. Mostly-wooded land
on both sides drive. \$29,900
(810160)



**AFFORDABLE HOME IN MEN-
TONE.** 3BR/2BA, 2000 sq ft, dou-
ble-wide w/woodburning Fpl &
large rooms. Detached, 2-car
garage/shop. Situated on two
acres; part wooded, part paved
sites. Paved patio on the front.
Paved road. Owner financing pos-
sible with acceptable terms.
\$53,000 (672984)



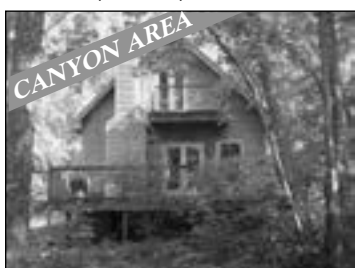
**OVER 300' OF DRAMATIC
BROW FRONTAGE** w/views
every which way you turn! 3-level
main house & det garage
apt. Stone pavilion for gatherings/
weddings/family events. Decks on
every level! Built in the 80s, so
there's some updating to be done.
2.47 acres, mostly woods w/nice
outdoor areas, interesting rock
outcroppings & plantings. The best
deal on the brow at Mentone.
\$199,000 (1010691)



**DID YOU KNOW THERE WAS A
CABIN THERE?** Cute little board-n-
batten cabin; hidden in the trees so
most folks didn't even know it was
there. New roof, flooring, appli-
ances, wiring, plumbing, much
more. Screened front porch; lots of
stone work (inside & out); work-
shop; nice yard & garden areas
(over 1 acre of land). 2BR/1BA. Off
Cutler Ave, Mentone. Nothing fancy
about the cabin or the price.
\$85,000 (1012566)



JUST PLAIN ADORABLE! Tiny,
"Carpenter Gothic"-style cottage,
built to be energy efficient; 896 sq
ft; 2BR/1.5BA; screened back
porch (to enclose for add'l living
area if you choose). Warm, com-
fortable, cozy & so, so cute!
Natural landscaping; low mainte-
nance yard; wet-weather stream;
peaceful woods. Between DeSoto
State Park & Mentone, just off the
DeSoto Parkway. \$135,000.
(1006846)



CANYON VIEW FOREST! You can
hear the river rushing below you
from this attractive, quiet & seclud-
ed 3BR/2BA cabin, bordered by
LRC Nat'l Preserve. The rim of the
canyon is just outside your back
door. 12x24 deck; balconies off
each of the upstairs bedrooms;
wood-burning Fplc; all appliances,
most furnishings remain. \$159,000
(1001006)



ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES, do
some of the work yourself, and
save! 4BR/2BA home on just over
an acre, located inside the Fort
Payne city limits on VH road.
HUGE kitchen w/new refrig &
range, lots of counter space &
plenty of room for the addition of
an island! Large MABR suite
w/whirlpool tub & sep shower.
\$45,000 (1003898)



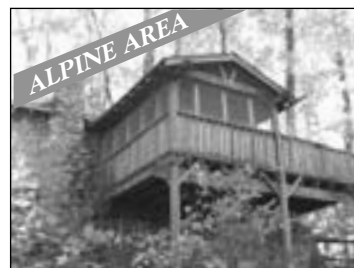
IT'S TIME TO GO HOME. One-
level, country-style 3BR/2BA home
with lots of amenities like 2-car
garage; eat-in kitchen w/bfast bar;
professionally-installed above-
ground pool; deck & pool house;
spacious, open floor plan; on-
demand hot water; alarm system;
metal roof; front porch; back deck;
fruit trees; private backyard w/gar-
den area; so much more! One level
acre w/attractive trees & flowering
shrubs. \$139,000 (1002526)



THE VIEW IS SPECTACULAR
from this approx 1600 sq ft;
2BR/2.5BA, brow-front cottage.
Sunroom w/Champion windows &
doors to enjoy views any time.
Once a part of the historic Brow
Park Lodge, this cottage has a
great kitchen & spacious bed-
rooms. Furnished. Single car
garage. Potential Plus! Along the
Scenic DeSoto Pkwy, near Camp
Cormer & DeSoto Falls; between
Mentone & State Park. \$219,900
(970236)



**FAMILY GETAWAY COMPOUND, VACATION RENTALS OR
BOTH!** 3 fully-furnished cabins AND private, fully-stocked lake
(Rock Lake). Just bring the fishing poles & groceries. Enjoy out-
door activities like fishing or canoeing, or just relaxing in a hot tub
under the stars (each cabin has its own hot tub). Screened gaze-
bo, lg shop building, picnic pavilion, horseshoe pit, all on 10 acres.
(Up to 100 acres avail.) Foundation for 4th cabin in place. Just 2
miles from downtown Mentone, on a private road. Great rental his-
tory! \$375,000 (540943)



**THE ESSENCE OF THE MOUN-
TAIN** in stone and wood. One of
the last remaining stone cottages,
tucked into the boulder-strewn
woods, in historic East Park
developed by the Camp
Alpine. This cottage has
1BR, 1BA, 1000 sq ft. Fully
furnished. Now \$110,000.
(965674)



**YOUR OWN MOUNTAIN PARA-
DISE PRESERVE** where two
creeks converge (Laurel Creek &
Gilbert Branch). Combination lush
forest & cleared areas; boulders;
level to rolling topography; spec-
tacular natural outcroppings &
glades; where you can create a
large estate or a quiet retreat with
elbow room aplenty! Give in to your
wanderlust & never leave your own
domain. 388 acres of Lookout Mtn
splendor, priced to amaze at
\$1,690/acre. \$655,720 (1011611)



A Son of Mentone Trying to Make the World a Better Place

By Jordan Hammond

My little brother left the south for the nation's Capitol after high school to try to change the world. He may have not solved the problems for world peace, but I think he has taken the first step to something great. I just wanted to share it with everyone back home on the mountain what a great guy this little brat has become.

Bo Hammond, a former history major and DC tour guide, and his cancer fighting, business guru girlfriend Lisa Maurer are launching a social enterprise. Tours for Humanity uses history to help people. Their business model is simple. Tours for Humanity provides walking tours of Washington, DC such as the National Mall, Arlington Cemetery, Capitol Hill and many more.

At the end of the year the company donates a portion of profits to charities combating ignorance, poverty and disease, including the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

The good doesn't stop there. Every part of Tours for Humanity's supply chain, right down to the uniforms, makes a difference in the world. They are striving to meet rigorous standards of social performance, accountability, and transparency to attain B-Corp certification, which is a certification from the nonprofit B Lab. Where feasible, the supply chain will be sustainable and fair trade. Every guide will wear a uniform for good, where each product purchased provides a social benefit to the world. For example, their guides wear TOMS shoes, where with each pair of shoes purchased the company donates a pair to a child in need.

Bo and Lisa found inspiration to start the company after Lisa's battle with cancer. They wanted to do something meaningful to fight the disease and make the world better in general. They are avid fundraisers and wanted to find a way to make giving core to their life. Why should helping people be part time? They want to give every day of their lives.

In order to launch Tours for Humanity, they need \$18,000 to cover initial costs from strategic marketing campaigns to DC guide licenses. They are using Indiegogo, which is an online fundraising platform, to share their story through a video. The site allows them to reach their goal within forty days and bring their idea to life. Indiegogo also enables Tours for Humanity to give out perks as incentives to contributors in exchange for their support. Some of the perks include a private tour of Washington, DC, a t-shirt and the chance to vote on one of the charities that Tours for Humanity will donate to for the first year.

There are three ways to help support Tours for Humanity:

1. Donate funds to the cause by visiting our Indiegogo campaign:
<http://igg.me/at/toursforhumanity>
2. Share their Indiegogo campaign on social media
3. Come visit DC and go on one of their tours

The Groundhog Needs Your Help

The Groundhog is on the hunt for some missing hard copies of past Groundhog issues and we need your help. We need copies of the following issues:

January 1987	December 1989
December 1989	September 1990
June 1993	July 1993
October 1993	November 1993
March 1994	July 1994
January 1995	September 1995
September 1996	January 1997
May 1997	July 1997
August 1999	March 2000
June 2000	July 2000
October 2000	December 2000
January 2001	September 2001
October 2001	November 2002
Jan/Feb 2003	June 2003
July 2003	September 2003
November 2003	March 2004
June 2004 to December 2004	
ALL ISSUES from 2005 to 2012	

If you in possession of ANY of these issues and would be willing to donate them back to The Groundhog, please contact us by calling 256.465.1107 or emailing us at groundhognews@aol.com. You can also mail your issues to us in a sealed envelope to The Groundhog, P.O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984.



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 3 BEDROOM, 2 bath home on 2.1 acres. All appliances, central heat and air, deck and screened porch, gas logs. \$199,500. MLS #1003499.	 Mountain Laurel Inn... 7 acres, Main Residence, Guest House and Gathering House. Call for more details. \$479,000 MLS #917483	 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. \$289,900 MLS#1001478	 Custom Log Cabin on 4 secluded acres. This is a great mountain get-a-way for a little price. \$110,000 MLS #564870	 45 ACRES on the West Brow of Look-out Mountain. Main house, guest house, rock walls and so much more. \$648,000 MLS #815966	 Custom Home. 4500 sqft+ w 5BR/3.5BA, LR, 10' ceilings. Kit w/granite, Dining/Keeping room with wood burning Isokern fireplace. Master w/ sitting room. Pro landscaping, screened porch, courtyard, 2 decks on 1.37 acres. community lake. \$579,000. MLS #1011520.
 3 BEDROOM, 1 3/4 bath home on 2.75 acres near downtown Mentone. Kitchen appliances, central heat and air, screened porch. \$167,500 MLS #1003489.	 BEAUTIFUL Mountain Get-Away with gorgeous view year round. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, shake-sided outside w/low maintenance metal roof. Deck. \$269,000 MLS#1000691.	 SOLD Investment or Personal Retreat! Open design, 1BR/1BA being sold fully furnished. ONLY \$59,900 MLS #499665	 UNIQUE!!! Main House, Guest House, Boathouse and approx. 470' of frontage on Little River. \$850,000 MLS #1007556	 Lake Lahusage in your back door! Bank owned 2BR/2BA cottage AND 2-car garage with apartment potential. \$247,500 MLS #654813	 East Fork of Little River! 200' of water frontage, 3BR/2BA cottage, storage building. \$239,999 MLS #902940
 COZY 1 BEDROOM, 1 bath cabin in Laurel Creek Lakes Subdivision. Kitchen appliances, central heat and air, gas logs. \$157,500. MLS #1002623.	 LOOK OUT at DeSoto Falls! Building lot with a darling 1 bedroom cottage ready for use. \$465,000 #970196	 Secluded, Custom log cabin, 2BR/2BA, wooded lot, 2+ acres, security system, privacy gate, detached storage. \$279,500 MLS #332033	 Impeccable Brow View! 5BR/3.5BA home, custom commercial kitchen, with many extra features. Must See! \$545,000 MLS #338039	 1400 SQ FT house in Mentone with 3 bedrooms & 2 bathrooms, a landscaped lot, large deck and workshop. Can be residential or Commerical. \$44,900. MLS #1007802	 1946 Stone Cottage offering 3BR/2BA, river frontage, AND a 2-story guest house on 4 + acres. \$419,000 MLS #902720
 OWL'S ROOST! Adorable cabin in Crestline Subdivision featuring and open living concept. \$128,000 MLS #690326	 Daniel Boon Log Cabin on 2 acres! Plenty of room with 2BR/2.5BA, unfinished basement and large balcony. \$215,000 MLS #621178	 Highland Springs Subdivision near downtown Mentone! 2BR/2BA cabin on 1.23 acres. \$153,500 MLS #359224	 Bear's Lair - Adorable cabin currently in a rental program. 3BR/2 BA with a brow view. \$299,900 MLS#692795	 NATURE LOVER'S PARADISE! log home on 5 acres. Bordered by LRC Nat'l Preserve. Wrap around porches, guest cabin, stone fireplace & cathedral tongue/groove ceilings! \$275,000 MLS#1006120.	 18-hole Golf Course situated on 92.5 acres w/3 stocked ponds, inviting 3BR/2BA home built over Pro-Shop. 7440 sq. ft. metal bldg.; excellent investment for civic or religious camp,. \$925,000. MLS# 1010954.

LOTS AND LAND

7.13-acre lot in Mountain River Esates Sub. \$49,500. MLS #656265.

1.95-acre lot at Lake on the Brow Subdivision. \$44,900. MLS #984141.

1.02-acre lot in Hidden Lake Subdivision. \$55,000. MLS #762331.

1-acre lot in Hidden Lake Subdivision. \$50,000. MLS #665968.

One or two wooded lots on Cutler Avenue in Mentone. One lot offered at \$19,900 and both at \$37,500. MLS #682942.

Corner lots in secluded and private subdivision walking distance to East Fork Little River. \$29,900. MLS #939357.

106' of prime brow view with paved road frontage. \$109,500. MLS #403694.

Lakefront! 200' of water frontage and 169' on paved road frontage. \$55,900. MLS #845943.

1.47 Acre Lot located in Mentone close to DeSoto Falls and West Fork of Little River. \$23,500. MLS #548635.

Great 5 acres tract of wooded land and paved road frontage! \$30,000 MLS#1004370.

1 acre in Hidden Lake Subdivision. \$45,000. MLS #1007350.

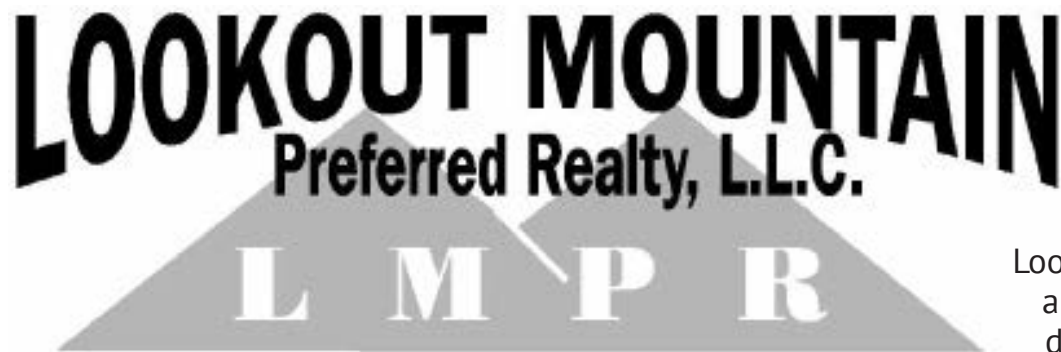
Brow Property with spectacular year-round VIEW! 3 br/ 3 ba with finished basement. Basement offers 2 bedrooms with a Jack and Jill bath between and Large bonus area with outdoor access to admire the view. \$249,900. MLS #1010897

Seven Acres! Beautiful Corner Lot in Subdivision on the East Fork of Little River. \$29,900. MLS#641045.

Enjoy the natural beauty of Brush Creek from your building site on this wooded .69 acre property. Located on a private road just minutes from downtown Mentone. \$29,900. MLS #1011734,



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Mentone, AL 35984
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AL/GA Realtor
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alabamamountainliving.com
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 MOVE TO MENTONE and live in this wonderful home on the brow. 1.95 acres. 4 bdrm, 3 bth. Open concept living room, kitchen combo, with gas log fireplace. Formal dining room. Separate 30x40 garage/workshop. Native flora landscaping with rock outcroppings, garden fountain pond. Auto sprinkler system. Screened porch with multiple decks for your sunset views. So much amenities. \$339,000	 WILD RIVER LODGE on the East Fork of Little River. Custom Timber Frame, 5 bedroom, 4 bath, Great Room, Dining, Kitchen with full appliance package. Custom Oak cabinets. 2,000sq ft wrap around porch and deck. Screened porch with wood burning fireplace. Gas fireplace inside. Loft with end to end bunks with storage. Outdoor kitchen, 250 gal smoker, sink stainless counter tops. Dual fuel HVAC. Secure gated. 4 acres. So many amenities. \$650,000. (23021)	 TUCKED AMONG THE RHODODENDRONS, Hemlocks, Oak trees is a rustic 1 3/4 story, 3 bdrm, 2bth home. Listen to the creek run over the rocks from the screened porch. Open floor plan, wood burning FP. Hot tub. Furnished. Located in Cloudland, GA. Seasonal views. \$182,000	 MAINTENANCE FREE vinyl faux brick bungalow. 2 bedroom, 3 bath. Great room with rock, gas fireplace. Eat in kitchen/dining, full semi finished basement. Located on DeSoto Parkway, Mentone. \$169,000. (23036)	 A SPECTACULAR SUNRISE/ Moonrise on the East Brow in Cloudland, GA. Wooded with 200ft on the brow. Secluded 4.36 acres. A must see!! \$45,000	 SOUTHLAND LOG HOME, on the East fork little River. 5.5 acres. Deck, lighted walkway to lower property. stone patio half-way to river steps and landing to river. 2 bdrm, 2 bths. loft. Vaulted ceiling with exposed beams. fully equipped kitchen with granite counters. stacked stone FP. 2 story with Basement. Separate 30x40 garage, large enough for motor home. Private but with all the comforts. Price reduction to \$275,000
 CHARMING LOG CABIN circa 1920s in Cloudland, GA. Renovated but kept with its original logs, windows, floors & doors. 4 bdrm, 2 bth. Living room with stone FP. 3 french doors leading to the screened porch & large deck, that overlooks stone picnic tables, stone FP, and BBQ chimney. Seasonal view. A must see! \$135,000 (23096)	 THE LOONEY BIN Cedar Cabin in the woods, open floor plan with Great rm, eat-in kitchen. Tiled island and counters, Stainless appliances, Loft area, 2 bdrm 2 tiled baths, Tung and Groove walls, FP, Covered Deck w/ Hottub. Furnished, Lovely setting and investment. \$220,000 (22973)	 REDUCED 3.8 ACRES located in East fork little River Estates. Nicely wooded with a portion of the historic Dinky Line Railway. 175 ft. on river (Cherokee Co. Mentone). covenants & restrictions. county water and power available. \$45,000	 REDUCED 1940's VINTAGE Bungalow. 2 bdrm, 1bth. T & G walls, beamed ceilings. Stone gas log fireplace. Heart Pine Flooring, Brow Views, Sun porch, vinyl siding. Old Mentone Charm. \$199,900.	 REDUCED 1.8 ACRES on East Fork of Little River. Easy access to river from common trail that runs along the banks of the river. Bluff views. County water available. Gated community. \$80,000. (23022)	 REDUCED EAST BROW tract located Valley View Forest. Georgous views of Weiss lake in the distance. Camping shed, hot stove, outside deck, fire pit. Parklike setting, rock formations. \$90,000. (22996)
 .6 ACRE West Brow lot, 1 mile south of downtown Mentone. Wooded with rock formations. Great building lot. Prime location, great sunsets. 5 lots available. \$114,900. (23043)	 .75 ACRE WEST BROW LOT, 1 mile south of downtown Mentone. Wooded with rock formations. Great building lot. Prime location, great sunsets. 2 lots available. \$124,900. (23042)	 NICE LEVEL WOODED property with partial drive and home-site cleared. Previous perk test. easy access to the middle fork of little river.. Restrictive cov. apply. Located Mountain River Estates. \$57,000	 CAPE COD COTTAGE in Cloudland, GA. 2bd, 1.5bt. Living room with stone, gas log fireplace. Enclosed porch. Dining room/office. .62 acres, fenced, outbuilding. \$58,000	 HISTORIC DINKY LINE Railway runs through the property. 3.8 acres on the East Fork Little river. 175 ft on water with a deep swimming hole, and rapids. Lightly restricted. County water and power available. Located on Lookout Mtn Mentone area. \$46,000	 3.77 ACRES located at Canyon View Forest Subdivision. Wooded and joining the bluff of Little River National Preserve. \$60,000

LOTS AND ACREAGE

OLD HOMEPLACE next to Shady Grove Dude Ranch. 1.7 acres. Great building sites. Non-restricted. Reduced \$18,500 (21599)

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

6.1 ACRES with Brushy Creek running through, drive way in place, wooded. \$36,000 (23044)

.67 ACRE with paved rd frontage, wooded, non restricted \$6,500.

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

NICELY WOODED 5 ACRES with stream located on Desoto Parkway, Mentone. Residential or commercial use. Old Homesite, large rock formations. Possibilities are endless. \$90,000 (22824)

CAMBRIA BLEU COMPOUND. California style in serene country setting. 2 story Herringbone brick home complete with archway entrance. Porches overlooking lake, fields, old home place and the ridges beyond. Inside on main level, walk-in to the foyer that opens into the great room, dining with travertine FP. Gourmet kitchen with high end appliances, granite counters, eat-in bar, cherry cabinets throughout entire house. Master with glamour bath, dressing room. 2 additional bedrooms and bath. Large utility w/ built in cabinets, freezer, w/d. Downstairs suite has 2 bdrms, Den and bath. So many amenities and landscaped naturally with flora and fauna. The Guest Cottage is 2 bdrms, 1 bth, living room with ceramic wood burning insert. Heart pine floors, ceilings, and walls. The old home place on property was built in 1895 when the land was homesteaded. Even the African geese stay and all the wildlife abound! Total of 90 acres. \$974,900 (23094)



Classified Ads

COX TILE, 706-766-2758 - Sunrooms, marble, baths, shower pan repair. James Pleas Cox, jpcotile1@gmail.com.

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

SEVEN BURNER, propane, stainless steel grill. Good condition. Approximately 47” by 27”. Price \$500. Call 256-634-3001 or 256-418-2879.

Legal Notice:
The following car has been abandoned at 196 County Rd. 779, Ider, AL 35981.
2001 Mitsubishi Eclipse
VIN # 4A3AC34G61E210138
Anyone having claim has until April 1, 2015 to notify me with intent or vehicle will be sold at public auction at noon and unavailable for purchase by the public and/or any previous owners.
Chastity Watkins Anderson
196 Co Rd 779
Ider, AL 35981

ATTENTION GROUNDHOG READERS!

Copies of The Groundhog are available at the following locations:

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Big Mill and Vintage 1889
Brown’s Cleaners
Bruce’s Foodland
Chow King
Days Inn
DeKalb Library
DeKalb Tourism
First Federal
Ft. Payne Chamber of Commerce
Hampton Inn
Holiday Inn
Huddle House
Off The Boat Seafood
Priceless IGA
Quality Inn
Southern Properties
The Healing Tree
The Spot Coffee Shop
The Strand
The Wishing Well
Waffle House
Waffle King
Wright Properties

VALLEY HEAD

Alabama Organics
Big Jim’s
Burt Funeral Home
Citizens Bank
Country Boys
Dave’s Antiques
Hammondville Quick Stop

Headquarters Beauty Salon
Miracle Pottery
Sunshine Café
Tigers Inn
Valley Head Drug
Valley Head Food Mart
Valley Head Town Hall
Victory Fuel
Water Board

MENTONE

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Body Maintenance
Clip Joint
Community Library
Crow’s Nest
Graceful Giraffe
Gourdie Shop, The
Helena’s
Kamama’s

Little River Hardware
Lookout Mountain Realty
Mentone Inn
Mentone Market
Mentone Realty
Moon Lake Trading Company
Moonlight Bistro
Mountain Properties
Southern Style Log Furniture
Town Hall
Wildflower Cafe

GEORGIA

Auto Parts (Menlo)
Cloudland Trade Center
Menlo Lucky’s
Mountain Top Country Store
Restaurant (Menlo)
State Line Store

OTHER

5 Points Handi-Mart
Alabama Welcome Center
DeSoto St. Park Lodge
DeSoto State Park Store
Fisher X-Roads Store
Little River Canyon Center
Ralph’s Grocery

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THE RIDE

By Doug Kiker

One fine day in the month of May
 A bunch of boys were thinking of games to play.
 They had played mumbly peg, marbles, corn cob fights and swinging on
 a vine
 which are fine,
 I'm here to say,
 But the boys wanted something different to change the day.
 The railroad track was nearby and this caught their eye.
 It beckoned to them - almost like a piece of pie.
 More than once they had been told to stay away from the railroad tracks.
 None of them could deny these facts.
 However, boys will be boys,
 And they need to make a lot of noise.
 So, to the railroad they went -
 Or maybe they were 'sent.'
 It was fun at first throwing rocks and finding 'fools gold' but this soon grew old.
 Walking down the tracks - now the story can be told,
 they came upon an empty boxcar on the spur.
 Then it became a ship with a captain everyone called 'Sir.'
 This was fine,
 but there came a time
 when someone on top released the brake wheel,
 and the boxcar began to roll - slowly at first - but it was on a hill,
 and it gained speed. This could be a bad pill.
 All the boys were scared, expecting a spill.
 Faster and faster they flew
 And more and more frightened they grew.
 The hill became steep.
 Some of those brave boys even began to weep.
 The brake wheel stuck,
 and it was known that their luck had run a-muck!
 It was frightening indeed when the car entered the mainline tracks.
 Only one train a day - such a happy fact.
 The speed was great and finally the bottom was reached
 But, halfway up another hill it went while boys screeched.
 It rocked back and forth and finally stopped.
 The sighing, crying, releasing of breath was almost like a firecracker pop.
 The train men were called to remove the boxcar.
 One of them said, "In the old days y'all would be covered with tar."
 The boss, after a stern word
 Said, "Fun is fun, but this is absurd!"
 Then he smiled and added, "BOYS WILL BE BOYS, BUT TRAINS AIN'T NO
 TOYS."



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