



THE GROUNDHOG

Mentone, Valley Head, Hammondville

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Volume 28, No. 12

"Neighborhood News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

December 2009

Talking Tree Coffee House Opens in Mentone

By Charlotte Gentry

Just in time for cold weather, Mentone has a coffee shop again and it's not just your run-of-the-mill "cuppa joe" place, either. Although co-owner Deborah Collard and her assistant Rhonda Jones do brew up some tasty regular coffee for those who are in search of their morning pick-me-up, they have already managed to blend in their own special tastes and talents to come up with a decent selection of interesting flavorings, add-ins and specialty coffees.

Greg and Deborah Collard have opened The Talking Tree Coffee Shop in the old location of The Lookout Muffin, across Hwy 117 from the Mentone Market. And, Deborah is quick to tell you, this is just the beginning. Her intention is to let the place evolve into the kind of shop where local folks and tourists alike will want to return again and again to meet up with friends, enjoy pleasant conversation and to sip coffee, tea, hot chocolate, or maybe a soda, while browsing the shop's selection of items for sale.

When they decided to move the Mentone Gift Shop to its new location in the "green building" across from the Market, Greg and Deborah thought it would be nice if Mentone had a coffee shop again. So, they took on the task of transforming the two vacant buildings into a pair of very complementary businesses where traffic and merchandise can flow easily between the two—a coffee shop with gifts for sale and a gift shop next door with an expanded inventory of those gifts and more.

Many are already familiar with Deborah through her books, her work in the Native American community, her involvement with MAPA, her art, or perhaps through having visited The Mentone Gift Shop in its former location. A DeKalb County native, she and her husband Greg now reside in Mentone.

One of the very unique features of the Talking Tree is a council room where Deborah says small groups with interest in Native American culture and traditions may gather around a simulated council fire, complete with plenty of authentic relics, music and décor to create just the right atmosphere.

Due to its incredible popularity with customers, Deborah is excited to have been able to expand her Mentone Mystic line of homemade jams, jellies, pickles, peppers, sauces, etc. She also offers a larger selection of Papa Joe's whole bean and ground coffees.

In both the Talking Tree and Mentone Gift shops one may find locally-made candles, soaps, jewelry and many Native American gifts including jewelry, art and home décor. Several local artists have voiced interest in displaying

their work for sale, so the inventory will constantly be updated and changed.

You never know what you will find of interest when you stop in for a visit. Maybe you're looking for a special gift or just want to enjoy a pleasant cup of coffee and some good conversation. You can certainly find something to satisfy your thirst for either at the Talking Tree Coffee Shop and Mentone Gift Shop. Thank you for shopping locally!



THE GROUNDHOG

PO Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984

Published monthly by the Mentone Area Preservation Association, MAPA 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 non-profit organization by the State of Alabama.

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MAPA dues for the new year are: \$10/individual and \$15/couple. Send your dues to: MAPA, PO Box 50, Mentone, AL 35984

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**CALL EVELYN GRAVES AT
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Letters to the editor are welcome. They should be typewritten and of reasonable length.

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Welcome Center (Sulphur Springs)
Valley Head Drug Store
Tigers Inn
Mentone Market
The Store, Mentone
Crow's Nest (Mentone Hitching Post)
Tourist Association (Fort Payne)
DeSoto State Park
Kilgore Pharmacy
Windwood Farms Restaurant
Little River Hardware
The Clip Joint
Snappy Tee's
Alabama Organics

YOU ARE INVITED**Moon Lake Community Library
Holiday Open House**

Thursday, December 17, 2009
3:00 - 6:00 P.M.



*Come see the snow village
complete with moving train and
enjoy refreshments with the
members of the Board of Directors*

**ALL MATERIALS FOR THE
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Welcome To Mentone!!



Stop by our Log Cabin in front of the Wildflower Cafe and join us on the front porch. We always look forward to a visit from our neighbors and friends.



VALLEY HEAD
62.32 ACRES WITH VIEWS of Lookout Mtn & Valley on the east, Wills Valley toward the communities of White Hall & "The Highlands" on the west. Your own hunting preserve, secluded woodland retreat, estate or investment. Excellent paved road frontage along Hwy 137 with driveway & access roads already cut in. Mostly hardwood, mainly mature growth trees with plenty of wildlife! \$249,900 (19492)



REDUCED
VINTAGE CHARM, MODERN EASE. 1940s home with 4BR/2BA; 1652 sq ft; living room; sunroom; sep dining room; renovated kitchen w/all appliances; new heat pump. Original HW floors. Storage attic, unfinished basement w/single garage area. Sited on 3.3 acres w/storage building, paved circle drive, nice yard. At the foot of the mountain, on the way to Mentone. Now priced at only \$109,000. (18863)



JUST LISTED
SPACIOUSNESS THAT IS POSITIVELY, WELL, HEAVENLY! Circa 1870 church building divinely transformed into a split 2BR/2BA home w/awe-inspiring great room in the middle. 2500 sq ft. Original heart pine floors & walls. Cabinetry made from original pews. MABR wing w/glorious bath. 2nd BR w/sitting area/office that could be a 3rd BR. Renovations retain character of original architecture. Blessedly reasonable at \$147,500. (19589)



MENTONE
NEW COUNTRY CABIN, picturesquely situated in a meadow, surrounded by fields and horse farm behind, woods across the road. 3BR/2.5BA, 1820 sq ft. Main-level MABR suite w/jetted tub & sep shower in bath. Beautifully-built cabinetry, nice hardwood & ceramic tile throughout except in warmly-carpeted bedrooms. Stacked stone Fpl; all the comforts to make it instantly feel like home. \$229,000. (18867)

LOTS and LAND

30 ACRES W/APPROX 1200' frontage on Little River. Gorgeous land, great canoeing/kayaking, approx 15' natural swimming pool. Alpine area. Approx 2 ac cleared. \$300,000 (19095)

22 ACRES NEAR LAKE LAHUSAGE, sub-divided into lots w/each already perked; roads cut in, just waiting to be finished. Or, keep it as a whole & build your private mountain sanctuary. Beautifully wooded, loaded with wildlife. \$122,000. (19021)

2.5 ACRES with easy power, cable, and public water access. Mildly-restricted land with a great rural Mentone location, just minutes from DeSoto State Park, Fort Payne and Mentone. Great investment for future cabin site. 210' road frontage. Only \$25,000 (17127)

22 ACRES IN MENTONE, near Cloudland. Comb field & woods (timber cut approx 15 years ago), w/small wet-weather stream in back. Great wildlife area w/deer, turkey & even a bear sighting or two. Unrestricted. \$3,750 per acre at \$82,500. (19232)

REDUCED! 1.66 PRIVATE ACRES, ready for you to start building! Public water, well & septic tank already in place! You're not just "starting from scratch" on this piece of wooded land & that's going to be a time & money saver for you. The only lot of its kind in Mentone. Now only \$26,000. (19182)



VALLEY HEAD
WOODHAVEN. Turn-of-the-century historic home surrounded by majestic trees. Recent bed & breakfast (w/current license) on 30 acres w/barn, greenhouse, herb garden, garage, gazebo, fishpond, pasture, small stock pond, stream. 5000+ sq ft 2-story home w/main-level Owner's suite w/private sunporch, office area & bath, 4 guest BRs & baths upstairs. Lg attic space w/room for expansion project. Avail w/smaller acreage as well. \$425,000 (17504)



VALLEY HEAD
8.42 ACRE MINI FARM, private w/gated entry & winding drive leading to a handsomely-rustic ranch-house cabin. Just off Hwy 11 N. All wood interior; 3BR/2BA; full front porch; covered back porch; hand-built stone wood-burning fireplace; 1440 sq ft. Land is combination wooded & cleared, mostly level with some elevated land on back. Plenty of room for farm buildings & livestock. Home less than 2 years old. \$159,900. (19093)



JUST LISTED
THE LITTLE WHITE COTTAGE, picturesquely nestled amid the trees & oak-leaf hydrangea in downtown Mentone, next door to the Mentone Springs Hotel, Log Cabin Deli & Log Cabin Village Shops. Small & cozy, 2BR/2BA. Needs sprucing up. Single attached carport, fenced side & backyard, extra-wide lot. Perfect location for a getaway, shop or possible weekend rentals. \$86,000. (19532)



JUST LISTED
ALONG THE SCENIC PARKWAY between DeSoto State Park & Mentone, near Corner Scout Camp & Cloudmont Ski/Golf Resort, you'll find this nicely-renovated 3BR/2BA cabin home in a picture-perfect setting in the trees. Beautiful native trees and flowering plants in the yard; a great screened porch; stone fireplace; rustic beams inside; roomy kitchen; all new baths; CH/A. Approx 1400 sq ft. \$159,000. (19531)



REDUCED!
5BR/4.5 BA CABIN... ONLY BETTER! Two log cabins offer lotsa possibilities! Income-producing property, already in rental program, fully-furnished. Use one, rent one, or use as family retreat & give everyone privacy! "Hillbilly Mansion" 3BR/2.5BA; 1186 sq ft; pine floors & log walls; vaulted T&G ceiling; main-level MABR suite w/garden tub; gaslog stone Fpl; front porch w/swing; covered back porch w/hot tub. "Raccoon Retreat" 912 sq ft; 2BR/2BA; wide plank flooring; gaslog Fpl; pine walls; sm covered front porch & covered side porch w/hot tub. 2 storage bldgs. Mentone. Just bring the groceries & enjoy! Now only \$182,900. (19216)



NEW LISTING
A NEW LOG CABIN IN THE WOODS, surprisingly spacious (approx 1400 sq ft), with 3BR/2.5BA, all wood interior, generous laundry room, gaslog fireplace, CH/A, circle drive, sm porch off MABR, less than 4 miles from village of Mentone, higher up the mountain. Plenty of wildlife, pleasant walking areas away from any traffic, near Ponderosa Camp. Should be finished by year's end. \$145,000. (19512)



REDUCED
THE BEST BUY AT MENTONE!! 8 acres wooded land & well-crafted new cabin w/front & back porches; lg deck; stone patio; gated entry & circular drive. 3BR/2BA; stone wood-burning Fpl; beautiful stone work on foundation, patio & landscaping areas. Convenient to Mentone & DeSoto State Park on quiet country lane. Now priced at \$159,900. (19143)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SUNDAY, DEC. 6 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CANTATA
5:00 P.M. - MOON LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH
7:00 P.M. - VALLEY HEAD BAPTIST CHURCH

FAIRTAX DEKALB, the DeKalb County supporters of the FairTax, meet on the fourth Monday of each month at Golden Rule BBQ in Fort Payne. Come at 6 pm for dinner and socializing; The meeting begins at 7 pm. For more info, visit: FairTaxDeKalb.com or call the restaurant for directions: 844-8484.

Attention Clubs: Post your meeting schedules here, in the Groundhog. Contact Evelyn Graves to have your information published each month.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The **2009** meeting dates for the **Valley Head Water Works Board**, 101 School Street, Valley Head, AL will be as follows:

Monday, December 14
Monday, January 10, 2010

All meetings will be held beginning at 4:00PM in the Valley Head Water Works office in the board room. Should there be any changes in the date, time, or place, a notice will be posted in the lobby of the Valley Head Water Works Building. A notice of any special or called meeting will also be posted in the lobby of the Valley Head Water Works Building prior to the meeting date and time. The location of the meeting will also be posted.

The **2009** quarterly meeting dates for the **Mentone Planning Commission**, 5972 AL Hwy 117, Mentone, AL will be on the **3rd Thursday** of the following months:

Thursday, January 21, 2010

All meetings will be held beginning at 5:00PM in the Mentone Town Hall meeting room. Should there be any changes in the date, time, or place, a notice will be posted on the bulletin board at the Mentone Town Hall. A notice of any special or called meeting will also be posted on the same bulletin board prior to the meeting date and time.

The **2009** meeting dates for the **Mentone Waterworks Board**, 5972 AL Hwy 117, Mentone, AL will be at 4PM, on the 4th Thursdays as follows

Thursday, December 17

All meetings will be held beginning at 4:00PM in the Mentone WaterWorks office in the board room. Should there be any changes in the date, time, or place, a notice will be posted on the bulletin board of the Mentone Town Hall, adjacent to the water office. A notice of any special or called meeting will also be posted on the same bulletin board prior to the meeting date and time.

The **2009** meeting dates for the **Mentone Town Council**, 5972 AL Hwy 117, Mentone, AL will be on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6PM, as follows:

Monday, December 9

All meetings will be held beginning at 6:00PM in the Mentone Town Hall meeting room. Should there be any changes in the date, time, or place, a notice will be posted on the bulletin board at the Mentone Town Hall. A notice of any special or called meeting will also be posted on the same bulletin board prior to the meeting date and time.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

- 1 - Kaylee McMunn
Joe Moore
- 3 - Kerri McMunn
- 4 - Cheryl Baker
- 10 - Bobbie Smith
- 11 - Bud Fielder
Sue Brown
- 12 - Homer Crow
Jim McManus
Wm. J.R. Cyr, Devin Crow
- 13 - Sandra Blalock
Hoyt Tullis (in memory)
- 14 - Nancey Bird
- 16 - Karen Holcomb
Raegan Key
- 18 - Daniel Brown
Charles Skes
Ashley Henry
- 19 - Brynda Hopper
- 30 - Emily Collins
Lyle Nicely
Kyle Hicks
Ann Chesnut

Anniversaries

- 4 - Gus & Janet Shahr
Dianne & Al Kuehl
- 5 - Bill & Christina Wise
- 11 - Charlie & Sue Brown
- 12 - Cotton & Pam Baggett
- 18 - Jim & Joan Byrum
- 19 - Ovie & Barbara Blalock
- 24 - George & Hope Walker
- 25 - Bill & Dorothy Cyr
- 29 - Randy & Brenda Green
- 30 - Jimmy & Evelyn Graves



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SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH

The Sunday morning services at **Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church** are held at 9AM each Sunday, except no services on 5th Sunday. Rev. Jerry Davis and Rev. L.A. Smith are alternate speakers 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 meet 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 9AM.

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: 9:30-10:45 AM, Worship Service 11:00-12:15. Pastor- Wilbur Atwood; Lay Pastors - James Hartley and Ryan Bunnell.

The Harmony Grove Baptist Church located on County Road 239 invites you to attend Sunday School at 10AM and worship at 11AM. Sunday evening service is at 5PM. Thursday evening service is at 5:30PM.

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church on N. Gault Avenue in Fort Payne holds Mass Services at 11AM each Sunday; Scripture and Communion Services at 6PM on Tuesdays.

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 at 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 10 AM, Wednesday evening at 6PM. God Bless you.

Grace Presbyterian Church (PCA), 5760 Gault Ave., NE, Fort Payne, AL. Rev. Billy Dempsey, Pastor, Sunday School 9-45AM; Sunday Worship - 10:55AM.

Mentone Church of Christ invites you to attend the 10- and 11AM services and evening services are at 7-and-9PM. 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 6PM.

The Mentone Revival Center and Pastor LeRoy Nichols and wife, Nell, invite everyone to join in worship on Sunday morning at 10AM and 11AM, and Sunday night and Thursday night at 6PM.

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 - a place of prayer, thanksgiving, and celebration. Come by any time to pray and give thanks. Open 24 hours every day. Sunday service is at 10:30AM.

The Mentone United Methodist Church services are at 11AM each Sunday. Sunday School is at 10AM. Daniel Lee of Rainsville is the pastor.

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 Lords Supper is observed on the first Sunday of September, December, March, and June at the morning worship hour. Discipleship Training is at 5:00PM and Sunday Evening Worship at 6:00PM. On Wednesdays, Team Kids; Youth Bible Study and Adult Bible Study and Prayer Meeting are all at 6:30PM. Rev. Terry Turner is the regular pastor at Moon Lake.

Alpine Community Church, 115 Hwy 337, Menlo, GA. Pastor and Rev. Tommy Pledger welcome each and everyone to worship service, Sunday morning, 11AM, GA time; Sunday School 10AM GA time; Wed. Night Bible Study, 7PM GA time.

Cove Road Baptist Church, County Road 631, Mentone, Alabama. Brother Marlin Starnes, Interim Pastor, welcomes all to Sunday School - 9AM (10AM GA time); Church Services 10AM (11AM GA time); and Sunday night services 5PM (6PM GA time).

Summit Church of God invites you to attend their church. Sunday School-10AM; Morning Worship-11AM. Wednesday evening-6:30PM. Randall Beagles welcomes all.

Mentone Church of God of Prophecy regular service times are Sunday School at 10AM, with worship at 11AM. Evening services begin at 5:30 on Sunday and 6 on Wednesday. Rev. Dean Clair invites everyone to attend.

Mentone Community Church, 90 Summerville Rd., Mentone, AL 35984. Sunday Services: 9 am and 10:30 am

Adult Sunday School: Sundays @ 9:30 am
Teen and Adult Sunday School: Sundays @ 5:30

Tuesday Night Prayer Service: 6:30 pm
Wednesday Nights @ 6:30 pm: Children's Pioneer Clubs & Youth Group

Christmas is just around the corner and St Joseph's-On-the Mountain will have an Angel Tree again this year. St Joseph's will be taking names for our Angel Tree program beginning November 1. The names must be submitted by Monday the 23rd of November. Children must live in Mentone or Valley Head. Infants through high school children are eligible. A short questionnaire about sizes and needs must be filled out. Please call the church office at 634-4476 between 9:00 and 12:00 if possible. Please leave your name and number if no one is in the office and your call will be returned. Anyone in our community interested in adopting an Angel for Christmas can pick up their Angel card starting Sunday November 29th. Instructions and the gift return deadline will be included with your Angel.



DEVOTIONAL

By Evelyn Graves

Joy to the world! The Lord is come! This short message is the most powerful one in history. Have you ever thought about what it would be like if Jesus had not come into the world? Our lives would be total chaos, and we would be wandering aimlessly with no purpose and certainly no hope.

With Christ's coming He ushered in a totally new era. Old laws were changed, women were given rights and freedoms and were as important to Him as men were; He blessed the children, and we were all given equality in His sight. He came into the world to save the lost from their sins and to give them entrance into Heaven. He is our only hope of salvation. Without Him, we are nothing.

At this time of the year, we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior. We continue to worship Him in song, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come .. let heaven and nature sing, Let heaven and nature sing, let Heaven, let Heaven, and nature sing ..."

JESUS OF NAZARETH

John S. Whitaker

Jesus was born sometime in 4 B.C. to 6 B.C. and died about 30 A.D. (The calendar maker, Dionysius Exiguus, in 532 A.D. devised the Christian calendar, but he missed the date of Herod the Great's death, thus moving the date of Jesus' birth into the B.C. era.) Herod had been procurator of Judea.

Most of the information of Jesus' life is contained in the first four books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Since the composition of these four books, thousands and thousands of books have been written about Jesus. The subject is inexhaustible, as more and more books are placed on the market to enhance our knowledge of Jesus.

The Essence of the Christmas Story

A. From Luke 2

In those days (shortly before the birth of Jesus) Caesar Augustus (first Roman emperor from 27 B.C. to 14 A.D.) made a decree that everyone report to his/her ancestral home town for an enrollment in a universal census.

Joseph, husband of Mary, left Nazareth, Galilee, to report to the city of Bethlehem, Judea, accompanied by Mary. After some two or three days' travel, they arrived in Bethlehem. All the rooms in the inns were taken, but an unknown inn keeper let them reside in his stable.

Shortly thereafter Jesus was born, wrapped in tight-fitting blankets, and then was placed in a feeding trough. (The Son of God placed in a feeding trough? Couldn't there have been better accommodations?)

Out in the countryside a small group of shepherds were watching their flocks that night. Suddenly an angel appeared and said, "Don't be afraid. I bring you good tidings of great joy for all people. This night in Bethlehem a Saviour has been born, even Christ the Lord. You will find the baby wrapped in tight fitting blankets and lying in a feeding trough. Go find Him." Then a choir of angels joined in unison, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and let there be peace and good will toward all mankind." (This is something we all can do: give praise and thanks to God for sending His Son into the world.) The shepherds came quickly, found the baby Jesus in a feeding trough and worshipped Him.

Eight days later the baby was named Jesus and was also circumcised to be a member of the Abrahamic covenant.

B. From Matthew 2

Probably a year or two later Wise Men came to the capital city, Jerusalem, and began to inquire, "Where is the new born King of the Jews? We have been following His star and are come to worship Him?"

Herod the Great (47 B.C.-2 A.D.), jealous of anyone who might be a rival for his throne, gathered the chief priest and scribes into his throne room, and then asked them, "Do you know where the Christ (or Messiah) is to be born?"

"Yes, your majesty, we do. There is an ancient prophecy in the Scriptures in the book of Micah, chapter 5, verse 2: He will be born in Bethlehem in the tribal division of Judah. We are confident of the authority of this prophecy," they all agreed.

Herod sent the Wise Men away and requested they let him know when they found the Child, for he too wished to worship Him, so he was saying.

In Bethlehem the Wise Men found the Child (in a house, Matthew 2:11). Then they fell before Him to worship Him and give expensive gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (We all should worship Jesus this Christmas. As we share our gifts we give to others, the gifts speak of our love and friendship for them.)

The overly jealous Herod gave orders for all the infants from age 2 years and under to be slain. The Wise Men had been warned by an angel not to return to Herod, so they departed on another route to their homeland. Thus, in Bethlehem and the surrounding region the innocent babies were slain.

Joseph had already taken Mary and baby Jesus into Egypt before Herod had issued his cruel decree to kill the infants. The family might have lived there a year or two, but when Herod died, Joseph brought the family to Nazareth in the northern province of Galilee. Custom sometimes led an individual to be identified by the name of the town of residence in which they lived; thus, Jesus of Nazareth became the Lord's title.

Jesus grew to manhood in the little town of Nazareth. (The village well still remains today from which Jesus drew water for His family.)

Today Jesus continues to be the greatest teacher of all time, the greatest healer, the center of the history of the world (before Him, B.C., after Him A.D.), the only Saviour of humanity, and the only resurrected, living Lord. Those who practice His teachings find that they work.

Christmas is not Christmas without Christ; it is only mass. May you experience the most joyous Christmas ever this December 25, A.D. 2009.

Alphin Lamar Freeman
Born January 9, 1924
Arab, Alabama
Died October 28, 2009
Mentone, Alabama

His strong Christian faith influenced the man he was - a man of character. He was a modern day explorer and world traveler who led an adventurous life. When he was a child, he was part of the Freeman Family Variety Show that traveled the eastern U.S. and while a teenager, was a professional jazz musician in New Orleans. He served in the Navy amphibians in the Pacific during World War II and fought at Iwo Jima and Okinawa. He attended the University of Georgia, almost earning a PhD in Economics. He was a teacher, was the youngest county agricultural agent ever in Georgia, built the first park in the nation under the Bureau of



Outdoor Recreation's banner, was a pioneer in community development, was a member of the trio that developed the concept of an alpine village for Helen, GA, was co-owner of a 2,400 acre peach, pecan and cattle operation in Eatonton, GA and was a Master Mariner.

He was chosen Georgia's Man of the Year, Outstanding Agricultural Agent for Georgia, Chairman of the Oconee Area Planning Commission, County Agent Chairman for Georgia, and was a member of the National 4-H Board and numerous civic organizations. At age 47, he retired from the University system and did commercial lobster diving off the Bahamas and the Florida Keys, captained his 50 foot trawler and did long line fishing and charter work in the Gulf of Mexico. He went to Alaska 37 years ago when the state was truly "the last frontier" and developed an outback farm, did commercial halibut fish-

ing in the Gulf of Alaska and gold mined. He divided his time between Alaska and the southeast where he developed a travel trailer park in Guntersville and was co-owner of horse and cattle ranches in Alabama and Tennessee.

He is survived by his loving wife Mary Ann Moore Freeman of Mentone, a son Kenneth Freeman of Lacey Springs, a daughter Dr. Lyn Freeman Welton of Anchorage, AK, Chosen children George, Asenah and JeRevien Richeson of San Diego, CA, grandchildren Lisa Johnson McBride of Dwight Patterson AFB, Ohio, Skylar Freeman of Lacey Springs and Bret Freeman of Auburn, brothers Verbon Freeman of Winter Haven, FL and Harold Freeman of Guntersville, a sister Betty (Mrs. Robert) Ellison of Dallas, GA and numerous nieces and nephews.

Internment was November 1, 2009 at Brashiers' Chapel Methodist Church in Arab, Alabama.

Mentone
Wedding Chapel



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.

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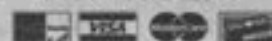
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Cops and Cowboys provide Christmas for kids

The police in Hammondville, Mentone and Valley Head have partnered with the Mountain Breeze Equestrian Team to provide Christmas for children in the area. This is the second year that they have gone to area schools and churches to find children who might not otherwise have a Merry Christmas or any Christmas at all. Last year they helped more than 50 children and hope to help even more this year. MAPA will make a donation to assist in this worthwhile project. Fundraising will continue to mid-December. You can contact any of the police departments to suggest children's names that need help. The equestrian unit also helps during the year with people that need assistance with utility bills.



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Many Thanks from MERF.

Winter is coming which means that Senior lunches on Wednesday at the Mentone Community House have come to an end except for the Christmas party on December 9th. We have had lots of good fun and plenty of fellowship with singing and playing. MERF would like to thank all of those who helped provide a wonderful time this Fall for our community. Thanks go to many that enriched us with wonderful food and service: Tony and Eleanor Teverino (Raven Haven B&B), Mae Hilburn, Mentone Community Church, St. Joseph's on the Mountain Episcopal Church, Little River Hardware, Sallie Howard Chapel, Church of God of Prophecy, Moon Lake Baptist



Church, Camp Laney, Camp Riverview, Joyce Smith, San Hammond, Kathy Mc Munn, Liz Baker, Glenda Ingram and Shirley Hussel. Thanks to the librarians: Ann Chestnut and Jill Whitten that keep our noses in good

books. We also appreciate the wonderful piano playing and guitar strumming by Elizabeth Romans, Martha Sprayberry, Elizabeth Wheatley-Jones and Harold Broyles. Of course, many Wednesdays ended with a rendition from Doug. We hope that all who came enjoyed themselves. If you would like to help with food or serving in the Spring, feel free to contact Sarah Wilcox at 634-4673. Thanks to all Mentone residents and friends that help support MERF and its mission "to enrich the learning and living of the community by identifying needs and coordinating resources". See you at the Christmas Party hosted by the Teverinos and supported by many area merchants!



Need a great Christmas gift? Support

MERF (Mentone Educational Resources Foundation) this season by purchasing a "Leave Me in Mentone" t-shirt. Long sleeve and short sleeve shirts are available for purchase at Little River Hardware or Mountain Laurel Inn B&B in fabulous colors. All proceeds support MERF programs such as Senior lunches on Wednesdays, a fine Arts program at Moon Lake Elementary School and field trips. Help us support our wonderful community today with a t-shirt purchase or a donation. Become a fan on facebook and let the world know the beauty of our community.



Mee Mee's Creations

Monogramming and embroidery at reasonable prices. Delight your family and friends with monogrammed sheets, pillowcases, towels, sweaters, shirts, baby items, etc. A limited selection of home-sewn children's fashions is now available. Call 634-4390 for details.



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Saddle Rock Golf Tournament at Cloudmont Resort was held Sunday, October 25.

Winners Pictured from left to right are:

1st place - Audie Beason, Kerry Brogdon, Rick Belcher

2nd place - Al Brown, Jeff Edmondson, Heath Miller, James Busby (not shown)

3rd place - Nathan Owen, Michael Frazier, Shane Ingram, Bobby Browder



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IN-TOWN CHARMER - Walk to downtown Mentone from this 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath cottage featuring wood floors, cathedral ceiling and gazebo all on 1 acre with more available. Call today! \$149,900 (16659)



A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY is found in this log cabin. Featuring 2BR/1BA on main floor, L-shaped living/dining/kitchen combo with wood flooring throughout. Upstairs has 2 sleeping areas and bath with unique footed maids tub. Cozy front and back porches. This cabin is sold turn key. Make your appointment today. \$239,000 (18871)



LOOKING FOR A MOUNTAIN GET-A-WAY? 3BR/1BA home just minutes from Mentone. Completely remodeled, this home is move-in ready! New kitchen appliances include range, refrigerator, microwave, and washer/dryer. Updated wiring, new CH&A, fresh interior paint and rock fireplace. Sitting on two lots with a covered back deck, nice mature trees and outbuilding. \$99,500 (17931)



MENTONE - Over 200' of breathtaking brow view of mountains and valley located within walking distance to Historic Mentone. Put your special touch on this partially finished cabin with 2 rock fireplaces and a 2-car carport. \$325,000 (18270)



IN-TOWN PRIVACY! Sit on the screened porch of this 3 bedroom, 2 bath cottage and listen to the squirrels play. Completely remodeled kitchen and only a short distance from downtown Mentone. \$139,900 (19082)



THIS WARM & COZY 2 bedroom, 2 bath cabin nestled in the woods offers seclusion, privacy & tranquility in an artful setting. Some features include gorgeous pine wood floors, wood burning fireplace, vaulted ceilings with exposed beams & a covered front and back porch. \$174,900 (19524)



ENJOY THE GOOD LIFE! 3-year old cabin situated in the cul-de-sac at Laurel Creek. 2BR/2BA, comfortable living/dining area with cathedral ceiling, rock fireplace, kitchen with island and all appliances. Over 600' of screened porches and access to 3 lakes and common areas along with several walking trails. Look no more, this is IT! \$194,500 (18918)



IT IS NOT OFTEN we find a house to sell nestled among the trees surrounded by "bigger than life" sized mountain rocks. This hand-hewn log cabin offers large great room and cozy sleeping loft. You will appreciate the attention to detail in the woodwork, upstairs deck, front porch and backyard gazebo. Sure to go quick at only \$92,500! (19508)



THE OPPORTUNITIES ARE MANY, BUT PROPERTIES LIKE THIS ARE FEW!! This beautiful traditional 5 bedroom, 4 bath brick home on over 40 rolling acres has ceramic kitchen with island and all the extras. Approximately 18 acres cleared, nice large barn and livestock pond. \$429,000 (14651)



This is THE OPPORTUNITY of a lifetime!! You can own the states oldest, still operating hotel. Currently featuring 10 bedrooms, 14 baths, 2 fully furnished commercial kitchens, upstairs ballroom and lots of room for expansion. Call for all the details. \$1,200,000 (18937)



LOOKOUT MTN WITH BEAUTIFUL VIEWS! Custom built log home with stacked rock fireplace, wide plank wood floors, large kitchen/dining area, spacious loft for extra living/ sleeping/storage, walkout basement/ game room, separate basement storage. FISH/CANOE in the 14 acre LAKE used only by property owners in this restricted, private subdivision located near Little River Canyon. \$339,500 (18235)



MOUNTAIN MAGIC! Enjoy the comforts of this magnificent Heritage log home currently under construction in Northbend. Property offers 2BR plus an open loft for possible 3rd bedroom, 2-1/2 baths, pine floors, covered front porch and side deck all situated on a 3.32 acre wooded lot. \$285,900 (16884)

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MLS



ENJOY THE GORGEOUS VIEW OF THE LAKE from this NEW construction in Mentone offering 2BR/2BA, large open living room with fireplace, spacious kitchen with dining area, master bath with garden tub and more. Call for your appointment today. \$159,900 (15985)



IF WALLS COULD TALK you could hear all the great stories this family and home has shared for over 50 years. Now this comfort and warmth is offered to you with 3 bedrooms, pine floors, den and storage basement in downtown Mentone. \$119,000 (16803)



HANDCRAFTED woodwork is found throughout this 2BR/2BA mountain home. Features include a great room with cathedral ceiling, full front and back porch, large utility room all situated on a wooded lot. Located in Laurel Creek Lakes with access to 3 lakes and walking trails. Call today for your viewing. \$184,500 (19135)



CABIN AND FURNISHINGS! This almost new 1 bedroom, 1 bath frame cabin has 640 square feet, and features a rock fireplace and foundation, wood floors and walls, central heat and air, front and back porches and sits on 1.19 acres. \$148,000 (18990)



LOOKING FOR COUNTRY LIVING? This 3 bedroom, 3 bath home offers hardwood and carpet, family room with fireplace, fully equipped kitchen, front and side porch and is surrounded by 8 acres in a restricted subdivision could be it. Call today. \$239,000 (14536)



IMMACULATE, newer 3BR home with metal roof situated on a level, shaded lot of over 2 acres. Covered front porch, open living/kitchen/dining area, gas log fireplace, complete appliance package, hardwoods, ceramic tile, jacuzzi tub, CH&A, 2 car garage, priced at \$119,000 just 4 miles from downtown Mentone! (19178)



COME SEE THIS BROW LOT in Mentone featuring a unique log structure that you can use to get-away from it all. The log structure has been moved to this site and offers an open living space with 1 bedroom and a bath. You'll have plenty of acreage to build something new or just enjoy the atmosphere of days gone by. \$279,900 (18256)



NATIVE MOUNTAIN FOLIAGE creates a level of privacy for this 3 BR/ 2BA brick house overlooking the West Fork of Little River from the back yard. Split BR design, large family room with cathedral ceiling and mountain stone wood-burning fireplace, screened porch, 2 storage sheds, (1 with electricity), an attached 2-car garage and CH&A. \$219,000 (16371)



MOVE UP TO RIVERFRONT! Get an open and airy feeling throughout this 3 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath home. Features include an oversized state-of-the-art kitchen with eating area, stone fireplace, wood and tile floors, oversized back porch and boat dock. Appealing landscaping with large native stones. Many windows to soak up the views. A must see for \$495,000. (17781)



MENTONE TREASURE! Over 300' of private and panoramic brow frontage. Restore this 3 bedroom, 2 bath home to its original splendor which features a living room w/ rock fireplace, Florida room, dining room and screened sleeping porch all overlooking a fabulous view. Also included is an in-ground pool and pavilion. Walking distance to Downtown Historic Mentone. \$650,000 (18271)



LIVE AND PLAY ON THE WATER! Enjoy 200' of frontage on the East Fork of Little River in this waterfront home featuring 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, rock floors as well as some carpet, all appliances, wood burning fireplace, and storage building. Call for more details. \$347,900 (18278)



LIVE ON THE WATERS EDGE in this custom built log cabin. Features include 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, spacious great room with cathedral ceilings, hickory floors and oversized windows, large utility room, 2-car garage and fishing dock situated on 2 lots. Set up your appointment today! \$238,000 (18898)

LAKE ON THE BROW - 1 acre lot on the lake. \$59,500 (17384)

PRISTINE RIVER LOT with 150' +/- frontage. \$195,000 (17782)

3 +/- ACRES on the E. Fork of Little River. \$165,000 (17568)

BROKEN DAM @ LAKE LAHUSAGE! Waterfront lots starting at \$66,000 (17333)

LAND and LAKE! 40 +/- ac with a 5 +/- ac lake with Brush Creek running through it. \$225,000 (18869)

2 LOTS on the middle fork of Little River near Lake Lahusage. \$69,900 Each (18627)

4 ACRES with 300' of brow frontage and gorgeous rock formations. \$250,000 (17175)

NEW DEVELOPMENT located off Co. Rd. 106 close to DeSoto State Park and DeSoto Falls. \$25,000 each. (17060/17061)

OAKWOOD SD - Great building lot offering 3.5 +/- ac. with possible ownerfinancing or trade to qualified buyer. Mild restrictions. \$29,900 (18770)

43 +/- ACRES IN MENTONE! 800' on Brush Creek. Possible Owner financing available to qualified buyer. \$259,000 (18729)

HIDDEN LAKE SUBDIVISION bordering LRP offers a gated community for people of like interests. \$89,000 (18406)

BEAUTIFUL BUILDING SITE - MENTONE! 3.22 ac. tract offers Lots of Hardwoods, Level Building Site, Per and water at CR 548! Priced at \$44,900. (18037)

MENTONE - Minutes from Downtown Mentone

and DeSoto State Park! Foundation already on property with paved road frontage and city water. 4.55 acres. \$89,900 (18989)

WATERFRONT LOT IN RESTRICTED LAKE ON THE BROW COMMUNITY! 104 feet of water frontage! Mild Restrictions in File. Great for a Vacation Home or Primary Residence. Only \$69,900! (18038)

5.62 ACRES Beautiful wooded building lot with stream located on CoRd 106 (Lahusage Drive) in desirable Mentone. Minimum square footage per dwelling is 1200 sqft heated. \$63,500 (18827)

WATERFRONT LOT AWAITS YOU! 3.06 acre lot in West Fork Subdivision in Mentone. Call for all the details. \$52,500 (19183)

8 +/- ACRES. No restrictions. Pond on property. \$59,900 (18393)

BUILD YOUR CABIN HERE on this beautiful, wooded level lot located in a restricted subdivision near downtown Mentone. \$39,900 (19426)

MORE FROM COLORFEST 2009



ANTIQUING OLD MINDS

John Baty

Something there is about things old, things long forgotten, discarded, things covered with patina, which move the minds of some to poetry, awe or perhaps even to greed. Others, of course, may think "recycle," "give away" or even "bum."

I once heard of a kind lady who worked in the clothing department of a store. She had under her care a piece of beautiful purple cloth, a remnant large enough for the construction of some garment. A customer told her she would buy the fabric. On thinking the proposition over, the lady refused to sell on the grounds that she had grown accustomed to its presence and would feel lonely without it.

Now, I have managed to resist the artful business of antiques, except for old books.

Something about looking upon the thoughts of authors long dead who viewed the strangeness of the world from different vantages is similar, I suppose, to what the archeologist feels when opening an ancient grave. Sort of snooping into the minds of ancients who never suspected what we would be like.

I suppose libraries must make room for the more relevant modern, but some old classics cry out in despair when they view what fate holds for them.

Now I pretend that some day a wealthy customer may come and fall in love with one of my old salvaged copies, but then, I might have second thoughts about my purple cloth.

The rain outside sounded depressing before daylight this morning and I turned to pages of Holmes' old Autocrat Of The Breakfast Table. Copyright 1900:

As he breakfasts with some number of persons he comments on the fact that confusion is normal when two people converse. There are really six involved, he says, when two people talk. For instance John and Thomas:

1. The real John
2. John's ideal John
3. Thomas' ideal John

4. The real Thomas
5. Thomas' ideal Thomas
6. John's ideal Thomas

He then tells us that a bowl of fresh ripe peaches are being passed around the table. As the bowl reaches the man to his left there are three remaining peaches in the basket. The fellow takes all three with the comment that if there are three of him, he rightly deserves three peaches. He then proceeds to eat them all.

As far as one is willing to delve into the thoughts of the past, there he will find humor.

Do I sense that it is now an endangered species?

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Meet your MAPA officers

By Sarah Jacoway Chastain

Gerald Bailey is the MAPA president and also is serving his second term on the town council. A truck driver, he was born in Mentone and has lived his entire life in DeKalb County. He would like to see Mentone maintain its small town friendliness as it grows.

Dewey Crow is MAPA's vice president. He has lived all of his life in the Mentone area. He began his career as a bricklayer and went into construction. He then opened an Army Surplus Store in Fort Payne. He said that he realizes that Mentone is going to grow and he would like to see it change for the best through controlled growth. (Due to a death in the family, he was unavailable for a picture.)

Amanda Gray is MAPA's secretary. She grew up in Mentone and after living in Valley Head for a period of time, moved back to Mentone. She worked at Isbell Clinic, then for a Fort Payne attorney before starting her own business. She sees that Mentone continues to be a wonderful place to live relating that everybody who visits loves it.

J.P. Nation, treasurer of MAPA was unavailable for comment.

Lamar Bray is a member-at-large. He has been in law enforcement for the past 30 years. He is currently Mentone Chief of Police. He has lived in the Mentone area for 12 years. He said, "We need to preserve Mentone's past and look to the future. We need to have some controlled growth to increase our tax base so that we can continue to provide services to the community."

Gail Chambers is another member-at-large. She came to Mentone in 1970. She was formerly a family advocate at the DeKalb County Children's Advocacy Center. She currently works at Pioneer Credit Company. She would like to see Mentone progress but not necessarily change.

Evelyn Graves is the third member-at-large. She was born in Mentone. She had a 31-year career as manager of the State Unemployment Agency in Fort Payne. When she retired she worked for Camp DeSoto and Camp Alpine. She was then offered a job with The Groundhog and has been its editor since 1992. She feels that Mentone is a well-kept secret which will continue to be a destination spot.



**Gail
Chambers**



**Evelyn
Graves**



**Lamar
Bray**



**Amanda
Gray**



**Gerald
Bailey**

LIBS FROM THE LIBRARY

by Linda Brown

The Holiday Season is here!! At the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Moon Lake Community Library most of the time was spent planning for the holiday season. Every member is the chairman of a committee and makes a report each meeting. We listened to the reports and found that the library now has fifty-two FRIENDS of the Library. Recently, quite a few large print books were purchased with the fund set up by the Lion's Club. Unfortunately, we cannot enter any new books into the system or make new patron cards. The school is getting a new computer system and of course this affects the community side as well. Hopefully, this will be ironed out before long.

We were reminded that the Reading for Pizza contest would close on Saturday, November 21st.

The grade with the most stars at the close of this day will receive a Pizza Party in their room on Tuesday, November 24th. At least three grades are very close. It is going to be interesting to see what happens.

The day to set up the Snow Village complete with train was set for Monday, November 30th beginning at 3:00 p.m. Those of you who enjoyed this last year will be able to see some changes and those who have missed getting to see it will find it a wonderful part of the celebration of the season. When you come into the library after this date be sure to look for our displays. We have some very good ones.

Please mark your calendar for our Holiday Open House. This will take place Thursday, December 17, 2009. It will be during our regular hours of 3:00 to 6:00 P.M. Come by and visit with the members of the board of directors, see all of the decorations and enjoy some light refreshments with us. Everyone is invited and we will be checking books in and out as usual on that day.

The library calendar is here!! If you have ordered one from one of the directors of the library, you might want to call and remind them. We are trying to get all of them delivered soon after Thanksgiving. If you did not order one or are not sure if you did, call me at 634-8006 and I will be sure that you get one. They will be available for sale at the library only during the community open hours. Beverly can get one for you and you can also pay her the \$5.00 price. We have kept this price since we started this project.

This is our way of saying thank you and also getting the information found in the ads to the community. The ads are all from local businesses and contain a phone number for you to call. We hope that everyone will make a habit of using the calendar. If you did not place an order for a calendar during one of our promotions for them, your birthday and anniversary will not be marked, but we can take the information and get it in the 2011 calendar. We have chosen to keep all special days which we have collected from the beginning. Therefore, if you were in the calendar last year, you will be again this year. Please do NOT call the school, this is not a school project.

We want to thank all of you for being so cooperative in reinstating our rules. We are finding that the library is a more relaxed and happy place now that everyone is on the same page. Only one little glitch seems to be still happening. The allotted number of books for all of our patrons is four books and two DVD's at any given time. Please do not ask Beverly

to override this rule.

Beverly, the community librarian, has had some time to research books or DVD's which have not been returned. If you have one of the books which belong to the library, please drop it in the drop box outside the front door. Fines are not charged on books and DVD's returned in the box. If you are ever charged a fine, please tell Beverly that you returned the item to the drop box and you will not be charged.

The open days of the Moon Lake Community Library are: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3:40 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

To be on the agenda for a meeting, call Jan Wilkinson. Our next meeting will be January 21, 2010.

Write to us: Moon Lake Community Library, PO Box 481, Mentone, Alabama 35984.

Cloudmont Ski & Golf Resort

It's easy to know if there is snow at Cloudmont. Every morning, by 7:30 am, it is posted on our web site (the conditions on the slope that day). So you can go to www.cloudmont.com in the morning and know.

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The leaves are falling...

and days are getting cooler. After thoughts of turkey, the Christmas season will be upon us and we are looking at our gift giving list.

Here's an idea to get your shopping done and help our local economy. There is a project called The 3/50 Project which is an organization to help local businesses grow. The concept is easy. As a shopper, just spend \$50 among your 3 favorite locally owned businesses per month. If everyone does this it will give a boost to the local economy and spice up your gift giving with unique gifts you can only find in a small shop. If you are not familiar with local businesses, now is a good time of year to find out what is available. You will be going shopping anyway. Downtown Fort Payne is a good place to start, but don't forget specialty shops located in the smaller towns on the mountains of Dekalb County.

So this year don't go for the fast and easy. Be a blessing to others by purchasing in locally owned businesses. And don't let this end with Christmas. Consider these businesses all throughout the year. The owners will thank you, the people on your list will thank you, and you will have the satisfaction of investing in the economy and future of Dekalb County.

For more information on The 3/50 Project go to www.the350project.net. There you can find additional information and also a list of the local businesses that support The 3/50 Project.

Let's take a tour of these businesses right now....

Downtown Fort Payne is a great place to start. At The Book Shelf etc. you can find a variety of books, teacher resources, Bibles, inspirational gifts, and Orbix hot glass. They are located in downtown Fort Payne. You can contact them by going to www.thebookshelfetc.com. Right next door is Clawfoot Designs. They specialize in vintage clawfoot tubs, as well as vintage style clocks and heating stoves. You can also find a variety of unique, vintage home décor. You can see more by going to www.clawfoot-designs.com. Then take a peek in Strand Antiques. There you can feast your eyes on things from the past. The neat part is you can feast your stomachs on some yummy home cooking in the dining area. A great stop at lunch time. Drive south on Gault Ave and take a right at the fork in the South Y to find Brooks Lock and Key. They can service all of your lock, key, and safe needs. They can provide electronic access and carry Cannon gunsafes. Their custom laser engraving can turn many gifts into a personalized and unique gift. As far as mountain stores go check out True Adventure Sports located on Lookout Mountain. Experience adventure with True Adventure Sports and T.A.S. Guide Service located one mile from Little River Canyon National Preserve. Their guided trips are designed to fit the needs of individuals or groups. They offer different packages based upon age, group size, and ability. T.A.S. guided trips include rappelling, rock climbing, canoeing, kayaking, backpacking, extreme night hikes, mountain biking, wild cave tours, ziplines, camping and moped rentals. They offer certification- training classes in rappelling, rock climbing, orienteering, GPS navigation, and survival. They also offer chalets, cabins, and camp sites. Last there is The White Elephant Antiques and Gift Galleries in Mentone. This is the perfect place to find a gift for that hard to shop for person. With every corner filled with antiques, collectibles, and unique one of a kind gifts, you are bound to find something for everybody.

RHODODENDRON GARDEN CLUB NEWS

LINDA BROWN, SECRETARY

Finally, the Rhododendron Garden Club had a regular meeting. At 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday November 10, 2009, ten members and one guest met at the M.E.R.F. Community House. President, Dianne Kuehl called the meeting to order, gave the inspirational minute and led the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. Refreshments were served by Barbara Blalock and Jan Wilkinson.

Dianne stated that three members attended the fall District II meeting. Also, she congratulated everyone on the ribbons won at the recent VFW Fair. The total of money which was awarded to members of the club was \$34.00. It is a tradition that the members give any amount won to the club treasury.

No minutes were available to be read. The treasury report was given and approved for filing. The idea of having only ten meetings per year was discussed at length. Gethryn Giles made a motion to not meet in the months of June and July. Motion was seconded and carried. It was suggested that the August meeting be designed to plan for the VFW Fair Flower Show and other items as needed.

As part of the project to maintain a Heritage Garden in the yard of the M.E.R.F. Community House, the members of the club will be planting one hundred daffodil bulbs on Thursday, November 19 at 9 a.m. We have maintained and preserved most of the plants which were on the grounds when the house was purchased. We think that most of it was planted by Paralee Bell.

The program was the showing of a video of how to identify good and bad plants when purchasing them at a nursery. The main idea of the program was to help buy good landscape plants at a nursery. Some of the ideas shown was not to buy if the roots were growing out of the pot. Another no-no was if the roots were raised up inside the pot. Both of these make the plant hard to get out of the container and most likely you will break the roots. Some common sense ideas were not to buy if the plants look dried out or if dirt has left the side of the container indicating lack of watering. Some of the ideas of a good plant were if the plant was straight, green and healthy. From the comments of the members, this was one of the most informative videos we have seen lately.

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 8, 2009, 11:00 a.m. at the M.E.R.F. Community House.

This will be a luncheon to celebrate the club's successful year and the coming holiday season. All members are asked to bring a dish of food to share. NOTICE THE TIME CHANGE.

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

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CONNOR'S COTTAGE! Currently weekend/nightly rental! 2B/1B; Living/Kitchen OR 3 offices/1B/Rec Area/ workroom! Many talents to choose! Zoned B-1 (commercial). Available Furnished! \$132,500. Broker/Owner (18598)



GORGEOUS CONTEMPO LODGE! Come see this superb 3BR/3+BA two-story. This prestigious home offers hardwood flooring, designer touches plus fireplace. Striking beamed, volume ceilings, roomy bedrooms, jet-action tub. 2.2 acres. MENTONE! FURNISHED! Call today! \$425,000. (19239)



CREATE A MORE RELAXED WAY OF LIFE! 2 living quarters on 5 acres in Mentone with detached garage/workshop, garden spot and lots of paved road frontage. HUGE PRICE REDUCTION! Now only \$199,000 (18331)



MAKE a GETAWAY! MENTONE BROW VIEW! Enjoy a serene sanctuary on two acres. Beautiful 3BR/2+BA Contempo. Impeccable, metal-roofed two-story providing easy-does-it yard care and a large view deck, custom touches. Two-story foyer. FURNISHED! \$349,900 (18872)



RUSTIC MOUNTAIN HOME! 2 bedroom/2 bath residence accented with ring, vaulted ceiling, gas fireplace. Lots of attic storage! \$95,000 (16873)



NEAR DOWNTOWN MENTONE Experience the beauty of seasonal bluff views, and glorious sunsets from any of three covered porches. Main living area offers an open floor plan, archways, hardwood floors, & fireplace. Bonus room/5th bedroom, includes pool table! Third level cupola is surrounded by windows. \$495,000 (19190)



TWO, TWO for the Price of ONE... Main home with 3 bedrooms and 1.5 baths, original pine floors, 10' ceilings and crown moldings. INCOME PRODUCING apartment with open kitchen/living areas and shower bath, wrap around decks with pretty mountain views, two out-buildings. ALL for ONE PRICE \$90,000 (19401)



GREAT LOCATION for HORSES! Live sumptuously in this 4BR/3+BA brick Traditional-style blessed with a Mountain view on 40 acres. Glamorous lifestyle providing fishing and gazebo. Private drive, 2 fireplaces, fun pool. Custom! \$649,900. (15092)



ABSOLUTE CHARMER!! You'll enjoy life in this comfortable home featuring an open floor plan, large lot, fenced in back yard, and concrete drive. This home is located on beautiful Lookout Mountain down a quaint dead end drive. Don't miss out! Call today! Only \$84,900! (19544)



JUST WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DREAMING OF! Amenities include 2 fireplaces, separate great room for entertaining and relaxation, loft/tv room, huge yard, workshop with bathroom and electricity, and paved drive. New CH/A. 3300 Sq. ft. \$246,500!! (19200)



AFFORDABLE HOME! Enjoy living on beautiful Lookout Mountain in this 3 bedroom home. Offers living room, kitchen and dining area, storage building on .84 acre lot and just minutes from downtown. \$57,000 (19254)

ALWAYS WANTED A LITTLE CABIN IN THE WOODS? Build your getaway perched on the "noel" of this 2.64 acres, fully wooded, wet weather stream, and nice seasonal views of the lake across the street! Mild deed restrictions. Seller will build to suit, too! Call today for all the details! Only \$29,900. (19209)

BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME BY THE CREEK! Listen to the water flow through this 5 ac tract on Lookout Mountain. Enjoy watching the sun set over the valley. Only \$22,500. (18851)

PANOROMIC NORTH MENTONE BROW LOT! Views for miles, paved road frontage, just minutes from downtown Mentone. Great location for your weekend get away. \$149,900 (18573)

BUILD YOUR OWN LUXURY LODGE OR RUSTIC CABIN! One of the nicest properties of it's kind on the brow of Mentone. 3 lots individually priced at \$149,900 (18230)

REDUCED! Now only \$39,900 For this 3 ACRE TRACT located between DeSoto State Park and Mentone. Take a winding country road back into this secluded, scenic area where spectacular log homes and rustic cabins are tucked back into the woods. MORE ACREAGE AVAILABLE! \$39,900 (17412)

41.65 ACRES on Lookout Mountain! Beautiful wooded acreage within the Fort Payne City limits. Land borders Yellow Creek. Seller says "Make me an offer!" \$149,900(19238)

LEVEL/CLEARED Building lot atop Lookout Mountain! Enjoy this great corner lot on dead end road. City water and electric available at road! Hurry! \$16,900! (19467)

VIEW VIEW VIEW! 2.2 ACRE tract. Septic tank & driveway are already in place and ready for your new home. Call today for more information. \$85,000 (17218)

Congratulations



*Maude Colley of
Montgomery, Alabama
is the winner of the
Quilt given away at the
2009 Colorfest.*

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THE PAWNEE LOG CABIN, consists of 2 bedrooms, 2.5 bath Great room with FP, Cherry Cabinets Cypress hardwood Floors and much more. \$160,000 (17778)



WIPPORWILL FARM. 49 acres on the east fork little river. 2800 ft on the water with deep pools and rapids. 2BR/2BA Rock and log home with all the comfort amenities. Horse barn w/ apt, detached double garage, turn of the century Rock barn. Screened sleeping cabin overlooking river. Much more! \$785,000 (19355)



NATURAL CEDAR CABIN. 2 bdr, 2 bath. Columbian cedar walls (nice aroma) when enjoying the large open great room. Stack stone FP, screen porch and access to Little River. \$169,000 (18541)



WHAT A SPECTACULAR EAST BROW VIEW. See the sun rise in the morning & the moon in the evening. Wooded with 200ft on the brow. secluded 4.36 acres. A must see. \$100,000 (18134)



FLAT LANDING EAST FORK. 3 acres with over 250 ft on the River. High wooded bluffs to view the water below. Enjoy the coolness of a mountain swim. \$120,000 (18776)



BEAUTIFULLY FURNISHED 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home located on 10 wooded acres. Outdoor amenities include wrap-around porch, hot tub, gazebo, and hiking trails. Detached garage. Inside a living room with fireplace, dining area, kitchen with eat-in bar, stainless appliance package and lots of cabinets. Much more \$395,000 (19559)



PRISTINE 18 ACRES on the East Fork Little River. over 1200 ft of river frontage. natural pools, fishing, canoeing, rafting. Build that dream home in this natural setting. \$425,000 (19136)



NEW PRICE
40 ACRES LOCATED NEAR MENTONE. Stillhouse Branch runs through the middle of tract with 2 waterfalls. Large rock formations. Sanctuary for development or private estate. \$200,000 (18760)



MUCH SOUGHT AFTER West Fork deep water. 1 mile upstream from Desoto Falls. Build your dock and gazebo and bring your boat or canoe to cruise on the river. Great recreational lot. \$45,000 (19164)



MOUNTAIN CHATEAU. 2 story home with floor to ceiling windows. 2BR/2BA with basement. Loft sleeping, full equipped kitchen. Spectacular views 4.77 acres. \$285,000 (18133)



BEST KEPT SECRET ON LITTLE RIVER. 4.6 acres with over 600 ft on the river. Main Cabin - Log with 3BR/2BA, LR/DR combo. Rock FP. 3/4 wrap-around porch. The second is a Unique Stone Bungalow with Mtn Stone facing. Stone FP w/gas logs, LR, an old world Stone baking oven and grill. Sleeping loft. All sold furnished. Must See to appreciate. \$499,000 (18936)



NEW LISTING
NICELY WOODED 5 ACRES on DeSoto Parkway with Stream. Can be Residential or Commercial. Land has old homesite and green house. Large Rock formations. Possibilities are Endless! \$150,000 (19419)



HUNTERS RIDGE. Nicely wooded acreage tracts available. County water and underground power. Common area access to the little river. Lightly restricted, and POA \$100/yr. 8 tracts available. Priced from \$24,900 to 40,000. 1.6 to 2.9 acres. (17779)



MAKE OFFER!
GREAT INVESTMENT IN VALLEY HEAD. Triplex apt. in excellent condition. A: 2BR/1BA - B: 1BR/1BA - C: 2BR/1BA A Must See! \$85,000 (17189)



NEW LISTING
TRADITIONAL HAND-HEWN, DOVETAIL CORNERED APPALACHIAN STYLE LOG HOME. Quality craftsmanship, old style time-honored techniques are featured in this 2BR/2.5BA home. Open vaulted ceiling with open beam construction. LR/DR/WJ combo. Stacked stone wood burning FP. 3/4 wrap-around covered porch. Must see to appreciate. \$239,000 (19564)



UNIQUE SETTING on the West Fork Little River. The Hatteras Cabin has 3/4 wrap-around deck. 2BR/2BA and a large bunk area Loft. Mountain stone Fireplace. 160 ft on the river. All furnishings included. \$250,000 (16466)



WHAT A VIEW. 11.2 acres on the West Brow with amenities already installed. Over 600 ft on the Brow with Rock outcroppings. Bonus-Mobile home, till that dream home \$239,000 (18543)



WALK TO MENTONE FROM THIS COZY COTTAGE! Enjoy the sunsets from the screened porch. 2BR, 1BA. Completely furnished. Great for weekend getaway or home. \$169,000 (18891)



OLD SCHOOL LOG CABIN. 2.3 acres with full basement. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, open living area. Log walls. Kitchen with appliances. Front and Back covered porches. \$85,000 (19354)

Emerson cared for his students

The tri-state area lost a gentle giant with the passing of Mr. William Kenneth Emerson.

My family was privileged to know him as principal of Mountain View Elementary/ Junior High School in Rossville, Ga., where my children attended first through eighth grades.

Although Mr. Emerson and his lovely wife Mary did not have children of their own, he had hundreds of footprints across his heart from the pupils whom he loved and who loved him.

He was not there to appease faculty or parents; he was there to educate the whole child - mentally, emotionally and physically. He developed a physical education program that was second to none.

If a student was sent to "the office," if punishment was needed, it was delivered, but they knew when they left there was someone who loved and cared for them.

The last time we spent time with Mr. Bill was Labor Day.

The day was spent with much laughter, stories and tales-told. My children were thrilled, and he got to meet their children. This was shortly before he left his home in Trenton, Ga., to live with family in South Carolina.

He is sorely missed.

NANCY LEDFORD Dunlap, Tenn.

Editors note: Many of you remember Mr. Bill Emerson, a native of Mentone, who passed away not too long ago.



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PROPERTY FOR SALE On Co. Rd. 940. 10 Acres On The Back Edge. Nice Wooded Land. Call 256-634-4844

COMPASSIONATE, PROFESSIONAL, special education teacher seeking to serve elderly patient care. First Aid/CPR certified. Taught seven/profound mentally challenged students. Excellent references. Call (706) 936-2555 or (706) 857-6800. Leave message.

FOR RENT - Fabulous Mentone retreat home. Private, 2 bedroom, 2 bath plus loft. Amazing rocks, woods and landscaping. Call Elan 256-634-8000.

OWN PART OF A BROW HOME. Need 3rd investor to purchase Mentone vacation home on 1 acre west brow/spectacular large deck sunset views. The buy-in cost is \$100k for 4 months of time per year. Would consider 2 investors at \$50k each for 2 months per year.

Call 256-634-3055.

BUY GUNS or Gun Collections. Call 256-634-8245

HOUSE FOR SALE IN VALLEY HEAD - 13 acres w/pond. 4BR/2BA, well water or city water, 24x30 shop, 10x30 lean attached. Long paved drive with Bradford Pear trees, 8x2 storage bldg., 28x60 double-wide included. 3BR/2BA, fireplace, garden tub, new septic tank. Call 256-635-0275 or 619-1287 (cell phone)

LOOKING FOR HOME TO BUY IN GERALDINE AREA. 256-635-0275 or 619-1287. 3-4 bedrooms, 3-5 acres, no more than 8, on bus route.

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3 BDRM, 2 BATH HOUSE on 3 acres near DeSoto State Park. \$119,500. 845-3515

FOR RENT: Ranch on 1 acre, close to town, 2 BR, 1 Bath, screen porch, 1 car carport. Quiet and peaceful community. No smoking. \$485. 256-516-4663

FORT PAYNE - FREE UTILITIES! MOVE IN NOW! One Bedroom apartments for Seniors 62 and older. HUD retirement community. Fun activities and services. HCP accessible. EHO 256 845-6875

FIREWOOD 4-SALE. \$70.00 for a long wheel-base pick-up truck load. Free delivery to Mentone, ValleyHead, & Cloudland areas. 256-634-4719

FOR RENT - 1 bdrm, 1 bath, all utilities, appliances, lawncare & garbage pickup included. No Dogs. Very private location, \$650.00 monthly plus dep. 256-634-4719

FOR RENT - Quaint 3 bedroom, 2 bath log house in downtown Mentone. References and deposit required. For more information call Susan Collins at Southern Properties Agency, Inc. (256) 845-6000

Bringing the Holidays to Military Men and Women Recommended 2009 Mailing Dates to APO/FPO Addresses

The recommended mailing date for the most economical postage to overseas military installations, including Iraq and Afghanistan, is Nov. 13. Mail sent to overseas military addresses is charged only domestic mail prices. The domestic mail price for the Priority Mail Large Flat Rate Box is \$13.95, but for packages to APO/FPO addresses overseas the price is reduced to \$11.95. Additional discounts are available for customers printing their Priority Mail postage labels online at Click-N-Ship.

Flat-Rate boxes are free at any Post Office, or can be ordered online at shop.usps.com. Postage, labels and customs forms can be printed online any time using Click-N-Ship.

Free Military Care Kits can be ordered by phone by calling 1-800-610-8734 and asking for the Care Kit. Each kit includes two "America Supports You" large Priority Mail Flat-Rate boxes, four medium-sized Priority Mail Flat-Rate boxes, six Priority Mail labels, one roll of Priority Mail tape and six customs forms with envelopes.

To ensure delivery of holiday cards and packages by Dec 25 to military APO/FPO addresses overseas, the Postal Service recommends that mail for service members be entered no later than the mailing dates listed below.

MILITARY MAILING DEADLINES

Military Mail Addressed To	Express Mail® Military Service (EMMS)1/	First-Class Mail® Letters and Cards	Priority Mail®	Parcel Airlift Mail (PAL) 2/	Space Available Mail (SAM)3/	Parcel Post®
APO/FPO AE ZIPs 090-092	Dec-18	Dec-11	Dec-11	Dec-4	Nov-28	Nov-13
APO/FPO AE ZIP 093	N/A	Dec-4	Dec-4	Dec-1	Nov-21	Nov-13
APO/FPO AE ZIPs 094-098	Dec-18	Dec-11	Dec-11	Dec-4	Nov-28	Nov-13
APO/FPO AA ZIP 340	Dec-18	Dec-11	Dec-11	Dec-4	Nov-28	Nov-13
APO/FPO AP ZIPs 962-966	Dec-18	Dec-11	Dec-11	Dec-4	Nov-28	Nov-13

Those shipping abroad (even to APO or FPO addresses) should be aware that there are restrictions on what can be mailed. Also, a customs form may be required. For details go to USPS.COM or consult with one of our retail professionals.

The full press release from which this information was drawn is available at USPS.COM in the Newsroom.

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Travels close to home

Riverboat in Chattanooga, TN

By Sarah Jacoway Chastain

Eighth in a series on short trips that can be made in one day. Each article will include something special to see or do and a good place to eat while you're there.

What do you do on a rainy day? It's a question that we've all had to ponder recently. There are several possibilities but what you probably wouldn't choose if you had a working crystal ball would be scheduling a ride on the Southern Belle River boat in Chattanooga to enjoy the fall colors.

This was especially an unfortunate choice considering that the tickets were purchased in advance with a no refund policy. Sounds rather unfortunate but the 32 brave souls who had one of the 40 pre-purchased tickets agreed that it turned out to be a nice way to spend a rainy day.

Even though it drizzled most of the entire four hours of the trip, most of us went out on the covered decks to enjoy the magnificent scenery that lined the banks of the Tennessee River. Some even ventured up to the top deck which although covered, was a little breezier. There we listened to our guide point out some of the industries and other special sights in the area.

Our lunch cruise included a deluxe deli buffet with turkey, roast beef and ham, American cheeses, wheat, white and hoagie breads, lettuce, tomato, pickles, mustard, mayo, Cole slaw, baked beans, chips and soup. We enjoyed fresh fruit and cookies for dessert. Occasionally dessert includes the good old Southern favorite, Moon Pies which are made in Chattanooga. Fresh hot coffee and good old Southern iced tea (sweet of course) or a variety of soft drinks was available to accompany the meal (and afterwards).

As soon as the food was cleared, the real fun started. On the first deck, people enjoyed listening to the live music while others sang along or danced. On the second deck bingo reigned. There were some winners from our group. It became a contest between the group from Dunlap, GA, Huntsville and Fort Payne to see who had the most winners. Since the group from Huntsville was larger, they had more winners but it was Fort Payne who boasted the grand prize winner. When the bingo games were over without my winning a single prize, I went down to enjoy the music. I found many from the three groups who happened to all be from Baptists churches dancing or singing along. A generation or two ago, who ever thought a group of Baptists would enjoy or admit to enjoying gambling and dancing.

After four hours of food and fun, we approached the pier accompanied by a rousing rendition of "When the Saints Go Marching In" played on the calliope.

Southern Belle offers special cruises throughout the

year including both day cruises and moonlight cruises. Some are geared for families while others like the one we took are fun for groups.

Some of the special event cruises that are coming up for the rest of the year include: Christmas

Carol Dinner Cruises, Tis the Season Luncheons, Santa's Ho, Ho, Ho Cruises and the New Years Dinner Gala.

Christmas Carol Dinner Cruises begin on November 27th and go through December 19. The Singing Deckhands will get everyone started singing Christmas Carols as you cruise the river. The prime rib and shrimp Creole dinner is sure to please. There will be live entertainment for dancing or easy listening. Santa will be on board to start the dancing.

The whole family can enjoy Breakfast with Santa on December 12 on Pier 2 at the Landing. Santa will be there for a photo opportunity. There will be an array of scrumptious buffet delights. After breakfast, you can visit with the Grinch and show him the true meaning of Christmas. After breakfast on Pier 2 from 9:30 till 11, you can enjoy a cruise with Santa from 11 till 12.

The Tis the Season Luncheon on December 5 affords a break from the hustle and bustle of the season and lets you have the benefit of a relaxing two hour cruise while you enjoy a slow cooked prime rib with live entertainment with Christmas tunes.

Ring in the New Year with a New Years Eve Gala on December 31st. Boarding begins at 8:30 with light hors d'oeuvres before departing at 9 p.m. to cruise into 2010. The fare for dinner starts with Gulf shrimp cocktail followed by slow cooked prime rib and shrimp Creole, redskin potatoes, steamed rice, seasonal vegetables, Southern Belle salad and a delicious dessert. At midnight, the horns will blow and there will be party favors for all. A split of champagne and two keepsake champagne flutes will be provided to each couple for a toast



Riverboat Ramblers.

The fun doesn't stop when the year ends because there's always something special going on with the Southern Belle.

On Monday night from Memorial Day to Labor Day, Papa John's Pizza, Caesar Salad and cookies are on the menu.

Monday nights in April, May, September and October host gospel music cruises. The traditional southern menu includes chicken and dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, Cole slaw and dinner rolls.

Tuesday nights are barbeque nights. The meal is complete with BBQ beef, baked beans, corn on the cob, Cole slaw and dinner rolls.

Wednesday nights are family nights during the time between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The menu includes prime rib and spaghetti, baby red potatoes, green beans, Caesar salad, dinner rolls and garlic bread.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights aboard the Southern Belle Riverboat in Chattanooga host the famous Dixieland Cruises. The menu includes what some say is the best Prime Rib in the south along with Shrimp Creole, Steamed Rice, Baby Red Potatoes, Green Beans, Caesar Salad, and Dinner Rolls.

There are three cruises for Valentine's Day: A Valentine's Sweetheart Luncheon that is two hours long, a Valentine's Early Dinner Cruise which leaves at 5 and returns at 7 and a Valentine's Day Dinner Cruise.

The day before Easter, you can take the entire family on an Easter Bunny Cruise. You can visit the Easter Bunny as you cruise down the Tennessee River while enjoying a magic show. This cruise includes the deli sandwich buffet.

You can also enjoy Easter Lunch on the River with a delectable buffet. It begins at 1 p.m. and returns at 2:30.

Contact the Chattanooga Riverboat Company for more detailed and up to date information: 201 Riverfront Parkway, Pier 2, Chattanooga, TN 37402-1616 Phone (423)266-4488 or (800)766-2784.

Next month's trip will be a shopping trip to the Riverchase Galleria in Birmingham with lunch at Michael's Steakhouse.

to ring in the New Year.

There is also an Early Bird New Year's Eve Dinner Cruise for those who just want to relax and celebrate but be tucked in by midnight. Dinner will be prime rib and shrimp Creole buffet dinner with entertainment provided by the