

THE GROUNDHOG

Mentone, Valley Head, Hammondville, Menlo, Cloudland

PO Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984

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"Neighborhood News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain" — In our 30th year

December 2011

WALKIN' IN A WINTER WONDERLAND —EARLY SNOW IN MENTONE

By Charlotte Gentry

There's one thing you can depend on when it comes to weather: if you don't like the weather at this very moment, you can wait a day or two and it will most likely change!

The last week of November in Mentone saw temperatures go from a balmy mid-70s over Thanksgiving weekend, to flash floods on the following Monday, to nearly 4" of snow in parts of Mentone on Tuesday!

Mentone residents awoke to a Winter Wonderland on November 29th when a surprise snow accumulation fell. Forecasters had predicted only a few flurries, and most locations other than Mentone received little to no snow. The roads were unaffected by the snow and folks went about their business as usual, and it was pretty much gone in a few hours, but the snow's beauty made Mentone quite picturesque.

According to one area meteorologist, this winter isn't supposed to be as severe as last winter, insofar as cold temperatures go, because we will be under a "La Nina" pattern. He also said we will see more unstable, stormy weather patterns.

The Farmer's Almanac agrees with this and states: "For the winter of 2011-12, the Farmers' Almanac is forecasting "CLIME AND PUNISHMENT," a season of unusually cold and stormy weather. For some parts of the country, that means a frigid climate, while for others, it will mean lots of rain and snow. In contrast, above-normal temperatures are expected across most of the southern and eastern U.S.

"Near normal temperatures are expected in the Midwest and Far West, and in southern Florida. A very active storm track will bring much heavier than normal precipitation from the Southern Plains through Tennessee into Ohio. Because of the above normal temperatures, much of the precipitation will likely be rain or mixed precipitation, although during February, some potent East Coast storms could leave heavy snow, albeit of a wet and slushy consistency. Drier than normal weather will occur in the Southwest and Southeast corners of the nation."



Photos by Larry Smalley and Charlotte Gentry

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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.



THE GROUNDHOG STAFF

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Layout/Design.....Diane Sanders
Contributing Writers.....Linda Brown,
LC Moon, Kristen Emory, Dixie Wilson,

MAPA OFFICERS

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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 (Groundhog sub-
scriptions are not included)

In case of errors in advertisements,
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in the advertisement.

**CALL CHARLOTTE GENTRY AT
256-996-5995 for advertising.**

Letters to the editor are welcome.
They should be typewritten and of rea-
sonable length.



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

**Just \$10/year individual
\$15 for a couple
MAPA, PO Box 50
Mentone, AL 35984**

From the Editor

It wasn't too many days ago that we were enjoying wildflowers, and then the lovely Fall colors took the place of blooms to liven up our landscape. Now the trees are bare and the winds have scattered the leaves thither and yon where they rest in drifts or have been removed by human hands.

There is beauty to be found, still, in this barrenness. Trees whose limbs twist and curve into interesting shapes are more easily seen without the cover of leaves. Rock formations that had been hidden now become visible and can be enjoyed. Most of all, there is no other time of the year when the stars are so vivid than on a cold, clear, night.

We go along each day and very often miss these blessings, but every once in awhile we allow ourselves the pleasure of noticing the ever-changing beauty around us.

The holiday season is a mixture of chaos and calm. We rush here and there trying to be sure we have just the right gifts or just the right decorations or just the right ingredients to prepare our seasonal feasts. Amidst all this, we relax a few moments with a cup of coffee or tea and just absorb the sights, sounds and smells of the days and relive Christmases past, remembering old friends and family members who are no longer with us.

The end of another year is upon us and we look back to take stock of what we did and didn't do and resolve that next year will be different. We dust off our dreams, polish up our passions and clear the clutter of our minds.

For me, as Editor of The Groundhog, it is a time to re-think priorities and try to simplify a life that has become far too filled with obligations to the detriment of what is most important—family, friends and faith.

When I was asked to take on the task of editing this little publication, I declined at first. Then, with more urging and the realization The Groundhog would most likely be no more, I accepted the job. My goal was to invigorate and bring new life to the 30-year old newspaper and renew interest in our readers, advertisers and our community, hoping that others would get excited and would contribute articles, photos and features to fill its pages. I think I've been partially successful.

In truth, it has proven to be far more of a job than I imagined getting the paper out each month. While there are a couple of dependable regular contributors, and I occasionally get submissions from others, the bulk of the information and photos are gathered and written by me. Filling 24 pages is not always easy to do, especially when one considers this is a non-paying position and I still have a business to run, a family to take care of, and other obligations to meet.

As editor, it has been my job to set up the pages (working very closely with Diane Sanders at the Times-Journal who builds the pages on her computer). Not only do I write most of the paper and direct its building, I also pick it up once it is published and deliver it to almost all the locations where it is available. Do you realize how wide-spread the Groundhog is distributed? Thanks to Robert Green, who delivers it over to Georgia, and Ray & Sandra Padgett who generally get it to the I-59 Welcome Center, I have a few less places to take it. Added to this is the mailing, the billing, accounting for the subscriptions and advertising and selling ads.

I sincerely appreciate the positive feedback I've had from readers and advertisers who've supported this publication with their subscriptions and advertising. They see The Groundhog as a valuable resource for our community. And I believe most folks in the community see it the same way.

The bottom line is, this is YOUR newspaper. If YOU don't contribute to it, then it will cease to be relevant...or cease to exist, period. I've repeatedly asked for photos and asked folks to write about life in Mentone, past and present. I've urged folks to interview their elderly relatives or neighbors and get this history down before it's too late. It isn't physically possible for one person to write all these stories and take these photos.

As the New Year begins, I will begin paring down my presence as Editor of The Groundhog and MAPA will be searching for someone to take on some of the duties of this position. While this transition is going on, I'll continue contributing articles and photos, but it is a fact that I cannot continue bearing the whole load, and neither can my business and family tolerate the inattention to them.

I look forward to the Christmas season and remembering what is most important, and I look forward to seeing what the New Year brings. Merry Christmas to you and yours from The Groundhog, and from the Gentry Family.

C. We Wish You A Merry Christmas
...And A Happy New Year!

Letters To the Editor

Dear Editor

I just wanted to take this opportunity to say how pleased I was that MAPA & MAAC could come together and produce the BEST festival Mentone has had in at least 12 years! I know, because I have attended every single one of them since 1999. Before this merger, I had decided to discontinue allowing the use of my property for the festivals because of several incidents in the past. KUDOS to everyone who worked soooooo hard to produce the beginnings of a wonderful event that was enjoyed by all, attendee's & vendors alike.

My sincerest gratitude,

Deb Guffey

CHUCK HAS BEEN RETURNED SAFE AND SOUND!

The unidentified kidnapper of Chuck the Groundhog has returned Chuck to us, in spite of the fact our collections toward the \$2,000 ransom have fallen far short of that goal (to date, we have had only about \$200 contributed). The Groundhog's stuffed animal mascot was found on the porch of Mentone Realty with a note attached that said,

"It is time for Chuck to go home. I want everyone to know I only wanted to help Moon Lake School, especially the 5th Grade Class who is trying to go to Space Camp. I thought this would be an interesting way to raise money. I really didn't think I would have Chuck this long, but I have taken good care of him. Even if you haven't got all the ransom, maybe what you did get will help some. I know these are hard times for many people. Merry Christmas!"

Signed,
The Kidnapper





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**Welcome To
Mentone!!**



Stop by our Log Cabin in front of the Wildflower Cafe, we always look forward to a visit from our neighbors and friends.

LOTS and LAND

APPROX 1.54-ACRE BROW LOT on S Brow of Mentone (maybe a mile from the village) offers the perfect spot to build your dream cottage. \$120,000. (PLS# 21308)

1.69 ACRE LOT W/LAKE VIEW! Level, wooded, on a private road, approx 1.5 mi from downtown Mentone. Lightly restricted. Add'l land avail. \$27,500. (PLS#19225)

MENTONE LAND W/CREEK 4.42 acres, wooded, peaceful, abundant wildlife, myriad hiking/walking areas. Restricted. \$42,000 (MLS#578905, PLS#21482)

10.8 ACRES ON N. BROW. Approx 340' of brow frontage. Awe-inspiring views; interesting rock formations; large trees. \$199,900. (MLS#928654, PLS#21467)

TWO ACRES W/DRIVEWAY, public water at road, building site already prepared. Approx one mile from downtown Mentone on N Scenic Hwy. Unrestricted, wooded, level. \$29,900. (MLS#553792, PLS#21346)

CREEKSIDE LOT IN MENTONE! 1.13 ac lot w/approx 200' of creek frontage in lightly-restricted area w/ underground pwr & city water. Trees, rocks & water. If you've been considering building a cabin, this is exactly the right place. \$29,900 (PLS #20832)

3.21 ACRE WOODED LOT in Northend gated community. Privacy & security to build your mountain getaway. \$39,900 (MLS#387708; PLS#21363)

NEW LISTING! Come back to the country. Slow pace Mentone living at its best. Historic Nightingale community. Great building lot; unrestricted, level, with lots of trees. Not a big lot, not a big price. Only \$6,500. (MLS#981737; PLS#21572)

**Merry Christmas
& Many Thanks**



BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE! But, you can snuggle up by the stacked stone, WB Fpl in this 2BR/2BA cabin. Cedar interior & siding; full front porch; screened back porch with swing. Small pond joining property. Completely furnished including the linens, dishes & decor. Bring the groceries & enjoy your own Mentone getaway cabin!! \$139,900 (PLS#21615; MLS#786624)



40 ACRES WITH TWO PONDS & HOUSE Family farm, generations-owned, now for sale. Quaint board-n-batten 3BR/2BA farmhouse with 3/4 wraparound screened porch; outbuildings; old chicken houses; stream flowing through woods; two ponds; public water and well; workshop that looks like a dollhouse! Land is approx 1/2 pasture (fenced), 1/2 wooded, with frontage on two roads. Owner may divide into two portions. Property in town limits of Mentone. Build your own family compound, summer retreat, or get back to the land and become a farmer! A rare opportunity at a very attractive price! \$250,000. (MLS#554750; PLS#21468)



THE OLD BRUCE HOUSE, one of the few remaining of Mentone's early residences, on the corner of Cool Street and Linchpney (the address alone is fabulous!) Two-story frame home w/heart pine walls, ceilings & floors. Stone, wood-burning Fpl fitted w/gas logs. The well bucket & windlass on back screened porch is still operational. Breathe new life into this one-of-a-kind classic home. Right in the heart of Mentone, behind the Mentone Inn. (MLS#913251, PLS#21463)



HANDCRAFTED LOG CABIN getaway w/approx 1000' brow & waterfall view. Getaway to this private sanctuary that features a pond, waterfalls, brow & lots of hiking trails and rock formations. The 1268 sq ft log cabin has stone fireplace, open floorplan w/jacuzzi tub 2BR/2B wraparound porch that has a waterfall view. Quiet and secluded this 31+ac parcel also adjoins an 80ft waterfall common to Lookout Highlands. This parcel has potential for division or conservation easement. (pls#21583; mls#566631)



THE JAMES PLACE on the brow with a breath-taking view of the valley below, mountains beyond and those fabulous sunsets! Over 185' brow frontage. House has 4BR/2.5BA, 2-car attached garage, hot tub on back deck, 1.46 acres of land, beautiful landscaping. Quaint stone columns and iron gated entry. Less than a mile from downtown Mentone. Residence, retreat or rental! Look around and you'll find this to be an incredibly reasonable price for this much land, this much frontage, this much house on the brow at Mentone! Priced at only \$275,000! (MLS#580676; PLS#21259)



ROOM TO GROW! 3BR/2BA, approx 1800 sq ft home. Elevation provides rolling mountain views; 5 acres land provides room for mini-farm. Home has full basement with recreation room & add'l areas. Many improvements. Detached garage. Pasture area. Room to grow your own veggies and have an animal or two. Additional acreage may be possible. \$100,000. (MLS#408619; PLS#21418)



LUXURIOUS LAKESIDE LIVING! 5BR/4.5BA 3-level cabin on Mentone's own Lake Lahusage offers almost 3000sq ft of living area, vintage Brunswick pool table, terrace-level patio, screened back porch, dock with covered boat slip on deep water, small garage to store recreation goodies. No maintenance exterior. Just reduced to \$299,000. (PLS#20999, MLS#655876)



CLASSIC LAKESIDE HOME on deep water, Lake Lahusage. 3BR/2BA; cypress siding; maple flooring & cabinets w/Silestone(R) counters. Beautiful crown molding throughout. Solid interior doors, CH/A w/gas back-up heat & stone WB Fpl w/gas igniter. Open pit BBQ house; new aluminum dock. Fully-furnished w/few exceptions. Bring your groceries & enjoy waterfront living at Mentone. \$299,900. (MLS#631541; PLS#21267)



CHARMING CABIN IN THE WOODS. Relax & rejuvenate in this approx 1450 sq ft 2BR/2BA getaway. Features include open floor plan, glassed-in porch, hot tub, vaulted ceilings w/open-beam trusses & a real stone fireplace w/buck insert. 3-car carport w/workshop & detached, 12x24 studio/office make this a great property for full or part-time living. Priced reasonably at \$175,000. (MLS#560320; PLS#21546)

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

DECEMBER

Birthdays

1-Kaylee McMunn, Joe Moore
 3-Kerri McMunn
 4-Cheryl Baker
 5-Mike Keracher, Beth Nelson, Jess Goggans
 6-Ellen Thompson, Bob Bonnett
 8-Ken Davis, Renae Day
 9-Michael Stone
 10-Bobbie Smith, Tammy Frost, Ryan Keef,
 Gloria Hairston, Marc Womack, Greg Tharpe,
 Christine Ballenger, Slate McDorman, Randy
 Moses, Donnie O'Shields, Rob Edgar
 11-Bud Fielder, in memory; Sue Brown
 12-Melody Gilbreath, Sonny Crane, Brian Green,
 Kristen Lauro, Homer Crow, Jim McManus, Wm.
 J.R. Cyr, Devin Crow
 13-Sandra Blalock, Hoyt Tullis, in memory
 16-Karen Holcomb, Raegan Key
 18-Daniel Brown, Charles Akes, Ashley Henry
 19-Brynda Hopper
 20-Ilene Green
 21-Kassie Hicks
 22-Sid Holcomb
 23-Daniel Gray, Tayler Watson
 24-Mark Hester
 25-Faye Hunt
 26-Bessie Wigley
 30-Emily Collins, Lyle Nicely, Kyle Hicks, Ann
 Chesnut

Anniversaries

4-Gus & Janet Spahr, 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
 30-Jimmy & Evelyn Graves

DECEMBER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

"A Gathering on the Constitution" Sat., Dec. 10, Desoto State Park Resort Lodge. 9:00 AM-4:00 PM. Registration begins at 8:00 AM. Pre-registration is \$25/person, \$40/couple. Registration on Dec. 10 is \$30/person, \$50/couple and includes a buffet lunch. Keith Kenney, 678-938-1386, themayor@charter.net for add'l information or to pre-register.

MOONLAKE PTO CHRISTMAS PROGRAM featuring entire student body. Dec. 13th. 6 p.m.

MAPA MEETINGS are every 1st Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m. at the MERF house located behind Moon Lake Public Library. MAPA is working to preserve the history of Mentone and to have an impact on its future. Join MAPA today! Yearly membership is only \$10.00 (\$15.00 for couples)

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE at Moon Lake Community Library will have an Open House on Sat., Dec. 17 from 10:00 until 12:00. Refreshments, music, Christmas Village and train! Come join the fun!

FORT PAYNE CHRISTMAS PARADE, Dec 9 Parade & Christmas in the Park. Join in the festivities in Fort Payne City Park. Free soft drinks, hot chocolate, refreshments, caroling. Festivities start at 4 p.m. Parade starts at 6 p.m. More info 256-845-2741

AREA CHRISTMAS PARADES DEC 10: Rainsville, begins at 4 pm; Ider begins at 10 am; Geraldine begins at 2 pm; Crossville begins at 3:30 pm.; Fyffe begins at 12 noon.

COTTON PATCH GOSPEL, Dec 10 at 7 pm; Dec 11 at 2 pm., presented by The Big Wills Arts Council. Two performances of the acclaimed play "Cotton Patch Gospel", the Story of Christ told from a "Southern Perspective" with a Bluegrass Music Soundtrack. Proceeds support BWAC/FP Schools Arts In Education Program. \$5 for students (Under 16 years of age) \$5 for Senior Citizens (60 years of age) & \$10 for Adults. Held at The Fort Payne City Hall Auditorium. More info: 256-845-2224

GIVING GREEN, Dec 10, 1 pm. Little River Canyon National Preserve will host the park's Green and Gray Program at the Little River Canyon Center. This is a free program. The ranger will present green gift giving ideas and other ways to help the environment during the holiday season.

CHRISTMAS AT THE OPERA HOUSE, Fort Payne, Dec 11, 2:00 pm. Celebrate the holidays with a talented mix of musicians in the historic Fort Payne Opera House. Willie Underwood & the Underwood Gospel Singers; Still Kickin. Tickets \$10 in advance & are available on line & from local merchants. Tickets \$12 at the door. More info 256-996-0552

WINTER WONDERLAND Dec 16, Little River Canyon Center 11 am-noon. Growin' Up Wild for Pre-school age children. No fee. Pre-registration is encouraged. 256-782-8010.

CHRISTMAS IN THE CAVERNS December 21 - 24, Sequoyah Caverns. Annual event inside the cave! Live Nativity scene includes a choir, live animals and the depiction of the birth of a savior. 800-843-5098

MENTONE FARMERS MARKET is open year-round. On the Square next to Mentone Inn. Wednesdays 2-5 pm; Saturdays 10 am-1 pm (winter hours may vary). Locally-grown & hand-made items, custom-order Christmas wreaths & décor; Jellies, jams, preserves, local honey. Pre-order holiday baked goods and more! Buy fresh, buy local! It's good for all of us!

FREE BRIDGE LESSONS are taught each Thursday from 1-3 p.m. at the Fort Payne Senior Center. Call 256-845-8590.

SPAY AND NEUTER ASSISTANCE for dogs and cats is available through the DeKalb County Humane Society. Call 256-845-9463.

FREE BASIC COMPUTER and Internet classes for adults are being held at DeKalb County Public Library. Call 256-630-2769 to schedule an appointment.

NORTH ALABAMA COIN CLUB, Meets Mondays at Mi Casita's in Fort Payne from 5 pm - 8 pm (256) 630-3201. Visitors always welcome.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN KNITTERS meet every Thursday morning at the MERF house in Mentone from 10:00 am till noon. All skill levels are welcome. And if you don't know how but want to learn we'll teach you! Come on!

DESOTO'S GPS QUEST game. Ongoing. Check out www.Alapark.com/desotoresort website and get into the spirit of Hernando DeSoto's expedition! Explore the wilds of DeSoto State Park on a hide-and-seek quest using GPS to find markers located throughout the park. Find the markers and record the letter on your scorecard. Once completed, visit this website and enter the correct letters to print your certificate of completion.

DESOTO RESCUE SQUAD meets the 1st Saturday of the month at 9am at the MERF house in Mentone.

If you have announcements for the Community Bulletin Board, please email them to: editorgroundhog@yahoo.com; fax to 256-634-0027 or drop them by the Mentone Realty office.

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.

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church on N. Gault Avenue in Fort Payne holds Mass Services at 10AM each Sunday-English; 1PM-Spanish; 6PM-English; Tuesday 6PM-English; Wednesday 4:30PM-Spanish; Thursday 6:30AM-English; Friday 9AM-English.

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.

Menlo 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 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 - 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.

Mentone United Methodist Church, 415 Cutler Avenue, Mentone, Alabama invites you to come and worship with us. Each Sunday, our worship service is at 11:00 a.m. and Sunday School is at 10:00 a.m. Rev. Tom Holt is the pastor. He and his wife, Beth and daughter, Abigail reside in the parsonage which is adjacent to the church. 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. Minister Tom Holt.

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 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 Stames, 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 be in service. Sunday morning 10:45 a.m., Sunday night 5:00 p.m., Wed. Bible study 6:30 p.m. Pastor Lance Kincer invites everyone. Summit Church of God will be renting spaces for Worlds Longest Yard Sale in Aug. \$10.00 a day. For info, call 265-634-4418

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: Sunday School 9AM - all ages; Sunday Service 10:30AM; Bible Study Wednesday 6:00PM; Youth Services 7:00PM Sunday and 6:30PM Wednesday (Meet at Mentone Revival Center Bldg.). Pastor Fred Johns

Cloudland Presbyterian Church welcomes everyone to come join us for services, with Pastor Roger Kvam. Bible Study Sunday at 9:00 a.m (e.s.t.) and Worship at 10:00 a.m (e.s.t.)

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 10:55 AM. 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 9:45; Traditional Worship service 11:00. Sunday Evening youth activities 5:30 pm, Evening Worship 6 pm. We have a variety of activities for all ages including Wednesday evening youth activities; knitting ministry for ladies each Tuesday at 9 am; 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.

St. Joseph's Church Continues Registration for Food Bank St. Joseph's Episcopal Church will continue to interview and register people who are eligible for Food Bank services at the church on Tuesdays and Thursdays this month, from 9AM till 12noon. If interested to learn about your eligibility please bring a photo ID, and eligibility papers for SSI, Food Stamps, or financial assistance from the Dept. of Family Resources. If eligible you can receive food the same day you are registered. Food will also be available to those already registered and found eligible, during the same hours.



Celebrate The Miracle!

As we watch the holiday season unfold,
We recall the greatest story ever told;
And join our friends in adulation
Marked by joy and celebration
As we honor our Savior's birth,
We send this prayer for peace on earth
And pray that every one of you
Receive His many blessings, too!

Seasons Greetings from

The Groundhog

Mentone Hearts Club

by Ray Padgett

Mentone has everything. We have arts, crafts, music, historic buildings, churches, the world's best natural beauty, and even a farmers market. But, we ain't got no card dealing, domino shuffling, checker crowning, good old-fashioned place for our community to meet, swap local news and yarns and get to better know our neighbors – until now that is.

The Mentone Hearts Club is now officially formed and meets anytime we have players and talkers. Our current meeting/playing place is the Mentone General Store, across from the Mentone Town Hall. The Mentone Hearts Club has no fees, no membership list, no officers, no board and no rules, except the game rules. We have no tax status, no government recognition, and we make no charitable contributions. However, if any "member" wishes we may have an occasional tournament and we will always engage in bragging rights.

Just come on by the Mentone General Store and we will have players at the table, playing cards, checkers, dominoes or just sitting around drinking coffee and talking. We may even just kick back and watch the "big game" on T.V.

For more information about the Mentone Hearts Club please contact Paul Zulker (256-634-8180) or Ray Padgett (256-634-3001).



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Destiny Leanna Clardy

IT'S A GIRL!

Destiny Leanna Clardy was born on Sept 22, 2011. She weighed 6 lbs, 8 oz and was 21" long. Proud parents are Jessica and Randy Clardy, of Fort Payne. Grandparents are Julie & Joe Mayhew, of Mentone; Stacey Clardy, of Rainsville and Chuck Clardy, of Fort Payne. Great-grandparents are Pat Peterson, of Mentone; the late DuWayne Mayhew, of Mentone and Terry & Mildred Hamilton, of Fort Payne. Great-great grandmothers are Blanche Grandjean, of Mentone and Margie Hamilton, of Fort Payne. (submitted photo)



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"A Gathering on the Constitution" comes to Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee

"A Gathering on the Constitution" will be held on Saturday, December 10 at the Desoto State Park Resort Lodge. The day-long program is from 9:00 AM-4:00 PM CST with registration beginning at 8:00 AM CST. Pre-registration is \$25/person, \$40/couple. Registration on December 10 is \$30/person, \$50/couple and includes a buffet lunch. Contact Keith Kenney, 678-938-1386, themayor@charter.net for additional information or to pre-register.

"A Gathering on the Constitution" is hosted by The Four Patriots. The group's spokesman, Keith Kenney, of Ringgold, GA, says the purpose of the event is to inform and educate citizens about America's core document, The Constitution.

Kenney states, "We believe an overwhelming number of voters have a scarcity of knowledge about our Constitution and what the Founding Fathers intended for us when they wrote it." Kenney also said, "Because voters lack an understanding of the Constitution, we elect officials who pass legislation that is the antithesis of the limited government our founders intended."

Barb McCarthy, one of the Four Patriots from Menlo, Georgia said, "We believe if people have a better understanding of the intent of the Constitution, they can use that information when they go to the voting booth to elect our representatives and vote for ballot initiatives. Too often laws and regulations are enacted because citizens, as well as public officials, have little understanding of our most important founding document, The Constitution of the United States."

Speakers at the all day event include:

Dr. Timothy Johnson, University Research Professor; Professor of History, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN

Dr. Johnson is the author of the book, Liberty VS Power: The Founding Fathers' Vision for America. He will provide insight into the beliefs and philosophy of our founders when they wrote the Constitution and the type of government they intended for us.

Richard Gruetter, Delta Air Lines, Retired, Constitutional Scholar, and founder of "Preserve Our Constitution."

Mr. Gruetter will conduct an absorbing, dynamic, informative, enlightening training session on the intent of selected Constitution clauses.

John Eidsmoe, Colonel, Alabama State Defense Force; Legal Counsel, Foundation for Moral Law, Montgomery, AL

Colonel Eidsmoe is author of the book, Christianity and the Constitution. His presentation "The Moral Foundation of the Constitution" will explore the belief that, "Law is ultimately based on moral principles, and moral principles are rooted in religion." "What were the Founder's moral principles and from whence were they derived?"

(For additional information, contact Keith Kenney or go to Facebook at A Gathering on the Constitution.)

Contact:
Keith Kenney
678-938-1386
themayor@charter.net

Here is the two-month forecast from Farmers' Almanac:

December 2011

4th-7th. Clear and cold. Widespread frosts.

8th-11th. Heavy, showery rains and perhaps thunderstorms.

12th-15th. Cold and dry initially, then scattered showers.

16th-19th. Showers, followed by clearing.

20th-23rd. Increasing clouds.

24th-27th. Stormy, then turning fair and colder.

28th-31st. Fair and cold, then becoming milder.

January 2012

1st-3rd. Unsettled, with some rain.

4th-7th. Showery weather.

8th-11th. Fair and mild.

12th-15th. Rain, thunderstorms clear away to the east, then fair and mild.

16th-19th. Clearing and milder.

20th-23rd. A few showers.

24th-27th. Storminess moves in, then fair and cooler conditions.

28th-31st. Showers from the Gulf Coast north.



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"The Ole Home Place"

By Summer Brown

Out and about on a Sunday drive I veered off to the right down a tree-lined country lane. The further I went, the more the lane became just a path with the branches brushing the top and sides of my car.

Deep in the woods the squirrels, raccoons and deer stared out without me even knowing they were there.

On around the curve the most magnificent view I had ever seen came into view: "The Ole Home Place" reflecting off the pond.

The siding was tattered and worn; the fireplace crumbling. The front porch had missing boards and the massive oak trees were hanging over the mismatched roof.

I made my way up onto the porch. With each step, the boards gave way to my weight but sprang back assuring me of my safety. I couldn't resist; I cupped my hands around my eyes and leaned into the cracked window. Clearly I envisioned the family that had lived there.

In the kitchen Ma wiped her brow. She took her worn apron off the ladder-back chair and, as she tied it around her rounded waist, she gave way



to her morning chores. In the corner, the iron stove was raging with heat for cooking, cleaning, ironing and baths.

The children were playing on the floor with a rag doll made out of a flour sack and the building blocks were wood spools.

Pa went about his merry way. He came up the back porch steps with the water buckets and back down to gather wood.

The chickens, goats and cows roamed freely in the yard not realizing what their lot in life was. In sight of the pond the cranes loomed above in the trees waiting to swoop down on the fish as they leaped out of the water to catch the bugs that skimmed along the top.

It was time to leave as the sunset brought another day to a close. As I made my way back to my car, I looked back to see if Ma and Pa were waving good bye, but I guess they had already turned in for the night.

(Summer Brown is a freelance writer who resides in Fort Payne)

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WILD RIVER COMMUNITY 1.6 acres on the east fork Little River 235 ft of pools and rapids. Bluff views. Large Rocks in water. Very Scenic, and private \$69,000 (21382)	WHIPPOORWILL 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. Rock FP. Pasture land, wood trails- horse barn w/ apt, detached double garage. Screened sleeping cabin overlooking river. Much more! \$595,000 (19355)	SOUTHLAND LOG HOME on the E. Fork Little River. 5.5 acres. Dock, lighted walkway to lower property. 2BR/2BA, loft. Vaulted ceiling w/exposed beams. Kitchen with granite counters. Stacked stone FP. 2-story with Basement. Sep. garage, large enough for motor home. \$349,000 (19919)	FORMERLY MOUNTAIN MAMA'S CRAFT STORE AND ROCK SHOP 4.5 wooded acres on the east fork little river, approx. 550 ft on the water. Included on the property is 2 historical Log cabins. Could be used as commercial or build that perfect place, for a relaxing mountain retreat. REDUCED \$129,000 (20799)	40 ACRES LOCATED NEAR MENTONE Stillhouse Branch runs through the middle of tract. Mtn Laurel line the banks of the creek with 2 waterfalls. Large rock formations along the hiking trails. What a wonderful sanctuary this would make for development or private estate. \$190,000 (18760)	STUNNING MOUNTAIN HOME and Retreat Center Features vaulted ceilings, private hot tub, newly renovated kitchen, 2 living areas, and Gas FP. Open loft above the 2nd living area and open kitchen design. Master bedroom has separate entrance to the dock, guest bedroom, and 2 more baths. 100 sq ft. 2 in guest cottage and a glassed Greenhouse/artist studio. Many possibilities with this wonderful property with seasonal views. \$299,000 (20562)
					
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! \$100,000 (19419)	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. \$30,000 (19164)	NICE LEVEL WOODED PROPERTY with partial drive and homesite cleared. Previous perk test. Easy access to the middle fork of little river. Restrictive cov. apply. Located Mountain River Estates \$77,000 (20892)	LOG CABIN KNOWN AS "KNOWUS ARK" is an artist dream of a property. Unique decor and even a separate artist studio are part of the special qualities that go with the 2BR/2BA, w/FP, covered porches and double decks. Privately located on 6 acres. \$255,000 (20453)	MOUNTAIN CREEK CABINS 2 fully furnished log cabins nestled in the woods on 6 acres, next to Cloudmont Resort. Both cabins are currently on a rental program. Above the Clouds is 2br/1bt with kitchen/dining combo, and large crawlspace that can be made into a basement. The Hideout is 2br/1.5bt with open floor plan and small loft. Lots of amenities in both cabins. \$249,000 (21433)	HENAGAR - 4.75 ACRES on Hwy 40. Septic, water, two electric meters, all in place. SOLD flower gardens. Ready to build on. \$32,000 (21327)
					
WALTONS MILL SITE PROPERTY Back in the civil war, there was a grist mill located on this east fork river site. A unique property with 900 ft on the water, 2 building sites, easy access to the water, large rock overhang and flat rock bottom for easy floating down the river. A true Gem, 10 acres. REDUCED TO \$175,000 (20451)	7.15 ACRES with West Brow Sunset view. Great location between DeSoto Park and Mentone. Partial drive, County water available. Great price \$145,000 (21411)	NICE WOODED LOT WITH STREAM located in Crestline Park Subdivision. Just down the road from Cloudmont Resort and DeSoto State Park. Build your Mentone cabin for yourself or use as a rental. \$20,000. (21086)	PRISTINE 25 ACRES on the East Fork Little River. over 1,000 ft of river frontage. Rapids, natural pools, fishing, canoeing, rafting. Build that dream home in this natural setting. \$295,000 (19136)	NICE LEVEL & WOODED LOT located in Crestline Park Subdivision. Just down the road from Cloudmont Resort and DeSoto State Park. Build your Mentone cabin for yourself or use as a rental. Wild blueberries and trees are abundant. Priced to sell at \$27,000. (21087)	TALL MEADOW RUE CHAPEL , in Downtown Mentone. Lush landscaping. Heavenly ordained Chapel, Glass Greenhouse, Coy Pond w/fountain. Rock walls, and Iron Gates. Enjoy the peace and serenity this property gives. \$105,000

LOTS AND ACREAGE

INDIAN TRAILS, 2 lots for sale. 1) 2.71 acres (lots 12, 13) sold together for building purposes. Brow view city water, power, & paved rd. 2) 1.32 acres brow frontage & creek at boundary. Wooded, city water, paved rd. power. Both priced at \$35,000 ea. (19933)

ONLY KNOWN COMMERCIAL ZONED B-1 in downtown mentone. 120x130

lot located just past mentone springs hotel and the Log cabin village shops. many uses from professional to retail. Build your own business in mentone. city water, paved rd. One block from central business area. Reduced \$39,000 (20021)

CO. RD. 600. City water meter in place on wooded level 3/4 acre lot. Perk tested. Minutes from Desoto State Park.

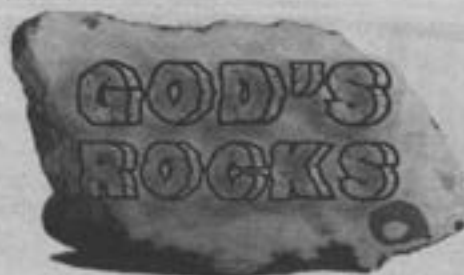
Build your getaway cabin in the woods! \$25,000 (20422)

EAST FORK OF LITTLE RIVER. 5.4 acres partially cleared. 200ft on River. Secluded with private road access. Scenic with rapids and pools. \$106,000. (19673)

THE DRIVEWAY HAS BEEN STARTED to build your Mentone getaway! 5.7

wooded acres across from Lake Lahusage. Paved road frontage, city water available, perc tested. Lightly restricted. \$58,900 (19865)

ABUNDANT WILDLIFE! 114 acres of woods and clear cut land. This property is perfect for a home or agricultural use. Priced at only \$2300 per acre. (21089)



Labradorite

By Dixie Wilson

Hello again. Here we go with another of my favorite stones, Labradorite. This stone is, of course, from Labrador, Canada. It is very similar to a stone from Finland called Spectrolite. It reflects light in colors of blue, green and yellow and is strikingly beautiful. The shine is called schiller. The stone requires care in cutting as only the proper angle will show the schiller. It is also a fairly soft stone, about 6 on the Mohs scale (diamonds being 10) and is somewhat brittle, making it difficult to cut and cab.

The stone was discovered in 1770 by Moravian missionaries. Held at an

angle to the light, it was a characterless, grayish chunk appearing to have little to distinguish it. However, when turned slightly, the light produced intense colors of blue and green with a nearly-metallic sheen. Natives of the area wore fragments as ornamental objects and called it "fire stone."

A quick explanation of cabbing is probably in order here. When a stone is cut into slabs, the desired shape can be marked on the slab and trimmed. The piece can then be ground to the marks, glued to a dowel and shaped and polished on diamond wheels. All tools used in cutting stones must be diamond coated and cooled with water and or oil.



This process is very time consuming and FUN!

We got our first piece of Labradorite in Newfoundland. Newfies, as they are called, are a wonderful, kind and generous people.

They will give you the shirt off their backs and they often only have one! We stopped at a gift shop and the owner said he had a rock, went home and got it, and offered it to us for free! We had to beg him to

take money! That stone is the most beautiful sample of Labradorite I have ever seen! The shopowner said his great uncle had left it to him and

he couldn't use it. After my husband sweated hard cutting it, I made and mailed a pendant to the showpowner's wife. Her friend said she hadn't taken it off since she received it.

As with most gemstones, one can find different grades and colors and the price of the stones will vary considerably. However, one reason I like to cut my own stones is that I can pick and choose different patterns and colors. Please don't dye stones! God does a much better job of coloring!

Remember, if you have questions, email me at jerryswilson@centurylink.net or give me a call. I will be happy to help you if I can. If I can't, I can probably put you in touch with someone who can help. Enjoy God's beautiful creation!

Merry Christmas! See you next year.

(Dixie's Rock Shop is located off County Road 600, along the Scenic Pkwy S, Mentone. For more information, call 256-634-4137)

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RECIPE CORNER— HOLIDAY FAVORITES

Thank you to all those who submitted recipes for this month's Holiday Favorites. We thought it would be helpful to put these recipes into the centerfold of the Groundhog so that you could easily keep these for future use. We hope you'll try them and enjoy sharing these with your family and friends. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

HOLIDAY CHEESE BALL

- 2 8-oz blocks cream cheese
- 1 sm jar diced pimentos, drained
- 1/4 c finely chopped green onions
- 1 flat can crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 c finely chopped pecans (divided into 2 portions)

Place cream cheese, pimentos, onions and pineapple in large bowl. Add 1/2 c chopped pecans (reserve other 1/2 c to roll cheese ball in). Mix well (hands work the best!). Sprinkle remaining 1/2 c of chopped pecans on waxed paper or plastic wrap. Form cheese mixture into a ball, then, roll ball in the pecans. Wrap the coated ball in the waxed paper (or plastic wrap) and put into a rounded bowl to shape. Refrigerate at least an hour (the longer it sets, the better it gets!) Serve with crackers.
(Gentry family favorite, passed down from Arvel Jones)

CRANBERRY-APPLE CASSEROLE

- (My sister, Dottie, gave me this recipe many years ago and it has become a holiday staple in the Gentry cookbook)
- 3 Granny Smith apples, unpeeled, diced
 - 1 can whole cranberry sauce
- Preheat oven to 350°. Combine above ingredients, pour into baking dish. Top with:
- 1 1/2 C. old-fashioned oats
 - 1/4 C. pecans, chopped
 - 1/2 C. brown sugar
 - 1/3 C. flour
 - 1 stick butter, melted

Cut apples into large chunks (do not peel). Mix with cranberry sauce. Pour into buttered casserole dish (preferably glass). Set aside. Mix oats, sugar and flour, then add the melted butter. Crumble oat mixture evenly onto the apple/cranberry mixture. Bake at 350 for one hour. Serve warm or chilled.
(Gentry family favorite)

1-2-3 SAUSAGE BALLS

- 1 lb hot sausage
- 2 c grated cheese
- 3 c biscuit mix (Jiffy or Bisquick)

Heat oven to 400 degrees. With your hands, mix sausage, cheese and biscuit mix in large bowl until all ingredients are well mixed. Form balls about the size of small walnuts. Place on ungreased baking sheet and bake until golden brown (10-15 min). Serve warm or cold. These are wonderful served with spaghetti sauce in which to dip them!
(Gentry family favorite)

HASH BROWN CASSEROLE

- 2 lb. bag of frozen hash browns, thawed -or- equivalent amount of raw potatoes, peeled and grated
- 1/2 stick of margarine
- 1/2 c of finely chopped onion
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 c sour cream
- 1/2 tsp coarse ground black pepper
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 c grated cheddar cheese
- 1 1/2 sleeves of Ritz crackers, crushed
- 1/2 stick of margarine

Preheat oven to 350. Butter a 13x9 casserole dish. Melt 1/2 stick of margarine in skillet and sauté onion; cool slightly. Mix everything except last two ingredients. Spread into casserole dish. Melt other 1/2 stick of margarine and stir in the Ritz crumbs; spread evenly on top of casserole. Cover with foil. Cook for 1 hour. May be prepared ahead of time and refrigerated, but cooking time should be increased 15 to 30 minutes.
(Recipe submitted by Karen Saferite)

APPLE DAPPLE CAKE

- 1 3/4 cup sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1-cup oil
- 2 c sifted flour
- 2 c of Granny Smith apples, peeled & diced
- 2 c chopped nuts
- 1 tsp cinnamon

Mix first 3 ingredients really well. Then add all other ingredients into your mixture and mix well. Pour into Bundt-type pan and bake at 350 degrees for 35-40 minutes. Do not overtake.

Buttermilk Topping:

- 1 stick of butter
- 1 c sugar
- 1/2 c buttermilk
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp vanilla

Bring to a boil. Cook for 1 minute and remove from heat. Poke holes in cake and pour buttermilk dressing over the top.
(Recipe submitted by Jennifer Davis Cruse)

BANANA PUDDING

- 1/3 c all-purpose flour
- dash of salt
- 2 1/2 c milk
- 1 (14 oz.) can of sweetened condensed milk
- 2 egg yolks
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 3 c sliced bananas (I don't measure this, I just put as much as I like)
- Vanilla wafers

Combine flour and salt in a medium saucepan. Gradually stir in milks and yolks, and cook over medium heat, stirring constantly (8 minutes or until thickened). Remove from heat; stir in vanilla. Let cool to room temp. Arrange bananas and wafers in a dish and pour pudding mixture over the top doing so in thin layers and repeating this step until you're out of the pudding. Top with cool whip or meringue. Yields: 10 servings
(Recipe submitted by Jennifer Davis Cruse)

POTATO SOUP

- 6 large potatoes
- 1 (8 oz.) container sour cream
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 chopped onion
- salt & pepper to taste
- 1/2 large block of Velveeta cheese-cubed

Peel and dice potatoes into bite size pieces. Add potatoes and onions into a large stock-pot and cover with water about 1 inch above potatoes. Boil hard for about 12 minutes. Remove the potatoes from water with a slotted spoon and set aside. To the water add your cream of chicken soup, sour cream and Velveeta. Whisk together and keep over low heat until cheese is melted. Add the potatoes back to the mixture and add salt and pepper to taste. This goes great with corn bread.

NOTE: Can also make Chicken Chowder with this as the base. Just add mixed vegetables, corn and cooked diced chicken to the

above recipe. Very filling.
(Recipe submitted by Jennifer Davis Cruse)

CORN CASSEROLE

- 1 can whole kernel corn
- 1 can cream corn
- 1 box Jiffy corn meal mix
- 1 c sour cream
- 1/2 stick of butter-melted
- 1 egg

Mix all ingredients and cook in a covered 2 quart casserole dish @ 350 for 30 minutes. Then remove the cover and cook for an additional 30-35 minutes.
(Recipe submitted by Jennifer Davis Cruse)

PECAN WAFERS

- Waverly Crackers
- 2 sticks of butter
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 1 1/2 tsp. vanilla
- 3/4 c. pecans

Place crackers on a cookie sheet. In a medium saucepan combine butter and sugar. Heat to a boil and boil for 3 minutes. Remove from heat. Mix in pecans and vanilla. With a spatula smooth this mixture over the crackers. Bake 12-15 minutes @ 300 degrees. Great for parties or appetizers.
(Recipe submitted by Jennifer Davis Cruse)

MY GRANNY'S TEA CAKE RECIPE

- 3/4 c. sugar
- 3/8 c. buttermilk
- 1 Tbsp. vanilla
- 1 c. crisco
- 1 egg
- self-rising flour

Mix first 5 ingredients. Add enough flour to make soft dough. Knead, roll out and cut with cookie cutters. Bake at 350 degrees until golden brown on a cookie sheet sprayed with Pam non-stick spray. I make these for my kids every Christmas.
(Recipe submitted by Jennifer Davis Cruse)

BROCCOLI BREAD

- 1 package Jiffy Corn Muffin mix
- 1 lg Onion (chopped)
- 4 Eggs
- 12oz Cottage Cheese

Continued on page 12

2 sticks Butter (melted)
1/2 cup Self Rising Flour
10 Oz chopped Broccoli (fresh or frozen)

Steam or cook broccoli and drain. Add all other ingredients and mix well. Pour into greased pan (1 large or 2 small). Bake at 350 degrees 20 min or until brown.
(Recipe submitted by Tammy Kirby)

PINEAPPLE CASSEROLE

1 (20 oz) can Pineapple Chunks
1/2 cup Sugar
3 Tbsp Flour (plain)
1 cup Cheddar Cheese (grated)
14 Ritz Crackers (crumbled)
1 stick Butter (melted)
Drain pineapple (reserve 3Tbsp of juice). Mix sugar and flour. Add juice. Stir in pineapple chunks and cheese. Mix well. Pour into greased casserole dish. Mix cracker crumbs and melted butter. Sprinkle mixture over the top of the casserole. Bake at 350 for 20-30 minutes.
(Recipe submitted by Tammy Kirby)

SOUR CREAM POUND CAKE

From the recipes of Carrie Ruth Kirby Aunt Carrie Ruth would make this cake for our family reunions. Some of my favorite childhood memories are from those times. I was so excited to add this recipe to my collection and I am happy to pass it along in her memory. Thanks Aunt Carrie Ruth!!!

1/2 lb Butter
3 cups Sugar
1 cup Sour Cream
6 Eggs (separated)
3 cups All Purpose Flour
1/4 tsp Soda
1/4 tsp Salt
1 tsp Vanilla Extract
1 tsp Almond Extract

Cream sugar and butter. Add egg yolks one at a time. Beat after each one. Add sour cream and extracts. Mix in 1 cup of flour. Beat egg whites and put into mixture. Add

remaining dry ingredients. Pour into a greased tube pan. Bake 90 minutes at 300 degrees. Cake begins to shrink from pan.
(Recipe submitted by Tammy Kirby)

FRESH PUMPKIN PIE

From my Mother (Martha Kirby) I have tried to make this pie but it never turns out as good as Momma's does!

****Makes 2 pies****
4 Eggs
1 1/2 cup Sugar
1 1/2 tsp Salt
4 Tbsp Pumpkin Pie Spice
1 cup Light Brown Sugar
3 cups Pumpkin (cooked and creamed)
1 lg and 1 small can Evaporated Milk

Mix all ingredients together and pour into pie crust (recipe follows). Bake at 425 for 15 minutes then lower heat to 350 for 40-45 minutes. Let cool before serving.

Crust:
2 cups Plain Flour
3/4 cup Crisco
1 tsp Salt
1 Tbsp Sugar
1/4 cup ICE COLD Water
Mix all dry ingredients together. Add crisco and mix well. Add ICE COLD water and knead well. Roll out on wax paper to your desired crust thickness. Place in glass pie plate. Use with your favorite pie recipe.
(Recipe submitted by Tammy Kirby)

APPLE DUMPLINGS

1 lg. can of buttery canned biscuits
1 small can of buttery canned biscuits
1/2 c. brown sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 1/2 sticks of margarine
1 can apple pie filling
4 oz. cream cheese, softened
2 c. powdered sugar
milk

Melt 1 stick of margarine and add brown

sugar and cinnamon. Mix well with a fork. Quarter your biscuits and place in a casserole dish that's been sprayed with non-stick spray. Pour this mixture over biscuits. Open the can of apple pie filling and I cut up the sliced apples into smaller pieces. Not necessary though. Spread pie filling over the biscuit mixture and bake at 350 degrees for 30 min.

Topping: Soften 1/2 stick of margarine and the 4 oz. cream cheese. Blend together well then add powdered sugar and a dash of milk if needed. Mix well. Spread over hot pie.
(Recipe submitted by Jennifer Davis Cruse)

HOLIDAY HAM LOG

2 (4.25 oz) cans Underwood deviled ham
1 envelope Lipton Onion Soup Mix
1 8-oz. bar cream cheese, softened
5 Tablespoons Pet Milk
Chopped pecans

Mix deviled ham and onion soup mix (leave 1 Tbsp of the soup mix out). Set aside. Cream together the cream cheese and Pet milk until spreadable. Spread an area about 3" x 6" of the cream cheese mixture on a plate. Form the ham mixture into a log on the cream cheese base. Ice the ham log with the remaining cream cheese mixture, then cover with chopped pecans. Refrigerate for a couple of hours. Serve with Ritz or Flatbread crackers.
(Recipe submitted by Randy Wilson of The Settlement at Monk's Cove, Mentone)

CHRISTMAS LIZZIES

1/2 lb. candied green pineapple, chopped
1 lb. candied red cherries, chopped
2 - 8 oz. packages chopped dates
2-cups chopped pecans
1 1/2-cups all-purpose flour, divided
1/4-cup butter or margarine, softened
1/2-cup sugar
2 eggs
1/2 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
1/4 tsp. ground cloves
1/4 tsp. nutmeg

1 1/2 tbsp. milk
3 tbsp. bourbon

Combine fruit and pecans; dredge in 1-cup flour and set aside. Cream butter; add sugar, beating at medium speed. Add eggs and beat well. Combine remaining flour, soda and spices; add to creamed mixture mixing well. Stir in milk and bourbon. Add fruit mixture, mixing well. Batter will be stiff. Chill dough at least 1 hour. Drop chilled dough by heaping teaspoonfuls onto lightly greased cookie sheets. Bake at 300 degrees for 20 to 25 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool on wire racks. Makes about 8 dozen.
(Recipe submitted by Diane Sanders)

OLIVE-CHEESE BALLS

2 cups shredded sharp Cheddar cheese (about 8 ozs.)
1 1/4 -cups all-purpose flour
1/2-cup butter or margarine, melted
About 36 pimiento-stuffed small olives, well drained

Mix cheese and flour. Add butter and mix thoroughly. (If dough seems dry, work with hands.) Mold 1-teaspoon dough around each olive; shape into ball. Place 2-inches apart on an ungreased baking sheet. Cover; chill at least 1 hour. Heat oven to 400 degrees. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes.
NOTE: This recipe freezes very well, and is great to make ahead and have on hand for snacks. After making the balls, place cookie sheet in freezer until firmly frozen. Remove from baking sheet and place into freezer bags.
Variation: Substitute little smokies sausages, patted dry, and cut into thirds for the olives.
(Recipe submitted by Diane Sanders)

PINEAPPLE CREAM CANDY

2 tsp. butter
3-cups sugar
1-cup crushed pineapple

Continued on page 13

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2 tbsp. light corn syrup
24 large marshmallows
3-cups pecans
1 tsp. vanilla

Cook butter, sugar, pineapple and syrup to hard ball stage (250-256 F. on a candy thermometer), add remaining ingredients, and beat with hand mixer until creamy. Pour into buttered oblong pan and cool. Cut into squares.

(Recipe submitted by Diane Sanders)

CHRISTMAS FRITTATA

1 medium onion, chopped
1 medium green pepper, chopped
1 garlic clove, minced
2 tablespoons butter or margarine
1/2 cup chopped tomatoes
1/4 cup minced fresh parsley
5 eggs, lightly beaten
2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
1/2 cup soft bread crumbs
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper

In a skillet, sauté the onion, green pepper and garlic in butter for 5 minutes or until tender. Remove from the heat. Stir in tomatoes and parsley; set aside. In a large bowl, combine the remaining ingredients. Stir in reserved vegetables. Pour into an ungreased 9-in. pie plate. Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees F for 25-30 minutes or until a knife inserted near the center comes out clean. Let stand for 5 minutes before cutting.
(Recipe submitted by Karen Caldwell, Fyffe AL.)

KAREN'S CHICKEN 'N DRESSING

1 1/2 cups of cornmeal
2 cups of flour
2-3 T sage (use good sage for best flavor not store brand)
1 chopped onion
6 eggs
milk
6 chicken breast -cooked and chopped

1 pound of margarine melted
2 cans of chicken broth
2 cans of cream of chicken soup

Mix the first 5 ingredients together. Add milk to the consistency of cornbread pour into 9X13 pan sprayed with Pam. Bake at 450 degrees until done about 25 minutes. Crumble bread and add chicken, melted margarine, and soup broth. Mix well with your hands. Pour into baking dish or dishes. Dot with butter/margarine; bake at 450 for about 30 minutes. This makes a lot and it freezes well. If you are going to freeze a dish go ahead and dot with butter, wrap with plastic wrap and then foil. To cook frozen dressing, remove from freezer and allow to thaw at room temperature about 3 hours and cook as normal or put in the fridge to thaw over night.

COCONUT BALLS

3/4 c. mashed potatoes (do not put milk or butter into this)
4 c. coconut
4 c. powdered sugar
1 (12 oz.) semi-sweet chocolate chips
2 TBLS Shortening

Mix first three ingredients together. Chill. Then roll into balls. Melt shortening and chocolate together. Dip balls into chocolate mixture
(Recipe submitted by Karen Caldwell, Fyffe AL.)

RED TOP SALAD

1 lg. box lemon Jell-O (or 2 small)
1 lg. box strawberry Jell-O (or 2 small)
1 lg. can crushed pineapple
1/2 lb. mild cheddar cheese, grated
1/2 cup chopped pecans
1/2 cup Kraft salad dressing (do not use mayonnaise)
1 cup whipping cream
1 bag miniature marshmallows

Dissolve lemon Jell-O in 2 cups boiling water. When dissolved, add 1/2 bag mini marshmallows, let the marshmallows dis-

solve, then add 1 cup cold water. When cool, add the crushed pineapple, cheese, chopped pecans, and salad dressing. Whip the whipping cream, and when thick fold into the pineapple mixture. Pour this mixture into a large casserole dish and refrigerate.

When the above mixture is set, in a separate bowl, mix the strawberry Jell-O with 2 cups boiling water until dissolved. Add 1-cup cold water. Pour the strawberry mixture over the pineapple mixture. It's best to pour this with the original dish still in the fridge, it's difficult to transport. Trust me on this one.

(Recipe submitted by Randy Wilson, The Settlement at Monk's Cove, Mentone)

DATE NUT BALLS

1 stick margarine
1 C. sugar
1 egg
1 pkg. chopped dates
1 C. ground pecans
1 tsp. vanilla
4 C. rice krispies
Graham cracker crumbs

Melt margarine and sugar in saucepan. Beat egg and add slowly to sugar mixture, then add dates and stir until melted. Add pecans and cook 10 min. Remove from heat, and then quickly stir in vanilla and rice krispies.

Immediately coat fingers in butter and remove mixture by the spoonful from pan, roll mixture into balls, and coat in graham cracker crumbs. Place on waxed paper to cool.

(Gentry family favorite)

BREAKFAST COOKIES

10 Tbsp. margarine
1/2 C. sugar
1 egg
1 tsp. vanilla
3/4 C. self-rising flour
1 C. grated cheddar cheese
1 1/2 C. old-fashioned oats
1/2 C. wheat germ
6 strips of bacon, cooked crisp and crumbled
Preheat oven to 350°. Mix margarine, sugar, egg, and vanilla well, and then add final ingredients. Drop batter, 1 Tbsp. at a time onto ungreased cookie sheet. Bake for 12-14 minutes, or until golden brown. Yields approx. 2 dozen cookies.
(Gentry family favorite)

QUAKER OATS OATMEAL COOKIES

3/4C. shortening
1/4 C. water
1 egg
1 tsp. vanilla
1 C. firmly packed brown sugar

Continued on page 14

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1/2 C. white sugar
Preheat oven to 350°. Cream above ingredients in large mixing bowl. Add
2 C. self-rising flour
3 C. old-fashioned oats, uncooked
Stir well. Spoon onto lightly greased cookie sheet and bake until lightly browned. (Can add raisins, nuts, choc chips or other goodies if you like, but these are the best cookies ever!)

CORN FLAKE WREATHS

1/2 C. butter or margarine
1 pkg. marshmallows
1 tsp. green food coloring
6 C. corn flakes
Red Hot candies (optional)

Melt margarine in large saucepan over low heat. Add marshmallows and cook until marshmallows melt and mixture becomes syrupy. Remove from heat, stir in food coloring. Stir in corn flakes until coated. Butter fingers and remove about 1/4 cup of mixture at a time to form into wreaths. Decorate with cinnamon candies, if desired. Yields about 16 wreaths. (Alternative: make one big wreath and use it as a centerpiece, either around the base of a punch bowl, cake plate or other decorative dish.)

HAM-CHEDDAR QUICHE

4 eggs, beaten
1 C. milk
1/4 tsp. salt
Dash pepper
1/2 lb. sharp cheddar, grated
1/2 - 1 C. diced leftover ham
1 unbaked 9" pie shell
Preheat oven to 350°. Combine first 6 ingredients. Pour into pie shell. Bake for 45-50 min. This is a great way to use leftover ham. (Gentry family favorite)

HOT COCOA MIX

1 lb. box confectioner's sugar
1 6-oz. jar dry coffee creamer
1 8-qt. size powdered milk
1 2-lb. can Nesquik
Mini marshmallows (optional)
Put all ingredients in large bowl and stir together, or place in large clean garbage bag and toss to mix. Store in airtight bags or jars.
To prepare cocoa, mix 1/4 C. mix with 1 C. boiling water. (Gentry family favorite)

SPICED TEA MIX

1 C. sugar
2 C. Tang
1 C. instant tea
1 tsp. ground cinnamon

2 sm. Pkg. lemonade mix
1 tsp. ground cloves

Mix ingredients well. Store in airtight bags or jars.
To make tea, mix 3 heaping tsp. to one cup boiling water.
(Gentry family favorite)

BREAKFAST CASSEROLE

1 lb. sausage
1 C. milk
Sliced bread
At least 6 eggs
1 or 2 C. grated cheddar
1 tsp. dry mustard
1 or 2 sm. Cans mushrooms
Preheat oven to 350°. Cook and drain sausage. Butter baking dish, place bread slices in bottom of dish and sprinkle with sausage, mushrooms, and cheese. Beat eggs, milk, and dry mustard, then pour over top of casserole. Bake for 30-40 min. (Gentry family favorite)

GARLIC BEET SAUCE

Heat oven to 250°. Dress a whole garlic bulb with a little olive oil, a pinch of sea salt, and a sprig of rosemary, wrap in foil, then place in oven for about 45 min. When done, remove garlic from foil, then pop individual cloves out of their skins into a food processor (careful—they're hot!!). Boil a fresh beetroot, then peel and add to food processor along with some heavy cream, salt and pepper to taste. Blend until smooth. Use in place of cranberry sauce.
(From Alex Hodgson, a friend in the UK)

OLD FASHIONED PECAN PIE

(This is Bobby's mother's recipe)

3 eggs
1/2 Cup sugar
1/2 Cup dark brown sugar
1/2 Cup dark corn syrup
1/2 stick margarine
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 Cup chopped pecans
1 unbaked pie shell (I use the Pillsbury)

In a bowl, beat eggs. Add all other ingredients and stir. Pour into pie shell and bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

ORANGE CHESS PIE

1/4 lb. butter, softened
1 Cup sugar
3 eggs
3 Tablespoons white cornmeal
1 Cup orange juice
1 Tablespoon lemon juice
1 unbaked pie shell (I use the Pillsbury)

Cream the butter with the sugar. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating after each addi-

tion. Blend in cornmeal, lemon juice and orange juice. Bake at 350 degrees for about 45 minutes.

CHRISTMAS COWBOY CAVIER

1-15 oz. can black beans, drained
1 small can chopped black olives
1/4 Cup chopped onion
2 Tablespoons olive oil
2 Tablespoons lime juice
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon red pepper
1/4 teaspoon cumin
1/8 teaspoon black pepper
1-8 oz. cream cheese, softened
Red Bell Pepper, diced
Green Bell Pepper, diced

Mix everything except the cream cheese and bell peppers and chill overnight. Spread the cream cheese in a pie plate, top with the refrigerated mixture, and garnish with the red and green peppers. Serve with Fritos Scoops.

CRANBERRY-ORANGE RELISH

4 Cups fresh cranberries
2 Cups sugar
1/2 Cup water
1/2 Cup orange juice
1 teaspoon grated orange peel
1/2 Cup slivered almonds

Combine all ingredients except almonds in a saucepan and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer uncovered for 10 minutes, or until skins pop, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat and stir in almonds. Cool and store in refrigerator. Serve in lettuce lined orange cup.

CREAM CHEESE OLIVES

1-8 oz. cream cheese, at room temperature
2 to 3 oz. extra large Spanish Olives, with pimentos
1 Cup finely chopped pecans

Drain olives well. Cover each olive with cream cheese. Roll each olive/cream cheese into a ball and roll in the pecans. Chill for at least 6 hours. Cut in half and serve.

ORANGE EGGNOG PUNCH

1 quart dairy eggnog
1-12 oz. can frozen orange juice concentrate, thawed
1-12 oz. can gingerale, chilled

In a large pitcher, stir eggnog and orange juice concentrate until well mixed. Slowly pour in gingerale and stir gently.
(Submitted by Randy Wilson, The Settlement at Monk's Cove, Mentone)

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 sunrises 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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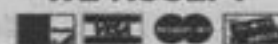
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Holiday Farmers Market

The Mentone Farmers' Market kicked off its December offerings with a pancake and sausage breakfast on Saturday, December 3, with Jay Rivett of Jay's Garden Variety making homemade pancakes. One variety to taste was his sweet potato pancakes from local sweet potatoes. Local eggs were used in all the pancakes and jams, jellies and syrups from market vendors were available for the pancakes too. What a great way to sample before purchasing for yourself or for a gift!



Holiday Markets will take place over the next 3 Saturdays. Saturday market hours are 10 AM – 1 PM in the square at the Mentone Inn. Stores and shops in Mentone will also be open for holiday shopping and visiting, many with extended hours and open houses on Saturdays during December.

Market vendors will be there with fresh produce, baked

goods, eggs, sorghum, breads, decorations, beef and chicken. Local artists will be at the market with their unique local works. Market Bucks gift certificates can be purchased at the information booth. Holiday treats, baked goods, and local gifts can also be ordered for family gatherings and holiday dinners for pick up later in the month.



Dec 10th during the Holiday Market there will be a wreath making class and demo starting at 11. Learn to make a reusable seasonal decoration and take it home. Market vendors will be there with their great offerings including items for your holiday dinners and family gatherings. Market Bucks are a nice stocking stuffer and help support the non-profit market. Carols and hot chocolate will set the mood for holiday shopping. Local artists are expected at all 3 holiday weekends. Contact Les Rivett, 256-657-7247, for wreath making information and sign up.



Dec 17th more fun at the Holiday Market. Music, holiday treats to sample, hot chocolate and coffee, and shopping 'til 1:00. Get your market bucks, baked goods, fresh produce, jams, jellies, pickles, sorghum, eggs, meats and local art. A surprise visitor is expected.

Wednesday Dec 21st last minute shopping is possible at the Mentone Farmers' Market. Pick up the great gifts, treats and baked goods you ordered for your Christmas gatherings. Join carolers around the bon fire



Jones Family Farm, June Cagle-the original Betty Crocker, The Straw House Blueberry Farm and Roger's Real Homemade. Everything at the market has to be grown or produced by the seller.

Booth space is still available for the holiday and Wednesday markets for local artist and local musicians. Applications are at the market or on line at www.mountainmarket.org. or call Les Rivett, 256-657-7247.

Happy Holidays-see you in Mentone

and stay warm with hot chocolate and coffee.

DON'T FORGET-The Mentone Farmers' Market is open all Wednesday evenings in December. Winter hours are 2 PM- 5 PM. You'll find fresh produce, baked goods, eggs, sorghum, breads, decorations, beef and chicken. Holiday treats, baked goods, and local gifts can also be ordered for family gatherings and holiday dinners for pick up later in the month at Wednesday's or Saturday's markets.

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EAST FORK OF LITTLE RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT. Come and discover this newly listed 4.5 acre parcel with 3 rock/log structures, 550' on the East Fork of Little River and just 1/2 mile from the AL/GA line. \$129,000 (20929)



FIRST TIME OFFERED. Main house, guest house and 45 acres on the west brow of Lookout Mtn. with the ambience of a true mountain home. Wood floors, wood walls, rock fireplaces, walkways and patios with sunset views and heirloom landscaping. A must see for \$799,000. (21010)



ENJOY LIFE UNINTERRUPTED in this custom built log get-away on 4 secluded acres. Loft BR and 1BA with wood floors offering a cozy atmosphere and a front rocking chair porch complete the picture. Hurry before someone buys the cabin of your dreams for only \$125,000. (20551)



NEW PRICE! Rental cabin in downtown Mentone for sale at \$99,900, option to purchase four adjoining commercial lots. 2/3BR, 1BA, living/dining combo, stone FP, and CH&A. Cabin is being sold furnished. (20961)



MENTONE - A FRAME CABIN on 5.3 acres. Features 800 sq ft on the main level and 240 sq ft in the second floor loft. Open design living, dining, kitchen with ceramic flooring, tongue and groove ceilings, and a freestanding gas log fireplace. \$79,900 (21564)



ALMOST NEW CABIN in Mentone with a view of the lake. Features 2BR/2BA, pine walls and floors, large open living room with FP, spacious kitchen with dining area (appliances included), wraparound porch, back deck, and a great space for entertaining outdoors. \$179,900 (21498)



INCREDIBLE BROW HOME offers three levels to enjoy the gorgeous view. Kitchen has b-fast bar and stainless appliances. MBR has private deck, fireplace and wood walls and ceilings. Outside enjoy the stacked rock FP/bbq grill, patio and decks. Come see this unbelievable home today! \$589,000 (15736)



BEAR CLAU'S LODGE offers 3BR/3.5BA, stacked rock fireplace, vaulted ceiling, full appliance package, granite countertops, outdoor fireplace, spacious living areas with plenty of entertaining space outdoors on 2.2 acres. \$349,900 (21142)



NORTH BROW - Unique log structure that was moved from Georgia. 1BR/1BA, open living space and lots of room for entertaining. 8.3 acres +/- \$279,900 (18256)



PRIVATELY LOCATED - Authentic Mentone brow house offers all you could dream of for a lovely retreat from every care of everyday life! Covered Porch, open living/dining area, spacious Kitchen, 2BR/2BA, Screened Porch/Detached Guest House w/Bed&Bath. \$386,000 (21269)



LIVE & PLAY on the water...200' of frontage on the East Fork of Little River. 3BR/2BA, all appliances; wood burning fireplace, storage building and more. \$325,000 (18278)



CUSTOM BUILT LOG CABIN.... situated on 2 lots in Laurel Creek. 2 LARGE BR/2BA, spacious great room with cathedral ceilings, hickory floors, 2-car garage, and fishing dock. \$199,900 (18898)



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THE 5' STILL Custom 3BR/2.5BA cedar sided home on 1 acre in Mentone. Great room with FP, kitchen/dining combo, above-ground pool with decking, BONUS room, laundry/mud room, double garage, and lots more. \$219,000 (20051)



SURROUNDED BY DESOTO STATE PARK! This perfect full-time home with a sky-light and great location - Great price! \$128,500 (21424)



SITTING ON TOP OF THE WORLD... UNIQUE "round" cabin offering an open living space, 2BR/1BA, most all furnishings. 9.58 acres and SPECTACULAR views of the valley and mountains beyond. \$295,000 (20120)



LAKE ON THE BROW PROPERTY WITH BEAUTIFUL VIEWS! Brick home sited on 1.05 acres. Greatroom, kitchen/dining combo, 3BR/2.5BA, radiant floor heating in the master bath, and three-season porch. \$299,900 (21222)



MENTONE... You will be amazed at the Magnificent Views to be enjoyed from this 3BR/2BA Custom Log Cabin. Ceiling Fans throughout. Open Dining/Kitchen with all appliances. Laundry area w/washer and dryer to remain. This home offers so much more, call for details. \$329,900. (18235)



FEELS SO RIGHT! 3BR/2BA Cabin offering spacious floor plan, attic storage, soaring ceilings. Main-level master, stainless steel appliances. Laundry room, and covered porch. REDUCED \$159,000 (21114)



INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY! Two cabins located in Mentone already in rental program. Both Cabins are being sold FULLY FURNISHED with all appliances and have 1BR; 1BA, jacuzzi tub, covered porch, deck, and hot tub. A great weekend get-away, or a money-making business. Call now! \$129,000 (21590)



CUSTOM BUILT, 2 BR/2BA Log Cabin situated on shaded, woodland acres. Two stone fireplaces, luxurious loft, 3-season sleeping porch, detached storage, additional small cabin, lily pond. Kitchen with 5 Star six burner gas range... Ambiance/quality/privacy/dramatic look. REDUCED \$269,500 (20272)



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your getaway! \$64,900 each (20577/20578)

43 +/- ACRES IN MENTONE! 800' on Brush Creek. Possible Owner financing available to qualified buyer. \$199,000. (Additional 42 acres available. Purchase both parcels for a total of 85 acres for only \$379,000.) (18729)

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Out & About - MENTONE AREA



Moon Lake Harvest Festival



Young deer found on the side of the road, injured, but not seriously. Thanks to Tommy Milham and Cassie Brown for the rescue.



Before the snow...
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LIBS FROM THE LIBRARY

By Linda Brown



The Holiday Season is here! Thanksgiving always starts the festivities and that holiday is already history. Now comes the fun which will happen at the Moon Lake Community Library. The members of the Board of Directors met on Wednesday, November 17, 211 to finalize the plans.

First on the agenda will be the setting up of the Snow Village. The members of the Board do this. Young and old look forward to watching the train as it zooms around the track and enters the dark tunnels.

Our conductor was being very close-mouthed at the

meeting, so I don't know if this means there will be new items or not. Plan to come and see. The library will be decorated, but we try to keep the decorations to a minimum, less is best. Always, we want the books to be the main attraction. Books are what the library is about.

On Thursday, December 15, the students of Moon Lake Elementary School will be treated to a special viewing of the village and will be given an ornament. We will have our Holiday Open House on Saturday, December 17 during the hours of 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. Refreshments will be served and everyone will be given a chance to watch the train and fellowship with each other. Best of all, you can check out books and DVD's during this time, starting at 9:00 a.m.

The Community Calendars are here! If you have ordered one contact your salesperson. If you didn't order one, we have a limited number of calendars which we can sell without orders. Contact a member of the board or ask at the library. These have the birthdays and anniversaries of many of the residents of Mentone and it has the phone numbers and information about most of the business places in the Mentone area.

Of course, all of you are familiar with the new hours which the community library is open. We are now open on Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 9:00 am until 12:00 noon. Mark these days to come to the library during the holidays. We will be closed on Saturday, December 24 and on Saturday, December 31. As always, you can put your books and DVD's in the outside drop box and no fines will be charged.

After the holidays we may bring back the Koffee Klatch. Let us know if this is of interest to you. We may try the Children's Story Hour again and we definitely are going to have some travelogues.

Many people have traveled to far and exotic places and have developed a presentation of the trip. At least one is already scheduled. I'll let you know all of the details later. If you have made such a visit and have a travelogue you would like to show on a Saturday morning at the Moon Lake Community Library, please let us know.

You may write to us at: Moon Lake Community Library, PO Box 481, Mentone, AL 35984. To be on the agenda for a meeting call Jan Wilkinson, 256/845-5048.

RHODODENDRON GARDEN CLUB NEWS

By Linda Brown, Secretary

What is that wonderful aroma? Is it coming from those boxes? The guest speaker for the Rhododendron Garden Club was Annette Mason of Petal Pushers, a florist and garden center in Fort Payne, Alabama. She arrived with two big boxes which brought that pungent smell into the room. Dianne Kuehl introduced her to the club members and she soon solved the mystery. The boxes were full of fresh green plant material.

Annette demonstrated the art of making wreaths, swags, centerpieces and other decorations using all fresh plant material. She showed some examples of simple yet much-appreciated gifts. Included were moss-covered baskets filled with small plants, cane baskets filled with plants in their pots and beautiful plants which are now in bloom at the garden center. She showed how you can take long branches of evergreen shrubs and lay the cut ends together, wire them snugly with florist wire and add the accessories according to the holiday. For Thanksgiving you can add colored leaves and little pumpkins or gourds and a big bow in fall colors. For Christmas, use any evergreen material such as fir, magnolia or pine and Nandina or Pyracantha berries. Finish with a bow of festive Christmas colors and bells or ornaments.

She exhibited a large wreath made of material which can be watered. In this wreath she had planted trailing pansies and regular pansies. This could be placed outside on a fence or gate or even on the side of your house or on a porch. To water, place the entire wreath on the ground and spray with the water hose. For a table centerpiece, you can put a few magnolia leaves around a candle or wire small branches of fir together at the cut ends and add a bow in the color of your choice.

Annette stressed the importance of using the material which is available. Gather from your yard, your neighbor's yard (with permission), in empty fields, along the roadside or any place where you can find suitable material. Recently, I saw stalks of cotton for sale to use in decorating. A nice gift for a neighbor could be a kit to make a wreath or swag. You could include evergreens, berries, blooms, bells, gourds, seed-pods or ornaments. Be sure to put in a large bouffant bow to finish it off. Use what you have and maintain a creative attitude and you can make great and meaningful holiday decorations and gifts.

Elaine Gauldin convened the business meeting with the giving of the usual reports. Martha Wood gave the Horticulture Report. She stated that it was time to put bulbs, corms and tubers in the ground. She displayed a Nerine lily from her yard. This particular plant does not usually grow in this area. She promised to research a plant which Annette had and no one could identify. She advised gathering the potatoes under potato vines to plant next year. You may have one in a multiple planting basket or a hanging pot.

Dianne Kuehl made a report on the District II meeting in Cedar Bluff, Alabama. She attended with Jill Whitten and Elaine Gauldin. The club's contribution was muffins and Dianne stated that we had plenty. We were in charge of registration and even though we weren't sure what we were doing, all went well. She reported a good meeting which was well attended.

The next meeting: Tuesday, December 13, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in the home of Elaine Gauldin. This meeting will be our Christmas covered-dish luncheon. Everyone is welcomed to join us but Elaine would like to know of any guests who are planning to attend.

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



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VETERANS HONORED AT MENTONE

Several folks gathered at Mason Park gazebo, beside the Mentone Town Hall, on the morning of November 11, 2011, to honor area Veterans. The day was sunny and beautiful, with a nice breeze (perhaps a bit chilly) that caused the flags to flutter and billow majestically.

The colors were presented and the Pledge of Allegiance was lead by an honor guard from Mentone Boy Scout Troop 106. Mentone Mayor Rob Hammond welcomed the Veterans, their families and others who were in attendance. Loree Brownfield, wife of Army Veteran Roger Brownfield, sang the National Anthem, followed by a brief history of Veterans Day read by Mayor Hammond.

Additional patriotic music was provided before and during the program by Mentone Town Clerk Wilma Fletcher on accordion, Steve Loveless on banjo and Billy Roberts on guitar. Phyllis Bailey read a sitrting poem entitled, "A Soldier."

Some 15 veterans, representing all branches and military service during WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War, Desert Storm and Iraq War, attended and were honored. Each came forward and spoke briefly about his service.

Veterans who attended and were recognized: Jim Fletcher, (Army, Panama, 1963-65); Larry Yates (Navy, 30 years, 5 mos, hospital corpsman); Ed Ringer (Army, Engineer, Pacific, 1943-46); Jimmy Wright (Army, Korea); Walt Pullen (Navy, 1967-71); Roger Brownfield (Army, 1971-1991); Benjamin Booth (Army, 1954-56); John O'Rear (Army, 1960-63); Kirby Johns (Navy, Vietnam); John Mills (Air Force, 1970-94); Joe Salamone (Army); Steve Webb (Navy, 1969-1973); Paul Zulker (Air Force, 1973-1976); Bobby McCurdy (Marine Corps, 1966-1972); Homer Crow (Army, Pacific, 1942-46). Beverly Ashley and Charlotte Gentry briefly honored their sons who are or have been active duty in war time.

After the program, refreshments were served in the Town Hall. Attendees enjoyed delicious homemade cookies and desserts provided by Wilma Fletcher and Mentone Town Council Member Gail Chambers.



Shugah, this is Suthun!

Only a Southerner knows the difference between a hissie fit and a conip-tion fit, and that you don't "HAVE" them, you "PITCH" them.

Only a Southerner knows how many fish, collard greens, turnip greens, peas, beans, etc., make up "a mess."

Only a Southerner can show or point out to you the general direction of "yonder."

Only a Southerner knows exactly how long "directly" is, as in: "Going to town, be back directly."

Even Southern babies know that "Gimme some sugar" is not a request for the white, granular, sweet substance that sits in a pretty little bowl in the middle of the table.

All Southerners know exactly when "by and by" is. They might not use the term, but they know the concept well.

Only a Southerner knows instinctively that the best gesture of solace for a neighbor who's got trouble is a plate of hot fried chicken and a big bowl of cold potato salad. If the neighbor's trouble is a real crisis, they also know to add a large banana puddin'!

Only Southerners grow up knowing the difference between "right near" and "a right far piece." They also know that "just down the road" can be 1 mile or 20.

No true Southerner would ever assume that the car with the flashing turn signal is actually going to make a turn.

A Southerner knows that "fixin'" can be used as a noun, a verb, or an adverb.

Only Southerners make friends while standing in lines, ... and when we're "in line," ... we talk to everybody!

Put 100 Southerners in a room and half of them will discover they're related, even if only by marriage.

In the South, "y'all" is singular, "all y'all" is plural.

Southerners know grits come from corn and how to eat them.

Only true Southerners say "sweet tea" and "sweet milk." Sweet tea indicates the need for sugar and lots of it -- we do not like our tea unsweetened. "Sweet milk" means you don't want buttermilk.

And a true Southerner knows you don't scream obscenities at little old ladies who drive 30 MPH on the freeway. You just say, "Bless her sweet little heart" ... and go your own way.

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Friends of the Preserve at Little River Canyon

By John Dersham



I have been honored to be the first President of the Friends of the Preserve at Little River Canyon N.P. We began a year ago last March and have been active in establishing our 501(c)3 and getting our bylaws and articles of incorporation done. During the course of the last year we have attended multiple festivals, trade shows and exhibitions to gather members and to discuss the attributes of a "friend" organization as it relates to our National Preserve.

There are many friends groups for different National Parks. Many of them are quite well established. I am glad we now have one to offer the public at Little River Canyon.

Here is our Mission Statement:

"Little River Canyon is a National Preserve located on Lookout Mountain in northeast Alabama. The Friends of the Preserve at Little River, in partnership with the National Park Service, works to support the highest level of preservation, protection, management and interpretation of the natural, cultural and historic resources of approximately 13,000 national park acres."

On October 22nd, we had our first annual member meeting and picnic at Lynn Overlook on the canyon rim. It was a fun day of music food and great conversation. On November 5th, we had our first annual Run the Rim 5K race. There were 65 entries in this fun and scenic fund raiser along the rim of Little River Canyon.

Friends groups help with providing assistance in efforts to help keep the park clean, trails trimmed and they help with educational services to the trav-

elers visiting the park. Becoming a member of the Friends of the Preserve is a way to support the maintenance, protection and beauty of our beautiful National Preserve. As a member you will be invited to participate in events hosted by the Friends of the Preserve that both celebrate the beauty of our park and also provide the badly needed human resources to help make our park a more valued and enjoyable destination for our visitors and also our local people who enjoy all the wonderful things to do at LRC.

If you have not been to Little River Canyon in the last month, you need to visit the beautiful new boardwalk trail. You enter it at the parking lot at Little River Falls. We should be very proud of the constant improvement the National Park service is dedicating to our preserve. Many Thanks to John Bundy and his staff at Little River Canyon N.P. We are so fortunate to have the wonderful N.P. in our backyard.

(To learn more about Friends of the Preserve at Little River Canyon go to our website at <http://friendsofthepreserve.org/> or visit us on Facebook at Friends of the Preserve at Little River Canyon.)

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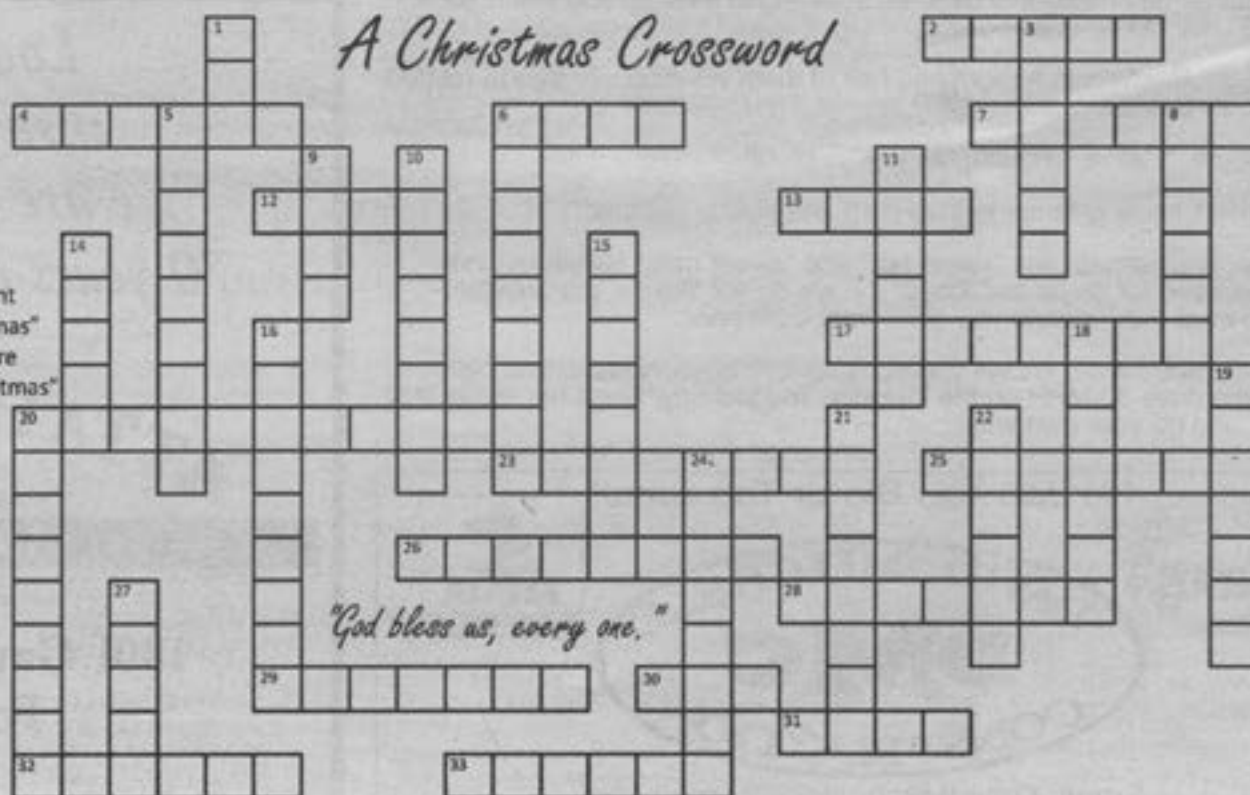
Across:

- 2 Spendthrift
- 4 Forged during his partner's lifetime
- 6 Girl under the Spirit's robe
- 7 Tiny Tim's eldest sister
- 12 Number of Ghosts
- 13 Written on the boy's brow
- 17 Former employer
- 20 Laundress stole this
- 23 Scrooge's First Name
- 25 Partner's Business
- 26 "Dead as a _____"
- 28 Author
- 29 Visitors
- 30 Lifespan of the Ghosts was one _____
- 31 Nephew
- 32 Setting
- 33 Christmas Gift

Down:

- 1 Sister
- 3 Chapters
- 5 Boy under the Spirit's robe
- 6 Where debtors could be sent
- 8 Response to "Merry Christmas"
- 9 According to Scrooge is more ridiculous than "Merry Christmas"
- 10 Employee
- 11 Niece's Suitor
- 14 Girlfriend
- 15 Number of Ghost's Siblings (in hundreds)
- 16 Holiday
- 18 Fellow Apprentice
- 19 Should be "boiled with" it
- 20 Engagement
- 21 Business
- 22 Partner
- 24 After Twelfth Night
- 27 Number of years ago Scrooge's partner died

A Christmas Crossword



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Mentone Area Arts Council



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The Mentone Area Arts Council

As the year winds to a close, you might consider becoming a member of the Mentone Area Arts Council. You don't have to be an artist to join and your membership dues are tax deductible. You can see the fruits of your efforts through the many, high quality events sponsored by the Arts Council throughout the year. Simply go to the www.mentonearts.org and click on Membership.

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IN REMEMBRANCE of Kenya Sharee Bain who passed away December 15, 2003. You are always in my heart. Your mom, Sherry Powell.

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Diary of a Chicken Lady

Part-seven
By Kristen Emory



I wanted to share a few pictures of the girls. I have four chickens, Favorite Chicken (Cagney),

White Chicken (Charlie), Black Chicken (Angel), and The Other Chicken (Lacy). I hope you enjoy them as much as I do. They have become a part of our family both human and dog family. We have four dogs, Luke (Golden Retriever), Spike and BB (Pugs) and Max (mixed up breed) that now eat with and on a rainy day share their Dog house with the chickens. Yes, the dog house that I got busted using the skill saw to make the door bigger to accommodate these new chicks? The dogs have done a great job of accepting the chickens and everybody gets along. I can even leave the chickens out all day and they play well together.

My children are a different story. I embarrass them daily with my chicken stories and having chicken s*** on my shoes and pants all the time. I can't keep all the cute chicken stories to myself, I have to share them. I have to let the world know all about me and my chickens. The children beg me not to talk about the chickens in public but I do it anyway. I promise I will pay for their therapy when they need it. But let it be known that they love the scrambled eggs our chickens lay.

Enjoy the pictures and I hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Let's keep our fingers crossed, that I can keep the girls alive through the winter.

(Kristen Emory and her husband, Tom, reside in Mentone and, in addition to raising chickens, are owners of Mentone Market)

Merry Christmas from the "Chicken Lady"

