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in print.

THE GROUNDHOG

Mentone, Valley Head, Hammondville

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By M.A.P.A.

Volume 26, No. 2

"Neighborly" News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain

February 2008

Greek Chef Comes to Dessie's

By Evelyn Graves

Mountains are nothing new to Chef John Gegumis whose ancestry is in the mountains of Greece at Corinth. His family is from the Peloponnese. They are Corinthians. John says, "In Greece, if your father is a baker, you are a baker, and your son is a baker; or a fisherman, or a shepherd, or a server. My family is a server. We have restaurants where we cook and serve. The recipes that I use here are 300 years old. They were passed down from the beginning of time, for that matter, but I do know that these that I use are at least 300 years old."

John was born in Memphis, Tennessee. After spending time in Greece, he returned to Memphis six years ago and opened a restaurant there. It was the only Greek restaurant in Memphis, and its popularity really grew. He then learned that he had cancer and underwent surgery for the removal of a kidney. When he was able to return to the restaurant, it had lost its momentum. Being the only Greek chef in the only Greek restaurant in a city of three million people, when he stopped, it stopped. While he was operating the restaurant there, some people from Mentone came in to eat. One of them was Gloria, the manager of the Mentone Inn. They suggested that he come to Mentone to visit. John told them that if he came to Mentone to visit, he would want to cook. Gloria told him to come for a week-end, and they would make a Greek night of it. They scheduled the third week-end of January, and set the evening for the Greek night, which was held on January 19, 2008, and was quite successful. Things in Memphis were not going well, and John learned that Dessie needed some help, and they worked things out so that he would join her business doing a Greek cuisine menu in the evenings while Dessie continued with her regular menu for lunch each day. There are some items available from Dessie's regular menu in the evenings. These include catfish, sandwiches and French fries for the children, salads and desserts.

The real opening of the Greek cuisine at Dessie's was on New Year's Eve with a party serving around fifty people.



**Greek Chef John Gegumis (r)
at Dessie's in Mentone,
and owner Dessie Brown (l)**

John serves a variety of delicious entrees which are available each evening that the restaurant is open. His personal favorite is lamb chops. This is a family favorite in Greece. Lamb is served as a pot roast with rice or potatoes and Greek salad. Moussaka is a three thousand year old recipe cooked with eggplant, potatoes, beef and cheese. Pastitsio is a casserole consisting of ground beef, noodles, and cheese layered much like lasagna. Souvlaki is like a shish-ka-bob with pork or chicken and is served with rice and tzatziki. Tzatziki is a yogurt, garlic and cucumber sauce. It can be used as a complement for meats or as an appetizer served with bread. Hummus is an appetizer of garbanzo beans and ground sesame seeds. Spanikopita is a spinach pie with three different cheeses, rolled and baked into a delicious and quite popular appetizer. The roast lamb is cooked on a rotisserie and finished up on a grill with onions and potatoes. Seafood is sautéed in olive oil, butter, garlic and onions and

served on a bed of rice. Garlic shrimp and yellow fin tuna are the only seafoods offered at this time. Grilled pork steak is served with Greek salad and tzatziki.

The health factor involved in the Greek food is most interesting. A study was done a few years back by Harvard Medical of all the different cuisines - the Mexican, Spanish, French, Greek, etc., and Greek was declared to be the healthiest cuisine. There are no fried foods. The only oil used is olive oil. Olive oil is an ingredient that raises the good cholesterol and lowers the bad cholesterol. Greek cuisine is conscious of health needs, and is just European home cooking at its best.

John plans to stay at Dessie's permanently, and he is excited to be at Mentone. Already, guests from Chattanooga, Gadsden, Rome, and other locations have found John's Greek cuisine to be very exciting and are frequenting the restaurant.

There will be a special dinner on Valentine's evening. Prizes will be given for the oldest couple, the youngest couple and the couple who brings the most guests that evening. Call NOW for reservations: 256-634-4232. This will be a romantic evening with candlelight, music, and dressy attire. Make your plans to attend.

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JANUARY 8, 2008 - MAPA Meeting

The Mentone Area Preservation Meeting was held on Tuesday, January 8, at 6:30PM.

President Amelia Kirk Lolli called the meeting to order. Leroy Crowe gave the invocation.

Slate McDorman announced that he was free of cancer, and thanked all for their support.

J.P. Nation resigned as festival chairman, citing health problems. The search begins again for another festival chairman.

Festival matters were discussed, with the required health permit of \$100 for the food vendors being mentioned, with the members agreeing that it seemed unfair. Several matters pertaining to the Rhododendron Festival scheduled for the the third weekend in May (May 17 & 18) were discussed. These will be taken up again at each of the following MAPA meetings in preparation for the festival. A recommendation was made to upgrade the electricity at Brow Park to accommodate the many vendors using electricity.

Page Cunningham made a motion to invest certain amounts in the checking account to be placed in the Franklin fund, which did not pass. Dorothy Crow made a second motion to invest certain amounts in the checking account in the Franklin fund, leaving enough in the checking account to fund the spring festival. The motion was seconded and passed.

Anthony Teverino made a motion to give a prize of \$100 for the best decoration of Christmas lights for the year 2008. Kim Albrecht seconded the motion, which passed. Slate McDorman, was appointed chairman of the committee. Anthony Teverino was appointed as assistant to check on the lighting.

Jerome Stephens made a suggestion that some of the trees at the Brow Park pavilions be cut to give a better view off the mountain.

Amelia Lolli furnished the refreshments for the evening. The next meeting is on Tuesday, February 5, 2008, at 6:30 PM.

Dorothy crow made a motion to adjourn, and enjoy the refreshments. Anthony Teverino seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The next MAPA meeting is on March 2nd, at 6:30PM.

The Groundhog

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**Third Monday in
February (February 18)
is Presidents' Day
- a state and
federal holiday.**

NOTICE

We reserve the right to reject, without explanation, any ad or article submitted to The Groundhog for publication, and we reserve the right to edit the article.



Mildred Ellen Pruitt

February 8, 1965 - January 18, 2008

Ellen was the youngest of four children born to Sam and Louise Pruitt of Cloudland, Georgia. She was the granddaughter of the late Mitchell and Ruby Cordell of Mentone.

Ellen graduated from Summerville High School in 1983, attended the University of North Georgia for two years, and graduated from Shorter College, Rome Georgia, in 1989. She had taught in the Summerville Elementary School for three years when she was overtaken by a debilitating illness which forced her to retire at an early age.

Ellen will be remembered for her beautiful smile and her winning personality. She never met a stranger, and had many friends, which was evidenced by the over-flowing crowd in attendance at her funeral at Mason Funeral Home in Summerville, Georgia, on Monday, January 21. She was laid to rest at Little River Cemetery at Mentone, which is within sight of the home of her late grandparents where she spent a great deal of time as she grew up.

Ellen was a member of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Cloudland, Georgia, where she attended all of her life.

She is survived by her parents, Sam and Louise Pruitt, brother Hershell Pruitt of Mentone, sister Kathy Kerce of Summerville, Georgia, sister Vickie Carlisle of Dawsonville, Georgia, and eleven nieces and nephews.

If Ellen could speak to us, I feel that she would leave us with this poem which was chosen by the family for her memorial:

Fill Not Your Hearts

Fill not your hearts with pain and sorrow,
but remember me in every tomorrow,
My going has eased my pain and given relief,
so dry your eyes and forget your grief.
Remember the joy, our laughter, my smile
and that our being apart is just for awhile.
Remember me also as I used to be.
Understand in your hearts, so precious to me,
that I've gone on ahead to dwell up above,
And 'til we're once more together...
You have all of my love.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be given to:

**Woodruff Science Center
Emory Liver Transplant
1440 Clifton Road, Suite 112
Atlanta, Georgia 30322**

Mentone Market Now Offers Home Cooked Lunches

By Evelyn Graves

One of Tom Emory's dreams became a reality when his mother, Sandy Emory, joined the staff of the Mentone Market. Tom has always wanted a deli with home cooked food.

Mrs. Emory worked with the school system in Auburn, and because of an unexpected change in her life, it seemed feasible for her to move to Mentone to be near Tom and Kristen. She states Tom and Kristen can always use help with their children, Byrum and Sadler. It was at that time that she and Tom discussed the possibility of cooking and serving home-cooked meals out of the Mentone Market. Sandy had already taken an early retirement to stay with her mother, but her mother had to go into a nursing home, and this freed Sandy to make the move to Mentone. Tom was a hospital nutritionist before moving to the mountain, and his expertise in food management has been quite an asset in this new endeavor. He also manages the financial part of the business.

The lunch plan was put into place, and Monday through Thursday of every week, wonderful home-cooked meals are served at lunch time. It is designed for take-out orders. However, there is one large table set up inside the Market where people may sit and eat their lunch. This is especially great for people who have a few minutes from their jobs to come together, enjoy a time of fellowship, fun, and to enjoy the hot food from Sandy's kitchen.

Some of the favorite foods served are: Chicken and dressing, hamburger steaks with onions and gravy, soup, chili, stew, Tom's spaghetti, chicken tetrazinni, pork roast and gravy, chicken fingers, and meat loaf. These meats are served with 2 vegetables and bread for \$4.99. The price is \$3.85 on soup day. A sandwich may be added, making the total \$4.50. The plates are served with large portions. No one ever goes away hungry. Wonderful homemade desserts such as chocolate pie, coconut pie, or various cakes are always available.

Page 3/ The Groundhog/February 2008 Father Sky Rides into the Setting Sun By Armand Coutu

As this article appears in print, I will have permanently closed the doors on Father Sky and the Atali Center for the Arts. In the last month I have had to do some serious introspection and retrospection on the last year of my life. Though the response has been favorable to the concepts of the new center, the intentions I began both businesses were wrong for my personal goals. I came to the mountain with a need and a desire to accomplish certain things and neither of these ventures were those things. Though I have chosen to reset the current priorities in my life, I have not regretted anything I have experienced in the last year. I have made countless wonderful friends, and in a small way, I hope I have helped some of our local artists find some faith in their talent as we saw their work purchased and carried across the country.

My personal philosophy has always been to freely share the gifts I have been given, to try and make the community where I live a better place, and to encourage others to strive for higher goals and accomplishments. But sometimes as this work progresses, the self can get lost and the "I" can disappear. One of the main reasons I moved to Mentone was to own a little piece of the heaven and earth I found here when I first visited, but within a handful of months I had lost sight of that objective. When I'm asked to share my gifts and life experiences with those around me, I always say yes; but community reform was not why I moved here. I believe in giving to the community in which I live, but right now I must choose to do that in subtler and simpler ways from my own piece of heaven on earth.

In addition to these changes, I have also resigned from The Mentone Area Arts Council. Though my artistic background may be advantageous to them on the whole, I am not the right person to lead that organization. Now that they have achieved their 501c3 nonprofit status, I urge everyone to become a member and get involved in nurturing the arts here in the area. Especially in a time when disposable cash is often hard to come by, please find it in your heart and in your wallet to buy art and support the artists who are out there trying to make the world a more beautiful place.

Thank you to my artists and to my customers. Here's to making the world and the mountain a better place through the arts, through caring, and through kindness.



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THE HALLELUJAH MULE

By John Sam Whitaker

Stories by Papaw for his Grandchildren

One day Papaw bought a young mule home from the Friday Mule Sale. He named him Isaiah.

Papaw wanted an obedient mule, so he began to teach him to respond positively to Papaw's saying the word, "Hallelujah!" Every time he said, "Hallelujah!" he would feed Isaiah.

On Monday morning Papaw went to the barn. There stood Isaiah, somewhat lazily, and with no interest in much of anything. Papaw said, "Isaiah, hallelujah!" Isaiah's ears perked up as he heard the words; he knew it was time to eat, so he became very obedient. The same response occurred at dinner and supper times. Papaw got more work done that day that he had for several days.

Papaw could not always feed Isaiah when he said hallelujah so he began to cut back on the feed. The result was a good response from Isaiah, who acted as if he were getting a meal to eat when he heard only the word hallelujah. So across the fields Papaw called out loudly, "Hallelujah!" Passersby heard it and began calling it the Hallelujah Farm. A favorite spot for Papaw was the place where the word bounced from three ridges: it was almost a hallelujah chorus.

One day Papaw rode Isaiah to town. Dean Huff, a neighbor, saw them coming and loudly announced, "Here comes the Hallelujah Mule!" Everyone stared. However, when Papaw came out of the feed store, and, getting astride Isaiah, exclaimed, "Hallelujah!" everyone laughed and clapped their hands when the little mule started for home. The title, "Hallelujah Mule," stuck with him for the remainder of his life.

Papaw enjoyed working with the Hallelujah Mule: plowing, laying off the rows, plowing between the rows, pulling the cutting machines, or pulling the shay; it was all so enjoyable, as he had never had an animal that was such a good worker.

Days led into months, and months into years, and years into a lifetime. Hallelujah was getting near thirty five (35) years old, and Papaw sensed that the end was close. He went to the far side of the field and began to dig a grave. Going to the barn, he called, "Hallelujah!" The little mule began to follow; he seemed barely able to lift a hoof from the ground. At the grave site, Hallelujah stood trembling for a long moment, and then he fell over dead into the grave. Papaw was right. He said, "I will miss you, my Friend." Slowly, and so regretfully, he filled the grave.

Later, about a week, Papaw bought another young mule, a female, that he named Gloria (Spanish for "glory").

LESSON: Let praise fill each day. The antidote for depression is praise. Say the word hallelujah often. (It means "praise ye the Lord.") Count your blessings. Praise the Lord.



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LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN NATURAL HEALING: "CHICKEN SOUP" AND MORE...

By L.C. Moon

Once again it is the time of year when most of us will be inconvenienced by cold and sinus problems. It is not just an old wives tale that cold weather will make you sick. The truth is the body uses a lot of energy to keep warm during cold weather. While the body is using a lot of energy to keep warm, it has less energy to fight off harmful bacteria or viruses.

Eating a balanced diet, taking vitamin and mineral supplements, and getting plenty of exercise is helpful to boost the immune system though sometimes it is not enough to stave off the cold and sinus inconvenience. There are other natural ways that can help keep sickness at bay as well as relieve the symptoms.

Have you ever heard of eating chicken soup to help you feel better when you are sick? Why chicken soup works has been debated, but there is some validity to it. Chef Ben's momma always said it is the love in the soup that helps you feel better.

I agree with Ben's mama Brenda Garner. I also recommend adding rosemary, thyme, oregano, and lots of garlic & onion to chicken soup in order to add an extra bit of healing to the mix. Cayenne pepper can enhance the effectiveness of herbs, as well as clear your sinuses if you add a few dashes to spice up your warm chicken soup.

Garlic is one of nature's best immune system boosters. Standardized garlic supplements are more convenient than eating raw or cooked garlic to effectively treat or prevent illness. Garlic capsules now come in an odorless form so as not to offend those that must be close to you through the day. Though if you are not concerned about the smell and love garlic, then eat 12 cloves of garlic throughout the day at the first sign of sickness.

I always keep Echinacea extract on hand. It has antibacterial as well as antiviral properties. If someone I am treating or if I am sick with a bacterial infection, then I use a combination of echinacea and goldenseal (antibacterial) to add an extra potent boost to the healing process. There are sweet tasting Echinacea blends great for kids—as Mary Poppins says "A spoon full of sugar helps the medicine go down."

Elderberry is a favorite remedy of mine to help to prevent and heal the body during a bacterial or viral infection. Sambucol is a manufactured extract of elderberry with a great reputation for prevention and healing. Sambucol has proven itself to me through experience; it is sweet and great for coughs.

In experience, Elderberry can help bring down a fever. However, lemon water, calrip and boneset have proven to me to be more effective in bringing down a fever. A cold cloth on the forehead is helpful

Fever is not a bad thing unless it reaches dangerous levels. A fever is the body's natural defense against infection.

Herbs such as pau d'arco, boneset, oregano, olive leaf and yellow root are helpful in treating and preventing cold and flu symptoms. Olive leaf is wonderful in treating any type of viral infection. Oregano has been manufactured into a very potent antiviral, antibacterial and antifungal extract—Oregano—which can be purchased in extract or capsule form. Yellow Root can be found by the creeks and river and made into a tea or taken in capsule form.

Drinking hot herbal teas always helps me relieve my symptoms. The warmth of the tea feels good going down. Specific herb teas like a peppermint/lemon balm blend will help soothe the stomach while opening the sinuses and treating viral infections. I like to drink a peppermint, chickweed & nettle tea blend when I am all stuffy because it helps to clear the sinuses, as well as ward off any allergies that may want to try to afflict me while my immune system is down. Fennel added to any herb tea will be helpful because fennel is relaxing, aids digestion and decreases mucous in the body.

For a sore throat, add a heaping spoon full of honey to your tea, or mix a little lemon juice in warm water with a lot of honey. Honey will provide essential amino acids while soothing an itchy or sore throat. Red sumac berries soaked in water are helpful to soothe a sore throat. The best blend I have found to date to aid in healing and soothing a sore throat is a peppermint blend made by Herbs for Kids. However, for strep throat adding a spray of Throat Rescue will help heal strep faster.

Supplements are great therapy options. Vitamin C is very important for your immune system. I take at least 2000mg a day at the first sign of feeling ill. Vitamin B complex is beneficial to the immune system because it helps the body cope with the stress that sickness brings to everyday life. Vitamin E is also helpful for healing because it reduces the free radicals in the body. Zinc has antioxidant properties and works great in combination with Vitamins B, C and E during cold and flu season.

Wood stoves and heating systems dry the air. A humidifier can ease symptoms especially if you add an essential oil such as eucalyptus, peppermint or rosemary. Mixing any of these essential oils with a little vegetable oil and rubbing it on your sinus area will help break up the mucous.

Eucalyptus, rosemary, peppermint and/or thyme are helpful in clearing sinus congestion and infection. Whether used fresh or as an essential oil, these herbs are helpful as a steam. Simply bring water to a boil in a glass, enamel or stainless steel pot and then com-

bine the dried or fresh herbs or essential oils. Place your face over the steam that rises from the pot with a towel over your head to trap the aromas and steam coming from the pot. Your sinus will open up while the herbs work to clear infection. Be careful to close your eyes so the oils do not hurt your eyes and cautious that the towel does not touch the heating element while it is on your head.

The age old advice of drinking plenty of fluids and getting plenty of rest is true to date. When you begin to feel up to it, you should go outside and get some fresh air. A slow short walk followed by a warm shower or bath can do a world of good especially if you use the above-mentioned essential oils in your bath.

Eating fresh fruits and veggies, warm soups with beneficial herbs, drinking plenty of water, hot teas and juices will help the body heal. Dairy should be avoided during cough, cold, sinus or allergy flare ups because dairy increases mucous production.

It is wise for me to tell you to contact your healthcare provider if possible before taking any herbs or making changes to your health care regimen, especially if you are pregnant, nursing or taking any prescription medication. Peppermint, rosemary or herbs in the mint family should not be taken while pregnant. Remember to keep warm and eat plenty of warm chicken soup.

Words of Wisdom: Take time to be friendly—it is the road to happiness. Take time to dream—it is like hitching your wagon to a star. Take time to love and be loved—it is a privilege... Take time to look around—it is too short a day to be selfish. Take time to laugh—it is the music of the soul * Old English Quote

L.C. Moon is a naturalist, herbalist, writer, co-owner of the Wildflower Café and Country Store in Mentone, AL (634-0066). Co-founder of Appalachian Mountain Life, Inc., a member at large of Lookout Mountain Heritage Alliance, Mentone Area Arts Council and Mentone Area Preservation Association.

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LAND TRUST PRESERVES 52 ACRES IN VESTAVIA

RIVERFRONT PARCEL PROTECTED FROM
TIMBERING, DEVELOPERS

By KATHERINE BOUMA and THOMAS SPENCER

Birmingham New staff writers

Birmingham News, December 18, 2007

Submitted by Lucy Mitchell

Vestavia Hills couple on Monday signed a permanent conservation easement on 32 acres of environmentally-sensitive land along the Cahaba River, making use of a tool for preserving land. The Freshwater Land Trust hopes others will take advantage of.

Britt and Judy Butler's 32 acres adjoin 12 acres owned by Bob and Ann Tate, who had previously put their land in a conservation easement. Together the nearly 45 acres include forests, creeks and 1,000 feet of river frontage, located upstream from the Birmingham Water Works intake. Under the terms of the easement, the land will never be timbered or developed.

Wendy Jackson, executive director of the Freshwater Land Trust, said the combined acreage is believed to be the largest block of undeveloped forest along the river in Vestavia Hills.

If fully developed, the land could have been the site for multiple homes, Jackson said. On the market without the easement, the property's value could have been \$950,000, she said.

Instead, the forest that lies between the river and the Butler and Tate homes will remain a haven for "an amazing diversity of wildflowers" and wildlife, Jackson said. It also will serve as a natural filter for water running through two tributaries and into the Cahaba.

Under the easement, the landowner retains possession of the property and can still use it and control access to it. It does not become open to the public. The donor also can take a tax deduction for the difference in value between what the land would have been worth if available for development and what the land is worth under the agreed-upon restrictions.

"For years, our family has lived in harmony with the beauty of the Cahaba River," Britt and Judy Butler said in a written statement. "Preserving our forest will help protect the river and all the species who call the river home. Using a conservation easement to protect our land was an easy decision because we could not bear the thought of this land ever being developed."

The Tates also wrote: "From the moment on that spring day in March of 1985, when we first saw this property lying in the Cahaba River watershed with all the wildflowers in bloom, we knew we wanted to buy it and preserve its natural beauty forever."

Conservation easements can be designed to suit the landowners. The Vestavia Hills property was put into the most restrictive form of easement, preventing lumber harvest or any further development. But a

landowner could carve out home sites within the property and leave them out of the easement. Farm land could be placed in an easement that allows farming to continue but rules out development.

Once the land is in an easement, the owner still can sell the property or pass it on to heirs, but the restrictions on the land remain in place and are enforced by the Freshwater Land Trust.

Jackson said conservation easements are common in the West and the Northeast but were little used in the state until 1997, when Alabama passed the Uniform Conservation Easement Act. That same year, the Freshwater Land Trust opened its doors with a mission of acquiring and managing lands that enhance water quality and preserve open space.

5,000 acres protected

To date, the Land Trust has conserved close to 5,000 acres protecting more than 90 streamside miles in the greater Birmingham region.

While the Land Trust concentrates on land along the Cahaba, Black Warrior and its tributaries, conservation easements also can be used to protect farmland and working forest, historically significant sites or property that is deemed to have a public benefit as open space. Easements are used to protect things from endangered species habitat to Civil War battle sites. It's an alternative when government and philanthropic money is limited. Conservation easements also can be used to reduce or eliminate the impact of estate taxes, which sometimes prompt heirs to sell the land to pay the taxes.

"For our organization, we are looking for land that helps preserve water quality and open space," Jackson said. "It's a tool that, as it becomes well-known, we hope to use a lot. In Alabama, landowners are just now beginning to learn about conservation easements."

Congress is considering expanding the benefits of conservation easements by raising the deduction a landowner can take for donating a conservation easement from 30 percent of their income in any year to 50 percent, and by extending the period over which a donor can take tax deductions from 5 to 15 years.

Another proposed change would allow qualifying farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100 percent of their income.

"I can think of no better Christmas present than the one that lasts forever," Jackson said. "Both the Tates and the Butlers are lifelong conservationists who love their land. Their generous donation of these conservation easements has greatly advanced our mission of improving water quality through land preservation. We are deeply honored to have been chosen to be their partners in land conservation."

SHORTY'S CAFE

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Steak Dinner for 2

(Steak Dinner for 1 also available)

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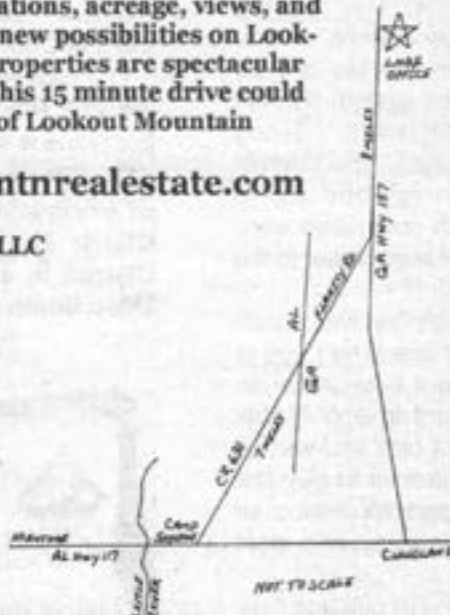
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Rhododendron Garden Club News By Linda Brown, Secretary

The regular meeting of the Rhododendron Garden Club was called to order by President, Martha Wood at 10:00 a.m. on January 8, 2008 at the M.E.R.F. Community House in Mentone, Alabama. Martha led the pledge to the flag of the United States of America. The inspirational minute was given by Jill Written.

After a discussion of several matters pertaining to future activities, the club members discussed the details of having a flower show. The final plans show the chosen date to be Tuesday, May 13, 2008. The title chosen is, May on the Mountain. There will be three classes of four designs. The names of the classes are as follows: "Spring Surprise" (a large design), "Spring Reflections" (a large design), and "Spring Treasures" (a small, 8 inch design). Specimen of horticulture will be accepted in cut form and in containers. The chairs of each committee were named. More details will be released closer to the chosen date.

The program was presented by me, Linda Brown, and my chosen subject was, The Lives of Bats. This program came about because of an educational exhibit that I did for the VFW Flower Show. I learned so much about bats and was so fascinated by them that I volunteered to give this program. The exhibit was designed for children so I had to make this program for adults a little more sophisticated.

The bat is a mammal and the only one that flies. It gives birth to live babies and nurses them with milk. Bats are warm blooded and mostly eat rotted and over ripe fruit and insects. Only one species, actually called the Vampire Bat, drinks the blood of cattle. These are found only in Central and South America. This fact along with other myths and false ideas gives the bat a bad reputation.

The bat is one of our best friends in nature. Fruit-eating bats scatter seeds which produce new trees. Some bats eat the flowers of certain plants and help pollinate the plants by picking up pollen on their feet. Seventy percent of all bats consume insects. A single bat can catch 600 mosquitoes in just one hour. Bracken Cave in Texas supports enough bats to eat 250 tons of insects in one night!

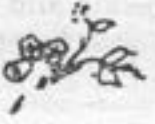
Sometimes bats will live in old barns and other abandoned buildings, but prefer to live in caves. There are nearly 1000 species of bats. They are found on every continent except Antarctica and in every climate except extreme polar environments. They live at high elevations and at sea level. About one-fourth of all known animal species are bats. They are capable of prolonged flight and fly with wings made of thin skin membranes stretched over long, slender finger bones. The feet have curved claws, which the bat uses for grasping a surface as it roosts, or hangs upside down to rest. Bats are not blind, most have very good eyesight.

The bat most often found in DeKalb County is the Gray Bat. It is on the endangered list and is being protected by different agencies. The habitats of bats have been destroyed by the clearing of land and the building growth of most areas. Bats have been destroyed by vandals. Most caves where bats congregate and live now have bars across all entrances to prevent any more destruction of their homes by humans. If you think a bat is chasing you, stand perfectly still, it is not chasing you, but rather mosquitoes or gnats that are chasing you. Because the bat can eat half of its body weight in bugs every night, some people have dubbed them, "Nature's Bug-Zappers." Bats are our friends, learn more about them and do not harm them or their habitat.

The next meeting will be February 12, 2008 at the M.E.R.F. Community House at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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

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THOUGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR

1. A day without sunshine is like night.
2. On the other hand, you have different fingers.
3. 42.7 percent of all statistics are made up on the spot.
4. 99 percent of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
5. Remember, half the people you know are below average.
6. He who laughs last thinks slowest.
7. Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.
8. The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese in the trap.
9. Support bacteria. They're the only culture some people have.
10. A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
11. Change is inevitable, except from vending machines.
12. If you think nobody cares, try missing a couple of payments.
13. How many of you believe in psycho-kinesis?
Raise my hand.
14. OK, so what's the speed of dark?
15. When everything is coming your way,
you're in the wrong lane.
16. Hard work pays off in the future. Laziness
pays off now.
17. How much deeper would the ocean be
without sponges?
18. Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked
into jet engines.
19. What happens if you get scared half to death, twice?
20. Why do psychics have to ask you for your name?
21. Inside every older person is a younger person
wondering, "What the heck happened?"
22. Just remember -- if the world didn't suck, we would
all fall off.
23. Light travels faster than sound. That's why some
people appear bright until you hear them speak.
24. Life isn't like a box of chocolates. It's more like
a jar of jalapenos. What you do today, might burn
your butt tomorrow.



CAYLA VOILS

Congratulations to Cayla Voils for making the Dean's list at Northeast Alabama Community College. Her family is very proud of her. She is the daughter of Christy Voils, the granddaughter of Ella Voils and the late Donnie Voils, all of Mentone.

Koffee Klatch
Saturdays
10 a.m.
Moon Lake Library



FOR SALE

Acorn Ledge Lodge Cloudland East Brow

Handcrafted Tongue and groove log cabin on 2+ acres. Features Iron Age Crafters lighting, Marbutt carvings, post and beam entry, covered porch as well as Deck on the Rock Ledge, Tile Bath, extensive rock work. 951 sq.ft. Under 200,000. Agents 2%

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We wish to thank everyone in Mentone and the surrounding communities who have supported us this year!!! We look forward to seeing all our patrons 4 miles down the mountain at the old Crossroads Restaurant. come one—come all and let's continue to eat BBQ.

It is always our pleasure to serve you.
Our Heartfelt Thanks,

Big Jim, Alicia, Brandy, Donn, and Jennifer
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EACH 3RD MONDAY OF THE MONTH
7:00 P.M.
2008
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FEBRUARY 18
MARCH 17
APRIL 21
MAY 19
JUNE 18

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ENJOY NATURE AT WORK Deck overlooks the valley and the inside is warm and welcoming. Open kitchen, granite countertops, spacious oak cabinetry, vaulted living, and master suite on the main level. Two bedrooms upstairs and a bonus room/4thBR. Also included is a 3 bay garage/workshop with separate living quarters. Situated on 1.9 acres! Only \$519,000. (16997)



DOWNTOWN in HISTORIC MENTONE! One of the few available building lots within walking distance of shopping, dining, and lodging of beautiful Mentone. Situated beneath and within mature foliage and water gardens this property offers a private wedding chapel and guest/reception facility. Plenty of lawn space to build your getaway and still have the privacy of your own little sanctuary. Offered as a residential lot or a private chapel. Call today! \$132,900. (17088)



YOUR OWN PRIVATE SANCTUARY! A hide-away heaven on 1.10 acres! Chat on the screened porch of this 3BR/2BA Cottage-style home. 1-1/2 story boasting a sun room and vaulted ceilings, gas fireplace. Plank flooring, all-appliance package. Completely Furnished! \$375,000. (17087)



BEAUTIFULLY REMODELED...and waiting for you! This 2 possible 3 bedroom, 2 bath home is totally remodeled with new roof, appliances, floors, walls wiring and plumbing. Make your appointment to see this one today. \$183,900 (17090)



SUCH A CUTIE! You'll love this 3br 2bth home with a panoramic view. Beautiful wood floors, white kitchen, great covered front porch with a view of Sand Mountain. Enjoy your evenings on the back deck with a view of Lookout Mountain. You gotta see this one. \$79,900 (17083)



RARE FIND! 12 acre tract atop Lookout Mtn. offers the chance to build that dream home and get away from it all. Restricted, partially cleared, mostly level. Creek runs through back of property. Paved road frontage and city water available. Out in the country but still inside the Fort Payne city limits! \$84,000 (17076)



HEAR THE ROAR of the Creek flowing over the rapids of the rocks from your own private getaway! This 1BR/1BA retreat offers everyday conveniences of pretty hardwood flooring, exposed wood beams in the vaulted open living/kitchen, and eat-in area. Mountain stone fireplace with gas logs, private screen porch, and 300' on beautiful Bear Creek! And for all the travelers, park awhile in the garage for your motor home and still have 2 more garages for your pull behind go everywhere car! What a unique property atop Lookout Mtn. Approx 15 minutes from historic Mentone! This won't last! Call for all the details today! Only \$139,000. (17119)



Call Our Office For Additional Listings In The Area.

Scottie's Service Center

By Sarah Jacoway Chastain

When new construction happens in a small community there's always a lot of excitement and a lot of curiosity. Block by block, Scottie's Service Center took shape on Highway 11 north of Hammondville.

The building was pristine new but the face was familiar as was the name, because Scottie Hulan's family had operated a Texaco station for 33 years in the area. He had been a part of it since he was a young boy. Customers from Valley Head, Fort Payne, Mentone, Henagar, Hammondville, and surrounding areas have shown their appreciation by keeping him busy since he opened on July 5. He had customers waiting for him to open, according to his mother, Louise Hulan, who is his office manager.

"We were glad to see Scottie back," explained G.B. Beasley of Fort Payne who had entrusted his truck to Scottie for servicing. Beasley explained, "He is real talented and has a nice way of treating people. He is the best mechanic I know of in the area. He stands

behind his work."

He specializes in minor mechanical repair including brake service, changing and balancing tires, oil changes, hoses and belts, antifreeze, tune-ups and batteries.

The comfortable office/waiting area shows his mother's touch with a variety of plants, including a corn plant, rubber tree and some unusual cacti. In addition to being the face that most often greets you, she keeps the books and runs errands for her son. After chatting with her for a few minutes, you know that this is exactly where she wants to be. She fulfilled the same role at her late husband's service station.

The real action takes place behind the bright red doors where the three service bays are located. It is there that the service part of the name takes place as Scottie wields his magic touch on all types of vehicles keeping older ones operating like they did when they were new.

The center is open Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturday from 8-12.

To schedule an appointment for service, call 635-1500.



Scottie's Service Center



Scottie Hulan at work

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DESOTO BLUFFS - WEST BROW OF LOOKOUT MTN. 4.5 acres with Valley and mountains as far as you can see. Plenty of room and Only \$100,000. (15602)

38 ACRES ON LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN. All wooded, nice trails, over 1100 ft. of paved road frontage. Just off Hwy 35 near Little River Canyon. Only \$150,000. (16998)

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Have a view of the legendary Appalachian Mountain chain. Beautiful rustic home, recently renovated, offering



genuine wood burning fireplace, eat-in kitchen, downstairs master bedroom and two upstairs bedrooms with private balconies. Now Only \$175,000 (17014)



VIEW FOR 10 MILES IN BOTH DIRECTIONS - Overlooking North Fort Payne - Brow Lot in Pell's Gap - Restricted community. Only \$45,000. (14963)



LOOKOUT MTN. 4 BR, 3 BA Brick with 3.5 acres inside Ft. Payne City limits. Hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings, beautiful oak cabinets sunroom, porches, deck, detached storage. Great condition and only \$199,000. (16746)



NEW ENGLAND STYLE stone cottage - Landmark home in downtown Ft. Payne. 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, hardwood floors, fireplace, detached garage with cedar shakes. Corner lot & now only \$129,900. (16670)



PERFECT MOUNTAIN CABIN TRACT - 4.14 acres on brow of Lookout Mountain South of Fort Payne. Mature woods-lots of wildlife. Only \$35,000. (16725)



PORTOBELLO ROAD, New French design 1-1/2 story brick home with 4 BR's, 3 Baths. Large front porch, vaulted ceilings, split BR design only \$265,000. (15069)



11.45 ACRES WITH POND ON LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN. Big Timber and lots of wildlife. Paved Road. Public Water. and Only \$40,000. (16739)

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845-6000 Agency, Inc.

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LAKE FRONT LIVING... Walk right out the back door to custom built wooden decks and walkways to your own boat dock on Lake Lahusage. This 2 bedroom, 2 bath cottage with pine floors, wood burning fireplace and screened porch, 2-story 2-car garage with apartment possibilities can be yours for only \$399,900. (16822)



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



A PLACE FOR YOUR OWN CANOE! Why go anywhere else when you can enjoy all the amenities and border the West Fork of Little River...Peaceful setting just 5 minutes from Mentone. Large kitchen with pantry, breakfast bar, sitting area and computer desk adjacent to indoor and outdoor dining rooms. 6 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, 2 offices/living areas, laundry room, Heart Pine and Red Oak floors, sleeping porches, outside shower, mountain stone fireplace and much more. For more details and pictures, please visit www.dekalbcountyrealtors.com (PLS #16467) or call Susan Collins. A MUST SEE! \$949,900 (Possible fractional ownership. Call for details)



WEED **Sold** in located just 1/2 mile from 19 acres with information, 3 BR, 2-1/2 BA, walk-out balconies upstairs, kitchen, central heat and air, wood burning fireplace and much more! \$184,900 (17013)



THE RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT! 11+ acres of private wooded land with 400' of the East Fork of Little River. Also features a 2 bedroom, 1 bath cabin with a screened porch for watching abundant wildlife and viewing native landscaping. Only \$215,000 (Co-brokerage with Prime Realty) (16767)



GREAT OPPORTUNITY! Commercial or residential property on the corner of 117 and 641 in Mentone. High visibility for a business or convert back to a 2 bedroom cottage with fenced yard. Call today to see. \$49,900 (16818)



IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT GET-AWAY, you have found it in this cozy log cabin near Mentone. A hot tub on the covered porch and a metal roof give this one bedroom bungalow its warmth and rustic appeal. This cabin features wood walls, floors, and ceilings, a family room with gas log fireplace, and an eat-in kitchen with pantry. Call before this one gets away! \$110,000 (16948)



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



LIVING ON THE WATERS EDGE - Enjoy a panoramic view of the most serene part of Little River from the large screened porch of this country living home. Cathedral ceilings provide an open and airy feeling throughout the great room with fireplace and open balcony. Plenty of room for expansion in the full basement and almost 6 acres of walking trails and a private vineyard. Great for a corporate retreat or single family residence. \$2,000,000 (16795)



LAUREL CREEK... This cozy cottage is 2 years new and features 2 bedrooms plus a loft, 2 bathrooms, great room with gas log fireplace, kitchen/ dining combo, screened porch and side deck all situated on 1.75 acres. Instead of driving to Gatlinburg, drive home to Mentone. \$169,000 (17073)



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

Southern Properties

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Agency, Inc.

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ENJOY THE GORGEOUS VIEW OF THE LAKE from this NEW construction in Mentone offering 2BR/2BA, large open living room with fireplace, spacious kitchen with dining area, master bath with garden tub and more. Call for your appointment today. \$174,900 (15985)



VALLEYS AND MOUNTAINS. The view is SPECTACULAR. Custom built log home, wood walls and floors, stacked rock fireplace, large kitchen and dining area, 3BR/3BA, screened-in porch and back deck. Restricted subdivision. Get away from the busy life in this mountain hideaway. \$369,000 (15616)



BREATHTAKING VIEW! You can enjoy the view year round from this one-level brick home. This property is situated on DeSoto Parkway and is "just around the corner" from DeSoto State Park and Mentone. 3BR/2BA, living and dining combination, wood burning fireplace, spacious kitchen with breakfast bar, sunroom and large deck. \$475,000 (17082)



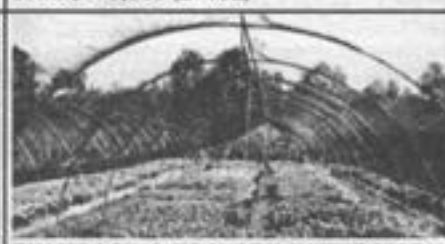
NESTLED IN THE WOODS near DeSoto State Park you will find this enchanting 2BR/2BA house with guest cottage. Has all the amenities you are accustomed to as well as the private location you most desire. Main house offers 1400 +/- sq. ft. of living space with CH/A, fenced back yard and the guest cottage features a wood burning fireplace. \$159,900 (16922)



YOU WILL FALL IN LOVE with this custom built log home situated on a private, wooded lot of over 2 acres in Mentone. This unique property offers log and pine walls, great room with wood burning stone fireplace, dining area, sleeping porch, kitchen with hard rock maple counter-tops, open front cabinets. 2BR/2BA complete the downstairs. Upstairs, an open loft with built-in beds and space enough for extra guests. Offered for \$325,000. (16773)



START FROM HERE - The beginnings of a private get-away cabin on a 5 acre BROW lot. Drive down the private road to enjoy the eastern view and serenity of the valley below. Co-brokerage with Prime Realty. \$169,900 (16628)



ENJOY GOING TO WORK IN THE MORNINGS? If not, then perhaps you should consider investing in your own business. Lookout Mtn Nursery is now for sale offering 9 greenhouses with inventory included. Don't delay on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. \$99,500 (16393)



NATIVE MOUNTAIN FOLIAGE creates a level of privacy for this 3BR/2BA brick house on 3 lots with 300' on the West Fork of Little River. Split BR design, large family room with cathedral ceiling and mountain stone wood-burning fireplace, screened porch overlooking a walkway to the river. 2 storage sheds (1 with electricity), an attached 2-car garage, and CH/A. \$289,900 (16371)



NEW CABIN ON THE BROW with 1750 sq ft, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, master suite has jetted tub, separate shower and walk-in closet. Cathedral ceiling in living room with rock fireplace. Large deck to enjoy the view. \$235,000 (16390)



NORTHBEND... A gated subdivision. Your family will love this rustic cabin under construction nestled in a wooded 1.8 acre tract featuring great room with vaulted beamed ceiling and fireplace. There are 2 bedrooms each with walk-in closets, 2-1/2 baths and loft/den. Bring your rockers and enjoy the front porch and rear grilling deck. \$169,900 (16721)



THIS NEW HOME IS NOW COMPLETE and ready for new owners. Located in West Fork Subdivision and offers 2BR plus LOFT, 2.5BA, hardwood, ceramic and carpet, Mountain Stone fireplace, cedar siding, covered porch and side deck all on a 3.48 acre partially-wooded lot with a seasonal view of the mountains. \$179,900 (16477)



YOU WILL LOVE COMING HOME to this cabin with 3.3 acres in Mentone. SELLING FURNISHED. 3BR/2.5BA cabin has everything you need! Main level master BR and glamour bath with jetted tub, separate shower and walk-in closet. Upstairs are 2BR/1BA. Call now and make your move to Mentone today! \$199,400 (16059)

BUILD HERE on this gorgeous 4.4 acre tract with a fabulous view of the valley below. Ready to build with existing septic system and well. Located on the North Brow in Mentone, this lot has unique rock formations. Don't wait or this one will be gone! \$299,000 (14998)

BUILD YOUR NEW HOME ON THIS BROW LOT in Mentone with a breathtaking view of the valley below. Lot offers approx. 100' on the brow with 2 additional lots available. \$92,500 per

lot. (14598)

3.32 +/- ACRES JUST OUTSIDE THE MENTONE CITY LIMITS. This property has no restrictions so you can build or have a mobile home. \$28,500 (14351)

NATURE AT ITS VERY BEST describes these lots. You can buy this 10 acres with 300' on Little River with lovely views, nice timber and natural landscaping. All this can be found as you walk and explore your own special parcel of land. Co-broke with Prime Realty.

\$100,000 (16843)

THE VERY BEST OF NATURE describes these lots. You can buy this 11.8 acres with 500' on Little River with lovely views, nice timber and natural landscaping. All this can be found as you walk and explore your own special parcel of land. Co-broke with Prime Realty. \$120,000 (16844)

WOW! WHAT A FIND. This beautiful 3 acre wooded lot located near DeSoto State Park is a perfect building site for a week-end cabin or permanent resi-

dence. Paved road frontage and city water with light restrictions. \$48,000 (16975)

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WHAT A FIND ON LOOKOUT MTN. Great development or private estate. 62 acres with 3,000 ft. of Bear Creek. Cleared building site, residentially timbered, gravel drive, Rock formations, hiking trails, and abundance of Wildlife. A must see. \$480,000 (16806)



UNIQUE SETTING ON LITTLE RIVER - "The Hatteras Cabin" overlooks a covered Bridge, has a wrap-around deck, 2 bedrooms and 2 baths with a huge loft. Rock Fireplace, furnishings included - and much more. Located at Cloudmont Resort. \$325,000 (16466)



DESOTO FALLS GORGE. Spectacular views from this gorge and the water below. 185 ft. on the west fork Little River. A must see. \$201,900 (15967)



6.3 ACRES AT CANYON VIEW FOREST, east rim Little River Canyon. Great Views of the Canyon Below, Rock Formations. Private Gated \$115,000 (16801)



OWN A PIECE OF PROPERTY ON LITTLE RIVER CANYON. One and Only Canyon View Forest. 5 acres with rocks and stream with a view of the bluff of the Canyon. Very private with gated access. \$80,000 (14630)

"THE SETTLEMENT AT MONK'S COVE"



"THE BARN" features a 24ft.sq living area, with split master suites. The baths have antique serpentine front chests with porcelain bowls. Kitchen Cabinets are grey stained solid wood, counters are slate. Old Tin covers the 17' Gambrel end Walls. Easy access (just 2 steps) onto the grilling porch. Wood burning fireplace has front and back Cedar Mantels. Arbor tips over WD shed serve as Pot Hangers. You must see this Designers concept of a mountain top retreat. \$155,000 (15320)

THE NEST COTTAGE: consists of 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, open living area, CH/A, wood ceilings and floors, s, batt and board siding. \$125,000 (15322)

THE ABBY IN THE WILDOOD: 2BR/2BA, woodburning FP and large screened porch. This cabin is equipped with thermal windows, CH/A, open living area, wood floors and ceilings. The bell tower reaches 35' to it's copper steeple. \$162,500 (15321)



COTTAGE PERFECT FOR THE EMPTY NESTER. large living room and large bedroom, bath with whirlpool tub and Shower. Eat-in kitchen. 72-foot deck. Nicely wooded. 2 road level yard. \$75,000 (16885) Near Menlo, GA.



102 ACRES located North Fort Payne, East and West Brow views, 1400 ft on the reservoir. Views overlooking the reservoir. Nicely wooded. 2 road frontages. Great Development potential. Doesn't get any better than this. \$750,000



GET AWAY CABIN ON THE CANYON, very private with 8.5 acres M/L. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, rock fireplace, completely furnished. Totally remodeled \$199,500. (16247)



UNDER CONSTRUCTION. Cedar Sided cabin with Mountain stone FP. Cathedral ceiling, eat-in kitchen, Bar made from Hickory along with the cabinets. Master BR and bath upstairs. Whirlpool, separate shower, guest BR on Main Level with bath. Covered front porch with open deck. On 1 acre +/- \$175,000 (16615)

WEST BROW LOT, MENTONE. Level and cleared, Ready for that weekend or permanent Cabin to enjoy those fabulous sunsets. \$100,000 (15757)

34 ACRES OF RAW LAND. No restrictions. With timber, hardwoods, lakesite, some partial clearing great for hunting, can be developed. Or have your own private estate with views of the surrounding ridges and Mountains. \$85,000

NICELY WOODED 11 acre tract with pave rd frontage city water available. Can be subdivided, or keep as your own estate. \$110,000

50 ACRES LOCATED IN CLOUDLAND, GA. Great farm with 20x40 Barn, large workshop, 3 outbuildings, garage, 3 wells, wet weather spring, 3 garden areas, grape arbors, approx. 5 acres cleared, beautiful hardwoods. 12x70 mobile home with rock foundation. Many more amenities. City water access. Also just added to property, a 40x60 building. \$275,000.

4 ACRES LOCATED HWY 11N JUST BEFORE GA. LINE. Wooded with year around Creek. \$22,500

3.3 ACRES partially cleared in West Fork Subdivision. Lightly restricted. Nice trees, paved road frontage. \$42,500.

LOT IN DOWNTOWN MENTONE, new drive, surveyed. Great buy at \$14,500.

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FEBRUARY, THE SHORTEST MONTH IN A.D. 2008

by John S. Whitaker

The second month of our Gregorian calendar, February, derives its meaning from the Latin word, Februarius: to purify or cleanse. Ancient Romans purified themselves before they celebrated festivals in the new year. (February was the first month of the year at that time.)

The flower for the month is the primrose, and it is noted for its yellowish-white blossoms.

The amethyst, a semi-precious stone with a purple or bluish-violet color, is the February birthstone.

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

2--* Groundhog Day: If the hibernating groundhog emerges from his burrow and sees his shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter. If he doesn't see his shadow, spring is near. (Please stay inside your hole, Mr. Groundhog!)

4--* Amendment 24 was proclaimed on this day in 1964, banning "any poll tax or other tax" as a requirement for U.S. citizens to vote in elections.

--* Delegates of a temporary committee met in Montgomery, AL to form the Confederate States of America in 1861.

6--* Amendment 20, the "Lame Duck Amendment," was proclaimed in 1933. It moved the inauguration of the U.S. president to January 20. (Previous inaugurations had been on March 4.)

*The U.S. Congress ratified the treaty ending the Spanish American war in 1899.

* Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, the forty day period preceding Easter (exclude Sundays). Lent is a good time to draw close to the risen Lord Jesus.

8--* Alabama joined the Confederate States of America in 1861.

* The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated in 1910.

14--* Arizona became the 48th state of the Union in 1912.

* Valentine's Day is a time to remember those we love (girl friend, boy friend, sweetheart, or wife). Thanks to you, Geoffrey Chaucer, for being the one to start the custom of sending cards and/or greetings on this day.

18--* Presidents' Day is a day to honor former President Washington and President Lincoln. (This eliminates the need to observe both these presidential birthdays on the 12th and 22nd.)

* The Pilgrim's Progress was written by John Bunyan while he was imprisoned for his faith; it was licensed for publication in England in 1678. Through the years it has been extremely popular.

* Jefferson Davis became provisional President of the Confederate States of America in 1861 in Montgomery, AL, the first capitol of the CSA. The brass star embedded in the portico of the AL capitol shows where he stood to take the oath of office. His home, the First White House of the Confederacy, remains situated in Montgomery and is open to viewing by the public.

22--* George Washington (1732-1799), the first president of the U.S., was born.

* Jefferson Davis was inaugurated as the regular president of the CSA in 1862 in its second capital, Richmond, VA.

24--* A Happy Father - Our twin daughters were born in the DeKalb County Hospital, Fort Payne, in 1967.

25--* The 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was proclaimed in 1913. It authorized a federal income tax. (Is there a way to repeal this amendment?)

29--* A happy birthday for those few people who have patiently waited four years for a birthday. (Could it be some sort of luck?)

* The 29th of February is an extra day added each four years. We call this year with February 29 Leap Year. It correlated the calendar year (365 - days) with the solar year (365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 46 seconds.)

Thought: Make each day in the month count. Redeem the time; you can't relive it. Give God part of your time each day.

NEW TEEN PROGRAM FOR MENTONE "The Launch Pad"

By Ronda Bruckno

What do teens in Mentone do in the evenings and on weekends? Where do they go? Is there a safe place with adult supervision available? How can we help--not just entertain them but create challenging activities that will develop character, self confidence, discipline and integrity.

These are the questions Valley Head's assistant coach and Pastor of Summit Church of God Randal Beagles and Andy Turner Youth Director have been asking. They want to give to their community and the youth of Mentone. At present, they are working on establishing a location that will include weight strength training, game room with the latest game programs, good music--occasionally live bands, parties and special events such as skating and skiing. Presently Assist. Coach Beagles has created a weight room in which he is working out with several football and basketball players every day after school, except Wednesday. Call if you are interested in being a part of this program.

Andy Turner, Summit's Youth Director for almost a year, has named this group "The Launch Pad". Andy was Associate Pastor and worked with the youth at Sylvania Church of God for one and a half years. He is a young, energetic, single man with lots of great ideas. He is totally devoted to the Lord and teaching the youth that God loves them and has a plan with hope and success for their future.

Andy has traveled in Alabama, Georgia, and even to Freeport, Bahamas with Generation Next Drama Team. He is now directing a drama team for Summit which has also been traveling the North Alabama area doing Friday Night Fire meetings. There are still a few openings for teens who would like to become involved in this type of ministry. Another future plan of Andy's is to have a local teen band and praise team.

In February, "The Launch Pad" is having a Ski Board Event at Cloudland Ski Resort on a Wednesday night. All local youth are welcome to come and join them. Each Wednesday, the teens meet at 6:30 pm at Summit Church of God on AL Hwy 117 going towards Cloudland. They cannot tell you the exact date yet because it will depend on the weather. If you come to the meetings you can register and will be notified of the exact date, or you can call 256-634-4418 to register. The event will be from 6 to 9 pm and Cloudland Ski Resorts are giving our group a discount.

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I am interested in finding out more info on my ancestors from the Mentone area.

William P. Bailey—born 24 Dec 1827
and died 8 April 1891,
in Grove Oak, Alabama.

Buried in Grove Oak Cemetery.

Eliza Jane (Timmons) Bailey born 1822.

I would appreciate any articles, pictures,
or any info. Thanks,

Chock Bailey

296 Autumn Wood Trail

Holly Lake Ranch, Texas 75765

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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Eldridge Jones and Elizabeth Francina
Lane Jones? Or a descendant of
John Hamilton Sr. and Mary/Polly Rhodes
Hamilton, or John Hamilton Jr. and Ann
Catherine Neill Hamilton?

These families lived in Cherokee
and Dekalb Counties, both arriving in
the area in the 1840s. I would love to
correspond with anyone who is a
descendant of these families as I am
working on their histories. I am personally
a direct descendant of all of these families.

Please contact Richard Sisson
@ 704-763-9434,
or by email lovhist6@bellsouth.net
or by mail at 4908 South Hill View Drive,
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Mentone traffic light on Desoto Parkway. It features
3 BR, 2.5 bath, Master BR and bath downstairs,
Whirlpool, all hardwood floors, cathedral ceilings,
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LIBS FROM THE LIBRARY by Linda Brown

The Winter Book Sale is making the headlines for this month. It will be held Wednesday, February 13th through Saturday, February 16th. The back door of the M.E. R. F Community House (located behind the library) will open each day at 9:00 a.m. and remain open until 5:00 p.m. A FRIEND of the Library will always be there to assist you and answer any questions you may have. We have books on every subject you can think of. We have lots of children's books, some craft and cooking books, hard back books, paper backs (hundreds), magazines, and a box full of Reader's Digest condensed books. Many people like to use these for the decorating of homes. If you are interested in these, let the person on duty know, a good deal can be made. Judy Dowiat, who is a member of the Board of Directors of the Moon Lake Library, and her husband Roger head up this sale. We have been overwhelmed by the number of books which have been donated. Come and see for yourself. Very good buys, I think that none will be priced over \$5.00 and that will be the large coffee table books, etc. Come and browse, if you don't find anything to buy we will enjoy your visit. It gets very lonely when no one comes by.

The Quilting Club needs an official name. This is one of the things we will be doing at the February 14 meeting. Other things will be learning the method of paper quilting and continuing to stabilize the old community quilt. I can't wait until we finish this project so that we can display it somewhere and let the public come to see it. We have had a bit of bad luck getting this club off the ground. The weather prevented our meeting on the regular night in January and so many have had health issues or been traveling that we could not find another meeting date. So, as Fran Hawkins, who is going to demonstrate the art of paper quilting, said, "Let's have it on our regular date in February and do a big push to get lots of people there." Come on Thursday, February 14th at 3:00 p.m. and help us get this club off to a good start.

The members of the Board of Directors have decided to serve lunch to the Senior Lunch Bunch. The date assigned to us is Wednesday, February 13th. We will also offer the Books for Seniors program again. If you did not attend the lunches last year, this is a program put into place by the library board to provide an easy way for those attending the lunch to check out books. Someone will be on hand with a good selection of books and the Lunch Bunch can check out these books for two weeks, bring them back and check out more. This is another of the many services provided by the library to make reading material more available to everyone.

At the last board meeting the members agreed to start a new program called, Traveling Books. The general idea is that librarian, Beverly Ashley, will take books to the homes of anyone sick or unable to come to the library. She will return in two weeks and you can check out others or renew

those you have. It was decided to not have this program going while the lunches were being offered at the Community House. If you would like to be placed on the route, let us know and we will try to include you. We will have more details on this program as the time to start it comes closer.

We are beginning the plans for another Meet the Author day. We have at least three local people who have had books published and would be willing to come and speak about writing and their book. More on this later.

The new hours of Wednesday (3 to 6 p.m.) and Saturday (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.) have the potential of adding much to the success of the library. Don't forget to use these hours. Both times continue to be used very little. Please come by and let us know that you are interested in the library staying open during these extended hours. We will continue this through the summer months and see if the use increases.

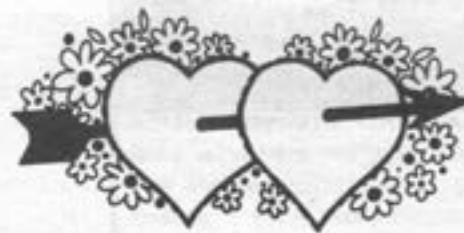
Don't forget to use the drop boxes for DVD's and books. You will not be charged a fine on your books or DVD's if you use the drop boxes. If you are told that you have a fine, be sure to remind the librarian on duty that you put them in the box. Sometimes, the fine doesn't get cleared out of the computer.

The Koffee Klatch program will continue through the month of February and maybe March. I really need people to demonstrate a craft or do a travelogue. Let me know if you would like provide this service for the community. Those who attend really enjoy this time of learning, doing and fellowship. As of this writing I do not have a schedule for February, but I will try to line up some people and post the schedule around town on the bulletin boards.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Moon Lake Elementary School Community Library will be Thursday, February 21, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. in the library. Call Jan Wilkinson, 845-5048, to be placed on the agenda.

To become a FRIEND, a volunteer in the library or to make a suggestion, you may write to us at this address: Moon Lake Community Library
Post Office Box 481
Mentone AL 35984

OPEN HOURS FOR MOON LAKE LIBRARY
TUESDAY, 3:00 - 6:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, 3:00 - 6:00 P.M.
THURSDAY, 3:00 - 6:00 P.M.
SATURDAY, 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.



**Andrea Brandon and National Park
Service Representative**



**Ornament decorated by Andrea Brandon,
local artist, for Christmas tree located in
the Blue Room in the White House.**

Andrea Brandon, local artist, and National Park Service Representative with the Russell Cave National Monument ornament that was prominently displayed on the 2007 official White House Christmas Tree. The tree is the centerpiece of elaborate decorations celebrating the theme of "Holiday in the National Parks." Andrea decorated the ornament based on artwork she submitted. Andrea is the daughter of Dewey Crow of Mentone and the late Leona Langston Crow. The article appeared in the January issue of The Groundhog.

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SPACIOUS MOUNTAIN RETREAT. This expanded chalet-design home has it all... and then some! (Including a great seasonal brow view!) Main house is approx 3200 sq ft, plus there's a cozy 700 sq ft guest cottage as well as a 10x24 glass-walled greenhouse/studio. Entering from the screened porch area is an open kitchen and living area, with loft spaces above. Full stainless steel appliance package in kitchen with commercial-style dual-fuel gas range. Living area with vintage Federal Airtight wood heater, hardwood floors, natural light. Custom-designed double French doors lead into a dream of a den/family room with gaslog FP, Nakamichi sound system, tons of built-in storage and space for family or any large gathering. 2-story Master BR suite with atrium window and free-standing gaslog FP, built-in shelving, private kitchenette, overhead loft office/studio area. Luxurious Master Bath with large jetted tub, separate shower, heatlamps, view of private backyard garden. Fenced side and back yards; hot tub; large storage areas. Woodland setting offers ownership of approx 1/2 ac, enjoyment of over 1 acre total due to National Park right-of-way privileges. Priced at \$419,900. (17069)



THREE ACRES, 2 BARNS, CREEK FRONTAGE and a house just listed in Mentone! Large barn with garage area, workshop and stalls; fenced pasture. Approx 116' creek frontage! House has a large screened-in porch, sun room (that could be a 3rd BR), 2BR, 1BA, large country kitchen with rustic cabinetry, large utility room, new laminate flooring. Only \$89,500. (17053)

COZY AND PERFECT MENTONE GETAWAY CABIN snuggled into 2 mostly wooded acres. Access from paved road. Offers a great front porch, sleeping loft, woodburning heater and open living space. This is a TRUE getaway. Outside there is room for expansion or just for wandering. Additional acreage available. First time offered. \$100,000. (17038)

UNDER CONSTRUCTION- MOUNTAIN LAKE CABIN! Whatever the season, you're sure to enjoy this 2BR 2BA cabin on a 7-acre lake and wooded 1.35 acre lot in the Lake on the Brow Subdivision. Swim, fish, hike or just relax in this rustic-style retreat with all the modern niceties. Beautiful wood floors, ceilings and walls with custom trim. Great view of the lake from dining and living areas as well as porch. Offered at \$229,900. (16907)



THINKING OF A CABIN ON THE LAKE? 2 BR, 2BA cabin, 1.9 acre lot with large trees and frontage on a 13 acre lake. Hardwood floors, ceilings and walls, stacked stone gaslog FP, beautiful countertops and other features to surround you in comfort. Large covered front porch. Call today. Offered at \$229,900. (16906)

PERFECT MENTONE MOUNTAIN LAKE CABIN GETAWAY! Stone cottage cabin with 70' frontage on E Fork Little River at Lake Lahusage. Stone FP, wood floors, exposed-beam ceiling in open LR/KI/DR area. Sun porch on lake side. And, did we mention the fishing? Bream and bass can be readily seen from the lake-side. Level lot. Furnished. Great possibilities for income-producing cabin rental. PRICED TO SELL AT \$275,000. (16448)

COZY, COMPACT, CUTE, CABIN CONVENIENT! This 2BR, 1BA newly-remodeled cabin is within walking distance to downtown Mentone shops and festivals! Wonderful possibilities as an income-producing cabin rental. Hardwood flooring in living area, screened back porch (with room for a hot tub!), large rocking chair front porch. Beautiful trees on level lot. Priced nicely at \$87,900. (16900)



RETREAT TO YOUR MOUNTAIN CABIN. Welcoming 3BR, 2BA cabin home. Woodburning stone fireplace, 2-story cathedral ceiling great room and just the right eclectic mix of furnishings included. Bedrooms feature painted sheetrock walls with wood trim and berber carpeting. Baths are ceramic tile. Full-stainless steel appliance package. Built in 2007. Listed at \$219,900. (16821)

OVERLOOKING THE RIVER AT LAKE LAHUSAGE! Come enjoy your time in the mountains in this 3BR/2BA cabin. Large front porch affords you a view as well as a place to relax. Beautiful stone fireplace; pine floors, walls and ceilings; hand-hewn wood-beamed entry to kitchen area that features oak cabinets, and stainless steel appliances. Split BR design. 2.5 wooded acres (additional acreage available). Offered at \$199,900. (16788)

BEAUTIFULLY DESIGNED, CUSTOM-BUILT cabin with architectural details and interesting mixture of woods. Stone fireplace, exposed beams, 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, screened back porch, nice front porch, wooded lot, close in yet out of high traffic. Now \$169,900. (16347)

VALLEY HEAD WATER WORKS BOARD
 BOX 195, 101 SCHOOL STREET
 VALLEY HEAD, AL 35989
 State of Alabama, County of DeKalb,
 Town of Valley Head
Resolution # 08-001

WHEREAS: **Oscar P Turner Jr.** was appointed to the Valley Head Water Board on November 19, 1996, and served with dedication in that capacity until his untimely death on January 6, 2008, a period of 12 years; and,

WHEREAS: Mr. Turner was a graduate of Valley Head School and Northeast State Junior College with a degree in Business; and,

WHEREAS: Mr. Turner served with distinction in the United States Army in Korea; and,

WHEREAS: Mr. Turner served on the Valley Head Town Council and supported community development and other projects; and,

WHEREAS: Mr. Turner retired from Tennessee Valley Authority after a 17-year career; and,

WHEREAS: He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Linda Turner, two sons, Paul and Scott, a daughter, Elizabeth, and five grandchildren; and,

WHEREAS: Mr. Turner will be remembered for his community service that impacted the Citizens of the Valley Head area and his continued interest in the welfare of Water Board employees;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Water Board of Valley Head, that this resolution be adopted in honor of the memory of Mr. Turner and his service to the citizens of the Valley Head area; and that it be spread on the minutes of the Valley Head Water Works Board bearing the same date.

ATTEST:

R. E. Ringer, Chairman
 SEAL

Dennis R. Lewis, Manager

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NORTHEAST ALABAMA ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM PSA NEWS RELEASE — GED — READING — ESL — JANUARY 2008

A New Year makes many think about the future. Famous people are no exception. Abraham Lincoln, the beloved sixteenth President of the United States, observed that:

♦ "The best thing about the future is that it comes only one day at a time."

It is much easier to deal with a day, than with a decade. If you want to watch your future "take off", you need to take some steps today to make your dreams a reality. So, if you are determined to make some changes towards improving your future, the Northeast Alabama Education Program wants to help you. They have many caring and skilled teachers offering FREE academic classes at many locations, starting, January 7th. These classes provide FREE BASIC SKILLS and GED classes to help prepare adults to take the GED exam or just to be more prepared to enter college. They are designed to help improve skills in English, math, social studies, science, and reading. Enrollment is possible at any time by simply attending the most convenient class. GED classes are even available ON-LINE for qualified students who are home-bound or unable to attend classes due to their work schedule or other reasons.

There is also free help available for non-English speakers who wish to learn English. Many FREE ESL (English as a Second Language) classes are offered in the morning and afternoon/evening throughout the tri-county area. The Adult Education Program also offers classes for anyone who wishes FREE READING classes. There is no charge for any of these classes and materials are provided FREE of charge.

For more information contact your local community college, board of education or the Northeast Alabama Adult Education Program (located at and operated/managed by Northeast Alabama Community College) at 256-638-2957 or 256-228-0021 between the hours of 8 - 4. Information can also be obtained by visiting their website at www.nacc.edu/adulted.

Let Adult Education help you gain the tools you need to watch your future take off.....today!

ENGLISH AS A 2ND LANGUAGE

Marshall County Community Resource Center
Crossroads Mall, Hwy. 431, Albertville
(new enrollees on 1st & 3rd Mondays only)
(Free childcare is provided)
Mon., Tues. & Thurs. 9:30 - 11:30 AM
Mon., Tues. & Thurs. 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Mon., Tues. & Thurs. 4 - 6 PM
Mon., Tues. & Thurs. 6 - 8:30 PM
Phone: 279-0599 or 638-2957

**Boaz City School System
Community Learning Center**
358 Collier Drive, Boaz, Rooms 3 & 4
(Free childcare is provided)
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 5 - 7 PM
Phone: 281-0321

NORTHEAST ALABAMA ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM-DEKALB COUNTY CLASS LOCATIONS Classes begin January 2, 2008

GED/BASIC ACADEMIC SKILLS

Alabama's Career Center System

Fort Payne Employment Office
2100 Jordan Road SW, Suite 103
(new enrollees on 1st class of each week only)
Monday thru Friday 8 - 12 Noon
Monday thru Thursday 12:30 - 2:30 PM
Tuesday and Thursday 5 - 8 PM
Phone: 845-6008

Collinsville Public Library

Tuesday and Wednesday 6 - 9 PM
Phone: 524-2323

Crossville High School Library

Tuesday and Thursday 5 - 8 PM
Phone: 528-7859

Geraldine Christian Community Outreach Learning Center - 13773 County Road 52

Tuesday and Thursday 5:30 - 8:30 PM
Phone: 659-3008

Ider High School

Tuesday and Thursday 5 - 8 PM
Phone: 632-2302

Northeast AL Community College

Beck Health & Fine Arts Ctr., Room 227
Monday and Tuesday 9 - 12 Noon
Monday and Tuesday 5 - 8 pm
Phone: 638-2957

READING

Collinsville Public Library

Tuesday 8:30 - 10:30 AM
Phone: 524-2323

Fort Payne First Baptist Church

Fellowship Hall
Monday and Wednesday 9 - 12 Noon
Phone: 638-2957

Guntersville Adult Education Center

2309 Worth Street
Tuesday 9 - 12 Noon
Tuesday 5:30 - 8:30 PM
Phone: 582-9216 or 582-3159



Call our office at
638-2957 or 228-0021
and ask about online
GED preparation.

Alabama's Career Center System

Albertville Employment Office
5920 Hwy. 431
(new enrollees on 1st class of each week only)
Monday through Thursday 8 AM - 1 PM
Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 5 - 8 PM
Phone: 891-3090

Arab Adult Education Center

153 Main Street
(new enrollees on 1st class of each week only)
Monday through Thursday 8-12 Noon
Tuesday and Thursday 5 - 8 PM
Phone: 931-2299 or 586-6026

DAR High School

Siemes Thomas Classroom Building
Monday & Tuesday 6 - 9 PM
Phone: 728-4238

Guntersville Adult Education Center

2309 Worth Street
Monday and Wednesday 8:30 - 11:30 AM
Monday and Wednesday 5 - 8 PM
Phone: 582-9216 or 582-3159

Marshall County Even Start Program

Marshall County Technical School, Guntersville
(Free childcare provided for ages 6 wks - 5 yrs.)
Monday through Thursday 7:45 AM - 12:45 PM
Phone: 582-2310

Snead State Community College

Library Basement Room 102 & 106
Tuesday and Wednesday 8 - 11 AM
Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 5 - 8 PM
Phone: 593-5120

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Alabama's Career Center System

Fort Payne Employment Office
2100 Jordan Road SW, Suite 103
Tuesday and Thursday 9 - 12 Noon
Tuesday and Thursday 3 - 5 PM
Phone: 845-6008

Collinsville Public Library

Friday 12:30 - 3:30 PM
Monday and Wednesday 4 - 6 PM
Phone: 524-2323

Northeast AL Community College

Beck Health & Fine Arts Ctr., Room 227
Thursday 9 - 12 Noon
Thursday 4 - 7 PM
Phone: 638-2957

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FEBRUARY 2008 BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

- 1 - Tammy Kirby
- 2 - George Walker, in memory of
- 3 - Cathy Carson;
Susan VanAppledoorn
- 4 - Alex Hazell; Jamie Cameron
- 5 - Cameron Collins;
Dorothy Bridges
- 7 - Jordan Sutton
- 8 - Jimmy Hester
- 9 - Louis Pierce; Cayden Collins
- 10 - Marjorie Berry
- 11 - Shinice Smith; Cayla Voils
- 14 - Kellie Chapman
- 16 - Sharon Barron;
Janis J. Carrier

- 18 - Kaleb McMunn; Gail Crider
- 19 - Jewel Cochran
- 20 - Joan Byrum
- 22 - Isaac Akes
- 24 - Susan Collins; Tom Emory
- 25 - Austin Jones
- 26 - Mary Jane Burge
- 27 - Jackie Brown; Livvy Griffith
- 28 - Frances Gilbreath; Liz Perry

Anniversaries:

- 4 - Marilyn & Wymer Knight
- 8 - Dave & Yvonne Blalock
- 14 - Daniel & Christina Lee
- 22 - Andy & Susan Akes
- 24 - Ed & Gerry Disney
- 28 - George & Harriett Lillich

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with an office or extra bedroom
in back. Million \$\$ View - Best
of both worlds with bluff view
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Corner Bridge boat launch on
the Tennessee River. Currently
on a vacation rental program.
Great investment or your own
RETREAT! \$180,000, contact
Bill Grissom.



THE HALLELUJAH MULE

By John Sam Whitaker

Stories by Papaw for his Grandchildren

One day Papaw bought a young mule home from the Friday Mule Sale. He named him Isaiah.

Papaw wanted an obedient mule, so he began to teach him to respond positively to Papaw's saying the word, "Hallelujah!" Every time he said, "Hallelujah!" he would feed Isaiah.

On Monday morning Papaw went to the barn. There stood Isaiah, somewhat lazily, and with no interest in much of anything. Papaw said, "Isaiah, hallelujah!" Isaiah's ears perked up as he heard the words; he knew it was time to eat, so he became very obedient. The same response occurred at dinner and supper times. Papaw got more work done that day that he had for several days.

Papaw could not always feed Isaiah when he said hallelujah so he began to cut back on the feed. The result was a good response from Isaiah, who acted as if he were getting a meal to eat when he heard only the word hallelujah. So across the fields Papaw called out loudly, "Hallelujah!" Passersby heard it and began calling it the Hallelujah Farm. A favorite spot for Papaw was the place where the word bounced from three ridges: it was almost a hallelujah chorus.

One day Papaw rode Isaiah to town. Dean Huff, a neighbor, saw them coming and loudly announced, "Here comes the Hallelujah Mule!" Everyone stared. However, when Papaw came out of the feed store, and, getting astride Isaiah, exclaimed, "Hallelujah!" everyone laughed and clapped their hands when the little mule started for home. The title, "Hallelujah Mule," stuck with him for the remainder of his life.

Papaw enjoyed working with the Hallelujah Mule: plowing, laying off the rows, plowing between the rows, pulling the cutting machines, or pulling the shay; it was all so enjoyable, as he had never had an animal that was such a good worker.

Days led into months, and months into years, and years into a lifetime. Hallelujah was getting near thirty five (35) years old, and Papaw sensed that the end was close. He went to the far side of the field and began to dig a grave. Going to the barn, he called, "Hallelujah!" The little mule began to follow; he seemed barely able to lift a hoof from the ground. At the grave site, Hallelujah stood trembling for a long moment, and then he fell over dead into the grave. Papaw was right. He said, "I will miss you, my Friend." Slowly, and so regretfully, he filled the grave.

Later, about a week, Papaw bought another young mule, a female, that he named Gloria (Spanish for "glory").

LESSON: Let praise fill each day. The antidote for depression is praise. Say the word hallelujah often. (It means "praise ye the Lord.") Count your blessings. Praise the Lord.



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MENTONE RUSTIC HOME Located just minutes from downtown. Situated on 2 wooded acres, this is a perfect weekend retreat. \$149,900



RUSTIC MENTONE CABIN conveniently located across the road from Lake Lahausage. A show piece cabin with stacked rock fireplace. Two bedrooms located on one level. \$149,900



MENTONE CABIN located on 2.9 acres in Twin Oaks. This 2BR, 2BA cabin is all on one level. It will make a great retirement home. Very secluded located on a wooded lot. \$179,900



ENJOY THE CHARM of Mentone with your own cabin back in the woods. Screened porch, huge deck, fireplace & much more. \$165,000



SECLUDED MENTONE CABIN Located in Laurel Creek. This is a wonderful weekend retreat. Priced to sell quickly! \$139,900



ask for more? \$169,900



BEAUTIFUL RIVER LOT located in the wild river area on the east fork of the Little River. This property has 175 ft. of river frontage, and runs along side Laurel Creek. \$165,000



TWIN OAKS AT LAKE LAHUSAGE (A Mentone Gated Community)

16 wooded and secluded lots are available. Lots are 2.5 to 3 acres each. This will be one of the mountains premiere developments. NOW OPEN!!!!

OPEN WEEKENDS!

SOLD SOLD SOLD

Dear Friends, Valued Customers and Clients,

It is with sadness, yet mostly joy I wanted to take this opportunity to say Thank You for your business and support. After much self reflection and prayers I found it to be in my best interest to sell Mentone Realty, Inc. and Mentone Realty Rentals as of January 1, 2008.

My professional and ethical Broker services will continue to be offered at Ole Heritage Realty, serving all of DeKalb County and surrounding areas. Since 1997, I have successfully owned and managed Ole Heritage Realty to be one of the leading real estate companies in DeKalb County. This outstanding service will continue.

It is with my great pleasure Ole Heritage Realty can offer the services of 11 real estate associates in the areas of relocation, buyers and seller's representation, as well as development & investment services.

In the future, should you or anyone you know need the service of a real estate agent, I hope you will look to me for my 15 years of experience and professionalism.

Again, thank you for your support throughout the years.

Tina Burt-Edmondson, ABR, CRB, CRS, GRI
Broker/Owner



Ole Heritage
Realty, Inc.

(256) 997-0008

(256) 996-3779

Tina Burt-Edmondson

tina@oleheritage.com



*I took the leap of faith
in this Leap Year 2008,
and am now the Owner/Broker
of Mentone Realty*

Our phone numbers are the same, our location is the same, and our friendly, professional manner is still the same.

I'd like to thank my Mentone neighbors and family, professional colleagues, customers, clients, and friends for their encouragement and support as I have begun this endeavor. I am excited and will continue listing and selling real estate in DeKalb County as Owner/Broker of Mentone Realty.

If I can ever be of assistance to you or anyone you know when it comes to real estate, please don't hesitate to call.

And, if you're up in Mentone, drop by our little cabin office for a visit--porch and rocking chairs available.

Mentone
Realty

Charlotte

5846 Hwy 117, Mentone, AL 35986

For More Information Or Directions Call

Charlotte M. Gentry

Owner/Broker

Cell: 256-996-5995 Office: 256-634-4767

The

Church News

By Evelyn Graves



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; Brotherhood breakfast and devotional at 8:30AM the first Sunday of each month; Women on Mission meet at 2PM 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. 635-2002.

Visitors are always welcome at the **Valley Head United Methodist Church**. Please join us each Sunday morning for a traditional worship service at our new time: 9AM.

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

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

Our **Lady of the Valley Catholic Church** on N. Gault Avenue in Fort Payne holds Mass Services at 10:30AM each Sunday; Hispanic Mass 6PM Saturday night. Scripture and Communion Services at 6PM on Tuesdays.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 1519 Smith Gap Road NW (DeKalb County Road 85), Fort Payne. Phone: 256-845-4842. The community is welcomed. Regular Worship Services are at 10AM and Bible Class every Wednesday @ 6:30PM. Steve Schrader, Pastor 256-845-4314.

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 Pastor Ken and Elaine Holleman 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.

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

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

DeSoto Church of Christ invites you to attend Sunday Bible Study at 10AM, Worship at 11AM. Wednesday Bible study at 6PM.

The **Mentone Revival Center** and Pastor LeRoy Nichols and wife, Nell, invite everyone to join in worship on Sunday at 10AM and 11AM, and Sunday night at 6PM. Wednesday night 6:30PM. Everyone is welcome.

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.

Mentone Community Church Services are 9:30AM Sunday School; 10:30 AM Worship; 6:30PM Sunday evening (Third Sunday of each month are Small Group Home Meetings); 6:30PM Wednesday: Adult Bible Study, Youth Group, Pioneer Club.

The **Mentone Church of God of Prophecy** Sunday School is at 10AM with Worship at 11AM. Evening Services begin at 6PM. Rev. Charles Flannigan invites everyone to attend regular services.

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

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.

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 10 AM GA time; Wed. Night Bible Study, 7PM GA time.

Potters House Church. We are a small community church filled with the love of Jesus, where everyone of all denominations is welcome to join us. Our Sunday Worship is at 2 PM with Bill Miracle Pastor. We serve a meal at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, and our Bible Study starts at 6:30 with Sabra Gann, Teacher.

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

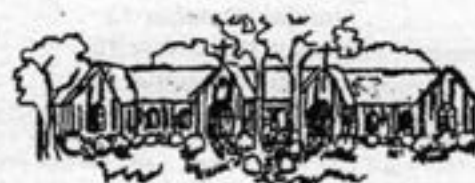
New Oregon United Methodist Church, 1204 New Oregon Drive NE, Ft. Payne, AL 35967. The activities of New Oregon include: Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m. and Evening worship at 6:00 p.m. Sunday morning fellowship time is from 9:20-9:40 a.m., followed by Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join us for worship and all activities of the church.

Moon Lake Baptist Church invites you to worship with us. Sunday School begins at 9:45AM, with classes for all ages. Morning Worship is at 11AM. The Lord's Supper is observed on the first Sunday of September, December, March, and June at the morning worship hour. Discipleship Training is at 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.

Dial-a-Devotional 634-0103

is provided daily by Evelyn Graves as an extended ministry of the Moon Lake Baptist Church. Feel free to call any time of the day or night.

St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church



At the corner of Scenic Hwy & Hwy 117

Sunday Service: 10:30am
YOU are welcome!

The Rev. Dr. David W. Crippen, Rector

256-634-4476

stjom@hiwaay.net

Join us on February 10th at 10:30 AM as we welcome Pastor Phil Spriggs and family to Mentone Community Church.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The 2008 meeting dates for the **Mentone Town Council**, 5972 AL Hwy 117, Mentone, AL will be on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6PM, as follows:

Monday, January 14
Monday, February 11
Monday, March 10
Monday, April 14
Monday, May 12
Monday, June 9
Monday, July 14
Monday, August 11
Monday, September 8
Monday, October 13
Monday, November 10
Monday, December 8

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The 2008 quarterly meeting dates for the **Mentone Planning Commission**, 5972 AL Hwy 117, Mentone, AL will be on the 3rd Thursday of the following months:

Thursday, January 17, 2008
Thursday, February 1, 2008
[MAKE UP MEETING, DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM ON JANUARY 17]
Thursday, April 17, 2008
Thursday, July 17, 2008
Thursday, October 16, 2008
Thursday, January 15, 2009

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The 2008 meeting dates for the **Valley Head Water Works Board**, 101 School Street, Valley Head, AL will be as follows:

Monday, January 14
Monday, February 11
Monday, March 12
Monday, April 9
Monday, May 14
Monday, June 11
Monday, July 9
Monday, August 13
Monday, September 10
Monday, October 8
Tuesday, November 13
Monday, December 10
Monday, January 12, 2009

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The 2008 meeting dates for the **Mentone Waterworks Board**, 5972 AL Hwy 117, Mentone, AL will be at 4PM, on the 4th Wednesdays as follows

Thursday, January 23
Thursday, February 27
Thursday, March 26
Thursday, April 23
Thursday, May 28
Thursday, June 25
Thursday, July 23
Thursday, August 27
Thursday, September 24
Thursday, October 22
Tuesday, November 26
Thursday, December 17

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



DEVOTIONAL

By Evelyn Graves

February is traditionally the month of love.

There are three basic types of love, the greatest being agape, the love that Christ had for us when He died on the cross for our sins. Many scriptures have been written about love. One is found in 1 John 4:19-21, which describes our relationship with God and with our fellowman. "We love him, because he first loved us. If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also." Let us practice loving each other more this year.

●Wednesday, February 6, 11:30 AM,
SENIOR LUNCHESES begin,
Mentone Community House
Hosted by the Mentone
Educational Resources Foundation

Happy

*Valentine's
Day*



SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND OTHER DATES

- Friday, February 1, 5 PM, Mentone Planning Commission, Town Hall meeting room, quarterly meeting from January 17 (**MAKE UP**)
- Saturday, February 2 - **GROUNDHOG DAY**
- Mondays at 6:30PM, February 4, 11, 18, 25 Fire Dept. Volunteers
- Tuesday, February 5, 6PM, MAPA MEETING, Dessie's Place
- Wednesday, February 6, 11:30 AM, **SENIOR LUNCHESES** begin, Mentone Community House, Hosted by Mentone Educational Resources Foundation
- Monday, February 11, 6PM, Town Council Meeting, Mentone Town Hall meeting room, open to the public
- Tuesday, February 12, 12:30 PM, Rhododendron Garden Club
- Tuesday, February 12, 6:30 PM, American Legion meeting, American Legion Hall
- Thursday, February 14, **VALENTINE'S DAY**
- Monday, February 18, **PRESIDENTS' DAY**
- Thursday, February 28, 4PM, Waterworks Board Meeting, Mentone Town Hall meeting room, open to the public