

**Celebrating
28 years
in print.**

THE GROUNDHOG

Mentone, Valley Head, Hammondville

**Provided
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Since 1982
By M.A.P.A.**

Volume 28, No. 2

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

February 2009

Taking a Chance on Love

By Evelyn Graves

Walt Dillenbeck had just returned from the military to his home in Michigan where he met Marie Shelden.

Four months later on April 1, 1962, they were married at the home of his parents, Abner and Belma Dillenbeck. They had three children, twins Lorelei Anne Lauro, who lives in Springfield, VA, with her husband John and their two children, Sarah and Kristen; LeiLani Beth Dillenbeck, Alexandria, VA, and a son Walter Joseph Dillenbeck, Jr., who is married to Kumi Dillenbeck, and they live in Huntsville, AL. Marie has two children from a previous marriage, Randy Green of Texas and Teresa Green Brown of Mississippi.

Walt and Marie divorced in 1965, and both of them later remarried. As the children grew older, they both kept in touch with them, and through them they kept up with each other as well. Walt's wife passed away about eight years ago. Some time after her death, Walt and Marie began to call each other, and he made an annual visit to Mentone to see her. They realized that they missed each other very much when they were apart, and after 44 years and many telephone calls between the couple, they got back together and Walt moved to Alabama to wait for just the right time for them to marry again. His friend, Jack Petersen, helped Walt and Marie to move Walt, his poodle, Cuddles, and his cat, Baby, to Mentone, where they now reside on County Road 648.

January 23, 2009, seemed to be just the right date for the wedding. They were married in Huntsville, Alabama, in the Korean Baptist Church of Huntsville. The wedding ceremony was performed



by Don Lee, minister of the church. Walter Dillenbeck, Jr. and his wife, Kumi, were their only attendants.

Walt has become accustomed to Mentone and really enjoys it. He is an avid golfer and finds this area to be suitable for that. He has spent a lot of time cleaning and getting rid of old records and files that had accumulated through the years, and now their home has taken on a totally different look. The couple enjoys many of the same things - they like to see movies, go out for dinner, and Walt has bought Marie a set of golf clubs of her own so she can enjoy going with him to the golf course.

Life is wonderful for them, and they both plan to keep it that way. Walt says they are really happy, and with a beautiful smile on her face, Marie agrees completely with that statement.

Walt is retired from Electrolux, and Marie is Town Clerk of Mentone, having been hired in January, 1997.

Our best wishes go to the happy couple. May your life together be all that you dream it will be!



L-R: Walter Dillenbeck, Jr., Don Lee, Minister, Marie Dillenbeck, Walt Dillenbeck, and Kumi Dillenbeck.

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THE GROUNDHOG

PO Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984

Published monthly by the Mentone Area Preservation Association, MAPA was first conceived on Groundhog Day, 1982, and organized April 5, 1982, for the purpose of preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment, and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area, and is chartered as a non-profit organization by the State of Alabama.



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Letters to the editor are welcome.
They should be typewritten and of reasonable length.

**DEADLINE FOR ALL MATERIAL
FOR THE GROUNDHOG IS
15TH DAY OF EACH MONTH
PRECEDING PUBLICATION.
PLEASE ABIDE BY THIS!!**

NOTICE

Marie Dillenbeck will no longer be Associate Editor/typesetter. She will be in charge of Circulation.

Please do not drop ads or articles by to her. If you have a subscription to The Groundhog, please send it to her. If you have a question about your subscription, please contact Marie at 256-634-4541 or 256-634-4444.

Please send your articles/submissions to The Groundhog, P.O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984, or you may Email them to Evelyn Graves at ergraves37@AOL.com.

**REMEMBER, ALL MATERIALS MUST BE
SUBMITTED BY THE 15TH OF THE
MONTH IN ORDER TO BE ACCEPTED.**

ATTENTION

MENTONE RESIDENTS ANNUAL MENTONE

CLEANUP DAY APRIL 4TH

All those interested in participating in the Annual Mentone Cleanup Day on April 4th, meet at 9AM at the Mentone Inn Parking Lot, 6137 AL Highway 117, Mentone, AL. For more information and to volunteer, call Lyle Nicely at 634-4124.

Dear Groundhog friends:

Upcoming Events at Mentone Community Church:

Coffee Fellowship: Sunday, Feb. 1 from 9:30-10:15 before morning service - in the Sanctuary Building

"SOUPER-BOWL" Party: Sunday, Feb. 1 from 5:30 - ? in the FLC. This is a fundraiser for our Youth Department. Come and enjoy lots of soup and a fun time together! Donations are appreciated.

Scrapbooking Crop: Friday and Saturday, Feb. 6-7 in the FLC. Call the church office for more information.

Men's Breakfast: Saturday Feb. 7 @ 8 am in the FLC. Come and enjoy a great breakfast and Bible study "A Man to Match the Mountain."

Valentine Banquet: Friday, Feb. 13 at 6 pm in the FLC. Tickets are \$10.00 each and benefit MISSION JAMAICA 2009. Call the church office @ 634-4210 to purchase tickets.

First UPWARD games: Saturday, Feb. 14

Thanks so much,
Crystal Spriggs

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

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PO BOX 50, MENTONE, AL 35984

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- Please email your photos to composing@times-journal.com and mark it for The Groundhog. If not emailing, take them to the front desk and mark them for The Groundhog. This will expedite the procedure as the Times-Journal prepares the photos and advertising for use in The Groundhog. **ALL MATERIALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT ISSUE.** This is a Times-Journal policy, please respect it. Your materials will be returned to The Groundhog.
- The Groundhog is printed by the last Thursday of each month.
- We appreciate your cooperation and understanding. Thank you.

AMERICA'S GREATEST EDUCATOR, HORACE MANN (1796-1859)

by John S. Whitaker

The history of education in America has been a slow, but progressive, process. It began in colonial times and has continued to the present. The first schools were usually patterned after one of these patterns: (1) private schools that were financed by the wealthy; (2) parochial schools that were controlled and run by a religious group, as a church; and (3) public schools that were open to all students. Thus, we see that the first public school was established in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1635; it was a secondary school and was actually the first of any kind of school in the colonies.

In 1642 the state of Massachusetts passed an educational law requiring parents to teach their children to read. Massachusetts also has the honor of being the first colony to require establishment of public and secondary schools. This law was passed in 1847. Many of these first colonial schools were very simple and might even be conducted in a home or a one-room school building. (I can remember my father talking about the oneroom school he attended in his childhood around the years 1903-1908.) These contained one teacher who taught all subjects and classes in grades 1-8: reading, writing, arithmetic, and recitation. In 1913 it is estimated that one-half of the school children in America attended one of the 212,000 one-room schools. However, in colonial days only about a tenth of the children attended school.

With the ratification of the Constitution of the USA in 1788, no provisions were made for education. Amendment 10, in force December 15, 1791, did. It stated: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." Here was ample provision for the educational systems in the new nation.

There is a story of a wildcat that jumped through a window, which was only an opening in the wall, into a one-room school in the state of Kentucky. The wildcat did no harm to anyone except for giving everybody a scare before it

jumped back out the window. (Did this lead to the KY Wildcats?) There was great progress also made in establishing colleges in the USA. The first nine colleges established in America are as follows:

1. Harvard University, the oldest institution of higher learning, founded in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1636.
 2. College of William and Mary, founded in Williamsburg, Virginia, in 1693;
 3. Yale University, established in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1701;
 4. Princeton University, founded in Princeton, New Jersey, in 1746;
 5. Columbia University, established in New York City, in 1754 (noted as being the leading college of Teacher Education in the USA);
 6. University of Pennsylvania, established in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1756;
 7. Brown University, established in Providence, Rhode Island, in 1764;
 8. Rutgers University, established in New Brunswick, New Jersey, in 1766; and
 9. Dartmouth College, established in Hanover, New Hampshire, in 1769.
- (Please note that the first college to be built in Alabama was Athens College, Athens, Alabama, in 1822.)

Now we know why Northern schools are more advanced than Southern schools—they started earlier than we did!

Let's talk about our hero, Horace Mann. He was born May 4, 1796, in Franklin, Massachusetts and was the son of Thomas and Rebecca Stanley Mann. There were five children in the family.

Horace was a frail child, and he was reared in poverty, toil, and fear. He was not a good student but began to learn from the books in the local library and from an itinerant Latin teacher. He entered Brown University as a sophomore and graduated with high honors in 1819. Then he worked for a law office in Wrentham, Massachusetts, but returned to Brown University as a tutor in Latin and Greek.

In 1821 HM (Horace Mann) entered a law school at Litchfield, Connecticut, and in 1823 was admitted to the bar of Norfolk County, Massachusetts.

The next fourteen years of HM's life were spent as a successful lawyer; for ten years at Dedham, Massachusetts

(1823-1833), and four years in Boston (1833-1837). Also he served in the Massachusetts state legislature in the House (1827-1833) and then in the Senate (1833-1837).

On April 20, 1837, the Massachusetts state legislature passed an important piece of educational legislation. This bill provided for a state board of education, consisting of the governor, lieutenant governor, and eight other members to be appointed by the governor.

HM was appointed secretary of the education board. He left a very profitable law practice to assume this position, which paid an annual salary of \$1,000. For twelve years he held the position and during his terms as secretary he was able to effect great advances in education. "In a republic, ignorance is a crime," he said, and his work was a tremendous effort to eradicate ignorance. As secretary of the state board of education, note his achievements:

1. annual educational conventions for the benefit of teachers, school officials, and the public;
 2. teachers' institutes, in which teachers could learn new methods to improve teaching;
 3. normal schools to prepare teacher for their tasks (Three of these schools were established in Massachusetts, the first in the USA);
 4. edited a semi-monthly magazine, the Common School Journal,
- for an enhanced knowledge of the problems in schools;

5. annual reports of the existing conditions in schools and needed reforms and/or improvements;
6. a minimum school year of six months, established by the state legislature;
7. better schoolhouses and equipment;
8. increased salaries of teachers and administrators in education;
9. established fifty new high schools in the state; and
10. enriched the curriculum in schools and also improved methods of instruction.

Many of these ideas by HM were often seen as radical but led the way for other states to copy and imitate.

HM was also a crusader for the establishing of state hospitals for the insane, restricting slavery, lotteries, and the liquor traffic. He denounced profanity, intemperance, smoking, and ballet dancing. However, he is remembered as the foremost leader in American education.

HM resigned as secretary of the state board of education, then he was elected to the US House of Representatives.

In 1852 he became president of Antioch College at Yellow Springs, Ohio. In 1859, he resigned his presidency of the college. His final baccalaureate address included this statement: "Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity."

A tired and weary man, HM retired to his home and died there on August 2, 1859. Yes, he died without shame; we'll never forget you, Horace Mann. (Wish you were here in Alabama to help us solve the nagging problem of proration.)

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- TR 4 - 6.5 AC, 52,000, PASTURE
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SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND OTHER DATES

FEBRUARY

- Monday, February 2 - GROUNDHOG DAY
- Mondays at 6:30PM, February 2, 9, 16, 23 Fire Dept. Volunteers
- Tuesday, February 5, 6:00 PM, MAPA BOARD MEETING, 6:30PM REGULAR MEETING, MOON LAKE CHURCH
- Wednesday, February 4, 11:30 AM, SENIOR LUNCHESES begin, Mentone Community House, Hosted by Mentone Educational Resources Foundation
- Monday, February 9, 6PM, Town Council Meeting, Mentone Town Hall meeting room, open to the public
- Tuesday, February 10, 10:00 AM, Rhododendron Garden Club
- Tuesday, February 10, 6:30 PM, American Legion Post #215 meeting, American Legion Hall
- Saturday, February 14, VALENTINE'S DAY
- Monday, February 16, PRESIDENTS' DAY
- Wednesday, February 25, ASH WEDNESDAY
- Thursday, February 26, 4PM, Waterworks Board Meeting, open to the public

MOON LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HONOR ROLL FOR 2ND NINE WEEKS

1st Grade All A's

Laura Boehringer
Rachel Collins
Taylor Grace Davis
Andrew Dowdy
Jordan Henderson
Kallie Ingram
Ethan Perrydore
Ally Smith
Madisen Smith
Bethany Spriggs
Alex Webb

2nd Grade All A's

Kandis Lawton
Caitlyn Morris
Jordan Sutton
Ashelyn Watson
Bobby White
Kori Willingham

3rd Grade All A's

Breanna Blalock
Saddler Emory
Haley Neal

4th Grade All A's

Anna Carden
Byrum Emory
Bailey Kirby
Lexi Owen

5th Grade All A's

Dylan Bloyer
Justin Easler

Dawson Kincer

6th Grade All A's

Levi Owen
Amelia Saferite
Brooklyn Wright

1st Grade A's and B's

Destiny Johnson
Rebecca Privett
Ian Roberts
Lily Wigley-Speakman

2nd Grade A's and B's

Kaylee Cartwright
Devin Crow
Trinity Gold
Evan Howell

3rd Grade A's and B's

Eli Battles
Lily Cash

Caitlyn Collins
Matthew Dowdy
Hannah Durham

Kyle Miller

Brianna Powell

4th Grade A's and B's

Logan Bloyer
Laura Easler

Justin Langston

Zoe Lovechio

Molly Manifold

Noah Watters

5th Grade A's and B's

Sierra Chambers
Eli Durham
Kateland Grider
Elizabeth Meadows

Mikayla Owen

Jimmy Swain
Mackenzie Willingham

6th Grade A's and B's

Kaitee McGee
Orion Nicely
Samantha Purvis
Courtney Roden
Paige Smith
Daniel Spriggs
Meagan Sutton
Marysa Wigley

Moon Lake Perfect

Attendance

2nd Nine Weeks

Matthew Bain
Lily Cash
Dylan Flannigan
Caitlyn Morris
Lexi Owen
Paige Smith
Jimmy Swain

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

- 1 - Tammy Kirby
- 2 - George Walker, in memory of
- 3 - Cathy Carson;
Susan VanAppledoorn
- 4 - Alex Hazell; Jamie Cameron;
Zeb Kincer
- 5 - Cameron Collins;
Dorothy Bridges
- 6 - Felicia Key; Maxine Baty
- 7 - Jordan Sutton
- 8 - Jimmy Hester
- 9 - Louis Pierce; Cayden Collins
- 10 - David Gilbreath
- 11 - Shinice Smith; Cayla Voils
- 14 - Kellie Chapman;
Ashelyn Watson
- 16 - Sharon Barron; Janis J. Carter
- 17 - Savannah Lepper
- 18 - Kaleb McMunn; Gail Crider
- 19 - Jewel Cochran
- 20 - Joan Byrum
- 22 - Isaac Akes; Justin Langston
- 24 - Susan Collins; Tom Emory
- 25 - Austin Jones; Dorothy Cyr
- 26 - Mary Jane Burge; Margie Coots
- 27 - Jackie Brown; Livvy Griffith;
David Hilliard
- 28 - Frances Gilbreath; Liz Perry

Anniversaries:

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



Sell Your Home!

Testimonials:

I have worked with numerous realtors in my life. We have moved from south Alabama to the Birmingham area, then to West Alabama and now to Northeast Alabama. With these moves I have never met anyone quiet like our realtor, Ronda Bruckno at Mountain Properties. She has the know-how and means to get a job done. Ronda pays attention to her clients wants and needs whether it be the seller and/or the buyer. Her personal interest shows in her attitude, willingness and work ethic. Ronda gets the job done. Her creativity and knowledge of the area plus her background work in other states gives her the upper hand in Mentone real estate. We couldn't have been more pleased to work with such a fine lady with the know-how that we were looking for.

Barbara Neel, Mentone

Ronda Bruckno of Mountain Properties at the Hitching Post is a spirited lady with the know how to sell homes. She sold my Little River Hideaway cabin while I was living in Birmingham. Ronda kept me in touch with every move she made and worked diligently with numerous clients paying close attention to both of our needs. I would call upon Ronda again; she created great ads and marketed my property in many other states which got the job done. I am happy with the sell and the buyers love the river house! Thanks Ronda

Hazel McNorton, Birmingham

Call 256-634-4333 if you are thinking of selling.

SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH

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

The Valley Head Baptist Church invites you to attend Sunday School at 10AM; Worship Service at 11AM; Sunday Evening Worship at 6PM; Midweek Service (Wednesday) at 6PM; 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. 635-1001.

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

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

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

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

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 1519 Smith Gap Road (County Road 85), Fort Payne. Regular Worship Services are at 10AM Sunday and 6:30 Wednesday. Christmas Eve service, December 24 at 6:00 PM. Steve Schrader, Pastor - 845-4314. Everyone welcome.

Walnut Grove Baptist Church, on Highway 11 North of Fort Payne, welcomes everyone at Sunday School at 10AM, Worship Service at 11AM, Wednesday night youth meeting at 6PM, and Wednesday night prayer meeting at 6:30PM.

The Fort Payne Christian Center and Pastors Ken and Elaine Hollman invite everyone to join in Worship on Sunday at 10 AM, Wednesday evening at 6PM. God Bless you.

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

Menlo Church of Christ invites you to attend the 10- and 11AM services and evening services are at 7-and-9PM. Visitors are always welcome.

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

DeSoto Church of Christ invites you to attend Sunday Bible Study at 10AM, Worship at 11AM. Wednesday Bible study at 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. Homecoming is August 10. Brother Charles Elrod will be preaching and the Faith Walkers will be singing. 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.

St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church - a place of prayer, thanksgiving, and celebration. Come by any time to pray and give thanks. Open 24 hours every day. Sunday service is at 10:30AM.

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

Moon Lake Baptist Church invites you to worship with us. Sunday School begins at 9:45AM, with classes for all ages. Morning Worship is at 11AM. The Lords Supper is observed on the first Sunday of September, December, March, and June at the morning worship hour. Discipleship Training is at 5:00PM and Sunday Evening Worship at 6:00PM. On Wednesdays, Team

Kids; Youth Bible Study and Adult Bible Study and Prayer Meeting are all at 6:30PM. Rev. Terry Turner has been called to be the regular pastor at Moon Lake.

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

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

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

Mentone Community Church Schedule: Sundays: Sunday School 9:30AM; Worship 10:30AM; Family Service or Small Groups 6:30PM. Wednesdays at 6:30PM: Pioneer Clubs; Youth Group; Adult Bible Study.

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

GOD
IS EVERYWHERE

FORGIVE
AND FEEL BETTER



DEVOTIONAL

By Evelyn Graves

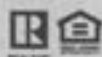
Many years ago there was a song that was quite popular and also a movie by the title, "Love is a Many-Splendored Thing." Love is indeed a many-splendored thing, magnificent, and having many facets.

There is the love that we celebrate at this time of the year when we give cards, candy, flowers, etc., to our special "valentine." It is that love between a couple, a romantic love. There is another type love that we have toward mankind, friends, neighbors, family. Then there is that ultimate love that knows no bounds - the agape love that Jesus Christ demonstrated on the cross when he was crucified for our sins. There is no greater love than this. He gave His life that we might have life and have it more abundantly. What a marvelous Savior we serve!



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WE'VE
**OUTGROWN
OUR SPACE!**

Sooo...

WE'RE
MOVING

Look for us in our exciting
new **LOG CABIN LOCATION** in
the heart of Mentone.
6051 AL Hwy 117



NEW LISTING!

BEST BUY ON THE BROW! Newly-constructed cabin on the brow at Mentone offers 3BR/2BA, peeled pine handrails, exposed beams, hickory cabinetry, rock foundation, wood & tile floors, beautiful tile work in MABA shower area, front & back porches (one with great browside views!), stone gaslog fpl, 1368 sq ft living area. Beautifully built, beautifully priced! \$289,500. (18615)



NEW LISTING!

CHARMING FARM HOUSE with 10 or 18 acres. Screened front porch, cozy LR room w/beautiful mtn stone hearth/surround & woodburning htr, CH/A, 2BR/1BA, kitchen w/lots of cabinets, dining room w/bay window. Outside are fruit trees galore, large workshop, wonderful garden spot, level pasture area/hay field, woods. House & 10 ac \$130,000, w/18 ac \$170,000. (18587)



MENTONE

THIS IS A GREAT NEW PRICE! Perfect Mentone getaway cabin, snuggled into 2 mostly wooded acres. Also could be bought w/10.2 ac, or as a whole w/residence next door and a total of 20.2 acres. Paved road frontage, close to the village and camps of Mentone. Great front porch, sleeping loft, woodburning htr, open living space. Cabin w/10.2 ac. \$130,000, w/2 acres \$80,000 (17038)



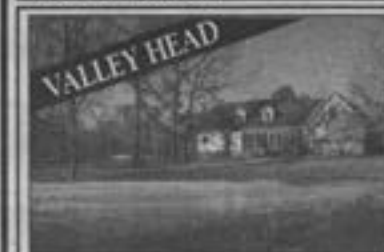
REDUCED!

BEAUTIFUL CABIN IN THE WOODS, perfect for those who love to watch wildlife...or those who like to roam in the woods themselves. 2-story, 3BR/2.5BA; main-level MABR; MABA w/double vanity, jetted tub, sep shower. 2 lg guest rooms & bath upstairs. Full front porch for sitting on fine days, gaslog fpl in LR to snuggle up around on chilly evenings. Fully furnished. \$169,500. (18438)



REDUCED!

LITTLE MENTONE HOUSE ON A GREAT LOT! No, it isn't much to look at right now, and it would take some work, but the location is fabulous and the potential is there! Shoot, just the lot would be worth the price! 2BD/1BA fixer-upper, zoned R-4, just across the way from Mentone's Brow Park, walking distance to everything. Now only \$45,000. (18409)



VALLEY HEAD

POND, BRICK HOME, 6 ACRES in a beautiful setting, nestled in the valley. Lovely 2-story brick home, 5BR/3.5BA (more room upstairs for expansion!) lg, screened back porch, welcoming front porch, gas log fpl, 2-car att gar, pantry, new tile, amazing kit w/double ovens, grilltop range, planning center & tons of oak cabinets! Year-round spring. Add'l acreage avail. \$289,000. (17838)



MENTONE

LET IT SNOW! Whatever the season, you'll find nature's beauty all around you in this private home hidden by awesome rock formations, small caves & trees. 1900 sq ft, 2 large BRs/2BA, loft area for office/studio. Beautiful oak & exotic hardwood floors. Ceramic tile baths & kitchen. MA BA w/Jacuzzi; Kohler generator; park-like setting between DeSoto St Pk & Mentone. Possible owner financing avail. \$229,900 (17777)



LOOKOUT MTN

COZY SCENIC ROAD COTTAGE has been completely renovated with new vinyl cedar shake-look siding, metal roof, fresh interior paint, refinished hardwood floors, CH/A, new counter-tops and more! Unbeatable location! This little gem could become your mountain getaway or permanent home. Beautiful stone-work hearth & chimney as well as around the front porch area. It's like new and only \$89,000. (18553)



WATERFRONT

MENTONE'S MOUNTAIN LAKE! If you have ever dreamed of having a cabin on the lake, then now's the perfect opportunity to buy this great stone mountain lake cabin. 70' frontage on E Fork of Little River at Lake Lahusage, 2BR/1BA, woodburning stone fireplace, stone patio off MA BR (a place for a hot tub?). Sun porch on lake side. Would make a great cabin rental. \$225,000! (18448)



MENTONE

JUST RIGHT IN SIZE & PRICE this cabin built of hand-hewn white pine logs is the sweetest little hideaway you could ever want to snuggle up in! Not too big, but just enough of every amenity you could possibly desire. Cradled in the woods on 1.4 ac, great front & back porches, 2BR/1BA with warm wood interior. All appliances to remain, including stacked washer/dryer. Perfectly set up for a cabin rental. \$125,000 (18457)



REDUCED!

STRAIGHT OUT OF A MAGAZINE! This hand-hewn log cabin could easily have been the subject of a write-up on great log homes of the mountains! Craftsmanship, beauty of design, quality amenities, creativity, and so much WOOD! 3BR/2.5BA, 1820 sq ft w/loft balcony and 3rd-level bonus room. Over 1400 sq ft of porch area, 2 fireplaces. SS appliances incl. \$258,500 (17537)



LOOKOUT MTN

LITTLE RIVER CANYON AREA Fully-furnished cabin. Just bring the groceries when you want to get away for the holidays or the weekend! Extra nice 2BD/1BA cabin atop Lookout Mtn in the area of Little River Canyon National Preserve and the new JSU Field School! View wildlife from your balcony. Just minutes from Fort Payne & Desoto St Pk. Great location for cabin rental! \$129,000 (18459)

LOTS and LAND

38 ACRES WITH STREAM as its border on Lookout Mtn. Could be divided into lots. Located in the area of Little River Canyon/JSU Canyon School. \$389,000 (18605)

32 ACRES ON LOOKOUT MTN in area of Little River Canyon/JSU Canyon School. Already divided into lots, each with great water frontage. Just listed for \$319,000. (18604)

HEART OF MENTONE within walking distance of the Brow Park, this half-acre lot (up to 1.5 ac avail in all) is priced very nicely. Wooded, great road frontage. \$45,000. (18277)

4.42 ACRE MENTONE LOT W/STREAM at end of quiet road offers peaceful areas to hike, watch abundant wildlife, or just to get away. Only \$37,000. (16824)

MENTONE POND & 15 ACRES offers approx 12 acres on one side of paved road, 3 acres on other. Fenced pasture area w/rustic handmade gate, stocked pond, old home site w/large trees, septic tank, power & water already in place. Pasture/woods/spring/pond. Great place to build some cabins around the pond or just one nice home. \$150,000. (18104)

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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 sunrays and soft organ music accent an ambience fitting the wedding ceremony. Inside wooden pews will seat approximately 60 guests.

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

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Hong Kong Chicken Casserole

1 can chow mein noodles
1/2 cup water
1 cup cubed chicken/turkey
1/2 cup salted cashew nuts
1 can mushroom soup
1 cup chopped celery
1/4 cup chopped onion
Salt & Pepper to Taste

Keep part of noodles for the top. Place in oven at 325° for about 40-50 minutes.

Cherries In The Snow

1 Angel Food Cake (thinly sliced)
2 cans cherry pie filling
1 8 oz. box cream cheese
1 cup powdered sugar
1 Tsp. vanilla flavoring
1 8 oz Cool Whip

Soften & cream the cream cheese, powdered sugar & vanilla together. Fold in the Cool Whip. Layer in a pretty glass bowl, one layer cake, one layer cheese mixture, one layer cherry filling, then start over again. Make sure you end with cherry filling. Beautiful and tasteful dessert.

Swedish Wedding Cookies

2 Sticks Butter (No substitute)
2 1/4 cups All-Purpose Flour Sifted
2 Tsp. vanilla flavoring
1/2 cup + 1 cup powdered sugar
1 cup broken pecans
1 Tsp. water

Cream butter and powdered sugar. Add flour, flavoring and water. Mix well and add pecans. Place small balls of mixture on cookie sheet.

Bake in slow oven (300 or 325) for 30 to 35 minutes (until cookies are light brown). Roll cookies in powdered sugar after they have cooled.

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Grill & Chill

DQ Grill & Chill

By Sarah Jacoway Chastain

"What took you so long?" is a question that Dana Honabach, DQ Grill & Chill manager frequently hears. Customers that have welcomed Fort Payne's newest dining establishment include baby boomers who remember the old Dairy Queen at the South Y. A favorite hangout for teens during the 50s, the parking lot saw many relations begin while others ended there. For those teens and the ones who followed, it wasn't just a social outlet. They also came for the food. When the Dairy Queen closed one of those teens, now a grandmother frequently drove to Boaz just to get a Dilly Bar.

When the DQ Grill & Chill opened on December 31, those former teens came and brought their families. After the initial novelty of

a new restaurant in town lessened, they continue to come. According to Honabach some come in three or four times a week often for a meal or sometimes just for a treat.

Some of the most popular items are amazingly enough, quesadillas, all of the burgers and the blizzards. The ice cream cakes are also proving to be quite popular. Cake and ice cream, what an irresistible combination. They're good for special occasions or just any occasion like it's Monday, I think I'll order an ice cream cake. Honabach's wife is responsible for decorating those unique cakes that fill the cooler or are available by special order.

For many of us the Dairy Queen was our first exposure to soft-serve ice cream and it's still a good choice both for taste and at 5% fat, it's a healthier choice. The Dairy Queen began serving soft serve ice cream in the early 1940s and was one of the first to do so.

The Grill and Chill concept is the newest thing for Dairy Queen and our Fort Payne location is the only authentic one in Alabama. What makes it different is that when you order at the counter, you are given a number. Your food is freshly prepared to order, and when ready one of the friendly staff of 57 brings it to your table. Drive through orders are only heard in the headsets of the employees.

Honabach said that they had gotten a good response from the community. "With the economy, people are looking for comfort and quick food. We offer a relaxed dining concept and try

to make your dining experience comfortable and relaxing."

DQ Grill & Chill is open seven days a week from 10-10 with the possibility of additional weekend hours in the summer. A ribbon cutting on the first Tuesday in February officially welcomes them to the city but area citizens have already offered their own welcome.



Mentone Wedding Chapel

By Sarah Jacoway Chastain

February is the month for romance and love. As the children's rhyme states, "First comes love and then comes marriage." However, wedding books state that the wedding location should be booked from six months to a year in advance so you might think that a February wedding wouldn't be an option if you didn't book it last year. The Mentone Wedding Chapel is the answer to your dilemma. "It's possible to book a wedding on a day's notice", stated Linda Patterson.

The Mentone Wedding Chapel is located atop Lookout Mountain in a unique, sylvan setting. It can accommodate weddings of up to a hundred guests. Complimentary are all inclusive services that can be tailored to individual needs and tastes and budgets. Many couples choose the Mentone Wedding Chapel for their wedding because of the personal caring service before, during and after the ceremony. The convenience includes arranging for photography, videography, receptions, flowers and limousine arrival.

Linda Patterson and her experienced staff have provided receptions, photographs, flowers, weddings and direction for the past seventeen years. From 100 to 125 brides a year choose the Mentone Chapel as the site of their special day.

The wedding complex is set in a private wooded seven acre preserve consisting of the following facilities:

The Appalachian Chapel with cedar shake roof,

stained glass windows, chapel bell and oak pews add to the quaint charm. A 50-candle candelabrum encircles the wedding party.

The Preston House adjacent to the chapel is a facility that offers grace and charm. With its 30-foot beam ceilings, mountain stone fireplace, immaculate catering kitchen and a two thousand square foot wrap around the porch can accommodate up to 100 guests for weddings and/or receptions. Receptions and weddings are scheduled for a one per day event resulting in a stress free unhurried day.

Two new facilities opened in 2008. The Alpine Places sits privately on the chapel grounds. It is architecturally akin to the complex with 30-foot beam ceilings, mountain stone full wall fireplace and a 2000 square foot wrap-around porch.

A 1000-square foot lot with glass gables, a Jacuzzi and his and her separate showers share a common glass block wall. It is tastefully furnished for a romantic honeymoon. Alpine Place can also sleep six people for family retreats. Hiking, golf, snow skiing and horseback riding are available.

The Gate House is an authentic farmhouse fully furnished with a stonewall fireplace, generous porches and can sleep six or as few as two for a unique honeymoon experience.

Wedding packages include couple only weddings, small wedding packages and family and friends packages which includes use of the decorated chapel inside and outside, use of the dressing rooms, guest book, and candlelight ceremony with a unity candle. The package also includes the services of an organist and a wedding director. Taped or CD music may be brought. Packages are also available for renewal of vows for family and friends or a couple only. It is also a popular site for second marriages.

For more information can contact them at (256) 634-4181 Monday-Saturday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. You can also go their website at www.mentonewedding.com for more information and to see pictures of the charming facilities.



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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 \$369,900. (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)



LAKEFRONT PROPERTY ON LOOKOUT MTN FOR ONLY \$189,900! Don't miss your chance to own this BRAND NEW cabin with over 150' of waterfront, 2BR/2BA, kitchen/dining combination, spacious living area with fireplace, and deck to relax and enjoy the view. Dock already in place, so grab your fishing gear and call now! (18272)



LOOKING FOR A MOUNTAIN GET-A-WAY? 3BR/1BA home just minutes from Mentone. Completely remodeled, this home is move-in ready! New kitchen appliances include range, refrigerator, microwave, and washer/dryer. Updated wiring, new CH&A, fresh interior paint, and rock fireplace. Sitting on two lots with a covered back deck, nice mature trees and outbuilding. \$116,000 (17931)



A HIDEAWAY HEAVEN on Lake Windmill. Reward yourself with this BRAND NEW 2BR/2BA cabin situated on 2 +/- acres with approx. 80' of lake frontage and a dock already in place. Pine floors, walls and ceilings, custom cabinetry with granite countertops, stone front gas fireplace, covered deck, and best of all it's move-in ready. Grab your fishing gear and suitcase! \$169,900 (17909)



MENTONE - Log home surrounded by 2.8 +/- acres with an in-ground pool. This property features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, eat-in kitchen, spacious living area, large utility, central heat & air, covered porches on 3 sides and a 16 x 32 in-ground pool. This unique property has lots to offer. \$154,500 (18616)



LOCATED ON LAKE LAHUSAGE you will find this 1 bedroom, 1 bath cottage home. Positioned on a treed lot with boat dock in place. Pack your bags and bring your canoe. \$149,900 (17906)



WATERFRONT IN MENTONE! Enjoy your leisure in this mountain home with 4.5 acres, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, cathedral ceiling, all kitchen appliances to remain, and you can finish the bottom floor for more space. \$325,000 (18474)



YOUR OWN PRIVATE SANCTUARY...FOUND! This 36+/- acres featuring a pond and small cabin with 2 bedrooms and 1 bath may be just what you've been waiting for. This wooded acreage offers you lots of privacy and activity. Call today. \$219,000 (18238)



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)



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



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



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)

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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. \$149,000 (15985)



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



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)



ON THE PARKWAY! You can be the proud NEW OWNER of the property known as Little River Cafe located on DeSoto Parkway minutes from Mentone and Fort Payne. Offers a fully equipped kitchen, dining room and large porch, stage for entertainment and a rustic atmosphere in a charming renovated old home. Located between DeSoto SP and Little River Canyon. \$100,000 (17527)



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)



ENJOY GOING TO WORK IN THE MORNINGS? If not, then perhaps you should consider investing in your own business. Lookout Mountain Nursery is now for sale. This operating business offers 9 greenhouses with inventory included. Don't delay on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. \$69,900 (16393)



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



NATIVE MOUNTAIN FOLIAGE creates a level of privacy for this 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. \$249,000 (16371)



MOVE UP TO RIVERFRONT! Get an open and airy feeling throughout this 3 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath home. Features include an oversized state-of-the-art kitchen with eating area, stone fireplace, wood and tile floors, oversized back porch and boat dock. Appealing landscaping with large native stones. Many windows to soak up the views. A must see for \$579,000. (17781)



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. \$165,000 (16721)



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



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN WITH BEAUTIFUL VIEWS! Custom log home with vaulted ceiling great room, stacked rock fireplace, large kitchen/dining, spacious loft for extra living/sleeping/storage, walkout basement/game room, separate basement storage. Enjoy year-round unsurpassed views, large deck and screened-in porch. Private location in a restricted subdivision near Little River Canyon. \$349,000 (18235)

4 ACRES with 300' of brow frontage and gorgeous rock formations. \$265,000 (17175)

10 ACRES WITH 300' ON LITTLE RIVER with lovely views, nice timber and natural landscaping. Co-broke with Prime Realty. \$100,000 (16843)

11.8 ACRES WITH 500' ON LITTLE RIVER with lovely views and natural landscaping. Co-broke with Prime Realty. \$120,000 (16844)

NATURE LOVERS DREAM! HIDDEN LAKES SUBDIVISION - Lot listed at \$59,900 (17585)

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

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

LOOKING FOR THE MENTONE GET-A-WAY? This new development offers only 4 lots with gorgeous trees. Located off Co. Rd. 106 close to Desoto State Park and Desoto Falls. Get your blue prints ready and start building your cabin today! Lots are priced at \$35,000 each. (17060/17061)

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

NO MORE DAYDREAMING about living on Little River! Pristine river lot with 150 +/- feet frontage. You can put in a boat from your private dock, ride for 10 minutes and have a 104' waterfall to view. \$195,000 (17782)

WATERFRONT LOT in Lake on the Brow Sub. \$75,000 (18038)

WEST FORK SUB. - 3.22 acre tract with hardwoods. \$47,900 (18037)

2 LOTS on the middle fork of Little River near Lake Lahusage. \$99,500 Each (18627)

THE OUTDOORS IS CALLING YOU! Hidden Lake Subdivision bordering Little River National Preserve offers a gated community for people of like interests. Great building lot on the lake. For more information, go to www.hidden-lake.com \$95,000 (18406)

OVERLOOKING THE VALLEY! You'll want to hurry and pick just the right spot on this 100' brow lot off Scenic Drive in Mentone. Hurry, the price is right and they won't last long. Two lots to choose from. \$125,000 (18311)

Fort Payne Primary Health Center

By Sarah Jacoway Chastain

Located at 3840 Gault Avenue N. near Cooper Hosiery in the old location of Three Beans Coffee Cafe, Fort Payne Primary Health Center is a welcome addition to the area.

It is a federally qualified health center which means that it assists people without health insurance or those who are under-insured. It is not a free service but rather has an adjusted fee scale that depends on income and family size. They also accept most types of insurance including Medicaid and Medicare.

CEO Debbie Culpepper, explained, "We are interested in the community. We do everything within our power to help our patients."

They are a primary care facility that deals with female problems including offering routine tests such as pap smears. They are oriented to take care of children including routine shots as well as illness. They can take care of all your family's medical needs from the oldest family member to the youngest. They have access to a lot of programs to help with prescriptions whether it's maintenance medicines or medicines to treat an illness. They have a program through Pfizer where those medications are free.

She added, "We don't rush our patients. We take time with them. We realize that there's more to a person's physical well-being than what's registered on a thermometer or a blood pressure cuff. Sometimes just listening is the best way to get to the root of their problem and we take time to listen."

They have an interpreter onsite Monday and Friday to assist their Hispanic patients.

The Fort Payne Primary Health Care Center is one of eight centers located in DeKalb and Jackson County. It is the second one in DeKalb County. The centers have been joint-commissioned accredited for six years.

Their hours are from 8-5, Monday-Friday. They are closed from 12-1 for lunch. They prefer appointments but they do see walk-ins. Those with appointments are seen first. The staff includes: Jana Culpepper, CRNP; LaDonna Kassinger, front desk; Tonya Hall, LPN and Yazmin Corona, interrupter. Their phone number is (256) 844-4975.





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RHODODENDRON GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Linda Brown, Secretary

Wasn't it Rebecca of Sunny Brook Farm who said, "When duty and pleasure clash, let duty go to smash"? This was what the Rhododendron Garden Club did at the December meeting. They met on December 8, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. at the M.E.R.F. Community House. Because some things must be done, a short business meeting was held. Then the fun started. Margaret Baker installed the following officers for 2009-2010: President, Dianne Kuehl; First Vice President, Peggy Roark; Second Vice President, Barbara Blalock; Treasurer, Jill Whitten; Secretary, Linda Brown; Parliamentarian, Martha Wood. The members then gathered at beautifully decorated tables for their annual Christmas luncheon. Much fun and fellowship followed as the members shared stories and news of the happenings of Mentone.

The January 13, 2009 meeting brought everyone back to reality

as the members realized that a new year has begun and there is work to be done. Thirteen members and guest, Elaine Gaulden, were present to hear Les and Jay Rivett tell us how to have a wonderful vegetable garden. They are the owners of Jay's Garden Variety, a fourteen acre farm at Henagar, Alabama. They sell their produce at the local farmer's markets and also Chattanooga markets. They offer fresh produce in season with a purchased share, which is then honored by fresh produce every week.

Jay started by telling us to have the soil tested for the PH level. This enables you to know what additives are needed to sustain your vegetables. He also stated that it is a good idea to map out your garden before you plant. These are two things that you can do now in preparation for your spring garden. The Extension Service office in the Activities Building in Fort Payne can give you information and kits for soil testing. Jay's method of planting is to use raised beds covered with plastic.

In February, you can add com-

post and other amendments to the soil. This prepares for your planting in March. You can plant English peas, potatoes, onions, cabbage, some herbs and many other early plants. Mulching is encouraged to keep the moisture in the soil and reduce the need for watering. In April you can add beans, celery, cucumbers, squash and melons. Wait until May to add okra, eggplant, peppers and tomatoes. June can support gourds, pumpkins and sweet potatoes.

Pets are an important part of a farm. They help control the problem of pests such as mice, rats and voles. Be forewarned that they may also control the population of rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks and birds. These can also be pests in a garden so you may have to pick your pleasure.

President, Dianne Kuehl, convened the business meeting. Beverly Ashley gave the Meditation. Martha Wood gave the horticulture report; bring branches of flowering shrubs inside to force blooming for early enjoyment. Place in water and keep in a warm place.

It was decided to plant a

Dogwood tree in memory of Virginia Setze in February and to serve lunch for the Seniors in March. A donation will be made to the scholarship fund of The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc. in memory of Betty Joe Johnson. Betty was a member of the club for many years and served as president. A space will be taken in Hortensia in memory of Virginia and Betty.

Dianne expressed her thanks to Martha Wood for her expert leadership of the club for the past two years. The club members concurred with a round of applause. Lucette Dix was awarded the door prize and the meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: February 10, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the M.E.R.F. Community House.

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



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LIBS FROM THE LIBRARY

by Linda Brown

The big news this month is the Winter Book Sale. This sale will begin on Monday, February 9, 2009 and run through the week to end on Saturday, February 14, 2009. The open hours will be 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9:00 to 12:00 a.m. on Saturday. This sale will be in the back room of the M.E.R.F. Community House. The back door will be open so if something is happening in the meeting room you can come in the back. Watch for other notices of this in this issue of The Groundhog. One of the scouts in Mentone Troop 106 is taking the sale as an Eagle Scout project. I will report on this in next month's column.

Thanks to everyone who bought a calendar or took an ad for the calendar. This project was very successful this year. This is one of our main fund raisers, along with the membership of FRIENDS and donations. Last year, we purchased new books and DVD's and other needs for the library. We purchased and/or paid for the building of several shelving units. The salary of the librarian is from aT ARCOG grant but we are required to submit a matching percentage each year. These funds help us do this. Thanks to the community for your support in all of our endeavors.

The tentative date for the "Meet the Author" program in the spring is Saturday April 11, 2009. The guest of honor will be Hank Willett who has published a book, *In the Spirit: Alabama's Sacred Music*

Traditions. The committee is hoping to have some surprise entertainment as well. This is just in the planning stage but if it materializes I will let you know next month.

These events are always fun and you are not obligated to buy a book. Most of the authors were happy to come and talk about their books and really were not concerned with the sale of books.

We are now able to train volunteers any time. Beverly AsWey, the librarian, is now familiar with everything enough to train during the hours that the library is open. We hope to have one or two new volunteers in place by the Winter Book Sale. Talk to Beverly about this if you can be a volunteer. We need volunteers badly. Several have health issues which prevents them from volunteering. When these long winter months have five Saturdays I have to use

everyone on the list and if someone has to cancel some volunteers have been asked to work two times in a month. Everyone has been very understanding about this and the cooperation has been wonderful. Thank you.

Come visit the library. We are open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. We hope that this will give everyone enough time to come and see the library, check or return books and DVD's and to use the computers. Beverly and a

volunteer are always there to help you with any project.

Next meeting of Board of Directors: Thursday, February 19, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. in library.

Our meetings are always open to the public and you are welcome to attend. To be on the agenda for a meeting, call Jan Wilkinson. Write to us: **Moon Lake Community Library, PO Box 481, Mentone, Alabama 35984.**

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RAMBLIN: IS FLORIDA COLLEGE FOOTBALL'S NUMBER 1 TEAM?

By Bill Crane

Florida beat Oklahoma in the BCS Title game, but are they really the number one team in America? Mississippi beat Florida during the regular season, so is Mississippi number 1? Who is? From what I learn, it depends on who you ask. The supporters of Florida says "YES" without a doubt. Others say "NO," and say their team is the best in the land, especially Mississippi. Ask the supporters of Southern Cal., Texas, or Utah and you have three more number one teams on the list. My choice is Utah. Why? Because they handled Alabama better than Florida did in the Southeastern League's Title game. They were also the only major undefeated team during the 2008 season, which is more than Florida can say. Who is the best? Choose a team, and you won't get much opposition.

Even though there is much to be said about the current sport scene, my swan song for the season is to discuss how we may determine a college football champion who will be accepted by everyone. The reason we have not experienced this to date is a matter of money, \$ \$ \$. None of the bowl stadium owners want to rock the boat which may reduce the revenue from having two college football teams playing each other at the end of the season. If they will look at the finances of other major sports they will see that a playoff system does not reduce the income to the playoff site owners. Look at the Super Bowl, the Final Four, and other playoff sites and you will not see a reduction of rev-

enue. And the two systems I want to propose will not do so either. I realize I'm blowing in the wind, but a playoff system in college football has to start somewhere. It is past time for college football to join all other sport groups in determining a true champion.

The first system I propose involves the 31 conferences and 1 independent group in college football. That makes 32 groups. If two teams from each conference/group are chosen for the playoff, there will result in 32 games to be played starting the middle of December. If any of the 64 teams have not won at least 6 games during the regular season, those that have but are not one of the best two in the conference/group will be put together for a lottery drawing to fill out a list of 64 teams. The sites of the games, and the teams to play in each game, will be determined by a representative from the 32 groups plus a director who is independent of any college football affiliation. There will be some sites where there will be more than one game played. The championship game will be played in one of six major bowl sites and rotated year by year.

The second system I want to propose is similar to the first except on how to determine the 64 teams involved in the playoff. To get 64 teams for this system the top 64 teams listed by the BCS would be chosen. All other details would be the same as in system 1.

Either of the two systems will not decrease the revenue of each bowl owner and playoff team, but, on the contrary, will increase the revenue of each. This should remove the disagreement of having a playoff system for college football. SHALOM.

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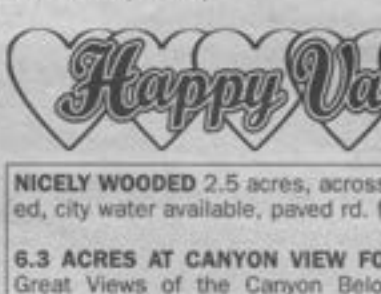
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PROPERTY FOR SALE On Co. Rd. 940. 10 Acres On The Back Edge. Nice Wooded Land. Call 256-634-4844

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Charming Log Cabin RETREAT in sought-after Fairyland, Lookout Mtn, GA. Recently renovated, fully furnished. Relax on the front porch or sit in the Hot Tub on the back deck. Your very own RETREAT on a corner lot. \$189,900. Offered by RETREAT REALTY, INC, contact Jeani Bazan 706-978-9906.

NEW 2 BR, 2 BA LOG HOME with loft, hardwood floors, deck overlooking lake. A wonderful RETREAT

on paved County Road 106. 1.66 pasture + wooded acres, city water. \$169,900. Offered by RETREAT REALTY, INC, contact Jeani Bazan, 706-978-9906.

CHARMING 2 BR/2 BA CABIN fully furnished, view of the lake from the wrap around deck & screened porch; on wooded 2.52 acres. Nicely landscaped, lots of upgrades, don't miss this incredible RETREAT! \$230,000. Offered by RETREAT REALTY, INC, contact Jeani Bazan, 706-978-9906.

RARE OPPORTUNITY! LOT #24 FOR SALE - 2.79 acres, mostly hardwoods, bordered by common area and creek, very private! Great building lot! \$50,200. Offered by RETREAT REALTY, INC. Contact Owner/Broker: Jeani Bazan, 706-978-9906.

THE LAST RESORT - beautiful brow property with 3 living areas for rentals and/or residence. Lots of decks and large courtyard to enjoy the view. \$599,000 Offered by RETREAT REALTY, INC, contact Bill Grissom, 205-919-3025.

FANTASTIC RUSTIC GETAWAY ON 3.4 WOODED ACRES. 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath log siding home features open floor plan, wood-burning rock fireplace, and more. New Low Price \$129,900. Offered by RETREAT REALTY, INC, contact Bill Grissom, 205-919-3025.

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

OWN PART OF A BROW HOME. Need 3rd investor to purchase Mentone vacation home on 1 acre west brow/spectacular large deck sunset views. The buy-in cost is \$100k for 4 months of time per year. Would consider 2 investors at \$50k each for 2 months per year. Call 256-634-3055.

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(16731, 16789, 16790, etc.)

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PROPERTY WITH 2500 FT. OF
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ENJOY MENTONE
from your own cabin tucked in the woods. This 2 bedroom, 2 bath cabin has a fireplace, two porches, and much more. \$174,900 (17765)

I LOVE WEEKEND CALLS!

Freedom Financial Services

By Sarah Jacoway Chastain

That scary date, April 15 is rapidly approaching. Choosing a professional to prepare your tax return can make it a little less scary. With changes in the tax laws each year, it's difficult for the average citizen to be well enough informed to take advantage of everything that can benefit him. Freedom Financial Services is a one-stop financial office that does returns for both small and large businesses as well as personal returns. They e-file and can assist their clients in getting quick refunds. Laura McKenzie, office manager for the Mentone office is a degreed CPA, who also has a strong background in the mortgage industry.

The company has been in business since 1979 with their main location in Chattanooga. There is a satellite office in Trenton. They moved their local office from Fort Payne to Mentone in August.

"People thought we were crazy to move to Mentone", Glenn Franklin, secretary of the corporation chuckled. He explained that since many of their clients were from the Mentone and Menlo area, the move has proved to be a wise choice. Franklin's wife, Donna is president of the business and both his son and daughter are also involved.

He added that their employees are responsible for their success and the growth of the company.

Financial planning is another important part of their services. In these uncertain economic times, financial planning has become necessary to



make the most of your shrinking assets. They also provide accounting services including automated payroll deductions and they service both commercial and residential mortgages.

Franklin explains their business philosophy. "We are large enough to handle any account but small enough to offer down home service."

The Mentone office is located at 58 95A Highway 117 in Mentone near the Mentone Post Office and across the street from the Mentone Market. Their office hours are 9-5, Monday through Friday. They are also open on Saturday and after hours by appointment. The phone number is 634-4070.



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