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25 years
in print.

THE GROUNDHOG

Mentone, Valley Head, Hammondville

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

Volume 26, No.1

"Neighborly "News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

January 2008

VALLEY HEAD WELCOMES UPSCALE RESALE AND GIFT SHOP



By Sarah Jacoway Chastain

The name says it all. The shop located at 166 Commerce Avenue in "Downtown Valley Head" is upscale. There are some quaint interesting gift items; but that is only a part of what you find in the little shop that has been home to a cleaners, shoe store, church and the Valley Head Water Works. Racks hang with ladies clothes from size petite small to 3x. Many of the clothes are new with the tags still on them. Others are gently worn name brand clothes that are still in style. They range from casual to formal, play clothes to church clothes, pajamas, anything you need to complete your wardrobe.

Among the accessories are shoes, belts, scarves, purses, and jewelry.

Gift articles include Depression glass and other antiques, candles, and monogrammed bags suitable for anytime gifts.

Dianna Carden had always been interested in having her own business after her children were grown. Her husband travels a lot in his business so she wanted to find something that

she enjoyed. This became more important to her after one of her two sons was killed in a tragic accident.

The shop came about through a casual conversation with a good friend. Dianna was talking about how she needed something to keep her busy and distract her from her grief. They started talking about a consignment shop. Her friend wasn't interested in opening one but was intrigued with the idea. She offered to help her start the business. "She kept her promise and was a great deal of help," she explained.

Consignment shops afford customers an opportunity to dress stylishly without a great expense. This season is a wonderful time to buy at a consignment shop. We've all made resolutions to lose weight in the new year. As you lose weight, you can purchase well-fitting clothes to show off your continually shrinking size without spending a lot of money. After you lose all your weight, you can bring in those larger sized clothing for the rest of us to enjoy. After all if you keep them, it's an open invitation to gain that weight back.

There are currently 28 consignors (at the end of the first week in December). They sign a contract agreeing that their items will remain from 90 to 120 days. After sales they will receive 50% of the selling price. After the end of the agreement, the clothes will be donated to Rosehaven in Centre, a home for battered women. The tags that identify the consignor remain on the garment and Rosehaven will send a receipt for the donation to the consignor for a tax deduction.

The shop is attractively decorated and looks like any upscale women's shop. There are spacious dressing rooms, plenty of mirrors and even comfortable seating so that husbands who accompany their wives will be comfortable.

Store hours are Thursday and Friday from 10-5 and Saturdays from 10-2. If those hours don't accommodate your schedule, she will open the shop at night or on other days by appointment for as few as three people. The Sylvania Red Hat Club enjoyed an evening out soon after she opened. To schedule an appointment for shopping or to bring in clothes for consignment, call Dianna at 635-0805.

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THE GROUNDHOG

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

The DEADLINE for all material for The Groundhog is the 20TH DAY OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.

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FROM THE MAPA PRESIDENT

Thanks to all who came to our lovely Christmas party. Food was delicious and we had fun playing dirty Santa.

Make sure you remember

our next meeting is the 8th of January.

This is the 2nd Tuesday, as New Years day falls on the 1st tuesday and I am sure there will be ball games to watch and taking down of Christmas decorations.

Hope you all have a safe holiday season.

Amelia Kirk-Lolli



Food table at MAPA Christmas party



Homer Crow and John Baty

More pictures on page 24

The Groundhog

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ms. Graves, I have enjoyed The Groundhog for many years, and I have especially enjoyed your personal articles.

I have saved everything that you have written, and I read them again quite often. The article, "Tragedy Can Reap Benefits", in the July, 1993, issue was a masterpiece. I shared this article with the adult Sunday School classes in my church, and every teacher agreed that it was far superior to the prescribed lesson for that week. It was written from the heart, and it had a genuine message in everyday Christianity.

The series of articles entitled, "The Things I Found in the Attic" kept my family and me spellbound, and we could not wait for the next issue. What a wonderfully unselfish thing it was for you to share with your readers! Thank you so much for that. These are just two of my favorite articles that you have written. I have loved every one of them.

My concern is why you are no longer writing. I search the pages of The Groundhog every month when my Mentone friends send it to me, and each month I am disappointed when I do not find anything that you have written. Please write for us again. Your articles were always the highlight of The Groundhog. While Mentone history may be of interest to Mentone people, it holds little interest for the general public. Please return to the inspirational works that you do so well.

C. Woodruff

Decatur, Ga.

Ed. Note: Thank you for your kindness in sharing with me these beautiful thoughts. It encourages me to write again. Look for an article very soon. E.G.

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.

Stop by & chat with Doreen at

CROWS' NEST ANTIQUES

Antiques,
collectibles,
glassware, books



256-634-4548

Happy Holidays!

During the Holiday Season, more than ever, my thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made my continued success possible.

The start to a new year brings about many changes for some, myself included. Most of us extend ourselves to resolutions we painstakingly try to adhere to. My resolution for this New Year is to explore new avenues and ventures. And with full confidence, I have started down my path early for the New Year.

I am pleased and excited to announce that I am now part of the Sales Team at Southern Properties!

Southern Properties Agency, Inc. is located at 2107 Gault Avenue North Fort Payne, Alabama.

Please rest assured that you would be provided with wonderful service as this agency has a well-qualified and conscientious Sales Team.

Please know that I am available for all of your real estate needs and urge you to call me at any time. I can be reached at the same cell phone number as always (256-899-6718) and will provide you with the very best service possible. I pride myself on making sure I do everything I can to satisfy my clients to the fullest extent. This transition is an exiting one and I hope that you will support me through it.

Please do not hesitate to call me with any questions that you may have, or with any and all of your real estate needs!

I hope your holidays are filled with joy & laughter this year and every year thereafter.

Anita Stephens

Anita Stephens
Associate Broker
Southern Properties
Agency, Inc.

(256) 899-6718 Cell
(256) 845-6000 Office



**Southern Properties
Agency, Inc.**

A Rescue Dog's Christmas Poem

Tis the night before Christmas and all through the town,
every shelter is full - we are lost, but not found,
Our numbers are hung on our kennels so bare,
we hope every minute that someone will care,
They'll come to adopt us and give us the call,
"Come here, Max and Sparkie - come fetch your new ball!!
But now we sit here and think of the days...
we were treated so fondly - we had cute, baby ways,
Once we were little, then we grew and we grew
now we're no longer young and we're no longer new,
So out the back door we were thrown like the trash,
they reacted so quickly - why were they so rash?
We "jump on the children", "don't come when they call",
we "bark when they leave us", climb over the wall,
We should have been neutered, we should have been spayed,
now we suffer the consequence of the errors THEY made.
If only they'd trained us, if only we knew...
we'd have done what they asked us and worshiped them, too.
We were left in the backyard, or worse - let to roam-
now we're tired and lonely and out of a home.
They dropped us off here and they kissed us good-bye...
"Maybe someone else will give you a try."
So now here we are, all confused and alone...
in a shelter with others who long for a home.
The kind workers come through with a meal and a pat,
with so many to care for, they can't stay to chat,
They move to the next kennel, giving each of us cheer...
we know that they wonder how long we'll be here.
We lay down to sleep and sweet dreams fill our heads...
of a home filled with love and our own cozy beds.
Then we wake to see sad eyes, brimming with tears -
our friends filled with emptiness, worry, and fear.
If you can't adopt us and there's no room at the Inn -
could you help with the bills and fill our food bin?
We count on your kindness each day of the year -
can you give more than hope to everyone here?
Please make a donation to pay for the heat...
and help get us something special to eat.
The shelter that cares for us wants us to live,
and more of us will, if more people will give.
--Author Unknown

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Christmas at Snappy Graphics & Gifts & Gary's Power Sports

Santa visited on Saturdays and had pictures taken with the children and pets. Everyone enjoyed seeing Santa and receiving a candy cane and toy and having photos made to send to friends and family and cherish in albums for years to come.

Toys and food were collected for the needy and many thanks go out to all who donated.

We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and Happy holidays. We want to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to all of our customers who have visited us throughout this past year. We hope to see you again this year; and all those people who keep meaning to stop—please make it a point to do so.

Snappy Graphics and Gifts has all new gifts. The entire gift shop has new inventory with many beautiful items, southeast earrings, new silver rings, and other jewelry items. We have music box angels, fairy wind chimes, and beautiful flower arrangements.

Other new additions are art tiles and painted pony by a Cherokee Indian Father & Daughter who live in Oklahoma. We also have other fun tiles for wall hanging or can be used as trivets, with animals & flowers, wood trivet boxes with beautiful tile lids. Soybean wax & Kokonut oil candles (no smoke, no soot, no metal). We have Quills & Shams, and so much more we can't possibly list it all. Stop by and check out all the great gift items.

The graphic part of the name refers to the screen printing, photo t-shirts and other custom photo items, including vinyl and magnetic signs. We do many custom and personalized items, which make great gifts. For the business person, we make custom shirts, caps, and other promotional items to give to your customers to promote your business. Cap giveaways, mugs, tote bags, or mouse pads with your business name, are also a great way to get your business name in front of the public.

Happy 2008 — Lets make it a great year!

Snappy Graphics & Gifts Open Wed-Sat 10-5
and Gary's Power Sports Open weekends.

We are located in Marlboro, 3219 Hwy 117 at the 3 mile marker from GA and 3 miles from Mentone. Blinking light (256) 634-TEES (6337)



TALES FOR TEENS, TOTS, AND ALL OTHERS

January, 2008 by John S. Whitaker

Janus, the God with Two Faces

Janus wondered about the events of the preceding year. There were so many things he wished he could redo; there were so many mistakes, but it was impossible to relive even one minute.

He thought:

I could have been a better neighbor.
I could have been friendlier to the friendless.
I could have been more helpful to the needy.
So many, many things I wish I could redo.

There were times I could have been more faithful to my church.

If only he could go back, but now it was not possible. All he could do was learn from these things and, hopefully, be a better person.

Then he peered reluctantly into the new year: what will happen to him in the new year? So he made some new resolutions:

I will read all of my Bible this new year--all of it;
I will be faithful in my walk with God;
I need to lose weight and thus improve my health;
I will be a good neighbor;
I will complain less and be more positive;
I will walk in the Christian faith;
I will cultivate the attitude of gratitude;

As the doors of opportunity open to me, I will enter through them in Christian service;

I shall seek only the approval of my heavenly Father in those things I do for Him;

I shall not gossip;

I will take my burdens to the Lord and leave them with Him.

Janus actually possessed two faces: one looked into the future, and one looked back into the past. He couldn't change the past, but he could learn from it. He couldn't predict the future, but could improve over those past mistakes; and, thus, he would be a better person.

And on New Year's Day a sick neighbor became the recipient of a lavish meal from Janus.

Janus gave his name to the first month, January.

THOUGHT: Learn from the past. Do good--it has intrinsic worth. Keep your faith in God, the church, your friends, your community, and your nation.



JANUARY 2008 BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

- 1 - Jim Byrum
- 3 - Kelly Wright; Amber Stokes;
Jan Cherbonneau; David Baker,
Beverly Henry; Elizabeth Romans
- 4 - Loretta McGee, in memory of;
Raymond E. Ringer
- 5 - Charles McGee, in memory of
- 6 - Gage Baker; Donnie Voils
- 7 - Sam G. Whatley;
Kristen Emory;
Amanda Holaway
- 8 - Karen K. Whatley Powell;
Garnett Lee Whatley Smith
- 11 - Robert Green
- 12 - Marie Dillenbeck,
Christina Wise
- 13 - Jimmy Graves, in memory of;
Alayna Wright

- 15 - Joey Blalock, Mickey Luck,
Kat Griffith
- 16 - Karen Holcomb
- 17 - Bill Cobble
- 18 - Barbara Blalock;
Max Cherbonneau
- 19 - Floyd Bailey, in memory of;
Cindy Jones
- 20 - Sam E. Whatley
- 21 - Leland Cox, in memory of
- 22 - Alicia cherbonneau;
Kevin Jeffery
- 23 - Sierra Nicely; B.J. Hill
- 27 - Jess Moore
- 28 - Edna Morgan;
Cynthia Wooten

Anniversaries:

- 16 - Mr. & Mrs. Sonny Gilbreath
- 18 - Katie Bird & Bill Cobble

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Thank you! Thank you!

We wish to thank all the people who helped to make Christmas in Mentone brighter this year.

❖Betty and Wayne Classzo of Attalla who donated the Christmas tree for the center of Mentone.

❖Mark Gibson and Greg Van Pelt for cutting delivering and decorating the Christmas tree.

❖Kim Albrecht who also decorated the tree.

❖Eleanor Teverino who made the bows for the tree.

❖Doreen Waters who donated some of the tree lights.

❖M.A.P.A. who paid for additional lights and the material to make the bows.

❖To MS Paula's Art class at Moon Lake School for the C.D. decorations.
The Spirit of Christmas is alive and well in Mentone.



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The following were emails forwarded to me by my sister, Lois Wagy, from Oquawka, IL, among others. I was visiting with her and her family last month, and what a wonderful visit it was. Hope you enjoy them both. Marie Dillenbeck

The other day a young person asked me how I felt about being old. I was taken aback, for I do not think of myself as old. Upon seeing my reaction, she was immediately embarrassed, but I explained that it was an interesting question, and I would ponder it, and let her know.

Old Age, I decided, is a gift.

I am now, probably for the first time in my life, the person I have always wanted to be. Oh, not my body! I sometime despair over my body, the wrinkles, the baggy eyes, and the sagging butt. And often I am taken aback by that old person that lives in my mirror (who looks like my mother!), but I don't agonize over those things for long.

I would never trade my amazing friends, my wonderful life, my loving family for less gray hair or a flatter belly. As I've aged, I've become more kind to myself, and less critical of myself. I've become my own friend. I don't chide myself for eating that extra cookie, or for not making my bed, or for buying that silly cement gecko that I didn't need, but looks so avante garde on my patio. I am entitled to a treat, to be messy, to be extravagant.

I have seen too many dear friends leave this world too soon; before they understood the great freedom that comes with aging.

Whose business is it if I choose to read or play on the computer until 4 AM and sleep until noon?

I will dance with myself to those wonderful tunes of the 60&70's, and if I, at the same time, wish to weep over a lost love ... I will.

I will walk the beach in a swim suit that is stretched over a bulging body, and will dive into the waves with abandon if I choose to, despite the pitying glances from the jet set.

They, too, will get old.

I know I am sometimes forgetful. But there again, some of life is just as well forgotten. And I eventually remember the important things.

Sure, over the years my heart has been broken. How can your heart not break when you lose a loved one, or when a child suffers, or even when somebody's beloved pet gets hit by a car? But broken hearts are what give us strength and understanding and compassion. A heart never broken is pristine and sterile and will never know the joy of being imperfect.

I am so blessed to have lived long enough to have my hair turning gray, and to have my youthful laughs be forever etched into deep grooves on my face. So many have never laughed, and so many have died before their hair could turn silver.

As you get older, it is easier to be positive. You care less about what other people think. I don't question myself anymore. I've even earned the right to be wrong.

So, to answer your question, I like being old. It has set me free. I like the person I have become. I am not going to live forever, but while I am still here, I will not waste time lamenting what could have been, or worrying about what will be. And I shall eat dessert every single day. (If I feel like it!!!)

**MAY OUR FRIENDSHIP NEVER COME APART
ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART!
MAY YOU ALWAYS HAVE A RAINBOW OF SMILES ON
YOUR FACE AND IN YOUR HEART FOREVER AND EVER!**

The Seniors Breakfast Special

Send this to the Seniors in your life. I am sure they'll appreciate it!!! Even non-seniors will appreciate it!!!!!! It pays to think outside the box!

We went to breakfast at a restaurant where the "seniors' special" was two eggs, bacon, hash brown and toast for \$1.99.

"Sounds good," my wife said. "But I don't want the eggs."

"Then I'll have to charge you two dollars and forty-nine cents because you're ordering a la carte," the waitress warned her.

"You mean I'd have to pay for not taking the eggs?" my wife asked incredulously.

"YES!!" stated the waitress.

"I'll take the special then," my wife said.

"How do you want your eggs?" the waitress asked.

"Raw and in the shell," my wife replied.

She took the two eggs home.

DON'T MESS WITH SENIORS!!! We've been around the block more than once!



The Suites at Oak View

an assisted living facility

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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TO THOSE BORN 1930-1979, Read to the bottom for quote of the month by Jay Leno.
If you don't read anything else--very well stated.

TO ALL THE KIDS WHO SURVIVED THE 1930'S, 40'S, 50'S, 60'S, & 70'S!!

First, we survived being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank while they were pregnant.

They took aspirin, ate blue cheese dressing, tuna from a can, and didn't get tested for diabetes.

Then, after that trauma, we were put to sleep on our tummies in baby cribs covered with bright colored lead-based paints.

We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets; and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets, not to mention, the risks we took hitchhiking.

As infants and children, we would ride in cars with no car seats, booster seats, seat belts, or air bags.

Riding in the back of a pickup on a warm day was always a special treat.

We drank water from the garden hose and NOT from a bottle.

We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle and NO ONE actually died from this.

We ate cupcakes, white bread, and real butter and drank Kool-aid made with sugar, but we weren't overweight because, WE WERE ALWAYS OUTSIDE PLAYING!

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on.

No one was able to reach us all day. AND we were O.K.

We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then ride down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes.

times, we learned to solve the problem.

We did not have Playstations, Nintendo's, X-boxes, no video games at all, no 150 channels on cable, no video movies or DVD's, no surround-sound or CD's, no cell phones, no personal computers, no Internet or chat rooms....WE HAD FRIENDS and we went outside and found them!

We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth and there were no lawsuits from these accidents.

We ate worms and mud pies made from dirt, and the worms did not live in us forever.

We were given BB guns for our 10th birthdays, made up games with sticks and tennis balls and, although we were told it would happen, we did not put out very many eyes. We rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just walked in and talked to them.

Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Imagine that!!

The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law!

These generations have produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers and inventors ever!

The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas.

We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility; and we learned HOW TO DEAL WITH IT ALL!

If YOU are one of them--CONGRATULATIONS! You might want to share this with others who have had the luck to grow up as kids, before the lawyers and the government regulated so much of our lives for our own good.

While you are at it, forward it to our kids so they will know how brave (and lucky) their parents were.

Kind of makes you want to run through the house with scissors, doesn't it?

The quote of the month is by Jay Leno:

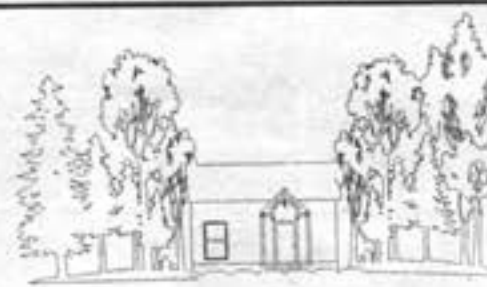
"With hurricanes, tornadoes, fires out of control, mud slides, flooding, severe thunderstorms tearing up the country from one end to the another, and with the threat of bird flu and terrorist attacks, are we sure this is a good time to take God out of the Pledge of Allegiance?"

For those that prefer to think that God is not watching over us...go ahead and delete this. For the rest of us...pass this on.



We all get heavier as we get older because there's a lot more information in our heads. So I'm not fat, I'm just really intelligent and my head couldn't hold any more so it started filling up the rest of me!

That's my story and I'm sticking to it!



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%

Harriet and Steve O'Rear
706-398-0858

Big Jim's Bama Q

Big Jim's At Mentone
We are Growing and Moving
To a Bigger location
December 28, 2007



Hwy 117 and Hwy 11
behind the Hammondville Fire Station.

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
256-634-1121

CLASSIFIEDS

Beautiful 3.21 acres in Northbend, a rustic gated, restricted Mentone, AL community with paved roads and underground utilities. \$44,900. Compare with others in the area beginning at 50K. Offered for sale by owner. 256-634-4470 or 251-421-8784

Real Estate Agent Wanted
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10 Acres, Secluded
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10 acres on the back edge.
Nice wooded land.
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Fonda Henderson - 706-930-4551

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This includes foundation, logs, hardwood floors, fireplace, oak cabinets, etc.
Please call for info or an appt. to see homes built by us.
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Ole Heritage Realty, Inc.

997-0008 604 Gault Ave. S. Fort Payne
oleheritage.com



6.8 ACRE MINI FARM ON LOOKOUT MTN Barn, large & small workshop, fenced acreage, and 3BR brick home offering 2100 sqft of living space. Fireplace, screened porch, and large laundry room are just a few of the extras! \$159,900 (16958)



SUCH CHARMING WAYS. Come feel the welcome in this well-kept 3BR/3BA Country Ranch-type situated on 6.60 acres. An ideal lifestyle, with kitchen appliances included, hardwood flooring and whirlpool tub. Cozy fireplace. \$199,900. (16179)



ROVE AND RAMBLE! Hurry to see this cheerful 3BR/2BA residence. This intriguing home provides master suite. Walk-in closets, garden tub, breakfast bar. \$62,000 (16412)



ENCHANTING IS THE WORD! Enjoy a charmed lifestyle in this gorgeous 3BR/2+BA brick Mansion ideally set on 4.16 acres. Well-kept two-story on a tree-canopied street. Circular drive. Curved staircase. Open floorplan. \$359,900 (15857)



150 ACRE FARM PERCHED ON THE EDGE OF LITTLE RIVER CANYON. Includes Cabin, Barn, Pond, & Beautiful rolling pastures. Plus over a mile of road/canyon frontage. \$2,300,000 (16559)



YOU WILL FEEL RIGHT AT HOME in this charming residence sited on 2.5 acres of Lookout. This vinyl-sided home offers 2BR/2BA, formal dining, and laundry room. Hardwood flooring and screened porch. Double carport with extra storage room. Move in immediately. \$115,000 (16879)



Tina Burt-Edmondson
Broker
996-3779



Lynn Crow
996-2552



Kevin Burt
996-0003



Glenn Horton
996-5911



Sandra Kilgore
899-5975



Katy Tuberville
996-2576



Dawn Posey
899-3971



Megan Henderson
899-3635



Chad Williams
630-2294

Call Our Office For Additional Listings In The Area.

RAMBLING

By Bill Crane

I have never seen anything like it! College football, that is. No team could stay in the number 1 and number 2 rated positions more than a week or two. In fact, twenty nine (29) of the top five rated teams during the season were beaten by unranked teams! The teams in the number two position were the worse for they could stay there only a week. I didn't count them, but I wouldn't have been surprised if there were thirteen different teams in the number two position during the season. And, the number one position had almost that many different occupants. Ohio State was number one and Boston College number two the day I last wrote. That night Illinois beat Ohio State and Maryland beat Boston College. The top rated teams were being beaten so frequently that after the final weekend no one knew who would be chosen the two top rated teams.

It was an upset season, for sure. There were surprises every week. The final BCS ratings were no exception. With Missouri and Kansas, the two top rated teams the week before the final week, getting beat it was anyone's guess who would be the two top teams to play for the championship. Ohio State was rated number one and LSU number seven after the final weekend. BCS picked Ohio State as the top team and LSU number two, so the two will play for the championship. LSU being number two was a huge surprise as they leaped over Hawaii, Kansas, Georgia, and Missouri to grab the second spot. Hawaii was unbeaten during the season and Kansas lost only one game, both records being better than LSU's. The upsets weren't confined to college teams, for a high school team in Charlotte, NC, with a record 107 consecutive victories and 7 consecutive state titles got beat. They lost two games during the season, but still managed to play for their eighth state title, which they lost.

Alabama just can't buy a victory over Auburn it appears. They lost for the seventh time. (Ga. Tech fired their coach when he lost to Georgia for the sixth time. Since Alabama changed coaches last year, they have more losses to Auburn before changing coaches again.

All in all, the football season was a game of musical chairs. I guess all is well that ends well. All the major conferences sent their usual number of teams to bowls, including Alabama and Auburn. The most difficult thing about this season was predicting the top teams week after week. Although perfect in my picking the baseball winners, I wasn't about to try to do the same in college football, for I sensed a topsy turvy season, and I really thought that Alabama would beat Auburn.

College basketball has started, and it has the makings of an upset season like football. The polls say that Tennessee, Kentucky, and Arkansas will be the powers in the SEC with the AUC teams dominating the top twenty five. I'm going to let this be my swan song for this season and not get into basketball and upcoming baseball training camps.

Shalom.

Happy New Year

Wilson Realty

213 Grand Avenue Southwest
Fort Payne, Alabama



Randy Wilson
Broker
997-6972



Beau Wilson
Associate Broker
844-7298



Ethel Manifold
Associate Broker
516-3002



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)



80 ACRES IN THE SHADOW OF LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN NEAR DESOTO STATE PARK. Rolling pasture and woods. Three year old three bedroom, two bath home with fireplace, huge porch, wood floors, plus horse barn and sheds. Only \$400,000. (16320)



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)

See our listings on the web at www.wilsonrealty1.com • 256-845-1530

Southern Properties

845-6000 Agency, Inc.

2107 Gault Ave. N., Fort Payne

SouthernPropertiesAgency.com



**These listings are exclusively
in the Mentone area.**

**To view ALL of our listings,
check out our website at:
SouthernPropertiesAgency.com**



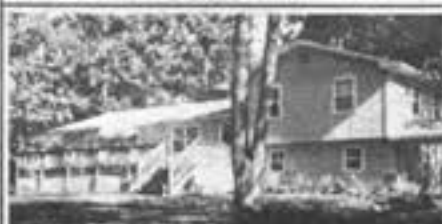
LAKE FRONT LIVING... Walk right out the back door to custom built wooden decks and walkways to your own boat dock on Lake Lahusage. This 2 bedroom, 2 bath cottage with pine floors, wood burning fireplace and screened porch, 2-story 2-car garage with apartment possibilities can be yours for only \$399,900.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



LOOKING FOR PEACE AND QUIET but still need the security of being close to downtown? We've got it! This 4BR/2BA home is surrounded by 3 +/- acres, yet is close to downtown Mentone. Kitchen and dining combination, finished basement, CH&A, and more. \$179,900 (16376)



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)



ADD YOUR PERSONAL TOUCH to this under construction log cabin in Mentone. Two bedrooms, 2 baths, wood floors, screened porch and gas log fireplace make this a perfect retreat for any season. \$184,500 (15545)



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

845-6000

2107 Gault Ave. N., Fort Payne

Agency, Inc.

SouthernPropertiesAgency.com



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. \$179,900 (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)



FIRST TIME OFFERED! Enjoy the gorgeous view of the valley below. Kitchen has breakfast bar and stainless appliances. Huge master bedroom has private deck, master bath offers clawfooted tub placed in front of the fireplace. Outside enjoy the stacked rock fireplace/bbq grill. Garage apartment has separate entrance, kitchenette, BR & BA. \$699,000 (15736)



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. \$169,900 (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)



ALL THE SPACE YOU NEED in this custom built log home. Includes a wood burning fireplace, a gracious amount of windows which allow natural lighting in the rooms and a large laundry room that also features a 2nd kitchen. Possible office or craft room. So many rooms, so many options. Use your imagination. \$135,000 (16128)



HOLD YOUR BREATH in this custom built log home featuring a large screened porch, cut stone fireplace, hand made windows, pine floors and large country kitchen. Ambiance galore for only \$98,900. (16845)



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)



STROLL TO EVERYTHING IN MENTONE from this picturesque cul-de-sac location. This home as a lot to offer. Four bedrooms, 3 baths, living, dining and den with wood burning fireplace and great studio over garage. Three levels of decking with farmable mountain and valley views. Privacy fencing and more. \$429,900 (16366)



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)

NATURE AT ITS VERY BEST describes these wooded acres. 1000 feet of valley views, nice timber and a small stream are found as you walk or ride the trails on this special 78 acres tract with access from 3 roads. Call for more information. \$897,000 (15933)

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)

ENJOY GOING TO WORK IN THE MORNING? If not, then perhaps you should consider investing in your own busi-

ness. 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. \$99,500 (16393)

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)

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)

Angela J. Wood
Owner and AL/GA Broker

6090 Highway 117, S.
PO Box 44
Lookout Mountain Parkway
Mentone, AL 35984

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

Preferred Realty, L.L.C.

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Cell: 256-997-8138

Fax: 256-634-4702

Toll Free

1-888-2561276

Email:

AngelaWood@centurytel.net

website:

LookoutMountainProperties.com



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 wooded 4 acre tract. Overlooking the Rock 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 NEST COTTAGE:

consists of 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, open living area, rock fireplace, CH/A, wood ceilings and floors. Insulated windows, batt and board siding, stained glass dormer. \$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)



THE BARN:

It is a lofty 2 bedroom, 2 bath cabin. The living area features 17' gambrel wood ceilings with old tin end walls. Large wood burning fireplace, wood floors throughout. Screened porch, CH/A. Come see for yourself. \$155,000 (15320)



COTTAGE PERFECT FOR THE EMPTY NESTER. large living room and large bedroom, bath views, 1400 ft on the reservoir. with whirlpool tub and Shower. Eat-in kitchen. 72-foot deck. Nicely wooded. 2 road level yard. \$75,000 (16885) Near Menlo, GA.



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. Wood floors throughout with Tile in the baths. Covered front porch with open deck. On 1 acre +/- \$180,000 (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 paved rd frontage city water available. Can be subdivided, or keep as your own estate. \$110,000

BUILD YOUR NEW HOME in a quiet established subdivision called Rocky Top Estates. Nicely wooded acre with paved road, city water available. Walking distance to State Park trails. \$40,000

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.

List with the Company that specializes in Mentone, Mountain Homes, Woodland, Canyon, River and Brow Properties. All located in Mentone or on Lookout Mountain

MENTONE MINI STORAGE UNITS AVAILABLE.
FOR MORE INFO CALL ANGELA WOOD AT 256-634-4672





TIPS ON TREES

By Mark Gibson

This time of year is a very good opportunity for dead wooding your trees. This process can save your trees from costly damage and decay from insects and fungi. This treatment consists of taking out all major existing dead wood that ranges from 1" and up. A very important part of this technique is to flush all dead wood back to either a limb one-third the size you are cutting, which is called a lateral, or cut the dead wood all the way back to the base of the tree. It is very important not to leave a stub or nub. To do so may cause a rotten spot which may invite bugs and diseases. Then you should use a wound sealant or pruning paint on the cuts. This will protect the cuts from insects and weather elements as well as help to heal the wound.

So... get on the stick and let's get it licked. Keep your eye on the tree and get all of the dead wood you see.

We wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Mentone Realty

634-4767

5846 AL HWY 117

www.mentonerealtyinc.com

Tina Burt-Edmondson, Owner



TREAT YOURSELF TO LUXURY in this one-year-old 3BR/2BA, sited on 1.60 acres. Ceramic tile baths, two-car garage attached. Private-entry apartment over a detached garage. Heated pool with a large patio. Cathedral ceilings, crown moldings, hardwood & tile flooring. A captivating home with a happy atmosphere. \$229,000 (16985)



LIFE IS LOVELY... in this 3BR/2BA Ranch on 4 acres. Cathedral ceilings, hardwood & tile flooring. Unfinished bonus room, attractive large bedrooms. Stainless steel appliances. Covered front porch. City water. A welcoming air and a "down-home" feeling. \$160,000 (16680)



ENJOY YOUR TIME IN THE MOUNTAINS! in this 3bdr/2bth home with Wood walls and floors. Oak Cabinets with Stainless Steel Appliances in kitchen. Call us for your appointment to see!



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A CHRISTMAS STORY

From an e-mail on the internet

In September 1960, I woke up one morning with six hungry kids and just 75 cents in my pocket. Their father was gone. The boys ranged from three months to seven years; their sister was two. Their Dad had never been much more than a presence they feared. Whenever they heard his tires crunch on the gravel driveway, they would scramble to hide under their beds. He did manage to leave \$15 a week to buy groceries.

Now that he had decided to leave, there would be no more beatings, but no food either. If there was a welfare system in effect in southern Indiana at that time, I certainly knew nothing about it. I scrubbed the kids until they looked brand new; and then put on my best homemade dress, loaded them into the rusty old '51 Chevy and drove off to find a job.

The seven of us went to every factory, store and restaurant in our small town. No luck. The kids stayed crammed into the car and tried to be quiet while I tried to convince whoever would listen that I was willing to learn or do anything. I had to have a job. Still no luck. The last place we went to, just a few miles out of town, was an old Root Beer Barrel drive-in that had been converted to a truck stop. It was called the Big Wheel.

An old lady named Granny owned the place, and she peeked out of the window from time to time at all those kids. She needed someone on the graveyard shift, 11 at night until seven in the morning. She paid 65 cents an hour, and I could start that night.

I raced home and called the teenager down the street that baby-sat for people. I bargained with her to come and sleep on my sofa for a dollar a night. She could arrive with her pajamas on and the kids would already be asleep. This seemed like a good arrangement to her, so we made a deal.

That night when the little ones and I knelt to say our prayers, we all thanked God for finding Mommy a job. And so, I started at the Big Wheel.

When I got home in the mornings, I woke the baby-sitter up and sent her home with one dollar of my tip money -- fully half of what I averaged every night.

As the weeks went by, heating bills added a strain to my meager wage. The tires on the old Chevy had the consistency of penny balloons and began to leak. I had to fill them with air on the way to work and again every morning before I could go home.

One bleak fall morning, I dragged myself to the car to go home and found four tires in the back seat. New tires! There was no note, no nothing, just those beautiful brand new tires.

Had angels taken up residence in Indiana? I wondered. I made a deal with the local service station. In exchange for his mounting the new tires, I would clean up his office.

I remember it took me a lot longer to scrub his floor than it did for him to do the tires. I was now working six nights instead of five and it still wasn't enough. Christmas was coming and I knew there would be no money for toys for the kids. I found a can of red paint and started repairing and painting some old toys. Then I hid them in the basement so there would be something for Santa to deliver on Christmas morning.

Clothes were a worry, too. I was sewing patches on top of patches on the boys pants and soon they would be too far gone to repair.

On Christmas Eve the usual customers were drinking coffee in the Big Wheel. There were the truckers, Les, Frank, and Jim, and a state trooper named Joe. A few musicians were hanging around after a gig at the Legion and were dropping nickels in the pinball machine. The regulars all just sat around and talked through the wee hours of the morning and then left to get home before the sun came up. When it was time for me to go home at seven o'clock on Christmas morning, to my amazement, my old battered Chevy was filled full to the top with boxes of all shapes and sizes. I quickly opened the driver's side door, crawled inside and knelted in the front facing the back seat. Reaching back, I pulled off the lid of the top box. Inside was a whole case of little blue jeans, sizes 2-10!

I looked inside another box: It was full of shirts to go with the jeans. Then, I peeked inside some of the other boxes. There was candy and nuts and bananas and bags of groceries. There was an enormous ham for baking, and canned vegetables and potatoes. There was pudding and Jell-O and cookies, pie filling and flour. There was a whole bag of laundry supplies and cleaning items. And there were five toy trucks and one beautiful little doll. As I drove back through empty streets as the sun slowly rose on the most amazing Christmas Day of my life, I was sobbing with gratitude. And I will never forget the joy on the faces of my little ones that precious morning.

Yes, there were angels in Indiana that long-ago December. And they all hung out at the Big Wheel truck stop....

THE POWER OF PRAYER. I believe that God only gives three answers to prayer:

1. 'Yes!'
2. 'Not yet.'
3. 'I have something better in mind.'

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THE END OF AN ERA

Have you heard the news? Such a simple question yet, so much passes through my mind as I answered yes, "I've heard."

Lookout Mountain Cloggers, they are no more, except in our hearts and in the memories that have been made. After many years and many, many double steps, Karen Wright & Sheryl Lewis will not be found Tuesday evenings at the foot of the mountain, teaching people of all ages how to clog. I know the decision to take a much needed rest did not come easily, yet it was time. Time for their families, time for themselves. I am only one of many people who passed through the doors of the Woodman of the World building, having left a different person. One with more confidence--amazed that ME, 2 left feet me, just danced to cotton-eye-Joe!! The time I spent on that hardwood floor will always be precious to me. The friends I made and the good times I had will forever be cherished. I just wanted to take the time to let you know that you touched many people and you will be missed. So much more could be said, but I'll end with this, For all the time, patience, faith, and friendship, THANK-YOU!! May GOD bless you in all that comes your way.

Sincerely,
A Clogger

CHICKENS, YARD SALE,
NEW SHOP, ETC.

By Beverly Smith

Well the Chickens are doing good, for all of you who have been following my chicken story. They are let out to roam around during the day and have a safe coop for sleeping at night. Fresh eggs sell for \$1.25 a dozen when available.

I've been cleaning out sheds and packing up items for yard sale. I will be having a yard sale in the Spring when the weather warms up and would like to offer yard sale space for anyone who would like to get rid of unwanted items. Spring is the time for cleaning out those closets and basements, and getting rid of the old and making room for the new. **If anyone is interested in setting up for a Spring Sale, give me a call at (256) 634-8337; and we'll figure a time that will work for it.**

Snappy Graphics & Gary's Power Sports are planning to open a new shop where Gary will have his leather, helmets and other items for the biker enthusiast; and Snappy will have items such as flags, t-shirts, sunglasses, license tags and many other items. We are planning to open this shop early in the Spring although Gary has these items for sale now in his present shop.

Stop by and say hello.

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National Park Service News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - NOVEMBER 29, 2007
JOHN BUNDY (256)845-9605

"Holiday in the National Parks" Celebrated at the White House Little River Canyon National Preserve Ornament Displayed on the Official White House Christmas Tree

(Bridgeport, AL) - The Russell Cave National Monument ornament is prominently displayed on this year's official White House Christmas Tree. The tree is the centerpiece of elaborate decorations celebrating the theme of "Holiday in the National Parks."

"It is an amazing honor for the National Park Service to be selected as the theme for the White House holiday decorations by the President and Mrs. Bush," said National Park Service Director Mary A. Bomar. "Mrs. Bush is the best champion for our national parks, and the beautiful decorations in each state room showcase the natural and historical treasures found in parks throughout the country."

The tree, located in the Blue Room, is adorned with handmade ornaments representing the country's 391 National Park Service sites. "Each ornament on the magnificent 18-foot Fraser fir was designed by an artist selected by the park," said Bomar. "The ornaments tell the stories of our parks, just as our parks tell the stories of our nation."

Local artist Andrea Brandon was selected by the staff to decorate the ornament based on artwork she submitted. The completed ornament depicts several scenes of Russell Cave. Ms. Brandon has just returned from Washington, D.C. where she attended a reception at the White House.

"It was such an honor to be invited to the event and to be called an artist by the First Lady," Brandon said upon her return to Alabama. Other examples of Ms. Brandon's work are on display at Mountain Mamas in Cloudland, Georgia.

The holiday displays incorporate the wide variety of natural, cultural, and recreational features preserved by the National Park Service. Models of icons such as the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse and the Statue of Liberty share space with paintings of scenic vistas from Grand Canyon, Zion, and Rocky Mountain National Parks. Holiday garlands intertwined with park objects including seashells, pine cones, and gold aspen leaves add to each room's festive feel.

A highlight of the decorations is a scaled-down, but architecturally accurate, gingerbread reproduction of the south view of the White House, a unit of the National Park Service. The edible masterpiece includes Bush family pets Barney, Miss Beazley, and Willie frolicking on the lawn with moose, elk, raccoons, and other animals found in national parks.

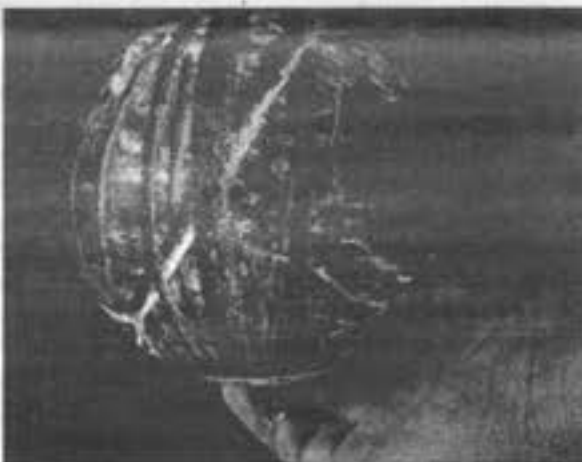
"National Parks commemorate the people, places, and events that define the American experience," said Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne. "I am so appreciative of President Bush's efforts to recognize the important role of national parks in American society. Our country will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016 and the President has been instrumental in establishing the National Park Centennial Initiative to prepare the parks for the next century."



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.



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LIBS FROM THE LIBRARY
by Linda Brown

The Moon Lake Community Library is still the place to be for fun and meeting old and new friends. If you doubt this, then you should have been at the recent Christmas open house! I'm not sure how many people attended, but the library was crowded all evening. The highlight of the evening was the playing of dulcimers by a group of people who are taking lessons from Mickey Luck. Their music sounded very professional.

On Wednesday before the open house, Ann Chesnut and Jan Wilkinson stayed in the library and presented each student of Moon Lake Elementary School an ornament as they came to enjoy seeing the snow village display. The account giving by these two FRIENDS of the Library was that the children stood and watched the train in amazement. The success of this endeavor was enhanced by the white picket fence, which was donated and put into place by Bill Schwarz. Of course, we will never be able to express our appreciation enough to Mickey Luck for designing and constructing the village. A big thanks to everyone who helped to make this project a success.

The tree to be decorated by the kindergarten class did not happen this year. Maybe we can have the tree next year. There is a small tree on the window seat. The kindergarten class will try to do a special spring display for the library.

Books, books, books! We continue to have many books donated. With Beverly working as the librarian now, we can be much more diligent as to whether books go on our shelves, are taken to McKay's for a trade or placed in the Winter Book Sale. We want your books, so keep bringing them on our open days.

The new hours of Wednesday (3 to 6 p.m.) and Saturday (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.) have added much to the success of the library. Don't forget to use these hours as your use will determine the continuation of the added open time.

During the holidays, 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. 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 next Koffee Klatch will be January 5 at 10:00 a.m. and will be a Travelogue of Turkey.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Moon Lake Elementary School Community Library will be Thursday, January 17, 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 35884

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.

The regular meeting of the Rhododendron Garden Club was called to order by President, Martha Wood at 10:00 a.m. on December 11, 2007 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 Sue Schwarz.

President Wood stated that the position of Earth Day chairperson has not been filled. The members discussed this matter for quite some time and the general consensus was that the club not do an official Earth Day program at Moon Lake Elementary School next year. It was agreed that the club would clean the gardens around the school before the spring planting and be more diligent about maintaining them during the summer months. It was decided that the club members need to pay more attention to the Heritage Garden of the M.E.R.F. Community House.

Peggy Roark, Garden Therapy Chairperson, suggested giving shut-ins of the community a planted cactus to care for. These would be a blooming cactus, but no one would know when it would bloom. Therefore, the expectation of blooms would add to the pleasure of caring for the plant. The members thought that this was a wonderful idea and agreed to help in any way.

The program was a "Show and Tell" session. Each member brought a holiday decoration and shared a story about it. Some were instructional, such as how to make a wreath of pine cones. Some were sentimental, such as a decoration that had been in the family since its beginning and some were funny, such as a bag of rain deer poop. (We were sure it was a bag of raisons, but then it is the holiday season and anything can happen.) This was a wonderful time of sharing and getting to know each other better. There is so much to learn about plants and gardening and the garden club program tries so hard to instruct the members on many of the related subjects, that we sometimes don't take the time to just be together as friends.

The next meeting will be January 8, 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.

Valley Head Woman's Club
Christmas Party
By Evelyn Graves

The Valley Head Woman's Club annual Christmas party was held this year at the lovely home of Glen and Kathryn Carden in Fort Payne. The house was beautifully decorated by their son, Slade, who is a very talented designer.

Every room was adorned with a lovely Christmas tree matching the décor of the room. In the large dining area, there were three Christmas trees decorated in a soft red color that coordinated with the draperies in the room. The tables were beautiful with white tablecloths, lovely candle centerpieces, exquisite china, crystal and silver.

The elegant dinner was catered by Debbie Gamble, and it was wonderful. Following the meal, entertainment was provided by Harold Dean Mitchell, folk and country music artist. Mr. Mitchell has performed on the stage in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, for many years, and he has been a Nashville singer who has blessed the hearts of many people. He provided Christmas music for this event with a mix of different types of musical entertainment with requests from those in attendance.

This year's Christmas party was indeed a gala event that was enjoyed by over thirty guests. The members of the entertainment committee for this year are: Kathryn Carden, chairman; Dawn Holloway, and Judy O'Daniel.

The Valley Head Woman's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs. It was organized in 1930.

MOON LAKE LIBRARY
 **NEW HOURS**
TUESDAY, 3 - 6 PM
WEDNESDAY, 3 - 6 PM
THURSDAY, 3 - 6 PM
SATURDAY, 9 AM - 2 PM

By Marilyn Blanton Campbell

There is an old adage among veteran firefighters—the biggest difference in a good firefighter and a dead firefighter is the TRAINING to know when to stand and fight and know when to run. I want the very best equipment and very best trained firefighters available to protect me and my property.

Nobody is immune to fire, so I should think that, in self-defense, all firefighters would want to get as much training as possible to say nothing of the benefit their training could prove to their homes and families. It is far better to have training and not need it than to need it and not have it. When a firefighter arrives on the fire line, it is too late to train, then. Gleaning, fancy new equipment is good to have in a parade, but the fire line is neither the time nor the place to learn how to use any of it.

Naturally, there will always be resistance to training because it takes time and effort; but, face facts: untrained people are NOT a particularly valuable resource at a fire. Training amounts to self-defense for firefighters. People who know what they are doing, are far more likely to do anything better and safer than people who do not have the faintest idea what they are supposed to be about.

A certain amount of firefighter training comes from books, while most of it comes from hands on experience. Until I taught remedial reading, I was convinced that America was a reasonably literate and well-educated nation. Then, in teacher training sessions, I was brought face to face with the fact that—at that time—2 out of every 5 adult Americans could not read well enough to conduct their own business, and we were told that the situation was getting worse by the day.

That idea was fresh in my mind when I went into fire service in 1977 in a situation where I was one of 28 full-time paid firefighters, who were divided into two shifts. The chief and the fire inspector went home at night, but the rest of us worked 24-24 shifts for four shifts, and then we had a shift off with no pay. Of those 27 men, there were 3 who were total illiterates; and some more were dangerously limited when it came to being able to read and write.

It did not make me feel one bit safer knowing I was working shoulder to shoulder with people, who either could not or did not read the precautionary labeling in many of the industrial situations we found ourselves. I have no reason to believe that the basic numbers have changed drastically.

Writing reports is absolutely necessary in firefighting. Insurance companies REQUIRE reports on fires when they are petitioned to pay off after an incident. The object of writing anything is to communicate, and, if there is no report, or, if the insurance company's representative cannot read that report, the writer of that report has not communicated properly.

Yes, there have been incidents where insurance companies have refused to pay off after a fire purely because there was either no report or the report was so very garbled that nobody could figure out what it said. People tend to get angry when they have paid their insurance premiums for years, and somebody else's sloppiness results in the policyholder's failure to receive proper compensation after a fire. Think about it. That is enough to make anybody furious.

Surely, you can see the importance of having the reports written in a timely manner—that means when the fire is over and the firefighters have returned to the station—and written by the people who actually did the work using information that was really collected at the fire scene.

Simply by virtue of where we live, proper training for our firefighters is more important than most people realize. Lots of trucks come through Mentone every day, and as ordinary citizens, we have no earthly idea what most of them are carrying. Our firefighters need training in all aspects of the job but especially in hazardous materials. Haphazardly, putting water on the wrong thing could well result in blowing everything and everybody in the immediate proximity to Kingdom Come. There are four different kinds of fires, and one of the

first things a firefighter learns in training is which ones NOT to hit with water.

Has anybody ever taken the time to teach you, the ordinary citizen, how to call in a truck fire? For your own good, somebody should have, and I stop right here and right now to take this opportunity to do so. Trucks—big ones that are usually (maybe I should say supposedly)—placarded with a diamond shaped sign, a word such as POISON, RADIOACTIVE, EXPLOSIVE, COMBUSTIBLE, FLAMMABLE, etc., and a number. Calling in a truck wreck is one of those things that you will very likely never have to do, but it is a good thing to know purely because, in self defense, you will need to do it right the first time. When you call in a truck wreck,

1) In order to add credibility to the incident you are reporting, tell WHO you are.

2) Tell exactly WHERE the wreck is. You might even want to tell how far away you are from the wreck.

3) Tell if the truck is or is not on fire.

4) Tell if the truck is leaking. If there is a ditch (next to the truck) leading to a creek or river nearby, tell that.

5) Tell how the truck is placarded. That means give the word that is in the diamond shaped sign.

6) Tell the number that is on that diamond shaped placard and be prepared to repeat it more than once. That number is exceedingly important, so you make doubly sure you have it right. That number is the Chem-Trek number. The fire department will then call Chem-Trek to find out what the truck is carrying, where it is coming from, and where it is headed. That Chem-Trek information will also tell the firefighters what kind of specialized equipment and supplies—i.e. water, dry powder, halon, CO2, purple K, foam, etc.—they will need to take with them when the first truck rolls.

In traffic, we have all driven beside trucks with diamond shaped signs on the side of them and noticed the words Drive Safely with hinges in the middle of them. The words Drive Safely are usually displayed when there is no danger from the truck's cargo, but the hinges allow the proper sign to be flipped over to designate potential danger and should be heeded. This is information that you need in self-defense, and I give it to you purely to help you protect yourself and those who are important to you.

Another problem that firefighters need to consider is their water resources. We are now and have been for some time in a drought. That automatically limits the water supply and increases the likelihood of fire. In training, firefighters learn to fight fire with a minimum of water purely because they know they will not always have an abundant supply of it.

Here at Mentone, water is quite an issue. Firefighters quite often have to haul water because this is a rural area, and not just everybody has water mains available. Our firefighters have to learn to make the most of the limited supply of water they carry with them. Untrained folks have a tendency to waste water and other resources at a fire.

Often the water damage after a fire is more serious than the actual damage from the fire and the resulting smoke. Insurance companies have a way of keeping up with that sort of thing and take a dim view of having to pay for either UNNECESSARY or DISPROPORTIONATE water damage. In training, firefighters are taught how to protect valuable furnishings in the midst of putting out a fire. Insurance companies do not want to have to pay for priceless antiques, so they will encourage pre-fire training. Watching trained firefighters put salvage covers into place to save expensive furnishings is almost awe-inspiring. Salvage covers amount to pieces of tarpaulin that are folded and rolled in such a way that one firefighter gets maximum coverage with minimum effort. Graceful is the only word that applies to that process, when it is done correctly. Training and practice are imperative in that circumstance, but that simple process is a blessing to watch.

At Mentone, our firefighters are volunteers, and we are extremely grateful to all that has ever been holy for each and every one of them. However, it is imperative that they be well

trained to do their job safely and with minimal resources.

The world is changing rapidly, and we all need to change with it. Therefore, our firefighters need to be ready and trained to fight present and future fires with specialized skills that amount to far more than the traditional arrival in the right place with plenty of water to put on the fire.

Regardless of who is doing it, firefighting is A TEAM EFFORT, and everybody has to do his part. Fire is very persistent. If it is not put out, fire continues to burn, grow, and spread. Therefore, getting the fire put out is what is most important. THE FIRE DOES NOT CARE WHO PUTS IT OUT. However, it is important that the fire get put out before it spreads, and putting out a small fire is a lot easier than putting out a big one.

At fires, some firefighters may well be more visible than others, but each and every one is extremely important. Some folks may view him with great contempt, but the guy on the ground scrambling back and forth to the truck to get whatever the man up on the ladder needs is an integral member of the team. Without that fellow, the man on the ladder has to come down, go get what he needs, and climb back up the ladder. In addition to wasting time, that gives the fire a chance to get ahead of the firefighters—dangerously so. That only makes the situation worse for everyone.

Especially under adverse conditions such as extreme heat or cold, the first line of firefighters to hit the fire have to be relieved and allowed to rest and catch their breath. At that moment, the replacements become every bit as important as the first line personnel ever saw the day to be. Fire does not mark its place and wait for the first string to come back in. Fire catches back up and burns bigger and brighter if the backup firefighters do not go in and do their part as well as the first string did theirs. Getting the fire put out as quickly as possible is what the whole operation is all about.

THERE IS NO ROOM FOR ANYBODY'S EGO AT A FIRE.

From where I stand, it looks like the more training a firefighter has the better able he is to protect himself and his immediate family, and those are the people, who are supposed to be the most important to him. Years ago, when I entered fire service, the family friendly version of what they had to say on the subject of training went something like this. There is a big difference in a rump roast and a roast rump. One is an entrée while the other is a personal tragedy. They explained to me that the reason why a firefighter trained was to make extra sure he was NOT the one sustaining the personal tragedy.

Firefighting needs to be done safely and well. Training runs from such simple and elementary teachings as "you have protective gear, so wear it," through such necessities as how to approach a loose hose without getting a broken ankle on up to extremely complicated assessment of the situation, but it is ALL important to the practice of firefighting.

Nobody is expected to learn it all at one time, but a firefighter never knows when he is going to need which training. Furthermore, the fire line is not the place to find oneself minus either the basics of firefighting or the ability to size up the situation, determine what is going on, and figure out what to do about it using the resources one happens to have on hand at the moment. Training teaches firefighters the importance of using their turnout gear, their protective breathing devices, and other advances in the field of firefighting. When firefighters fail to use their protective clothing, insurance companies get very particular about paying off after an accident.

Our modern world has all these man made materials that were completely unknown to our parents and grandparents, and, when those man made materials burn, some vile and noxious gases are released. Everybody needs to be aware that our modern world offers dangers that our forebears never even thought about facing. Yes, our world has changed a lot, but the truth of the matter is that training still makes all the difference in a good firefighter and a dead firefighter. It is in training that a firefighter learns the difference in when to stand and fight and when to run.

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I cherish moments like these on Lookout Mountain. I am sitting on the floor by the fire in my warm home listening to Ben play Silent Night on his acoustic guitar. While Ben is playing, I am reminiscing about the beauty we just experienced - a truly silent, holy experience.

Ben and I were outside appreciating the nature of our lives. We were breathing the brisk mountain air under a star filled sky with the sound of a waterfall in the distance. With deep gratitude, I have experiences like these often on Lookout Mountain - the days are simpler and the nights are truly silent.

It was over nine years ago that I topped Lookout Mountain entering Mentone on Highway 117. I felt a familiar feeling the moment I saw the rock wall, the Mentone Springs Hotel and The Hitching Post. I knew Mentone was the place I would soon call home.

My father told me, "You love nature and you love beauty. You should go to Mentone." After my first trip through the woods with Angela Wood of Lookout Preferred Realty, I realized my father was absolutely right. Many of the edible and medicinal plants I hoped to find, I found - and within two weeks moved to Lookout.

My first storefront was in the Log Cabin Village. I made jewelry, purses, walking sticks, and sold a few herbs. I was also beginning an intense training with herbs while living in the woods.

One year to the day after I officially moved to Lookout, I went into labor and was blessed with the birth of my daughter Zoe. I decided to take a few years off from running a store front so I could devote time to being a mother, wife and herbalist. During this time I began L. C. Moon Herbs. I focused mostly on aromatherapy and skin care and began selling in other retail stores.

When Zoe turned 3, I began making plans for another store. For the past 6 years I have maintained a store front in many different locations. Finally I feel I have found my business home for a while at the Wildflower Café and Country Store.

The Wildflower Café and Country Store is an answered prayer for both Chef Ben and me. Ben came to the Wildflower Café as a guest chef nearly three years ago. His cooking and his open heart were so well received that he became a regular chef at the Wildflower. Margaret Baker believed in him so much that she decided to sell Ben the business.

When Ben and I married on September 9, '07, we knew somehow we would be working together. Alex Glover helped that dream come true by having enough faith in our concept and ability to create the Wildflower Café and Country Store. On October 4, 2007, we merged our business and the Wildflower Café and Country Store was born in its wonderful new historic location.

Our goal is to create a friendly, loving, fun atmosphere with great food and an opportunity to shop for hard to find and hand made items. We have local art throughout the restaurant. The Country Store has merchandise throughout the entire restaurant. There is local art on the walls, glass art hanging in the windows, culinary and medicinal herbs through the hall and even the bathrooms have merchandise for sale - incense.

The Wildflower Café hopes to provide the community and visitors with an affordable, quality, one of a kind great food experience for lunch 7 days a week from 10 AM-2 PM. Wildflower offers brunch and lunch items including tomato pie, quiche, sandwiches, quesadillas, Chef Ben's signature chicken and sausage gumbo and more.

Thursday - Saturday beginning at 5 PM, the Wildflower Café offers a gourmet experience. Ben is a trained chef. He changes the dinner menu weekly to keep the art and love alive in his cooking. The dinners always include one of the best steaks you will ever eat, choices of white meat, seafood and/or fish, dinner salads and a vegetable plate with choices of fresh veggies and an assortment of other sides.

The Wildflower welcomes visitors and the community to join us. Check out the Country Store and watch its ever growing process. Wildflower also wants to share our Wi-Fi connection with everyone. While you visit us you can treat yourself to a cup of house coffee (Local Roasted Organic Appalachian Trail Blend), hot teas (by the bag or hand blended) and/or homemade divine desserts.

Ben and I are excited about everyone experiencing the Wildflower so we are offering 10% off items from the Café (does not include the Country Store) through the month of January - just mention this article! Celebrate January with us! FYI, it is international gourmet coffee month, national hot tea and soup month and oatmeal month. We always have gourmet coffee, hot tea and soup though we will be sure to have some oats too for the month of January.

Since the start of the Wildflower at its new larger location, we have been blessed. We are still learning how to adjust our lives to a much busier lifestyle, a new business and a new marriage. Ben and I are grateful for the magic of the mountain and moments like we experienced tonight when the mountain reminds us that every day and night is holy and every moment is sacred.

Be sure to make reservations for lots of love and fun on Valentines Day! (256)634-0066.

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Happy Holidays!

During the Holiday Season, more than ever, my thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made my continued success possible.

The start to a new year brings about many changes for some, myself included. Most of us extend ourselves to resolutions we painstakingly try to adhere to. My resolution for this New Year is to explore new avenues and ventures. And with full confidence, I have started down my path early for the New Year.

I am pleased and excited to announce that I am now part of the Sales Team at Southern Properties!

Southern Properties Agency, Inc. is located at 2107 Gault Avenue North Fort Payne, Alabama. Please rest assured that you would be provided with wonderful service as this agency has a well-qualified and conscientious Sales Team.

Please know that I am available for all of your real estate needs and urge you to call me at any time. I can be reached at the same cell phone number as always (256-899-6718) and will provide you with the very best service possible. I pride myself on making sure I do everything I can to satisfy my clients to the fullest extent. This transition is an exiting one and I hope that you will support me through it.

Please do not hesitate to call me with any questions that you may have, or with any and all of your real estate needs!

I hope your holidays are filled with joy & laughter this year and every year thereafter.

Anita Stephens

Anita Stephens
Associate Broker
Southern Properties
Agency, Inc.
(256) 899-6718 Cell
(256) 845-6000 Office



**Southern Properties
Agency, Inc.**

A Rescue Dog's Christmas Poem

Tis the night before Christmas and all through the town,
every shelter is full - we are lost, but not found,
Our numbers are hung on our kennels so bare,
we hope every minute that someone will care,
They'll come to adopt us and give us the call,
"Come here, Max and Sparkie - come fetch your new ball!!
But now we sit here and think of the days...
we were treated so fondly - we had cute, baby ways,
Once we were little, then we grew and we grew
now we're no longer young and we're no longer new.
So out the back door we were thrown like the trash,
they reacted so quickly - why were they so rash?
We "jump on the children:", "don't come when they call",
we "bark when they leave us", climb over the wall.
We should have been neutered, we should have been spayed,
now we suffer the consequence of the errors THEY made.
If only they'd trained us, if only we knew...
we'd have done what they asked us and worshiped them, too.
We were left in the backyard, or worse -let to roam-
now we're tired and lonely and out of a home.
They dropped us off here and they kissed us good-bye...
"Maybe someone else will give you a try."
So now here we are, all confused and alone...
in a shelter with others who long for a home.
The kind workers come through with a meal and a pat,
with so many to care for, they can't stay to chat,
They move to the next kennel, giving each of us cheer...
we know that they wonder how long we'll be here.
We lay down to sleep and sweet dreams fill our heads...
of a home filled with love and our own cozy beds.
Then we wake to see sad eyes, brimming with tears -
our friends filled with emptiness, worry, and fear.
If you can't adopt us and there's no room at the Inn -
could you help with the bills and fill our food bin?
We count on your kindness each day of the year -
can you give more than hope to everyone here?
Please make a donation to pay for the heat...
and help get us something special to eat.
The shelter that cares for us wants us to live,
and more of us will, if more people will give.
--Author Unknown

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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.

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

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.

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MAPA Christmas Party (cont'd from Pg. 2)



(L-R) Mark Gibson, Beverly Ashley, Zoe Moon, L.C. Moon-Keener, Ben Keener



Lucille Crowe, Joanne Crowe, Leroy Crowe



(L-R) Julie Lepper, Wesley Chesnut, Ann Chesnut, Jerome Stephens, Liz Stephens, Allen Gray



Josh Summerford, Marie Dillenbeck, Evelyn Graves



Clay and Barbara from The Cliffs

**SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, EVENTS,
AND OTHER DATES**

- Tuesday, January 1 - NEW YEARS DAY
- Tuesday, Jan. 8, 6PM, MAPA meeting, Dessie's Place
- Each Monday Night at 6:30PM, Fire Dept. Volunteers
- Monday, January 14, 6PM, Mentone Town Council Meeting, Town Hall meeting room, open to the public
- Tuesday, January 8, 10 AM, Rhododendron Garden Club
- Tuesday, January 8, 6:30 PM, American Legion Hall, Post 215 Meeting
- Thursday, January 17, 5PM, Mentone Planning Commission, Mentone Town Hall
- Monday, January 21, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Thursday, January 24, Waterworks Board meeting 4PM, Board Room, open to the public



DEVOTIONAL

By Evelyn Graves

That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Ephesians 4:22-24

I am sure that all of us have at some time or another made New Year's resolutions. It may be to lose weight, to budget our time better, to be a better husband or wife, to be a better father or mother, or some other thing that we wish to improve in our lives. This particular year gives us a different approach because the years involved are different. In numerology, the number 7 is the number for completion, and the number 8 is for new beginnings. What better time to "put off the old things" and to "be renewed in the spirit of our minds" to become what God created us to become. May this be a challenge as we leave the year 2007 behind and approach the year 2008. *May God bless you and give you a happy and prosperous New Year.*

***Happy New Year
from
The Groundhog***