



THE GROUNDHOG

Mentone, Valley Head, Hammondville
PO Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984

Standard Mail (A)
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 1
Mentone, AL 35984

Address Service Requested

Volume 30, No. 6

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

June 2011

Was that a turkey leg?

— Rhododendron Festival



like medieval knights. Or, for those who preferred more delicate fare, there were delicious chicken salad wraps being sold by Moon Lake PTO members.

Hearty BBQ sandwiches and plates were also available from the Mentone Fire Department.

Whatever your taste, in either food or arts & crafts, the festival had it. Beautiful hand-made sterling silver jewelry, pressed flower pictures, wind-chimes, baskets, leather goods, original art, stained glass, doggie treats & clothing, children's

fect, I've made several new friends and I plan on coming back in the fall."

One craftsman who seemed very popular with the crowd, evidenced by the number of pieces one saw leaving in the hands of shoppers, was the iron-ware booth featuring the work of Hoyt Hollis. He was on hand and working on wire egg baskets like the ones grandma used to keep on her counter. He said that he learned the art from an elderly man who made them during the Great Depression and sold them for a quarter apiece to put food on the table for his family. They were for sale for only \$5 at the festival.

The festival got off to a fun start on Friday evening with music and a bonfire on the Square next to the Mentone Inn. Jessica Goggans, Amy Snyder and Jerry Bloome provided music for the hundred or so folks who showed up. Mentone's own favorite minstrel,

Tony Goggans, even took a break from his gig at Wildflower Café to play a few tunes. Folks danced and sang along to the music, roasted marshmallows and hot dogs and seemed to enjoy the perfect evening.

A special thanks to the Mentone Boy Scout Troop 106 for their help with the bonfire and with the parking/set up for the festival. This is the troop's 18th year to help and their services are invaluable to MAPA and those who enjoy the festival.

Plans are underway to make this year's Colorfest Weekend (3rd weekend in October) one of the best ever. There'll be storytelling at the bonfire, music, costumes and more. If you are an artist, craftsman, or if you have food to sell, get your booth space early by contacting MAPA.

More photos on page 24

The weather forecast had called for thunderstorms, but the weekend of MAPA's 28th Annual Rhododendron Festival proved to be absolutely perfect weather-wise. Vendors set up on the brow and in the square with a colorful and varied selection of wares.

And, yes, there were turkey legs...lots of them! Smoked to a succulent brown, the oversized drumsticks allowed hungry festival-goers to feast

clothing... whew! Corn dogs, cotton candy, funnel cakes... Yummy! The selection was amazing!

In spite of the great weather, the crowd at the festival was smaller than in past years. Vendors were philosophical about the small numbers and most were pleased with their weekend's sales. "This is one of my favorite places to set up," said one vendor about the brow. "The weather is per-



THE GROUNDHOG

PO Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984

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



THE GROUNDHOG STAFF

Editor.....Charlotte Gentry
Contributing Writers.....John Baty,
Linda Brown, Sara Jacoway Chastain,
LC Moon.

MAPA OFFICERS

President.....Gerald Bailey
Vice President.....Jim Weathers
Secretary.....Gail Chambers
Parliamentarian.....Amelia Kirk-Lolli
Treasurer.....J. P. Nation
Members-At-Large: Charlotte Gentry,
Hobson Kirby

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

In case of errors in advertisements,
The Groundhog assumes liability only
for the actual space that is incorrect
in the advertisement.

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

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



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

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

From the Editor

I am sitting on my porch writing this and find myself thanking God for the privilege to be in this place at this moment in time. I close my eyes and just listen.

Tree frogs, peepers, and bullfrogs are calling out to each other. In the distance, I hear a hoot owl. Earlier there was a whippoorwill haunting the nearby woods. Occasionally, a neighbor's dog barks.

There's a playful little breeze and no humidity; the temperature is just about perfect. Even the mosquitoes have retired for the evening.

This is late spring and early summer in the mountains. Days are almost hot, evenings are cool and pleasant. There's probably a 10-degree difference between the temperature here and that in the valley.

Nature isn't always so sweet and pleasant, as we have witnessed in our area and other parts of the country in the last few weeks. The thousands of people affected by the tornadoes and flooding would probably love to be able to just sit on their porch and listen to these night sounds.

Nor have I forgotten the wars that rage in other lands where sons and daughters, husbands and wives, uncles and aunts, fathers and mothers are serving our country in the military and as civilian contractors.

That is why it is such a privilege for me to be able to enjoy these moments. I don't take them for granted.

And, it is my hope and prayer that the displaced, the grieving, the too-long-from-home will once again know the sweet, simple pleasure of sitting on a porch on a pleasant evening.

C.

Charlotte Gentry, Editor

*Happy Father's
Day*

Letters To the Editor

Dear Editor:

We usually spend August in Mentone but our health issues have prevented that in recent years. However, we have visited there long enough to get to know Marie Dillenbeck, and to know the time and effort consuming work she did for many years in putting the Groundhog together each month.

We want to congratulate her for the super job she has done, and on behalf of all the readers say thank you for a job well done.

Bill and Gladys Crane

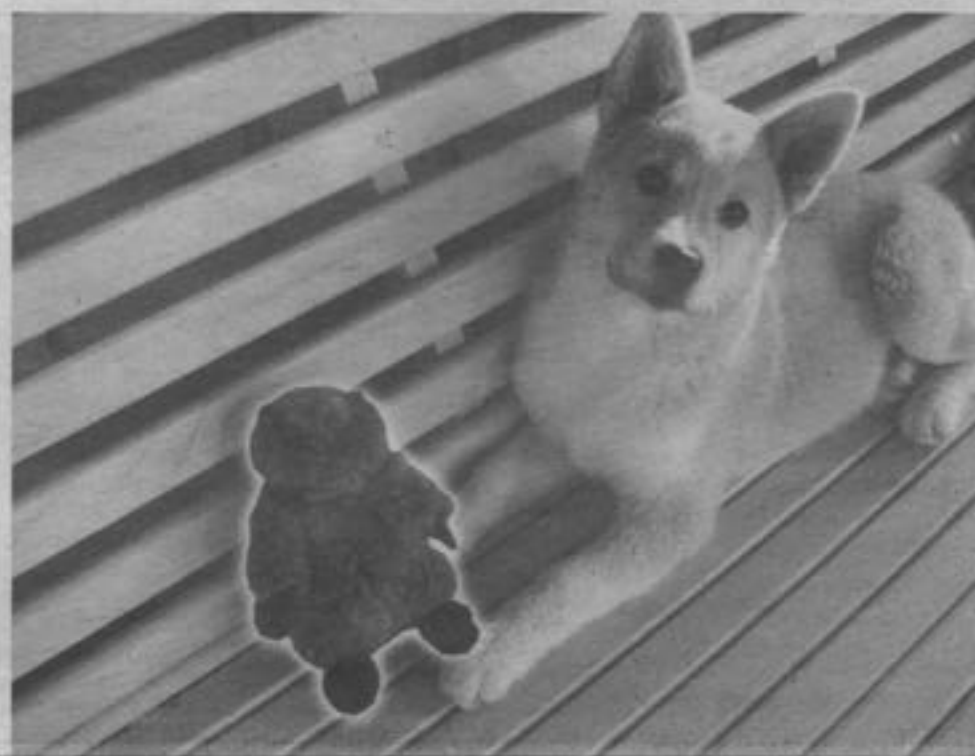
(Editor's note: We need to make a correction to the May editorial. It was stated that Evelyn Graves had come on as editor of the Groundhog in order to help Marie Dillenbeck. The opposite is actually the case. Evelyn Graves was editor for more than 20 years and Marie helped her for several years. We regret the error and are glad to set the record straight. Our intent was good, facts were not. Thank you, again, Evelyn and Marie.)

HELP CHUCK FIND HIS WAY HOME!

W. Chuck Groundhog is the official mascot of The Groundhog Publication. We thought it would be fun to hide Chuck somewhere in the Mentone area each month. You'll find clues as to Chuck's whereabouts hidden in the ads.

If you return Chuck to us, you'll win a prize. This month's prize is **Dinner For Two from Big Jim's Bama Q in Valley Head.**

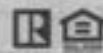
So, look for the clues, find Chuck, and bring him home. If you find him, call 256-996-5995, or bring him by the Mentone Realty office in Mentone to claim your prize! (We'll also snap your photo to run in next month's Groundhog, if you don't mind.)





Charlotte Gentry
Broker/Owner
256-996-5995

Mentone Realty



Holly Watson
Assoc. REALTOR®
256-996-0552



Ben Johnston
Assoc. REALTOR®
256-996-1774



Bill Wise
Assoc. REALTOR®
256-273-4467



Larry Smalley
Assoc. REALTOR®
256-635-8750



Heather Nicely
Assoc. REALTOR®
256-276-8422

Welcome To Mentone!!



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

LOTS and LAND

LOTS OF LOTS from which to choose. Wooded, quiet, restricted. Priced from only \$15,000 (Lot 20, 2ac), up to \$135,000 (Lot 7, 1.38 ac lot w/138' frontage on E. Fork of Little River). Hunter's Ridge, Mentone. (MLS #725702) (20921)

LOOKING FOR A BARGAIN? 14.5 ac of beautiful w/59 w/res potential. Just listed. (MLS #20914) (20914)

SOLD



A PLACE ON THE RIVER. Canoe to Lake Lahusage along Little River then come home to relax on the deck overlooking the river. 3.45 ac w/200' water frontage. Great room has windows & doors galore & cozy seating arrangements for TV viewing, dining or enjoying the WB fireplace. Kitchen has gas stove w/convection oven, lots of cabinets + pantry spaces. Main-level MA Suite w/walk-in closets, & huge bath. Other features: full, partially finished basement, 2 car att. garage; breezeway. \$299,900 (MLS #958522) (21007)



LUXURIOUS LAKESIDE LIVING! This exquisitely-designed & furnished home on Mentone's secret jewel, Lake Lahusage, is ready for you to entertain guests right from day one! Complete w/covered dock, pontoon boat & Sea Doo! Over 3,000 sq ft of living area w/ 5BR/4.5BA, open living/dining, galley kitchen w/ lots of cabinets & pantry storage areas. Split-system CH/A. Spacious screened back porch, basement garage. \$349,000. (MLS #655876) (20999)



LOG CABIN SURROUNDED BY WOODS. available with 2.3 acres, or up to 6.5 acres! Front and back porches, full unfinished basement for storage or workshop (large doors leading outside). Privacy with convenience to Mentone. Owner has done a lot to fix up the place, and it has a lot of rustic charm, but it could still use some sprucing up. Lots of possibilities to make it really nice! Priced right for a cabin on 2.3 acres at \$54,900. (MLS #961969) (20915)



MOSSY ROCK AT MENTONE! Elegant, yet rustic, 2BR/2BA cabin w/vaulted ceiling in great room; WB Fpl; custom cabinetry; screened side porch off MABR; HW & tile floors; beamed ceilings & walk-in closets in both BRs. Claw-foot tub & sep shower in MABA. Built w/energy efficiency in mind. Wooded lot with little to no yard maintenance! \$175,000. (MLS #664604) (20416)



TAKE REFUGE FROM THE CITY.... in this 3BR/2BA log cabin situated on 2.8 acres. Open living/dining/kitchen area. Main-level Master Suite w/double vanities, cedar-lined walk-in closet & lots of extra storage. Mountain views, a wrap-around porch & in-ground pool make it a perfect place to get away & relax! Recently reduced to \$130,000 (MLS #511584) (20798)



YOU CAN OWN THE FARM.... or as much of it as you can handle! Newly-constructed rustic farmhouse with 4.5 acres, or buy the whole shebang with 15 acres, fenced, w/fishing pond & small barn. Picturesque yard w/beautiful flowering shrubs, big old trees & very pleasant views from front or back porch. Come home! \$167,500 or \$215,000. (MLS #445045) (20810)



REDUCED! TWO FURNISHED LOG CABINS on 6 wooded acres, conveniently located on the road leading to Cloudmont Ski & Golf Resort. Both have fireplaces, hot tubs and 3/4 wraparound porches. Currently in cabin rental. Great investment opportunity. Use one as a residence, rent the other. Or, rent both. Build additional cabins on the 6 acres. There's a lot to offer and the price is pretty doggoned good. Now an incredible \$259,900! (MLS #496392) (20727)



62.32 ACRES WITH GREAT VIEWS of both valleys & Lookout Mtn from ridge top w/great building sites on elevated, level ground. \$299,900 (MLS #313915) (19492)

5.62 ACRES OF BEAUTIFUL WOODED LAND in Mentone. Located on Co. Rd. 106 across from Lake Lahusage. Undisturbed land on which you can design your own home or get-away. Lots of wildlife & trees, w/ a stream that runs through a hand-built mountain stone culvert. Power & water available. Priced at \$63,500 (PLS #20850)

WALK TO TOWN OR BROW PARK from this amazing 1.5 acre lot. Boulders, nice hardwoods and easy access to city water make this a rare find & a great in town building lot. \$49,500. (PLS #21145)

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

25.4 ACRES W/OVER 1000' FRONTAGE on West Fork of Little River, headwaters area, just north of Mentone. Woodland sanctuary w/ plenty of room to build your own private retreat. Land on both sides of the river. Lush vegetation along river including rhododendron, laurel & yellow root. \$175,000 (MLS #537572) (20650)

20 AC W/NICE FISHING POND & DOCK. Great place to take the family, park a camper & enjoy the weekends! Build a cabin in the woods, or several! \$115,000 (MLS #418106) (20732)



THE LITTLE WHITE COTTAGE, picturesquely nestled amid the trees & oak leaf hydrangeas in downtown Mentone, next door to the Mentone Springs Hotel & Village Shops. Small & cozy, 2BR/1.5BA, completely renovated w/totally new interior, appliances (incl. washer/dryer!), plumbing, CH/A & roof! Single attached carport, fenced backyard, extra-wide lot. Priced at only \$121,500. (MLS #331553) (20249)



LITTLE RED COTTAGE IN THE MEADOW is a place to relax where it's nice & quiet. Fab screened porch w/hot tub; luxurious tile shower in bath; 2 good-sized BRs; CH/A & attic fan. Large detached garage/shop. Perfect for your private personal getaway or a rental cabin. Public water. On 2+ acres, mostly meadow, surrounded by woods. Mentone. Recently reduced to \$90,000 (MLS #611279) (20511)



ONE OF MENTONE'S BEST-KEPT Secrets! Immaculately-kept, like new cabin home in a tree & boulder-strewn low-maintenance setting. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths with fully-finished basement that is mostly underground, which would be great as a storm shelter. Just listed \$190,000. (21161)



BEAUTIFULLY RUSTIC LOG CABIN in Hunters Ridge, on 2.06 acres. 2BR (or 3 if you decided to turn the separate dining room into a BR)/2.5BA, great covered front porch to enjoy nature's beauty around you. Small stream below the back deck gives wildlife a place to drink and humans a place to spend peaceful mornings with a cup of coffee. Stone fireplace with gas logs completes the mountain getaway atmosphere. \$149,900 (MLS #588906) (20916)

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES JUNE

Birthdays

- 1 - Kathy McMunn
- 3 - Margaret Baker
- 6 - Caitlyn Collins
- 7 - Haywood Baker, Tiffany Long
- 8 - Gail Smalley, Rachel Manifold
- 9 - Jimmy Blalock
- 10 - Amanda Gray, Dwight Gray (in memory)
- 11 - Ethan Meadows
- 12 - Marsha J. Hair
- 13 - Laden Crow
- 14 - Luke Harrison, Lee Swart
- 15 - Josh Smalley
- 20 - Collette Kirby, Katie Hester
- 21 - Catherine Baily, Rick Weber, Trey Kincer, Nicky Langston
- 23 - Liz Baker, Lou Langston
- 24 - Tyler Hester
- 25 - Virginia Setze
- 26 - Kenneth Blackwell
- 27 - Bleu Stone
- 28 - Chris Stokes, Joshua Baggett
- 29 - Sue Schwarz, Jacqueline McGee

Anniversaries

- 1 - Monique & Mike Fielder
- 2 - Greg & Beverly Henry
- 11 - Wesley & Kat Griffith
- 13 - Roger & Judy Dowiat
- 16 - Kenneth & Kathy McMunn
- 18 - Ken & Flo Kirby
- 21 - John & Bobbie Smith
- 23 - Tom & Virginia Setze
- Allen & Jan Cherbonneau
- 27 - Jimmy & LaDonna Blalock
- 29 - Mike & Liz Perry



LOST or FOUND a PET?

ALL COUNTIES contact:
tornadopetsofal@yahoo.com

Tuscaloosa and Jefferson County Only:
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. 205-397-8534

POST ON FACEBOOK HERE
<http://www.facebook.com/ALTornadoAnimals>

We want to help YOU!
<http://alabamamountainmountains.com/>

Fort Payne • Sand Mountain • Mentone

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN Alabama

Amazing Sites Right Along... Red People Red Places

59 888-805-4740, Ext. 12

www.VisitAlabamaMountains.com

DeKalb County Tourist Association

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

• **ATTENTION** - Help with Moon Lake Centennial Celebration. We are looking for photos of Moon Lake Elementary School during the past 100 years. If you have photos to share, please contact any PTO member, or send to editorgroundhog@yahoo.com

• **MAPA** meeting every first Tuesday of the month. 6:30 p.m. Moon Lake Baptist Church. June meeting will be election of officers. Membership drive underway. New membership year begins July. Become a part of MAPA and help preserve Mentone's history and have an impact on its future.

• **FIRST FRIDAY FISH FRY** June 3rd, 3:30-7-ish. Pavilion at Mentone Inn. Fish, hushpuppies and the trimmings. \$5 a plate. All proceeds to benefit Strong Family Initiative.

• **JUNE 4 CAMPFIRE TALK:** Ethno-botany/Edible Plants of Little River Canyon There are many wild plants that have a wide range of uses. Join botanist Francine Hutchinson for a presentation on what's safe and what's not. DeSoto State Park Nature Center 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Free to public 256-997-5025

• **JUNE 11 GREENER DAY** at Little River Canyon Center The National Park Service staff and volunteers will present greener living programs on the second Saturday of each month. Topics include climate change, recycling, energy conservation, eco-gardening, exotic plants, native landscaping, pollution prevention, green energy, and more! Little River Canyon Center; 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Free to public 256-782-5697

• **AUCTION TO BENEFIT TORNADO VICTIMS** - DeKalb Theater in Fort Payne, Saturday, June 11, 9:00-? Items for auction include original art, paintings, sculpture, metalwork, cabin stay packages, golf packages, wood carvings, a whole lot more! Musical entertainment. 100% of proceeds go to tornado relief. Administered by Fort Payne Purpose Center.

• **FARMERS MARKET** is open each Wednesday 3-6p.m. and Saturday 10a.m.-1p.m. on the Square at Mentone.

• **EVERY WEEKEND** beginning in May through the Autumn months - Nature Programs & Guided Hikes at DeSoto State Park - Frogs, creepy crawlers, mountain life, Trail of Tears, flower and bird watching, are just a sampling of what you will learn by state park naturalists and Jacksonville State University Field School staff. Printed brochures of all programs are available by calling 256-782-5697. Programs are held every Friday and Saturday night at the DeSoto State Park Pavilion and begin at 8 p.m. In the event of rain, programs are moved to the Nature Center. 256-845-0051

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



HOURS FOR MOON LAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY !!!

TUESDAY, 3 - 6 PM

THURSDAY, 3 - 6 PM

SATURDAY, 9 AM - 12 AM

SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH

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

The Valley Head Baptist Church invites you to attend Sunday School at 10AM; Worship Service at 11AM; Sunday Evening Worship at 6PM; Midweek Service (Wednesday) at 6PM; Women on Mission meet at 1PM the second Tuesday of each month at different homes. Everyone is welcome to come.

Lea's Chapel Baptist Church welcomes you to worship with us. 10AM Sunday Bible Study, 11AM Morning Worship, 6PM Evening Worship. Wednesday 6-8PM Awana (ages 4 to 18); 6:30PM Praise and Prayer time. Located at 4212 County Road 751, Valley Head. 635-1001.

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

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

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

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 1519 Smith Gap Road (County Road 85), Fort Payne. Regular Worship Services are at 10AM Sunday. Bible class or Lent/Advent services every Wednesday at 6:30PM. Steve Schrader, Pastor - 845-4314. Everyone welcome.

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

The Fort Payne Christian Center and

Pastors Ken and Elaine Holman invite everyone to join in Worship on Sunday at 10 AM, Wednesday evening at 6PM. God Bless you.

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

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

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

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

Howard's Chapel (Church in the Rock) has regular services 10AM each Sunday. You are invited to attend these services or visit the church at other times. Casual dress is always acceptable.

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

Mentone United Methodist Church, 415 Cutler Avenue, Mentone, Alabama invites you to come and worship with us. Each Sunday, our worship service is at 11:00 a.m. and Sunday School is at 10:00 a.m. Rev. Bill Parker of Glencoe, Alabama is the pastor. He and his wife, Nancy, reside in the parsonage on weekends. The service of Holy Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of each month, the second Sunday is Youth Sunday and Fifth Sunday is a service of music and potluck lunch. Visitors are welcome and members are expected to attend.

Moon Lake Baptist Church invites you to worship with us. Sunday School begins at 9:45AM, with classes for all ages. Morning Worship is at 11AM. The Lords Supper is observed on the first Sunday of September, December, March, and June at the morning worship hour. Discipleship Training is at 5:00PM and Sunday Evening Worship at 6:00PM. On Wednesdays, Team Kids; Youth Bible Study and Adult Bible Study and Prayer Meeting are all at 6:30PM. Rev. Terry Turner is the pastor at Moon Lake.

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

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

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

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

Mentone Community Church, 90 Summerville Rd., Mentone, AL 35984 Sunday Services: 9 am and 10:30 am Adult Sunday School: Sundays @ 9:30 am Teen and Adult Sunday School: Sundays @ 5:30 Tuesday Night Prayer Service: 6:30 pm Wednesday Nights @ 6:30 pm: Children's Pioneer Clubs & Youth Group

Cloudland Presbyterian Church welcomes everyone to come join us for services, with

Pastor Roger Kvam. Bible Study Sunday at 9:00 a.m. (e.s.t.) and Worship at 10:00 a.m. (e.s.t.)

Since 1889 worshippers have gathered at the **Historic First Presbyterian Church PC(USA)** at 300 Grand Avenue North in Downtown Fort Payne. We invite you to join us for worship this Sunday at 10:55 AM. 256-845-2915



Pray For Our Neighbors



A unique collection of hand painted, signed and dated original gourds. Known as "Gourdies," these custom creations are available as to gender, hobbies, occupations and other themes. They are registered with the U.S. Patents and Trademark office.

The Gourdie Shop & Boutique
ONE-OF-A-KIND
CLOTHING
& JEWELRY

6089 Hwy 117
Mentone
256-634-4776

Visit Us Online at
www.Gourdies.com
Open Fri-Sat-Sun



Mountain Herbalist Mentone Mountain Magic

by L.C. Moon

I believe there is an underlying magic in Mentone! Many refer to it as God's country! Whether you believe Mentone is magical or not there is definitely something bigger that has "called" many to the area. The new residents, also called implants, often refer to this feeling of being called. This unexplainable pull has also "called" many of those who have left the area to return and those who are native to stay!

Mentone reminds me of the magic I see when I contemplate an acorn. It is small yet full of so much potential. As you experience the core of Mentone, in the quiet and slower pace, you can quickly develop soul roots to the area and even the locals. Often if you stay or frequent the area you begin to see how the roots of Mentone run deep creating a foundation that can be very life changing for many. Then as you grow within your limbs reach out and upward toward the sky, your roots can become even deeper. Mentone has helped many discover their true nature and branch out in new directions of peace, understanding and gratitude; if this experience happens you then you have definitely become a Mentonian.

Lookout Mountain in and of itself, plus all of North Alabama, are so beautiful. For many though there is a magic specifically in the Mentone area that really brings out truth, growth, joy and healing to those ready and willing to receive it. When I speak of natural healing I am usually speaking of the native plants. However, God gave us much more than plants to help cultivate healing. As the amazing counselors of Nature's Classroom say, "What is the 4th and possibly the most important rule of survival? PMA- Positive Mental Attitude." Mentone is a place where the mind can unwind and you can develop a gratitude and appreciation for life that helps promote a positive mental attitude.

Speaking of Nature's Classroom, this is one of the treasures of our area. They share the beauty and the importance of natural beauty and the value of why we should appreciate our environ-

ment. I went for a week with Moon Lake School during the tornadic storms when we lost so many lives in DeKalb County. However the Nature's Classroom crew; Julia, Zack, Christa, Daniel, J.D., Ruby, Cody, Daniel, Kiki & Adam were amazing and kept the kids feeling safe and in a state of P.M. A. All of the lessons they taught came full circle to express the importance of connecting with intention to our environment and our community. Our community being those people we are sharing time and space with.

One of the things I truly loved about Nature's Classroom was how open they were to me sharing my knowledge of the plants. So much so that Cody, J.D. and my hero Ruby showed up for one of the herb walks I gave at Desoto State Park on Wildflower Saturday. Another day filled with PMA and healing energy. Everyone who went on the hikes were so open and eager to learn about the healing properties of the native plants, such as the antiviral, antifungal, and antibacterial properties of our native yellow root.

Nature's Classroom was an unexpected blessing, as many of my experiences have been in Mentone, but this experience was even more special because I shared it with the kids of Moon Lake Elementary School. I was compelled to enroll Zoe at Moon Lake even after being determined to home school. I am thankful for confidence instilled in me by many but especially Mentone native, Bill Berry who was also the former principal of Moon Lake Elementary. Dr. Berry assured me MLES was the perfect school for Zoe and he was RIGHT! It has also been the perfect school for me! Mrs. Wisner sure had some big shoes to fill though over the past few years she has really integrated herself as part of the Mentone community developing a love for the community that you can feel, guess she might even be called a Mentonian now.

It is the environment, the people and the beauty of the area that makes it feel so divine and magical in Mentone. It is a haven for artists, lovers of nature, wildlife, wildflowers, clean water and a place where you can quiet the mind and connect with the divine in so many ways. The magic found in Mentone is larger than words and filled with hope!

How about a spot of tea?



St. Joseph's on the Mountain Episcopal Church served tea, complete with scones, clotted cream, and other tasty treats as a fundraiser for the church. Homemade sourdough bread was sold as a fundraiser to aid tornado victims. Watch for future teas on the grounds of the church. It makes for a pleasant way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

MENTONE GENERAL STORE

5951 AL Hwy 117, Across from Town Hall in Mentone

Open 7 days a week, 9am till 6 pm

Owners: Paul & Ginny Zulker

New....
Name-brand clothing
Biker gear
Swim wear
Shoes
Housewares
Outdoor supplies
local arts and crafts
Gift items
jewelry and a whole lot more!

~~Free Wi-Fi~~

Authorized dealer for Heatilator pellet stoves and supplies
256-634-8008 or visit online at www.mentonegeneral.com

Mountain Lore Common Wood Sorrel

By Charlotte Gentry

If you've seen the old movie musical "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers," you may remember the part where the newly-wedded Milly stops to pick some sorrel along the way as they travel from town to her new home in the mountains. She tells her rough and ready husband, Adam Pontipee, that it "makes a nourishing soup." They burst into song and it's a wonderful day.

Now, I've never eaten soup made from sorrel, but I've eaten plenty of it fresh from the earth. We called it "sheep shears" (maybe we were saying sheep's ears, but I wasn't aware of it) and it was a wonderfully sour treat for us hard-working, hard-playing Martin kids. Whether it was nourishing or not, I couldn't say, but we were very seldom sick and enjoy tolerable good health even today.

The most exciting part of the sorrel plant is the "bananas" (our term for the seed pods). They're deliciously sour and, if you pick them at the right time, the seeds will pop out of their casing into your mouth!

Sorrel plants are found pretty much everywhere, and particularly enjoy areas that most would refer to as scrub areas. The merry little yellow blossoms of the yellow wood sorrel (yes, these are nice and sour, too!) and shamrock-shaped leaves (sorrel is a member of the same family as shamrocks, *oxalis*) aren't cultivated by gardeners, but they will always be

happy to show up in your garden!

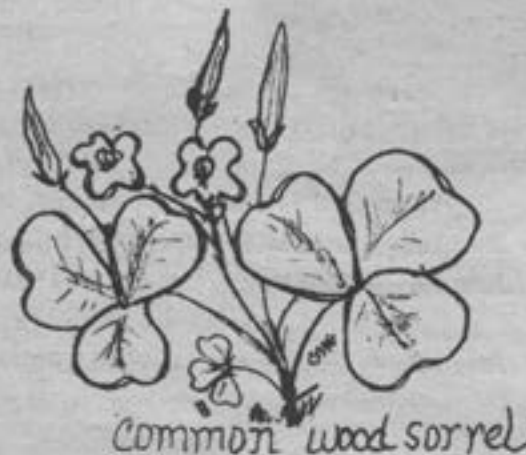
According to mountain wisdom, the common wood sorrel is a useful medicine as well as a tasty snack. The leaves are chewed for nausea. They are also said to relieve mouth sores and sore throats. Some say that a poultice of fresh sorrel leaves is a treatment for cancers and old sores. Leaf teas are brewed for fevers, urinary tract infections and scurvy.

My aunt, who was of Creek Indian descent, made a salve out of pink wood sorrel which was much sought-after. Folks swore by it and its efficacy at treating skin cancers and wounds. She gave me the recipe, verbally as was the tradition, and I plan to try and replicate her salve one day. Unlike the common white and yellow wood sorrels, though, pink wood sorrel is a little harder to find.

I've passed the sorrel-eating habit down to my children and grandchildren, and I'm always happy to introduce others to the stuff. At first, folks are skeptical and look at me very warily when I urge them to try it. I demonstrate by eating flowers, bananas, leaves, stems and all. But, once they've tasted it, their eyes light up and their noses wrinkle from the sourness. You can bet, they will be sorrel eaters from now on!

So, next time you're out taking a walk along the roadside or in the woods, look for this tasty trail tidbit. It'll be a sure pick-me-up and you'll make passersby wonder if you've gone nuts because you're eating grass! Have a marvelous, wonderful day!

(If you have folk lore, mountain recipes, wives tales, tall tales or other mountain wisdom to pass on to our readers, please send it to editorgroundhog@yahoo.com)



Common wood sorrel

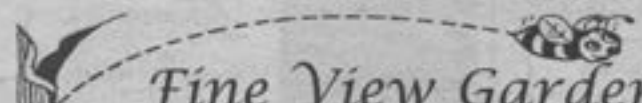


Pink Lady's Slippers in abundance!

This profusion of Lady's Slippers was photographed in an undisclosed location at Mentone. While a few years ago it wasn't an unusual occurrence to find this delicate early spring beauty in such abundance, these days one seldom sees them at all. And, if they do, it is usually only a small group. Thanks to John Baty, we can all enjoy them without disturbing them.



MENTONE GENERAL STORE recently held their Grand Opening. Mentone Mayor Rob Hammond did the ribbon cutting honors. Several folks came to shop, visit and enjoy the free hot dogs and other refreshments throughout the day. At the ribbon cutting were (L-R) Paul Zulker (owner), Carol Zulker, Josh Zulker, Stan Zulker, Carol Davidson, (Ginny Zulker), owner, Mayor Hammond, Valley Head Police Officer Brian Phillips.



Fine View Garden Center

30 Garden Path
Summerville GA 30747
(on Hwy 337, 4.5 miles N of Menlo)
email lineviewgc@aol.com
website: www.fineviewgc.com
(706) 862-2600
"Let's Talk Plants!"

Yummy lunch.

Serving Northeast Alabama for Over 50 Years!

bottle caps **877-272-1451**

BUILDERS SUPPLY CO., INC.

"Quality & Service You Can Build On"

Fort Payne
(256) 845-1451

www.bsupply.net

Sylvania
(256) 638-2244

Andersen 

Installed Insulation
Window and Screen Repair
Lumber and Building Materials
Custom Closet Design and Installation

In-House Factory Certified Technician

Concrete Blocks
Pallets & Crates
Roof and Floor Trusses
Paint, Plumbing & Electrical

Buy Fresh, Eat Local, Eat in Season.

By Barbara Patrie

People who know me know what a "funny" eater I am. I am a believer in eating what is in season for the area that you live in. Your body will enjoy itself if you eat what has been grown locally. By shopping locally you reduce your carbon foot print on the earth, and you won't spend as much on gasoline. Your food will be fresher. Do you realize a lot of produce is picked green, and allowed to ripen on the trip here or once it gets to the store?

I have talked with a lot of you who are growing gardens this year. Good for you! Remember to put some up for the winter and grow a little extra to share.

If you are not growing a garden yourself, remember the Mentone Farmer's Market on Wednesday 3:00-6:00 and Saturday 10:00-1:00, located on the Mentone Square (front yard of the Mentone Inn). Right now there's lettuce, carrots, spinach, and kale. New potatoes and strawberries should be back, now that the sun is out. There's a variety of garden plants, herb plants, and fresh herbs. There's also local honey and sorghum, local cage-free eggs, and baked goods. We now have grass-fed beef and pork. You can pre-order chicken to be delivered in July.

Did you know that the Mentone Farmer's Market is a year round market? We're the only one! Can you believe that not even South Alabama has a year round market? Thanks for your support Mentone. Way to go!

Great salad for now: Mixed greens, strawberries, balsamic vinaigrette, and herb bread. Of course, our friend Jane makes a great salad with spinach, and some fruit. I don't know her dressing, but it's yummy.

Your body will love the burst of fresh food that you are eating.

Stay healthy, eat well, and if you have any questions about gardening, come by the market.

(Barbara Patrie is a gardener, a baker of bread and co-owner of Silent Spring Botanicals in the village at Mentone)



CAMP MOON LAKE



Come to the Moon Lake Community Library where Super Heroes read for FUN!

Camp Moon Lake is open to children in grades K-6 (just completed 6th grade) and who are:

- Moon Lake Elementary Students
- Home-schooled students
- Grandchildren/children/visitors of mountain residents

Register at Moon Lake Community Library

Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:00-6:00 p.m.,

Saturdays 9:00 am till noon.

Programs: 3:30-5:00 p.m., June 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd

June 2nd—RENEE MORRISON: COON DOG GIRL with live animals!

June 9th—ARCHIE WADE, MAGICIAN EXTRAORDINAIRE. Come in costume, if you like, for a Magic Costume Party!

June 16th—LARRY BEAN: NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN TOOLS & WEAPONS. Throwing spears, working clay, Native American dancers, Native American paintings

June 23rd—PAULA EASTER: THE LIBRARY DRAGON & BIRTHDAY BASH! Celebrating EVERYONE'S birthday with ice cream, cake and games.

For more information, call Cynthia Luck at 256-845-1282. Sponsored by MERF

You've Tried
The Rest...
Now Try The
BEST!

**GIBSON
EXPERT
TREE
SERVICE L.L.C.**

256-634-4809

Licensed & Insured
30 Years Experience

Professional Climber
Call Mark Gibson
The Tree Guy
Email: treeguy@aol.com

Move a few blocks
out of the way

Body Maintenance

Alternative Therapies
for Natural Health

Donna Sutton (LMT #95)

(256) 634-3032

AL Hwy 117 * Mentone, AL 35984



Therapeutic Massage

**Dr. Steven Zhao
Acupuncture**

(by appointment only)

Gift Certificates Available

Open to Public Year-Round
CLOUDMONT
Ski and Golf Resort
www.cloudmont.com

SADDLE ROCK GOLF COURSE

The First Golf Course
established
in DeKalb County
"It's cooler Swingin' on
Lookout Mountain"
9 hole executive course,
18 tees
Atop Lookout Mountain!
Carts and Clubs
Available

Mountain & River Chalets with Kitchens

Call (256) 634-4344



**SHADY GROVE
DUDE RANCH**
HORSEBACK RIDING

Guided Trail Rides & Accommodations

(256) 634-4344

Fun for the whole family

FOODLAND
plus

202 GREENHILL BLVD.
FORT PAYNE, AL 35967

Is that a
Brown Cow?

WE'RE OPEN
Seven Days A Week
7 A.M. - 10 P.M.



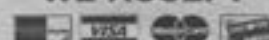
845-1970

- WIC VOUCHERS
- FOOD STAMPS/EBT CARDS
- QUANTITY RIGHTS RESERVED
- NONE SOLD TO DEALERS

WE FEATURE ALL THIS AND MORE

- Money Orders
- Incoming & Outgoing Fax Service
- Postage Stamps
- Copies
- Deli/Bakery
- Floral Department
- Fresh Seafood
- Extended Lines of Gourmet, Specialty and Diet Food

WE ACCEPT



Angela J. Wood
Owner and AL/GA Broker

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

Chelsea Carrier, AL/GA Realtor®
chelzoe@yahoo.com
706-859-1227

Email:
AngelaWood@centurytel.net

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

Preferred Realty, L.L.C.

L M P R

Office: 256-634-4672

Cell: 256-997-8138

Fax: 256-634-4702

Toll Free

1-888-2561276

website:

LookoutMountainProperties.com



SECLUSION AND TRANQUILITY are nestled in this Cape Cod style 3BR, 2BA cottage with finished basement, a top Lookout Mtn. Cloudland. Open floor plan with kitchen/dining room, and woodburning FP. Amenities include CHA, attached carport, and separate storage/shop. All on 2.1 acres with a spectacular Eastern brow view. \$180,000 (20571)



WHIPPOORWILL FARM, 49 acres on the East Fork Little River. 2800 ft. on the water with deep pools and rapids. 2BR/2BA. Rock and log home with all the comfort amenities. Rock FP. Pasture land, wood trails- horse barn w/ apt, detached double garage. Screened sleeping cabin overlooking river. Much more! \$595,000 (19355)



SOUTHLAND LOG HOME, on the E. Fork Little River, 5.5 acres. Deck, lighted walkway to lower property. 2BR/2BA, loft. Vaulted ceiling w/exposed beams. Kitchen with granite counters. Stacked stone FP. 2-story with Basement. Sep. garage, large enough for motor home. \$385,000 (19919)



FORMERLY MOUNTAIN MAMA'S CRAFT STORE AND ROCK SHOP, 4.5 wooded acres on the east fork little river, approx. 550 ft. on the water. Included on the property is 2 historical Log cabins. Could be used as commercial or build that perfect place, for a relaxing mountain retreat. \$149,500 (20799)



NATURAL SETTING ON THE WEST FORK LITTLE RIVER, 4BR suites with Baths are part of this lovely home. Open Floor Plan. Dining, Den and sitting room. Kitchen with Complete Appliance package. 400 ft. on the water with Rock formations. Located in the only Ski Resort in Alabama. Must see. \$349,000 (20246)



STUNNING MOUNTAIN HOME and Retreat center. Features vaulted ceilings, private hot tub. Newly renovated Kitchen, 2 living areas, and Gas FP. Open loft above the 2nd living area and open kitchen design. Master bdrm has separate entrance to the deck, guest bedroom, and 2 more baths. 700 sq. ft. 2 rm guest cottage and a glassed Greenhouse/artist studio. Many possibilities with this wonderful property with seasonal views. \$299,000 (20562)



NICELY WOODED 5 ACRES on DeSoto Parkway with Stream. Can be Residential or Commercial. Land has old homesite and green house. Large Rock formations. Possibilities are Endless! \$100,000 (19419)



ENCHANTING COTTAGE in Laurel Creek Lakes. Access to 3 lakes for fishing & canoeing. Cypress sided 2 bedrooms, 2 baths with Stack Log and Stone Fireplace. Screened porch & Grilling deck. 1.4 acres \$142,000. (19676)



NICE LEVEL WOODED PROPERTY with partial drive and homesite cleared. Previous perk test. Easy access to the middle fork of little river. Restrictive cov. apply. Located Mountain River Estates \$77,000 (20892)



LOG CABIN KNOWN AS "KNOWUS ARK" is an artist dream of a property. Unique decor and even a separate artist studio are part of the special qualities that go with the 2BR/2BA, w/FP, covered porches and double decks. Privately located. \$225,000 (20453)



CHARMING HISTORIC FARMHOUSE on a beautiful level lot of almost 1.5 acres located within walking distance of downtown Mentone. Comfortable living areas, extra large dining room/gathering room, kitchen with walk-in pantry. 2BR/2BA, one with a jetted tub. Front and rear covered porches, an outbuilding with guesthouse possibilities and a circular drive with lots of parking. \$158,000 (20951)



AN INCREDIBLE ONE OF A KIND custom designed Log and Rock Home, with breathtaking view in Cloudland Ga. 1.5 acres with 100' road and brow frontage. Approx. 6000 sq ft under roof, with 3000 heated. Heart Pine Floors, big walls, cedar lined master in Living room. 2BR/2.5BA, oversized shower, arched footed tub. Top quality appliances, furniture, quality cabinets. Amenities is numerous to mention. \$487,000 (20797)



WALTONS MILL SITE PROPERTY, Back in the civil war there was a grist mill located on this east fork river site, a unique property with 900 ft. on the water 2 building sites easy access to the water large rock overhang and flat rock bottom for easy floating down the river. A true Gem, 10 acres. \$200,000 (20451)



THREE LOTS to choose from or buy any of the combination. 5.1 to 5.6 acres on the East Brow of Lookout mtn. Gated area called Valley View Forest. Very secluded, private, power available, must put in Well. Great buy at \$45,000 each (20298)



NICE WOODED LOT WITH STREAM located in Crestline Park Subdivision. Just down the road from Cloudmont Resort and DeSoto State Park. Build your Mentone cabin for yourself or use as a rental. \$20,000. (21086)



WHAT A SPECTACULAR SUNRISE/Moonrise on the East Brow in Cloudland, GA. Wooded with 200ft on the brow. Secluded 4.36 acres. A must see! \$85,000 (18134)



MOUNTAIN CHATEAU, Feel like you are among the trees, from this 2 story with basement. Floor to ceiling windows in the great room. 2BR/2BA with whirlpool tub and separate shower in master. Loft overlooking great room and FP. Fully equipped kitchen. Secluded 4.77 acres with 250ft on the bluff. Reduced to 245,000 (18133)



TALL MEADOW RUE CHAPEL, in Downtown Mentone. Lush landscaping. Heavenly ordained Chapel, Glass Greenhouse, Coy Pond w/fountain, Rock walls, and Iron Gates. Enjoy the peace and serenity this property gives. \$105,000

LOTS AND ACREAGE

ABUNDANT WILDLIFE! 114 acres of woods and clear cut land. This property is perfect for a home or agricultural use. Priced at only \$2,300 per acre. (21089)

INDIAN TRAILS, 2 lots for sale. 1) 2.71 acres (lots 12, 13) sold together for building purposes. Brow view city water, power, & paved rd. 2) 1.32 acres brow frontage & creek at boundary.

Wooded, city water, paved rd. power. Both priced at \$40,000 ea. (19933)

ONLY KNOWN COMMERCIAL ZONED B-1 in downtown mentone. 120x130 lot located just past mentone springs hotel and the Log cabin village shops. many uses from professional to retail. Build your own business in mentone. city water, paved rd. One

block from central business area. Reduced \$39,000 (20021)

CO. RD. 600. City water meter in place on wooded level 3/4 acre lot. Perk tested. Minutes from Desoto State Park. Build your getaway cabin in the woods! \$25,000 (20422)

EAST FORK OF LITTLE RIVER. 5.4 acres partially cleared. 200ft

on River, Secluded with private road access. Scenic with rapids and pools. \$106,000. (19673)

THE DRIVEWAY HAS BEEN STARTED to build your Mentone getaway! 5.7 wooded acres across from Lake Lahusage. Paved road frontage, city water available, perk tested. Lightly restricted. \$58,900 (19865)

THE BELATED EASTER EGG

By John S. Whitaker

As Rev. White began to talk, he looked directly at the sea of faces of about forty children. He said, "All right, kids, gather 'round. You know you will soon be hunting the Easter eggs hidden by your Sunday School teachers. There are three prize eggs: first, second, and third place—if you find them."

"Let me say something about these hidden Easter eggs. The eggs represent the new life we have in our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died and rose again from the grave. Some of the eggs are colored red. Who can tell me what the red represents?"

"I know, I know," said David. "It's the blood of Jesus." (In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace. Ephesians 1:7.)

"You are right, David," replied Rev. White. "Some eggs are colored white. And what does white stand for?"

"Mother always tells me to wash until I'm sparkling white, so it must be purity and cleanliness," said little, red-headed Billy.

"Right you are, Billy," said the reverend. "The last color is green. So green stands for what?"

Susan said, "Well, it must stand for life and growth,

since so many of the plants are growing in the spring-time." (In him was life; and the life was the light of men. John 1:4)

"Very good," said Rev. White. "There's one more thing, boys and girls, I know you are very interested in. The first prize egg is colored gold, the second prize is a silver colored egg, and the third prize egg is colored bronze. All the eggs have something nice in them, so look carefully. Are you ready? Set. Go!"

Excitedly, all the children began running: looking, searching, giggling. Soon, someone called, "Here's the silver egg!" Inside the plastic spheroid was a bill of money, revealing a long-haired, shaggy looking president.

Then a few minutes later someone found the bronze. It, too, contained some money.

At the end of the search, all the eggs had been found except the golden egg. Rev. White said, "Well, I wish someone had found it. It's the most important one."

Three weeks later, the church sexton decided to give the church yard its first mowing.

As he walked over the yard searching for debris, he noticed a rock. "Well, this thing must be removed," he said to himself. When he picked up the rock, there was the golden egg. He opened it, finding a folded paper. He unfolded it and read a true, timeless message for all of humanity:

I LOVE YOU.

I DIED FOR YOU.

I CONQUERED DEATH FOR YOU.

— GOD.

Are you right with GOD

by Hank Sturm

Do you remember that day
when they were swept away?
Nearly four hundred souls left the earth that day.
So much destruction, so many tom lives.
Friends, Parents, children, husbands and wives.
Taken from us on that awful day.
All we can do is hope and pray that they Knew you Lord Jesus.
Were they right with God?
Were they right with God?

Are you right with God, Do you know his Son?
Have you asked for forgiveness from the perfect one,
who gave His life for you and me.
Beaten and scared, nailed to that tree.
God gave up his Son, the last sacrifice
Holy and blameless to atone for our sin.
You must step forward, fall down on your knees.
Bare your heart, let out what's within
Get right with God the Father, Jesus the Son.
Don't wait for tomorrow, It just may not come.
Are you right with God?
Are you right with God?

We are not guaranteed a single day.
We make plans for the future but tomorrow's not ours.
We're not guaranteed our lives, homes or cars.
We're only stewards of all that we have.
All the things we hold dear are dust in God's eyes.
Forgive us Lord Jesus, for the sin in our lives.
Give thanks for yesterday and praise today.
He'll come into your heart and give forgiveness through grace.
You'll be right with God.
You'll be right with God.

Ole Heritage Realty, Inc.

Tina Burt-Edmondson

256-996-3779



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN - 3BR/2BA one-level home! Centrally heated and cooled, nice country kitchen with lots of cabinets, hardwood floors and ceramic tile. Detached double garage. Country porches on front and back! Enjoy the mature oaks and poplars that surround this home! Let's make a deal today! Only \$112,000. (21080)



BRING YOUR HORSES, kids, and 4 wheelers to this 4BR/3.5BA Brick Home! Spacious rooms, pool, detached workshop, Pond, greenhouse, and so so much compliment this home situated on 7 acres! And don't forget you have a Barn too! Minutes from downtown Fort Payne! Call today! Only \$214,900. (20776)



CABIN IN THE WOODS! Back door of Desoto State Park, Mentone, and Little River! This 2 bedroom/2 bath cabin offers vaulted ceiling with wood exposed beams, and a glamorous master bath with jetted tub! Being Sold Furnished! All this on ONE Acre! Only \$125,000! (20537)

www.oleheritage.com

A few dollars a month.
Priceless
peace of mind.



Vickie Vaughn
501 Greenhill Blvd. N.W., Ste. 510
Fort Payne, AL, 35967
(256) 845-5020

Life insurance isn't about you not being around anymore. It's about making sure your loved ones will be taken care of, no matter what happens. So choosing what coverage is right for you is an important conversation — one that we'd like to have with you. We'll help you decide on a policy that's both valuable and affordable.



AUTO • HOME • LIFE
www.alfains.com

Class of 2011

Valley Head High School



Nicholas Benjamin Atkins—Not Pictured
 Brittany Renae Bain—Salutatorian
 Justin Anthony Battles
 Tyler Ryan Blansit
 Reabeca Joe Anna Bradbury—Not Pictured
 Starla Imogene Cash
 Leslie Payton Day—Valedictorian
 Nickolas Adam Gatlin
 Maria Del Carmen Gonzalez
 Taylor Brooke Graham
 Jason Michael Hall
 Shelby Lynn Headrick
 Brenda Liliana Hernandez
 Anthony Levi Hulgán
 Gina Gabrielle Johnson
 Brian Lee Jones
 Trevor Justin Lewis
 Jordan Nichole Mashburn
 Amber Renea Matthews
 Megan Reed McElhaney
 Jessica Elisabeth McKenzie
 Benjamin Duane Morris
 Preston Roland Owen
 Hallie Lachie Pangle
 Diana Hope Peoples
 Corey Dustin Powell
 Hunter Wade Stone
 Caleb Randall White
 Brenden Rein Wilbanks
 Jared Blake Wilks—Not Pictured



Leslie Payton Day
Valedictorian



Brittany Bain
Salutatorian



Great Places to Stay in and around Mentone

Mentone Inn

By Charlotte Gentry

"Fried Chicken Every Day" was the sign that used to hang out in front of the Mentone Inn during its days as "Hal's Hotel" when owners Hal and Nelda Howe ran it from 1927-1954 (Hal built the current structure after the original two-story building burned.)

These days, innkeeper Cynthia Stinson doesn't offer fried chicken every day, but she does serve up a heaping helping of hospitality to guests who stay at this charming old landmark of the mountain.

Built in 1927, the Mentone Inn has been open continuously (with the exception of a couple months between owners in 1999) offering sojourners a home away from home. It has been known by other names including DeSoto Lodge and Mountain View Inn. But, no matter the name, it signifies something special to those who stay there.

"It's like going to Grandma's house for most people," says manager Cynthia Stinson. From their home in Greenville, Alabama, Cynthia's family made many trips through Mentone to visit family, the Smiths and Carrolls, who lived just over the mountain from Mentone in the Pigeon Mountain area of Georgia.

Cynthia remembers her trips through Mentone as a child, "Every time I saw this place, I thought I wanted to live in the Gingerbread House (as she saw it with her child's eyes)." She adds, "When I'd see those stone walls [along Highway 117], it was like coming home."

Cynthia's childhood dream to live at the Inn did eventually come true, but it was not until after she'd travelled the world with her career and then settled down in Greenville to raise her three daughters as a single mom and run an antiques business for several years.

In fact, it was her love for restoring beautiful antiques that brought her back to Mentone. In 2007, Cynthia's business in Greenville had a very large inventory of antiques. She'd heard about the "World's Longest Yard Sale" that followed the Lookout Mountain Parkway and thought it would be an ideal venue for selling her surplus.

"I looked on the map at the route the sale took and saw that it passed through Mentone. I knew right away that is where I needed to be," Cynthia says. "I called the Inn and asked if there was any way for me to be able to get a small space on the corner [of Hwy 117 and

County Road 89 DeSoto Parkway]. I was told I could have the whole square!"

Cynthia rented a truck, loaded up her goods, drove to Mentone and set up her antique corner. She also pitched a tent behind the Inn and stayed in that tent from Wednesday till the following Monday morning. "I did REALLY well at that yard sale," she says. But, she didn't know at that moment just how well she'd done.

"I became friends with Gloria (the innkeeper at that time) and she asked if I could help with breakfast at the Inn, which was full to overflowing due to the yard sale. We worked well together and she offered me a job. My daughters were all grown and had left home, so I went back home to Greenville, sold my antiques business within 3 days, had a big yard sale and got rid of the rest of my stuff and headed back to Mentone. It was meant to be," Cynthia tells with a smile.

"I'll never forget it, because it was my birthday, September 12, when I got to Mentone. I lived in my tent behind the Inn for about a month and started helping Gloria with the day-to-day work. I learned the "ins and outs" of the business, what worked and what didn't," she says.

While staying at the Inn and helping there part-time, Cynthia started "Chef in a Cabin," which blossomed into a very good business. She would prepare

meals for folks who were staying at rental cabins in the Mentone area, do photography, flower arranging, and cater other events. Her past career doing set decoration for movies and photographs was standing her in good stead.

After two years, the manager chose to pursue her music and not to renew her contract with the Inn's owners, Mike and Sarah Campbell. Cynthia took over as innkeeper. As Cynthia puts it, she was "armed with a little money, a lot of gumption and a pretty decent knowledge of the inn-keeping business."

"It was like everything I'd done in life was leading me to become innkeeper here," Cynthia shares. "I guess I have an eye for staging things, I love antiques, I have the gift of gab, and I love being a homebody. It's the perfect match for me."

"I can live where I work, work where I live. It suits me. My philosophy is that folks may not remember what you say, but they will remember how you made them feel. I want them to feel comfortable like they've come to Grandma's house."

The motto hanging in the house says, "Strangers are friends waiting to meet." That's exactly the way Cynthia sees it: "It's like they're coming to MY house. They really are my guests. And when they leave, they want to come back. I have really good food, clean, comfortable rooms and a great front

porch. I have clients who've been coming here for years and they are like family. I like to say there are three people living here-- Peace and Quiet and me."

The Mentone Inn has 12 rooms, each with a private bath, full or queen-size beds. Two of the rooms have two full beds in them. The Inn can sleep up to 33 people. Family reunions, wedding parties and other groups often stay at the Inn. When there is a need for more folks to stay than the Inn can accommodate, Cynthia has a good relationship with other B&B and cabin owners who take the surplus. She welcomes their extra guests as well.

The Inn Pavilion, with its gorgeous stone fireplace and great space, is available for parties, receptions, and community events. Recently, the pavilion was the site of the "Clean-Out-Your-Freezer-Before-The-Food-Ruins-Cook-Out" following the April 27th tornado and subsequent power outage. The Farmers Market sometimes sets up there in winter months or inclement weather. It is also the site for the 1st Friday Fish Fry each month during the summer. Cynthia also plans to have musical events there during the summer and fall.

Cynthia is willing to share the Inn's pavilion and the Square with the community. There is no cost to the Farmers Market to use the Square each Wednesday and Saturday, nor for them to use the pavilion when needed. She also allows MAPA to use the Square during festivals for their Friday night music and bonfire. Vendors set up at a nominal charge during festivals and the yearly yard sale.

Being a good neighbor is second nature to Cynthia. When weary workers came through Mentone after having labored all day in Rainsville and Sylvania doing tornado clean up, Cynthia gave them a hearty meal, a clean place to sleep and they left rejuvenated. No cost. It was her way of helping out.

When there was no power (or water for some) during the days following the tornado, she generously allowed folks to take hot showers, made coffee, and put a power strip on the porch so that anyone could charge their cell phones.

Cynthia has plans to extend the Inn's customer services, too. She already prepares a sumptuous breakfast for guests and offers catering services outside the inn. She is going to open up the porch and offer breakfast on the verandah for guests. And, weekend



Mentone Inn circa 1927.

Continued from page 12

breakfast isn't just for guests. According to Cynthia, "If you'll call ahead and place your order, anyone can come in to dine or sit on the verandah."

Cynthia is quick to give credit to her staff for the part they play in maintaining the excellent dining and lodging experience folks enjoy at the Mentone Inn. "We have great food and I have a great cook, Nancy Smith from Fort Payne. She's wonderful!" Two sisters, Lisa Moore and Lindsey Webb of Valley Head, help with the housekeeping. "They are so much fun. We work together so well and they get the job done. My guests can always expect clean comfortable rooms, thanks to them," Cynthia says.

The Mentone Inn is open year-round. Catering services are available for large or small groups, either at the Inn or off-site in the Mentone area. For more information or for reservations, call 256-634-4836 or 800-455-7470. You can visit their facebook page, where Cynthia's beautiful photography is featured in addition to news about the Inn and the Mentone community.



Cynthia Stinson - Innkeeper



Mentone Inn

TODAY



BIG JIM'S BAMA Q

Specializing in BBQ and Good
Southern Home Cooking
at the Hammondville Crossroads

Hwy 11 and Hwy 117

635-6160

Wed and Thurs
10:30 - 7:00Fri and Sat
10:30-8:00Insurance
Jobs

No Job Too Big or Too Small



Email: DavidMitchell033@gmail.com

P.O. Box 680777

Office 256-845-6431

Fort Payne, AL 35968

Mobile 256-997-6431

Known for Quality - General Contractor - Insurance Jobs

The Citizens Bank of Valley Head

Large Enough To Serve You...

Small Enough To Know You

Valley Head
635-6292Idler
657-5122Mentone
634-4744

Member FDIC

Southern Style log furniture

When he first visited Mentone, Jeff Rymer was skeptical about being able to sell much furniture. A Cleveland, Tennessee native, Jeff already had a couple places in much larger towns where his hand-crafted, log furniture was on display and he'd sold a few pieces.

In comparison, Mentone looked rather small and, frankly, seemed a little too quiet. To his eyes, it didn't appear to be a very likely place for commerce.

Having worked in the automobile industry in Michigan for most of his adult life, Jeff had already felt the effects of a changing economy when the plant where he worked as a supervisor was shut down. Jobless and feeling that the time had come for him to rethink his future, Jeff went back home to Cleveland and decided to do something different. He began making furniture.

While visiting at the recommendation of friends, Jeff talked to a few folks in the village of Mentone. Their enthusiasm over his unique furniture convinced him, though still skeptical, to open a shop in one of the vacant village shops.

Southern Style Log Furniture opened in the spring of 2010 and has become a year-round business for Jeff. Even during the winter season, when many shops close after Christmas, he still opens up on weekends. In addition to on-site sales, custom orders keep him busy throughout the year.

His reputation for substantial, unique and eye-

pleasing rustic furniture and housewares is growing, with folks from all across the US making it a part of their home or cabin décor. "Just somethin' different," is how Jeff describes his work when he talks with customers.

In the year since its opening, Southern Style Log Furniture has expanded to include work by several area artisans. Well-known carver Jim Marbutt's work is for sale. Hank Sturm, of Valley Head, has carvings, hand-crafted toys, jewelry and unique household items. Artist Jerry Wilson's beautiful Native American and Western drawings are available only at Southern Style.

This year Jeff added the work of his sister-in-law, Cathy Dover-Rymer, to the inventory. Her beautiful jewelry, decorated birdhouses and original music are available. Cathy is often on site to demonstrate jewelry making and sometimes can be persuaded to sing a song.

Southern Style Log Furniture is one of several entrepreneurial shops that have opened in Mentone



within the last year. Jeff smiles when he recalls how he thought he was just plain crazy to open a business during a recession. He also smiles because he has found work to do with his hands that pleases him and, apparently, many others.

Shop locally. It's good for everyone.



DIXIE SALVAGE

3630 N. Gault Avenue
Fort Payne, Alabama 35967

JOHN CROW

Business (256) 845-5475
FAX (256) 845-5475

An Eskimo
could live
here!

Ecological Designs, Inc.

*Custom building
a more beautiful home for you*

Lyle Nicely
Alabama State
Licensed Contractor

Low Maintenance
Superior Quality

- Construction
- Design
- Site Prep

Ph. 256-634-4124

LIBS FROM THE LIBRARY



It's here!!
Celebrating
summer at the
library!! Camp
Moon Lake is
ready for you to
enjoy!! The
theme is,
"Super Heroes

Read For Fun!! Set aside Thursdays in June to come to the Moon Lake Community Library. If you have finished any grade from Kindergarten through Sixth Grade, you are a Super Hero and you can be a camper.

Thursday, June 2 will be opening day at camp. Check in time is 3:15 p.m. The program begins at 3:30 p.m. The featured special camper is Renee Morrison, Coon Dog Girl with Live Critters. The identity of the critters has been kept under wraps so no one knows what they are. Come and see for yourself. Camp counselors will be parents, teachers and community volunteers. Campers should arrive at 3:15 p.m. and enter the back door (the one used by students of MLES) of the Moon Lake Elementary School Community Library to register for camp. The Camp parking lot is between the lunchroom and the M.E.R.F. Community House. Pick up campers inside the library by entering the front door. Campers should be picked up by 5:15 p.m. These times apply to all sessions of camp.

Thursday, June 9, the featured program will be, Archie Wade: Magician Extraordinaire. You are invited to come in costume for a Magic Costume Party!!

Thursday, June 16, featuring Larry Bean: Native American Indians' Tools and Weapons. He will be show-

ing the technique of throwing spears, working clay, and making Native American Indian paintings. Native American Indian Dancing will be illustrated.

Thursday, June 23, presenting Paula Easter: The Library Dragon and the Birthday Bash. We will celebrate everyone's birthday with cake and ice cream! This will be the last of camp for this year.

Program plans for the next week's camp will be given out at each camping session.

An added bonus will be that these reminders have free food coupons stapled to them. Be sure to pick one up before you leave with your camper.

Books, books, and more books will be available for fun reading at Camp Moon Lake. There will be a Camp Swap Shop with books suitable for any Super Hero to read for fun. You can choose a book to take home and read, then bring it back and get another one. This can continue until camp is over.

Continue to donate your books for the book sale. The Summer Book Sale will be August 5th and 6th on the front porch of the Moon Lake Community Library. During Camp

Moon Lake, regular library hours of 3 - 6 p.m. will continue as usual. Beverly and a volunteer will be at the main desk for you to check books in and out. You are invited to watch any part of Camp Moon Lake. The excitement of young people can be very contagious.

There will not be a meeting of the members of the Board of Directors of the Moon Lake Community Library in June. Next meeting will be the third Thursday in July at 3:00 p.m. in the library. To be placed on the agenda for a meeting, call Jan Wilkinson. Write to us at: Moon Lake Community Library, Post Office Box 481, Mentone, Alabama 35984.

Calling all amateur photographers!

Outdoor Alabama magazine, the official publication of Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has announced its 2012 Photo Contest. Any amateur photographer may enter and there are several categories of photos for submission.

Youth — Two divisions: Youth ages 6-12 and 13-18 may enter any of the following categories. All entry rules apply.

State Parks — Recreational activities, park facilities, scenery or events held at any of Alabama's 22 State Parks operated by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Birds — Native song birds, game birds and raptors

Mammals — Native mammals (pets and livestock excluded).

Reptiles and Amphibians — May include turtles, snakes, lizards, salamanders, etc..

Other Native Wildlife — May include butterflies, insects, snails, etc.

Scenic/Pictorial — Photos in which natural landmarks, scenery or inanimate objects are prominent; site location required for this category.

Nature-Based Activities — people enjoying recreation such as boating, fishing, hiking, hunting, camping (organized team sports are excluded).

Wild Flora — wildflowers, foliage, fruiting bodies, other parts of plants or trees (cultivated flowers, shrubs, etc. are excluded)

According to the Outdoor Alabama website, photos must have been taken within the past two years, must have been taken in Alabama and the subject has to be a species native to the state. Entries must be high-quality digital images submitted on CD-ROM, accompanied by an 8x10 print of each photo. Up to 10 photos per person can be entered in the contest. These can all be in the same category or spread among different categories.

Entry forms and complete rules are available on the Outdoor Alabama website: www.outdooralabama.com **Entries must be postmarked by October 31, 2011.**

Employees of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and members of their immediate families are not eligible to enter the contest. Additionally, an amateur is defined as someone who does not does not earn a living from photography.

**Mentone
Mountain
Getaways**

CABIN RENTALS
1-888-920-8445

Tina Burt Edmondson • mentonemountaingetaways.com

SOUTHERN STYLE LOG FURNITURE

Located in the Village at Mentone

*Custom-made log furniture
*Local carvers *handmade jewelry
*home decor *chainsaw art
*handmade toys *Custom orders accepted

Open Friday afternoons, Saturday & Sunday till 6 pm-ish
Owner: Jeff Rymer (423)310-5525

Raspberry, Blackberry or Dewberry?

by Charlotte Gentry,
Editor, Groundhog

I made a fortuitous discovery the other day while walking around looking at stumps of trees that had been uprooted during the straight-line winds last month—wild raspberries are growing right in my own backyard!

A month or so ago, during what I'd refer to as "Blackberry Winter", I had seen many blackberry blossoms while walking the path around the lake. (I also noticed a goodly supply of wild blueberry blooms, too.) The raspberry canes, though, are in a completely different area and I had not noticed those at all.

Now, I realize many other folks around here may have wild raspberries all over their woodland areas and may not get as excited as I am at finding them. But, I haven't had raspberries growing in my yard since I was a kid in Indiana, and that was a long time ago!

Do you know the difference in the blackberry cane, the raspberry cane and the dewberry cane? (One might say the dewberry plant may be more of a vine than a cane.) If you look at the cane itself, a blackberry has several ridges around the stem, while the raspber-

ry is smooth and round. The dewberry hugs the ground and spreads somewhat like strawberry rhizomes. Raspberries don't have the thorns, either. If you've ever been blackberry picking, you've most likely bled a bit along the way.

The wild raspberry is a smaller and less sweet cousin of the tame variety, but they are a welcome and unexpected treat. If it hadn't been for the downed trees, I'd have never found them, either.

Next time you are taking a walk, take a look around to see if you find some of Nature's bounty. You might just be rewarded with a delicious snack.



Don't Forget Father's Day!
Sunday, June 19

"Continuous service by the same family since 1933"

**BROWN'S
CLEANING & LAUNDRY**

"An old company with new ideas"

•Vault Storage for Furs & Woolens • Drapery Cleaning with Machine Decorator Fold • Suede, Leather & Fur Cleaning • Fire Restoration & Odor Removal • Wedding Gown Preservation • Alterations • Pillow Cleaning
817 Gault Ave. N. (256) 845-3241

Full Laundry Service

Used to be half gallons



**Brittany Bain
Salutatorian
Valley Head
High School**

Brittany Bain, a lifelong resident of Mentone and graduate of Moonlake Elementary School, has been selected Salutatorian of Valley Head High School, Class of 2011.

While attending Valley Head High School, Brittany was a member of the Senior Beta Club, SADD, Science Club, FCCLA and Pride Club. Brittany has received a technology scholarship from Northeast Alabama Community College and will enroll in the nursing program.

"I've always known since I was a little girl that I wanted to do something in medicine," said Brittany. She credits her parents and several teachers with encouraging her to excel in her studies and pursue higher education.

Brittany is the daughter of Terry and Pamela Bain, of Mentone, granddaughter of Mrs. Frances McNutt, of Valley Head.

"My mom went to Moon Lake, my older brother graduated from there, I went there, my little brother is graduating 6th grade there this year, and my little sister is finishing 5th grade," she says with pride and a smile. "Moon Lake is a part of Mentone's history," she continues. "I hope to be able to take part in its 100-year celebration in September."

Congratulations and best of luck to Brittany!

Southern Properties

845-6000 Agency, Inc.

2107 Gault Ave. N., Fort Payne

SouthernPropertiesAgency.com



RUSTIC CABIN on wooded lot near DeSoto State Park 3 Bedroom, 2 Full Baths, 2 Half Baths, Living Room w/ Wood Burning FP, Formal Dining and Eat-in Kitchen. \$185,000 (20564)



MENTONE - Pole Cat Hollow - Remodeled 2 bedroom rustic cabin, living and dining combo has cathedral ceiling, kitchen with ceramic tile countertops, utility, CH&A, front porch, deck, wooded 1.78 acre tract. \$125,000 (20701)



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



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



COZY COUNTRY CHARM in downtown Mentone - 2/3BR-1BA with antique foot tub, living/dining combo, pine floors and walls, rock fireplace, and CH&A. (Add'l lots available.) House and Lot 11 - \$101,900 (20961)



COZY CABIN IN THE WOODS! 2BR/1BA! Log siding exterior with metal roof, wood floors and walls, rock fireplace, and bath with large jetted tub. Nice side deck with hot tub for relaxing and enjoying nature. Selling FULLY FURNISHED. \$99,500 (20992)



MOUNTAIN ROCK AND HARDWOODS surround this cozy Log Cabin on Lookout Mountain. Wood burning cast iron stove in the great room, eat-in kitchen, and loft provides a second bedroom. Master bedroom and bath on main level. Amenities to numerous to mention here. \$199,900 (20869)



THIS WARM & COZY 2 bedroom, 2 bath cabin nestled in the woods offers seclusion, privacy & tranquility in an artful setting. Some features include gorgeous pine wood floors, wood burning fireplace, vaulted ceilings with exposed beams & a covered front and back porch. \$159,900 (19624)



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



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



BRICK HOME w/lots of native mountain foliage. 3BR/2BA overlooking the West Fork of Little River. Large yard, screened porch, 2 storage sheds and a 2-car garage. \$199,000 (16371)



LIVE & PLAY on the water...200' of frontage on the East Fork of Little River. 3BR/2BA, all appliances, wood burning fireplace, storage building and more. \$347,900 (18278)



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



RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL property located on Hwy. 117 in Mentone is now FOR SALE! Approx. 1350 +/- sqft. Room for expansion on this 1.36 + acre lot. ONLY \$142,500 (20377)



LAUREL CREEK... Custom home offering 2BR/2BA, comfortable living/dining area w/cathedral ceilings, rock fireplace, over 600' of screened porches, and access to 3 lakes. \$194,500 (18918)



LOVE PEACE AND PRIVACY? Own this secluded streamside 3BR/2BA cabin with two-story family room, fireplace, kitchen w/island, appliance package, and dining area. 3.17 acre property \$259,900 (21135)



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



THIS IS IT!!! Custom 3BR/2.5BA, BONUS room, living w/fireplace, kitchen/dining combo, above-ground pool w/deck, 1 acre, overlooking pond. \$219,000 (20051)



LOVELY 2BR/2BA log cabin with open living, dining and kitchen on main level plus a full bath, large stone wood burning fireplace, and vaulted ceiling. Loft BR w/2 walk-in closets. All on a double lot w/brow frontage. Call for more details. \$269,900 (21126)



FEELS SO RIGHT! 3BR/2BA Cabin offering spacious floor plan, attic storage, soaring ceilings. Main-level master, stainless steel appliances. Laundry room, and covered porch. \$169,000 (21114)



LAKE ON THE BROW! This 1.6 acre property is a must see! 3BR/3BA, completely remodeled kitchen with hickory cabinets & SS appliances, dining area with exit to rear deck overlooking the lake, finished walk-out basement, and so much more! \$259,900 (20977)



CUSTOM BUILT, 2 BR/2BA Log Cabin situated on shaded, woodland acres. Two stone fireplaces, luxurious loft, 3 season sleeping porch, detached storage, additional small cabin, lily pond, kitchen with 5 Star six burner gas range, Ambiance/quality/privacy/dramatic flair. \$299,500 (20272)



A PLACE FOR YOUR OWN CANOE! Border the West Fork of Little River. Large kitchen with pantry, breakfast bar, and sitting area adjacent to indoor and outdoor dining rooms. 6BR/3.5BA, 2 living areas, laundry, sleeping porches, outside shower, mtn stone FP and more. A MUST SEE! \$799,000 (16467)



HANDCRAFTED WOODWORK is found throughout this 2BR/2BA mountain home. Features great room with cathedral ceiling, full front and back porch, & large utility room. Located in Laurel Creek Lakes with access to 3 lakes and walking trails. \$179,500 (19135)

BUILDING LOT (.59) on DeSoto Parkway near The Cliffs. \$25,900 (21143)

BROW LOT! Gorgeous views all around from this beautiful 1 +/- acre lot in Mentone. \$158,900 (21131)

3 +/- ACRES on the East Fork of Little River. \$142,500 (17568)

GREAT BUILDING LOT situated inside the city limits of Mentone. Property has an existing storage building and split rail fence. \$79,900 (19860)

BROKEN DAM @ LAHUSAGE! Located atop Lookout Mountain on Little River - River tracts offering fantastic year round mountain water, swimming, canoe to Little River Canyon. Private, gated and restricted. (17327)

BREATHTAKING SUNSETS and views await you on this 6.5 acres w/300' of brow frontage. \$345,900 (17268)

START YOUR NEW HOME HERE IN MENTONE, ALABAMA! The possibilities are endless as you explore these 3 acres. The entire rear of the property rests on Little River, adding to the features of the

land. Come see all that Mentone has to offer as you plan to build your getaway! \$64,900 each (20577/20578)

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

TIME WILL STAND STILL when you see this view! 106' of prime brow view with paved road frontage. Walking distance to downtown Mentone - walk to dinner or have an ice cream cone. Level and ready to build. All Mentone city services available. \$109,500 (21055)

Diary of a Chicken Lady

Part-two
By Kristen Emory



What do you do when you are absolutely positively scared of chickens? You sit in the coop with

them and give them cute names like Thelma and Louise. And when this doesn't work you buy more chickens, right? Just smaller ones.

I get to put my well-earned Psychology Degree to work by performing a little Desensitization Therapy (I learned that in a book). Without telling anyone, I load up and head to Tractor Supply to see Faye. I tell Faye about my minor fear of chickens and my plan with baby chicks.

My fear is not of the chicken itself but of the quick movements they make as they fly around and squawk.

She shows me how to hold a chick and fills me in on what to feed them and how to care for chicks that are only a week old. Yes, I said it, a week old. Caring for the chicks will require a light, smaller living quarters, different feeders and waterers, a few weeks in the house, and more study in my chicken book.

Now, remember, I have told no one. I am on my own. Faye and I begin to pick out the best baby chicks and she informs me that I have to buy six. SIX??? What am I going to do with SIX baby chicks???

I move forward with 2 red chicks, 3 black chicks, and 1 white chick (she was on sale and feisty).

When I say feisty, I mean running through the aisles trying to make the great escape. I had to save her. What is safer, roaming the streets of Fort Payne or Mentone? Load her up Faye, she's going with me. I am headed back to Mentone with six baby chicks in a box at my feet.

Luckily, Tom was not home at the time of my arrival and I get all necessary items together. I find a large tub that the chicks can live in and decide to put the tub and the baby chicks in the extra-large dog house (we have four outside dogs) to keep the chickens safe until nighttime.

Minor setback-- the dog house doorway is just a little bit small for the chicken tub. I make a quick phone call to my Dad. He was busy. With what? He is retired and I need his help. I inform him, "I am getting out the power tools. Can I cut the dog house door with a skill saw? Hurry and help me before Tom gets home."

No time. I am moving on. There are lives at stake here! I plug in the saw and start cutting. I look through the cloud of saw dust and there, pulling in the driveway, is my lovely husband. I'm busted! Tom quickly informs me that he likes all my fingers and finishes my chore with a smile on his face.

Long story short, the tub now fits in the dog house even though the chicks reside in the back room of our house...at least until I can get Tom to build me another chicken coop. "A small one honey, nothing fancy."

My therapy is going well. The baby chicks are helping. I can not say I am fearless, but I am less fearful.

Chicken Lady?
Kristen Emory

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

MAPA meeting to elect new officers,
Tuesday, June 7, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.
at Moon Lake Baptist Church.

Sit a spell

BURT FUNERAL HOME

Home Owned & Operated for over 50 years

John I. Burt

Licensed Funeral Director & Manager

Fort Payne
845-3232

Valley Head
635-6247

BUYING GOLD & SILVER JEWELRY & COINS

We Pay More!

Same Location Since 1959

PRUETT JEWELERS

69 Main Street East • Rainsville, Alabama

256-638-3210 How many flavors are there?

Mentone Wedding Chapel



Nestled in the woods atop Lookout Mountain, near Mentone, Alabama, this quaint little chapel is surrounded by ferns, forest and flowers. The chapel is a scaled version of traditional Appalachian churches of days gone by. Stained glass windows filtering soft forest sunrays and soft organ music accent an ambience fitting the wedding ceremony. Inside wooden pews will seat approximately 60 guests.

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

Candle Lite Ceremonies • Music • Photographs
Flowers • Receptions • Lodging • Limousines

To arrange your wedding or renewing
of your wedding vows, call

256-634-4181 T-Shirts

MASSAGE THERAPY

Kerry Breithaupt LMT
National Instructor AL#456

- HOT STONE MASSAGE
- DEEP TISSUE THERAPY
- SWEDISH MASSAGE
- GIFT CERTIFICATES
- CABIN/HOUSE CALLS

Offices in
Mentone & Ft. Payne
256-254-9802



Do you
have ice?

RHODODENDRON GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Linda Brown, Secretary

Variety is the spice of garden clubs! The May meeting, this is the first secret ingredient, of the Rhododendron Garden Club was very spicy. On May 10, 2011, ten members and four visitors journeyed to the home of Jack and Elaine Gauldin. The house is situated on the bank of Little River in Mentone, this is the second secret ingredient. Simmer these two together for a few minutes until further instructions.

Just a little background information will make this story more interesting. In December, the club was scheduled to celebrate Christmas at the home of the Gauldins. An ice storm came and the meeting was canceled. Ice and snow were on the ground on the day of the January meeting. The meeting was canceled. Sometime shortly after this date, the committee met and planned the programs for the next year. It was at this meeting that it was decided to meet at the Gauldins home for a meeting in a month that would not have an ice or snow storm.

The month of May was chosen and someone said, "What can the program be?" Elaine answered that they had a pontoon boat and the members could come and take a ride on the river to see the flowers which would be in bloom. No one knows how she persuaded Jack to consent to give women a ride on his boat on the river. He had no escape route!

The day dawned crisp and clear. It was a little chilly but we all knew to wear a light jacket. We gathered on the screened porch and were served a snack. I can't spell hors d'oeuvres. About 10:30 a.m. it was announced that Jack was ready to take the first group for a ride on the river. Seven of the ladies loaded into the boat and were off with what sounded like a turkey call. It was just the horn of the boat. Resume directions for spicy meetings!

As soon as the boat pulled away from the dock, you could hear the ohing and ahing. The rhododendron and the mountain laurel were both in bloom and were covering the banks of the river. This is a sight which can only be seen from the river. Add plenty of this ingredient and enjoy the feast for your senses. I'm sure that many of our members know the Latin names for these plants, but I am using the terms which I've always heard. Most of the rhododendrons were the native ones. These are usually light purple in color.



May 2008 Rhododendron Festival river trip.

These were covered in blooms and were at the peak of their season. A few were more of a rose color, but on closer inspection their buds were tighter and they were in the shade. The mountain laurel was blooming in shades of white, pink and darker pink. The shiny green foliage entwined with the blooms to give the banks of the river a beauty beyond description.

The first group returned and those ladies who were waiting embarked on the voyage of Mentone in May. The chorus of ohs and ahs was heard once again. Jack guided the boat along the same route for this group of members.

When all were back and very much ready for lunch, we were not disappointed. Enter next secret ingredient. Elaine Gauldin and Jan Wilkinson served a sit-down lunch to all in attendance. What a wonderful day and the perfect ending was homemade strawberry shortcake for dessert.

Thanks ever so much to Jack and Elaine for hosting one of our most memorable garden club meetings. We are trying something new this year. We do not plan to meet in June and July.

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 9, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. The club will meet at the M.E.R.F.

Community House. The program will be Floral Designs and preparation for the VFW Flower Show.

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

Mentone Area Arts Council Newsletter

In the wake of the late April tornadoes that were so destructive across northern Alabama, several events have been scheduled to raise funds to help those in this area who suffered losses.

Saturday, June 11, a silent auction to raise disaster relief funds will be held at the DeKalb Theater, in Fort Payne. The event will kick off at 9:00 am, and is being coordinated by the Wills Valley Covenant Church and Purpose Center. MAAC is encouraging any of our members to donate items for the auction. For more information on how to make a donation, contact Hank Sturm at 256-393-9986.

Call for artists for MAAC's July 2nd/3rd Mid Summer Art Show

The Mentone Area Arts Council announces the first call for artists to display your work at the Mid Summer Art Show, July 2nd and 3rd, in Mentone. The 4th of July weekend in Mentone always attracts crowds of visitors to the area, and considering the low exhibitors fees, this is a very attractive show. Council members pay \$20; non-members pay \$45, but \$25 of that goes to pay your 2011 membership in MAAC. What a deal! So sign up now, and join us in downtown Mentone for this great show. Mid Summer's coordinator Harry Ohme, says, "This will be a fire-cracker event!" Just fill out and return the following form to MAAC:

Please Print

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

TYPE OF ART EXHIBITED _____

EXHIBITOR'S FEE ENCLOSED \$20 MAAC MEMBER
\$40 NON-MEMBER

Make Check Payable To MAAC

Participation will be confirmed. Mail form & fee to:
Harry Ohme
P. O. Box 243
Mentone, AL 35984

Where's the art?

We haven't a clue unless you clue us in. So send your arts and cultural events announcements to us and we'll pass them on.

Holley Midgley, MAAC vice president

Valley Head Drugs

114 Commerce Avenue
Valley Head, AL 35989

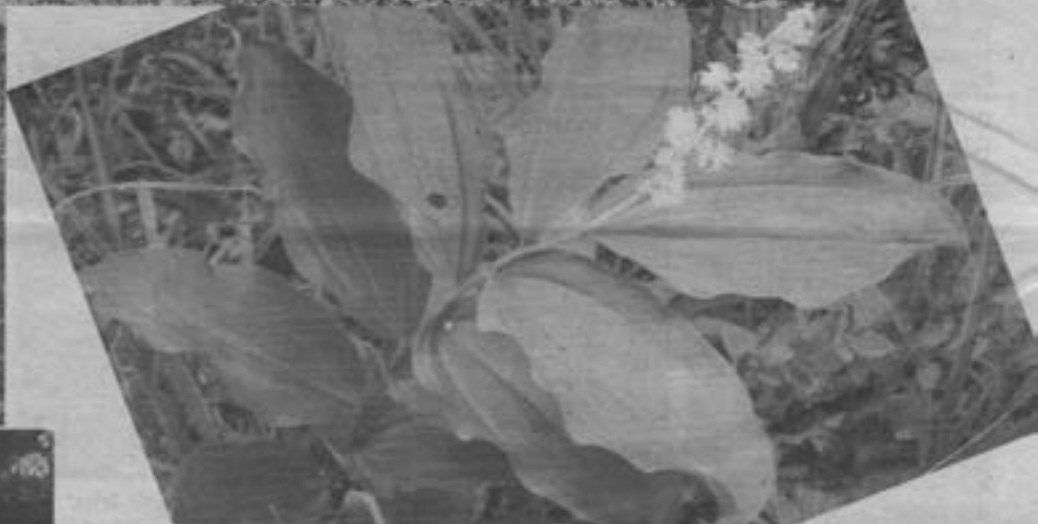
Surely, Shirely won't tell

256-635-6812

Cynthia and Wayne Wooten, Owners

"We appreciate your business"

Out And About - MENTONE



Moon Lake at Space Camp

(submitted article)

Each year Ms. Prestwood's 5th grade class at Moon Lake Elementary School travels to the Huntsville Space & Rocket Center and spends three days at Space Camp. The time they spent there this year was jam-packed with fun and adventure.

Going to class and learning about what it takes to become an astronaut, building rockets, visiting the IMAX theater, traveling exhibits, going through the gift shop, and experiencing what astronauts do day-by-day are just a few of the things they fit into those three days. The adventure is one that these kids will remember for a lifetime.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this trip possible. A special thanks to Ms. Prestwood for being such an extraordinary teacher!



Front Row: Courtney Meadows, Breanna Blalock, William Chitwood, Hannah Durham, Kyle Miller
Back Row: Kattie Bain, Brianna Powell, Dylan Pannell, Bennett Crow, Brian Estep, Macy Smith



Brianna Powell at Space Camp 2011

hot dogs

Open House

Alpine Station #2

kids tour
fire engine

Fire Hall

meet
volunteer
firefighters

2041 County Road 165

Saturday, June 18, 2011

tour the new
fire hall

11:00 a.m.

cold drinks

Fun! fun! fun!



Mark Mitchell, Agent
17174 AL Hwy 75 North
Henagar, AL 35978
Bus: 256-657-8252
mark.mitchell.b2g1@statefarm.com

Family
is why
we do
it all.

We all feel the same commitment to care for our families. Helping you meet your insurance needs is part of my commitment to you. Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.
CALL ME TODAY.



State Farm

Bring on the Pollinators

For several years, gardeners have noticed the decrease in the honey bee population. We have become so dependent on chemicals to help us with weeding and pest control that we have made the outdoor environment harmful to the bees and butterflies. So, let's do something about bringing the bees and butterflies back to the garden.

First, target those pesky bad offenders with a safe alternative, such as insecticidal soap or beneficial insects that prey on the bad guys. It may take some extra effort on your part, but do some research on safer methods. Your local garden center professional, the internet, or the library are great sources of information. Did you know that the Master Gardener program especially targets safe means of dealing with "bad" bugs, disease, and fungus? This course is available to all interested individuals. Call your local extension agent for times and dates of the classes. I took this course a few years ago and, even though I work with plants and pests every day, I learned so much to help me in my work.

Secondly, provide shelter. Bees, birds, and butterflies need safe havens to feed, water, and reproduce. Plant a

"wild" area that will give them undisturbed areas. Provide shallow pools of water for the butterflies. An upturned bottle with a depression in it will give plenty of water for them.

Finally, serve the pollinators an ongoing feast. Native plants bloom at the right times for pollinators. Plant masses (three or more) of the same plant. Some plants, such as parsley, fennel and dill are sacrificial in that the larva feed on them; the good point is that the parsley is a perennial and will grow more food for them and us. Other plants serve as nesting spots; birds love to build their nests in hollies as the sharp pointed leaves protect them from predators.

Another drinking spot can be a muddy site or bog. An example is the muddy area I created yesterday when I watered my containers in the yard. As I was leaving home last evening for an appointment, small blue butterflies were drinking from the muddy spot I had created. Rain gardens can also provide this watering area. There is still plenty of time to fill your garden with the plants I have mentioned. Most of them are readily available at garden centers now. Do your part to protect our pollinators. Oh, yes, bees only sting when provoked. I simply tell the bumblebees at the store to go someplace else and they usually buzz off!

Here are some great plants that will invite pollinators to your garden and provide them with food:

The blanket flower (*Gaillardia* spp.) provides color to draw bees.
Joe Pye weed (*Eupatorium* spp.) provides nectar.
Sunflower seed (*Helianthus* spp.) production increases when native bees feast on them.
Asters (*Symphyotrichum* spp.) with a lot of color will draw a broad range of pollinators.
Purple coneflower (*Echinacea* spp.) provides wonderful beauty while luring pollinators.
Lavender (*Lavandula* spp.) attracts honeybees, the most efficient of pollinators.
Butterfly weed (*Asclepias* spp.) provides feed and a spot for the caterpillars to lay eggs that become butterflies.
Bee balm (*Monarda* spp.) has a long blooming season to attract bees and butterflies.
Rosemary adds fragrance plus lovely blue blooms for the pollinators to dine upon.
Cosmos (*Cosmos* spp.) offer an extremely long bloom period, from spring to the first frost.
Russian sage (*Perovskia* spp.) is a good nectar source late in the season when other perennials are finished blooming.
One of the best pollinator shrubs is the abelia, blooming from early summer to frost, providing nectar and great fragrance.

Written by
Susan Seago, Co-Owner of
Fine View Garden Center



Don't forget to recycle

but please follow the rules by using the right bins, which are clearly labeled.

Mentone Recycling Center is located behind City Hall.

TOWN OF MENTONE RECYCLING DROP OFF

MONDAY - FRIDAY
8:00a.m. - 6:00p.m.

SATURDAY
8:00a.m. - 2:00p.m.

NO HOUSEHOLD
GARBAGE

Brrr! It's cold!



FIRST FEDERAL Bank

The finest traditions of community banking

Fort Payne
845-1077

Rainsville
638-6342

Ider
657-6255

We're more than bankers, we're your neighbors and friends."

MOON LAKE ELEMENTARY



Congratulations!

BUNCH 6TH

2010 - 2011

Use this form to subscribe to The Groundhog.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date: _____

Have The Groundhog delivered to your mailbox! Give The Groundhog for a birthday present or as a special gift for someone you love. If gift, please give the name and complete address of recipient. Renew your own subscription. Just \$15/year. Send your check payable to:

The Groundhog
PO BOX 387, MENTONE, AL 35984

CLASSIFIEDS

LODGING/CABIN RENTALS

\$99 PER NIGHT SPECIAL!

Best price on the edge of Lookout Mtn. Romantic sunsets. Mentone. RITZ ON THE ROCKS. Reservations now 504-481-8666.

HIGH HORSE LODGE vacation rental provides luxury in a wilderness setting near Mentone. Hike, bike or ride 5 miles of trails. 706-398-0858; www.highhorselodge.com

ROCK BLUFF RENTALS.

Lakeside cabins. Hot tubs. Gas log fireplaces. Fishing. Pet friendly for house-trained pets. www.rockbluffinc.com 256-634-8180 or 256-364-0033

(NOTE: CLASSIFIED ADS ARE PAID IN ADVANCE. Contact EDITORGROUNDHOG@YAHOO.COM or mail ad copy and payment to PO Box 387, Mentone AL 35984)

Attention Groundhog Readers:

Single copies of the Groundhog are available at the locations listed below free of charge.

To have the Groundhog mailed to your home, complete the coupon at left and mail along with your payment to The Groundhog. Please remember to advise us of any changes in your address.

Bruce's Foodland (Fort Payne)
DeKalb Co. Library (Fort Payne)
Welcome Center (Sulphur Springs)
Valley Head Drug Store
Tigers Inn
Mentone Market
The Forge Gallery
Tourist Association (Fort Payne)
DeSoto State Park
Kilgore Pharmacy

Little River Hardware
The Clip Joint
Snappy Tee's
Alabama Organics
Mentone Community Library
Second Chances
Mentone Realty
The Times-Journal
Chamber of Commerce
Big Jim's Bama Q

28th Annual Rhododendron Festival



69 RHODODENDRONS SOLD!

