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THE GROUNDHOG

Mentone, Valley Head, Hammondville

Volume 29, No. 03

"Neighborhood News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

March 2010

Moon Lake Elementary School, Mentone, Alabama Celebrates 100 Years

By L.C. Moon

Moon Lake Elementary School (MLES) is getting ready to celebrate its 100-year anniversary. MLES has a rich history and much to celebrate!

Over a century ago, Martha Berry, founder of Berry College in Rome, GA, gifted the Mentone community with land to create a community school and a church. Martha Berry's vision for Mentone came to pass, with the establishment of Moon Lake Elementary School and the neighboring Moon Lake Baptist Church.

Mentone honors Martha Berry's gift and has expanded upon her generosity! The P.T.O. and the community have not only maintained MLES buildings over the years but have also improved existing structures and added new ones despite adversities.

Moon Lake Elementary School thrives to date educating bright, young leaders of tomorrow. For instance, on the website Great Schools.org MLES's 2008/2009 4th grade rated a 10, with 10 being the highest possible rating based on their standardized test scores in comparison to other 4th grade classes in the State of Alabama. MLES as a whole ranked in the top 4 in its district based on Math ARMT standardized test scores; sixth grade scoring top in the district. The 2009 graduates of sixth grade also scored highest in the DeKalb County District in reading on the Standard Achievement Tests and tied with Plainview in language.

The MLES gym, just one of the many improvements, was built with funds raised by PTO, community helping hands and donations from the group Alabama. In later years the PTO raised money to create a new entrance and concession stand for the gym as well as replacing the concrete gym floor with a safer up to date floor in 1998.

MLES benefits greatly because it encourages community and parental involvement. For instance, the P.T.O. raised almost \$100,000 in the past 6 years to improve the buildings, grounds, education and enrichment of the children. Also, the Mentone Educational Resources Foundation provides a complete salary and all supplies for the added benefit of an art, music and Spanish program at MLES.

MLES has a beautiful campus, complete with educational gardens, all created by Mentone area community. Local organizations such as MLES PTO, Rhododendron Garden Club, Boy Scout Troop 106, De Soto State Park, Valley Head Woman's Club, Mentone Educational Resource Foundation, Mentone Area Preservation Association, Mentone Fire Department, Mentone Area Arts Council



and many other businesses and individuals contribute greatly to improve the school's grounds and activities.

The school, alumni and Mentone community are eager to celebrate their 100-year anniversary; however, there is concern about what the potential State of Alabama 2011 budget cuts may mean for the DeKalb County Board of Education and the future of Moon Lake Elementary School.

On the cold, rainy evening of Friday February 3, many parents, students, Moon Lake Alumni and the community at large braved the elements to discuss the school's future.

Dr. Bill Berry intrigued everyone at the meeting when he shared an article published in the Birmingham News from February 23,

1965. Quoting, "The school board has pledged not to consolidate Moon Lake with Valley Head—on condition the Mentone Community keeps the building in good shape and (then principal) Elam keeps school finances in order."

The PTO and Mentone area community have risen to the occasion. Elam and the MLES principals following him have kept finances in order, with the help of PTO. Sometime after the 1965 article, PTO even paid the utilities and cafeteria clerk. They did so consistently until 1995.

With buildings in better shape, and attendance increasing by 40 children, since the 1965 school year, the Moon Lake Community feels there is much hope they will get to celebrate their 100-year anniversary.

Even if 2011 budget cuts limit the DeKalb County Board of Education's contributions to MLES's immediate future, the community is secure in the knowing they have displayed the ability to substantially compensate for any funds the BOE cannot provide.

A Facebook page titled "Moon Lake" is available online for updates and comments about Moon Lake Elementary School. Petitions are available to sign at Mentone Market and the Wildflower Café in Mentone, AL, just in case the community needs to further show support of the school to the De Kalb Board of Education.

We ask people to sign the MLES petitions, contact BOE superintendent Charles Warren, BOE board member Terry Wooten (P.O. Box 1668 Rainsville, AL 35986) and/or Senator Lowell Barron (Room 729B 11 South Union Street Montgomery, AL 36130) to help secure the future of Moon Lake Elementary School and preserve one of Mentone's treasures.

THE GROUNDHOG

PO Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984

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



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**CALL EVELYN GRAVES AT
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Letters to the editor are welcome. They should be typewritten and of reasonable length.

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DeSoto State Park
Kilgore Pharmacy
Windwood Farms Restaurant
Little River Hardware
The Clip Joint
Snappy Tee's
Alabama Organics
Mentone Community Library

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The regular town clean-up will be held at 9:00 a.m. April 3, 2010 at the Mentone Inn. See you there!!!

Electronic Recycling will be held from 10:00-1:00 on May 8, 2010 at the Town Hall.

Letter To The Editor:

Dear Mrs. Graves,
...I really enjoy the Groundhog. It is almost like a letter from "home". Your article featuring Mrs. Romans was very good. I remember when the Hardie Jones children favored the Valley Head High School with some excellent music by Colquitt, Lovejoy, Elizabeth and Mary Louise. They were all on stage at our assembly...

Sincerely,
Rob Ringer

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GROUNDHOG MUST BE RECEIVED
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Please call Evelyn Graves at 634-4390, or email Ergraves37@aol.com. The Groundhog is printed on the last day of each month.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding. Thank you.

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

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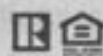
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Welcome To Mentone!!



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

LOTS and LAND

REDUCED! 2.79 AC IN LAUREL CREEK LAKES w/700' creek frontage. Wooded. Public water available. Very quiet & private place to build without being totally isolated. Access to fishing ponds, walking areas. Restricted. Active HOA. \$40,000. (19279)

150' LAKE FRONTAGE on 7-acre lake at beautiful Lake on the Brow Subdivision, just outside the boundaries of Little River Canyon National Preserve. Wooded, approximately one-acre restricted lot (minimum cabin size of 1,000 sq ft; dock permitted on lake). Underground utilities. Just listed for \$56,000. (19715)

1.69 AC LOT w/view of Rock Lake. Add'l land avail. Lightly restricted. \$27,500 (19225)

200' FRONTAGE ON WEST FORK LITTLE RIVER. 4.84 acre lot in restricted community offers canoeing, swimming, fishing, rock formations on the property & across the river surrounded by mountain laurel, native holly, huge hardwood trees and yellow root. \$64,500. (19048)

LOOKOUT MTN BLUFF VIEW LOT overlooking city of Fort Payne. Unrestricted, 0.9 acre, wooded. Public water avail. You don't have to build a mansion and you don't have to spend a lot to have a lot with a view! Great investment potential. Only \$19,900 (18901)

WOODED LOT IN BANKHEAD SOUTH, a development offering a wooded place to build your getaway dream cabin or permanent residence. This lot (Lot 2) offers 3.6 ac, paved road frontage, public water & power at road. One of only 2 lots remaining. \$38,000. (17865)

BEST BUY IN NORTHBEND! This 3-acre wooded lot (Lot 2) located in Mentone's highest elevation gated community provides a spot for your mountain haven. A world away, but not miles away! \$29,900 (17461)

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INTERESTING PLACE, INTERESTING POSSIBILITIES! 20 acres of gorgeous, mostly-wooded land w/543' on both sides of Straight Creek. Add to this a 2-story log cabin w/2BR/1.5BA & porches on both levels; a bathhouse w/sm att apartment; several small "survival huts" of different styles (one hut sits at the top of a waterfall); a campground area w/power & water at each site; a "natural swimming pool" that in days gone by had a stream flowing into it & a waterfall flowing out of it. Walking through this property one comes up with all kinds of ideas that would make good use of its offerings. Experience it for yourself & be inspired! \$215,000. (19719)



OUTSTANDING WORKMANSHIP, SUBSTANTIAL MATERIALS! That's been the trademark of cabins built in Bankhead South SD, & this cabin, nearing completion, is no exception! 2BR/2.5BA, 1643 sq ft home w/wraparound 8' porch (w/16' covered & screened extension off MABR!), mtn stone w/ bpl; laundry; pantry; loft area for office/studio; vaulted & beamed ceiling. 1.6 acre wooded lot. \$184,900.



UNDER CONSTRUCTION! RUSTIC, YET REFINED. 2BR/2BA, 1.5 story cabin. The rustic feel you want, the little upgrades you desire. Half-log exterior, metal roof, full screened back porch, nice extras. Designed & built to be very energy efficient. Situated on a wooded, 1.4 ac lot in Mossy Rock at Mentone. This will be the first cabin built in this beautiful small development in Mentone. Working price of \$149,900. (19721)



GREAT COTTAGE ON DESOTO PKWY between the park & Mentone, near Corner Scout Camp & Cloudmont Ski & Golf Resort. Beautifully remodeled 2BR/2BA cabin home in a picture-perfect setting in the trees. Beautiful native trees & flowering plants; a great screened porch; stone Fpl; rustic beams inside; roomy kitchen; all new baths & CH/A. Now \$145,000. (19531)



TAKE ONE 40 ACRE FOREST, ADD ONE CUTE LITTLE CABIN, then add another cabin that is much larger (but unfinished) and you have the beginnings of a recipe for, well, just about anything! A nature retreat, a family vacation compound, a hunting preserve! Cabin 1 is a 2BR/1BA w/WB Fpl, lotsa windows, handy-sized kitchen, great front patio, deck off upstairs BR. Cabin 2 (unfinished) is 2-story w/3 or 4BR/2BA, porches on both levels. Mostly hardwood forest w/abundant wildlife. There's plenty of room to roam & explore the lush, fern-strewn valleys & rocky outcroppings of the hills. \$250,000 (19755)



BACK ON THE MARKET! At a greatly reduced price! A fabulous start on your mountain retreat, offering one of the prettiest settings to build a cabin in the trees, overlooking a small lake. And, there's already a well-built double garage on the property. Store materials or convert it to a cabin till you're ready to build. 1.13 acres, lightly restricted, backs up to Camp Corner. Now only \$49,000. (19775)



A TRUE TRANSFORMATION! A beautifully-executed interior renovation combines with the perfect original stone exterior on this 1833 sq ft, 3BR/2BA home near Lake Lahusage. Lg custom KI; HW & cer tile floors; huge old stone Fpl; beautiful molding; new roof, siding & CH/A. Nice garage/workshop. Perched atop 1.42 acres. Great price of \$186,000. (19413)



CRAFTSMANSHIP & BEAUTY inside and out! New cabin home, picturesquely situated in a meadow, surrounded by fields & a horse farm, with woods across the road. Inviting front porch; 1820 sq ft; 3BR/2.5BA; stone Fpl; main-level Master suite w/lg jetted tub & sep shower. Many extras such as custom wrought iron balcony rail & top line light fixtures. Screened back porch. \$229,000. (18867)



40 ACRES IN WALKERS CHAPEL COMMUNITY, near Dogtown, with single-wide mobile home, a three-bay garage/barn/shop w/apartment and dog kennel. Property has frontage on both sides of paved road. Mostly level to gently rolling. Interesting and beautiful rock formations, wet-weather stream. Nice woods. Hard-to-find sweet shrub. Lots of deer! A nature-lover's paradise with possibilities as a cattle or horse farm. Owner financing available. \$295,000. (19097)



PUBLIC NOTICE

The **2010** meeting dates for the **Valley Head Water Works Board**, 101 School Street, Valley Head, AL will be as follows:

MARCH 8, 2010
APRIL 12, 2010
MAY 10, 2010
JUNE 14, 2010
JULY 12, 2010
AUGUST 9, 2010
SEPTEMBER 13, 2010
OCTOBER 11, 2010
NOVEMBER 8, 2010
DECEMBER 13, 2010

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

The **2010** quarterly meeting dates for the **Mentone Planning Commission**, 5972 AL Hwy 117, Mentone, AL will be on the **3rd Thursday** of the following months:

APRIL 15
JULY 15
OCTOBER 15

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

The **2010** meeting dates for the **Mentone Waterworks Board**, 5972 AL Hwy 117, Mentone, AL will be at 4PM, on the 4th

Thursday as follows:

MARCH 25
APRIL 22
MAY 27
JUNE 24
JULY 22
AUGUST 25
SEPTEMBER 22
OCTOBER 27
NOVEMBER 22
DECEMBER 22

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

The **2010** meeting dates for the **Mentone Town Council**, 5972 AL Hwy 117, Mentone, AL will be on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6PM, as follows:

MARCH 8
APRIL 12
MAY 10
JUNE 14
JULY 12
AUGUST 9
SEPTEMBER 13
OCTOBER 11
NOVEMBER 8
DECEMBER 13

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

MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

1 – Gourdie's, Roland Hendon
 3 – Michael Smith, Dawson Bone, Katie Meadows
 4 – Luther Kirby, in memory Jerry Rogers
 6 – Willie Jean Baty
 7 – Arabella Stokes,
 8 – Kirby McMunn
 13 – Dee Thompson
 15 – Dick Tindol
 16 – Jesse Bone
 17 – Walter Fowlkes
 20 – Hobson Kirby, Cynthia Kerby
 21 – Brittany Hester
 22 – Robert Baker
 23 – Roberta Cash, Andrew Wooten, Chelsea Carrier
 24 – Julie Mayhew
 25 – Claud Burke, Evelyn Graves, Mary Ellen Fielder, Chef Benjamin
 26 – Buck Ellis, in memory Tripp Griffith, Mike Fielder

27 – Matthew Collins
 29 – Donna Hilliard

Anniversaries

5 – Michael & Donna Smith
 8 – Dianne & Dick Tindol
 11 – Martha & Hobson Kirby
 17 – Terry & Dorma Hutcheson
 23 – Nicky & Tina Langston
 26 – David & Donna Hilliard
 31 – Bill & Sue Schwarz



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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.

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

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

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

Walnut Grove Baptist Church, on Highway 11 North of Fort Payne, welcomes

everyone at Sunday School at 10AM, Worship Service at 11AM, Wednesday night youth meeting at 6PM, and Wednesday night prayer meeting at 6:30PM.

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

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

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

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

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

The Mentone Revival Center and Pastor LeRoy Nichols and wife, Nell, invite everyone to join in worship on Sunday morning at 10AM and 11AM, and Sunday night and Thursday night 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.

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

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

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

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

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

Mentone 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.)



DEVOTIONAL

By Evelyn Graves

In the dreary, rainy, snowy days that we have experienced over the last month, I am beginning to long for springtime with its flowering trees, green grass, sunshine, the sound of birds singing, and the freshness of the season as we celebrate Easter and we are reminded of the resurrection of Jesus Christ as we worship Him in the beauty of holiness.

As we go through the period of time when the trees that have been barren begin to put on fresh leaves and the daffodils begin to break through the ground to put on new life, we celebrate again the newness of our own lives when we put away the old life of sin and were clothed in God's righteousness.

May we enjoy the beauty of springtime with a new hope and as the psalmist says, "Sing unto the Lord a new song."

There's something new at Annie's Bakery and Café

Something exciting is happening at Annie's. They now open on Friday nights by reservation only. You can reserve a 5 p.m. seating or a 7 p.m. seating.

The restaurant will be transformed from lunchtime casual to evening elegance with the addition of linen tablecloths and napkins. The menu also changes for evening with a different special featured each week. These will include Shrimp and Grits, Stuffed Roasted Cornish Hens and steak. Appetizers will be Tzatziki with pita bread, crab cakes or hummus.

There will also be special dessert each week. Two that are sure to be popular are Raspberry Cream Tarts or Chocolate Italian Cream Cake.

Got Any Old Indian Proverbs in Your Memory Bank?

By Kenneth Chambers

Having had the good fortune to meet and become friends with some of the Cherokees of North Carolina, I have learned a kinship that made me to feel I had been introduced to family. I mention my acquaintance with those peoples to pose the question to all that may read and try to answer. Do you recall having heard something in a phrase from times past like, "If it rains before 7 o'clock, it will be gone by 11 o'clock?" I am not sure if it is A.M. or P.M., but I have seen it work that way.

It would be interesting to get input from others in and around DeKalb County, Alabama, because of the documented teachings at the "Council Tree" in front of the Winston Place in Valley Head, and at the caverns named for this leader.

I would really like to have a response to this question so we might compile a list.

Please send your replies to The Groundhog so we will have input to share with all. This question is offered by Kenneth Chambers and Evelyn Graves.

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by Linda Brown

Thanks to everyone who came to our Winter Book Sale!! I wish I could say we made a lot of money, but that is not the case. The weather was typical February weather, cold and damp. Another thing, we had our books priced so low that we would have had to sell all of the books we had to realize a big profit. Think about paperbacks for a quarter or five for a dollar. Even though we didn't make a large profit, we look at it this way; we have a lot of fun meeting new people and seeing some we haven't seen in a long time. Also, everything we sell is profit because you have given us the books and we have no overhead. The members of the board of directors of M.E.R.F. allow us to use the back room in the Community House and we are very grateful. Please continue to donate your books. We will have our outdoor Summer Book Sale during the weekend of the Longest Yard Sale. No book goes to waste when you donate them to the Moon Lake Community Library.

The meeting of the Moon Lake Community Library Board of Directors has been moved to Thursday a week later than the regular date. Therefore, we have not had the meeting when I am writing this. I will bring you up to date on what plans were made in next month's article.

Our list of FRIENDS of the Library continues to grow. We have people joining when they come into the library and some just hand their twenty dollars to a member of the board and say, "Put me on the list of FRIENDS." This is a good way to meet new people and to help with one of the best things that ever happened in Mentone, the construction of the Moon Lake Elementary School Community Library. This means that the students of Moon Lake Elementary School use the library during school hours and the community uses it after school hours. This has never been a problem for either one. We all work together to present a well stocked and well run library.

We have several events planned for this spring. One of them is another Meet the Author day. This year we plan to invite a local author. She lives in Mentone and her subject is one that intrigues many people. I will have more details in next month's article.

We like having the special projects and most of them are a lot of fun. But, we are most proud of the use of the community library by the students of MLES. They come with their moms, dads, and grandparents and read a book. After they have read the book they take what they call an AR Test. The score is posted in their individual notebooks and counts for the reading program at school. After they do this most of them choose another book and check it out to take home and read. The school librarian, Mrs. Lasseter, initiated this program. The community side continues to keep it going. We love to have children come and spend time with something you can hold in your hand, a book.

Since I am the coordinator of the volunteers I know about this area best. I know that they must be the best group of people you can imagine. They continue to work at the library on the date I have assigned them and to help Beverly, the librarian, cover books and place them in their proper place. They shelve any books that are turned in or collected from the drop box. If you are charged a fine when you leave a book or DVD in the drop box, tell Beverly and she will remove it. You do not pay a fine when you drop them off. Sometimes the computer system applies the fine and the volunteer who is working doesn't realize this.

This brings up another area. We have many good books, which were given to us, swapped for at McKay's or otherwise acquired. These are entered into the computer system, wrapped in plastic and put out for you to see. The entire rack, marked "New Arrivals" is now full of new books. We have moved those that have been there awhile to the shelves. Be sure to look there if you are looking for a particular book. You will be surprised at the number of books we have which are on the list of best sellers.

The open days of the Moon Lake Community Library are: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

To be on the agenda for a meeting, call Jan Wilkinson. Write to us: Moon Lake Community Library, PO Box 481, Mentone, Alabama 35984.

Calling All Artists Spring Fling Art Show May 1-2, 2010 Mentone, Alabama

On Saturday, May 1st and Sunday, May 2nd, the Mentone Area Arts Council will sponsor the Spring Fling Art Show in Mentone, Alabama. This is one of Mentone's busiest weekends as visitors from all over the southeast descend upon Mentone to enjoy the beginning of a season of warm weather in clear and refreshing mountain air.

In addition to the Art Show, there will be an automobile show at the Mentone Inn and another art show in Valley Head, just a few miles from Mentone. Also on Saturday night, a Spring Fling Party will be held at the Mentone Springs Hotel which will include food and entertainment by the Collard Greens, a jazz ensemble from Rome, Georgia.

The Art Show will be held at Mason Park, the Mentone Springs Hotel, grounds of the Mentone Inn, and in Rue Gardens. All of the above sites are within ready walking distance of one another and are located in the Town Center of Mentone.

The Show will run from 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM on Saturday, and 11:00 AM until 5:00 PM on Sunday. Artists are also encouraged to show their work at the Mentone Springs Hotel during the Spring Fling Party on Saturday night with the condition that the Hotel has requested a 10% price reduction for sales made during the Party as an incentive for the general public to attend the event (the cost of the Party for members of the general public is \$35 per person).

There is no charge for participating in this Show. You will be assigned a general location for your booth and setup is on a first come, first serve basis at the assigned location.

The Show will be advertised throughout the region and a large turnout for the Show is anticipated.

Please reserve your place in the Show by emailing Neal Whitt, President of the Mentone Area Arts Council at nealwhitt@aol.com. We hope to see you there. We think you will have a really great time.

As always, please feel free to pass this information along to anyone you think might be interested in participating.

Neal Whitt, President, Mentone Area Arts Council

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Mentone Wedding Chapel



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

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

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ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE TO PHILEMON

A FULL TRANSLATION

A Roman Prison Rome, Italy A.D. 62

Dearest Philemon,

1 I have been wanting to write you a brief, but urgent letter, I am now a prisoner of Christ Jesus. (These bars remind me of my servitude to Our Lord. I am His prisoner.) With me is Brother Timothy, who has been one of my assistants on my second (A.D. 49-50) and third (A.D. 53-58) missionary journeys. Philemon, thank you for being a fellow-laborer, one who works for God just as we do in spiritual battles with our common enemies of the Gospel. (On my trip here from Caesarea our ship wrecked near the island of Malta, but thanks be to God, all 276 persons aboard the ship swam or floated safely to the island. Our Lord gave us a great revival on Malta while we waited there for another ship. Finally, we continued our journey to Rome. I remained under house arrest for two years, but now I am in prison. I expect soon to appear before Caesar for my final appeal.)

2 Please give our Christian greetings to your esteemed wife, Apphia, a true sister in Christ. Also greet Pastor Archippus for we know he is a true Christian fellow-soldier as he engages in battles for Our Lord; and finally greet the church which congregates in your house there in Colosse:

3 I pray that the unmerited favor (grace) and inner tranquility (peace) from God Our Father and Our Lord Jesus Christ be extended to all of you.

4 I am always extremely grateful to God when I pray for you, Philemon,

5 because I have heard of your love and faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and also toward all the saints;

6 My prayer for you, Philemon, is that your faith might become more powerful as He shows you how to share your blessings more and more.

7 Brother, I have received great delight (joy) and spiritual encouragement (consolation) when I heard of your love that refreshed the hearts of the saints. Your hospitality is so encouraging.

8 In consideration of all these things, let me say that I could order you to do the lawful thing by returning the slave to his master for punishment,

9 But because of our Christian love and the fact of my being an ambassador for Jesus Christ and even now am His prisoner,

10 I beg you for my spiritual son, even Onesimus, who has

been redeemed during my imprisonment.

11 Onesimus (This name means profitable or helpful.) has been unprofitable to you for several months, but now he can be profitable to you again and also to me. (Paul uses a neat pun here by playing on the words "profitable" and "unprofitable.") 12 I am sending him back to you but it's as though it were my very own heart:

13 I was wanting to keep him here so that he could be servant to me on your behalf as a Christian:

14 however, I don't want you to feel pressured but rather that you acted on your own free will.

15 O, the Providence of Our God, who has redeemed Onesimus while he was away from you for a short season;

16 Now you can receive him to yourself, not only as your slave but also as your beloved Christian brother both now and forever. Isn't this a wondrous blessing?

17 If you consider me to be your partner, take him back as if he were myself.

18 But if he has stolen from you or damaged any of your property, charge it to my account;

19 "I WILL REPAY YOU." See, my own handwriting here is promise that I shall. But consider: you owe me something too, even your spiritual life in Christ.

20 Brother, say yes, and let me rejoice spiritually as you refresh my heart in Christ.

21 I am fully confident that you will grant this written request for Onesimus; in truth, I know you will do even more than what I request of you.

22 And also be getting your guest room ready, and turn down the bed covers for me because I believe that through your prayers I shall be released to you.

23 Epaphras sends greeting. He is a fellow-prisoner, in prison here, for preaching Christ's gospel even as I did.

24 Some of my team is here and they send their Christian greetings. They have labored beside me for several years, often to the point of exhaustion. These fellow-laborers are Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke.

25 May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you to strengthen you spiritually. Let it be so. (Amen.)

As always,

Paul

Continued on page 9

Continued from page 8

PILOGUE

Paul handed the letter to Onesimus to take to his master Philemon and told him to be careful on his journey to Colosse. Also, he gave the EPISTLE TO THE COLOSSIANS to Tychicus to deliver to them. Thus, both men began the trip together to the same destination, Colosse. The trip would be some 1000 to 1100 miles.

About a month after their departure, they arrived in Colosse. Tychicus went to see Pastor Archippus, but Onesimus went directly to the residence of his master, Philemon, and gave the letter to him. Philemon read the letter and then kissed Onesimus on both cheeks. "Come in and refresh yourself, and then we shall eat dinner," said Philemon, as he smiled at Onesimus. Now Onesimus knew that everything was okay.

After a stay of three to four weeks, Philemon told Onesimus, "I want you to return to Rome and help the Apostle Paul. You can be a great help to his as long as he's in prison. Will you go?"

"Why, yes—yes—I will, if that is what you want," replied Onesimus.

Thus Onesimus returned to Rome to help his favorite minister. Eleven months later (A.D. 63) Paul was released, having won his appeal to Caesar.

The two returned to the estate of Philemon in Colosse. There was a joyous reception for the pair. Paul only stayed for one month. Although this was his first visit to Colosse, he strengthened the church and won many new converts. Then he continued on his way. Some four years later he was taken prisoner during the reign of

Emperor Nero and achieved martyrdom when he was beheaded about A.D. 67.

As for Philemon, he became a better Christian and also a better master of his cohort of slaves. He offered freedom to Onesimus, but he refused.

Onesimus lived to be a very old man. He won many others of his social stratum to the Lord Jesus and left a good testimony behind for others to follow.

(NOTE: The Bible does not contain this Epilogue. However, I like to imagine what could have happened.)

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



A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY is found in this log cabin. Featuring 2BR/1BA on main floor, L-shaped living/dining/kitchen combo with wood flooring throughout. Upstairs has 2 sleeping areas and bath with unique footed maids tub. Cozy front and back porches. This cabin is sold turn key. Make your appointment today. \$239,000 (18871)



LOOKING FOR A MOUNTAIN GET-A-WAY? 3BR/1BA home just minutes from Mentone. Completely remodeled, this home is move-in ready! New kitchen appliances include range, refrigerator, microwave, and washer/dryer. Updated wiring, new CH&A, fresh interior paint, and rock FP. On two lots with a covered back deck, mature trees and outbuilding. \$89,500 (17931)



MOVE UP TO RIVERFRONT! Get an open and airy feeling throughout this 3BR/3.5BA home. Features include an oversized state-of-the-art kitchen with eating area, stone FP, wood and tile floors, oversized back porch and boat dock. Appealing landscaping with large native stones. Many windows to soak up the views. A must see for \$495,000. (17781)



IN-TOWN PRIVACY! Sit on the screened porch of this 3 bedroom, 2 bath cottage and listen to the squirrels play. Completely remodeled kitchen and only a short distance from downtown Mentone. \$139,900 (19082)



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. \$174,900 (19524)



SPECTACULAR VIEWS!! You will call it home when you walk in! Classic Mentone Brow house, c.1955, situated on a beautiful wooded lot...Great room, gourmet kitchen, custom cabinetry, granite countertops, vaulted ceilings, wood floors, FP... Large deck... Guest House... basement workshop... all you've wanted in a Mountain home. \$445,000 (19460)



IT IS NOT OFTEN we find a house to sell nestled among the trees surrounded by mountain rocks. This hand-hewn log cabin offers large great room and cozy sleeping loft. You will appreciate the attention to detail in the woodwork, upstairs deck, front porch and backyard gazebo. Sure to go quick at only \$92,500! (19508)



BREATHTAKING VIEW! You can enjoy the view year round from this one-level brick home. Features 3BR/2BA, living and dining combination, wood burning fireplace, spacious kitchen with breakfast bar, sunroom and large deck for entertaining or to enjoy the spectacular view. \$450,000 (17082)



HANDCRAFTED woodwork is found throughout this 2BR/2BA mountain home. Features include a great room with cathedral ceiling, full front and back porch, large utility room all situated on a wooded lot. Located in Laurel Creek Lakes with access to 3 lakes and walking trails. Call today for your viewing. \$184,500 (19135)



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



NATIVE MOUNTAIN FOLIAGE creates a level of privacy for this 3 BR/ 2BA brick house overlooking the West Fork of Little River from the back yard. Split BR design, large family room with cathedral ceiling and mountain stone wood-burning fireplace, screened porch, 2 storage sheds, (1 with electricity), an attached 2-car garage and CH&A. \$219,000 (16371)



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



LIVE ON THE WATERS EDGE in this custom built log cabin. Features include 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, spacious great room with cathedral ceilings, hickory floors and oversized windows, large utility room, 2-car garage and fishing dock situated on 2 lots. Set up your appointment today! \$229,000 (18898)



CABIN AND FURNISHINGS! This almost new 1 bedroom, 1 bath frame cabin has 640 sq. ft. and features a rock fireplace and foundation, wood floors and walls, central heat and air, front and back porches and sits on 1.19 acres. \$148,000 (18990)

PRISTINE RIVER LOT with 150' +/- frontage. \$195,000 (17782)

3 +/- ACRES on the E. Fork of Little River. \$150,000 (17568)

LAND and LAKE! 40 +/- ac with a 5 +/- ac lake with Brush Creek running through it. \$225,000 (18869)

2 LOTS on the middle fork of Little River near Lake Lahusage. \$69,900 Each (18627)

OAKWOOD SD - Great building lot offering 3.5 +/- ac. with possible owner-finance or trade to qualified buyer. Mild restrictions. \$29,900 (18770)

43 +/- ACRES IN MENTONE! 800' on Brush Creek. Possible Owner financing available to qualified buyer. \$259,000 (18729)

HIDDEN LAKE SUBDIVISION bordering LRNP offers a gated community for people of like interests. \$85,000 (18406)

BEAUTIFUL BUILDING SITE - MENTONE! 3.22 ac. tract offers Lots of Hardwoods, Level Building Site, Pwr and water at CR 648! Priced at \$44,900. (18037)

MENTONE - Minutes from Downtown Mentone and DeSoto State Park! Foundation already on property with paved road frontage and city water. 4.55 acres. \$59,900 (18989)

WATERFRONT LOT IN RESTRICTED LAKE WATERFRONT LOT AWAITS YOU!! 3.06

ON THE BROW COMMUNITY! 104 feet of water frontage! Mild Restrictions in File. Mentone. Call for all the details. \$52,500 (19183)

5.62 ACRES Beautiful wooded building lot with stream located on CoRd 106 (Lahusage Drive) in desirable Mentone. Minimum square footage per dwelling is 1200 sqft heated. \$63,500 (18827)

8 +/- ACRES. No restrictions. Pond on property. \$49,900 (16393)

BUILD YOUR CABIN HERE on this beautiful, wooded level lot located in a restricted subdivision near downtown Mentone. \$39,900 (19426)

Engagement

Robert and Tammy Handley, of Beckley, West Virginia announce the engagement of their daughter Kristen Handley to Keith Miller. He is the son of Glenn and Linda Miller, of Mentone.

Grandparents of the bride-elect are the late Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Handley, and Mr. and Mrs. Orville Thomas.

She is a 2007 graduate of Independence High School. She also is attending Concord University in Athens, West Virginia where she will earn a business Administration degree in May.

Grandparents of the prospective groom are the late Mr. and Mrs. Jonas B. Miller, and Mrs. Helen Yerkes.

He is a 2005 graduate of Fort Payne High School. He is employed by and attends Appalachian Bible College where he will receive a Bible and Theology degree in 2011.

A June 5, 2010 wedding is planned at Maxwell Hill Baptist Church in Beckley, West Virginia at 1:00 p.m. (e.s.t.)

Formal invitations will be sent.



Kristen Handley
Keith Miller

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COUNTRY SETTING NEAR LITTLE RIVER CANYON! 3BR/2BA, open living room and kitchen with high ceilings, all wood floors and wood walls, oversized basement double car garage. Owner may consider lease purchase. \$129,500 (19607)



HISTORY lives HERE! Main home with 3BR/1.5BA, original pine floors, 10' ceiling, & crown moldings. Updated wiring and plumbing. Income producing apartment with kitchen/living areas, wrap-around decks to enjoy the mtn views. \$90,000 (19401)



RUSTIC HOME ATOP LOOKOUT MTN! You'll love this one of a kind retreat with pine walls, fireplace, maple cabinets, open floor plan, and two porches! Near Little River Mgmt Area, you can enjoy the fun and beauty that Lookout Mtn has to offer! Only \$110,000 (17020)



PRIVATE SETTING WITH ACREAGE! Extra bonus for this listing is a mountain home and a rustic cabin on 5 acres in Mentone. Detached garage, garden spot, screened porches and covered porch. Reduced to \$185,000 (18331)



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RHODODENDRON GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Linda Brown, Secretary

Who is thinking of butterflies at this time of the year? Mimi Anderson, that's who. Mimi was the guest speaker for the Rhododendron Garden Club at their regular meeting on February 9, 2010. Eleven members and four guests were present to hear Mimi's lecture. Mimi is a member of the DeKalb County Master Gardeners, has a degree in entomology, is a lover of nature and the eco-system and has many hobbies including horses, painting and butterflies.

Mimi helped us relive her experiences with the monarch butterfly via video. She and her husband traveled to Mexico to view the exodus of butterflies in what is our winter months. The monarch must travel south because they cannot stand our cold temperatures. Each monarch butterfly goes through four life cycles. The four stages are the egg, the caterpillar, the pupa and the adult butterfly.

In March and April the eggs are laid on milkweed plants. They hatch into baby caterpillars. They eat for about two weeks and when they are fully grown, they attach themselves to a stem or leaf with a silk thread. This begins the process of turning into a chrysalis. The butterfly will emerge from the chrysalis and flyaway, feeding on flowers and enjoying the short life it has left, which is only two to six weeks. This generation will die after laying eggs for generation number two. **DO NOT KILL CATERPILLARS!!**

The second generation of monarch butterflies is born in May and June, and the third generation will be born in July and August. This generation will die in two to six weeks. The fourth generation is different, they are born in September and October and go through the same processes as the other three generations except for one part. This generation migrates to warmer climates like Mexico and California where they will live for six to eight months until it is time to start the process over again.

Mimi was privileged to travel to Mexico to view this migration. She showed films of thousand of butterflies hanging in trees. Some of them were in flight and Mimi could stand and let them fly all around her. Some would light on her shoulders and hands. To reach this place, she and her husband rode horses part way up the mountain and then continued on foot. Mimi stated that this was a dream of her lifetime and we appreciated her sharing it with us.

Dianne Kuehl called the business meeting to order. All regular reports were given.

Martha Wood told the members how to force branches to flower. You locate shrubs which will flower this spring, cut branches about two feet in length, submerge them in warm water overnight and put them in a container with an inch of water. This should give you an early taste of spring as they will blossom in two to four weeks.

An announcement of interest: the Northeast Alabama Federation of Garden Clubs will have a plant sale on April 10 at the Ruritan Building in Henagar. More information on this next month. The door prize was awarded to Madelon HougWand and the meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be March 9, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in the M.E.R.F. Community House. The speaker will be Hayes Jackson, Calhoun County Agent. His subject will be, Adventures with Plants on Lookout Mountain and Around the World. All are invited.

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.



"Iron Sharpening Iron" Prov. 27:17

A few months ago the Lord led me to get involved with "The Forge" in Monroe, NC. What a blessing it was! I was encouraged in my faith and walk with God. There have been many different men's ministries all over. I'm sure many of you have been to many of them. Some of which were wonderful experiences. The Forge is unique in some ways. The Forge invites all men, whether laity or ministers to come and participate. One of the beauties of The Forge is that no man would try to set himself up as top dog. There won't be a steady stream of keynote speakers. It truly is a group of men who just want to love and encourage each other in our faith. It is not designed to build itself up. It isn't a church. It doesn't strive to take men from their current place of worship. Rather, it has as its focus Jesus! And with Him as our focal point its aim is to help men get stronger in their Christian faith and to work out their faith in daily endeavors. The Forge wants to take the men of Mentone, and even beyond, and encourage them to go back to their families, churches, and workplaces bolstered in their belief that Jesus loves them and that they can share that love with those around them. Our men need to always be aware that no matter what the economy, their job status or what struggle they are in the throes of God is with them loves them and will never forsake them. We live in trying times and we need to walk in faith that the God of the Bible is the same yesterday, today and forever. We need iron to sharpen iron in our lives. Contrary to how many of us guys think we are not an island to ourselves. Together in Christ we can do great things!

Every man is warmly and cordially invited to join us in fellowship and a FREE breakfast at The Community House in Mentone every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from 7am-9am so that whatever else you might plan for that day is not infringed upon. The first meeting will be March 13th, 2010. Let's see what the Lord has in store for us! I look forward to meeting you there!

For more info please call Roy 256-635-8760 or email: royal1951@yahoo.com

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WIPPORWILL 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. Horse barn w/ apt, detached double garage, turn of the century Rock barn. Screened sleeping cabin overlooking river. Much more! \$785,000 (19355)



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STORYBOOK FARM. 15 acres, pasture, pond, and a New Rustic Cottage, situated on the old Homeplace. 2BR/2BA, handcrafted details throughout. A view of the land from the front and back porches. A must see. \$225,000 (19736)



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RAMBLIN: IT'S A NEW YEAR!

By Bill Crane

Time moves on, and 2010 is here. Most of us, especially those who were trying to sell their home or finding a job, are glad to see 2009 become a thing of the past. I don't need a calendar to see that it is a new year for I feel it in the air. And my old bones feel it, too. It is a new year in sports, too, for most of the games have ended and teams are getting ready for another go at being the best in their sport. The enthusiasm of fans is being revived with renewed interest in wondering whether last year's champions will repeat. There are still a few that are being played, primarily college and professional basketball. But baseball is starting and that alone says it is another new year.

One of the most amazing happenings in 2009 was the turnaround of the national college basketball champion, North Carolina. They couldn't be beat last year. Now everyone is beating them.

I have not mentioned the Auburn Tigers in recent articles. That is because last year was the year of the Tide and I wrote mostly about that. But don't count the Tigers out. Their new coach seems to be a good fit and they were a pretty fair team last year. The Tide had better watch out for them for they'll be near the top soon, if not on top. Incidentally, in case you don't know, the only fifty-year-old basketball record that has not been broken is held by a Tiger player from my hometown, Dixie, Georgia. It is Dr. Ray Groover, a medical doctor in Birmingham, who on December 10, 1960 sank 17 of 21 basketball

free throw attempts. He was number 22 and they were playing Florida State University.

The Super Bowl is over - aren't we glad! The two teams everyone expected played each other. The New Orleans Saints, the team no one expected to win, including yours truly, won. The Saints' quarterback, Brees, really put on a show. Every one expected Manning, the Colts' quarterback, to dominate, but he came up short. The paper said a record number of people watched the game, but some didn't as my wife got a phone call in the middle of the game.

NASCAR, one of my favorite sports, has cranked up the new year with holding the Daytona 500 mile race. Jamie McMurray outlasted all of the drivers and won the race. The race lasted 6 hours, believe it or not. They started at 1:30 and finished at 7:30. They literally tore up the track, which caused several hours delay for repairs. I have never seen that before. A woman, Danica Patrick, drove in the Nationwide race for the first female to drive in that group. She came in 30th after being involved in a 12-car accident. The changes NASCAR made this year will make it more interesting.

The Winter Olympics are underway. I never have had much interest in them for where I grew up we had no winter sports other than basketball. For the first time, a participant, a luger, was killed when he lost control and was thrown against a pole at nearly 100 miles per hour.

Will the Tide repeat their 2009 performance? Will the Braves win more games than they lose? Who is the best team in college and professional basketball? Will Jimmie Johnson win his fifth straight NASCAR championship? The New Year is going to be an exciting year! SHALOM.

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- 9 - Picture Day, PTO Meeting
- 12 - Report Cards
- 15-17 - Space Camp (Fifth Grade)
- 17 - Kindergarten Registration 8-12 Noon
- 19 - Student Holiday
- 22 and 23 - ARMT Test
- 25 - Last Day for Tutoring
- 29-31 - SAT

April 12-16 Spring Break

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Travels close to home WinShape Retreat - Rome, GA

By Sarah Jacoway Chastain
Second trip in 2010

WinShape Retreat is reached after a winding drive through the beautiful campus of Berry College. On the way to the former dairy farm, we passed a field filled with a large herd of deer contently grazing. They didn't stop their morning snack because they knew we were the visitors and they were at home. No need to scamper away. Estimates put the herds at between 1,500 and 2,500. There are controlled hunts at specified times during the year.

The Berry Campus encompasses more than 26,000 acres making it the largest college campus in the United States.

The former dairy farm was inspired by French architecture. Martha Berry, founder of Berry College wanted her dairy farm to resemble the architecture of the Normandy countryside. Built in the 1930s, the buildings of WinShape Retreat feature whitewashed bricks and red roof tiles that were handcrafted by students in the brick plant donated to the school by Henry Ford.

The Normandy complex was a functioning dairy farm for about 70 years ranked among the top dairies in Georgia. But as dairy students

Truett Cathy, founder and chairman of Chick-Fil-A started WinShape Foundation in 1984. It is a non-profit organization and charitable foundation with a simple goal to help "shape winners". It has expanded over the last 20+ years.

Although none of the historic architecture was



changed, the structures were fortified for years of future use. During the renovation, architects advised WinShape to build two more building for housing. A surprising discovery was made. Both buildings were on

meeting rooms of various sizes. There is a state-of-the-art auditorium with incredible acoustics that seats up to 180 and dining for up to 250 guests. It offers a destination for a banquet, meeting, retreat or concert.

Lodging includes 64 king rooms in a campus-style retreat center and 12 queen rooms in the Normandy Inn. Each room has a private bath and all the amenities that one expects in a high end hotel but it is a "media-free" environment with no televisions, telephones or internet connections. It is truly a place to get away from it all. There is a state-of-the-art exercise room, miles of trails and an intriguing rope course.

Our group of about 30 went for lunch. We were greeted and ushered to our first stop where we were welcomed by pots of freshly made coffee along with hot water for a variety of tea or hot chocolate for the non-coffee drinkers. This was in the former calving barn, now an assembly room.

Our reasonably priced lunch included a salad, a choice of entrees and vegetables, hot rolls and cookies hot from the oven along with soft served ice-cream with everything needed to add extra flavor (and calories) and more of that freshly brewed coffee. The wait-staff was attentive to our every need with no tips accepted.

Finally we were pleasantly stuffed and in lieu of a needed-nap, we wound our way back through the campus waving good-bye to the deer making plans for a trip when the weather was warmer so that we could really get a leisurely look at the buildings.

For more information, individual reservations or group events: 877-977-3873, infor@winshape.org or www.winshapetretreat.org.



the original plan.

In September 2003, Chick-fil-A opened the WinShape retreat, a high-end retreat and conference facility that hosts marriage enrichment retreats along with business and church-related conferences and in the summer months, houses the girls attending WinShape Camps. During the school year, it is an adults only facility and in the summer a kids only one. WinShape Retreat also accommodates couples attending marriage-intensive programming. The marriage-intensive



dwindled in number, Berry College began to look for a worthy cause to donate the property to. At the same time, the WinShape Foundation was seeking to expand its ministry.